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# D.S.S.A. NEWS

DELAWARE STATE SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION  
A PUBLICATION OF THE DELAWARE STATE SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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## DSSA CHALLENGES REGULATORY GUN BAN

On December 21, 2015, DSSA joined with the Bridgeville Rifle & Pistol Club and five individual gun owners in a law suit filed in Delaware's Court of Chancery challenging the constitutionality of Delaware's blanket ban on the mere possession of otherwise lawful firearms in non-hunting settings by law-abiding citizens in Delaware's State Parks, State Forests and State Wildlife Areas. The official title of the suit is *Bridgeville Rifle & Pistol Club, et al v. David Small, Secretary of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, et al*, or simply *Bridgeville v. Small*.

As you may remember from previous DSSA News articles, DSSA first attempted to resolve this matter almost a year ago when we wrote to the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control requesting that the Parks Division repeal, or at least modify, its regulations so as to conform with Article I Section 20 of the Delaware Constitution which reads as follows: "A person has the right to keep and bear arms for defense of self, family, home and State, and for hunting and recreation". In so doing, DSSA referenced the Delaware Supreme Court's decision in *Doe v. Wilmington Housing Authority*. DNREC refused to amend its regulations forcing DSSA and others to challenge the regulations in Court.

So why is DSSA challenging these regulations, you ask? Well, certainly DSSA is opposed to any governmental ban on the otherwise lawful possession of firearms by law-abiding citizens, but in this case, these draconian regulations have far reaching impact. Here are just some of the things you can't do under the regulations being challenged:

1. Can't have a shark gun on your boat when you get fuel at the Indian River Marina
2. Can't carry openly or use your court-issued permit to carry concealed or while pre-hunt scouting in any of the state's hunting areas
3. Can't carry concealed with a permit or openly while riding any of the horseback trails or engaging in other equestrian activities in any of the state-owned areas, including the seven State Parks allowing horseback riding.
4. Can't have a gun in your car when you pull into the parking area of State Park to take photos of the beautiful landscapes and pond scenes – even if you have a permit to carry.
5. Can't camp overnight in any of the State Park or State Forest camp grounds with a gun in your possession – even with a permit.

6. Can't carry (openly or concealed) while you enjoy a nature hike in any of the state-owned parks, forests or wildlife areas.

7. Can't enjoy a bicycle ride while lawfully carrying openly or concealed in any of these state-owned areas – which includes all four of the State Parks within the City of Wilmington ("Murder City").

8. Can't carry (openly or concealed) while fishing or boating on any of the ponds, lakes, streams and rivers within any state park, state forest or wildlife area.

9. Can't have any firearm of any kind or for any reason in any of the cottages at Seashore State Park; or cabins at Henlopen State Park, Killens Pond or Trap Pond; or in any of the yurts at Lums Pond or Trapp Pond – even if you are just passing through, or visiting Delaware as a competitive shooter.

10. Can't go bird watching within any of these state-owned areas while carrying openly or concealed;

11. Can't use your Beach Access Permit to surf fish at the Seashore state park ( even at night) while in possession of a firearm, even if your are licensed to carry concealed and even if you are an active or retired law enforcement officer in possession of a LEOSA permit.

In summary, these regulations mean that these agencies of the State of Delaware say that you can't keep or bear arms to protect/defend self or family or possess arms for recreation in any of these areas – in other words – these regulations bar you from exercising your constitutional and God-given right of self defense.

The suit against DNREC's two agencies and the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service asks the Court to do two things: (1) Declare these regulations to be unconstitutional; and (2) enjoin (stop) these agencies from enforcing these regulations against otherwise law-abiding citizens.

(A copy of the suit may be found on DSSA's web site by going to <http://dssa.us>.)

## Virginia Revokes Concealed Carry Reciprocity Agreement With 25 States

By: Alanna Durkin

Concealed handgun permits held by residents of 25 states will no longer be valid in Virginia, the state's attorney general said Tuesday, drawing swift criticism from GOP lawmakers.

Attorney General Mark Herring, a Democrat, said the state will revoke its reciprocity agreement with the states because

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their concealed weapon laws don't meet Virginia's standards. Those states hand out permits to people who are barred under the Virginia law, like fugitives, convicted stalkers and drug dealers, which undermines the state's law and puts residents at risk, he said.

"Evenly, consistently and fairly enforcing Virginia's concealed handgun permit law, as we are now doing, means that it will be more difficult for potentially dangerous individuals to conceal their handguns here in Virginia and that will make Virginians safer, especially Virginian law enforcement," Herring said.

The move means that Virginians will no longer be able to use their concealed handgun permits in six states that require a mutual reciprocity agreement: Florida, Louisiana, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Wyoming.

John Whitbeck, chairman of the Virginia Republican Party, said Herring's announcement was further proof that Democrats have "declared war on the Second Amendment."

The top Republican in the GOP-controlled House of Delegates said that Herring is "damaging the integrity of the office he holds."

"Despite promising to take politics out of the attorney general's office, Mark Herring consistently seeks to interpret and apply the law of the Commonwealth through the lens of his own personal, political opinions," House Speaker William Howell said.

