



AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

D.S.S.A. NEWS

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

Visit us on the web: DSSA.us
P.O. Box 94, Lincoln, DE 19960



UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE TRAP & SKEET TEAM

By Mark Carlson



The University of Delaware Trap & Skeet Team was started in 2008 by a group of interested students. It is classified as a Club Sport by the school. Members of the team are broken up into 2 groups, competitive shooters and recreational shooters. The competitive shooters travel to events hosted by other schools, ranging from Chestertown MD to Jacksonville FL. Each year the team travels to the National Shooting Complex in San Antonio TX for the ACUI (Association of College Unions International, circa 1914) Collegiate Clay Target Championships. Last year 700 students from 76 schools attended the competition in its 45th year.



The team officers comprise of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and secretary. There is no coach or active adult

advisor. As a Club Sport Team, there is little financial support from the school (a characteristic of Club Sports), so the Team relies on Grants and Fundraisers, plus team members paying their own way.

All are welcome, with multiple members never having fired a gun before. Practices are held at Wilmington Trap Association in Newark DE and Oxford Gun Club in Oxford PA. Members pay a per round fee. Shotgun shells are provided both by members and by the Team, mostly from grants provided by the Delaware Friends of the NRA.

If you or someone you know has the time and skills, the team is actively looking for a volunteer Coach to provide improved shooting abilities and a Team Advisor to provide a consistent path to move the team forward. The team members are constantly changing as students graduate and new students join the team.

REMINGTON 877

By: Tom Shellenberger

Like many shooters, I enjoy reading about firearms and their history. When I cannot be handling and shooting firearms, I spend time learning about them. Doing so has provided me with lots of information. It also provides me with frequent, humbling reminders of how much I do not yet know.

Recently I was scrolling through listings on one of the firearms auction sites when I saw a listing for a Remington Model 878 semi-auto 12 gauge shotgun. I was familiar with Remington scatterguns, but I had never heard of a Model 878. The Remington 870 was (and is) a classic pump shotgun. I knew about that terrific shotgun and had purchased one as soon as I was old enough to buy a long gun in Delaware. However, the semi-auto Model 878 was foreign to me.

Readers may know that Remington made the Model 11 (the same design as the Browning Auto 5) beginning in the early 1900s. I was also familiar with the Model 11-48, a semi-auto Remington manufactured following the end of WWII. I had even seen a few Remington Model 58 semi-auto shotguns, which Big Green turned out beginning in the mid-1950s until Remington replaced it with the splendid Model 1100 semi-auto. But a Model 878? Never heard of it and never saw one (at least that I recognized) in all my years of gun show table browsing.

Rifle *Remington* **News**
DU PONT
 A PAPER FOR PEOPLE WHO SHOOT BRIDGEPORT, CONN., APRIL 1958 Vol. 27, No. 27 First-Class Reading Matter for All Shooters THE WEATHER: Brings May Flowers!

REMINGTON ANNOUNCEMENTS MAKE YEAR'S BIGGEST SHOTGUN NEWS



NEW REMINGTON MODEL 878 "AUTOMASTER" autoloading shotgun. Quick-Change barrels. Perfect balance. Lightning-fast loading. 3-shot capacity. In 12 gauge. \$199.95*

NEW REMINGTON "SPORTSMAN" 877X autoloading shotgun. "Sun-Grain" stock and fore-end available in trap, skeet and field grades.** Vented rib. Similar type Model 878's available. "Sportsman" 877X \$181.95.* Model 878X \$197.95.*

FEATHERWEIGHT AUTOLOADER IN MODERATE PRICE RANGE—MODEL 878

A lightning-fast gas-operated Remington autoloader at a popular price, the new featherweight Model 878 "Automaster" gives you the super-dependability, fast pointing and fine operating features of guns costing much more.

Model 878's Quick-Change barrel feature gives perfect barrel length and choke whether you're after doves or gophers. Shooting is more pleasant, too, because the movement of the gas-operated action and the "jet" effect of waste gases eat up plenty of recoil.

In every way, in every feature, from the finely checked American walnut stock to the convenient cross-bolt safety, the "Automaster" is a topflight featherweight shotgun you'll be proud to own. It's at your dealer's right now!

