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D.S.S.A. NEWS

DELAWARE STATE SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION
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DSSA PRESIDENT RUNNING FOR NRA BOARD

By John C. Sigler
NRA Past President

It is with great deal of pride and pleasure that I announce that my good friend and colleague, DSSA's current president Jeffrey W. Hague, is now officially a candidate for election to the Board of Directors of the National Rifle Association of America, Inc. The NRA's Nominating Committee has just released its official list of nominees for the 2020 NRA Board Elections and our own DSSA President Jeff Hague was among those stalwart NRA Members chosen by the committee to help guide NRA through the rocks and shoals of the coming years as NRA continues its never-ending fight to protect and defend the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding Americans to keep and bear arms for lawful purposes. Jeff's bid to become just the third person from Delaware to be elected to the NRA Board of Directors in the 148 year history of NRA will begin with the arrival of the Ballot Edition of the NRA Official Journals at the homes of NRA voting members sometime near the end of January of next year.



DSSA President Jeff Hague addresses the crowd at Second Amendment Rally

Jeff Hague is a Benefactor Member of the NRA and a Life Member of the Delaware State Sportsmen's Association. He is an influential Second Amendment grassroots activist who has dedicated a lifetime to fighting for our rights.

Jeff is also a frequent contributor to the editorial pages of local papers, taking on the anti-gun crowd, calling them to task for their far-too frequent lies, ensuring that the truth about gun owners and hunters is well represented in the public discourse. He is also a frequent radio commentator who has repeatedly and successfully called the gun-grabbers to task and ensured that the truth is being told to the otherwise uneducated public.

Jeff is an accomplished competitive shooter, having engaged in High Power Rifle competition for over 40 years. Jeff holds High Master classifications in Conventional High Power ("across the course"), Mid-Range, Long Range and NRA International Fullbore Rifle. He is also a member of the United States Rifle Team (Palma Veteran).

Mr. Hague is a fourth-generation volunteer firefighter who was instrumental in introducing his son and grandson to the concept of volunteer public service ensuring that the fifth and sixth generations of the Hague Family will continue the tradition of being volunteer firefighters here in the First State.

Jeff Hague holds a Bachelors Degree from the University of Delaware and a Masters Degree from Salisbury State University. He is retired from service as Delaware's Regulatory Registrar and is the owner of a successful legislative and regulatory consulting firm.

Most importantly, Jeff Hague is a successful state-level, pro-Second Amendment lobbyist who has helped to pass a long list of pro-gun, pro-hunting measures in the Delaware General Assembly and has been highly effective in helping to defeat a long list of anti-gun, anti-Second Amendment, anti-freedom measures touted by some of Delaware's most ardent gun-grabbers.

Under Jeff's leadership as our DSSA president, the Delaware State Sportsmen's Association has grown to an all-time high membership of over 3,500 pro-gun and pro-hunting enthusiasts all of whom are now united in the fight to keep the First State free.

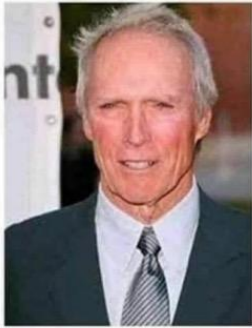
I am excited by the thought that my friend Jeff Hague may soon become a member of the NRA Board of Directors. Jeff is exactly the kind of highly motivated, highly educated individual we need on the NRA Board. His dedication to the Second Amendment coupled with his common sense, business judgment, education and life-long history as a competitive shooter and pro-gun grassroots activist is exactly the kind of "down-to-earth" person we need to help NRA fight against those who would destroy NRA and to defend America against those who would deny you your God-given

rights of self-defense and to keep and bear arms for lawful purposes.

I look forward to the day when, with your help and support, Jeff Hague will follow in the footsteps of the late John Thompson and sit with me on the NRA Board of Directors.

Delaware needs the NRA, and the NRA needs Jeff Hague.

JUST COMMON SENSE



Participating in a gun buyback program because you think that criminals have too many guns is like having yourself castrated because you think your neighbors have too many kids.
-Clint Eastwood

Bridgeville Rifle & Pistol Club Represents Delaware at NRA'S 2019 F-CLASS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Frank Nedza



2019 Bridgeville Rifle & Pistol Club F-Class National Championship Long Range Rifle Team

This year's NRA F-Class Nationals marks the fifteenth anniversary of the first NRA F-Class National Championships held at Camp Butner, North Carolina in the Fall of 2004. Two members of DSSA, Jeff Hague and John Sigler, joined other F-Class trailblazers in firing in that first NRA F-Class National Championship event back in 2004. Fifteen years later, both Jeff and John celebrated that 15th anniversary of the first F-Class Nationals by shooting in this year's event in Raton, New Mexico.

A total of seven members of Bridgeville's Long Range Rifle Team, all of whom are members of the Delaware state Sportsmen's Association recently returned to Delaware after successfully representing Delaware in the 2019 NRA F-Class Rifle National Championships. Leading the team were Team Captain Dave Kokoszka and DSSA President Jeff Hague who served as the team's Wind Coach. Other team members shooting F-Open Rifles were Corey Woods, Frank Van Why, Steve Singleton and John Sigler. Shooting in F-T/R Rifle was Ramsey Abid. DSSA President Jeff Hague gave up his shooting coat and sling to shoot in F-Open as an individual, giving up his rifle and taking up the spotting scope when it came to the team events.

2019 NRA F-Class Mid-Range Nationals

The 2019 NRA Mid-Range National Championships were conducted over four days, from September 15 through September 18, 2019, inclusive, on the George Tubb 1,000 Yard Range on the grounds of the NRA Whittington Center located near Raton, New Mexico. A total of 174 individual competitors were registered and competed in this Mid-Range Championship, 67% of whom shot F-Open and 33% of whom shot F-T/R. Additionally, a total of 33 four-person teams shot the team matches, 21 F-Open teams and 12 F-T/R teams, respectively.

The 2019 Mid-Range National Champions are:

F-Open Individual:

Timothy Vaught, posting a Grand Aggregate score of 1794-119X

F-T/R Individual:

Luke Ramsey, posting a Grand Aggregate score of 1784-101X – it should be noted that Ramsey is a Master, defeating all the High Masters.

F-Open Team:

"Road Runners" – shooters: Jake Babcock, Eric Wuestenhoefer, Bill Brown, Christine Harris; Deven Wiggett, Team Captain and Scott Harris, Team Coach – posting a two-match team aggregate score of 1592-87X.

F-T/R Team:

"USA Independence" – shooters: Lane Buxton, Alan Barnhart, Ian Klem, Ken Klem; Phil Kelley, Team Captain and James Crofts, Team Coach posting a two-match team aggregate score of 1585-88X.

