



D.S.S.A. NEWS

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

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PRESIDENT'S NOTEBOOK

by John Thompson

On January 10, 2010 the DSSA hosted over 450 persons and over 35 legislators and candidates at the Modern Maturity Center in Dover. The impetus for this event came from John Sigler, DSSA director and immediate past president of the NRA. Through November and December the RSVPs from our invited guests trickled in and by the new year we knew that we would have a full complement of speakers. What we still did not know was whether our members and others would attend. The event was featured in our newsletter, word went out to the gun clubs, posters were distributed and the NRA came through with a postcard to its members. But still we did not know.

As we all now know the room was filled with supporters of the Right to Keep and Bear Arms. The enthusiastic and well mannered crowd cheered on the speakers as each explained what gun rights meant to them. They politely listened to one heretofore unknown candidate from a minor party confess to a felony conviction and pardon. With very few exceptions the speakers confined their remarks to firearm and hunting issues. Perhaps this was because I reminded them of the rules of the road contained in their invitations and that since the DSSA was a gun rights organization many of us would be armed. State Senator Colin Bonini who is running for State Treasurer made a pitch for reducing government spending and taxes. Although this was not strictly on topic I clarified his remarks by telling the audience that they should spend their tax savings on guns and ammunition.

One of the afternoon's highlights came from Representative Donald Blakely of Dover who said that because of he and his wife's frequent travel they are unable to keep a dog or cat, however they do have several pets named: Colt, Ruger, Remington, Smith and Wesson. Dave Butz, NRA director and three time Super Bowl defensive lineman for the Washington Redskins, inspired the attendees with his talk on focus, emotion, and concentration. He was also the target of some friendly barbs from State Senator Joseph Booth, a self-confessed offensive lineman, who tried to get even for some long ago lumps suffered at the line of scrimmage.

The purpose of this event was to show the politicians and elected officials in Delaware that the voters care about their gun rights. This message came through loud and

clear from the excellent attendance and spirit of the crowd. Based on the remarks of the speakers and comments made a few days later in Legislative Hall the message was received. This is an election year and there is no reason to be shy when it comes to telling a candidate why your right to keep and bear arms is important. Whether it is your right to self-defense, your right to carry, your right to buy your chosen type of gun or your right to hunt make sure your elected officials and candidates know that their response now will result in how you respond on election day.

DSSA Pushes HB 357

As the result of an investigation by the Caesar Rodney Institute we learned that various government run housing authorities prohibit their residents from owning firearms under the threat of eviction. Because of their economic condition these residents are seen by state and local government agencies as second class citizens not to be trusted with guns.

In response to this outrage the DSSA drafted and circulated among gun rights supporters in the General Assembly a bill to eliminate this discrimination. In addition the DSSA also supports the NRA's plan to sue the housing authorities if the regulation are not rescinded.

As written HB 357 will prohibit any and all government agencies from regulating firearms unless they have the express authority of the General Assembly. The prime sponsors of the bill are Rep. John Atkins and Sen. Robert Booth. A bi-partisan coalition of 22 other legislators have signed on as well.

The bill has been attacked by Governor Markell. It appears that he does not believe that the residents of low income housing who live in areas with some of the highest rates of violent crime in the state should not be allowed to defend themselves from the vicious criminal who infest these projects. According to his way of thinking it appears that the right to keep and bear arms in the Second Amendment and Article 1, Section 20 of our own Delaware Constitution do not apply to those residents of public housing. What other rights does the governor want to take away from those who are less fortunate? Perhaps he thinks that they do not deserve free speech or freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures.

Please contact your Representative and Senator and tell them that you support HB 357 and that you expect them to pass it into law.

An Obituary for Words by Cindy Cooke, Legislative Specialist

You can't really ban a word. In fact, an attempt to ban something often backfires, particularly in the United States, where we don't like people censoring our speech. So I'm not going to tell you not to say "puppy mill".

I'm going to give you some very good reasons for not using that phrase.

I speak to a lot of dog clubs and frequently hear dog breeders supporting so-called "anti-puppy-mill" laws. When I ask these people to define "puppy mill," invariably the definitions given include:

- People who "overbreed" their dogs;
- People who don't take care of their dogs;
- People who have too many dogs;
- People who breed dogs "just for money"; and
- People who don't take health issues into account when breeding their dogs.

