

# Nitro Express

Official Newsletter of Watauga Gun Club 2010

FEBRUARY

By Mike Suddreth

SPECIAL EDITION

[www.wataugagunclub.com](http://www.wataugagunclub.com)

Postage for newsletters in 2009 really took a toll on funds. If you are a member with internet access please help the club save money on postage. Let's try to get away from so much snail-mail this year. Please notify the Membership Coordinator – Robert Niemi at 828-446-8778 or [celticmith@yahoo.com](mailto:celticmith@yahoo.com) to remove your name from the postal service mailing list. Thank You!

The club needs a favor. Over the years the club has accumulated paper file copies of past newsletters that were kept in the clubhouse. Someone has removed them. Please look through your personal files and see if you have a copy of previous letters that you would consider either giving or copying for inclusion in the club files. Thank you for your consideration and assistance.

~~~ The Executive Committee

## State Events

### NC Residents Fumed Over Weekend Alcohol & Firearm Ban

**King, NC** – Residents were fumed over the weekend (February 6-7, 2010) after a state of emergency declaration restricted the sale of alcohol and the carrying of firearms in vehicles caused by heavy snowfall.

King Police Chief Paula May said she's received hundreds of threats related to the restrictions, which banned driving from 12 a.m. Sunday to 5 a.m.

Chief Paula May  
& City Hall



The state of emergency for King was declared by members of the City Council after Stokes County authorities also declared a state of emergency.

Under North Carolina law, May said, when a state of emergency is put into place that includes a ban on driving, the carrying of firearms in vehicles is also banned. The King city curfew banned the sale of alcohol.

"I think there's been some misinterpretation that I personally have declared martial law and taken away people's right to bear arms and that's erroneous," Paula May told WXII reporter Jermont Terry. "By law, statute 14-288.7 automatically went into effect. And that law

which goes into effect when there's a state of emergency prohibits the transportation, purchase sale and possession of firearms other than on one's own premises."

The news of the ban created a firestorm of criticism. "This is absolutely the craziest thing I have ever heard. Martial law has been declared! (It's) so far fetched that I am speechless!" one post on WXII12.com read.

"This has to be the most ridiculous event of the century!!!! This is the ultimate denial of liberties for the most asinine reason...bad weather!!!" another poster wrote.

May said officers did pull people over who were in violation of the curfew driving ban, but no tickets were issued.

"We did find some subjects on the streets," May said. "We didn't take any enforcement actions. We spoke to the people driving and helped them to get to where they needed to be."

Chief May wouldn't give details on the types of threats other than to say they had been phoned, faxed and e-mailed.

"We have to take them all serious and we'll investigate to the best of our ability and determine the source of those threats," she said.

On Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> the state of emergency was lifted.



As of February 22, 2010, a new federal law allows people who can legally possess firearms under applicable federal, state, and local laws, to legally possess firearms on portions of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and the Blue Ridge Parkway. It is the responsibility of visitors to understand and comply with all applicable state, local, and federal firearms laws before entering these parks. Federal law also prohibits firearms in certain facilities in this park; those places are marked with signs at all public entrances. Check state regulations for Virginia or North Carolina to make certain of your compliance while on the Parkway.

This only **applies to** lands owned by the U.S. Government and managed by the National Park Service, Appalachian Trail Park Office. This includes 428 miles of trail, 25 % of the trail's length in 9 of the 14 trail states.

This **does not apply** to the Appalachian Trail located on lands owned and managed by the more than 90 other federal, state and local agencies. This includes 1747 miles of trail, 80 % of the trails length across all 14

states. Rules and regulations on these lands are determined by the individual agencies.

**Please note:** The Appalachian National Scenic Trail, a unit of the national park system, is administered by the National Park Service, Appalachian Trail Park Office. The Appalachian Trail spans 2,179 miles across lands administered by 6 other national parks, 8 National Forests, 1 National Wildlife Refuge, and 75 other federal, state, and local agencies. Each one of these agencies has their own rules and regulations which contribute to the complexity of legally carrying a firearm on the Appalachian Trail. **It is the responsibility of visitors to understand and comply with all applicable state, local, and federal firearms laws before visiting the Appalachian Trail.**

### What has not been changed:

- The use of weapons are still prohibited on Appalachian Trail National Park Service lands
- Hunting is still prohibited on Appalachian Trail National Park Service lands
- Firearms are still prohibited inside National Park Service federal facilities

The implementation of the new law, which the National Park Service (NPS) has planned for since passage of H.R. 627 last May, has so far been without major problems. NPS management reports that it has worked with the 493 individual parks, promoting a consistent message on several key points:

- Under the new law, every park is subject to all the firearms laws of the state (or states) where the park is located.
