

Nitro Express

Official Newsletter of Watauga Gun Club

May, 2007

Thomas Bennett

This newsletter and the new gate code are changed for all renewed members for 2007.
The treasurer asks that you attend an upcoming meeting and collect your new card. The next meeting is May 10, 2007.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

REPEAT

The Range Use Committee consisted of Chair - Wayne Greene & Members Mike Testerman & Vince Gable

Report:

Individual members bring guests to the range should only bring the number they can adequately supervise. Members are responsible for their guests and are required to insure that all range rules are followed including, but not limited to, eye and ear protection for every individual.

Groups

All non-profit, i.e., Boy Scouts, etc. are required to be supervised by at least one WGC member in good standing. Depending on the number of participants, additional WGC members, preferable Range Safety Officers, should be asked to assist. All range rules are to be strictly adhered to.

All for profit groups are required to pay the WGC a sum of at least \$10.00 per participant, per day. Additional charges for equipment and supplies will be assessed depending on the event and usage. For profit is defined as, any activity in which a fee is charged or the person or entity conducting the event gets remunerated in anyway including corporate good-will.

In the event that any group is desiring to use the WGC facilities the WGC website calendar will be checked for conflicts and the event scheduled at least 30 days in advance.news

PRESS RELEASES

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

Repeat

"Stolen Gun" Bill Would Prosecute VICTIMS!

It's already law in NY, MA, OH, D.C., and RI, Are we next? Properly called "The Prosecute Lawful Gun Owners Act," the bill would:

- > Give you only 48 hours to file separate reports for each firearm stolen.
- > Cover not only known, but also unknown losses. For instance, if you have your gun safe cleaned out by a burglar and you report the 30 guns you remember, but there was that one you forgot you had, you could be held liable for that one because you "reasonably should have known" it was stolen.
- > Virtually require you to retain a pistol purchase permit for each handgun stolen, creating a new pathway to handgun registration.

Will you let this happen? While anti-gun lobbyists for North Carolinians "Against Gun Violence," may not have yet found a politician to introduce the bill, in the current "Victim Disarmament Session" of the legislature, they probably will.

Do You Have Them On The Run? Keep Up The Pressure!
THIS JUST IN FROM THE 'VICTIM DISARMAMENT SESSION'

Sutton Stalls, But Still Wants to Register You

The debate and vote on HB 1287, ?The Gun Buyer Registration Act,? has been postponed again. Could it be that your

voices are being heard? If so, now is not the time to let up on the pressure. Turn up the heat and push on to victory.

If there is any doubt of the seriousness of this bill, it should be dispelled by a conversation GRNC President Paul Valone had with the primary sponsor, Rep. RONNIE SUTTON (D-Robeson, GRNC 1-star). Sutton told Valone that he doesn't care WHY you are denied; he wants ALL people who are denied in this database. Consider this, many county sheriffs simply use a NICS check for pistol purchase permits. It is not unusual for there to be a denial for reasons such as mistaken identity. A person with a similar name and year of birth having a criminal record can cause this. Recent changes in voter registration software caused a number of people to get notices of revocation of voting rights. This type of mistake happens with the instant check system as well; sometimes denials are generated because the NICS computer is down. In these cases, you would then find yourself permanently enshrined in the SBI database. Now is not the time to back down.

A quick investigation has turned up several counties that place arbitrary limits on pistol purchase permits. Nash and Avery counties limit each applicant to 5 per year. In fact Chatham County's website notes that "Typically, it is not uncommon for a Sheriff Department to limit an applicant to a maximum of five such permits in one year."

So if you forget about this silly little limit (or are unaware of it in the first place) and apply for that sixth permit? OOPS! You are now immortalized in Rep. Sutton's special little database.

A little refresher on the basics of HB 1287:

IF PASSED, HB 1287 WOULD:

- > REGISTER anyone who is denied a pistol purchase permit by his sheriff into a DATABASE with the State Bureau of Investigation.
- > Keep the denial in the SBI database for 8 YEARS.
- > Require the denial to appear in all subsequent records checks.