Shotguns with Rifle Sights

Hunters who like knockout power in knockout doses can now deliver the 2,400 foot-pounds of muzzle energy in a Remington precision-built rifled shotgun slug with full accuracy and effectiveness. Autoloading models "Sportsman" 87 and 11-48, as well as pump-action Model 878, are available in "Rifled Slug Special" grade. The sights on the specially designed barrel are the same windage- and elevation-adjustable type found on Remington big-game rifles. For extra types of hunting, barrels may be interchanged with regular shotgun barrels. So if you hunt in a state where deer shooting is "shotgun only" and rifled slugs are permitted, use these new guns today!

"Sportsman" 58 Now Chambered to Take Three-Inch Magnum Shells

Now shooters can have all the power they want in a top-quality autoloading shotgun. With Remington's introduction of the "Sportsman" 58 Magnum ADL to handle the 700-shot 3-inch

"Sun-Grain" Stocks and Fore-ends Available on Two Popular Shotguns

Shooter demand has put the exclusive "Sun-Grain" finish on two high-quality Remington shotguns—the "Sportsman" 58 autoloader and Model 870 "Wingmaster" slide action. The rich tone of the new stocks and fore-ends says "quality" in a way that is both distinctive and powerful. In the field, or in the display store, these guns are unique among handarms. See 'em today!

*Suggested retail prices. Dealer's price may vary. **Optional. Remington-Union Metallic Gun Works, Bridgeport, Conn. © 1958 Remington-Union Metallic Gun Works, Bridgeport, Conn.

15

was on the market from 1956 to 1963, and the company turned out about 271,000 of this model.

In 1950 Remington brought to market the Model 870 pump shotgun. This classic became a success in the market dominated by the Winchester Model 12. After some initial hesitation over something that looked "new," shooters fell in love with the 870. Hunters loved it, sport shooters loved it, the military loved it, and the police loved it. It looked good, handled well, it was reliable, and it was affordable.

To capitalize on the popularity of the Model 870 pump, Remington introduced the Model 877 semi-auto. While the Model 877 was marketed as having an improved self-adjusting gas system, the new system still operated similarly to that of the Model 58. The Model 877 did have a new bolt and carrier system based on the 870 pump, which was a genuine improvement. Interestingly, Remington kept the Model 58 on the market, together with the Model 11-48 and the new Model 877, thus offering three different semi-auto shotgun systems to prospective buyers, each available in several variations.

In 1963, Remington brought to market the Model 1100 semi-auto, which became hugely popular (more than 3 million were sold in the first 20 years on the market, and it continued to be popular, remaining in production for over 50 years). Remington saw the writing on the wall and ended production of the Model 58 and the Model 877 in 1963 (a few years later, Remington ended production of the long-recoil operated model 11-48, which bit the dust in 1968). Total production of the Model 877 was only around 63,500 units.

Will the Remington Model 877 be collectible? Well, not many were made so I suppose it is possible. For me, the plain, used Model 877 I picked up at auction provide an opportunity to learn about a shotgun I never knew existed even though it was produced by a major firearms company and manufactured during my (very early) lifetime. It shoots fine. That made the purchase worth it for me.

However, there it was for sale, and the seller was located just over the line in Pennsylvania (no shipping!). I bid, I won, I picked up the seller at home and drove him to a Delaware FFL to accomplish the transfer all nice and legal. After returning him home, I was the owner of a Remington Model 878. But what did I have?

Turns out what I had was some research to do. It seems that Remington did not jump seamlessly from the John Browning designed Model 11 to the classic Model 1100. In the post-war years, the folks at Remington had tried a number of times to come up with a semi-auto shotgun that would please the American market.

First up was the Model 11-48, a semi-auto shotgun that hit the market in 1949. This model used the long-recoil system developed by John Browning and used in the Auto 5 and the Remington Model 11. What was new about the Model 11-48 was the use of stamped steel parts instead of machined parts, and the fact that parts were truly interchangeable, not just similar enough that a gunsmith could finalize the fit to your gun. The Model 11-48 was also reliable and came with a "self-adjusting" friction ring that allowed it to operate with low and high brass shells. Remington built nearly half a million of these models between 1949 and 1968.

Next up for Remington was the Model 58 (also known as the Sportsman 58) which was Remington first gas operated semi-auto shotgun. It was not a roaring success. The gas system occupied the front of the magazine tube, limiting magazine capacity to two shells. It was more expensive than the Model 11-48, heavier, and less reliable, making a tough sell when both shotguns were available on the shelf. The Model 58

MAG-40 TRAINING CLASS

By Vickie Prickett

Recently, my husband Duane and I had an opportunity to take a use of lethal force class presented by Massad Ayoob. Since most of you reading this are long time shooters, Massad Ayoob needs no introduction. For the rest of you, he is the standard bearer for the legal use of lethal force especially as it relates to firearms. He has spent the last four decades training police officers and civilians. Most shooters I know have read his landmark 1980 book "*In The Gravest Extreme*"; it was recommended to me about twenty-eight years ago. Mr. Ayoob has served as an expert witness in many self-defense shooting cases (both civilian and law enforcement) in which the shooter was prosecuted.

