

Nitro Express

Official Newsletter of Watauga Gun Club

June, 2007

Thomas Bennett

The next meeting is July 12, 2007.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Events

TACTICAL CARBINE CLASS

Saturday, July 28th at WGC

Bring your AR, AK, FAL, H&K, Mini-14, M1, or SKS (Any magazine fed, self-loading carbine in rifle/pistol caliber) along with: 400-500 rds of ammunition

a rifle sling

2-3 full capacity magazines

a suitable magazine carrier

and EAR & EYE PROTECTION

(steel sights or holographic sights are OK to use)

\$ 40 for WGC members

\$ 50 for non-members

from 9:00am until lesson finished

--- plan for a full day of training ---

Session will plan to cover the following:

Safety Brief - carbine familiarization - 25m sight-in

load/unload/press check – barrel sight relationship

mounting from high/low ready – presentation time

malfunction drills – tac/retention reloads

facing movements

multiple shot/multiple target drills

transition & advancing

shooting on the move – at adverse angles

use cover/barricades - stress course

For sign-up info contact :

Gary Hoyle 963-6307

Tim Honeycutt 234-0749

PRESS RELEASES

From Grass Roots North Carolina – <http://www.grnc.org>

<http://www.grnc.org/alerts/>

Trying tonight to get to their WEB site a page comes up "Forbidden", a possible hijack.

So,

INFO:

Grass Roots North Carolina

Forum for Firearms Education

P.O. Box 10684, Raleigh, NC 27605

(919) 664-8565, <http://www.grnc.org>
GRNC Alert Hotline: (919) 562-4137
hotline@grnc.org

You may write your federal congressman by going here:
<http://www.house.gov/writerep/>

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

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

Gun Owners of America
8001 Forbes Place, Suite 102
Springfield, VA 22151
(703)321-8585

If you've been listening to the news, you know that the immigration bill may soon be back on the U.S. Senate floor for consideration. Senator Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts has reintroduced his immigration bill (along with Senator Specter of Pennsylvania). The new bill, S. 1639, contains both of the concerns that GOA alerted you to last month:

* First, section 205 of the bill could, in the hands of an anti-gun administration, PUT EVERY MAJOR GUN SHOP OUT OF BUSINESS. (Please see our alert, dated May 23, for more information on this.)

* Second, the immigration bill could deny many gun owners their right to find a job or buy a gun.

In regard to the latter concern, Montana Senator Max Baucus (D) is sponsoring an amendment that will delete all references to "driver's licenses" and "identification cards" under the REAL ID Act.

This is a good thing which will have ramifications for gun owners nationwide.

Baucus is only a D rated Senator by GOA, but he clearly has more than gun rights on his mind -- he is directly representing the interests of his state.

In April, the state of Montana enacted GOA-supported legislation that ordered state agencies to REFUSE to implement the REAL ID (a.k.a., National ID) card. Currently, there are about a dozen states that have joined Montana either in blocking the implementation of this law or in sharply criticizing it. Altogether, about three dozen states have introduced legislation to deal with this act in one way or another.

Gun Owners of America has been concerned about the REAL ID law -- which has yet to be implemented -- because of the threat it poses to gun owners' privacy. The National ID Card is an \$11 billion boondoggle enacted by Congress in 2005, ostensibly as an anti-terror measure. But, of course, there was not a single 9/11 terrorist who would have been prevented from boarding a plane because of the lack of an American driver's license -- or who would be blocked from doing so today.

NATIONAL ID CARD POSES DANGERS FOR GUN OWNERS

What the National ID Card requirement will do, instead, is to give an Attorney General (such as, for instance, former

Attorney General Janet Reno) the unfettered discretion to make it dramatically more difficult and time consuming to get a driver's license. This would apply equally to new applicants and to Americans who have had their drivers' licenses for fifty years.

Thus, if an anti-gun administration determined that members of the militia constituted a threat to national security -- and placed them on one of its "watch lists" -- many gun owners could soon lose the ability to travel, open a bank account, drive, check into a hotel, cash a check, get a job, or PURCHASE A GUN from a dealer.

Seniors who could not locate their fifty-year-old Social Security cards or birth certificates (or persons who had had those documents lost or stolen) could face the same fate.

The law would also allow the federal government to determine the information which must be digitally encoded on the license. Therefore, an anti-gun administration could theoretically require that your license contain information about your concealed carry status. This will make it, to say the least, "interesting" when you are traveling in parts of the country which are antagonistic to gun rights.

Further, all of this personal information on you will be available nationally and internationally on a computer database LEGALLY accessible to millions of people... and illegally accessible to virtually anyone.

The good news is that a single non-compliant state -- such as Montana -- is probably enough to destroy the entire National ID Card system. But the immigration bill increases the consequences for a state like Montana by threatening to deny every citizen the opportunity to find a job.

