



D.S.S.A. NEWS

DELAWARE STATE SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION

A PUBLICATION OF THE DELAWARE STATE SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION
Visit us on the web: www.delsports.net



PRESIDENT'S NOTEBOOK

by John Thompson

CANDIDATE'S FORUM

On January 10, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. at the Modern Maturity Center on Route 8 in Dover the Delaware State Sportsmen's Association will host a Candidate's Forum to provide an opportunity for members to meet and hear from the candidates and other elected official that are responsible for making and enforcing our laws.

We are very pleased to announce that Dave Butz, All-Pro lineman from the Washington Redskins, will be hosting the event. Dave is a member of the NRA Board of Directors and a tireless advocate for the rights of gun owners. He will be available both before and after the Forum for conversation and autographs. As a loyal Eagles fan you are permitted to root for the Redskins twice per season, i.e. when they play the Cowboys.

Presentations will begin at 2:00 however we urge you to come early in order to meet and question the candidates and officials directly. We have also allowed time after the presentations for casual conversation as well. Presentations will be limited to only five minutes so questions will not be permitted. Speakers have been asked to address only gun or hunting related issues and to focus on their own positions and not the shortcomings of their opponents. We expect these ground rules to be obeyed because we will be armed. Candidates will be permitted to distribute literature, buttons, signs etc.

**INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER IS A POSTER
ADVERTISING THE CANDIDATE'S FORUM.
PLEASE HELP ASSURE THE EVENT'S SUCCESS
BY TAKING AND POSTING IT AT THE MALL,
SUPERMARKET, BARBER SHOP ETC.**

ANNUAL MEETING

Immediately following the Candidate's Forum the DSSA will hold its Annual Meeting at the Modern Maturity Center on January 10, 2010. Because of the Forum the meeting is expected to be brief.

At its monthly meeting held on December 9, 2009 the Board of Directors, in accord with the by-laws, nominated five persons as candidates for election to the Board. They are as follows: Foster W. Rennie, John C. Sigler, Mark Sprenkle, Carolyn Thompson and John J. Thompson. The term is for three years. The election will be held at the Annual Meeting.

MCDONALD V. CITY OF CHICAGO

The case captioned above is now pending before the United States Supreme Court. It constitutes a challenge to Chicago's oppressive gun laws including a ban on handgun ownership. Following the Supreme Court's decision in the Heller case which held that the Second Amendment's right to keep and bear arms protected the right of the ordinary citizen and not just those in an organized militia efforts were initiated around the country by the NRA and others to challenge laws like those of Chicago. Most cities responded by repealing their offensive statutes but Chicago refused and decided to waste its taxpayers money on defending the indefensible.

At issue is whether the Second Amendment protects the citizens from action by local and state governments and not just the federal government in Washington. McDonald is arguing that the Second Amendment should be treated just like the First, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Eighth Amendments.

The DSSA has joined with forty other state associations to file a friend of the court brief in support of the Second Amendment. Our brief was filed in November and may be reviewed on the Supreme Court's website. More that thirty briefs filed to oppose Chicago's unfair and unconstitutional laws. Oral argument is scheduled for March 2, 2010 but a ruling is not expected until late June.

MAYORS AGAINST LEGAL GUN OWNERS

By Deacon Will, SASS TG Delaware [aka W. D. Bell]

While the title above is not the correct title of the organization formed by New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg it more accurately describes its function than Mayors Against Illegal Guns. If you read its promotional literature it is only interested in going after the bad guys. However if you look at what they actually do it is an entirely different picture.

Currently eight Delaware mayors are members of this group. According to the group's website they are:

Wilmington	James Baker
New Castle	John Klingmeyer
Middletown	Kenneth Branner
Delaware City	John Martin
Millville	Donald Minyon
Lewes	James Ford
Blades	Michael Smith
Dagsboro	Wayne Barker

The group's material makes the obligatory mention of the Second Amendment and the right of law abiding citizens to "freely" own guns. Yet they support restricting where you can have a gun. They oppose reciprocity between states for concealed carry licenses. Note that this has nothing to do with bad guys and illegal guns because license holders have clean criminal records and are among the most law abiding citizens in the country. They support legislation that would end gun shows. In opposition to the BATFE and the FOP they oppose the Tihart Amendment and advocate for the opening of gun trace records which would jeopardize law enforcement investigations of illegal gun transactions. They seek to give authority to the Attorney General for a no buy list for law abiding persons preventing them from obtaining a gun. Note this list is only for honest citizens because criminal are already prevented from obtaining a gun from a dealer. They oppose bipartisan legislation now pending in Washington to reform the BATFE. And they want to make criminals of citizens who fail to promptly report a stolen or missing gun.