The training class my husband and I took was called MAG-40. It is a forty-hour four-day training class consisting of both

range time and classroom lecture with this particular class being hosted by the **Bridgeville Rifle & Pistol Club**. This is the second year the club has hosted the class. You will shoot over 500 rounds during the four days. It is also not for beginners. These are more advanced concepts for advanced shooters. The class is not cheap at \$800 per student. However, I cannot express strongly enough what a bargain this class truly is! I left the class a better shooter, but that was only the minor benefit. Mr. Ayoob is a phenomenal shooter even as he approaches seventy. He has trained with some of the all-time greats from the past and present including Jeff Cooper, Ray Chapman and Rob Leatham. As good as the shooting portion of the class is, the use of force information including how to prepare for your legal defense as well as pitfalls to avoid was the real value. This class is worth so much more than you will pay. Quite simply, MAG-40 teaches you what to do before, during and after a use of force shooting situation.

I have been pretty active in the shooting community since 1989, and I have had the luxury of learning from some very knowledgeable people, but MAG-40 really opened my eyes. As Mr. Ayoob repeatedly says in class, "I'm not here to tell you what's right; I'm here to tell you how it is." He describes many of his own court appearances and discusses what the prosecution approach was as well as the information that had to be presented to the jury for an acquittal. Bear in mind that the "jury of your peers" will not consist of people with your knowledge of firearms or self-defense. Instead the jury will have firearms knowledge obtained largely from television, because active shooters, NRA members and CCDW permit holders will likely be excluded during jury selection.

The Massad Ayoob Group, LLC (MAG) retains your training documentation including your shooting qualification and written exam scores. That's right, there is a written exam. But don't worry, you will be well prepared after the lectures. You will be taught how and what to document for your training library. It is done in a way that will allow the course content to become admissible in court. This plan is designed so that Mr. Ayoob will be able to testify on your behalf as both an expert witness regarding self-defense shootings and as a material witness regarding the specific training you received. He even provides his email address and cell phone number. Just in case I haven't convinced you that the \$800 course fee is a bargain, maybe I should mention that if you find yourself in court sitting at the defense table after using a gun to save your life, Massad Ayoob will provide his expert testimony on your behalf. He provides this service to MAG-40 course graduates for free. That's like spending \$800 on a course that is worth every penny and leaving with a \$10,000 gift certificate for use if you are ever prosecuted.

If you use a firearm for self-defense, and since you're reading this newsletter you probably do, please consider taking MAG-40. You won't regret it. Visit massadayoobgroup.com for more information.

Editor Comment: I have taken Mr. Ayoob's class in 2007 and then again in 2016. Mrs. Prickett is correct regarding the significance and quality of the Mag 40 class. It is a lot of money but it's the best \$800.00 I have spent in the shooting sports. At some point in your shooting career, you need to take this class. And if you're slow learner like me, maybe even twice.



Editorial Comment:

"WHY DO YOU NEED A GUN?"

You need these for muggers, rapists & carjackers;



This one for burglars & home invasions;



This one for putting food on the table;



This one for self defense against enemies, foreign & domestic, for preservation of freedom & liberty, and to prevent government atrocities.



GEORGE URMSTON: A SHOOTER'S GUIDE TO SUPPRESSORS

Sept. 6, 2017 – Breitbart

Time to talk about the truths and misnomers regarding suppressors. Many people see them as a magical tool that allows you to shoot your way through buildings and around corners and fire from hidden positions with nothing more than a hand-clap of sound, all the while dealing a more deadly blow to the enemy downrange.

But those with real world suppressor experience understand that while such Hollywood myths can be achievable, so many variables have to be met that it is a far cry from the latest Jason Bourne installment.



Consider a 5.56mm moving at 3100 fps; that is a common round for a common rifle—the AR-15. Anyone who has ever fired one without hearing protection knows it is a painful occurrence. Several factors contribute to the sound signature of a rifle being fired, such as the 26 grains of powder being ignited, the supersonic crack from the projectile breaking the sound barrier, and the unmistakable action or cycling of the rifle.