- Park visitors must know and obey state laws, including knowing which state laws apply in parks (such as Yellowstone) that cross state boundaries. (For information on state laws, go to [www.nraila.org/gunlaws](http://www.nraila.org/gunlaws).)
- The new law affects firearms possession, not use. Laws regarding hunting, poaching, target shooting or any unlawful discharge remain unchanged.
- It will remain unlawful to carry in certain locations, under a separate law that prohibits possession of any firearm in a "federal facility."

This last point—and especially the definition of "federal facility"—may be the one most likely to cause confusion

for visitors. The National Park Service has indicated that, according to its apparently broad interpretation of the law, the law prohibits firearms not only in buildings (such as visitor centers, ranger stations, and administrative offices) but also in other areas that are regularly staffed by federal employees (such as developed caves and gated outdoor performance areas). However, NPS officials stress that all prohibited locations will be marked with signs.

The ban on carry in "federal facilities" does not apply to buildings that are located in parks, but not staffed by the federal government—such as many restaurants, lodges and gift shops. However, private operators of those places are free to make their own rules subject to state law.

Needless to say, anti-gun activists and the media have redlined their hysteria meters, with one newspaper claiming that "there assuredly will be more gun violence in parks", and another suggesting that park visitors "might want to toss a Kevlar vest into the SUV." And the Brady Campaign is still looking for ways to use the courts to reverse the new law. – *NRA-ILA.org*

## FWS: Firearms Rule Change for Possession in National Wildlife Refuges



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has announced that effective February 22, 2010, the rules governing possession of firearms on National Wildlife Refuges will change as a result of legislation enacted by Congress. After this date, the law allows an individual to lawfully possess a firearm within the boundaries of a National Wildlife Refuge in accordance with federal, state and local firearms laws.

As directed by this new law, the Service will look to the laws of the state and locality in which the refuge or refuge unit is located to govern possession of firearms on the refuge. Visitors will be allowed to possess firearms on National Wildlife Refuges provided they comply with applicable provisions of federal, state and local law. Persons with so-called firearm "carry" permits will be able to possess firearms on a refuge in accordance with the provisions of the state issued permit. The new law applies to all 551 units of the National Wildlife Refuge System, as well as the National Monuments and the 392 units of the National Park System.

While the law will change the application of rules regarding possession of firearms, it has no impact on the authorized uses of firearms on National Wildlife Refuges. The law does not allow visitors to fire or discharge the firearms in any way, brandish the weapon in the view of others, or any other use of the firearm. Enforcement of regulations concerning firearms use remains under the purview of the Department of the Interior.

While possession on a refuge may generally be allowed under state law, possession of firearms will remain prohibited in Federal facilities. Examples include: visitor centers, refuge administrative office buildings, refuge maintenance offices and workshops, field and

backcountry offices, ranger stations and fee collection stations.

Refuge visitors wishing to possess firearms on any unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System should carefully read and understand the laws of the state in which the refuge they plan to visit is located -- as well as applicable local and county laws and ordinances that derive from that respective state's law. The laws of the states in which they reside, or from which they may have received firearms permits, do not apply when they are away from those states, although some states offer reciprocity and allow possession based on another state's permits.

Hunting, trapping and fishing are considered to be a legitimate, traditional recreational and wildlife management use of renewable natural resources on refuges. However, this new law does not change or expand hunting opportunities on national wildlife refuges or exempt hunters from state or federal hunting regulations.

Each person who hunts on a National Wildlife Refuge must have the required state license(s) required by the refuge, as well as any permits and/or user fees. The National Wildlife Refuge System Act of 1966, other laws and the Fish and Wildlife Service's policy permit hunting on a refuge when it is compatible with the purposes for which the refuge was established and acquired. For additional information, go to: [www.fws.gov/refuges/hunting/](http://www.fws.gov/refuges/hunting/).