Lars Dalseide, a spokesman for the National Rifle Association, said concealed handgun reciprocity agreements between states have ended before, but his organization is unaware of another state ever implementing a change of this magnitude.

States are currently being notified about the change, which goes into effect on Feb. 1, Herring said. The only states that have tough enough laws to maintain their reciprocity agreement with Virginia are: Michigan, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah and West Virginia, he said.

The states whose permits Virginia will no longer recognize are: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

(Follow Alanna Durkin on Twitter at [twitter.com/aedurkin](https://twitter.com/aedurkin). Her work can be found at <http://bigstory.ap.org/author/alanna-durkin>)

## GOOD GUY WITH A GUN IN ACTION

In light of the Democrat-sponsored gun control following the San Bernardino attack, it is crucial to remember the important role armed citizens play in keeping themselves and others safe.

Perhaps no example illustrates this better than that of the Uber driver who pulled his handgun and stopped an attempted mass shooting in Chicago on April 17.

The driver had a concealed carry permit, so he was carrying his gun legally. And the fact that he had the gun with

him prevented injury to innocents at the very least, and perhaps saved numerous lives on top of that.

Breitbart News reported that the driver was sitting in his car on Milwaukee Avenue, watching people shuffle back and forth in front of the car just before midnight. As he watched, a gunman raised a weapon and began to fire, so the driver then sprang into action.

According to the Chicago Tribune, 22-year-old Everardo Custodio allegedly "began firing into the crowd," and the Uber driver fired back. He fired a total of "six shots at Custodio," striking him three times and wounding him in "the shin, thigh, and lower back." The attempted mass shooting was over and the the only injuries were to Custodio.

Numerous similar examples exist—examples largely overlooked by a Democratic Party fixated on making it harder for citizens to get the guns they need for self-defense.

For instance, just one month before the armed Uber driver saved the day in Chicago, a concealed permit holder saved adults and children when a gunman opened fire in a Philadelphia barber shop. Breitbart News reported that the concealed permit holder was walking past the barber shop on March 22 when he heard the sounds of gunfire inside. Instead of running away, the concealed permit holder ran inside and shot the would-be mass shooter in the chest, fatally wounding him.

According to NBC Philadelphia, police said the 40-year-old suspect who opened fire in the barer shop was randomly shooting at "customers and barbers" before the concealed permit holder intervened.

Earlier this year, Breitbart News posted a list of example of armed citizens using guns to defend their lives and the lives of others. The examples were drawn from events that occurred between December 26, 2014, and January 13, 2015.

Dec. 26—A Good Samaritan witnessed a domestic attack, pulled a pistol, and held the man at gunpoint until police arrived.

Dec. 27—A home invader put a gun to a woman's neck in Memphis. The invader was shot and killed by the homeowner.

Dec. 28—A Bucks County, Pennsylvania, resident shot an intruder who broke through the glass door of her apartment.

Dec. 29—A home invader was shot and killed after a pregnant woman helped fight him off.

Dec. 30—A pastor shot a man who attacked him inside a church.

Dec. 30—A Texas fireworks stand owner used a gun to shoot and stop armed robbers.

Jan. 9—Four armed robbers stormed a women's gun store in Shawnee, Kansas, and the co-owner's life was spared when her husband intervened by opening fire on the suspects.

Jan. 10—A California homeowner survived an initial attack by a home invader, retrieved a gun, and held the suspect at gunpoint until police arrived.

Jan. 11—A man put a gun to a Papa John's Pizza delivery woman's head; she pulled her own gun and shot him in the face.

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Jan. 12—An armed robber in a Milwaukee barber shop was shot and killed by a patron with a concealed carry license and a handgun.

Jan. 13—An armed Taco Bell robber ordered a would-be victim to drop his pants, but the victim pulled his gun instead and shot the robber dead.

These real accounts of armed citizens using guns defensively are literally a fraction of the similar stories that could be listed. So it stands to reason that the war on the Second Amendment is a war on the ability of such citizens to continue to defend their lives and the lives of others.

Follow AWR Hawkins on Twitter: @AWRHawkins. Reach him directly at [awrhawkins@breitbart.com](mailto:awrhawkins@breitbart.com).

## SASS Delaware State Match 2015

By Kathy Watson (aka Wyoming Schoolmarm)

On Thursday, April 30, 2015, the William T. Roe Range in Sudlersville, Maryland was transformed into scenes from the movie "Cheyenne Social Club". Outside, on the shooting bays, Match director, Teton Tracy and the set up crew began pulling out the targets, props and scenery. In the clubhouse, team members set out the release forms, registration packets, coffee and muffins. The inside team also organized the door prizes, sectioned off the scoring area and readied the stage signs and port-a-potties items. Outside, as targets were paced out and props put in place, the range took on the appearance of dusty cowboy trails, a lawyer's office, a saloon, Main Street in Cheyenne, the living room and a bedroom of the Cheyenne Social Club. Workers set up the chairs and tables under the tent and marked off the vendor, parking and camper areas. After lunch, the cowboys/cowgirls finished setting up and stored the hay bales (used to ground pistols) in case of rain.

