

Nitro Express

Official Newsletter of Watauga Gun Club

March 8, 2007

Thomas Bennett

This newsletter and the new gate code are changing this month for all renewed members for 2007. The treasurer asks that you attend an upcoming meeting and collect your new card. The next meeting is March 8, 2007.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No news

RANGE OFFICER'S REPORT

No news

PRESS RELEASES

**From Grass Roots North Carolina – <http://www.grnc.org>
http://www.grnc.org/alerts/alert_3_4_07.htm**

The VICTIM DISARMAMENT SESSION of the NC General Assembly is hard at work trying to restrict your freedom, but fortunately there are still some pro-liberty champions sponsoring pro-gun legislation.

SB 8 – CHILD PREDATOR PROTECTION ACT referred to Senate Judiciary I Committee!

We will quickly recap the highlights SB 8 below:

This little gem would expand the number anti-self-defense zones so dramatically that it could render our concealed handgun law worthless. The good news here is that your input has made the Senate leadership afraid to bring the bill out to the floor for a first reading. The bad news is that they referred to the Senate Judiciary I Committee ****without**** a first reading, meaning the bill could get a hearing at any time.

New Victim Disarmament Zones could include:

Ø Childcare centers, including their PARKING LOTS (that's right, you couldn't even lock your gun in your car while you pick up your child from daycare);

Ø ALL PUBLIC PARKS and the parking lots servicing them.

Ø Any public place that could be vaguely construed as a "playground," including even fast food restaurants such as McDonalds or Burger King, which have playground areas for children.

Thankfully there are still some legislators in our great state that believe in freedom. They get elected despite the fact that their campaigns eke by on the money contributed by the fine people that actually live in their state and believe in freedom, rather than large donations from anti-freedom foundations from the west coast. There are two pieces of legislation these fine folks have proposed this time:

Ø HB 310, "No Seizure of Lawful Firearms in Emergency" - Remember New Orleans? So do Representatives George Cleveland (Georgec@ncleg.net), Mark Hilton (Markh@ncleg.net) & Tim Moore (Timm@ncleg.net) and they hope to prevent the same unconstitutional seizure of your firearms from happening here if we were to have a catastrophe befall us.

Ø HB 476, "Castle Doctrine for NC" – Representative Mark Hilton

(Markh@ncleg.net) has reintroduced this important legislation along with his fellow primary sponsors, Jim Harrell (Jimha@ncleg.net), Tim Moore (Timm@ncleg.net) and Phillip Frye (Phillipf@ncleg.net).

Let's be sure to throw our support behind these measures and thank the sponsors. For further information and to see if your representative is a co-sponsor (if so, send thanks; if not encourage him or her to become one) go to:

HB 310 –
<http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/gascripts/BillLookUp/BillLookUp.pl?Session=2007&BillID=h+310&submitButton=GoHB476>

HB 476 -
<http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/gascripts/BillLookUp/BillLookUp.pl?Session=2007&BillID=h+476&submitButton=Go>
GRNC LEGISLATIVE TACTICS SEMINAR – LEARN TO LIVE FREE!

We would also like to remind you that the best way to defend your freedom is by learning from an organization that has been doing it effectively for 13

years. Come to the GRNC Legislative Tactics Seminar on Saturday, March 10 (11:00 AM to 4:00 PM): <http://www.grnc.org/seminar.htm>; and never feel helpless again.

IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

Ø SB 8: CALL and email the swing and pro-gun voters on the SJ-I

committee (details follow).
DELIVER THIS MESSAGE

Dear Senator,

SB 8, which should be called the "CHILD PREDATOR PROTECTION ACT," has been referred to your committee. This horrible insult to all free people would make us LESS SAFE rather than more.

I am strongly opposed to this bill and insist that you use all of your influence to prevent its progress in your committee. It does not deserve a hearing, much less being sent to the floor.

I will stay apprised of your actions on these matters through Grass Roots North Carolina.