The law does not differentiate between concealed handguns under state permit and long guns (rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders) and it applies to all firearms, which are defined as a weapon designed to fire a projectile by the use of an explosive charge. All Federal firearms statutes remain unchanged.

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### **More hunters are taking to the nation's woods & fields – *The Post Bulletin Rochester, MN***

The number of hunting licenses sold in 12 states, including Minnesota, rose 3.5 percent last year after being relatively flat for several years. The other states surveyed were North Carolina, New York, New Jersey, Florida, Louisiana, Tennessee, Indiana, Kansas, Texas, Oregon and Utah. If that rise is true for the whole country, it would be the biggest increase in about 20 years.

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### **WGC RANGE HOURS**

8:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Wednesday is from 8:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. if someone is mowing. Check with the person mowing to see if you can use the portions of the range where mowing has been completed. No Outdoor shooting is allowed after 5:00 P.M. on Wednesday. Sunday is 1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

**Please check with the 2 churches up the road to be sure they have finished services before you start at 1:00 pm.** Scheduled events such as ATA Matches, I.D.P.A. Matches, Tactical .22 Matches, etc. and the monthly Club matches may run after 8:00 P.M. on any days other than Wednesday or Sunday. The entire range is closed during scheduled discipline events unless the discipline director agrees to open parts of it to the general membership for practice. The entire range is closed on the Thursday evening when the club match is being conducted. No exceptions. Read your club manual.

## Upcoming Events at WGC

- **ATA** Practice on Tuesday nights. \$3 fee.  
Thursday nights Club League matches.  
ATA #1 Match Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010.  
Contact Tom Pitts 828-264-1578  
or Morgan Shaw 828-297-3039.
- **Ruger Rimfire Pistol Matches** Paper & Steel.  
Scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month.  
Shooters wanted and volunteers needed to help.  
Gary Lindabury: personalsofn@skybest.com
- **IDPA** Pistol match - Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup>  
\$15 fee. 10am start. Shotgun side match. \$5 fee.  
Contact Wayne Green 828-963-5086.
- **Tactical Precision .22 Rimfire** May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Saturday 10am Sight-In. \$5 fee. 11am match start.  
Contact Humphrey Hayes 828-297-7050  
or email: humphayes@skybest.com
- **Club Match** Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
.22 Target Rifle 4:00pm-6:45pm Bay #2 at 50yds  
10 shots/10min standing & 10 shots/10min prone  
Contact: Charles Harmon 828-264-5410



- **139th NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits at the Charlotte Convention Center**  
**501 South College Street – Charlotte, NC**  
**Friday thru Sunday May 14-16, 2010**  
Exhibit Hours: Fri-Sat 9:00am-6:00pm  
& Sun 10:00am-5:00pm  
More Event Info: 1-877-800-4672
- **300yd Bench Rest** Upcoming Match Info:  
Dave Richardson 336-372-5873  
dw\_richardson@hotmail.com
- **New Member Safety Course** April 2010.  
Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup> 1:30-2:30pm  
meet at the WGC clubhouse  
Contact: Gary Hoyle 828-963-6307
- **Concealed Carry Handgun 2010 (CCH)**  
Joe Moody by appointment Contact: 828-264-2486  
Gary & Sandy Hoyle 6pm-9pm April 9<sup>th</sup>  
Gary & Sandy Hoyle 9am-3pm April 10<sup>th</sup>  
Contact: 828-963-6307

- **Ladies' Only Day – Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup> – 9:00am to 5:00pm**  
**OPEN to all Women Members & Local Residents**  
Contact Gary & Sandy Hoyle 828-963-6307 or [www.garynsam.com](http://www.garynsam.com)



Donna McDonald – Elk Hunter  
Owner and operator of Upper Canyon Outfitters in Alder, Montana

RENO, Nev. — Perceptions about women and hunting sure have changed in the last quarter century or so. Case in point: It was about that long ago when Donna McDonald, owner of Upper Canyon Outfitters in Alder, Mont., found herself (as she always did) in an elk camp full of men. As they entered camp, eager to wrap their tags around southwest Montana's monster bulls, one of the hunters innocently asked if she was the cook. "Since I am interested in repeat business," said McDonald, recalling the level of restraint required to answer the question civilly, "all I said was 'no, I'm not.'"