Let's look at these definitions in turn. What is "overbreeding"? In the wild, most canids can only reproduce once a year. Most domestic dogs can have two litters a year. When I first became a dog breeder, it was almost a religious belief that no female dog should be bred more than once a year. We were told that it was important to "rest" the uterus between litters. Today, however, thanks to advances in veterinary medicine, we know that a uterus is actually damaged by the elevated progesterone levels that occur in each heat cycle, whether the dog is pregnant or not. Veterinary reproduction specialists recommend that dogs be bred on their second or third heat cycle, that we do more back-to-back breedings, and that we spay the dogs at around age six.

The "overbreeding" argument also treats reproduction as something that female dogs wouldn't do if they had a choice. Dogs aren't people - female dogs actually want to be bred when they're in heat and, with few exceptions, enjoy raising their puppies. It's not an unwelcome event for dogs.

People who don't take care of their dogs are already guilty of a crime in all 50 states. There is nowhere in the United States where it is legal to neglect or abuse dogs. Sadly, a small minority of all dog breeders - commercial, home and hobby - commit neglect and abuse. Some of these do so out of ignorance, some out of laziness, and some out of meanness. All are already breaking the law. It just needs to be enforced.

One of our biggest problems now is that animal radicals insist that every dog be raised like a hothouse flower. One bill proposed this year would have required every kennel to be air conditioned. Many owners of working dogs prefer that their dogs be acclimated to hot weather so that they can work when the temperature goes up. Likewise, sled dogs in the north often sleep outdoors in the snow. Dogs can live and thrive in a wide range of environments. The Arctic Circle, the jungles of Africa, and the deserts of Arabia have all produced breeds of dogs that can live happily in conditions that might not suit all dogs. It is important that we not let activists redefine the needs of dogs to the extent that we are forced to provide a brass bed and a down pillow for every animal in the kennel!

What is "too many" dogs? Most of our breeds were developed by wealthy people who kept large numbers of dogs. Hound breeders traditionally kept good-sized packs, and early show breeders did as well. Now that our sport includes more mainstream people - people with jobs or people who need jobs - it's hard for many of us to keep large numbers of dogs. There is no

inherent link between numbers of dogs and neglect. People who have the resources to keep big kennels provide a service for all of us, particularly if they maintain a good number of useful stud dogs.

Breeding dogs is expensive, and getting more so daily. It's just plain silly to pretend that none of us needs the money generated by puppy sales and stud services. Without that income, the vast majority of middle class breeders could not afford this sport. When our sport was solely in the hands of rich people, it was the norm to sneer at people in "trade", and part of that attitude was handed down to us with the culture of our sport. Today, however, the majority of us in the sport are "in trade", in the sense that we have to work to support ourselves. Our dogs must, at least in part, support themselves or most of us would have to get out of the game.

We have among us a small but vociferous group of people who think that breeders only care about producing great hunting or show dogs, and nothing about health. In fact, I've never met a breeder who wasn't concerned about the health of his dogs and the health of his breed. Most health problems in dogs don't have simple solutions, so it is only natural that breeders are often going to disagree about how to address health problems. When there's no right answer to a question, then breeders who follow a different path than you might choose are not necessarily wrong or unconcerned. I know that many believe that commercial breeders don't care about health, but the fact is that their professional organizations provide some of the most sophisticated health seminars in the country for their breeders.

Twenty years ago, animal activists created the phrase "puppy mill". Back then, it was only applied to commercial breeders, and then only to those who were breaking the law by neglecting their dogs. In a futile attempt to placate activists, many hobby breeders adopted the term "puppy mill" and used it to separate "them" from "us". It was a mistake then, and it's rapidly becoming fatal today. Every one of these so-called "anti-puppy-mill bills" has a definition that could easily include breeders of hunting and show dogs. Every time you use that phrase, you're contributing to the idea that dog breeders need to be regulated out of existence.

The message we need to send to America is that purebred dogs are good, not just because they have pedigrees, but because of their predictability, and that people should shop at least as carefully for a puppy as they do for a car. We don't need to help the animal radicals spread their message by using their favorite term: puppy mill.