Friday dawned with a slight chill in the air. After a few adjustments, 9 am marked the start of a Range Officer Training Class and shooter registration began. Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 850 from Kent County, Delaware had coffee ready by 7:30 am and began cooking breakfast sandwiches. These veterans prepared and sold breakfast, lunch, and snack items as well as drinks all three days of the tournament. Side matches were held from 12 noon until 4 pm. Participants can compete in long range rifle and pistol events, as well as speed events: shotgun; rifle; pistol; pocket pistol; and derringer. At 4 pm, side matches were wrapped up and workers completed the final preparations for the main match competition set to begin Saturday morning.

The mist Saturday morning lent a surreal air to the herds of "buffaloes and horses grazing" on the long range field. Registration opened at 7:30 am for the last dozen competitors to get checked in before opening ceremonies were scheduled to begin. Teton Tracy greeted everyone promptly at 9:30 am. He led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and a short prayer followed. Teton Tracy introduced the Delaware State Match Committee and thanked our sponsors and vendors. Safety

Officer, Cactus Whiskey reviewed the SASS Match regulations and Delmarva Sportsmen's Association Range rules. Having completed the preliminary procedures, Teton Tracy dismissed the shooters, wishing them all good luck and a safe and fun match. Cowboys/cowgirls began retrieving their gun carts and heading to meet their posse members per the schedule.

Each group has a posse leader and assistant leader, who explains each stage, runs the timer, watches for safety violations and keeps the group on schedule. Other posse members share duties such as keeping score, spotting, working the loading table, working the unloading table, resetting targets, and picking up brass. Once the shooting order is established and duties assigned, the posse leader explains the stage and the competition begins. Poses "met" John and Harley on a cattle drive, rode the dusty trail to Cheyenne, entered the town of Cheyenne, heard John's brother DJ's will, and rang the bell for their favorite lady as the day progressed. Lunch was on a staggered schedule (two groups at a time) to keep the lines short at the food booth. Shooters also use this time to shop on vendor's row, watch fellow competitors not on lunch break, and catch up with friends. Shooting wrapped up about 2:45 pm on Saturday. As shooters packed up their guns and put away ammo, many talked about the day's competition. Several joked about a target or two that somehow "jumped" out of the bullet's path, while others laughed about the story lines, and a few crossed their fingers hoping their clean match would carry over to Sunday's stages. Cowboys/cowgirls and their guests relaxed for about half an hour while Where Pigs Fly began setting up the BBQ. While dinner was being heated, names were drawn to receive left over door prizes. While eating desserts, side match awards were handed out. Our club gives out, when applicable, a "Most shoots fired in a single side match": Gunpowder John earned this award for firing 305 shots in the long range pistol event. A special award is given at our dinner: The Too Dang Frank Award. Too Dang Frank was one of cofounders, who passed away five years ago. Each year, we honor a cowboy/cowgirl who exemplifies Frank's dedication to cowboy action shooting and promotes our sport through his/her actions and interactions with others. This year's winner was Gunpowder John. He has grown tremendously in the years he has been shooting and has become a first-rate Posse leader. John's family was in attendance as well as Frank's family and our other cofounder, Slash 8 and his wife, Betty. John was completely surprised and humbled to receive this award.



Sunday dawned bright with low humidity. After Cowboy Church (and breakfast), Poses headed out to defend the Ladies of the Social Club from bullies, meet up with the bad guys in the woods, face the Banisters whose brother was killed by Harley, hand control of the Social Club over to Jenny, and head back to working the cowboy trail. While final scores were entered in the SASS scoring spreadsheet, competitors could throw their name badge in the hat to compete in the Luck of the Draw shoot. Teams of three are determined as follows: First badge drawn shoots pistols; second drawn shoots rifle and third drawn shoots shotgun. Teams of three are drawn until badges run out. The stage is explained – The three team members stage their guns and stand at a line painted on the grass. At the buzzer, the pistol shooter runs to the table, and double taps the five pistol targets and lays the pistols on the table; he/she tags the rifle shooter who shoots two sweeps of the five rifle targets and lays the open and empty rifle on the table; he/she tags the shotgun shooter who shoots four knock down targets. If either or both of the other team members had any misses, the shot gunner must hit a stationary target the number of times equal to the total number of team misses. The team with the lowest total score is declared the winner. Competitors seem to enjoy this unusual “showdown” at the end of the match.

As awards were laid out and the list of winners doubled checked, raffle winners were drawn and sponsors, vendors and the Match Committee were thanked. Awards were handed out by our Territorial Governor, Deacon Will and Match Director, Teton Tracy. Category winners were announced and presented with plaques, as well as the top Delaware winner in that category who received a special Delaware State Category winner emblem. Six cowboys received Clean Match pins (No misses or procedural for the two days of main match shooting). The Luck of the Draw shoot was won by the team consisting of Big Whiskey, Stunt Girl Taj (Big Whiskey’s daughter) and Unexpected Bill, all New Jersey shooters. Top Delaware Cowboy was Cool Hand Lee (Jerry Martin, Delmar), who won for the third year in a row, and Top Delaware Cowgirl was Wyoming Schoolmarm (Kathy Watson, Wyoming). Overall Match winner and Top Cowboy was Jesamy Kid (Bob Fernald, New Jersey) and Top Cowgirl was Side Saddle Sue (Karen Cichocki, West Virginia). In addition to State Plaques, the top Delaware winners each received a belt buckle and free admission to the Northeast Regional completion. The top overall male and female winner received Top Shooter plaques and a leather picture which was hand tooled by Corkscrew Tom. At the discretion of the match director, A Spirit of the Game award is given. This unique award is given to an individual who goes above and beyond normal cowboy/cowgirl behavior at the match. This year’s recipient was Bruce Dempsey: a non-cowboy club member who worked tirelessly through set up day, the three days of the match and clean up day. Without being asked, he became the Match Director’s right hand man and an invaluable asset to the match.



