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SCAPEGOAT!

BY John C. Sigler,
NRA Past President

“Scapegoat – A person or group bearing the blame for others”. *New Collegiate Edition of the American Heritage Dictionary.*

The horrible, unspeakable tragedy in Parkland, Florida was a terrible thing – no doubt about it. Seventeen senseless and avoidable deaths at the hands of a known sociopath – terrible, horrible, and apparently preventable. We all grieve for the victims, pray for their families and thank God it didn't happen here.

And as we grieve and search for answers, the “blame game” begins. There is plenty of blame to go around - but you are not to blame, and neither is the NRA.

And you should never accept the blame for those who should themselves be bearing that blame – don't allow yourself to become a “scapegoat” for the failings of others – don't do it. Don't allow those who are truly responsible for those seventeen deaths to blame you, your guns or your NRA – don't do it!

Let those who are to really blame shoulder that blame – let those who could have prevented this horrible, senseless act to fess up – let them tell the truth and do the right thing – let them accept the blame they so richly deserve. Think about it -

Neither you nor the NRA are responsible for the family members, friends and associates who failed and/or refused to tell others of this sociopath's mental state and who failed to take action to get him into the mental health or juvenile justice systems;

Neither you nor the NRA are responsible for the various school officials who knew of the danger this sociopath presented to those children but did nothing meaningful about it;

Neither you nor the NRA are responsible for the various and numerous local law enforcement officers who failed to take the appropriate action despite dozens of opportunities to remove this individual from society through arrest or mental health commitment;

Neither you nor the NRA are responsible for school counselors who should have identified this individual and taken steps to get him out of the school and into the mental health system;

Neither you nor the NRA are responsible for the gross incompetence of the FBI that on at least two occasions had an opportunity to identify and remove this sociopath from society – or at the very least alert the school and local law enforcement to the clear and present danger he represented;

Neither you nor the NRA are responsible for the cowardice of at least one Sheriff's Deputy who refused to respond to the gunfire and who should have, and could have, saved at least a few lives;

Neither you nor the NRA are responsible the failure of Florida's mental health system to identify and treat this sociopathic monster; and

Neither you nor the NRA had anything to do with that sociopathic individual entering that school and pulling the trigger on those poor, innocent and helpless children.

Why was this sociopathic monster never arrested, despite numerous criminal acts that should have been prosecuted, but weren't?

Why was this sociopathic monster not committed to a mental institution, despite numerous opportunities to do so?

Why did the Broward County School District allow this adult person back on school property despite the fact that he had been expelled – and despite the fact that he had been identified as a troubled individual who posed a danger to others?

Why did the school resource officers not take action to identify and remove this dangerous person from the school despite the fact that the students knew he was a dangerous person?

Why was this obviously dangerous adult sociopathic monster not listed as a “person prohibited” and allowed to buy a rifle after a NICS check, you ask?

The answer is simple: No one in a position to prevent this horrible tragedy acted responsibly – no one.

No one in a position to do so took any action to have this person either arrested for his past violent acts or to have him committed for mental health evaluation and treatment – had they done so, he would have been listed as a prohibited person and the NICS check would have prevented him from buying that rifle.

Don't be a “scapegoat” – don't accept the blame for something you didn't do – place the blame where it belongs:

Blame the family that did nothing- Blame the cops who did nothing – blame the FBI that did nothing - blame the school administrators who did nothing – blame the Sheriff who did nothing – blame the cowardly cop who hid behind a post and did nothing – blame the teachers, counselors, friends and

neighbors who did nothing – but don't blame yourself, and don't allow the haters to blame you or the NRA.

You may even want to blame a complicit press that glorifies acts such as these and comes after you and your guns at every opportunity rather than going after the root causes of such horrible acts.

And while you are at it – maybe you might want to blame those who are more interested in blaming you than they are in actually addressing the real issues – issues like a broken mental health system, lax law enforcement policies, unworkable education policies, “soft-target” schools, and permissive liberal mindsets that set the stage for and allow such tragedies to occur.

And finally, maybe we should be thinking about where the ultimate blame should rest – directly on the shoulders of this adult hate-filled sociopath who should never been allowed on school grounds and who should have been locked away in either a jail or a mental institution – he is to blame, not you, not me, and not the NRA.

Don't be a scapegoat – don't allow your friends and neighbors to make you into one; don't allow the press to do so; and don't allow your duly elected politicians to do so – because they will, if you let them.

Governor Carney is all set to blame you – he wants to outlaw your gun and make you an instant criminal – don't let him.

Speaker Schwartzkopf, Majority Leader Longhurst and others want to blame you – they want to outlaw sale/transfer of all firearms and ammunition to anyone under 21 years of age – I guess in their world, it's ok to serve in the military and die for your country at the ages of 18, 19 & 20, but don't even think about being able to exercise your right to keep and bear arms for defense of self & family, much less go hunting or target shooting when you return home – don't let them.

Other politicians who may mean well will blame you too – they will blame you, your gun, the NRA and the DSSA all because they don't know what else to do – and because they refuse to blame themselves for a mental health system they don't know how to fix, a criminal justice system that doesn't always work, and because of all of the other panoply of social ills that lead to bad acts by bad people that they have no idea how to fix – no, they will blame you if they can – don't let them.

Don't let anyone blame you or your NRA when it is they who are to blame – don't be a scapegoat. Stand up for yourself, tell the truth, and put the blame where it really belongs.

New Junior Membership at Delaware Rifle and Pistol Club

In January the Delaware Rifle and Pistol Club (DRPC) membership voted for a bylaws change that created a new Junior membership category. Now a Junior member can join the Club at age 10 subject to parental/guardianship permission.

Until now, to join DRPC you had to be 21 years of age. DRPC wanted to encourage youth who want to participate in the shooting sports and learn safe gun handling. It is DRPC's hope that by providing a Junior membership category, it will give the youth shooter a greater stake in the shooting sports and encourage greater participation at an early age. Junior members will be allowed to participate in all club activities as any regular member.