**"Among the many misdeeds of the British rule in India,
history will look upon the act depriving a whole nation
of arms, as the blackest."**

Mahatma Ghandi

DELAWARE STATE SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION

CALENDAR OF EVENTS, APRIL 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
2-9-16-23-30	Silhouette	Indoor 5 p.m. - 25Yd Open To Public .22LR - \$2.00 Buys 40 Knock Down Targets & Home
	Pistol & Rifle	Made Dinner Delaware State Pistol Club, New Castle Dan Lindbergh 302-475-4228-
3-10-17-24	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 Dave Heckler 302 - 733 - 0838
4-18	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
5-12-19-26	Silhouette Pistol	Indoor-7:00 p.m.-50 Ft. 22LR-Open To Public DE Rifle & Pistol, Elsmere Jim Bowman-302-368-8626
6-13-20-27	Indoor Pisto l	Bullseye Practice 22 -.38-.45-50 Ft DE Rifle & Pistol, Elsmere-Paul Connor-302-995-5657
7-14-21-28	Sporting Clays	5 Stand - 5pm to 8:30pm - Atglen Sportsmen's Club - Tim McClure 610 - 721 - 0114
7-14-21-28	Cowboy Shoot	Indoor Practice - Outside 7:30 p.m. DE Rifle & Pistol, Elsmere J. Conomon 302-654-7580
10-11	Indoor Pistol	2700 - Lake Island, N.J. - Mary Badiak - 908 - 788 - 5503
10	Black Powder	Spring Shoot - 10 a.m. - Brandywine Muzzle Loading Long Rifles - Southern Chester County Sportsmen's Club - Rt 926 - London Grove, Pa - Tom Shaw
10	Pistol Combat	9a.m. - Open To The Public - DLEMA Nanticoke Sportsman's Seaford, DE M. Dobrich 302-629-4125
10	High Power	Rifle - 800 Aggregate - Bridgeville Rifle & Pistol - Jeff Hague - 302 - 422 - 0233
11	Trap	WTA 100th Anniversary Shoot Wilm. Trap Association Rt 40 Allan Brown 302 -368-5443
11	High Power	Rifle - 3 - 600 yd. Matches - Bridgeville Rifle & Pistol - Jeff Hague - 302 - 422 - 0233
11	Sporting Clays	Fools Folly - NSCA 100 - Schrader's Sporting Clays - 410 - 758 - 1824
11	Sporting Clays	Eastern Sussex Ducks Unlimited 50 Birds Owens Station Sporting Clays - 302-349-4334
16-17-18	SASS	DE State Champ- Paden's Posse 9am Nanticoke Sportsmen's Seaford, DE-D. Bell -302-245-4822
17	Sporting Clays	Cecil County Young Farms - 50 Birds - Hopkin's Game Farm & Clays - 410 - 348 - 5267
17	Black Powder	Rifle, Muzzleloading 8:30-Nanticoke Sportsmen's Seaford, DE, R. Stevens 302- 875-5428
17	Sporting Clays	National Kidney Foundation - 100 Birds - Pintail Point - 410 - 827 - 7065
17	Sporting Clays	Cecil County Young Farmers - 50 Birds - Hopkin/s Game Farm & Clays - 410-348-5267
17	Outdoor Pistol	2700 - Anne Arundel Fish & Game - Anne Arundel, Md. - Paul Striffler - 410 - 544 - 5648
17	Small Bore	Rifle - 9:00 a.m. - 50 & 100yd Dewar 1600 Prone Match, Branch Valley Fish & Game Assoc. 1000 North Ridge Rd - Perkasio, Pa - Chris Seitz - 215 - 541 - 493
17-18	Outdoor Pistol	2700 - Central Jersey R&P - Mary Badiak - 908 - 788 - 5503
18	IPSC Match	Pistol - Topton Fish & Game - Topton, Pa - Dean DeTurk
18	Benchrest	10 a.m. - 100 yd - Bridgeville Rifle & Pistol -Bridgeville, De. Richard Timmons = 410 - 543 - 2804
24	Indoor Pistol	2700 - Falls Township, Pa - Ron Steinbrecher - 215 - 836 - 7184
24	Sporting Clays	Fitasc Grand Prix Sub Gauge - NSCA 100 -Hopkin's Game Farm & Clays - 410 - 348 - 5287
24	Sporting Clays	Ducks Unlimited Green wing Event - Owens Station Sporting Clays - 302 - 349 - 4334
24-25	Outdoor Pistol	2700 - Boyertown, Pa - Keith Davis - 610 -369 - 0608
25	Sporting Clays	Grand Prix Sporting - NSCA 100 - Hopkin's Game Farm & Clays - 410 - 348 - 5287
25	High Power	Rifle - 9am - Standard Service & Match - Branch Valley Fish Game & Forestry Assoc. 1000 North Ridge Rd - Perkasio, Pa - Bob Gular - 610 - 631 - 9630
25	High Power	20 Shot Offhand Match, 50 yds. Branch Valley Fish Game & Forestry Assoc. Bob Gular - 610 - 631 - 3630
25	3D Archery	Registration 6:30 am to 12 noon - Topton F&G - Topton, Pa - Dan Hartzel - 610 -509 - 3707
25	Sporting Clays	Ducks Unlimited Appreciation Shoot - 50 Birds - Owens Station Sporting Clays - 302 - 349 -4334
25	Trap	Hodgdon Powder Company Shoot -Wilmington Trap Association Rt 40-Allan Brown-302-368-5442