2019 NRA F-Class Long Range Nationals

The 2019 NRA Long Range National Championships were conducted immediately following the 2019 NRA Mid-Range

National Championships (above) over four days, from September 19 through September 22, 2019, inclusive, on the George Tubb 1,000 Yard Range on the grounds of the NRA Whittington Center located near Raton, New Mexico. A total of 266 individual competitors were registered and fired in the Long-Range Championship, approximately 66% of whom shot F-Open and 34% of whom shot F-T/R. Additionally, a total of 33 four-person teams shot the team matches, 21 F-Open Teams and 12 F-T/R teams, respectively.

The 2019 Long-Range National Champions are:

F-Open Individual:

Brian Bowling: posting a Grand Aggregate score of 1573-78X

F-T/R Individual:

Jade Delcambre: posting, a Grand Aggregate score of 1549-53X. It should be noted that Delcambre is a Master, defeating all the High Masters.

F-Open Team:

“Lapua/Brux/Borden” -shooters: Tod Henricks, Patrick Scully, David Christian, Jay Christopherson; Eric Cortina, Team Captain and Bob Sebold, Team Coach.

They knew we were there:

The Bridgeville team made Delaware proud throughout both the Mid-Range and Long Range Nationals. Competing against 20 other teams from throughout the United States the Bridgeville Team came in at the middle of the pack in both the Mid-Range and Long Range team events. When considering the fact that Bridgeville’s Long Range Team was the only “Master Team” competing against 20 other High Master Teams, this was quite an accomplishment, especially when considering the fact that this was the first time Jeff Hague had ever called wind for an F-Class Team! The overwhelming majority of his prior experience having been with Palma-type teams and conventional target rifle teams – Congratulations Jeff! Well done, indeed!

On the individual front, Steve Singleton was the only person on the team to win individual honors during the Mid-Range Championships, placing 5th Overall (Bronze) as 5th High Master in Match #7. Bridgeville’s shooters were more successful in the Long Range Nationals.

Team Captain Dave Kokoszka led the way as the Overall Winner (Gold) in Match #7 with a score of 196-8x in the absolute worst wind conditions of the entire 8 days of F-Class competition on arguably the toughest 1,000-yard range in the country. That Match #7 score also helped Dave to place as #2 in the Master Class in the Day#2 Aggregate. Dave also won 2nd Master in Match #2 and was the Fifth Place Winner in the Master Class Overall Grand Aggregate for the entire tournament.

John Sigler also enjoyed a successful Long Range National Championship experience placing just ahead of Dave as the Fourth Place Master in the Overall Grand Aggregate. John also won First Master in the Day #3 Aggregate and First Master in Match #12, tied for 3rd Overall with a score of 199-

11x. John also placed 1st in the Master Class in Match #13 with a score of 197-11x.

A big **THANK YOU** to all the members of Bridgeville’s F-Class Long Range Rifle Team for representing Delaware and the DSSA so well on the national stage – and **“YES”** they knew we were there!

**DESERT EAGLE SPREADS ITS WINGS AGAIN – With
the New .429 DE Magnum!
by Justin Opinion**

Editor’s Note: Justin Opinion is actually David Crout, Author and DSSA Board of Directors.



“Perhaps the most iconic profile in the entire handgun world. The Desert Eagle is now in version Mark XIX”

There are a lot of handguns that can be called “iconic”, but that word seldom applies more accurately than when used to refer to the Desert Eagle by Magnum Research. First patented in the mid-1980’s by IMI (Israel Military Industries) based on an American design, the pistol skyrocketed to almost instant fame and recognition when Hollywood nearly jumped out of its shoes to feature it in one action movie after another. It quickly became the “must have” hand cannon if you wanted the word ‘badass’ associated with your movie. And while it may not be featured as frequently as it once was (after all, Hollywood is nothing if not fickle), its instantly recognized profile continues to awe and inspire the newest generation, who see it prominently displayed in video games. Yes, the Desert Eagle is one that sits at the head table of handgun badassery. And yet, somehow yours truly has managed to tiptoe carefully through life without ever having fired one. Oh, it’s been consistently on the list – bucket or otherwise – I’ve just never made it happen. But when Magnum Research (now a part of the Khar Arms Group) announced a brand-new caliber developed exclusively for the Desert Eagle – to take full advantage of its strength and ability to handle insane pressures – I leaned in for a closer look.



"A new inscription and a new caliber -the .429 DE Magnum. The tested copy included the integral muzzle brake, which dampens recoil at the expense of additional blast."

The new caliber is called .429 DE Magnum. The DE is of course the initials of the Desert Eagle. For those unfamiliar with ballistic specs, .429 (or four hundred twenty-nine thousandths of an inch) is the actual diameter of the .44 Magnum bullet. Okay, I'm a big fan of .44 Mag, but so what... you can already get Desert Eagles chambered for that cartridge... what's the big deal? The big deal (thanks for asking), is that this .429" diameter bullet is sitting on top of the Saturn 5 of handgun cartridges... the .50 AE!

Magnum Research builds a monster of a gun and a beast of a caliber – the .50 Action Express – but those laurels have been sat upon for so long, they may be wearing thin. The folks at M.R. wanted to figure out a way to take that cartridge and squeeze more out of it – or if not more, at least something new and different. So, by creating a necked-down cartridge that starts as a .50 caliber and winds up as a .44 caliber (.429"), you can push that 240-grain projectile faster because you have more space for higher powder charges. Also, because of the new configuration, the .429 DE headspaces on the 30-degree shoulder, not the case mouth.



"One of the main reasons the Desert Eagle can handle such high-pressure ammo is the rotating bolt design."



The red-hot .429 DE Magnum is a .50AE necked down to .44 Mag diameter. Overall length is almost exactly the same as .44 Mag. The ammo is currently only made by Magnum Research and is not yet SAAMI certified.

Magnum Research talks about the .429 DE Magnum as being faster than the .44 Magnum, and delivering more energy at the target. This piqued my curiosity to do a side-by-side test to not only witness for myself if this is true, but also as a way to evaluate the degree of punch that this new cartridge possesses. So, after getting word from Khar that the .429 DE handgun was on its way, I made separate arrangements for a .44 Magnum barrel and a couple of magazines. In for a penny – in for a pound. Now, don't get me wrong – no one need justify to me the need or practical use for a new caliber, especially if it sets off nearby car alarms when fired. "Because we could", is a perfectly acceptable rationale. But I wanted to see the velocities, feel the recoil, and witness the accuracy for myself – knowing that some might be skeptical. Here's the caveat: ballistics is a science. I am not a scientist. For instance, the .44 Mag barrel I have is solid, not ported or braked. The .429 barrel has an integral brake. The overall length is the same – ergo, the .44 Mag has propellant driving it a bit longer than does the .429 DE. Those details make my testing less than a direct comparison – but still very close.