Conditions for Junior membership are:

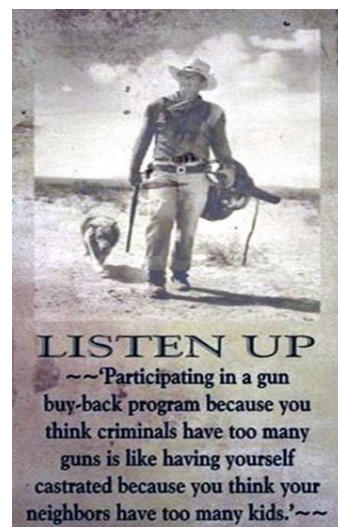
1. Junior member must be sponsored by regular member.
2. Annual dues are \$25.00.
3. Junior member must complete the DRPC/NRA 8 hour blended pistol instruction course at no cost to the Junior member.
4. Junior member must qualify by demonstrating good gun handling and being able to place 16 out of 20 rounds in a 15" circle at 50' using a centerfire gun.
5. Junior member must be accompanied by their sponsor or other DRPC member while at the range.

Mr. Joseph Leary has volunteered to be the Junior Membership Coordinator for DRPC. Mr. Leary will be to be the point of contact between all Junior members and the DRPC Board.

Primary interest has come from existing members wanting their younger children and grandchildren to participate in the shooting sports. It is DRPC's intent to open the Junior membership up to Scouts and other youth that have an interest but may not have a parent at home that is a club member. Subject to parental approval, a DRPC member may become the sponsoring member and support the youth's effort. Director of Safety and Education Mr. Roger Boyce noted: “We at DRPC see this new membership category as an opportunity and a responsibility to promote the shooting sports and teach safe gun handling/ownership.”

Any questions or inquiry, please contact Mr. Joseph Leary, DRPC j.leary0311@gmail.com

DSSA Editorial Comment



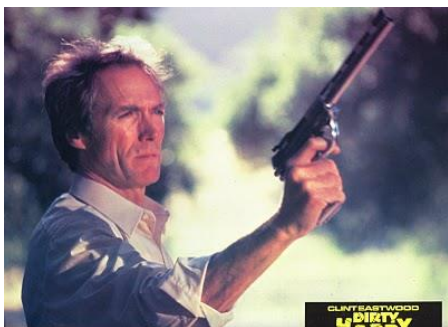
A Journey of 1,000 Guns Begins With... A Single Idea! The story of the AMT Baby Automag

By Justin Opinion

The year was 1984. A new movie hit the big screen, just in time for summer audiences, and exciting enough to interrupt the Orwellian conversations and focus everyone's attention on a new star.



The author's copy of this rare and beautiful tribute gun



"Sudden Impact" movie poster

The movie was "Sudden Impact". The newest offering in the highly popular Dirty Harry franchise – starring of course, Clint Eastwood. This is the film that gave us the phrase, "Go ahead. Make my day." But the dazzling new co-star was getting as much, if not more, attention and buzz as Clint. That's right – I'm talking about the stunning .44 Automag – complete with 8 ½ inch vent-ribbed barrel. Who doesn't remember, when Harry Callahan, dispossessed of his beloved Smith & Wesson Model 29... reached into his jacket and heaved out the beautiful .44 Automag? It was like watching a magician pull the never-ending handkerchief from his coat. That barrel just kept going and going. If you saw that, and didn't want one – you were obviously more interested in playing with dolls.

There was one big problem. The .44 Automag was already out of production before the movie was filmed. And the popularity of "Sudden Impact" didn't exactly drive down the price of the ones that were out there. In my early 20's at the time, I might as well have contemplated buying a new yacht. At this same time, a young man named Brian Maynard started his new job at AMT. Brian was a machinist and was going to work on a new AMT product line, the .22 LR pistol called the "Lightning" – a variant of the popular Ruger Mark II. Brian was also captivated by the .44 Automag, and was disappointed that even to an employee of AMT, the gun was not available.

Then Brian had an idea. The sort of idea that one gets when he's been told "no" and doesn't want to take "no" for an answer. Brian recalls in his story, "This was discouraging to say the least. However, after I had resigned myself to the fact that I would not be able to get my hands on an original .44 Auto Mag pistol without it costing me an arm and a leg, my wheels started turning and my imagination started kicking in."

Why not make a replica of the original Automag in .22 LR, using the Lightning platform as a jumping off point? Crazy talk? Brian Maynard didn't think so. And neither did his employer, AMT. Brian was given the green light to work up a prototype of the pistol that so far, existed only in his mind. Fast forward a year. It's 1985. It's very likely that many reading this weren't even born yet, or were too young to remember 1985.

The big movies at the box office were "Back To The Future", and "Rambo: First Blood Part II"

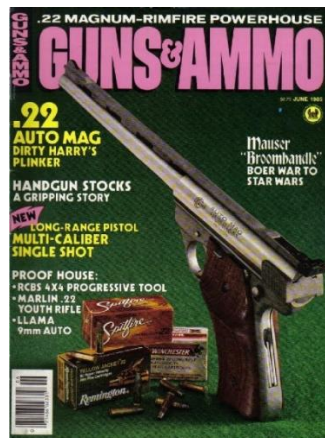
Duran Duran was the pop group playing on all the girls' radios, but the guys were more into Dire Straits' "Money For Nothing" – from the first album recorded entirely digitally for the new media - the Compact Disc.

Microsoft released Windows – version 1.0, and the very first .com domain name was registered.

MacGyver and Knight Rider were trying hard to keep everyone interested enough to tune into them on TV instead of Baywatch.

Big hair and pushed-up jacket sleeves were everywhere. It was 1985.

Unknown to me or the rest of the world, Brian Maynard has been hard at work on his project gun, which he has named "Baby Automag" (BAM) and it is ready to be seen.