Caesar Rodney Institute and the Ban on Firearm Ownership in Delaware's Public Housing

By
NRA Past President John C. Sigler

Before I begin, I feel compelled to disclose that, in addition to being a member of the DSSA Board of Directors, a past president of NRA, and a current member of the NRA Board, I am also privileged to serve on the Board of Directors of an organization known as the Caesar Rodney Institute. By now, most Delawareans know of the Caesar Rodney Institute and the work it has done with regard to exposing the state-wide ban on the otherwise lawful ownership of firearms by law-abiding residents of Delaware's public housing. But in case you haven't, please let me explain what is happening within our state.

The Caesar Rodney Institute (CRI) is a relatively new "501(3) research and education organization dedicated to the measured improvement in the quality of life, the degree of individual liberty, and opportunity for personal fulfillment for all Delawareans." CRI is a non-partisan, free market think tank whose vision "is to be the catalyst for improved performance, accountability and efficiency in Delaware government."

Its' mission statement says: "The mission of the Caesar Rodney Institute (CRI) is to influence public policy in Delaware by helping every Delawarean understand and put into practice the fundamentals of a free society, individual initiative, personal responsibility, private property, voluntary agreements, informed choice, the rule of law, and strong local communities".

About five months ago, CRI's award-winning investigative reporter, Mr. Lee Williams, began an investigation into the policies and practices of Delaware's public housing authorities as they relate to the lawful ownership of firearms by those who reside in public housing. What Mr. Williams found was both disturbing and disgusting.

Through a series of FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) requests, Mr. Williams learned that all four of Delaware's public housing authorities operating rental properties for the poor, elderly, disabled and otherwise socially and economically disadvantaged citizens of this state effectively banned the otherwise lawful ownership of firearms within those properties. He also learned that these "authorities" are all, in one form or another, governmental agencies funded by taxpayer dollars.

He also learned that many of the people who lived in properties operated by the Wilmington Housing Authority, Dover Housing Authority, Newark Housing Authority and the Delaware State Housing Authority were living in high crime areas and in constant fear of criminal attack. They told him that they wanted to own firearms for protection of self, home and family but were afraid to do so for fear of being evicted and becoming homeless. Many of these

residents were elderly grandmothers, disabled veterans and destitute single mothers with no place else to go.

The rest, as they say, is history.

In keeping with both its mission statement and its vision statement, Caesar Rodney Institute published a series of "Special Reports" documenting Mr. Williams' findings. As a result of Mr. Williams' work, the National Rifle Association's General Counsel sent "demand letters" to each of the offending agencies demanding that they restore their law-abiding residents to full citizenship by rescinding their bans. As of this writing, only the Newark Housing Authority recognized its constitutional and moral obligations by complying with NRA's demand.

Several state legislators have called for bi-partisan legislation to address these remaining bans and to ensure that such bans will not re-occur in the future. Many others have expressed outrage over the bans and can be expected to assist in these efforts.

While we can only speculate as to how all of this will play out and whether litigation may be necessary, we all owe Mr. Lee Williams and the Caesar Rodney Institute a debt of gratitude for what they have already accomplished by exposing the immoral and illegal practice of using taxpayer dollars to strip law-abiding citizens of their constitutional right to keep and bear arms, and their God-given right to self defense.

If you are interested in reading Mr. Williams' work on this topic you may do so by going to www.caesarrodney.org. His reports and writings may be found on that web site under "Special Reports" and on the "CRI Blog". The web site also contains information about becoming a member of the Caesar Rodney Institute and for contributing to CRI.

Given all that Caesar Rodney Institute has already done for the right to keep and bear arms here in Delaware, I urge all DSSA members to consider joining CRI. I also ask that you consider contributing to supporting CRI financially - every little bit helps.

Caesar Rodney Institute receives absolutely no government funding and is totally supported by those who believe in what CRI does. I ask that you seriously consider becoming one of those who supports CRI.