Please contact your mayor if he is on the list and politely explain to him that you are very disappointed and upset that he has joined an organization that does not trust you as an honest citizen. Some mayors when confronted have claimed that they did not fully understand the nature of the group and accepted it on face value. If he promises to resign do not argue this point because our goal is get him off the list not to punish him for being naive.

At the same time our last newsletter went out the NRA sent postcards to its members in Newark and Dover. As a result of member response both Mayor Vance A. Funk and Carlton E. Carey have resigned. I would like to thank both mayors for seeing the light and I congratulate the NRA and its members for their action.

John J. Thompson
President

For the past two years, my wife and I have had the opportunity to have breakfast with our President and several other mutual friends. NO!.... not at the White House, but in Las Vegas, NV. The occasion?..... the Single Action Shooting Society Annual Convention held in conjunction with the "Cowboy Christmas" celebration held in the city that never sleeps. I came across an article on the NRA Website penned by Philip Schreier, Curator of the SASS Museum that captures the moment.

Tis the season that National Firearms Museum's Senior Curator Phil Schreier is on the road again. Here's his update from the 8th Annual SASS Convention.

Las Vegas, Nevada - At 8:30 a.m. PST today, NRA President Ronald Schmeits declared the 8th Annual SASS Convention & Wild West Christmas open to the hundreds of dedicated SASS members and their friends and families. President Schmeits gave the opening keynote address to a crowd of over 100 conventioners at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. His speech touched on his own personal experiences growing up in Nebraska and witnessing the last vestiges of the real old west as a young man working the family farm who didn't have in-home electricity until his mid-teens. He related how he learned at an early age the safe and responsible use of firearms and how he has taken that appreciation with him and passed it on to future generations. He also touched on the current need to remain ever vigilant in protecting our gun rights and described the situation facing the Supreme Court in *McDonald v. City of Chicago* this winter.

President Schmeits was introduced to the convention by Judge Roy Bean, SASS #1 (aka Harper Creigh) and the co-founder of SASS. This was one of the Judge's first personal appearances following his heroic battle with serious health issues over the past year. He is looking great and said that attending this convention was one of the goals he set during his recovery. The convention is open to the public from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Thursday December 3rd through Saturday December 5th and 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Sunday December 6th. The Riviera Hotel is located on Las Vegas Boulevard on the North end of the Strip.

The Single Action Shooting Society is the fastest growing shooting sport in the world.... WORLD? The SASS version of shooting sports is now enjoyed overseas in Germany, France, England the Chez Republic, Netherlands, Norway, Finland and Australia.

Interested in finding out more? Contact Deacon Will, Delaware Territorial Governor 302-245-4822
dabll@comcast.net

MILITARY ANTI-SELF-DEFENSE POLICY

The tragic results of victim disarmament were made real with the shooting at Fort Hood, Texas. If this were a moral and proper world, as soon as the suspect, Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, drew his weapon, every person in the building would have had their sights leveled on him.

U.S. military installations' immoral and unjust anti-self-defense policy disarmed only the victims of this crime. How many more events like this is it going to take before Defense Department officials realize that victim disarmament costs lives and Congress amends the Uniform Code of Military Justice to require all civilian and military personnel to be properly armed (meaning not simply carrying an unloaded weapon) while on U.S. military installations?

In many states, citizens choose to be responsible for protecting their own lives and property by arming themselves. It is the ultimate expression of patriotism and good citizenship.

Fort Hood is my home station. It sickens me that when my wife needs to go on post she, too, has to surrender her right to defend herself by going unarmed.