IMMIGRATION BILL THREATENS JOBS AND GUNS

Here's how. S. 1639 will require all private sector employees to be screened by an "electronic employee eligibility verification system" (Section 1(a)(5)(A)). And Title III of the bill stipulates that no employer will be able to hire you unless you possess identification that amounts to a National ID card.

Get the picture? No National ID card... no job.

The fact that section 302(c)(6) asserts that the required identification is not a "national identification card" is more a testimony to the lack of honesty of the supporters than it is to the actuality of federal requirements under the 2005 REAL ID Act. (We have seen these promises before. Remember when Social Security Cards used to explicitly state the number and card were never to be used for identification purposes?)

So Congress is threatening to retaliate against Montana, Washington, New Hampshire, South Carolina or any other state which has the temerity to resist its will. That's why the Baucus amendment is so important. A vote for the Baucus amendment is a vote for privacy -- especially the privacy of gun owners.

ACTION: Please use the letter below to contact your Senators. While GOA supports the Baucus amendment, we still **OPPOSE** the entire bill. As such, it is important to ask each Senator to vote **AGAINST CLOTURE** -- that is, to oppose any limits on debating the bill, thus perpetuating a filibuster of S. 1639.

You can use the pre-written message below and send it as an e-mail by visiting the GOA Legislative Action Center at (where phone and fax numbers are also available).

-----Pre-written letter-----

Dear Senator:

The revised immigration bill (S. 1639) currently up for consideration would:

* Bar employment by residents of any state that has had the temerity to block the REAL ID Act (including Montana, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Washington or any other state that delays the implementation of this law); and

* In the hands of an anti-gun administration, allow gun shops to be classed as "criminal gangs." (See the analysis of the "criminal gang" provision at <http://www.gunowners.org/a052307.htm> on the website of Gun Owners of America.)

The Baucus amendment would help with the first problem, and I support it.

But the wise course is to **VOTE AGAINST CLOTURE** -- and resist the temptation to assume that this mess will be cleaned up sometime in the legislative process. The sponsors have had ample opportunity to remove the anti-gun and anti-constitutional provisions of the bill, and have thus far refused to do so.

Again, while I support the Baucus amendment, I oppose this entire bill and encourage you to vote against cloture.

Sincerely,

Monday, June 18, 2007

The Associated Press got it right last week when it stated that, "The House Wednesday passed what could become the first major federal gun control law in over a decade."

It's true. The McCarthy bill that passed will DRAMATICALLY expand the dragnet that is currently used to disqualify law-abiding gun buyers. So much so, that hundreds of thousands of honest citizens who want to buy a gun will one day walk into a gun store and be shocked when they're told they're a prohibited purchaser, having been lumped into the same category as murderers and rapists.

This underscores the problems that have existed all along with the Brady Law. At the time it was passed, some people foolishly thought, "No big deal. I'm not a bad guy. This law won't affect me."

But what happens when good guys' names get thrown into the bad guys' list? That is exactly what has happened, and no one should think that the attempts to expand the gun control noose are going to end with the McCarthy bill (HR 2640).

Speaking to the CNN audience on June 13, head of the Brady Campaign, Paul Helmke, stated that, "We're hopeful that now that the NRA has come around to our point of view in terms of strengthening the Brady background checks, that now we can take the next step after this bill passes [to impose additional gun control]."

Get it? The McCarthy bill is just a first step.

The remainder of this alert will explain, in layman's terms, the problems with what passed on Wednesday. Please understand that GOA's legal department has spent hours analyzing the McCarthy bill, in addition to looking at existing federal regulations and BATFE interpretations. (If you want the lawyerly perspective, then please go to Problems With The New Federal Gun Control (HR 2640) for an extensive analysis.)

So what does HR 2640 do? Well, as stated already, this is one of the most far-reaching gun bans in years. For the first time in history, this bill takes a giant step towards banning one-fourth of returning military veterans from ever owning a gun again.

In 2000, President Clinton added between 80,000 - 90,000 names of military veterans -- who were suffering from Post Traumatic Stress (PTS) -- into the NICS background check system. These were vets who were having nightmares; they had the shakes. So Clinton disqualified them from buying or owning guns.

For seven years, GOA has been arguing that what Clinton did was illegitimate. But if this McCarthy bill gets enacted into law, a future Hillary Clinton administration would actually have the law on her side to ban a quarter of all military veterans (that's the number of veterans who have Post Traumatic Stress) from owning guns.

Now, the supporters of the McCarthy bill claim that military veterans -- who have been denied their Second Amendment rights -- could get their rights restored. But this is a very nebulous promise.