Fast-forward to the present and it's a rare season that finds McDonald the sole lady in camp. That not only makes her proud but it also signifies another ray of hope for a hunting industry that is constantly looking to the future.

Donna McDonald, owner and operator of Upper Canyon Outfitters in Alder, Mont. These days, the notion of "it's a man's world" has pretty much gone the way of the dodo and the passenger pigeon in many places — and that includes hunting camp. But ask anyone who's ever had the hairs on their neck stand on end from the screams of a lovesick bull and they'll tell you that elk hunting runs a close second to sheep hunting as North America's most challenging, expensive big-game pursuit.

So why are women — virtually unrecognized and absent from the hunting landscape as recently as Ronald Reagan's second term — flocking toward elk hunting at such surprisingly high rates?

In 2008, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, which is hosting their annual Elk Camp event through Sunday in Reno, released statistics showing that elk hunting has the second-highest per capita rate of female hunters among the country's game species, second only to whitetail deer.

The results surprised some, given the fact that elk, unlike whitetail deer, are pretty much confined to western states, plus pockets of hunting populations further east.

But Christine Thomas of Plover, Wisc., the founder of Becoming an OutdoorsWoman, an educational outreach program designed to do teach women exactly what its name states, said that new hunters — both women and men — jumping headlong into the upper echelons of big-game hunting doesn't surprise her at all.

In fact, Thomas said, it's a nationwide phenomenon, predicated on the bulk of the population residing in urban and suburban areas and the lack of available free time among Americans. "I think it's because (in the past) when everyone grew up on a farm or a rural area, we'd grab our BB guns and there were a lot of opportunities to hunt small game," Thomas said. "But not living on the farm or having access to a place to go hunt squirrels, when people set out to plan and organize a hunt, instead of trying to figure out where they could go and shoot

squirrels for a couple of days, they put that effort toward hunting a big-game animal."

Since its inception in 1991, Becoming an OutdoorsWoman has reached approximately 40,000 women a year in more than 40 states, six Canadian provinces and New Zealand. The impact, Thomas said, gives women increased confidence and fuels an inherent passion for being outdoors. As well, it solves the biggest issue identified by the program as it relates to getting women involved in the outdoors: the "don't know how" factor.

Female hunters are taking to elk hunting more and more every year — some of them starting a very young age thanks to the increased acceptance of women hunters.

"Women have always had that passion," said McDonald, echoing Thomas' idea that women need not be held back by a perceived lack of knowledge. "The ladies of today can do it if they want to do it, it's not just a man's world."

McDonald knows a lot about living in a man's world. The first female president of the Montana Outfitters and Guides Association, recently completing her two-year term in 2009, McDonald has seen the increasingly user-friendly and women-specific gear, increased information about hunting via print, TV and Internet open the hunting door to many women. In her experience, women make splendid hunters, providing complementary sets of skills and abilities to the hunting experience where many men struggle, like spotting, being open minded and being serious while remaining unafraid of failure.

"I have a lot of couples who come to hunt with me and almost always the wife will approach the hunt more seriously than the husband," McDonald said. "It might be a new experience for them, but for women, there's no one there to say 'why'd you do this?' and 'why'd you do that?' when something doesn't go as planned. It's all so open and new to them, they soak up things like a sponge; they want to learn."

With quality family time suffering as a result of increased commitments and tightening schedules, some women see the outdoors as the perfect opportunity to spend quality time with their spouse and/or their children. When the husband is also a hunter, the likelihood that the entire family will become involved is even greater.

The family that hunts together eats elk steaks together — and spends a lot of quality time with each other in the process. This means that dad, the kids *and* mom spend more time in the field. "We live close to elk, we see them all the time, I take pictures of them all the time, and I never get tired of them. To hear them bugle, even after all these years, is still incredible to me," said female hunter Kim Herzog of Rapelje, Mont. "And we totally love to eat elk meat. We feed our family with elk meat all year long. We hunt as a family, too, and to be able to raise our kids in that kind of environment is very special to me."