Special thanks to the SASS Delaware State Match Committee: Teton Tracy (Tracy Kilby, Townsend), Southpaw Sadie (Debbie Kilby, Townsend), Bonnie B Good (Bonnie Bazensky, Maryland), Cactus Whiskey (Earl Schumer, New Castle), Deacon Will (Dave Bell, Lincoln), Delaware Coop (John Cooper, Smyrna), Hazel Pepper (Karen, Bell, Lincoln), Jingles Jerr (Jerry Bazensky, Maryland), Vaquero Dan (Dan Watson, Wyoming) and Wyoming Schoolmarm (Kathy Watson, Wyoming). This committee worked hard to offer a smooth, well thought out, interesting and challenging match and successfully pulled it off. We are grateful to our sponsors: The Cowboy Shop, Senior Care of Goldsboro and By George! Custom Embroidery. A full list of winners, match scores, sponsors, vendors, pictures and videos can be found at: [www.dsarange.com/](http://www.dsarange.com/) click on the SASS DE State Match logo.

## Purchasing Your First Gun

There are hundreds of choices of guns, accessories and options for guns. It can be very confusing and in many cases, it is easy to buy a gun that does not meet your needs or expectations. The following is a decision tree of sorts to help you make the best choice for your first gun. As you get more involved in the shooting sports and self-protection, experience and knowledge will lead you down a more expedient path.

Recommendation: Before purchasing a gun, it is recommended that you get some education on the use and safe handling of a gun. The NRA Basic Pistol or similar course by a certified instructor is recommended.

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It is also recommend that you solicit the aid of a knowledgeable gun person as a resource to help you with this decision process. You can use this decision tree to start the conversation with your knowledgeable resource.

There are a lot of good gun stores and salespersons. But for every one good gun salesperson, there are a few gun store commandos. Be careful of recommendations of sales persons unless you have reason to believe they have your best interest at heart.

Your goal is to be able to go to a gun store with the following decisions already in hand:

- Type of gun you want – Revolver or Semi-Automatic Pistol
- Platform and style that works best for your purpose – safeties, decockers, single action, double action, single/double action, etc.
- Caliber that works best for your purpose – 38 cal, 9mm, 40mm 45 cal etc.
- Price tolerance

So to get these answers, ask and answer the following questions:

**1. What do you want the gun for?**

Home defense – protection in the home

Self-defense – protection of self and others outside the home

Sport – competitive use

Hunting – small and large game

Recreation – plinking and non-competitive target shooting, general fun.

Collecting – vintage firearms

If you have more than one intended use, you may want more than one gun. Guns are like \$100.00 bills. You can't have too many.

**2. Is the gun intended for your use only or will other people have use of the gun?**

If you are the sole intended user, then the gun must fit you alone. But if it's a home defense gun to be used by you, your spouse and possibly others, then the gun must fit each of the intended users. Home defense is one area where a rifle or shotgun is an often overlooked option and may be preferred over a handgun.

**3. What Size of Gun is best for you?**

Generally for pistols, you want to get the largest frame size gun that will work for the intended purpose. Generally, the larger and heavier the gun, the less the felt recoil and the larger the cartridge capacity. But you have to balance gun size and weight against its intended use and who will be using it.

**4. What caliber is best for you?**

Generally the larger the caliber, the more powerful the gun. The most common home and self-defense guns are 38 cal., 9mm, 40mm and 45 cal. Long guns are .223 rifles and 12 and 20 gauge shotguns. With proper self-defense ammunition, the 38 cal. and 9 mm calibers are very lethal.

Sporting, competition and other guns host a whole range of available calibers.

**5. What is your budget?**

Almost all the standard manufactured guns on the market today are quality and well built. Price for a new gun should be anticipated between \$300.00 and \$800.00. Anything below \$300 is questionable and above \$800 has things that you may not need. The higher priced guns usually have some custom features that you may like but may not be necessary to meet your needs for a first gun purchase. It's your money. At the same time, if you make a good decision on the purchase, this gun will last you a lifetime. A few extra hundred dollars can make the gun more enjoyable and serviceable. This is one area where you do get what you pay for.

Used guns are often a great value but it's important that the gun be inspected and certified by a reputable gun smith or armorer. They are not that easy to find but ask around. They are available.

**6. Revolver vs Semi-Auto Pistol**

There are a lot of options here and an equal number of decisions/choices to make.