Stateside military installations have become the country's largest gun-free zones (playgrounds for criminals). How many lives would have been saved on Sept. 11, 2001, if people weren't stripped of their right to self-defense because they wanted to fly? How many lives would have been saved at Virginia Tech, Columbine and now Fort Hood?

Those who advocate policies that guarantee the criminal class has unfettered access to defenseless, potential victims need to change their tune.

Lawmakers and DOD need to ensure that those of us who took the oath to defend the Constitution have the means available to live up to that oath.

Modifying installation policies and the UCMJ to remove all restrictions on carrying firearms would be a small step in the right direction.

Sgt. Brian Singer

This letter to the editor was reprinted from the November 19, 2009 edition of Stars and Stripes.

Camp Taji, I

NRA Announces 2010 Intercollegiate Rifle Club Championship

Kyle Jillson, (703) 267-1588

This spring the NRA Collegiate & Schools Program will be introducing a NRA Intercollegiate Rifle Club Championship that will be open to all levels of collegiate shooters.

This new championship will include NRA College Rifle Clubs, Varsity Rifle Teams, ROTC Teams, and independent shooters, for which there is currently no national championship.

"As a result of the new championship, we hope to see a boosted level of awareness toward collegiate shooting that will help foster rifle programs across the nation," said Tori Croft, National Manager of NRA Collegiate & School Programs.

Purdue University will be the host of the 2010 NRA Intercollegiate Rifle Club Championship, which will be held April 8-11 at the Purdue University Armory.

The championship will feature smallbore and air rifle competitions, training summits for all participants and coaches, and an opportunity for coaches and shooters to meet others in the sport they would normally not see during the regular season. NRA College Rifle Clubs, Varsity Rifle Teams, and ROTC Teams will have both individual and team champions while Independent Shooters will have only an individual champion.

Shooting in the NRA Intercollegiate Rifle Sectionals is required to qualify for the championship. Additionally, the top three teams and top five individuals from sectionals will be given free entry to the championship.

"I am extremely excited about this new championship and would like to thank Purdue University for being generous hosts. The opportunities this will afford to collegiate rifle clubs are immeasurable," said Croft. "The NRA Intercollegiate Rifle Club Championship will grow and strengthen the competitive rifle teams on campuses across the nation. I eagerly anticipate this brand new championship, and urge all rifle clubs across the nation to shoot in the Intercollegiate Sectionals in hopes of qualifying."

For more information on Collegiate Shooting, visit <http://www.nrahq.org/compete/coldir.asp>, or contact Tori Croft at (703) 267-1473, or by email at collegiate@nrahq.org.

DSSA NEWS

The DSSA NEWS is a bi-monthly publication of the Delaware State Sportsmen's Association. It is distributed to each member as a benefit of membership. Additional copies are provided to elected officials and other NRA state associations. If you would like to contribute to the DSSA NEWS please submit your material to lawman515@aol.com. Questions or concerns may be sent to the same address.

SAFETY FIRST: ALWAYS WEAR EYE AND EAR PROTECTION WHEN YOU SHOOT!

In our efforts to better serve our membership would you take the time to update your address and provide an e-mail, either mail to:

DSSA
P.O. Box 1786
Wilmington, DE 19899

or email to: lawman515@aol.com

All information will be held in the strictest confidence and will not be given to any entity.

PRSR1 STD
Permit No. 563
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
WILMINGTON, DE

DELAWARE STATE SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 1786
WILMINGTON, DE 19899
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DELAWARE STATE SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION

CALENDAR OF EVENTS, JANUARY 2010 Dan Lindbergh

Ommelanden Rt.9	Trap & Skeet	Wednesday 9 a.m.to 8:30 p.m.-Last Sign Up 8:00 p.m.-Friday - Sunday 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Last Sign up 3:00 p.m. - Closed Monday, Tuesday & Thursday - 302-323-5333
	5 Stand	No Evening Hours. Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. last sign up 2:30, Friday – Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Last sign up 2:30
Eagle Wing Dover, A.F.B.	Skeet & Clays	Wednesday-2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.- Sunday - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Loaner Guns & Vests Available Dave Sawicki - 302-677-5553 - Manager - 302-677-5553 - Range-302-677-6308 If you do not have a new Skeet Range Pass call Dave Sawicki - 302 - 677 - 5553
Alexander's 1-8-15-22-29	Multi Use Range	Rifle & Pistol -Wed-Sun 8am til Dusk -Targets to 600 yd-Membership only Massey, 410-928-3311
	Silhouette	Indoor - 5 p.m. - 25Yd - Open To Public - .22LR - \$2.00 Buys 40 Knock Down Targets and dinner. Delaware State Pistol Club, New Castle - Dan Lindbergh - 302 - 475 - 4228
	Pistol & Rifle	
2	Cowboy Shoot	Eas'dern Shore Renegades - Delmarva Sportsman's Assoc. - Earl Brooks 410- 648 - 6829
2	Rim Fire Rifle	Silhouette Match - Quinton Sportsmens Club - Gary Ireland - 856 - 296 - 4982
2-9-16-23-30	Jr. Small Bore Rifle	Teach Your Children The Basics Of Safe Gun Handling And Marksmanship 8:30 a.m. Year Round Class. Public Invited. All Equipment Supplied-Delaware State Pistol Club. Foster Rennie - 302 - 998 - 4820 Bob Wagenaar - 302 - 376 - 1509
3	Air Pistol	Indoor - Square Circle Gibbsboro, N.J. - John Gunn - 609 - 288 - 0778
3	Sporting Clays	NSCA New Year's Blast - 100 Birds - Pintail Point - 410 - 827 - 7065
3-17-31	Sporting Clays	Fun Shoot , 50 Targets . 9 a.m. to 2p.m. Last Sign Up 12:30. Atglen Sportsmen's Club Tim McClure 610 - 721 - 0114
7	Sporting Clays	Snow Shoe Open - 100 Birds - Hopkin's Game Farm & Clays - 410 - 348 - 5267
4-11-18-25	Silhouette Pistol	Indoor. 7:00 p.m. 50 Ft 22LR Open To Public. DE Rifle & Pistol, Elsmere, Jim Bowman 302-368-8626
5-12-19-26	Indoor Pistol	Bullseye Practice 22 -.38-.45, 50 Ft. Delaware Rifle & Pistol, Elsmere, Paul Connor 302-995-5657
6-13-20-27	Cowboy Shoot	Indoor Practice for Outside. 7:30 p.m. Delaware Rifle & Pistol, Elsmere. Jack Conomon 302-654-
6-13-20-27	Sporting Clays	5 Stand - 5pm to 8:30pm - Atglen Sportsmen's Club - Tim McClure - 610 - 721 - 0114
8-9	Indoor Pistol	2700 - Riverdale, N.J. - Dave Lange - 201 - 251 - 0933
9	Black Powder	Blanket Shoot. 10 a.m. Brandywine Muzzle Loading Long Rifles, Southern Chester County Sportsmen's Club, Rt 926 - London Grove, PA. Tom Shaw & Jobe Sincox
9	Pistol Combat	9a.m. - Open To The Public - DLEMA - Delaware Law Enforcement Marksmanship Assoc. Delmarva Sportsman's Assoc. Seaford, De - Mario Dobrich - 302 - 629 4125
10	Indoor Pistol	Air and Free - Delaware State Pistol Club - Fred Mannis - 302 - 478 - 7205
16	Black Powder	8:30. NSC Swampers Nanticoke Sportsmen's Club, Seaford, DE Ray Stevens 302-875- 5428
16	International	Pistol - Riverdale, N.J. - Dave Lange - 201 - 251 - 0933
17	IPSC Matrch	Pistol - Topton Fish & Game - Topton, Pa - Dean DeTurk
17	Air & Free	Pistol - Citizens, N.J. - Walt Gregory - 732 - 887 - 0881
17	Muzzleloader	Shoot - First Group at 8:30 AM - Topton Fish & Game - Bob Smith - 610 - 797 - 7844
17	Cowboy Shoot	Paden's Posse - 9 am-Nanticoke Sportsmen's Club Seaford, DE Mario Dobrich 302-629-4125
17	Indoor Pistol	1800 - HHA - Harrisburg, Pa - Kevin Musa - 717 - 986 - 9883
23-24	Indoor Pistol	2700 - Old Bridge, N.J. - Mary Badiak - 908 - 788 - 5503
30	Indoor Pisdol	2700 Registered - Square Circle, Gibbsboro, N.J. John Gunn - 609 - 288 - 0778