The main function of a suppressor is to trap the air and unburned powder escaping the muzzle so as to reduce—or in some cases eliminate—the loudest part of the equation. A well-designed suppressor will trap most of the muzzle blast, making even the largest of calibers ‘hearing safe’ or will reduce the sound signature so it is within safe hearing levels. But anything, regardless of size and shape, moving through the air at 1050 fps +/- will create a sonic crack or boom which is the most distinct sound of a firearm being discharged.

Enter subsonic Ammunition. Subsonic means any speed lower than the speed of sound. Most subsonic ammo consists of a heavier projectile loaded with less powder to keep it under the 1050 fps +/- . Due to the reduced pressure, rifle caliber subsonic ammo as a rule will not cycle the action of a semiautomatic weapon. There are, however, a few exceptions. The most popular of these is undoubtedly the 300 Blackout Cartridge.

While a great performer when using supersonic loads, the Blackout is truly “movie quiet” when shooting the heavier, slower subsonic loads. The heavier projectile lends more pressure to the operating system and cycles the weapon reliably.

Suppressors are currently regulated by the National Firearms Act (1934), so when purchasing a suppressor I recommend you find a reputable retailer that will help file out your paperwork and walk you through the steps and laws of your state. While suppressors may not seem practical for some, they are a useful tool to many sport shooters, hunters, and law enforcement/military personnel.

Hopefully this sheds a little more light on the benefits of suppressors and answers any questions on how they operate. Now fire off that email to your legislators and ask them to support the Hearing Protection Act of 2017. It will make suppressors available to all law-abiding citizens without the 12-month wait and \$200 tax stamp.

George Urmston is the president of Battle Tested Equipment and a guest columnist for “Down Range with AWR Hawkins.”

“THANK YOU” LETTER TO THE MEMBERS

BY NRA Past President John C. Sigler



It is time for me to say, “thank you” to all of my friends and supporters within DSSA for your many kindnesses and for your continued friendship and support.

First, I would like to thank all of the DSSA members who were instrumental in circulating and signing my most recent NRA Members’ Petition for re-election to the NRA Board of Directors. Because of your efforts, I was able to submit a total of 181 petition pages to the NRA Secretary containing 1,371 signatures of NRA members from 45 separate states, and to be successfully nominated by NRA Members’ Petition. *THANK YOU!*

Because of your efforts, I am only one of three candidates, all incumbent Directors, to be nominated by both the NRA

Nominating Committee and by the members through the petition process – *THANK YOU!*

Next, I would like to thank the DSSA Board of Directors for their continued support and their endorsement for re-election to the NRA Board of Directors. As a Past President of DSSA and a long-time member of the DSSA Board of Directors, the DSSA Board's vote of confidence in my ability to successfully represent Delaware and Delaware's Second Amendment Community on the NRA Board of Directors means a lot to me. *THANK YOU!*

With DSSA's endorsement, I have now been endorsed by a total of eight (8) major clubs and NRA State Associations from throughout the country, including the New York State Rifle & Pistol Association; the Firearms Coalition of Colorado; the Ohio Rifle & Pistol Association; the Ohio Gun Collectors Association; the Fifty Caliber Shooters Association; the Florida Sport Shooting Association; the North Carolina Rifle & Pistol Association; and of course, the Delaware State Sportsmen's Association. *THANK YOU!*

Finally, I want to thank all of the members of DSSA for all that you have done for me over the years to help me become and remain a member of the NRA Board of Directors. Without your continued help and support I could never have enjoyed the successes I have enjoyed during my 21+ years on the NRA Board, serving the people of Delaware and of our great nation. *THANK YOU!*

Because of you, the members of DSSA, in 1996 I was able to become the first person from Delaware to ever be elected to the NRA Board. Because of you and your efforts, I was given the opportunity to serve as the Chairman of NRA's Finance Committee for 10 years and as the Chairman of NRA's Law Enforcement Assistance Committee for the same 10 years.