A revolver is typically easier to use and has a lower malfunction rate. Concurrently, revolvers typically have a lower cartridge carrying ability meaning that you don't have as much available ammunition before reloading. In addition, revolvers are generally slower to reload (outside of a competitive arena). A revolver may be a good choice for persons that will not be able to practice frequently beyond their initial instruction and want the gun for home defense, occasional target and recreation shooting.

Generally speaking, the more the ammunition the gun holds, the longer you can stay in the fight. If you're reloading, you're not fighting. In addition, a person's hit rate drops dramatically during a real gun fight. As a result you can expect to miss a percentage of your shots. It is also well known that handguns lack the impact power of long guns. As a result, it is not unusual to have to shoot a live target two or three times to stop the threat. Factor in the miss rate and the math shows that the more ammunition you have on board, the better your chance of stopping the threat.

A semi-automatic pistol is more complex and requires greater manipulative skills to use safely and effectively. As a result, its malfunction rate is higher than a revolver. It requires more training and practice to use effectively. The semi-automatic pistol typically provides greater cartridge capacity primary due to its design and detachable magazine. As a result, more ammunition is available that allows you to stay in the fight and has faster reloads in general. A semi-automatic pistol is good for persons that can train regularly with the gun to maintain their skill.

It's important to know that safe and effective gun handling is a perishable skill. You need to handle and practice with a gun to be safe and proficient. Handling and dry firing a gun is not playing; it's learning. There's a big difference. In a safe and approved manner, handle and dry fire your gun often. It's

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all quality practice/training. Get some periodic training from an instructor so you don't create and train a bad habit.

### 7. What gun type and platform works best for your needs?

There are a lot of guns on the market and they can be grouped into several different designs or categories. There are a world of choices and options. Let's break it down into some basic choices.

Revolver – Cartridge is contained in a rotating cylinder that rotates as the trigger is pulled or hammer is cocked, positioning a new cartridge to be fired. (Revolvers do not have safeties. The action and long, hard trigger pull is the safety along with keeping our finger off the trigger.)

#### **Pro's**

- very reliable
- Low malfunction rate
- Does not need a safety
- Requires less training

#### **Con's**

- Low cartridge capacity
- Trigger pull (8-13 lbs) may be too hard for some users

Single Action Only(SA) - Must cock the gun each time. The trigger only releases the hammer. Usually a light trigger pull. Classic cowboy action. Not practical for home or self defense. Great for sport and hunting.

Double Action Only (DA)– Trigger pull cocks and fires the gun. One pull of the trigger fires one round and rotates the cylinder. The gun cannot be manually cocked. Trigger pull is long, consistent and heavy.

Double and Single Action (DA/SA)- Trigger pull cocks and fires the gun. One pull of the trigger fires one round and rotates the cylinder. The gun can also be manually cocked and fired. The single action trigger pull is much lighter than the double action.

Semi-Automatic Pistol – The cartridge is loaded into the chamber of the barrel. When cocked, each pull of the trigger fires the cartridge resulting in the upper slide to cycle, ejecting the spent cartridge case and feeding a new cartridge into the chamber from the magazine ready for the next trigger pull.

Hammer Fired – gun uses a spring loaded arrangement to put tension on a hammer. When released by the trigger/sear, the hammer falls onto a firing pin (or hammer to transfer bar to firing pin), striking the primer in the cartridge causing the gun to fire.

Various choices

- 1911 Style – design to be carried locked and cocked
- Safety
- Decocker
- Safety/decocker
- Triggers/designs are SA, DA and DA/SA as described previously.

Striker Fired - gun uses a spring-loaded arrangement to put tension on a firing pin. When the trigger-safety and trigger are pressed together, they cause a firing pin block to moved out of the way, a drop safety to be taken out of play, adding additional tension to the firing pin, then releasing the firing pin

to move forward. The firing pin strikes the primer in the cartridge causing the gun to fire.

The pro's and con's of each style are endless and the subject of many an argument. The fact is that both types of guns are equally safe and functional. It's primarily a personal preference of which unfortunately, you do not have enough experience yet to have an informed preference. You should be using this decision tree in concert with a gun knowledgeable resource. Follow their advice if it makes sense for you. If you need to find a knowledgeable resource, contact an officer of a local gun club or gun store and they should be able to refer you to someone that will help.

Answering each one of these questions with an experience gun owner/handler will cause you to have an extensive conversation about your first gun purchase. Once you have answered these questions, you should be able to go to a gun store with the following already decided:

Type of Gun

Platform

Caliber

Price tolerance

Once you get to the gun store, then you have to look at fit.

That's another discussion to be continued.

Keep learning.

By: Roger Boyce

(Roger is an NRA instructor and Board Member of Delaware Rifle and Pistol Club and the Delaware State Sportsmen Association.)

## **NRA ELECTION REMINDER**

NRA Board Elections are just around the corner. The "Ballot Issue" of the various NRA Official Journal magazines will be the March editions and should be arriving in your mailbox around the middle-end of February.

The DSSA Board has endorsed one of our own DSSA members, Rich Kussman. We hope that you will join us in voting for Rich when the time arrives.

Thank you!