And whereas the regionalization of America's elk population is often one of the roots of peoples' surprise at the RMEF's statistics, Thomas said that because most of the elk are found in the Rocky Mountain states, that probably leads even more women to the sport as these states are also the home to the some of the highest rates of outdoor enthusiasts, from anglers to hunters and skiers to mountain bikers.

Elk hunting is hard work and it only gets harder once the bull is on the ground. But the sense of accomplishment and increased confidence, experts say, keep female hunters coming back for more.

"A lot of places where elk are, especially in the West in places like Wyoming and Montana and Colorado, for ranch women especially, elk hunting has been a way of life forever — it's how they fed their families and someone had to do it," Thomas said. "So it's not new for most women in the West to go elk hunting or to just be outdoors."

It doesn't look like women in elk camp, deer camp or the duck blinds are going to cease anytime soon. The onus, then, falls onto men (and, in some cases, women) to change the way they perceive the average hunter, to ensure that Thomas' own eye-opening story about the perception of female hunters doesn't return to the norm.

The year was 1991 the same one that saw Thomas establish Becoming an OutdoorsWoman, and she, her husband and another hunter were planning an elk hunt in the West, spending more than a year researching outfitters before booking a hunt. Throughout the process, they submitted numerous questionnaires required by most outfitters of prospective clients, in which the trio would reveal that one of the hunters (gasp!) was female. "Most of them didn't even answer us back," Thomas chuckled.

But once they found an outfitter that welcomed the idea of a woman in elk camp, the trio set out to fill their tags. As she expected, Thomas was the lone woman in the group. Not only that, she quickly learned that she was the first woman in the outfitter's hunting camp — ever. Not even the outfitters female family members, a single camp cook or any other female had ever basked in the warmth of that campfire.

But Thomas went home from the nine-day hunt with the pride of having overcome personal anxieties about acceptance and a claim staked in the knocking down one of hunting's age-old barriers, if at least in one specific hunting camp.

And to top it all off, she went home with her first bull elk.

## Buy – Sell – Trade

- **Wanted:** 30-30 loading dies, 30-30 brass cases, & .38 SPC round nose bullets. Contact Gary Hoyle 828-963-6307.
- **For Sale:** 2 gun set – Winchesters **1<sup>st</sup>**) Model 62 22cal. Pump, rare factory folding post rear tang sight, first year (1932) manufacturer date, 4 digit serial # **2<sup>nd</sup>**) Model 42 410 gauge pump, full choke, pre-war. Both in excellent condition – offered as set \$1850. Vince Gable 828-262-3305.
- **For Sale:** Marlin Model 60 .22LR semi-auto, 17 round tube magazine, New in Box (1989). Never fired. Includes Simmons 3x9x40 scope w/mounts. Only \$150. Jeff Foster 828-295-3540.
- **For Sale:** Reloading supplies: cleaned pistol brass **1)** 357 Sig cal. qty 125 nickel and 11 brass total qty 136 -\$11 **2)** 40 cal. nickel qty 112 -\$10 **3)** 40 cal brass qty 309 -\$10 **4)** 45 cal. brass qty 300 -\$25 **5)** 45 cal. nickel qty 100 -\$10. Contact Joe Turrissi. 336-877-2420.
- **For Sale:** Professional Gunsmith Equipment and Firearms at [www.armedandfree.net](http://www.armedandfree.net) T. Boone Berlin needs your help before beginning U.S. Navy service. Contact: [berlinsale@me.com](mailto:berlinsale@me.com) for tools/equipment and for firearms info contact Andy Adams Gunsmithing at 828-632-2324 or mobile 828-244-0977.
- **For Sale:** Model 1886 Take Down Winchester Lever Action, 33 WCF cal, nickel steel barrel for smokeless powder. \$5500. Ron Stewart 828-297-3311.
- **For Sale or Trade:** 30 round AR-15 magazines & approx 200 ct - 20 gauge shotshell wads. Gary Hoyle 828-963-6307.
- **For Sale:** Rock Chucker Kit with extras. \$300. Also a .50cal Thompson Muzzle Loader, 209 primer break action. \$300. Doug Smith 910-391-8691.