June 1985 Guns & Ammo

Brian invites Roger Renner, staff writer and feature editor for Guns & Ammo to come take a look at it. He does, and he loves it. Soon thereafter, it is announced that the Baby Auto Mag will grace the cover of the June 1985 issue of Guns & Ammo, along with a two-page spread inside.

I had a subscription to Guns & Ammo back in those days, of course. The image of the BAM on the cover and the story inside reminded me again of the gun-lust for the Dirty Harry pistol that was constructed of that rare alloy, *unobtainium*.

But alas, this was just another tease. It appeared that the gun in the magazine was a one of a kind, not a production gun. But not for long!



One of two pages featuring BAM, with gun creator Brian Maynard shown firing the gun.

A large firearms distributor also saw the appeal, and contacted AMT with a request that they produce a limited run of only 1,000 BAMs – for which they would be the sole distributor. AMT agreed. Word got out. And the line started forming quickly.

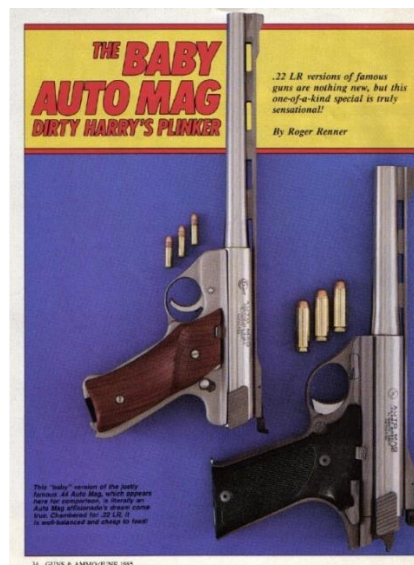
Now, 1,000 copies of Brian Maynard’s dream project were going to become reality. This would never have happened if Brian hadn’t pushed his vision to AMT; if AMT hadn’t allowed the project; and if Roger Renner hadn’t swum against the current to publish the story of it. It is not a common practice, placing a ‘concept gun’ on the coveted cover of a major magazine. As Roger put it to me, *“The rule is that you publish what will translate into advertising. The BAM was a dead issue in that department. But I had a personal interest in making it happen. So, we made it happen and advertising be damned.”* So, the very existence of the BAM is owed to a couple of guys with a “just do it” attitude.

I sent the distributor a copy of my FFL, along with a \$50 deposit – and said “this one is for me!” And in September of 1985, I paid the balance of the \$398.00 price and received copy number 121 of 1000 Baby Automag. I can remember practically tackling the UPS driver and rushing inside with the box. There are few things as effective at firing the endorphins as opening the box that contains a precious new toy or treasure. The Baby Automag was supplied in a custom-made wood box with a brass latch and hinges and lined with smooth grey foam. In that soft bed of foam laid the pistol, shiny and stunning.



How she looked on arrival, and is still stored today

I was almost afraid to pick it up, for fear of getting fingerprints on it. That fear quickly passed.



The Roger Renner June 1985 article’s lead-in page, showing the Baby Automag next to the original .44 Automag

Considering the length and thickness of the barrel of the BAM, it has a surprisingly balanced feel – something that Mark II heavy-barrel shooters will understand. The stainless steel barrel and upper receiver of the pistol were highly polished, while the frame had more a satin finish. The grips were a medium colored wood that contrasted nicely with metal. Here it was – my new baby. Now the big question: To shoot it, or not to shoot it!

I shot it. Not much, but I put a couple of magazines worth of CCI Mini-Mag through it, just to feel it shoot, see how accurate it was, and to feel like I bought a real gun, not just a display-case trophy. I’ve recently shot it again, while working on this story and my planned companion video version of it. But all told, I doubt I have put more than 200 rounds through it in over 3 decades. Let me say, it shoots nice. Real nice. The Baby Auto Mag came equipped with Millet adjustable rear sights, but I have never tried to get a zero with them. I just don’t intend to shoot it that much.

My search for history and background on the BAM led me to Maynard Arms, Inc. which is owned by, you guessed it, Brian Maynard. I contacted Brian, who was pleased to hear of my interest in the history and offered to help in any way. Brian had already written and published his story of Baby Automag, and the quotation and much of the history I have paraphrased above is a direct recollection of having read that. The complete story, in Brian’s own words can be found here: http://www.maynardarmsco.net/bam_history.shtml#

I feel lucky and very proud to own this gun, and to have owned it all its life. I couldn’t help but wonder how Brian felt about it, and what lasting affect it has had. So, I asked him.

Justin Opinion: It’s coming up on 30 years since Baby Automag was produced as a special limited run. I’m assuming that you’re proud, as you should be, but beyond that – how did

this achievement affect you in terms of career and passion, if at all?

Brian Maynard: "It's funny that you use the terms career and passion in the same sentence, because the BAM slingshotted my career to a whole new playing field and with a newfound passion for firearms. It is in essence my 15 minutes of fame, and looks so good on the resume'. I've never had a problem landing a job because funny as it may sound; most in the manufacturing industry are gun nuts. As I look back, I still can't believe the BAM has become what it has. It really is a dream come true and will always be the project that changed my life and my career."

I hope to pass mine on someday in the same condition it's in now. But I can't promise that I won't sneak it out to the range every decade or so... and put a few rounds through it!

Author's note:

I am grateful to both Brian and Roger for their kind cooperation and interaction with me. I have seen Baby Automag prices at auction and Internet sale go over \$2,000. Mine is not for sale. –Justin Opinion
This story was originally published by "The Gun Writer" and is reprinted here with permission of TGW and the author.

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"He's one of us!"

Some Thoughts On "Assault Weapons" and the Second Amendment

By Curtis Clements, Member Delaware Rifle and Pistol Club

Editor's note: This article was written just two days before Governor Carney's announcement to propose a ban on so called assault rifles. It is timely and thought provoking for DSSA members.