The reason is that Section 101(c)(1)(C) of the bill provides explicitly that a psychiatrist or psychologist diagnosis is enough to ban a person for ever owning a gun as long as it's predicated on a microscopic risk that a person could be a danger to himself or others. (Please be sure to read the NOTE below for more details on this.)

How many psychiatrists are going to deny that a veteran suffering from PTS doesn't possess a MICROSCOPIC RISK that he could be a danger to himself or others?

And even if they can clear the psychiatrist hurdle, we're still looking at thousands of dollars for lawyers, court fees, etc. And then, when veterans have done everything they can possibly do to clear their name, there is still the Schumer amendment in federal law which prevents the BATFE from restoring the rights of individuals who are barred from purchasing firearms. If that amendment is not repealed, then it doesn't matter if your state stops sending your name for inclusion in the FBI's NICS system... you are still going to be a disqualified purchaser when you try to buy a gun.

So get the irony. Senator Schumer is the one who is leading the charge in the Senate to pass the McCarthy bill, and he is "generously" offering military veterans the opportunity to clear their names, even though it's been HIS AMENDMENT that has prevented honest gun owners from getting their rights back under a similar procedure created in 1986!

But there's still another irony. Before this bill, it was very debatable (in legal terms) whether the military vets with PTS should have been added into the NICS system... and yet many of them were -- even though there was NO statutory authority to do so. Before this bill, there were provisions in the law to get one's name cleared, and yet Schumer made it impossible for these military vets to do so.

Now, the McCarthy bill (combined with federal regulations) makes it unmistakably clear that military vets with Post Traumatic Stress SHOULD BE ADDED as prohibited persons on the basis of a "diagnosis." Are these vets now going to find it any easier to get their names cleared (when the law says they should be on the list) if they were finding it difficult to do so before (when the law said they shouldn't)?

Add to this the Schumer amendment (mentioned above). The McCarthy bill does nothing to repeal the Schumer amendment, which means that military veterans with PTS are going to find it impossible to get their rights restored!

Do you see how Congress is slowly (and quietly) sweeping more and more innocent people into the same category as murderers and rapists? First, anti-gun politicians get a toe hold by getting innocuous sounding language into the federal code. Then they come back years later to twist those words into the most contorted way possible.

Consider the facts. In 1968, Congress laid out several criteria for banning Americans from owning guns -- a person can't be a felon, a drug user, an illegal alien, etc. Well, one of the criteria which will disqualify you from owning or buying a gun is if you are "adjudicated as a mental defective." Now, in 1968, that term referred to a person who was judged not guilty of a crime by reason of insanity.

Well, that was 1968. By 2000, President Bill Clinton had stretched that definition to mean a military veteran who has had a lawful authority (like a shrink) decree that a person has PTS. Can you see how politicians love to stretch the meaning of words in the law... especially when it comes to banning guns?

After all, who would have thought when the original Brady law was passed in 1993, that it would be used to keep people with outstanding traffic tickets from buying guns; or couples with marriage problems from buying guns; or military vets with nightmares from buying guns? (See footnotes below.)

So if you thought the Brady Law would never affect you because you're a "good guy," then think again. Military vets are in trouble, and so are your kids who are battling Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD). Everything that has been mentioned above regarding military veterans, could also apply to these kids.

Do you have a child in the IDEA program -- a.k.a., Individuals with Disability Education Act -- who has been diagnosed with ADD and thought to be susceptible to playground fights? Guess what? That child can be banned for life from ever owning a gun as an adult. The key to understanding this new gun ban expansion centers on a shrink's determination that a person is a risk to himself or others.

You see, legislators claim they want to specifically prevent a future Seung-Hui Cho from ever buying a gun and shooting up a school. And since Cho had been deemed as a potential danger to himself or others, that has become the new standard for banning guns.

But realize what this does. In the name of stopping an infinitesimal fraction of potential bad apples from owning firearms, legislators are expanding the dragnet to sweep ALL KINDS of good guys into a permanent ban. It also ignores the fact that bad guys get illegal guns ALL THE TIME, despite the gun laws!

So back to your kid who might have ADD. The BATFE, in an open letter (dated May 9, 2007), said the diagnosis that a person is a potential risk doesn't have to be based on the fact that the person poses a "substantial" risk. It just has to be "ANY" risk.

Just any risk, no matter how slight to the other kids on the playground, is all that is needed to qualify the kid on Ritalin -- or a vet suffering PTS, or a husband (going through a divorce) who's been ordered to go through an anger management program, etc. -- for a LIFETIME gun ban.

This is the slippery slope that gun control poses. And this is the reason HR 2640 must be defeated. Even as we debate this bill, the Frank Lautenbergs in Congress are trying to expand the NICS system with the names of people who are on

a so-called "government watch list" (S. 1237).