"Swapping to the black-finished .44 mag barrel created a beautiful two-tone piece of art."

THE MARK XIX DESERT EAGLE

If no one is looking, and you want to admit that you're in my category of never having shot a Desert Eagle, then it's likely that you don't inherently know much about it beyond its iconic profile and that it makes large projectiles go fast. So, here are the general features of the Desert Eagle, now in the Mark XIX version. The gun is operated by a gas system that uses a piston to trap the expanding hot gas from the cartridge and divert a portion of it to drive the slide rearward. It also has a rotating bolt that contains the firing pin and extractor, rather than a fixed breech face as conventional semi-autos have. The bolt is very much like those found in AR-15s, and is one of the best ways to work with large caliber – extreme pressure ammunition. The gun has ambidextrous safeties, which are slide mounted. This is one case where I think that is the best place for them – up high and out of the way.



"The safety is ambidextrous and like every part of the Desert Eagle, very stout. It allows for a 'Condition One' mode."

The safety disengages the trigger, rather than making a physical barrier to trigger or hammer. This means you can perform every normal function of the handgun while the safety is on – racking the slide, manually cocking the hammer, loading the pistol, etc. What the safety does not do is drop the hammer. The trigger is better than I expected, and while it's large like every other part of the gun, it is well placed and has a crisp break. The reset is a bit squishy – but if you're interested in doing double and triple taps with a Desert Eagle, you're a better man than I. I just hope you have a very high berm. The stock sights are decent – giving a black on black sight picture with a combat presentation. The magazine release looks like the head of a pin on the side of the pistol, but it is really about the size of a 1911 button. It functions very smoothly, and the high-quality mags drop free nicely.



"A normal-sized control, such as the magazine release, looks miniature on the Desert Eagle. However, it's a smooth operator - as is the trigger, which is rated at 4 lbs."

The slide stop/release lever is large and very good, though I cannot operate it one-handed – my hands are just too small to wrap that far around the 2x4 sized grip. That grip wears a synthetic (rubberized) cover and bears a smooth front strap. Takedown is easy for cleaning or swapping barrels, though because it is a gas operated pistol, expect it to be filthy. Picatinny rail adorns the top of the barrel and the underside of the frame on the .429DE's brushed stainless steel surface.



"Design and construction of the Desert Eagle are top-notch in every aspect."

All-in-all, the Desert Eagle is just a masterpiece of modern design and workmanship. The fit and finish are first rate, and every part of the gun feels "tough" and a bit over-engineered.

SHOOTING THE .429 DE As I mentioned, I'm a fan of the .44 magnum and have fired it in many different sized guns. All were revolvers of various configurations and barrel lengths. I also know my way around other big-bore hand cannons, so I was curious how this new wildcat would feel. For starters, the gun weighs as much as a '69 VW Beetle, so that will help. I dry fired the pistol a few times to get a sense for the trigger break, then loaded five in the 7-round magazine. The first

shot made an impression. It wasn't so much the recoil – which is significant but well mitigated by the weight of the gun and tough springs. What got my attention was the concussion followed by the noise of the blast. You feel the shock wave hit you like you're in an invisible pillow fight. And if your ear protection is not up to snuff, you'll find out fast. Magnum Research recommends a very firm grip and an isosceles-type stance with the strong hand pushing out with a locked elbow and forward shoulder, and the support hand tightly pulling back toward the body in the opposing force method. Limp-wristing is a common malfunction inducing problem with the Desert Eagle pistol. I'll confess – none too proudly – that I experienced this issue first hand more than once while shooting this behemoth – even while on a rest. This could also be an indication that some break-in is required, but I did experience several feeding malfunctions with the .429 DE rounds. So, with the jury out on the reasons for that, I will presume that I am at least half the cause if not all of it. When I focused my grip and locked my elbows, it ran quite well. It's easier said than done, to keep a locked isometric grip on the gun after the first shot – because the flinch instinct can be strong, and the desire to bend the elbows to cushion the blow equally strong. But bleeding off just a little bit of that energy by doing so can interfere with the cycling of the action and cause the next round to short-feed.



"The author is new to shooting the Desert Eagle, and experienced the well-known 'limp wristing' learning curve that many do. Even with .44 mag as shown here, too soft a grip and stance can induce a feeding failure."

The .429 DE cartridge is not SAAMI certified as yet, so to my knowledge there is only one supplier of the ammunition, Glacier Ridge by Magnum Research. It is available in two bullet weights, a 240-gr. soft nose, and a 210-gr. JHP. The latter claims a higher velocity. I didn't have a supply of comparable .44 magnum for the lighter bullet, but since I did chronograph both weights, we'll take a look at those results.

Chronograph Results Magnum Research Desert Eagle Mark XIX			
Ammunition Brand	Ammunition Type	Velocity (fps)	Energy (ft./lbs.)
Magnum Research Glacier Ridge	.429DE 240 gr. JSP	1533	1253
Magnum Research Glacier Ridge	.429DE 210 gr. JHP	1628	1236
SIG Sauer Elite Performance	.44 Mag 240 gr. V-Crown	1293	891

* Results are the average of 5 shots from each cartridge at 12 ft. using a Competition Electronics chronograph

Magnum Research's boast of significantly increased velocity and energy versus the .44 magnum seems well founded. My simple testing revealed the same weight (240 gr.) bullet travels about 19% faster, and packs a whopping 41% more energy. Its numbers put it between the 7.62x39 (AK-47 round) and the .243 Winchester rifle rounds. Hand cannon – indeed! The 210-gr. hollow point version moves considerably faster yet and despite its lesser mass, delivers very nearly the same energy.



"The synthetic grip combined with smooth front strap makes a nice combination for shooting this beast. In this case, the less abrasive surface against your skin, the better."

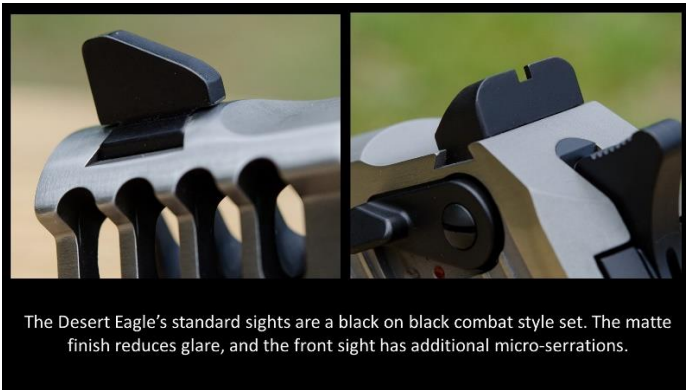
In addition to the cartridge being new, uncertified, and exclusive – it is also expensive. Obviously, the cost of the components is significant – particularly the bottle-neck brass case. If you shop around a bit online you might find a box of 20 for as little as \$32, or about \$1.60 per shot. But then, I doubt anyone is considering any Desert Eagle model because it makes good sense for their budget, and especially so with a new boutique cartridge. Over time that will come down a bit, but not much. There is still a lot of raw material there.