In what is becoming an all-too-familiar story line, another horrific act of violence has been perpetrated, using a firearm, by an individual who had no business being in possession of such an implement. This time, the location was a high school in Parkland, Florida. The shooter – a nineteen year-old drop out with a history of behavior and psychological issues, used an AR-15 style rifle (which he had legally purchased) to snuff out the lives of 14 students and 3 faculty members at the school from which he had been expelled last year. We now have to add this to the other high-profile instances of horrific violence that have seared their images into the American consciousness – Columbine - Virginia Tech - Phoenix, Arizona - Aurora, Colorado - Newtown, Connecticut, Las Vegas, Nevada, and, more recently – Sutherland Springs, Texas. In each case, innocent and precious lives were lost and in each case, the instrument chosen to wreak havoc was a firearm. Also in each case, the individual(s) wielding those firearms were suffering from serious forms of mental illness that were either improperly diagnosed or never treated. And, as the final garnishing element in each case, the systems that are intended to keep firearms out of the hands of such people were either inadequate or otherwise failed.

It is certainly human nature to search for answers in the wake of such heart-wrenching tragedies. And inevitably, there is the issue of who is responsible? Who is to blame? Unfortunately, however, all too often the search for real answers is short-circuited by the politicized call to blame the instrument, not the perpetrator. Almost before the last

gasp of breath has escaped the lips of the poor victims, there is a chorus from left-wing politicians and other anti-gun rights individuals and groups to ban assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines (which they usually incorrectly refer to as clips).

In the wake of each of these recent tragedies, even some so-called “pro-gun” politicians have come out to pay lip service to their allegiance to gun rights while saying things like “we need to get these military-style assault weapons off the streets,” or “I’m all for hunting and recreational shooting, but nobody needs these weapons of mass destruction,” or “weapons of war have no place on America’s streets.” In the wake of these heart-wrenching crimes, considering the very young ages and true innocence of the majority of the victims, such feelings are as understandable as they are inevitable.

The mass media, for the most part, is quick to pick up the refrain. The talking heads and political pundits decide what facts to report and what spin to put on them. They make false and inaccurate assertions, state anti-gun opinions as if they were facts, and allow others to use their access to the public airwaves to do the same, without any challenge or push back. Unfortunately, it appears that on this issue especially, (but not just this issue) the mass media has chosen to twist its First Amendment rights into an overwhelmingly one-sided bully pulpit for the use of those who would strip law-abiding American citizens of their rights and responsibilities under the Second Amendment. Any semblance of objective journalistic balance has been unapologetically tossed onto the trash heap of human experience. The gun, not the gunman, is tried and convicted and the law-abiding gun owners are sentenced in the kangaroo court of the mainstream media. Gun owners are demonized and organizations such as the National Rifle Association are portrayed as being evil incarnate. Again, lip service is paid to improving mental health services, closing so-called “gun-show” loopholes, and keeping the mentally ill from getting access to firearms, but their number one strategy is to get rid of the guns.

None of this, in any way, can diminish the pain and anguish felt by the victims of these tragedies. None of it can bring back any of those whose lives have been so cruelly and unfairly cut short. But it is done, over and over again, being falsely justified as being necessary to the noble quest to prevent such things from ever happening again. As a father and a grandfather, my heart breaks with every instance where firearms are so horribly used and my prayers and condolences go to the victims and their families and friends. The problem is, banning these so-called assault weapons will do nothing to accomplish this goal. I wish that there was such a simple answer, but as a responsible gun owner, competitive shooter, firearms safety instructor, student of history and a proud supporter of the Constitution of the United States of America, I recognize that this is not the answer. If you’ve read this far, please allow me to explain why, addressing what I see as being some of the major fallacies of the “ban the assault weapon” case, one by one.

Fallacy No. 1: Without the assault weapon, the killer could not have caused so many casualties.

A person intent on doing harm to others, whether the result of mental illness, terroristic intent or other psycho-social reason, will find a way to do so. On the same day as the Newtown murders, a deranged man attacked about 22 school children in China with a knife, slashing and stabbing with murderous intent. There was a similar instance in Japan within the past few years. No gun, but same result – the loss of innocent life at the hands of a severely mentally-ill perpetrator. And have we forgotten the use of a true weapon of mass destruction – made of fuel oil and fertilizer – to kill over 180 Americans, including 19 children in Oklahoma City?

Fallacy No. 2: A ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines is needed to prevent this from happening again.

The so-called Clinton Assault Weapons ban was the law of the land from 1994 to 2004. It did not prevent the massacre of innocent students and faculty and the hands of two other students at Columbine High School in 1999. The state of Connecticut has had in force its own version of this law, and yet it did not prevent the massacre at Newtown Elementary School. Assault weapon bans did not prevent these tragedies, in either the past or the present. Why is there any reason to believe a new one will be any more effective?

Fallacy No. 3: There is no sporting or hunting use for these assault weapons.

What the media and anti-gun crowd call “assault weapons” are semi-automatic, civilian versions (e.g., an AR-15) of the true “assault weapons” – that is, those used by military forces and law enforcement personnel (e.g., the M-16 and M-4). The military weapons typically are capable of fully automatic or multi-round burst fire and can shoot bullets at rates of 400 to 800 rounds per minute. Some models are equipped with sound suppression technology (i.e., “silencers”). The models available for sale to law-abiding, civilian gun owners do not have these capabilities. They are, however, very accurate, which makes them extremely popular for hunting and recreational shooting. The addition of a high-capacity magazine is an asset both in a number of competitive shooting disciplines (where they are typically the rifle of choice) and in personal defense situations. And with the growing number of multiple-intruder home invasion cases, an AR-15 style rifle can be an excellent choice to protect one’s home and family.

Fallacy No. 4: I support gun rights, but civilians don’t need military-style assault weapons.