Re-Elect a Friend

By
NRA Past President John Sigler

Many Delawareans already know Tom King as the President of the New York State Rifle and Pistol Association (NYSRPA). You may have met him in Dover when he was here in January for our 2010 Election Year Candidate Forum and Second Amendment Rally for Freedom. You may have met him when he and his wife, Marilee, were here visiting me and Ingrid, or while he was shooting sporting clays with us at Owens Station. Or you may have never met him, but know him to be a dedicated and respected member of the NRA's Board of Directors.

Tom King's relationship to Delaware and to the Delaware State Sportsmen's Association is special, and it has been through Tom's good offices that the New York State Rifle and Pistol Association and the Delaware State Sportsmen's Association have effectively become "sister" organizations. You may remember that it was the NYSRPA that gave us the antique trophy that DSSA refurbished and donated to the NRA and which is now the "Alves Trophy" at Camp Perry, honoring of our good friend, the late George Alves.

Without NYSRPA's generous gift, DSSA would have never been able to honor George Alves in this manner. Tom King is the man that made that happen.

Tom King is to New York's fight against the gun-grabbers in the Empire State what John Thompson is to our fight here in the Diamond State. He is a tireless defender of the constitution and an accomplished and dedicated Second Amendment activist. Tom King is a thorough, diligent and dedicated NRA Director who always puts the good of the NRA and the protection of the Right to Keep and Bear Arms above all else.

There are many fine people, both incumbents and challengers, who will appear on the NRA's Director Election Ballot this year. I am privileged to know most of them and to call many of them "friend".

However, this year, I am asking you to vote for Tom King for re-election to NRA's Board of Directors. Tom King deserves Delaware's support -because he has earned it.

Re-elect a friend. Please vote for Tom King

DSSA ELECTIONS

At the DSSA Annual meeting held on January 10, 2010 the membership elected five persons to the Board of Directors as follows: Foster Rennie, John Sigler, Mark Sprenkle, Carolyn Thompson, John Thompson.

New to the Board is Mark Sprenkle from the Delaware Rifle and Pistol Club in Elsmere. Their terms will expire in 2012. At brief directors meeting held after the Annual Meeting the Board elected Mark Hester to fill the two years remaining in the term of Kenneth Watkins who resigned. His term will expire in 2011.

The membership noted the retirement from the Board of Kenneth Watkins and James Keenan. Each received a plaque

honoring and recognizing their years of dedication and service to Delaware gun owners. We wish them well in the future.

On March 10, 2010 the Board of Director pursuant to the DSSA by-laws elected the following officers: John Thompson, President; Daniel Lindbergh, Vice-President; Clinton Hubbard, Treasurer; Carolyn Thompson, Recording Secretary; William Bell, Membership Secretary; James Thompson, Property Officer. These are one year terms.

INTERNET CORNER

By: Thomas D. Shellenberger

In an effort to do my part for the environment (and to avoid the ridiculously high cost of parking in downtown Wilmington), I recently began riding the bus to work. Soon thereafter I began looking for something to fill my time on the daily commute. For me, the answer was listening to podcasts.

A podcast is an episodic audio or video file available on the internet. While there are podcasts that cater to almost any conceivable interest, this edition of Internet Corner focuses on some podcasts of interest to shooters.

The term "podcast" comes from combining the word "iPod" (a portable media player marketed by Apple) with the word "broadcast". Podcasts can be played on most portable media players (made by Apple, Sony, and a host of other manufacturers). They can also be played on your home computer, so new equipment is not required. I listen on my Blackberry device so I have nothing new to buy or carry with me.

There are a multitude of podcasts of interest to shooters. Many are small, home-produced programs that amount to little more than one person offering opinions whenever they find the time to make a recording. Others are regularly-scheduled, professionally produced radio programs with nationally known guests.

Among the most professional productions are those from the National Rifle Association. A number of interesting programs are available for viewing at <http://home.nra.org/#/home>. In addition to viewing online, many of the programs are available in downloadable archives. Copy files from the archives to your ipod or other media player and you are set to listen to The NRA Daily News or Cam & Company (a talk program focused on gun related issues) at a time and place of your selection. Other podcasts for shooters can be found by following the links below:

Gun Talk with Tom Gresham <http://guntalk.libsyn.com/>
Gun Rights Radio Network <http://gunrightsradio.com/>

If you have a favorite website you would like to see featured in the Internet Corner, please send me a note at the following email address: tdshell@snip.net

DSSA NEWS

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.

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.

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