ACCURACY To test the accuracy of the Desert Eagle, I rested it at 20 yards from a target and compared 5 shots of .44 Magnum to 5 shots of .429DE, both with 240 grain bullets. Since the behemoth I was testing is over the top, I thought I'd go over the top too, and mounted an Aimpoint PRO – intended for rifle use – on the gun. After a quick sight-in with the .44 barrel, I shot 5 rounds of SIG Sauer Elite Performance ammo, then swapped barrels to the .429DE and shot 5 more rounds. Seems the configuration of the barrels is different enough that it sent the .429 rounds about six inches high – but luckily still on paper and well separated from the .44 group. The group with the .44 mag barrel was extremely impressive – with three of the five shots touching. The .429 printed a larger group, partly due to flinching on the part of yours truly. I also found that, even rested, one must concentrate on the grip or feed problems can result.

20 Yard Results - Rested Magnum Research Desert Eagle Mark XIX			
Ammunition Brand	Ammunition Type	5-Shot Group (inches)	3-Shot Group (inches)
Magnum Research Glacier Ridge	.429DE 240 gr. JSP	2.536	1.807
Federal American Eagle	.44 Mag 240 gr. JHP	1.122	0.422
Averages		1.829	1.115



"The fixed barrel of the Desert Eagle makes it inherently accurate - even with some shooter flinching!"



The Desert Eagle's standard sights are a black on black combat style set. The matte finish reduces glare, and the front sight has additional micro-serrations.

JUST MY OPINION This is the part of the review where I often try to define the practical use for the firearm. Is it best suited for home defense, concealed carry, competition or perhaps hunting and sporting use, etc. But the Desert Eagle fits in all boxes and no box all at the same time. It is unique among handguns, and its justification for being is simply that it exists. And we're glad it does. Once thought of as a novelty gun, the Desert Eagle has matured into one considered synonymous with high quality and high power. Everybody secretly wants one. It is perhaps the ultimate barbeque gun – especially if you got the bling package with gold plating *and* tiger stripes! But that doesn't mean it has no practical application. I would hate to be a wild hog on the property of a Desert Eagle owner. Indeed, even more traditional game could be taken with it. Defend the home? You bet it would. One shot would do it – you've either eliminated the threat, or the threat is eliminating all over itself as it runs away. But the real reason for the Desert Eagle is the best reason of all. The "just

because" reason. And it is in that spirit that I think the folks at Magnum Research said "what if..." and developed the .429 DE Magnum. It lives up to the hype in terms of ballistic performance. And one of the best aspects of the Desert Eagle is its ability to be quickly changed from one caliber to another by a simple barrel swap – and maybe a different magazine. So, you can take it to the range with the .44 magnum or .357 magnum barrel, and bring it to the barbeque with the new – and conversation starting .429 barrel. The Desert Eagle is an expensive gun, and not likely the most practical. But, check just about any gun guy's wish list and you'll find it – probably near the top. The .429 DE is likely to rejuvenate interest, and it is worthy of the name. I think Magnum Research has a new winner here.



"The Desert Eagle is design and machining achievement that is also art. The new 429 DE is the next step in its journey of innovation."



"As if not big enough already, with the slide locked back the DE takes on otherworldly looks."



"Shooting rifle velocities from a rifle-weight gun, might as well use a rifle optic! The author used the Aimpoint PRO for some of the testing."



DESERT EAGLE

- Chambering: .429 DE
- Barrel: 6" w/muzzle break
- OA Length: 10.75"
- Weight: 4 lbs. 4.3 oz.
- Grips: Soft Synthetic
- Sights: Fixed combat style
- Action: Gas operated, rotating bolt
- Finish: Stainless Steel
- Capacity: 7 (std. magazine)
- MSRP: \$ 2,143.00



Sauer 38H

By Tomas Shellenberger

One of the oldest names in European firearms is J. P. Sauer und Sohn GmbH, founded in 1751. Known in this county primarily for its collaborations with other entities (with Swiss Arms AG to create and manufacture the SIG-Sauer pistol line and, earlier, with Weatherby to manufacture the Mark V hunting rifles), Sauer has manufactured rifles, handguns, and shotguns, and remains in business today, the oldest German firearms maker still in business.

Following WWI, the demand for military weapons decreased as the Treaty of Versailles restricted the arms the German military could purchase. Sauer turned its focus to making high-quality handguns for the civilian and police markets. Sauer had marketed its first semi-automatic pistol prior to WWI. Early Sauer pistol designs were striker-fired, but by the 1930s, the company wanted to update its design to include a hammer-fired pistol to compete with updated designs from Walther and Mauser. The result was the Sauer 38H (38 for the model year and H for internal hammer.)

The model 38H was the first semi-auto pistol to feature a cocking/de-cocking lever. It also features a manual safety mounted on the slide. After inserting a loaded magazine and racking the slide to charge the pistol, the shooter can engage the safety and carry the pistol "cocked and locked." To fire, the shooter would switch off the safety and pull the trigger in single-action mode, releasing the hammer. Alternatively, the user can lower the hammer by pushing down the lever located just behind the trigger. The pistol can now be fired "double-action" by pulling the trigger, which will both cock the hammer and release it. Firing in this manner, the slide will cock the hammer when traveling rearward during recoil, leaving subsequent rounds to be fired by a single-action pull of the trigger (unless the de-cocking lever is used again).

If the shooter has de-cocked the loaded pistol, the shooter may fire the first-round double-action or use the cocking/de-cocking lever before firing the pistol, giving the shooter the option to fire the first shot without a heavy double-action trigger pull.

The 38H pistol was chambered in the 7.65 Browning cartridge, known as .32 ACP in this country. This was the first pistol cartridge designed by John Browning and features a

straight wall (for ease of function in blowback pistols) and a small rim on which the cartridge headspaces. The 38H was used by police and various security forces in Hitler's Germany. The military utilized the 38H as a substitute standard and issued approximately 200,000 to officers. Pre-war Sauer 38H pistols were made to rather high standards of fit and finish. As the tide of the war turned against Germany, some cost and time-saving efforts were made to allow guns to be manufactured faster and less expensively. First to suffer was the external finish of guns; later on some safety features were dropped, and pistols from the later period of WW2 can be found either without a manual safety on the slide or without the cocking/decocking lever on the frame (or without either, on last-ditch pistols).

While the basic setup of the Sauer cocking/decocking lever was rather advanced even by immediate post-war standards, 38H pistol was never brought back to production after the war. The basic idea of a separate, frame-mounted decocker was revived much later in HK P9s and SIG-Sauer P220 pistols.