The perceived “need” is really not a matter that is up for debate. The Second Amendment to The Constitution of the United States of America states “*A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.*”

When the founders of our nation drafted that language, why did they use the words “militia” and “arms”? They were not talking about hunting, recreational shooting or personal protection. Those were activities that they took for granted as part of normal, every-day life. That people would have firearms for those purposes was axiomatic. Having thrown off the yoke of one tyrant, they wanted the largest “army” in the

country to be the “militia” – comprised of able-bodied, civilian citizens, and they wanted them to have access to the same type of weaponry, or “arms,” that would be useful in a military sense, as a counter-balance to any future central government that became tyrannical in nature. Consider the following quotations from some of our most prominent founding fathers:

“A militia when properly formed are in fact, the people themselves . . . and include all men capable of bearing arms. . . To preserve liberty it is essential that the whole body of people always possess arms.” Richard Henry Lee –

Virginia Additional Letters from The Federal Farmer, 1788

“Who are the militia? Are they not ourselves? Congress have no power to disarm the militia. Their swords and every other terrible implement of the soldier, are the birthright of an American . . . The unlimited power of the sword is not in the hands of either the federal or state governments, but, where I trust in God it will ever remain, in the hands of the people.” Trent Coxe – Pennsylvania - The Pennsylvania Gazette, Feb. 20, 1788

“If circumstances should at any time oblige the government to form an army of any magnitude, that army can never be formidable to the liberties of the people while there is a large body of citizens, little if at all inferior to them in discipline and the use of arms, who stand ready to defend their rights and those of their fellow citizens.” Alexander Hamilton – New York – The Federalist, No. 29

“The said Constitution [shall] never be construed to authorize Congress to infringe the just liberty of the press, or the rights of conscience; or to prevent the people of the United States, who are peaceable citizens, from keeping their own arms.” Samuel Adams – Massachusetts – 1788

These quotations, and a host of others, clearly indicate that it was the intention of our founders that the people – the private citizens of the United States – should always have the right to possess arms of a nature that would allow them to oppose an oppressive government. By definition, this would include arms useful in a military sense. In fact, in one of the early Supreme Court decisions of the 20th Century, a defense based upon the Second Amendment was denied by the court because the firearm in question – a sawed-off shotgun – was not thought by the court to have a military application. Specifically, in the case of U.S. vs Miller, circa 1939, the opinion of the court contained the following language:

In the absence of any evidence tending to show that possession or use of a “shotgun having a barrel of less than eighteen inches in length” at this time has some reasonable relationship to the preservation or efficiency of a well-

regulated militia, we cannot say that the Second Amendment guarantees the right to keep or bear such an instrument. Certainly it is not within judicial notice that this weapon is any part of the ordinary military equipment or that its use could contribute to the common defense.*

*Source: Supreme Court Gun Cases, by David B. Kopel, Stephen P. Halbrook, Ph.D. and Alan Korwin

While the accuracy of the Court’s conclusion is perhaps questionable regarding the utility of the shotgun as a military weapon (e.g., shotguns were used in the trenches during the first World War), the Justices writing the opinion for the majority clearly were inclined to interpreting the Second Amendment to protect “arms” having utility in a military sense. So while the semi-automatic sport utility rifles available to the U.S. civilian population are not true assault rifles, many of them are, as Senator Feinstein refers to them, “military-style.” As a consequence, if there is such a thing as a class of weapons that the civilian ownership of is specifically protected by the Constitution, those having utility in a military sense would be the ones. And in this day and age, the best available option available to “We the people” is the semi-automatic, AR-style rifles that have become the most popular rifle in America.

Further, the federal government itself has made available to the law-abiding public not just “military-style,” but actual military rifles and carbines – truly weapons of war - through the Civilian Marksmanship Program, or CMP. Through this program, the government has sold literally thousands of surplus M1 Garand rifles, M1A1 rifles and M1 Carbine – actual battle weapons - to the civilian population. The M1 Garand fires the 30-06 round and the M1A1 fires the .308 Winchester round – either of which is bigger and significantly more powerful than the .223 Remington used in the semi-automatic sport utility rifles that the media has branded “military-style assault weapons.” The M1 carbine also fires a larger, .30 caliber bullet and it was routinely issued with 30-round magazines – the same number being labeled as “excessive” by the mainstream media and the anti-gun extremists. There are thousands and thousands of these firearms and their “high-capacity” magazines in the hands of law-abiding American gun owners that were put there by the federal government.

The Final Fallacy: Banning “Assault Weapons” is a “reasonable gun control” law.

In the immediate aftermath of the Sandy Hook tragedy, we saw the start of an intense and vitriolic assault on our Second Amendment rights. The same drum beats are echoing again in the aftermath of the Florida shooting. The lies and distortions that have been, and will continue to be, offered up as “facts” by the liberal, anti-gun politicians and their co-conspirators in the media will be made to seem overwhelming. It should be remembered that reviving the “assault weapons” ban has been a long-standing objective of the left-wing ideologues in this country. The current timing is simply an example of the radical mantra of “never let a crisis go to waste.” All decent Americans are heartsick over the deaths of 17 innocent victims at the hands of one severely disturbed young man. The radical left see this as the

opportunity to tip public opinion in favor of a new gun ban, wrapping it in the cloak of a “reasonable measure to protect our children.”

We all want to protect our children, but unfortunately, proposals put forth by Senator Feinstein and others have almost nothing to do with the safety of the children in our schools. They have nothing to do with the general public safety. They have everything to do with gutting the Second Amendment and trampling the rights of law-abiding gun owners. There is absolutely nothing reasonable about any “common sense measure” that would effectively ban the manufacture, sale and transfer of the very arms that a militia of the people, by the people and for the people would realistically need to defend the United States Constitution and its adherents from a tyrannical, over-reaching federal government. And that, I am afraid, is very much the true objective of any new proposed ban.

Do not be fooled by the “grandfathering” of those firearms now in the hands of law-abiding Americans. At best, such a provision will be good for one generation, as the ability to legally transfer those firearms would likely be lost. In order to be grandfathered, however, it is probable that the firearms will have to be registered with the federal government. In almost every instance where this has been instituted anywhere in the world, registration has been a prelude to confiscation. Consider how long before the next “crisis,” whether real or manufactured, would offer the pretext to begin the confiscation process?