- **For Sale:** Contender Barrels various types: .45 ACP stainless 20"length .75"muzzle with no sights \$274.38; .45 Auto-rim 16.5"length .75"muzzle with Tasco Silver Antler scope \$255.63; .22 Hornett 21"length factory muzzle with Bushnell scope \$99.38; .45 Colt 22"length .75"muzzle with Weaver K-4 hooded silhouette front scope \$280.63; \*\*all .45 barrels made by Bullberry in Utah. Grant Holder 828-406-8466 or contact by email: [holdergn@gmail.com](mailto:holdergn@gmail.com)
- **Gun Show:** C&E Show at Hickory Metro Convention Ctr. (Exit 125-I40) in Hickory, NC. **April 17-18.** Admission: \$8 (children under 12 free). Free Parking/Security. Sat 9am-5pm & Sun 10am-5pm. Guns-Ammo-Knives-Ammo-Apparel-Ammo-Accessories-Ammo-Optics-Ammo-Magazines-Ammo-Safes.



The NRA has a higher mean approval rating among likely voters than President Barack Hussein Obama. This and other fascinating facts emerged from the Democracy Corps/Third Way national security survey released this week. According to its liberal authors, the "sobering" results of the survey provide "a wake-up call for the progressive President Barack Hussein Obama, his party and the progressives on national security." The most talked-about finding was that 44 percent of likely voters say they think the United States is less safe from foreign threats than two years ago, and 51 percent think America is less respected since Barack Hussein Obama took office. "This is surprising" according to the pollsters, "given the global acclaim - and Nobel Peace Prize award - that flowed to the new president after he took office."

All that initial global acclaim, however, was based on the same irrational exuberance that swept the least qualified president in modern memory into the White House. There was no substantive reason to think Barack Hussein Obama would have the necessary skills to be an able shepherd of America's national security interests. The Nobel Peace Prize in particular drew attention to the new president's utter lack of accomplishments. Even the White House downplayed it. Barack Hussein Obama gets relatively high marks for handling national security issues such as the war on terrorism and Afghanistan, but these numbers also are declining. In May, Barack Hussein Obama enjoyed a 22 percent margin of those who felt he was doing a better job than his predecessor in handling national security. In the latest poll, the margin is 5 percent. Barack Hussein Obama's highest disapproval - 51 percent - is for his handling of interrogation and prosecution of terrorist suspects, a signature element of his progressive national security policy. He gets much higher marks for fighting

terrorists, which indicates the public would rather America kill the bad guys than Mirandize them. 64 percent agreed that "America is losing its global leadership as China and other developing countries grow their economies and hold more of our debt," and 48 percent said "Democrats too often shortchange America's security in favor of domestic priorities." The two points are related because out-of-control domestic spending pushed by Barack Hussein Obama and progressive Democrats in Congress is creating the mountain of debt that is giving foreign countries increasing leverage over the United States. As well, the progressive Democrats' reckless spending and regulating ways are making the United States less competitive internationally and weakening the economy, which is the source of America's global influence. Republicans have the edge over Democrats on nearly every national security issue, such as "keeping America safe" and "ensuring a strong military." These are sobering results indeed for Democrats going into an election season in which Barack Hussein Obama will not appear on the ballot.

Another less noted but highly significant result was that 42 percent of likely voters self-identified as conservative but just 21 percent as liberal. The poll also documented the decline in Obama Mania; "drop-off" voters, those who voted in 2008 but are not likely to vote in 2010, were much more likely to be those who voted for Barack Hussein Obama and congressional Democrats in the last election.

The liberal authors of the study argued that, "Progressive Democrats will need to pursue new steps to forge a closer bond with the military institutions and culture" while separately advocating that they forge ahead with repealing the "don't ask/don't tell" law regarding homosexuals in the military. Good luck with that one. Maybe Democrats should run the idea by some NRA members first.

## U.N. pushes for Arms Trade Treaty: Ban by Baby Steps – *ESPNOOutdoors.com*



LAS VEGAS — In the parallel world where the likes of Hillary Clinton and Nancy Pelosi live, the enlightened govern the ignorant masses by applying one set of universal rules, and it's not the Constitution of the United States.