The Sauer 38H is blowback operated pistol with stationary barrel. The pistol has a separate breechblock, which houses extractor, firing pin and loaded chamber indicator that protrudes from the back of the slide if a cartridge is loaded in the chamber. The breech block is fixed to the slide by the cross-pin. The disassembly latch is located inside the trigger guard, just ahead of the trigger, and must be pulled down to allow slide removal.

The magazine release latch is controlled by the button, located on the left side of the grip, at the base of the trigger guard. Sights are fixed. Grip panels are made from black plastic, with "double S" Sauer logo on the left grip. The 38H is a small, generally well-made pistol that is a pleasure to shoot. The earlier models are attractively finished, and examples of shooter-grade pistols are readily available on the market. Because of their relative affordability and the various models produced as the war turned against the Nazis, the 38H makes an attractive item for collectors.

FBI: Over 5 Times More Killed with Knives than Rifles – AWR Hawkins

Submitted by Hank Maier, Treasure DSSA



FBI crime stats for 2018 show over five times as many people were killed with knives and/or other cutting instruments than were killed with rifles. The FBI data shows a total 1,515 deaths by knives and/or other cutting instruments vs. 297 deaths by rifle in 2018.

This means the gap between murders with knives vs. murders with rifles has grown since 2017, for which FBI stats showed nearly four times as many stabbed to death as killed with rifles. The number of murders with a rifle hovered around 400 for the year 2017, the numbers then dropped to 297 in 2018. It must be noted that the category of rifle includes all kinds of rifles, not just bolt action or semiautomatic, not just pump or lever action. So the gap between knife homicides and rifle homicides or hammer/club homicides and rifle homicides would be even larger if contrasted only with semiautomatic rifles, versus rifles of all kinds.

Ironically, over 100 more people were killed with hammers and clubs than were killed with rifles in 2018.

MINDSET AND A WAY OF LIFE

By: William Bell, DSSA Board of Directors

Preeminent Firearms instructor, Ed Head recently opined wisdom that we should all take to heart.

Mindset goes way beyond figuring out how to win a gunfight, (or most anything in life) it's really the adopting of a state of mind that insures your survival (winning) no matter where you are or what you are doing. Even if it's not very likely, think about what could go wrong and take prudent, reasonable steps to ensure your safety.

Every time I see a news report about boaters caught in a horrible storm, I ask myself why they didn't take the simple precaution of checking the weather before going out. Same goes for these stories where people get stuck in blizzards in the mountains because they decided to take a drive. If you can't swim, why not go tubing with friends down a raging river? What could go wrong? And, if you are wandering around in the boonies, especially in bear country, without a suitable firearm you might end up being food.

The movie "Apocalypse Now" has a great scene that illustrates what I'm trying to get at. A patrol boat is making its way up a jungle river in enemy territory when one of the crew members decides it would be a good idea to go ashore and look for something to add to the meal he is preparing. The men end up being chased back to the boat by a tiger, screaming, crying and shooting. Throwing themselves back on the boat in their panic they cry, "Don't get off the boat! Don't get off the boat!" The point here is, if something is likely to endanger you, don't do it. If there are places you should avoid because they pose a threat to your safety, don't go there. If you aren't sure what course of action to take, ask yourself if you should "get off the boat".

“DUE PROCESS “: FREEDOM’S BEST FRIEND & TYRANNY’S WORST ENEMY

**BY: John C. Sigler, Esq.*
NRA Past President**

The issue of “Due Process” has been the topic of much discussion over the past several years. We have heard NRA talk about fighting to ensure that Due Process protections are afforded in all types of legislation, particularly in so-called “red flag bills”. For those who read DSSA News on a regular basis, you know about DSSA’s continuing fight in the Delaware General Assembly to ensure that the Due Process Rights” of Delaware’s community of hunters, gun owners, competitors and sportsmen/women are protected here in the First State.

Recently, we have heard President Trump rightfully complain that he and his administration are being denied their “due process rights” by the House Majority Democrats engaged in the so-called “Impeachment Inquiry”. And now, DSSA and others are considering bringing suit against DNREC for ignoring the plain language of the statute and thwarting the will of the General Assembly and for its unilateral imposition of “regulations” concerning the use of statutorily authorized straight-walled pistol caliber rifles for hunting deer in Delaware - a suit that will, among other things, question DNREC’s failure to follow the Administrative Procedures Act, thus ignoring the due process rights of Delaware’s lawful gunowners and hunters.

So, exactly what is “Due Process”, you ask? Good question! Please bear with me as I attempt to explain.

In simple terms, “Due Process” comes in two “flavors” - “Substantive Due Process” and “Procedural Due Process”. “Substantive Due Process” essentially requires that laws – such as statutes, ordinances, regulations – be written clearly and concisely and are capable of being understood by a “reasonable person” (not just lawyers and judges), otherwise they will be (or at least should be) declared “void for vagueness.”

“Procedural Due Process” generally requires that all of the fundamental procedural and legal safeguards are in place and being used. More details on this topic later. Generally speaking, it is these procedural safeguards that are most often the topic of discussion, both by President Trump in his situation, and by NRA and DSSA as we attempt to protect the rights of law-abiding gun owners. And it is these procedural safeguards that anti-gun politicians seem so intent on destroying, ignoring, limiting or denying.

From a historical perspective, one might logically argue that it was the tyrannical conduct concerning the denial of Due Process rights by The Crown that led our Founding Fathers into revolutionary action, as evidenced by numerous provisions in both our Constitution and the Bill of Rights reacting to those tyrannical and despotic actions of the Crown. For example, Article I § 9 of our United States Constitution prohibits the suspension of the Privilege of Habeas Corpus and prohibits ex-post facto laws and Bills of

Attainder, all three of which were used extensively by the Crown to subjugate the colonists. Likewise, without question, the Bill of Rights was designed to protect the average citizen of today from experiencing the very same governmental due process tyrannies once experienced by the colonists under British colonial rule.

The Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution addresses frequent British Due Process tyrannies by providing that “no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the places to be searched and the persons or things to be seized.”

The Fifth Amendment contains even greater Due Process safeguards, again addressing tyrannies frequently practiced by the Crown against the colonists: (1) “No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or other infamous crime unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury...”; (2) “...nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put into jeopardy...”; (3)“... nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself...”; (4) nor be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law”; (5) “... nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation”. One might argue that all these protections were (1) sparked by tyrannical excesses of the King; and (2) are all, in one way or another, “due process” protections in addition to the actual “Due Process Clause”. (See also the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment).

Even more “due process protections” may be found in the Sixth Amendment, and much like the others, appear therein as the result of the pre-Revolutionary tyranny of the Crown: (1) “... the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed...”; (2) the requirement that the district “shall have been previously ascertained by law”; (3) that the accused “be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation”; (4) the right “to be confronted with the witnesses against him”; (5) the right “to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor”; and (6) the right “to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defense”.