SHERIFFS HAVE BROAD LATITUDE IN DENYING PERMITS:

Unlike concealed handgun permits, which are "sheriff shall issue," sheriffs have broad latitude in denying pistol purchase permits. Reasons for which sheriffs may deny permits under G.S. 14-404--beyond finding a criminal background--can include something as simple as having applied for more purchase permits than they decide you need, or even arbitrarily deciding you are not of "good moral character."

REGISTRATION COULD BE *PERMANENT*

Although HB 1287 requires the SBI to expunge data after 8 years, the bill contains **NO PROTECTIONS ABOUT WHERE THE DATA MAY BE SENT.** Translation: If you are denied a permit for not being of "good moral character," the denial could be sent to the FBI, BATFE, local law enforcement or others who have NO OBLIGATION TO EXPUNGE THE DATA EVER!!!

Hundreds of calls and emails must go to each member of the NC House to stop this insidious measure from becoming law and you becoming another name in their database. The real danger in this bill becoming law lies in the future: If allowed to pass, it will be the launch point for adding private mental health data to the computerized National Instant Check System. In the wake of the Virginia Tech massacre, it could easily become a vehicle for mandatory reporting of your mental health records. Thanks to Rep. MARK HILTON (R-Catawba, GRNC ****) for working to delay action and keeping GRNC informed of the progress of this bill.

IMPORTANT: You must immediately:

- > Send the e-mail below
- > Make SIX phone calls to your NC House Representative and leadership for both parties

[Analysis] In the 2005 session of the NC General Assembly, your overwhelming input was crucial in killing a bill GRNC dubbed "The Gun Buyer Registration Act." As is so often the case with gun control bills, however, the bill has risen from the dead this year as HB 1287, sponsored by the usual suspects: Reps. RONNIE SUTTON (D-Robeson, GRNC 1-star), PRICEY HARRISON (D-Guilford, GRNC 0-star), MAGGIE JEFFUS (D-Guilford, 0-star) and VERLA INSKO (D-Orange, 0-star).

Ironically, although the bill is entitled "Report Denial of Some Pistol Permits," it actually registers ALL denials, even for the arbitrary reasons described below.

IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

If you do not act now, this dangerous piece of legislation will likely become law!

> CALL YOUR REPRESENTATIVE: They can be found here: http://www.grnc.org/contact_reps.htm

> CALL THE FOLLOWING PARTY LEADERS:

- o Speaker of the House Joe Hackney - 919-733-3451, Joeh@ncleg.net
- o House Majority Leader Hugh Holliman - 919-715-0873, Hughh@ncleg.net
- o House Minority Leader Paul Stam - 919-733-2962, Pauls@ncleg.net
- o Majority Whip: Larry M. Bell - 919-733-5863, larryb@ncleg.net
- o Minority Whip Bill McGee - 919-733-5747, Williamm@ncleg.net

DELIVER THIS MESSAGE

Dear Representative:

I reiterate my call for you to oppose HB 1287, "Report Denial of Some Pistol Permits, which should more properly be titled the ?Gun Buyer Registration Act.?"

Sheriffs have broad latitude in denying these permits, sometimes for quite arbitrary reasons. So under HB 1287, gun buyers who have committed no crime could find themselves enshrined in a State Bureau of Investigation database.

Although the SBI is required to expunge permit denials after eight years, **no protections exist on where they may send the data.** It could be sent to the FBI, BATFE, local law enforcement or others who have **no obligation to expunge the data...ever.**

I once again strongly urge you to vote against HB 1287.

Sincerely,

A Concerned North Carolina Voter

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

Congressional Leaders Moving To Pass Gun Control Without A Vote!
-- McCarthy bill would treat gun owners even worse than terrorists

Gun Owners of America
8001 Forbes Place, Suite 102
Springfield, VA 22151

(703)321-8585 "Another gun rights group, the Gun Owners of America, is adamantly opposed to the [McCarthy-Dingell] legislation. It said the measure would allow the government to trample privacy rights by compiling reams of personal information and potentially bar mentally stable people from buying guns." -- Associated Press, April 24, 2007

Thursday, April 26, 2007

This is going to be a knock-down, drag-out fight. GOA continues to stand alone in the trenches, defending the rights of gun owners around the country. It's not going to be easy.

Gun control supporters want to pass gun control within the next couple of weeks. And that's why, even if you took action earlier this week, you need to do so once again.