DELAWARE STATE SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION

CALENDAR OF EVENTS, FEBRUARY 2010 Dan Lindbergh

Ommelanden Rt.9	Trap & Skeet	Wednesday 9a.m.to 8:30p.m.-Last Sign Up 8:00 p.m.-Friday - Sunday 9a.m.-3:30p.m. Last Sign up 3:00p.m. - Closed Monday, Tuesday & Thursday - 302-323-5333
	5 Stand	No Evening Hours. Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. last sign up 2:30, Friday – Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Last sign up 2:30
Eagle Wing Dover, A.F.B.	Skeet & Clays	Wednesday 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.- Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Loaner Guns & Vests Available Dave Sawicki - 302-677-5553 - Manager - 302-677-5553 - Range-302-677-6308 If you do not have a new Skeet Range Pass call Dave Sawicki - 302 - 677 - 5553
Alexander's	Multi Use Range	Rifle & Pistol -Wed-Sun 8am til Dusk -Targets to 600 yd-Membership only Massey, 410-928-3311
1-8-15-22	Silhouette Pistol	Indoor, 7:00 p.m. 50 Ft .22LR-Open To Public. DE Rifle & Pistol, Elsmere, Jim Bowman-302-368-8626
2-9-16-23	Indoor Pistol	Bullseye Practice 22 -.38-.45. 50 Ft. Delaware Rifle & Pistol, Elsmere, Paul Connor 302-995-5657
3-10-17-24	Sporting Clays	5 Stand - 5pm to 8:30 pm - Atglen Sportsmen's Club - Tim McClure 610 - 721 - 0114
3-10-17-24	Cowboy Shoot	Indoor Practice for Outside. 7:30 p.m. Delaware Rifle & Pistol, Elsmere, Jack Conomon 302-654-7580
5-12-19-26	Silhouette Pistol & Rifle	Indoor 5 p.m. 25Yd Open To Public .22LR \$2.00 Buys 40 Knock Down Targets and Dinner. Delaware State Pistol Club, New Castle, Dan Lindbergh 302-475-4228
6	Rim Fire Rifle	Silhouette Match - Quinton Sportsmens Club - Gary Ireland - 856 - 296 - 4982
6	Black Powder	Cartridge Shoot - Black Powder Cartridge Firearms - Nanticoke Sportsmen's Club. Bob Tyson 302-539-2666
6	Cowboy Shoot	Eas'dern Shore Renegades, Delmarva Sportsman's Assoc. Earl Brooks 410 - 648 - 6829
6-13-20-27	Jr. Small Bore Rifle	Teach Your Children The Basics Of Safe Gun Handling And Marksmanship 8:30 a.m. Year Round Class. Public Invited. All Equipment Supplied. Delaware State Pistol Club Foster Rennie - 302 - 998 - 4820 Bob Wagenaar - 302 - 376 - 1509
7	Indoor Air Pistol	Square Circle - Gibbsboro, N.J. - John Gunn - 609 - 288 - 0778
7	Indoor Pistol	900 - West Caln - Coatesville, Pa - J. Ross - 610 - 384 - 5583
7	Sporting Clays	NSCA Winter Blast - 100 Birds - Pintail Point - 410 - 827-0657
7-21	Sporting Clays	Fun Shoot - 50 Targets - 9 a.m. To 2p.m. Last Sign Up 12:30, Atglen Sportsmen's Club Tom Parker 717-529-6379
12-13	Indoor Pistol	2700 - Riverdale, N.J. - Dave Lange - 201 -251 -0933
13	Black Powder	F.Y.B.O. Shoot, 10 a.m. Brandywine Muzzle Loading Long Rifles, Southern Chester County Sportsmen's Club, Rt 926, London Grove, PA, Jack Ferretti & Kenneth Lewis
13	Indoor Pistol	Presidents Day 900 - Palmyra, Pa - Jeff Lutz - 717 - 307 - 2238
13	Pistol Combat	9a.m. Open To The Public DLEMA Delaware Law Enforcement Marksmanship Assoc. Nanticoke Sportsman's Club Seaford, DE Mario Dobrich 302 - 629 4125
14	Indoor Pistol	Free and Air - Delaware State Pistol Club, New Castle, De - Fred Mannis - 478 - 7205
19-20	Indoor Pistol	Conventional Sectional - Riverdale, N.J. - Dave Lange - 201 - 251 - 0933
20	Sporting Clays	President's Day Open - NSCA 100 - Prince George's Trap & Skeet - 301 - 577 - 7178
20	Indoor Pistol	Conventional Sectional - Old Bridge, N.J. - Mary Badiak - 908 -788 - 5503
20	Black Powder	8:30 Muzzle Loader Shoot - Nanticoke Sportsmen's Club, Seaford, DE Ray Stevens 302- 875-5428
21	Cowboy Shoot	Paden's Posse 9am Nanticoke Sportsmen's Club Seaford, DE, Mario Dobrich 302-629-4125
21	Muzzleloader	Shoot - 1st group 8:30 A.M. - Topton Fish & Game - Bob Smith - 610 - 797 - 7844
21	IPSC Match	Topton Fish and Game - Topton, Pa - Dean Deturk
21	Indoor Pistol	Air and Free Pistol - Citizens Air Pistol, N.J. - Walt Gregory - 732 - 887 - 0881
21	Sporting Clays	Central De. Ducks Unlmted - 50 Birds - Owens Station Sporting Clays - 302 - 349 - 4334
25-26-27	Indoor Pistol	Sectional - Abbottstown, Pa - Neil Kravitz - 410 - 833 - 2100
27	Black Powder	Revolver, NSC Swampers Black Powder Shooters, Nanticoke Sportsman's Club, Seaford, DE, Mario Dobrich - 302 - 629 - 4125
27	Sporting Clays	3-Shot Tournament - 99 Birds - Owens Station Sporting Clays - 302 - 349 - 4334
27-28	Indoor Pistol	2700 - Delaware State Pistol Club, New Castle- Greg Barton - 302 - 324 - 9864
28	Sporting Clays	Spring Fling - NSCA 100 - Hopkin's Game Farm & Clays - 410 - 348 - 5287