While this "government watch list" supposedly applies to suspected terrorists, the fact is that government bureaucrats can add ANY gun owner's name to this list without due process, without any hearing, or trial by jury, etc. That's where the background check system is headed... if we don't rise up together and cut off the monster's head right now.

NOTE: Please realize that a cursory reading of this bill is not sufficient to grasp the full threat that it poses. To read this bill properly, you have to not only read it thoroughly, but look at federal regulations and BATF interpretations as well. For example, where we cite Section 101(c)(1)(C) above as making it explicitly clear that the diagnosis from a psychologist or psychiatrist is enough to ban a person from owning a gun, realize that you have to look at Section 101, while also going to federal regulations via Section 3 of the bill.

Section 3(2) of the bill states that every interpretation that the BATFE has made in respect to mental capacity would become statutory law. And so what does the federal code say? Well, at 27 CFR 478.11, it explicitly states that a person can be deemed to be "adjudicated as a mental defective" by a court or by any "OTHER LAWFUL AUTHORITY" (like a shrink), as long as the individual poses a risk to self or others (or can't manage his own affairs). And in its open letter of May 9, 2007, BATFE makes it clear that this "danger" doesn't have to be "imminent" or "substantial," but can include "any danger" at all. How many shrinks are going to say that a veteran suffering from PTS doesn't pose at least an infinitesimal risk of hurting someone else?

FOOTNOTES:

(1) The Brady law has been used to illegitimately deny firearms to people who have outstanding traffic tickets (see pdf copy of US General Accounting Office Report).

(2) Because of the Lautenberg gun ban, couples with marriage problems or parents who have used corporal punishment to discipline their children have been prohibited from owning guns for life (see The Gun Owners, June, 1998).

(3) Several articles have pointed to the fact that military vets with PTS have been added to the NICS system (see WorldNetDaily or The Washington Post).

CONTACT INFORMATION: You can visit the Gun Owners Legislative Action Center to send your Senators the pre-written e-mail message below.

----- Pre-written letter -----

Dear Senator:

As a supporter of Second Amendment rights, I do NOT support the so-called NICS Improvement Amendments Act (HR 2640), which was snuck through the House last week.

This bill represents the most far-reaching gun ban in years. For the first time in American history, this bill would impose a lifetime gun ban on battle-scarred veterans and troubled teens -- based solely on the diagnosis of a psychologist (as opposed to a finding by a court).

You can read more about the problems with this bill by going to the website of Gun Owners of America at <http://www.gunowners.org/netb.htm>.

Gun owners OPPOSE this legislation, and I hope you will join the handful of Senators that have placed "holds" on this bill and object to any Unanimous Consent agreement.

Supporters of this bill say we need it to stop future Seung-Hui Chos from getting a gun and to prevent our nation from seeing another shooting like the one at Virginia Tech. But honestly, what gun law has stopped bad guys from getting a gun? Not in Canada, where they recently had a school shooting. Certainly not in Washington, DC or in England!

If you want to know some language that gun owners would support, then consider this:

"The Brady Law shall be null and void unless, prior to six months following the date of enactment of this Act, every name of a veteran forwarded to the national instant criminal background check system by the Veterans Administration or the Department of Veterans Affairs be permanently removed from that system."

Sincerely,

Please consider stopping by <http://www.gunowners.org/ffld.htm> to check out the offer and sign up today.
Find out who and how to contact your representatives at <http://www.gunowners.org/activism.htm>

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Webmaster: Craig Fields, Director of Internet Operations, GOA
Last update: 05/04/07

The information contained herein may be disseminated for non-commercial purposes as long as credit (including our Web address) is given to GOA.

Direct comments to: goamail@gunowners.org.

IDPA REPORT

IDPA matches are held on the third Saturday each month.

Is the shooter ready? STANDBY!

TRAP REPORT

Trap is holding practice sessions Tuesday and Thursday night through April. The Leagues will begin on Thursday Night - May 3!!!
Also: Due to the cost of everything going up so does the cost of a little fun. \$3.50 a round for practice and league. Team trap and ATA starts in May.

Upcoming Events

July- Club Picnic no match.

The club will provide the hamburgers, hot dogs & condiments. Members please bring something from the list by the first letter of their last name. If you have a specialty that you like bring it, too!

A-F Salad, slaw, beans

G-L Desserts

M-Z Drinks & chips

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

It is your responsibility as a club member to help keep the club house and range clean. Clean your shooting areas after you have finished using the area. Someone will clean the area, and you are someone. Disciplines that have matches are responsible for cleaning up before and after their match. It is necessary to follow rules of the range for safety and good relations with our neighbors. You are not allowed to start shooting on the range before 1:00pm on Sundays. We have worked well with the church down the road and have altered our hours on Sundays and Wednesdays since they have a full time minister now. If you can't or don't read the signs we have posted on the range then you don't need to be out here shooting.

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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