**Colonel Richard L. Kussman, U.S.A., (Ret.)**  
Stewartstown, Pennsylvania



Benefactor Member. Lifelong hunter, competitive shooter and influential Second Amendment activist. Retired U.S. Army

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Colonel, member U.S. Army Pistol Team (1978 & 1980). Two-term President, Maryland State Rifle & Pistol Association, former MSRPA Vice-President for Legislative Affairs fighting alongside NRA-ILA against Maryland's draconian semi-auto and ammunition bans; testified in House Committee in defense of Maryland's law-abiding gun owners and hunters; worked closely with pro-gun legislators; outspoken Second Amendment advocate, strong supporter of NRA-ILA's efforts to win National Conceal Carry Reciprocity. "Double Distinguished" Rifle & Pistol; 2010 winner of NRA's prestigious Wimbledon Cup; member President's Hundred-Rifle. Undergraduate and graduate Civil Engineering degrees, Kansas State University; former business executive with Battelle Memorial Institute, world's largest private research and development firm; founding partner, H&K Associates, ammunition development firm. Avid hunter, USA and Africa, member SCI, RMEF & DU. Nominated by Members' Petition, Colonel Kussman has dedicated a lifetime to defending American Freedom.

## REFLECTING ON 48 YEARS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As we enter DSSA's 48th year of service to Delaware's hunters, sportsmen and gun owners as NRA's official State Association in Delaware, it is appropriate to recount some of the accomplishments achieved by the DSSA in defense of the Right to Keep and Bear Arms in Delaware since its founding.

As of this writing, the Delaware State Sportsmen's Association is comprised of 15 constituent NRA clubs that fall under the DDSA umbrella with total combined memberships well in excess of 5,000 people; and a total individual membership of approximately 700 individual members. The Delaware State Sportsmen's Association provides the "boots on the ground" year in and year out in NRA's fight to preserve, protect, defend and expand the right to keep and bear arms in Delaware as well as the local presence that our Legislators listen to and respect.

Looking back at DSSA's accomplishments over those 48 years it is easy to see why Delaware hasn't become just like Maryland and New Jersey - or become the next New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut or California - and, God knows, this Governor has done his dead-level best to bring California policies to Delaware.

Here are just a few of our biggest "Wins" in the Delaware General Assembly over the years - and remember, there have been many, many others:

1. Passage of a constitutional amendment in 1987 protecting "the right to keep and bear arms for defense of self, family, home and State, and for hunting and recreation". ART.I Sec. 20, Delaware Constitution.
2. Passage of State Preemption which bars cities, towns and counties from passing a confusing patchwork of anti-gun laws that would result in law-abiding citizens from being trapped in "gotcha" situations

3. Passage of Range Protection to protect legitimate, well-established ranges from frivolous, "Johnny-Come-Lately" lawsuits.
4. Defeated at least six (6) attempts to repeal "preemption", successfully limiting the most recent attempts to modify "preemption" by limiting their scope to municipal and county buildings while protecting the rights of citizens and employees to exercise their rights to carry concealed in accordance with their licenses.
5. Defeated repeated attempts to ration gun purchases to "One-Gun-A-Month"
6. Defeated several attempts to ban gun shows as we know them today
7. Passage of Handgun Hunting in Delaware - thus proving to then-governor Carper that handguns do have a legitimate sporting purpose (something we all knew but he refused to acknowledge).
8. At least four (4) times in the past 20 years DSSA has defeated attempts to ban semi-automatic rifles
9. Passage of Concealed Carry Reciprocity
10. Passage of over a dozen (12+) separate amendments to Delaware's Concealed Carry Laws, all of which made our laws much more fair and much easier to use - and much harder to be abused by judges and prosecutors. There are now over 11,700 CCDW licenses in Delaware. When we started this process there were less than 2,500.
11. Defeated numerous and repeated attempts by both Republican and Democratic Governors to register and/or license guns and/or gun owners and to impose other draconian restrictions on law-abiding citizens and their ability to own, possess and/or carry otherwise lawful firearms
12. Defeated several attempts by the opposition to pass legislation that would have created ill-advised "gun-free-terror zones".
13. Defeated several attempts to pass "trigger lock", so-called "safe storage" and/or "lock'em-all-up" laws.
14. Defeated multiple attempts to ban standard capacity magazines for semi-auto pistols &/or rifles;
15. Protected the rights of Delaware's hunters and trappers from attempts to make hunting and trapping difficult and expensive for the average hunter and his/her family - passing many new initiatives to make hunting easier and access to hunting lands easier and more uniform
16. Amending really harmful anti-gun bills so as to protect the rights of law-abiding citizens and turning those bad bills into either good bills or at least bills that are no longer true "gun bills". ----- This amendment process occurs at least a dozen times per Legislative Session and has occurred several hundred times since DSSA began protecting the rights of Delaware hunters, shooters and gun owners in 1968.

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Every election cycle DSSA rates candidates and helps you to understand where each candidate stands on issues important to you; helps to elect and re-elect pro-gun candidates; and helps to defeat anti-gun candidates and incumbents. While it is true that in some years we have been more successful than others it is also true that during each and every election year, your DSSA works closely with your NRA to help keep Delaware from joining Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts as anti-gun safe havens for criminals and terrorists.