Respectfully,

A Concerned North Carolina Voter

Contact these Judiciary Committee members regarding SB 8 (email & CALL):

Email list of members:

martinn@ncleg.net, philbe@ncleg.net, Andrewb@ncleg.net, Harryb@ncleg.net, Peterb@ncleg.net, Malcolmg@ncleg.net, Davidh@ncleg.net, Clarkj@ncleg.net, Richards@ncleg.net, Jerryt@ncleg.net
Senator Martin L. Nesbitt, Jr.
300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 300-B
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925
(919) 715-3001
martinn@ncleg.net

Senator Phil Berger
16 W. Jones Street, Room 1026
Raleigh, NC 27601-2808
(919) 733-5708
philbe@ncleg.net
Senator Pete Brunstetter
16 W. Jones Street, Room 1419
Raleigh, NC 27601-2808
(919) 733-7850
Peterb@ncleg.net
Senator Clark Jenkins
300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 308
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925
(919) 715-3040
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Senator Andrew C. Brock
16 W. Jones Street, Room 1119
Raleigh, NC 27601-2808
(919) 715-0690
Andrewb@ncleg.net
Senator Malcolm Graham
300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 620
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925
(919) 733-5650
Malcolmg@ncleg.net
Senator Richard Stevens
300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 406
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925
(919) 733-5653
Richards@ncleg.net

Senator Harry Brown
300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 515
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925
(919) 715-3034
Harryb@ncleg.net
Senator David W. Hoyle
300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 300-A
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925
(919) 733-5734
Davidh@ncleg.net
Senator Jerry W. Tillman
300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 628
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925
(919) 733-5870
Jerryt@ncleg.net

You may find your representative by going here: http://www.grnc.org/contact_reps.htm

Support these PRO RKBA merchants who, as GRNC sponsors, are supporting your Second Amendment rights:

Hyatt Coin & Gun Shop, 3332 Wilkinson Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28208, 704-663-5656, www.hyattguns.com
Duncan Gun & Pawn, 414 Second St., North Wilkesboro, NC 28659, 336-667-6303, www.duncangun.com
Shooter's Express, 2 Caldwell Dr., Belmont, NC 28012, 800-358-GUNS, www.shootersexpress.com
The Aisle Pawn Shop, 216 N. Main St., Mooresville, NC 28115, 704-663-5656

Gunner's Alley, LLC, 200 Parkthrough St., Cary, NC 27511, www.gunnersalley.com, 919-388-1991, contact: Ed Gurearo, ed@gunnersalley.com

From Gun Owners of America – <http://www.gunowners.org/>

Gun Owners of America Legislative Alert
-- Oppose McCarthy Gun Control Bill, H.R. 297
Gun Owners of America
8001 Forbes Place, Suite 102
Springfield, VA 22151
(703)321-8585

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

The first major anti-gun bill of the new Congress has already been introduced, and it could prove to be the most serious threat to the Second Amendment we face under the new congressional leadership.

On the first full day of the new Congress, anti-gun Rep. Carolyn McCarthy introduced H.R. 297, the most massive expansion of the Brady law since it passed in 1993. This is a bill you helped kill last year, but the new House leadership will be even more eager to pass it than were their predecessors.

This bill provides, in the form of grants, about \$1 billion to the states to "provide the National Instant Criminal Background Check System [NICS] with all records concerning persons who are prohibited from possessing or receiving a firearm under subsection (g) or (n) of section 922 of title 18, United States Code, regardless of the elapsed time since the disqualifying event."

Covered under this bill are records pertaining to the Lautenberg misdemeanor gun ban, lists of persons under indictment, mental health records, records relevant to the identification of illegal aliens and other records.

NICS is the system used by the FBI to conduct a background check prior to a firearm sale by a federally licensed gun dealer. Most people are aware that NICS records include a list of convicted felons, but there are many other categories of persons who are prohibited from possessing firearms for which computerized lists may not be available. It is these categories that are targeted by this bill.

For instance, the bill expands upon the unconstitutional Lautenberg misdemeanor gun ban [922 (g)(9)]. This gun ban, passed as an amendment to a 1996 omnibus spending bill and signed into law by President Clinton, was originally introduced by leading anti-gun Senators Frank Lautenberg, Dianne Feinstein, and Edward Kennedy.