All the gun haters (who have been keeping silent for a while) are now coming out of the closet and into the open. Take the notoriously anti-gun senator from New York -- Chuck Schumer. He has been very, very excited this week. Recent events have given him a platform, and the excuse, to push legislation that he had sponsored years ago -- legislation that never got through Congress.

You see, Senator Chuck Schumer has been, in past years, the Senate sponsor of the McCarthy bill (HR 297). And the recent murders at Virginia Tech have given Senator Schumer the pretext he has been looking for. Appearing on the Bill O'Reilly show earlier this week, Schumer did his best to make a reasonable-sounding pitch for more gun control.

He told O'Reilly on Monday that while he and Rep. McCarthy had previously worked together on this legislation, he now wants Congress to take up HR 297 quickly. "The Brady Law is a reasonable limitation," Schumer said. "Some might disagree with me, but I think certain kinds of licensing and registration is a reasonable limitation. We do it for cars."

Get the picture? First, he wants the Brady Law strengthened with the McCarthy-Dingell-Schumer legislation. Then it's off to pass more gun control -- treating guns like cars, where all gun owners are licensed and where bureaucrats will have a wonderful confiscation list.

In the O'Reilly interview, Schumer showed his hand when he revealed the strategy for this bill. Because it could become such a hot potato -- thanks to your efforts -- Senator Schumer is pushing to get this bill passed by Unanimous Consent in the Senate, which basically means that the bill would get passed WITHOUT A VOTE.

This is a perfect way to pass gun control without anyone getting blamed... or so they think. We need to tell every Senator that if this bill passes without a vote, then we hold ALL OF THEM responsible. (Be looking for a future GOA alert aimed at your Senators.)

On the House side, the Associated Press reported this past Monday that "House Democratic leaders are working with the National Rifle Association to bolster existing laws blocking" certain prohibited persons from buying guns. Of course, there are at least three problems with this approach:

1. It's morally and constitutionally wrong to require law-abiding citizens to first prove their innocence to the government before they can exercise their rights -- whether it's Second Amendment rights, First Amendment rights, or any other right. Doing that gives bureaucrats the opportunity to abuse their power and illegitimately prevent honest gun owners from buying guns.
2. Bureaucrats have already used the Brady Law to illegitimately deny the Second Amendment rights of innocent Americans. Americans have been prevented from buying guns because of outstanding traffic tickets, because of errors, because the NICS computer system has crashed -- and don't forget returning veterans because of combat-related stress. You give an anti-gun bureaucrat an inch, he'll take a mile -- which we have already seen as GOA has documented numerous instances of the abuses mentioned above.
3. Finally, all the background checks in the world will NOT stop bad guys from getting firearms. As we mentioned in the previous alert, severe restrictions in Washington, DC, England, Canada, Germany and other places have not stopped evil people from using guns to commit murder. (Correction: In our previous alert, we incorrectly identified Ireland as the location of the infamous schoolyard massacre. In fact, it took place in Dunblane, Scotland in 1996 -- a country which at the time had even more stringent laws than we have here.)

McCARTHY BILL TREATING GUN OWNERS WORSE THAN TERRORISTS

HR 297 would require the states to turn over mountains of personal data (on people like you) to the FBI -- any information which according to the Attorney General, in his or her unilateral discretion, would be useful in ascertaining who is or is not a "prohibited person."

Liberal support for this bill points out an interesting hypocrisy in their loyalties: For six years, congressional Democrats have complained about the Bush administration's efforts to obtain personal information on suspected terrorists WITHOUT A COURT ORDER.

And yet, this bill would allow the FBI to obtain massive amounts of information -- information which dwarfs any records obtained from warrantless searches (or wiretaps) that have been conducted by the Bush Administration on known or suspected terrorists operating in the country.

In fact, HR 297 would allow the FBI to get this information on honest Americans (like you) even though the required data is much more private and personal than any information obtained thus far by the Bush administration on terrorists.

And all of these personal records would be obtained by the FBI with no warrant or judicial or Congressional oversight whatsoever!!!

Get the picture? Spying on terrorists is bad... but spying on honest gun owners is good. After all, this horrific intrusion on the private lives of all Americans is presumed to be "okay" because it's only being used to bash guns, not to go after terrorists and criminals who are trying to kill us.