The Path Ahead

Those of us who cherish freedom will need to be stronger and more politically active now than at almost any time in the last hundred years. The key point to remember and drive home to anyone who will listen is that this is not just about the innocent victims in Parkland, Florida or Sutherland, Texas or Las Vegas, Nevada or Sandy Hook Elementary School. A state ban on “assault weapons” in Connecticut did not prevent their deaths. A new national ban will not prevent the next Sandy Hook. All it will do is incrementally edge us closer to the long-held objective of the radical liberal left, which is to disarm the American civilian population. And once that happens, the rest of the fundamental freedoms and civil liberties that tens and tens of thousands of our ancestors gave their lives to defend will be stripped away from us, one by one.

To avoid this outcome, we each need to be ambassadors of the community of law-abiding gun owners. In our communities, we need to engage our neighbors, who may not have any interest in guns, in civil and respectful discourse, to show them that this is ultimately not just about gun rights, but about all rights. To those who would say that the founders never intended for the people to have firearms with the capabilities of today’s semi-automatic sport utility rifles, like the AR-15, remind them that our constitution is based upon principles, which do not change over time, nor are they dependent upon, or a function of, the technologies available at any point in time. To those who would say that these same rifles would be ineffective against a modern army, history says

differently, especially when you look at past conflicts, like Viet Nam, Afghanistan, Libya and most recently, the insurgency in Syria.

We also need to be proponents of firearms safety and individual responsibility. We need to let our fellow citizens know that the NRA is not “the evil gun lobby” that the media portrays it to be, but rather, it is a patriotic organization dedicated to the safe and responsible ownership of firearms, and safeguarding our basic freedoms. It is an organization whose “Eddie Eagle” education program for children has done more to prevent firearms-related tragedies than any gun ban ever has or possibly could. It is an organization that is the preeminent trainer in the world in the areas of firearms safety and marksmanship. In short, it is an organization to be respected and emulated, not vilified. Do not be afraid to show that you are the NRA! To those who say that the NRA has “blood on its hands,” remind them that the last administration, led by Barack Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder deliberately put thousands of “assault weapons” in the hands of known criminals through their failed “Operation Fast and Furious.” Those guns have been responsible for hundreds, if not thousands of deaths, including at least one U.S. Border Patrol agent. It is they, not the NRA, who have blood on their hands.

At the national level, we need to write to those members of Congress who are sympathetic to our cause, to encourage them to fight for our freedom and defeat any new version of a cancer for the Bill of Rights. We need to write to the moderate members of Congress, who may be on the fence, to make sure that they understand just what is at stake and why the firearms which are the target of the radical left are, of right, protected by the Second Amendment.

And finally, we need to remember that this is truly a battle for the hearts and minds of all freedom-loving Americans – especially those who do not yet recognize it for what it is! Consider this quotation from founding father George Mason of Virginia in 1788:

“[W]hen the resolution of enslaving America was formed in Great Britain, the British Parliament was advised by an artful man, who was governor of Pennsylvania, to disarm the people; that it was the best and most effectual way to enslave them; but that they should not do it openly, but weaken them, and let them sink gradually.”

In closing, the words of Thomas Paine, penned over two hundred years ago, come to mind:

“THESE are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands by it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly: it is dearness only that gives every thing its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be

strange indeed if so celestial an article as FREEDOM should not be highly rated.”

I pray that we may be given the wisdom to find true and lasting answers for the prevention of events like those which we have seen in our recent history. We all want to protect our children. Improving the recognition and treatment of mental illness, strengthening the mechanisms for getting relevant information into the background check system to prevent guns from being sold to individuals who clearly should not have them, addressing the problems posed by excessive violence in entertainment media, and outreach programs to at-risk youth are all positive steps in the right direction. Improving the physical security of our schools and putting trained, qualified and properly-armed personnel in those schools, in sufficient numbers to be effective, would seem to be absolute necessities. But taking any category of firearm out of the hands of law-abiding citizens, no matter how “noble” or “reasonable” the stated objective, is not the answer.

DELAWARE LAW ENFORCEMENT MARKSMANSHIP ASSOCIATION

By Mark Hester

The Delaware Law Enforcement Marksmanship Association (known as DLEMA) was established in the mid 1970’s for the purpose of offering competitions for Law Enforcement officers. Dover PD and the Delaware State Police were the first to dedicate teams for these competitions. The National Rifle Association was instrumental in opening the competitions to a wide variety of handgun courses of fire and handguns were designated, stock and open class, and both semi autos and revolvers. The below course of fire falls under the NRA Police Pistol Combat Rules and is the course utilized for DLEMA.

7.9 Match 7 for Stock Service Revolvers & Match 14 for Stock Service Semi-Automatic Pistols and Production Semi-Automatic Pistols: This course of fire is designed specifically for the purpose of encouraging law enforcement officers to participate in competitive shooting using standard issue police duty firearms and so competitors do not incur the additional cost for specialized firearms or equipment. This course is also fired as Match 15 with the Off Duty Revolver or Off Duty Semi-Automatic Pistol and Two and Four Officer Team Matches using Stock Service Revolvers, or Stock Service Semi-Automatic Pistols. This match is an aggregate of the following stages.

Stage 1: 3 yards, double action - 6 shots one hand standing without support, 8 seconds.

Stage 2: 7 yards, double action - 12 shots, one or two hands standing without support position. Twenty seconds, includes reloading for second 6 shot string.

Stage 3: 15 yards, double action - 12 shots, one or two hands standing without support. Twenty seconds, includes reloading for second 6 shot string.

Stage 4: 25 yards, double action - 18 shots, one or two hands; 6 shots kneeling, from behind the barricade for cover and support; 6 shots standing left hand from behind the barricade; and 6 shots standing right hand from behind the barricade. Ninety seconds, includes reloading for subsequent 6 shot strings.