While the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Amendments pertain to criminal matters, the Seventh Amendment provides Due Process rights with regard to civil matters: (1) the right to a jury trial in a civil matter; (2) “and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise reexamined in any Court of the United States”.

And finally, the Eighth Amendment protects against (1) excessive bail; (2) excessive fines; and (3) cruel and unusual punishment for crimes. One might argue that these, too constitute “due process” protections, and one can certainly argue that Amendment VIII, like all of the others, came about as the result of English tyranny perpetrated against the colonists.

There are, of course, provisions within Delaware’s Constitution and within the various laws and statutes of the United States and the State of Delaware that provide Due Process protections, both civil and criminal, for the citizens of

Delaware – protections against potential, and sometimes real, government excesses. Among those due process safeguards is Delaware’s Administrative Procedures Act.

Perhaps the most basic description of “Due Process” is the fundamental concept of “Fairness”. In this author’s mind, at least, the constitutional safeguards described above are simple – they stand for nothing more complicated than “fundamental fairness.” Fundamental Fairness born of the tyranny experienced by our Founding Fathers and to be guarded against at all costs today, as well by the strict application of and adherence to the fundamental concepts of Due Process.

When you consider modern-day proposals propounded by elected officials such as those antigun bills most recently signed into law by California Governor Gavin Newsom, in addition to considering their Second Amendment and “gun rights” implications, please also consider the “due process implications”.

Please remember, our Founding Fathers all viewed themselves as loyal Englishmen whose rights as Englishmen were being denied and trampled by the King. The very first thing the King and his henchmen did in their efforts to subjugate the American colonists was to curtail and deny the colonists the very due process rights enjoyed by other Englishmen back home in England. We learned from the British Crown – “take away their Due Process Rights – deny them fundamental fairness – and the fall of all other rights will follow” – including our God-given Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

That’s what the British did. And that’s exactly what today’s gun-grabbers are trying to do – don’t let them!

If we lose our Due Process Rights, all of our other Rights will soon follow, because without our Due Process Rights we have no way to fight a would-be totalitarian government’s infringement upon any of our other fundamental rights.

Due Process Rights = Fundamental American Fairness: The right to counsel, the right to due notice, the right to an open and contested hearing, the right to summon witnesses, the right to face and cross-examine accusers, the right to present evidence and to test the evidence against you – the right to be treated openly, fairly, impartially, and with respect – the right to be treated as an American.

If just one American is denied Due Process Rights under the law – we are all denied our birthright as Americans. Fundamental Fairness plus Substantive and Procedural Due Process equals American Freedom.

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SIXTH ANNUAL DELAWARE FIREARMS LAW SEMINAR

By John C. Sigler, Esq.

On Friday, October 18, 2019, forty-two Delaware lawyers gathered at the Westin Hotel at Wilmington’s Riverfront area, adjacent to the Blue Rocks baseball stadium for the Sixth Annual Delaware Firearms Law Seminar sponsored by the Delaware Association of Second Amendment Lawyers (DASAL). DASAL President Brian M. Gottsman, Esq., a partner in the Berger Harris law firm served as Master of Ceremonies. Delaware requires its lawyers to participate in Continuing Legal Education and this seminar is sanctioned and approved for those purposes by the State of Delaware.

The first speaker of the day was the Honorable Randy J. Holland, recently retired Justice of the Delaware Supreme Court and currently Senior Of-Counsel with the Wilson, Sonsi, Goodrich & Rosati firm. Justice Holland’s topic was titled “*State Constitutions and Firearms*”, focusing on the evolution of state-level constitutional jurisprudence.

Justice Holland’s presentation was followed by a presentation by Robert Dowlut, Esq., retired General Counsel for the National Rifle Association of America. Mr. Dowlut’s presentation was titled “*Where Are We After Heller and McDonald*,” referring, of course to the only two modern decisions serving as the foundation for Second Amendment jurisprudence at the federal level. Mr. Dowlut spoke to the lawyers present primarily about the most recent federal cases, focusing on cases handed down in 2018 and to date in 2019.

Francis G.X. Pileggi, Esq. and Jamie L. Inferrera, Esq., both of whom are attorneys with Eckert, Seamans, Cherin & Mellott, LLC. presented on “*Recent Delaware Decisions on the Right to Bear Arms*”. These two fine attorneys gave in-depth, first-hand analyses of the three seminal cases in Delaware, all of which were successfully litigated by them. Their discussions of Doe v. Wilmington Housing Authority, Bridgeville Rifle & Pistol Club v. Small and Delaware State Sportsmen’s Association v. Garvin, helped bring into focus many of the topics, concepts and issues contained in the presentations by Justice Holland and Mr. Dowlut.

The final presenter for the day was Thomas J. Reed, Esq., Professor Emeritus and former Dean of Delaware Law School. Dean Reed’s presentation was titled “*Red Flag Laws*”, focusing primarily on Delaware’s new law. Dean Reed also shared his experiences in representing a deserving veteran before Delaware’s Relief From Disabilities Board and his successful litigation of that case which resulted in the restoration of the Right to Keep and Bear Arms for his client.

The Delaware Association of Second Amendment Lawyers is to be commended for providing a scholarly, truly academic and non-political Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Program that successfully provided interested Delaware attorneys with the information and research materials they need to professionally and appropriately represent their respective clients in a quickly evolving and highly specialized and technical area of the law. This DASAL program was truly

one of the best prepared and best presented CLE programs I have attended throughout my 32 years as a member of the Delaware Bar.

BRPC High Power Match Report

By Frank Nedza

Across-The-Course (XTC)

Saturday September 14th and Sunday September 15th were the dates for the Delaware State Highpower (XTC) Championship and Excellence in Competition (EIC) Match. Both days dawned about as nice as can be, with mostly sunny skies, mild temperatures, and light to non-existent winds – pretty much a match shooters dream. Saturday's match attracted 11 shooters: three High Masters, and eight Master/Expert class shooters. High Master Sean Prosser started out strong, posting a 195-7X in offhand. Following that, he didn't look back, posting cleans in both seated rapid-fire and prone rapid-fire (200-7X and 200-7X), and finishing up with a nice 198-8X at the 600 yard line. As you might imagine, his 793-29X was good for the overall win this day. Nicely done Sean! Over in the Master/Expert ranks, Chad Hanson posted a nice 781-27X for the class win, including a pair of 199's in the sustained fire events. I think that everyone had a pretty good time shooting the match, and the pizza picnic provided by the club afterwards probably didn't hurt either! The only 'fly in the ointment' was the lack of a Delaware resident in the rank of shooters to be awarded the State Champion title. Hopefully we can fix that next year.