Because of you, the valued members of DSSA, I was also granted the opportunity to serve on the NRA's High Power Rifle Committee as both Chairman and Vice-Chairman; the Competitions Rules & Programs Committee; as Vice-Chairman of the Clubs & Associations Committee, the Bylaws & Resolutions Committee, the Committee on Hearings, the Gun Collectors Committee, the Site Selection Committee, the Legislative Policy Committee and as Chairman of the Sub-Committee on State & Local Affairs, and on NRA's Executive Committee. Additionally, because of you and your continued support, I have also had the privilege and pleasure of serving as a member of the NRA's Executive Council and on the Board of the NRA Foundation and as a Whittington Center Trustee. *THANK YOU!*

And finally, because of you, I was privileged to be the first Delawarean to serve two terms as NRA's Second Vice President, two terms as NRA's First Vice President and two terms as NRA's national President. *THANK YOU!*

Thank you for your trust, your confidence, your continued support, and your friendship – *THANK YOU!*

And, of course, one final "thank you" – I also want to say "thanks" to DSSA NEWS for granting me the space to express my sincere gratitude to the members of DSSA – *THANK YOU, ONE AND ALL!*

Editor's note: From the friends and supporters of John Sigler – Your welcome John.

MISINFORMATION AND DISTORTION ANGER ME

By NRA Past President Marion Hammer

In 1934 the first federal gun control law in America was passed. The National Firearms Act of 1934 (NFA) became the law of the land. The NRA was asleep at the switch. Most of us hadn't even been born then. It is not of our making but like all good, honest, law-abiding Americans, the NRA obeys the law. The NFA regulates fully-automatic firearms and has done so for 83 years.

The "bump-stock" device, used by the killer in the Las Vegas shooting, converts a semi-auto rifle to a full-auto rifle. Anyone who has ever used a bump-stock or watched a video demonstrating its use, can only conclude that it is a converter.

If you listened to an audio recording of the shooting during that horrific massacre, you must have concluded that it was full-auto fire. You were not alone, many firearms experts and law enforcement professionals came to the same conclusion. It was not until later that information was released disclosing that bump-stocks had been used to convert semi-automatic firearms to perform like full-auto firearms.

In spite of the seemingly noble reason the manufacturer claims for developing it, the bump-stock circumvents federal law. Regardless of the quality and reliability or lack thereof of this device – it converts a semi-auto to full-auto when installed.

Do you have any idea how many people were shocked out of their minds when ATF decided bump-stocks were not subject to regulation and APPROVED them for sale and use? That was under the Obama administration for crying out loud. Your mind is forced to run wild wondering why.

Once the ruling was made, what would you expect NRA to do? Do you think NRA should have said, Oh! No, ATF is wrong, ATF made a mistake?

It doesn't matter what laws the NRA doesn't agree with or doesn't like, the NRA must abide by the law. For decades, over and over again when the enemies of the Second Amendment have tried to capitalize on tragedies by calling for more gun control, NRA has called for enforcing existing law. That is exactly what we are doing now.

Make no mistake, the NRA has NOT cleared the way for more regulation. If it were not for ATF's wink and nod to the manufacturer of the bump-stock, it would already be regulated under federal law. NRA has tossed it back into ATF's lap where it belongs. NRA has not agreed to any new legislation nor has NRA said we agree with any existing NFA legislation. NRA has not agreed to a ban. NRA has not agreed to anything. NRA simply insists upon enforcing existing law.

The enemies freedom and the Second Amendment are spewing hysteria from the podiums they have planted in the blood of innocent victims. These anti-Second Amendment heretics are using these victims as their stalking horse to get some new gun control legislation on the floor of the Congress.

These victims have fallen and are suffering because of the evil acts of a deranged madman who could have carried out his destruction even if bump-stocks were not available under ATF's approval. He would have found another way.

Don't blame bump-stocks, don't blame ATF, don't blame anybody but the evil people who perpetrated this crime. No law, no regulation stops those with evil in their hearts.

The frantic cries from antagonists who want to take your freedom are intended to stampede you and Congress into supporting more gun control.

But it doesn't stop there. Is it not clear to you that, just like the media, some members of the NRA Board are misinterpreting what the NRA has said?

Additionally, there are "Trojan horse members" who are deliberately misinterpreting what the NRA has said. Just like having an (R) after your name doesn't make you a conservative Republican, having an NRA membership card doesn't make you an honest member.

Be very careful of anti-NRA people claiming to have many supporters who are merely standing in a hall of mirrors and seeing their own reflections. Don't be fooled.

This fight is not about the personal financial interests of NRA Board members. This fight should not be used by any individual Board member to attack NRA as a means elevate their own popularity with dissidents and "Trojan horse members."

This particular fight is about following existing law. If you don't believe that bump-stocks convert semi-autos to full-autos then you have not seen what I have seen. While the conversion may be reversible by removing and replacing the device, it none less makes a semi-auto perform like a full-auto when installed.