The range used is the Nanticoke Sportsman Association is Seaford, DE. Although the course of fire is Law Enforcement under NRA rules, DLEMA is open to the civilian shooters. All shoots began at 0900 hrs. and weather dictates indoor or outdoor.

Spring /Summer Schedule

Saturday April 14, 2018

Saturday May 12, 2018

Saturday June 9, 2018

Saturday July 14, 2018

Saturday August 11, 2018

Saturday September 8, 2018

Saturday October 13, 2018

Contact Mark Hester @ 302-270-0412 if you have questions.

So, I’ve Got This AR...

By Frank Nedza

If you are like many of us, you might have an AR-Platform rifle in the safe (or maybe even more than one ☺). You might even be wondering why you have it, and what you can do with it. Well, you are in luck –we have a place you can take it out and have some fun.

You see, the NRA has noticed that there are a lot of AR’s, (sorry, Modern Sporting Rifles) out there and decided to try to give you a place to go with them. To that end they created a special category for mid-range matches called AR-Tactical Class. This new classification is provisional at this point, but if it takes off could soon be a regular feature at mid-range matches.

So, what is AR-Tactical and how do I get involved?

First off, the rifles used will be AR-platform, meaning AR-15 or AR-10, chambered in anything from .223 Remington/5.56 on up to (including .308 Winchester), and anything in between. The course of fire for these matches is the standard for mid-range at 300, 500, and 600 yards, and you will be shooting with other mid-range shooters, both conventional (sling) and F-class (F/TR and F-Open). AR-tactical shooters shoot on the ‘standard’ sling target which has a ~1 MOA ‘X’ ring (6 inches at 600 yards) and a ~2 MOA ‘10’ ring (12 inches at 600 yards). The official rules may be found in the NRA Highpower Rulebook, under section 3.3.3.

http://rulebooks.nra.org/documents/pdf/compete/rules/rul_hpr_16.pdf

Here is the ‘executive summary’ of what you need to know to get started;

1. Any semi-automatic rifle in an AR-Platform, any caliber from .223/5.56 to .308/7.62
 - a. Standard box magazine in 10, 20, or 30 round capacity
 - b. 4 ½ pound trigger pull
 - c. **MAXIMUM** 20” barrel (or shorter)

- d. Total weight of 14 pounds or less
2. Stock must be tactical style –no match/Palma/F-class stocks. **Tactical** stocks with adjustable cheekpieces and buttplates are OK.
3. Sights –telescopic sights fixed or variable **MAXIMUM** of 12 power. Standard metallic or holographic sights are OK. Laser sights are not.
4. Tactical Front Rest –detachable folding bipods (Harris type) or soft roll are OK. Field expedient front rests (backpack, range bag) are OK, but you can only use one. No boards, mats, rugs, towels, or anything else under your front rest.
5. Tactical Rear Rest –a soft roll or soft rear bag (NO Ears) may be used, no monopods may be used. You can use a folded coat or backpack as a field expedient rear rest.
6. Sling –you may use a sling, but NOT a competition style sling as used by match and Palma rifle shooters. A sling is NOT required.
7. Shooting mats are allowed
8. Magazine standard magazines **MUST** be used. You may NOT use a ‘sled’ designed for single loading. The magazine may not touch the ground when firing or during recoil.
9. Flash hiders are OK. **Muzzle brakes are NOT allowed** (they are disruptive to other shooters on the line).
10. Ammunition –any safe ammunition is allowed.

That is pretty much it in a nutshell.

So, what do I need to do to shoot a match and have a good time?

Mostly, show up! Here are a few tips to make your first match more fun, and more successful.

Please come with some sort of zero for your rifle and ammo. Even a 100 yard zero will help us ‘get you on paper’. Bring ammunition that is up to the task. For the .223, that means 69 or 77 grain bullets (or heavier). Yes, you can shoot 55’s at 600 yards but it will be frustrating for you, and us. We want you to have a positive first experience with match shooting. You can find factory loaded ‘heavy bullet’ ammo at a lot of places.

There are lots more suppliers out there, just search for 69 or 75/77 grain .223 ammunition.

If you have a muzzle brake on your rifle, try to take it off. The blast from those can be very disruptive to other shooters on the line.

If your scope is more than 12 power, don’t worry about it. We can tape your power ring, or just let you shoot ‘out of competition’.

Practice single loading from a magazine –you should be able to push a single round into the chamber with a finger, and then drop the bolt. All slow prone matches are fired one shot at a time in ‘single load’ style.

Bring a Positive attitude! Nobody wants to be around a ‘grump’. This is supposed to be fun, so come on out and have fun.

Bring realistic expectations –unless you are supremely talented, you probably aren’t going to win your first match. If you come hoping to learn, and have a great day on the range, I guarantee you will go home happy.

Be SAFE! Follow all commands given by the match personnel (don’t do anything until you are told). If you have questions, ASK. We have all been where you are today.

There are 3 parts of your match day;

Shooting –the FUN part!

Scoring –watching someone else shoot.

Pulling Targets –helping someone else shoot.

Parts of this you probably won’t understand, and that is OK, just ask for help. When you get to the match, tell the match director

that this is your first match, and he or she will likely hook you up with an experienced competitor.

OK, you have convinced me to get to a match. Where do I go?

Right around this area there are 3 ranges that hold full distance matches, here are links to their schedules.

Bridgeville Rifle and Pistol Club, Bridgeville, DE http://bville-rifle-pistol.org/?page_id=32

New Holland Rifle and Pistol Club, Gap, PA

<http://www.nhrpc.org/midrangeclub>

Cumberland Riflemen, Millville, NJ

<http://cumberlandmatches.com/>

Please make sure you understand and follow any laws pertaining to legality of and transport of firearms before you ‘hit the road’ for an ‘away match’.

Hope to see you at the range soon!