Under the Lautenberg ban, people who have committed very minor offenses that include pushing, shoving or, in some cases, merely yelling at a family member can no longer own a firearm for self-defense.

The Lautenberg gun ban should be repealed, not expanded.

The bill also seeks to computerize records of persons "under indictment for a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year." Such persons, though not even convicted of the crime in question, are prohibited from possessing a firearm.

The gun grabbers are seeking to force the states to provide the federal government all of these indictment records, updated quarterly. Given the maxim among those in the legal profession that prosecutors can get a grand jury to "indict a ham sandwich," this, too, is a gun prohibition that should be repealed, not expanded.

Mental health records are also covered under the McCarthy bill.

This could have a significant impact on American servicemen, especially those returning from combat situations and who seek some type of psychiatric care. Often, veterans who have suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder have been deemed as mentally "incompetent" and are prohibited from owning guns under 18 U.S.C. 922(g)(4). Records of those instances certainly exist, and, in 1999, the Department of Veterans Administration turned over 90,000 names of veterans to the FBI for inclusion into the NICS background check system.

Mental health records can also have a future impact on young people, as this country trends closer to mandatory mental health screening for students. In a 2003 report by a subcommittee of the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health, the author states that "The problem of emotional disorders in children is large -- 20% of all children are affected -- and it seems to be growing." It is unknown how these people will be categorized in the future.

The fact that mental health 'experts,' a notoriously anti-gun community, would have a say in who is allowed to possess a firearm is, quite frankly, frightening. Many in the profession would just as soon consider anyone who owns a gun as 'mentally incompetent.'

Another sobering thought is how computerized data are often mishandled. Consider the disturbing news reports that 25 million Social Security number records of veterans were hacked. The more that our private data gets added into government computers, the more likely we are to have our identity compromised.

Perhaps the provision that would lead to the greatest number of 'fishing expeditions' is that related to illegal aliens.

Federal law prohibits illegal aliens from owning guns. The bill requires all relevant data related to who is in this country illegally. But what records pertaining to illegal aliens from the states would be relevant? Perhaps a better question would be, what records are not relevant?

In order to identify illegal aliens, "relevant" records could allow the FBI to demand state tax returns of all citizens, employment records, library records (we've already seen how these have been deemed relevant to terrorism investigations), DMV and hospital records -- all in the name of making sure that you're not an illegal.

The sponsor of the bill, Rep. Carolyn McCarthy, is one of the most virulent anti-gunners in the entire Congress. Of the 32 cosponsors of the bill last year, 31 were GOA "F" rated, one was rated "D." These representatives support the bill because it enhances their gun control agenda, not because they are concerned about protecting your Second Amendment rights.

Also among the bill's supporters are anti-Second Amendment groups like the Brady Campaign and Americans for Gun Safety (AGS). In fact, the McCarthy bill is taken point by point from a 2002 AGS "report" entitled "How America's Faulty Background Check System Allows Criminals to Get Guns."

This bill was first introduced in 2002 by Rep. McCarthy and Sen. Chuck Schumer. It passed out of the House that year, and was only defeated by a GOA-supported filibuster by former Sen. Bob Smith (R-NH). Since the bill has already been around for several years, look for Speaker Nancy Pelosi to put this bill on the fast track as a way to thank Sarah Brady and her anti-gun cohorts.

The Brady law needs to be repealed, not expanded to allow anti-gun administrations to find new ways to strip citizens of their Second Amendment rights.

ACTION: Gun Owners of America is the only national pro-gun organization opposing the McCarthy bill, so it is imperative that you contact your representative immediately. Please take action today and spread the word about H.R. 297! We need all the help we can get.

You can visit the Gun Owners Legislative Action Center to send your Representative a pre-written e-mail message. And, you can call your Representative toll-free at 1-877-762-8762.