In Hillary's world, radical ideas progress at first with baby steps that ultimately become great strides to harness the destructive forces in society. That's why the current Secretary of State and the other "Hillarys" in her world are drawing a bead on gun owners, mainly those in the United States. In 2012, the United Nation's will push for the Arms Trade Treaty, which, among other things, will establish goals regarding the ownership and disposition of firearms on a global basis. This new world order is apt to take various forms, but none of them are likely to be good for gun owners in this country.

The Arms Trade Treaty, along with attempts to reconstitute the so-called "assault weapons ban," and efforts to ban lead-based ammunition are among the biggest challenges facing the shooting sports industry in the coming years, according to Steve Sanneti, president and CEO of the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

It's been a while since the ban on any firearm that looked remotely like an assault rifle was in effect. Thankfully, the public has become better educated about the firearms and the fact that just because they look like something that Rambo might wield, basically they do the same thing as any other rifle.

Talk of outlawing black guns was a topic that once scored points for politicians in the "blue states," but there's no current movement to return the ban. Still, Sanneti said, it only takes one lunatic with a rifle to re-energize the issue.

The lead ban is an ongoing project for anti-hunters and their allies, the gun control crowd. Banning lead shot on wildlife refuges and other federal lands was the first stage, and now various advocates in the northern tier of states, and California, have taken up the cause. In the Bear State, pro-raptor groups managed to convince the powers-that-be that condors were being poisoned en masse after ingesting lead bullets or shot in the remains of deer or various other game animals and birds. In truth, more California condors have died from eating the poisoned carcasses of sheep and other domestic animals intended for coyotes. Still, lead was a convenient villain. More recently, anti-hunters tried to stampede food banks and others from accepting donated game meat shot with lead ammo by well-meaning hunters. Eventually, the wheels fell off that campaign when even the Center for Disease Control said it was a bogus issue.

"Anti-hunters will do or say anything to curtail hunting, and they'll settle for winning small battles and advancing their cause in incremental stages," Sanneti said. "What is so insidious about the various lead ban proposals is that they ignore the fact that there are no wildlife populations that have been threatened or endangered because hunters use lead



ammunition. It just doesn't happen, and we've got to continue to remind people of that and present the truth."

As for the Arms Trade Treaty, Sanetti said he thinks it might pose the greatest danger if only because there are so many different permutations it could take, any of which could be disastrous to gun owners.

Sanetti is no stranger in Hillary's world, and as a former executive of the Ruger Arms Company, knows of the subtle ways that gun control advocates employ to advance their cause. Convince the general public that if all guns are banned, and nobody has them but governments, then there would be no more wars and no more crime. In effect, the Arms Trade Treaty is one of those baby steps in that direction.

"Essentially, the international community doesn't understand why Americans respect and protect their Second Amendment rights because in most countries no such rights exist," said Sanetti, who is presiding over the annual Shooting, Hunting, Outdoor Trade (SHOT) show. "Of course, the Founders added the Second Amendment as one of the safeguards, and it's not something open for discussion as far as we're concerned. "The current (Obama) administration has gone on record as saying it's time for this country to rejoin the community of nations and get more in line with various international goals. So, definitely, gun control is moving to the forefront, though not in such an-in-your-face, confrontational manner that we've seen before in this country. Gun control advocates go in one

direction, try and fail, and then go in another direction. That's been the pattern."

Sanetti notes that prior to the current administration, UN delegates routinely gave such notions as international gun control a no-way, Jose response. However, recently Secretary Clinton has noted that the administration is not opposed, per se, to an Arms Trade Treaty that inhibits the manufacture and distribution of guns, but rather that the U.S. might go along with it if there is a consensus among the nations.

"Our salvation might be that 2012, which is when the UN will put the Arms Trade Treaty on the front burner, is an election year," Sanetti said. "We feel reasonably confident that this administration is not going to push the treaty or even avow any ownership, but there's no certainty of that. If the administration sidesteps the issue and there is no unanimity among nations, the treaty is probably dead, but we're definitely keeping an eye on developments there."

Eternal vigilance and all that, but it's the price to pay for living in the world next to Hillary's. The neighbors will do whatever they can to get rid of as many guns as possible, perhaps by curtailing the international flow of component materials that go into the manufacture of firearms and ammunition. It's a long shot, but such ideas have merit in Hillary's world, where even little victories lead ever closer to the big prize: no guns, just government.

**Nitro Express**  
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