As indicated in earlier alerts, this information could include your medical, psychological, financial, education, employment, traffic, state tax records and more. We don't even know the full extent of what could be included because HR 297 -- which can be viewed at <http://thomas.loc.gov> by typing in the bill number -- is so open-ended. It requires states to provide the NICS system with ALL RECORDS that the Attorney General believes will help the FBI determine who is and who is not a prohibited person. Certainly, an anti-gun AG like Janet Reno would want as many types of records in the system as possible.

The provision that would probably 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?

ACTION:

1. Please take a moment to communicate your opposition to HR 297 -- even if you already sent your Representative a note earlier this week. We have provided a new letter (below) which provides updated information relating to the battle we are fighting.

House leaders are talking about bringing up this bill soon. And Sen. Schumer (in his interview with O'Reilly) even hinted at the fact that the bill could come up WITHOUT the ability to offer pro-gun amendments -- such as a repeal of the DC gun ban or reciprocity for concealed carry holders -- provisions that could potentially serve as killer amendments.

Also -- oh yeah, this is going to upset you -- Senator Schumer told O'Reilly, "I got to tell you, a lot of NRA people, they support this." Can you believe that? Senator Schumer is claiming to speak for you! That's why it's so important that you once again tell your congressman that Schumer is wrong... that you're a supporter of gun rights who OPPOSES the anti-gun McCarthy-Dingell bill.

2. Please circulate this e-mail and forward it to as many gun owners as you can.

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

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

Dear Representative:

As a supporter of Second Amendment rights, I do NOT support HR 297, the NICS Improvement Act. I hope that you will OPPOSE this bill and urge your party leadership to either kill it outright or to allow other pro-gun amendments to be offered (repeal of the DC gun ban, reciprocity for concealed carry holders, etc.).

In its current form, HR 297 will treat gun owners even worse than terrorists, giving the FBI a mountain of private information on law-abiding Americans like me.

How is it that, despite all the criticism over the Bush administration's attempts to obtain personal information on suspected terrorists without a court order, this bill would allow the FBI to obtain massive amounts of information on ME -- information which dwarfs any warrantless searches (or wiretaps) that have been conducted by the Bush Administration on known or suspected terrorists operating in the country.

And all of this personal information would be obtained by the FBI with no warrant or judicial or Congressional oversight whatsoever!!!

How is it that spying on terrorists is bad, but spying on honest gun owners is good?

Again, I hope that you will oppose HR 297. Gun Owners of America will continue to keep me informed on the progress of this bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Find out who and how to contact your representatives at <http://www.gunowners.org/activism.htm>

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Last update: 05/04/07

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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

Due to high wind the April match will also be shot at the May meeting.

1. April
.22 Target Rifle 50 yards; any sights; A-23, 4 Bull target; 10 shots in 10 minutes standing, limit 3 shots per bull; 10 shots in 10 minutes prone, limit 3 shots per bull. Slings may be used in the prone position only.
2. May
Big Bore Pistol 25 yards and 50 yards; any handgun .32 caliber or larger; iron sight division and enhanced sight division; B-6 and B-8 target; 10 shots, 10 minutes at 50 yards (Slow Fire); 2 five round strings, 10 seconds per string at 25 yards (Rapid Fire); standing, offhand position.

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 executive officers appreciate the participation and support given by the membership. If your opinion of how operations are handled is not in keeping with how things should be don't keep your opinion in the dark corners but let us know. The membership shapes, molds, and determines the policies, rules, and regulations of this club. This is your club and you have the right to have your voice heard and duty to do this in public. If you are not satisfied, make it known to all members at a regular meeting so the matter may be discussed and all opinions and the truth may be heard by all members. If you are still not satisfied then make a valid motion to correct the situation. And then also consider running for office at the end of this year to continue improvements. This is not a reflection on any complaint, issue, or allegation but just a message to urge everyone to become involved in keeping this club on track and sustainable for future use of the members and members to be.

Thank you goes out to Michael Testerman for keeping us apprised of issues in the state legislature and US Congress that affect our Second Amendment Right to keep and bear arms I have tried to reiterate his information in each issue of the newsletter and plan to continue this in each issue.

Repeat

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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