---- Pre-written letter to your Representative ----

Dear Representative: Gun Owners of America has told me that anti-gun Rep. Carolyn McCarthy is trying to expand the Brady Law via H.R. 297. Well, on behalf of those millions of Americans who:

- * have had their gun purchases held up by the Brady background check system for no apparent reason;
- * know of people who have been targets of stalkers or abusive husbands -- and were killed (or simply forced to live in fear) while some bureaucrat in West Virginia fumbled around with their lives;
- * have tried to buy a gun when the NICS system was shut down completely -- thereby blocking gun purchases nationally;
- * are just curious why the Brady Instant Check -- which was billed as "the gun control bill that would stop future calls for gun control" -- almost immediately became a stepping stone for gun control bills dealing with gun show background checks, private sale background checks, and more personal information for the NICS registration system;
- * are wondering why the FBI brags about the number of sales blocked by the Brady check, but can produce no data showing that the Instant check system has any relation to crime reduction;
- * are struck by the fact that the anti-gun Clinton administration tried to use the system -- without further legislation -- to impose onerous fees and to retain records forever; and
- * are wondering why the folks responsible for Waco and Ruby Ridge should be put in charge of determining whether or not I can have a gun --

I would ask you to oppose H.R. 297, the anti-gun legislation sponsored by liberal Carolyn McCarthy. Thank you.

From Wayne Green

Fred Edgecomb called me Saturday night. If you remember, he used to be the field representative for the NRA. He is running for the Board of Directors of the NRA. He was nominated by petition, not the nominating committee. This will make him the underdog. He has asked for the support of the gun club.

Fred was instrumental in the defeat of a noise ordinance that would have closed the club and even prevented hunting with a gun in Watauga County. He got the NRA to send a letter notifying the local members about this noise ordinance. The night of the hearing, it was standing room only with about 300 people in attendance with the letters sticking out of their shirt pockets. The ordinance was not passed.

Lately, the NRA has sent a letter to Congress saying they would support background checks for sales between private gun owners at gun shows. This will go a long ways toward shutting down gun shows. It is important that we have someone that is accessible in orderr for our voice to be heard with the NRA. They need to be told what we like and what we don't like so they can represent us.

We need to support Fred by voting for him and trying to get others to do the same. I would appreciate your putting this news in the newsletter. We should also send notices urging support for Fred to the people on our discipline mailing lists. Between Trap, IDPA, Highpower, and Benchrest, we can get the word out to a lot of people.

We have to move on this fairly quickly. This month's magazine should have the ballots for those eligible to vote. The ballots need to be recieved by the middle of March.

IDPA REPORT

No news

Is the shooter ready? STANDBY!

TRAP REPORT

No news

Upcoming Events

- 1 . . .22 Target Rifle match in the Hut on the March Club Meeting on March 8th.

Agenda for the next meeting

No news

For Sale: postings have to be renewed to stay in the next newsletter

Email the publicity officer if you have any items for sale or looking to buy.

And The Last Word Goes To

Thomas Bennett, Publicity Officer

The Watauga Gun Club Newsletter is a monthly publication. After this month the newsletter will only be mailed to those that cannot get out of their home and to those that pay for a subscription to cover publishing and postal costs. Those that cannot get out of their home include those who have had their membership fee waived according to the WGC bylaws and lifetime members. All others that wish to receive a paper copy by postal mail will need to send a check to the Treasurer, Walter McCracken (address below), for \$10 a year indicating that the payment is for the newsletter. The costs for sending out printed copies can exceed \$1000.00 per year, this is the cost of 10 membership fees. This is being done because it is unfair to those that pay for your newsletter where those individuals access the newsletter online. Those that access the newsletter online do not put additional costs on the club because their finances have been put into their online access, computer, printer, paper, and charge for power. The North Carolina Congress has passed legislation that allows you to access the Internet through public and institutional libraries free. At these libraries you may have to pay for printing but this is much less than people who have their own home Internet access to our newsletter. Any questions regarding this change may be addressed to the Publicity Officer.

Work cards will not be mailed out. You can pick up a work card in the office the first time you are out here to work. Members that do not turn in work cards in December will be charged \$50.00 for 0 hours worked.

**Watauga Gun Club
Nitro Express
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