Sunday's EIC match attracted ten shooters, including 8 non-distinguished shooters. This was the first EIC match held at Bridgeville in a while, but we were still able to award one LEG. For those that are not familiar with EIC matches, they are generally 50 shot matches, with NO sighting shots at any yard line. The format is 10 record shots offhand at 200 yards, 10 shots rapid-fire from the seated or kneeling position in 60 seconds (from standing) also at 200 yards, 10 shots rapid-fire from the prone position in 70 seconds (from standing again), and finally 20 shots prone slow-fire from 600 yards. EIC matches are the way one gets a Distinguished Rifleman badge, and represents a goal that many service rifle shooters pursue. If you want to learn more about the Distinguished program, you can find a lot of information here; <http://thecmp.org/competitions/distinguishedbadges/>

At any rate, Distinguished shooter Jeff Kauffman posted a nice 490-18X for the match win, including cleans at 300 yards (100-4X) and 600 yards (200-10X). One Leg was awarded to Frank Gill, who posted a 477-17X who tied with, but Creedmoor'ed Kevin Umbreit also with a 477-17X. Well done, guys!

Saturday, October 12th was another absolutely beautiful day, with once again mild temperatures and light winds (YAY FALL!). This match saw 14 competitors on the line, including four High Masters and ten Master/Expert class shooters. Retired Colonel Denise Loring opened up with a very nice 194-8X in offhand and she never looked back posting a pair of

cleans in the rapid-fire stages at 200-8X and 200-7X at 200 and 300 yards respectively. At 600 yards, Master Class shooter Jeff Kaufman put up a nice clean score of 200-12X, followed by Roman Podshivalov and Steve Palmieri at 199-12X and 199-11X, respectively. Fortunately (or unfortunately, depending on your perspective), Denise was able to post a good score at 600 as well, clinching the overall win with a very nice 791-30X. Well done, Denise!

I wonder what would happen if we got Ron 'The Machine' Siliani, Sean Prosser, and Denise Loring together in one match? That would be some tough competition for sure! We might find out next month at the last across the course match for this year, scheduled for Saturday, November 2nd.

I want to thank all the XTC shooters for attending our matches and generally making it a fun experience for all of us. I also want to take a moment to thank everyone who worked hard setting up and tearing down the targets –this would all be impossible without your help!

Again, our next (and final for the year) across the course match is scheduled for Saturday, November 2nd.

Mid-Range Prone

Sunday October 13th was another pretty mild day. Unfortunately for some there was a little bit of light rain in the middle of the match, but it was over pretty quickly and nobody got totally soaked. This match was attended by 40 shooters, including 10 Midshipmen from the Naval Academy. As always, it is nice to see some folks that don't have grey hair on the line! The rain sure didn't put a damper on the shooting though, as there were a total of 14 clean targets shot! Jon Howell, Jeff Hague, and Joe Wawrzaszek posted two cleans each on the sling side, With Dave Kokoszka also posting two cleans over in F-Open. Nice shooting for sure! Joe Fogg, Nate Guernsey, Mike Berezin, Rich Kussman, Frank Nedza, and Walt Schmidlin each posted one clean for the day. There were also a host of 199's and 198's for sure. In F-Open, Hugh Cropper took the win, with a nice 595-30X (see, you don't necessarily need cleans to win ☺). Close on his heels was Dave Kokoszka with 595-27X and close on HIS heels was Steve Singleton with a 594-28X. In F-T/R, Todd Norfleet pulled in a very nice 594-30X for the Category win.

Over on the sling side, Jon Howell was the Overall Match Winner, posting a super-nice 599-37X, followed by Master Class shooter Joe Wawrzaszek at 599-36X (I don't think he will be a Master for too much longer...). Speaking of which, I don't think that Walt Schmidlin (Expert Class) will be an Expert for too much longer either as he has been shooting very well of late. We had two AR-Tactical shooters this month, Rufus Standefer and James Lee who posted 581-21X and 539-10X, respectively. I hope that they can inspire some of you 'other guys' (and gals) to get those AR's out of the closet and come shoot a match with us!

Long-Range Prone/FullBore

Friday, September 27th saw us shooting a Palma match! For those that are unfamiliar with the match format, it consists of 15 record shots each at 800, 900, and 1000 yards on the LR (or LR-FC) target. This match was held in conjunction with a

long range practice, and was shot by 8 folks (hoping for more shooters in the future...). At any rate, Rich Kussman took the win with a really nice 449-29X, which included clean targets at 800 and 900 yards. Well done, Rich! Nash Neubauer and Madonna Nedza also fired clean targets, both at 800 yards. Of special note (and not that I am biased or anything...) this was Madonna's First Ever clean at any yard line! Nicely Done Kiddo!

Saturday and Sunday, September 28th and 29th was the Delaware State FullBore regional match. For those unfamiliar with FullBore, it is fired at 300, 500, and 600 yards each day, with an additional string of long-range shooting (900 and 1000 yards) each day as well. It is also fired 'two to a mound' with shooters taking turns firing at the same target. You really should try it! At any rate, Mark Schaefer, in his very first FullBore match, took the win for the sling side with a super-nice 892-37X (out of 900 possible)! Well Done, Mark! I think that this probably won't be his last FullBore match either ☺. Close on his heels were Nate Guernsey (891-44X) and Rich Kussman (890-44X). Nicely done guys! We only had a few F-Class shooters in attendance, but they put up some pretty good scores as well, despite having to move all that gear from place to place! One thing is for sure; we clearly had a BUNCH of good shooters in attendance as there were a total of 31 clean targets shot in this two-day match! Holy Cow!

Saturday and Sunday, October 26th and 27th was the Delaware State Long-Range Championship. We had 16 sling shooters and 22 F-Class shooters on the line for Saturday's match, which dawned a little chilly, but otherwise pretty nice with good fall temperatures and light winds. The scores, I think reflected that (though it is still long-range, and by definition, challenging), with a couple of cleans shot by the sling guys, and very good scores posted by the F-Class folks. Speaking of F-Class, we had three of our friends from the Bayou Rifles Club near Houston, Texas show up for the weekend! Welcome back guys! Anyway, at the end of day one, Jon Howell was in the lead on the sling side, with a nice 595-27X, followed closely by Mark Trew at 592-30X. In F-open, Don Diffey took the early lead with a nice 591-20X, followed realllllly closely by Bryan Glanden at 590-20X. F-T/R saw Todd Strasavich in front with a 582-17X, followed by Austin Coiro at 578-13X.

Day 2 was a whole different animal with cooler temperatures and RAIN. It rained pretty much the whole duration of the match, including some periods of fairly heavy rain, clearing up a bit at the end of the day, just in time for us to put the targets away ☺. Even so, we had 10 sling shooters and 15 F-Class shooters on the line. Tom Guercio was the day two winner on the sling side, with a nice 589-21X. In F-Open, Tim Vaught was the day two winner at 580-10X, and Nick Abbott was the leader in F-T/R at 564-9X.