Within the past several years, DSSA has added a "third leg" to the equation in the pro-gun freedom fight – that leg being the litigation leg – so that now our freedoms are being supported by a tripod – legislation, elections and litigation.

The DSSA played a pivotal role in the Delaware Supreme Court victory we now know as *Doe v. Wilmington Housing Authority*. Not only did we assist the NRA in its efforts in this landmark case, DSSA also served as one of the amici ("friends of the court") filing a brief defending the right to carry and, specifically, open carry. If you were to check closely, you would find language in the Court's opinion that comes directly from DSSA's Amicus Brief.

In December of 2015, DSSA added yet another litigation fight to its continuing efforts to strengthen the "litigation leg" of our "tripod" by leading the way in forming a coalition to fight the unconstitutional regulatory ban on firearm possession in State Parks, State Forests and State Wildlife Areas. As you will read in more detail in another article within this news letter, DSSA joined with the Bridgeville Rifle & Pistol Club and five individual plaintiffs in a suit filed in the Court of Chancery challenging those regulations, asking the Court to declare them to be unconstitutional and asking the Court to bar future enforcement of those blatantly anti-gun/anti-freedom regulations. (Please see additional article found elsewhere in this Newsletter explicitly describing this latest litigation effort). Finally, in its role as NRA's State Association in Delaware, DSSA sanctions competitive shooting state championships, Eddie Eagle Gun Safe Programs, Women-on-Target Programs, youth hunter education programs and other safety and education programs designed to make Delaware's gun owners, families and children safer and more responsible in terms of firearm use and ownership.

While it is true that DSSA has been successful since its birth in 1968. It is also true that the only way we will remain successful and the only way we can build upon past successes is if you – our members – continue to support our efforts, maintain your memberships and help us to recruit new members.

To assist someone to join DSSA or to renew your membership or to buy a membership for a family member, simply go on line to <http://dssa.us> and follow the prompts. It's easy to do – do it today.

We invite you to become an active part of the solution – to be a part of our team.

The new year, 2016, is shaping up to be a challenging year in the fight to preserve, protect, defend and expand the right to keep and bear arms in Delaware. We hope that you will join

us in the fight to defend America's First freedom here in the First State.

## **124 ANTI-GUN DEMOCRATS INCLUDING OUR OWN CONGRESSMAN JOHN CARNEY INTRODUCE SEMI-AUTO GUN AND MAGAZINE BAN IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

On December 16, Rep. David Cicilline and 123 other Democrat members of the House of Representatives introduced H.R. 4269, the Assault Weapons Ban of 2015, a bill virtually identical to S. 150, introduced by Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) in the Senate in 2013.

For the moment, the ban has little chance of passing. Feinstein's legislation was defeated in 2013, no similar legislation was even considered in the House at that time, and Feinstein's two attempts to push the ban this year—most recently after the terrorist attack in San Bernardino—failed as well.

However, things could change in 2016. The leading contender for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination, Hillary Clinton, is campaigning on the most anti-gun platform of any candidate in American presidential history. Meanwhile, though the leading candidates for the Republican Party's nomination are far friendlier to the Second Amendment than Clinton, support has not yet galvanized behind the one who will ultimately be selected to carry the party's banner going into Election Day.

It is important to note that H.R. 4269, like other federal "assault weapon" bills introduced over the last decade, would not "reinstate" the federal "assault weapon ban" of 1994-2004. Gun control supporters have been using the word "reinstate" to mislead the American people into thinking they are proposing to renew the ban that expired in 2004. However, nothing could be further from the truth.

The 1994 ban allowed manufacturers to produce AR-15s without flash suppressors and one or two other external attachments, and to make similar adjustments to other firearms. As a result, the number of AR-15s made and sold during the 10 years the ban was in effect was a quarter of a million greater than the number produced and sold during the preceding 10 years. Additionally, 50 million magazines capable of holding over 10 rounds were allowed to be imported while the ban was in effect. CBS 60 Minutes reported that the first year of the "ban" was "the best year for the sales of assault weapons ever."

For these reasons, the Violence Policy Center, which in 1988 urged anti-gun activists to focus on "assault weapons" as a "new topic" to "strengthen the handgun restriction lobby," described the 1994 ban as a "fictional ban," "a ban in name only . . . [and a] "charade."

The new ban proposed in H.R. 4269 is another story. It would prohibit the manufacture of most detachable-magazine semi-automatic rifles, numerous semi-automatic shotguns configured for defensive purposes, any semi-automatic rifle with a fixed magazine over 10 rounds (except for a tubular



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magazine .22), any semi-automatic pistol like the HK SP-89, any semi-automatic pistol with a fixed magazine over 10 rounds, revolving cylinder shotguns, various other named and described firearms, frames and receivers of banned guns, and ammunition magazines over 10 rounds, except those for tubular .22 rimfire rifles.

Two weeks ago, an ABC News/Washington Post poll found that the American people oppose an "assault weapon" ban by a 53%-45% margin. Presumably, if the American people knew the vast differences between the 1994 ban and the one currently being proposed, that margin would widen considerably.