2009 Delaware State Indoor Championship – Conventional Pistol

The indoor championship was held at Delaware State Pistol Club on Dec 4, 5 & 6, 2009. 40 shooters participated including 10 shooters that had not shot a 2700 before. Congratulations to Greg Barton – High Delawarean with a score of 2481. The over all and class winners are.

Class	Shooter	Score
Open	Rich Kang	2642 – 132x
High Master	Mike Westock	2621 – 123x
Master	Eddie Grove	2582 – 86x
Expert	Mike Butterfield	2524 – 72x
Sharpshooter	Bruce Smith III	2532 – 71x
Marksman	Dan Raleigh	2416 – 51x

Special recognition goes to:

- Rich Kang for shooting a 300 – 20x National Match Course in Center Fire Match.
- Greg Chalmers (Sharpshooter) – Overall winner with a 200 – 12x in the 22 RF Time Fire Match.
- Les Proctor (A new shooter) – 2nd in the Master Class 22 Rapid Fire with a score 191.

Hank Maier
12/10/2009

Introduction to the History of the Constitution of the United States of America By David T. Hardy, Esq.

Foundations of the Union

In 1775, the American Revolution began, a struggle fueled by belief that the British government was depriving the colonists of their rights as Englishmen - the right to vote on taxation, to be tried by jury, to be protected against random search and seizure. The conflict ignited when the British tried to seize militia arsenals in Massachusetts and in Virginia - to the Americans, this made it clear they were to be made powerless and enslaved.

The new States fought almost all the Revolution with a Continental Congress but no formal agreement. The first such agreement, the Articles of Confederation, was not ratified until 1781. The Articles provided for a weak central government. Each State got one vote in Congress, and any major decision took a 2/3 majority. Budgets were met by asking money or supplies from the States, which often refused, leaving American armies unpaid and unfed for extended periods.