We do not need new legislation, we do not need new regulation, we simply need ATF to review it's previous approval

and enforce existing law. That's what NRA said. That will render bump-stocks irrelevant. There is no need for Congress to be stampeded into doing anything else. No matter how you twist it, or what your own personal agenda may be, the NRA has not compromised.

If ATF won't do it on its own, President Trump should order ATF to review it's ruling made under the Obama administration.

We should stand united. We need to enforce existing law. We don't need any new gun control legislation. Any member of Congress who wants to sacrifice more of our freedom under the pretense of providing safety should know that we don't forgive the betrayal of freedom or the Second Amendment and we won't give a wink and a nod to political eye wash as a substitute for backbone.

The only legislation we need to see on the floor of Congress right now is carry reciprocity and elimination of suppressor regulations.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

By John C. Sigler

The Delaware State Sportsmen's Association is proud to announce the addition of a new member to our shooting sports family here in Delaware – *The Delaware Shooting Sports Foundation*.

Following the example set by our national affiliate, the National Rifle Association of America, the Delaware State Sportsmen's Association has established a new corporate affiliate fashioned after the NRA's not-for-profit charitable and education affiliate, The NRA Foundation.

Like its larger role model, the Delaware Shooting Sports Foundation is an independent corporate entity, incorporated here in Delaware as a Not-for Profit Foundation which is intended to comply in every respect with the IRS rules under Section 501(c)(3) governing tax-exempt, non-profit charitable and educational organizations. Like its NRA Foundation role model, the Delaware Shooting Sports Foundation will be barred by law and by its Bylaws from engaging in any form of partisan politics.

According to the "purposes" article of the Foundation's corporate charter, "The Corporation (Foundation) is organized and is to be operated exclusively to carry out the following charitable, educational and scientific purposes:

"(a) To promote, advance and encourage firearms safety and hunting safety;

(b) To educate individuals, including youth of the United States and the State of Delaware, with respect to firearms and firearms history and hunting safety and marksmanship, as well as with respect to other subjects that are of importance to the well-being of the general public;

(c) To conduct research in furtherance of improved firearms safety and marksmanship facilities and techniques;

(d) To support the activities of the Delaware State Sportsmen's Association, Inc., but only to the extent that such activities are in furtherance of charitable, educational and scientific purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (Code), or any similar provision subsequently enacted;

(e) To exercise all rights and powers conferred by the laws of the State of Delaware upon nonprofit corporations, including without limitation thereon, to solicit and receive gifts, devises, bequests, and contributions, in any form, and to use, apply, invest, and reinvest the principal and/or income therefrom or distribute the same for the above purposes; and

(f) To engage in any other activity that is incidental to, connected with or in advancement of the foregoing purposes and that is within the definition of charitable, educational and scientific purposes of Section 501(c)(3) of the Code."

Although the Foundation is currently qualified as a non-profit non-stock corporate entity under Delaware law, the Foundation is still awaiting a determination letter from the IRS which must be in the Foundation's files before the Foundation can solicit or accept donations on a tax-exempt basis.

As you might expect, the Foundation is still in its infancy and is still undergoing the usual functions of coming on line to benefit the people of Delaware. Once the Foundation is fully functional and able to solicit and accept donations on a tax-exempt basis, look for more information about the information to come your way within the pages of DSSA News. Until such time, however, please welcome the Delaware Shooting Sports Foundation to our shooting sports family.

CELEBRATION AND DEDICATION

On October 15th the **Delaware Rifle and Pistol Club** in Elsmere, Delaware celebrated their 71st anniversary and dedicated a newly renovated facility with great fan fair. The Club was affiliated with the National Rifle Association in 1947. The original NRA certificate hangs in the Training Building.

Brief History – James Bowman, President

While historical records for the Club are scarce, we believe the Club began primarily as a rifle club with early shooting activities located in a building on the Du Pont Company's Hagley Property. New Castle County tax records seem to indicate the purchase of the current site in 1950, consisting of eight single family building lots in what was originally scheduled to be a subdivision of Elmhurst. The records show a concrete block building in 1952 which was built entirely by member volunteer labor. Over time a steel plate backstop and concrete floors were added in the range area.

In 2005, the original sand bullet trap was replaced with a water trap and improvements were made to the Club room. In

2011, a separate Club Room/Training Building was started and complete in 2015.