At the end of the day, though, it is the grand aggregate that counts the most, and Jon Howell was the sling side match winner, with a nice 1178-48X, followed by Tom Guercio at 1169-33X. In F-Open, tall Texan Tim Vaught was

the match winner with a solid score of 1163-30X, followed really closely by Don Diffey, and Bryan Glanden who posted scores of 1162-35X and 1162-28X, respectively. In F-T/R, Austin Coiro was the match winner with a score of 1141-24X, followed by Todd Strasavich at 1136-23X. Well done EVERYONE, and Congratulations to the winners! That was some good shooting under difficult conditions!

As always, match scores and the Bridgeville schedule can be found here; <http://brpc-de.com/high-power-rifle/>

As of this minute, the High Power season is in the process of winding down for the year at Bridgeville and elsewhere, and if you don't hurry, you might miss it! Our next scheduled matches are our regularly scheduled season closing XTC and Mid-Range matches scheduled for November 2nd and 3rd.

I am hoping to see many more of you out on the line for future matches –if not this year, then next year for sure. I promise you will have a good time, and will meet some of the nicest folks (and best shooters) that you can imagine.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The last issue of the newsletter for 2019. From my perspective the year has flown by. It was with great trepidation that we saw the 150th General Assembly begin its work in January. As a result of the election of 2018, we lost two legislators that supported our right to keep and bear arms. In the Senate the Republicans were down to 9 members and the Democrats were up to 12. In the House we went to 15 Republicans and up to 26 Democrats. We also knew that several pieces of legislation that would restrict our right to keep and bear arms were going to be introduced at some point. How did we know? That was a big part of the message that many candidates ran on.

Then it happened. Three bills were introduced on April 10th. A rewrite of the semi-auto ban, Senate Bill 68, a permit to purchase bill, Senate Bill 69 and a magazine capacity ban, Senate Bill 70. A trifecta of extremely bad legislation was the result. By coincidence, the day the bills were introduced, Delaware Gun Rights (DGR) held a rally on Legislative Mall. Discovering the press conference that the Senators called to introduce their bills was being held on the back steps of Legislative Hall, several hundred patriots promptly decided to attend. They far outnumbered the 20 or so "Moms Demand Action" folks that were attending the press conference, but as is typical the lamestream media downplayed the number of patriots and exaggerated the number of MOMs. Not only that but, those MOM's showed their true disrespect for our rights by engaging in bad behavior flashing 'the bird' behind their backs. On the other hand, the DGR patriots were loud but respectful. So began the battle.

DSSA mobilized our resources and prepared for the hearings that were to be held in the Senate. The day of the hearing, we realized that it was stacked against us. The hearing would be limited to two hours, nowhere near the

time necessary to hear all 175 folks that had signed up to speak. Each speaker was limited to 2 minutes, unless you represented an organization and then you had 3. I was the next to last speaker and the only one representing DSSA who was allowed to speak. After all was said and done, only 50 or so people had been given the opportunity to speak to the bills. This display was not democracy at its best, not by a long shot.

There are six members of the Executive Committee, the committee that heard the bills. Back in January, Senator McBride had announced on the floor of the Senate that all gun bills would be assigned to his committee, Executive, and would get a vote on the floor. The outlook seemed pretty grim.

Late that evening news began to leak out that the bills were stuck in committee. That fact was confirmed the next day. All our supporters of freedom and the right to keep and bear arms were cautiously optimistic. Those opposed to freedom were almost apoplectic. The \$64,000.00 question; would they stay in committee. As we all know, the answer, at least until next January is yes.

Rest assured that your DSSA will do everything it can to make sure those bills, and others like them, are not considered for a vote in either the House or the Senate.

As is usually the case, the legislative session dominated the efforts of DSSA until June 30th, the last legislative mischief making day of the year. However, that is not all we were doing during the year.

DSSA sponsored a Freedom Banquet on January 31st and was able to raise a great deal of capital to help fund our efforts at protecting your right to keep and bear arms. Thanks to all those patriots that attended.

We also made sure DNREC and the Dept. of Agriculture complied with the order of the Superior Court to rewrite the regulations concerning firearms in state parks and state forests in the court case that we had filed over 2 years previously. This was our third successful court fight against state agencies that would infringe on our rights. However, that fight is not over.

With the passage of legislation allowing the use of straight-walled pistol caliber rifles for deer hunting in 2018, DNREC decided to implement their own law in this area. They unilaterally decided that the use of semi-automatic rifles in pistol calibers was not going to be legal. DSSA and the legislative Sportsman's Caucus challenged that decision, but to no avail. 2019 saw them go even further, by adding that unless there was a commercially available pistol in a caliber, a rifle in that caliber could not be used.

DNREC was challenged on this position in August by your DSSA. We demanded that DNREC rescind these provisions for being an illegal grab of legislative authority. As our Constitution states, only the General Assembly can legislate. DNREC declined to do so. Stay tuned for the next episode.

The year has also seen DSSA continue to increase in membership. We are probably the fifth largest state association in the country. Thanks to all of you and your

efforts to recruit family and friends. Not bad for such a small state with just about 1 million residents. That increase in membership numbers has brought with it challenges in properly servicing our members. We realize it is important to keep our members informed and up to date with information about what is going on and legislative matters. To that end we have embarked on a total revamp of our membership system to bring us forward and better service our almost 4000 members more effectively. Beginning next year you will see major changes. We ask for your patience.

DSSA has not been idle since the end of the legislative session, because politics continues even after June 30th. The election of 2020 will be very important here in Delaware. I know it will be nationally, but we need to focus on races here at home. You all know DSSA was involved in the election cycle of 2018. We began to develop a program to help those candidates that we knew were on our side. Remember, DSSA is non-partisan. Republican or Democrat, it doesn't matter. As long as the candidate believes in and supports our right to keep and bear arms, we support them. That program has been improved for the election cycle next year. Not only is it imperative that we try and elect candidates that support our right to keep and bear arms, the results of next year's election are pivotal for reapportionment. As you know, every 10 years, based on the census, all House and Senate districts must be redrawn. We, of course, want districts drawn that help "our" candidates.

As the year comes to a close, I look back and am proud of what DSSA has done and what we will be doing in the future. Thank you. The organization is only as strong as its members and DSSA is a very strong voice here in Delaware when it comes to the right to keep and bear arms. Keep up the good work, and I look forward to working with you all next year.

Jeff Hague, President DSSA

Call for Articles

Would you like to be published in the DSSA News Letter? Publicize your Club's activities or special events. Found a great article that you want to share with Delaware Sportsmen?

Please send your article or special event to:

Roger T. Boyce

Vice President

DSSA

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