TIME TO PROTECT OUR SCHOOLS USING OUR NATION’S VETERANS

By Lee Williams on February 20, 2018 TGW Column, The Gun Writer

If you’ve turned off your TV in disgust over coverage of the Parkland massacre, let me catch you up:

It’s the gun’s fault. It’s the President’s fault. It’s the NRA’s fault. It’s the FBI’s fault. It’s Gov. Scott’s fault. It’s DCF’s fault. It’s the (standard capacity) magazine’s fault. It’s the gun industry’s fault. It’s the gun dealer’s fault. It’s the ammunition’s fault. It’s the gun community’s fault. It’s the school’s fault. It’s the teachers’ fault. It’s society’s fault



There’s hardly a mention of the pasty-faced little bastard who actually pulled the trigger, other than during an interview with the family who took him in. (Is it their fault too?)

In my humble opinion, all this endless debate does is distract us from the real issue: We need to harden our schools ASAP or there will be more carnage.

To sum: We need to fix the problem, not the blame.

There’s a group out there who are ready, willing and more than able to help secure our schools — our nation’s veterans.

They’re incredibly well trained. They’re equipped — every veteran I know has a carbine and a plate carrier — and they have already raised their hands and sworn an oath to protect this country from all enemies — foreign and domestic.

All that’s needed is a lawmaker at the state or federal level who’s willing to put their name on a bill authorizing the raising of a volunteer school security force.

I've heard from a lot of vets since the latest tragedy and, to be clear, they are all ready to go to work. They want to help. There's a sense of selflessness among our guys and gals who have served — the kind you won't find in any other group.

If they were at a school and someone threatened the children, they would march — or more likely run — to the sound of the gunfire. They wouldn't stage or stack or wait for SWAT.

They'd assess the situation, identify the threat and then shoot them in the face. If there were multiple shooters — rinse and repeat.

Then, they'd go home, have a beer or two and sleep like a baby, content that they'd done the right thing and that they'd had a easy day, since for most of our vets, after what they've been through, engaging a single shooter would be a very easy day.

The thought of vets wearing body armor and toting carbines on school property may be off-putting to some. Good.

Better to deter a crime than to have shots fired.

If some deranged young paste-eater hellbent on making a media splash sees an armed team and rethinks his plans for Valhalla, so be it. The plan worked.

This proposal is damn near plug-and-play. All that would be required is some screening, some minor training — more like an orientation — and a green light from the politicians.

It makes infinitely more sense than training and arming teachers, since, if it's my kids on that playground, I don't want any first-timers or amateurs involved. I want the best — someone who knows exactly what they're doing — someone who's encountered and eliminated threats before.

As to the cost, maybe I'm wrong, but I can't think of too many veterans who would take a dollar for safeguarding children. For most of us, it would be an honor.

About the Author:

Lee Williams can't remember a time in his life when he wasn't shooting. Before becoming a journalist, Lee served in the Army and worked as a police officer. He's earned more than a dozen journalism awards as a reporter, and three medals of valor as a cop. He is an NRA-certified law enforcement firearms instructor, an avid tactical shooter and a training junkie. When he's not busy as a senior investigative reporter, he is usually shooting his AKs, XDs and CZs. If you don't run into him at a local gun range, you can reach him at 941.284.8553, by email, or by regular mail to 1777 Main St., Sarasota, FL 34236. You can follow him on Twitter: @HT_GunWriter and on Facebook @The Gun Writer.

FLORIDA TEACHER OF THE YEAR'S GUN VIOLENCE POST GOES VIRAL AFTER SCHOOL SHOOTING

By Caleb Parke

A Teacher of the Year at a Florida middle school posted a Facebook message that has since gone viral saying parents need to "step up" when it comes to their kids' behavior.

"Okay, I'll be the bad guy and say what no one else is brave enough to say, but wants to say," Kelly Guthrie Raley, who was named Eustis Middle School Teacher of the Year 2017-2018 last month, said in a now-viral Facebook [post](#) following the mass shooting that killed 17 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

Raley said she'll "take all the criticism and attacks" for her opinion because, as a teacher with two decades of experience, she has to worry about an active-shooter situation on a daily basis.

The middle school teacher said over her almost two decades as an educator that she's seen an increase in violence and a lack of compassion among students.

"Until we, as a country, are willing to get serious and talk about mental health issues, lack of available care for the mental health issues, lack of discipline in the home, horrendous lack of parental support when the schools are trying to control horrible behavior at school (oh no! Not MY KID. What did YOU do to cause my kid to react that way?), lack of moral values, and yes, I'll say it — violent video games that take away all sensitivity to ANY compassion for others' lives — as well as reality TV that makes it commonplace for people to constantly scream up in each others' faces and not value any other person but themselves, we will have a gun problem in school," the sixth-grade language arts teacher wrote.

Raley, who loves hunting and four-wheeling in her spare time, added that she grew up with guns in her home.

"But you know what? My parents NEVER supported any bad behavior from me," Raley said.

She said when she began teaching 20 years ago, she never had to worry about calling a student's parents and getting cussed out, told to go to hell, or threatened with a public shaming all because she was calling out their child's behavior. Something, she said, has got to change.

"Parents, it's time to step up!" Raley urges. "Be the parent that actually gives a crap! Be the annoying mom that pries and knows what your kid is doing. STOP being their friend. They have enough 'friends' at school. Be their parent. Being the 'cool mom' means not a damn thing when either your kid is dead or your kid kills other people because they were allowed to have their space and privacy in YOUR HOME."

She doubles down that she had guns in her home.

"But you know what? I never dreamed of shooting anyone with his guns. I never dreamed of taking one! I was taught respect for human life, compassion, rules, common decency, and most of all, I was taught that until I moved out, my life and bedroom wasn't mine...it was theirs. And they were going to know what was happening because they loved me and wanted the best for me."

Raley concludes her post by adding that she never brought up gun control.

"This post wasn't about gun control," she said. "This was me, loving the crap out of people and wanting the best for them. This was about my school babies and knowing that God created each one for greatness, and just wanting them to reach their futures."

Raley said the only thing she holds dearer than teaching students is her faith and family, and that her father, a military hero, and her mother, a retired school teacher,

[FoxNews.com](#)

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