Planning for the latest project to connect the two buildings, replace the failed septic system, add new restrooms, and renovate the range (which included replacing HV systems, new lighting, shooting benches, sound control and new parking lot) began in late 2015 and construction started in December, 2016. Construction was completed in two phases with the connecting structure completed first followed by the range renovation. The entire project was completed by June 4, 2017, (ahead of schedule and under budget) when the range reopened.

The renovated facility provides classroom, office, storage, restrooms, ready room and a spacious 50' range with plenty of space for range bags, equipment and training staff. A new 100% exhaust and make-up air systems also provides a direct fired gas heat that can raise the outside air temperature by 50 degrees F.



A members' grandchildren enjoying the new range.

The celebration was attended by over 150 Club members and guest along with encouraging words from State Senator

Anthony Delcollo, Senator Catherine Cloutier and Jeff Hague,
President of DSSA.

For more membership and shooting events, please visit their
web site at:

<https://delawarerifleandpistolclub.wildapricot.org/>.

ANOMALIES IN THE LAW

By John C. Sigler, Esq.

The title of this article is *“Anomalies in the Law”*, but perhaps a better title would be *“Things that Make You Say, ‘Huh?’”*

The law is full of anomalies and things that really don't make a lot of sense to the average citizen. For instance, did you know that a boat, a car, a train, and an airplane are all “buildings” under Delaware law? Well they are.

Example: For purposes of defining “Burglary” under Delaware's Criminal Code, a “building” is defined as follows: *“Building’, In addition to its ordinary meaning, includes any structure, vehicle or watercraft”, 11 Del. C. §222(1), and a “Vehicle includes any means in or by which someone travels or something is carried or conveyed or a means of conveyance or transport, whether or not propelled by its own power”. See 11 Del. C. §222(30).*

So why did the General Assembly do that? Well, probably because they wanted to be inclusive and they wanted to punish thieves who broke into cars, trains, boats, and airplanes the same as they punish a thief who broke into your business, garage, barn or shed – or chicken house. In other words, there was a motive and a method to their madness.

OK, so what's that got to do with the Second Amendment, hunters, and sportsmen, you ask? Probably nothing. But here's an anomaly that does affect hunters and sportsmen, and may affect the Second Amendment and your right to keep and bear arms:

The definition of a “firearm” within the Delaware Criminal Code is as follows: *“Firearm includes any weapon from which a shot, projectile or other object may be discharged by force of combustion, explosive, gas and/or mechanical means, whether operable or inoperable, loaded or unloaded. It does not include a BB gun”. 11 Del. C. §222(12).*

Well, under that definition a crossbow is a firearm because it uses “mechanical means” to discharge an object known as a bolt. Likewise, a compound bow is a firearm because it uses mechanical means to discharge an object known as an arrow. And for that matter, if you apply your basic scientific definition of the term “mechanical means”, even a traditional long bow could be considered a firearm under that definition – but why would “they” do that?

Good question! It becomes an even better question when you consider the definition of a “firearm” under federal law.

The federal law defines a “firearm” as being *“(A) any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of*

an explosive; (B) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (C) any muffler or firearm silencer; or (D) any destructive device. Such term does not include an antique firearm”. 18 U.S.C.A §921(a)(3).

Well now, there's an anomaly if ever I saw one! A federal law that makes more sense than a state law! At least the federal definition of a firearm has something to do with fire.

Now here's one last anomaly for your consideration. We all know that Delaware law requires a criminal background check to be conducted prior to most sales or transfers of most “firearms”, as that term is defined in Section 222, above. That same law says that the criminal background check is to be conducted pursuant to **federal law**. (See 11 Del. C. §1448A(a)(You may remember this little rascal as the infamous “HB 35” from a few years ago – didn't make much sense then either).

So, Section 1448A, by its very terms, seems to require that criminal background checks must be performed prior to sales and transfers of firearms, and that includes crossbows, compound bow and probably long bows – yet the federal statutes only permit the NICS center to perform background checks where real firearms (as defined by federal law) are involved. I would be willing to bet that if Cabela's or some other reputable FFL called in a NICS check of a crossbow as required by the very clear terms of Delaware's law, they would receive a less-than-pleasant response from the NICS center – wouldn't you?

And no here's the real kicker - when the Delaware Department of Justice was asked about the possibility of correcting this anomaly, they said they wanted to leave the anomaly in place and would oppose legislation to clear up this nonsensical, over-zealous legislative drafting error – why?