A Proposed Constitution

The Articles had no enforcement provisions, and so States did as they willed - refusing to contribute funds, or violating treaties, or taxing imports. Congress eventually agreed to summon a convention to propose strengthening amendments to the Articles.

This 1787 convention instead drafted an entirely new constitution, enormously increasing Federal powers to tax and spend, to regulate interstate and foreign commerce, to

negotiate treaties and to establish an army and navy. It had federal courts and an executive branch to enforce decisions. State conventions were asked to ratify the agreement; once nine agreed, it would bind them, and others if they later ratified.

George Mason of Virginia proposed to add a bill of rights to the new charter, but the convention, in its greatest mistake, rejected the idea. Mason and others refused to sign the constitution and returned home to oppose its ratification. (Those supporting ratification are today called federalists, and those opposing it, antifederalists).

Antifederalists argued that Americans had just thrown off a distant, powerful central government -- King George and his Parliament - which had ignored their rights. This new, untried, national government might go down the same path, especially since it had no bill of rights. Why had the convention spent so much effort giving power to government, without putting limits on it, or protecting their natural rights? When the Constitution got its required 9th vote, from New Hampshire, it came with a compromise: the State ratified but demanded that a national bill of rights be added on.

The Constitution now bound the States that had signed on, but several (including powerful Virginia and New York) still had not ratified. Both States followed the New Hampshire pattern, ratifying while providing a list of amendments that they demanded Congress adopt.

The Bill of Rights

In the ratifying debates, and in his contributions to the Federalist Papers, James Madison had argued that no bill of rights was necessary, since Congress would only have what powers were delegated, and nothing in the Constitution said it could suppress free speech, establish a church, etc.. (Madison probably knew this was a weak argument; the spending power could create a church, powers over interstate commerce could suppress newspapers). He also argued that bills of rights were just "parchment barriers" which legislatures would violate at will.

As a Representative in the First Congress, however, Madison became the champion of a bill of rights. Madison had probably pledged to work for a bill of rights in the Virginia ratifying convention; he had clearly promised to do so during his election campaign, and he was an honorable man. He and Jefferson had also debated the question in correspondence, and Jefferson had argued that even a "parchment barrier" is useful; if the people are to resist invasions of their rights, by voting or by more direct means, they should start with a written agreement as to what those rights were.

The First Congress, though, resisted. It was busy creating a new government - taxes, a treasury, courts, an army and navy, a post office, and a bill of rights seemed a low priority. At one point, Madison protested that they could have drafted a bill of rights in less time than they had spent debating whether to draft one! Eventually, Madison won out and the First Congress did vote out a Bill of Rights, in the

form of 12 amendments, 10 of which were ratified by the States and became known as the Bill of Rights. Antifederalists had predicted the new government would violate Americans' rights; Madison had it prove its good faith by swearing off any power to infringe freedom of speech, press, or religion, or to establish a church, to infringe the right to arms, or make unreasonable searches, and so on.

Applying the National Bill of Rights to the States

In 1833, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Federal Bill of Rights only restricted Federal action, not action by States (some State courts later disagreed, reasoning that a right is a right).

After the Civil War, Congress proposed, and the States ratified, the 14th Amendment. This forbade States to abridge the "privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States," or to deprive anyone of "due process of law." (In the 1860s and before, "privileges" were commonly used to describe "rights.").

There is strong evidence that "privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States" was meant to describe (at the bare minimum) the Federal Bill of Rights. But the Supreme Court was hostile to this, and in 1870s decisions played a complicated word game that made "privileges or immunities" almost meaningless.

In the 20th century, though, the Supreme Court thought better of applying the Federal Bill of Rights to the States. Rather than admitting it was wrong in the 1870s, it instead used the 14th Amendment's "due process clause" for this, ruling that infringing this or that right deprived Americans of due process of law. Because the Court could pick and choose rights for this, this was called "selective incorporation." As of this writing, all Bill of Rights liberties have been applied to the States except for the right to arms (whose application to the States is now before the Supreme Court), the right to jury trial in civil suits, and the requirement that felony prosecutions be approved by a grand jury rather than a judge.

Editor's Note

As the Supreme Court prepares to conduct oral arguments in McDonald v. Chicago and decide whether the Second Amendment's prohibition against government infringement upon the individual's Right to Keep and Bear Arms applies to the various States as well as the federal government, perhaps a brief understanding of the history upon which the Court will ultimately base its opinion might be helpful in understanding why this case is so important and why so many of Delaware's Legislators agreed to sign onto the amicus curie brief in support of the NRA's position in this matter.

The foregoing was written by the prominent Constitutional Scholar and Arizona attorney, David T. Hardy, Esq., for the Caesar Rodney Institute which has granted permission to DSSA to republish this article.

WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS, READ THE INSTRUCTIONS !

The pictured incident occurred during a training session at a shooting club in Delaware and was witnessed by at least eight people. The shooter was new and had little experience with the gun. The handgun is a snub nose "Air Weight" Smith and Wesson .38 SPL, 5-shot revolver loaded with Remington factory .38 SPL standard velocity .38 SPL ammunition with 158 grain bullets. On the student's third shot, there was a definite lack of recoil and report. Instructors immediately called a cease fire and examined the gun. The result was a squib round with the bullet sticking about 1/4" out of the barrel.

How did this happen? The very sharp recoil of these small, light weight revolvers can cause bullets to be partially separated from the case in the chambers during the firing process, resulting in too little pressure to push the bullet out of the barrel, i.e., a "squib" load. It's the inertia principle in physics, the heavier bullet tries to remain at rest during recoil, while the cartridge case is pulled away by the recoiling gun. Smith & Wesson's current revolver manual (available on-line at www.smith-wesson.com) instructs the owner of light weight revolvers to conduct a specific test for any ammunition for this potential problem before placing the gun and ammunition combination in regular service.

Had the instructor not recognized the situation and the shooter fired the next round, the result could have been a blown up gun and serious injury to the shooter and others. There are at least two morals to the story. Read the owner's manual and other instructions, some are stamped on the barrel, for your firearm before you use it! Just because the ammunition fits in the gun, doesn't mean it's right!



**2010 DELAWARE STATE SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION
ELECTION YEAR CANDIDATE FORUM**

&

SECOND AMENDMENT RALLY



**January 10, 2010
Modern Maturity Center
Forest Avenue, Dover, Delaware
Doors Open at 1pm – Program Begins at 2 pm**



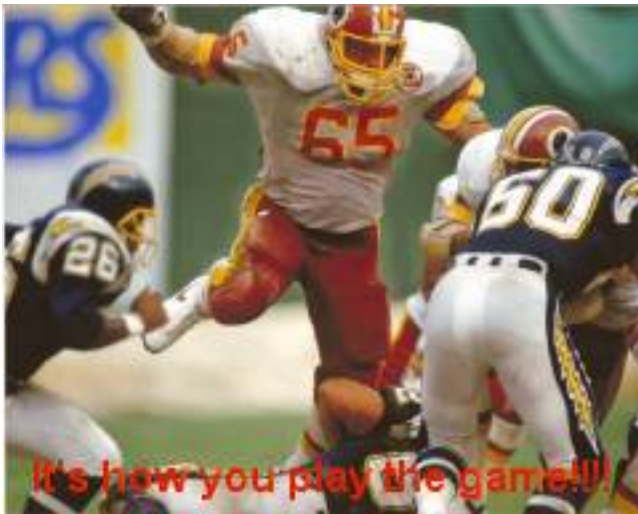
RALLY FOR FREEDOM

&

HEAR WHAT THE CANDIDATES HAVE TO SAY ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

**THIS IS AN EVENT THAT EVERY GUN OWNER, HUNTER AND
SECOND AMENDMENT VOTER MUST ATTEND**



**SPECIAL GUEST OF
HONOR**

Big # 65 – Dave Butz

**Former Washington Redskins All-Pro
Defensive Lineman**

Will speak, pose for photos and sign autographs



NRA Past President John Sigler

**Will give a briefing on national and
federal issues**

**COME SHOW THE POLITICIANS THAT DELAWAREANS ARE
STRONG AND UNITED IN DEFENSE OF FREEDOM**

(A general membership meeting of DSSA will immediately follow the program)