Please contact your U.S. Representative and express your opposition to H.R. 4269. You can call your U.S. Representative at 202-225-3121 or write your lawmakers here: <https://www.nraaila.org/take-action/write-your-lawmakers/>

## **NRA APPLAUDS U.S. REP MCSALLY'S INTRODUCTION OF MENTAL HEALTH BILL**

Last week, U.S. Representative Martha McSally (R-Ariz.) introduced HR 3722, NRA supported legislation to protect the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens from continued bureaucratic abuse by the Obama Administration while strengthening America's failing mental health system. McSally's bill is the House version of the Mental Health and Safe Communities Act, introduced in August in the U.S. Senate by Senator John Cornyn (R-Texas) as S. 2002.

As we reported here on S.2002, the Mental Health and Safe Communities Act requires that significant due process protections must be in place before an individual can be entered into the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) as a prohibited person under the Gun Control Act (GCA). This critical change is necessary as the Obama Administration continues to sweep more and more Americans into NICS, with his agencies hard at work to deny the Second Amendment rights of the law-abiding with no due process whatsoever.

As we've reported here and here, the Veterans Administration (VA) has forwarded an estimated 177,000 veterans into NICS simply because they've been assigned someone to help them manage their financial affairs. This is being done to our brave service men and women by simple bureaucratic fiat, with no chance for a hearing, no right to counsel, and no opportunity to argue their case before the VA forwards their name to NICS. These veterans can appeal the decision after VA makes the determination, but there is no such right before they are, in essence, "found guilty."

But it's not just the VA. As reported in the L.A. Times in July, the Social Security Administration (SSA) is currently developing a similar program to forward to NICS the names of those SSA recipients who need help with their finances. Of course, helping to manage a checkbook has nothing to do with public safety; this is just another way for the Obama

Administration to prohibit more Americans from owning guns. This program has the potential to assign prohibited person status to over four million Americans, and if implemented as it has been reported, would amount to the largest gun grab in our history. HR 3722 bill will end these abuses.

Beyond the due process mandate, the bill will also provide incentive funding to the states to forward prohibiting mental health records to the NICS, but, importantly, the bill clarifies the scope of mental health records that are to be shared to ensure that only those who pose a danger to themselves or others are included.

HR 3722 strengthens several federal programs to fix our ailing mental health system. In addition to targeting funding to improve local responses to those in mental health crisis, HR 3722 also will help state and local authorities to identify the dangerously mentally ill while also providing treatment resources for communities to prevent acts of violence.

(NRA-ILA, Friday, October 16, 2015)

## **GUN CRIME CONVICTIONS DOWN MORE THAN 33 PERCENT, BUT GUN CONTROL RHETORIC UP**

Gun crime convictions are down more than 33 percent compared to a decade ago, but the Obama administration's gun control push has risen sharply.

In fact, Politico reports that next week, Obama is expected to announce executive gun control to broaden background checks and put new regulations on licensed gun sellers.

According to The Washington Times, gun crime convictions "[peaked] at 9,206 a decade ago"—under George W. Bush—but fell "to 6,002 in fiscal year 2015." And one reason for the lower number of convictions is that prosecutors "are simply bringing fewer cases" under Obama.

For example, "Of the two most common federal gun offenses—illegally selling a firearm or using one in connection with another crime—the number of cases dropped from 11,067 in 2004 to 8,078 in 2014."

According to Syracuse University's Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) Reports, annual gun crime convictions under Obama have never matched the number of convictions secured under Bush in 2008—and 2008 was not even Bush's best year for securing convictions.

The number of convictions in 2008 topped 8,000. Obama has only had two years with over 7,000 convictions, and the rest of his annual numbers were in the 6,000 range.

Yet the gun control push is relentless. In addition to the highly anticipated executive gun control—coming next week—Obama has been calling on Congress to expand background checks, add the no-fly list to current gun controls, and ban the sale of "assault weapons," which Obama calls "weapons of war."

(Follow AWR Hawkins on Twitter: @AWRHawkins. Reach him directly at [awrhawkins@breitbart.com](mailto:awrhawkins@breitbart.com).)

**MEMBERSHIP FEES AND DONATIONS,  
PLEASE TAKE NOTE:**

Our Organization exists and is sustained by the membership fees and donations we receive annually. Please note that we appreciate and need your support more than ever. Our membership has virtually doubled in the past few months and with this infusion of support DSSA can and plans to move forward in areas and ways we have not been able to do before. We ask that when making donations to DSSA or DFLA that you use a separate check for each organization. This will ensure that the monies will be used as you the member/donator would have us use it. To help in this area, DSSA has set out to allow online payments and registration for membership. As you read this, provisions are being made to facilitate credit card usage in a secure manner to make payments and to donate. THANK YOU

**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 [jeff.hague@dssa.us](mailto:jeff.hague@dssa.us). Questions or concerns may be sent to the same address.

**Mail Delivery Option**

If you have paid dues at the full rate of \$25.00 per year you may elect to receive your newsletter through the USPS. To make a change please contact DSSA Membership Secretary, William D. Bell at:

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