Why does the Delaware Attorney General want to keep this nonsensical definition in place? What is it that he wants to do with this anomaly? What game of “gotcha” does he intend to play against an unsuspecting hunter, archery enthusiast, or otherwise law-abiding FFL? What's his motive? What's he up to? Who does he intend to prosecute?

I don't know. Maybe you should ask him?

FROM KNEELING TO STEPPING ON FREEDOM NFL'S SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS DONATE \$500,000 FOR GUN CONTROL

Friday, October 27, 2017, NRA-ILA

Why kneel in disrespect to the flag when you can stand and trample the Constitution? That appears to be the thinking, at least, of the NFL's San Francisco 49ers football team.

Let's face it, the team does not have a lot going for it these days. With a losing streak currently standing at 0-7, they recently posted a questionnaire asking fans how

important it was for them to even win games. Even more problematic, the team has been at the epicenter of a controversy concerning the NFL and divisive on-field national anthem protests.

These protests started last fall with former team quarterback Colin Kaepernick's decision to first sit, then kneel, during the pre-game tradition of singing the national anthem, in order to protest alleged social injustice. Kaepernick's actions spawned similar "kneeling protests" across the NFL and other sports leagues. Those protests, along with Kaepernick's decision to wear socks depicting police officers as pigs, have in turn helped crater NFL ratings.

Now the 49ers have "upped the ante", following in the footsteps of recently disgraced Hollywood media mogul Harvey Weinstein by targeting the Second Amendment and advocating for gun control legislation in order to change the narrative and deflect attention from the team's substantial problems. The 49ers announced this week that the team is pledging \$500,000 towards a campaign "which will advocate for legislation banning 'bump stocks' and other mechanisms that allow semi-automatic weapons to become automatic weapons, as well as silencers and armor piercing bullets."

Such anti-gun advocacy will almost certainly stir the ire of an already frustrated fan base who, as ratings indicate, want to keep politics out of sports. Perhaps the feeling is that because San Francisco has long been among the nation's leading bastions of anti-gun fervor, this move would be seen as positive by a weakening fan base. But, we remind NFL leadership of the dangerous trap-door that all too many have failed to see. Put simply, ticket-paying fans have no interest in further incorporating divisive political issues into packaged entertainment, and this includes football and other sporting events.

But don't take our word for it, just ask Hollywood. Last year, *Miss Sloane*, a political thriller starring Jessica Chastain, was widely lauded by anti-gun elites and gun control advocates for taking on the NRA, but was among the top 100 worst box-office releases of the last 35 years.

While the merits of kneeling during the national anthem to forward a social agenda will continue to be debated, the intention of the 49ers, at least in this case, is clear. Taking a knee is no longer enough; now they are willing to push for restrictions on our Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

Well here we are near the end of another year. As the saying goes, "boy does time fly when you're having fun". I can safely say I have been having fun this past year. Actually the fun started before the beginning of the year. The election of 2016 was a significant boost for our cause, which as we all know, is both our constitutional right to keep and bear arms, Article I, Section 20, and our federal 2nd amendment. For the first time in a great while we have a majority of the state Senators that support our "side". With a couple of Representatives that have begun to "see the light", we stand the best chance in a long time of passing legislation that promotes our cause. We can also block legislation that may infringe on our cause also.

DSSA has also grown in numbers and will continue that trend as we move into 2018. We, DSSA and the NRA, strongly believe our Concealed Carry reform bill will pass early in the session. We also have legislation dealing with hunting that we also believe will pass. There is even a good chance that legislation concerning suppressors will not only be introduced but pass as well.

Before we know it the election of 2018 will be upon us. The cycle has already started. Senator Brian Bushweller has announced he will retire. Representative Trey Paradee has already filed for the seat. He will be a plus for our side if he is elected. He was helpful in the House and I believe he will continue to look favorably on our legislation.

One thing we cannot do is become complacent. The Bloombergs and the Coalition against Gun Violence are still out there working against us. To accomplish our goals we need everyone member to be engaged. By that I mean when we ask you to contact your Senator and Representative about an issue, please take the time to do so. Every phone call counts. Even if you know your Senator or Representative does not support us, you still need to call and express your opinion, in a nice way of course. They listen.

In closing I just want to say thanks for your support and it has been great meeting so many of you during the year. Have a great Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

**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/donor 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. 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:

dabll@comcast.net or 302- 245-4822.

DELAWARE STATE SPORTSMEN'S
ASSOCIATION P.O. BOX 94
LINCOLN DE 19960
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED