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D.S.S.A. NEWS

DELAWARE STATE SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION
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It Can't Happen Here!

By Frank Nedza

These words were undoubtedly uttered many times by gun owners in Virginia last October and early November. Until it happened. Unless you have been living under a rock for the last six months, you KNOW what has happened in the once Free-State of Virginia (OK, Commonwealth). The moment that the anti-gunners convened they launched a plethora of anti-gun/anti-freedom bills under the usual guise of 'gun safety'. You and I know enough to call BS on that term, but many (obviously) don't. And they VOTE!

So, what happened? Well, the short answer is that 'their' side went out and voted and 'our' side sat at home, secure in the knowledge that the Virginia legislature would NEVER take away their right to keep and bear arms. We know now how that worked out, don't we?

The longer answer is that in reality, Virginia Republicans didn't have that much of a margin of control in the Senate, and even recently (2017) in their House of Delegates to be able to afford much of a change in fortunes.

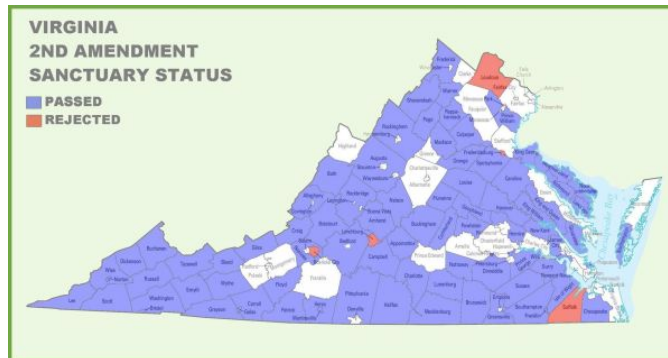
Virginia State Senate Party Control: 1991-2019

YEAR	'91	'95	'99	'03	'07	'11	'15	'19
Democrats	22	20	19	16	21	20	19	21
Republicans	18	20	21	24	19	20	21	19

Virginia House of Delegates Party Control: 1991-2019

Year	'91	'93	'95	'97	'99	'01	'03	'05	'07	'09	'11	'13	'15	'17	'19
Democrats	52	52	52	50	47	31	37	39	44	39	32	33	34	49	55
Republicans	47	47	47	49	52	67	61	58	54	59	67	67	66	51	45

Recent Federal Court rulings on gerrymandering (and apparently gerrymandering is somewhat of a state sport in Virginia) made it imperative that folks get out and vote in order to make their voices heard. As a side note, I really hate to say that Republicans didn't have much of a margin to keep out anti-second amendment bills, (as I see it, respecting and protecting the Constitution is, or should be, non-partisan), but it sure seems like the bulk of the 'gun safety' baloney comes from one side of the aisle... In any case, the ruling flipped the gerrymandered district to what was likely going to be Democrat control, and there you have it—a new majority party, that seems to be at odds with the geographic bulk of Virginians.



There are examples of the Senate and House of Delegate races coming down to just a handful of votes (like literally fewer than you have fingers and toes), and other examples of races going to the 'other side' unopposed!

The VCDL (Virginia Citizens Defense League <https://vcdl.org/> in case you want to donate) is fighting the good fight right now, but they are fighting a rear-guard action and it will be a long and bitter fight, costing a great deal of time and money with no guarantee of a win. You see, it is a lot like Pandora's box in the old Greek mythology—once bad bills are out there, it is nearly impossible to get them recalled. Keep in mind too that this legislature in Virginia is in power until 2022!

THAT, my friends is why we need to work hard at making sure they never get there in the first place. The leadership of DSSA can only do so much; working to convince 'non-believers' is tough work, and not always successful. Remember, for good or for bad, we live in a largely Blue state, and that is unlikely to change in any significant way any time soon. But—BUT, we can help ourselves and DSSA by becoming politically active and becoming politically involved, and maybe, just maybe making the legislature a little bit more gun friendly overall. As we see in Virginia today, the 'anti gunners' only have a slim majority, just as the Republicans once had a slim majority. All we need is a slim, but convincing and dedicated majority of pro-gun legislators (regardless of party) to keep bad bills from moving forward, and maybe advance some good, gun-friendly bills instead.

Are you interested in helping all of us?

Well, then GET OUT AND VOTE!

The excuses for not voting are numerous and incredibly lame.

1. I don't want to be on any government list.
2. I don't want to get picked for jury duty.
3. I don't have time.
4. Insert your favorite excuse here.

My rebuttal for these lame excuses.

1. If you pay taxes here and have a driver's license, you are already on a 'government list'.
2. Jury pools are based on licensed drivers, State ID Card holders, and registered voters. Computer programs merge duplicate records so that a potential jurors name only appears once on a master list—you are already on the list... (besides it is a civic duty, and the price of living in a Democratic Republic to serve if called—do you want the idiots to be judging YOU if you need to go before a jury?).
3. Really?
4. There are no good excuses.

Sadly, too many gun owners don't register to vote, and the numbers are striking. A survey of a local club's member database against voting rolls revealed that only about 75% of the members were registered to vote. Of that 75%, only about 50% had voted recently. To put that in perspective, if a club had 100 members, only 38 of them voted! If you think about shooting club membership in Delaware, there are likely somewhere around 2500+ members. If the numbers above hold, that would mean only 950 members had a voice in the makeup of the state legislature! We should have all 2500 of us speaking! Those close races in Virginia could easily have gone the other way, couldn't they?

As a reminder, there are deadlines to register to vote before an election. In fact, one is fast approaching. The deadline to register to be able to vote in the Presidential Primary election is April 4th, 2020. The deadline to register to vote before the November general election is October 10th, 2020. There are other deadlines as well, and a complete voting calendar can be found here:

<https://elections.delaware.gov/calendar/2020ElectionCalendar.pdf>

OK, you have convinced me—I want to make my voice heard and register to vote, how can I do it?

You can go to; <https://elections.delaware.gov/index.shtml> for all the answers about voting in Delaware.

Or you can go here as well; <https://ivote.de.gov/VoterView>

If nothing else, we can let what happened in Virginia be a lesson to all of us—IT CAN HAPPEN HERE, so let's make sure it doesn't.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Nedza

DELAWARE FRIENDS OF THE NRA

By Mark Carlson

I am sure you are aware of the Friends of NRA Dinners regularly held at the Modern Maturity Center in Dover. But did you know that the Delaware Friends of the NRA has been an active committee since 2004? We generally hold 2 events a year, traditionally with both at the Modern Maturity enter in Dover. Both events are a combined Dinner/Auction fundraiser type event, and more importantly, 50% of the money raised stays right here in Delaware supporting our Second Amendment and Article 1 Section 20 rights!

The money raised during these events has funded many different organizations and activities in Delaware. A few of these are listed below:

ROTC High School Air Rifle Programs – The Friends have completely funded Dover High School and Smyrna High School, and partially funded Delaware Military Academy air rifle program.

Boy Scouts shooting programs – The Friends have funded many different requests over the years, constantly enhancing the Shooting and Education Programs. This funding and their efforts have helped introduce hundreds of Scouts to the Wonders of the Shooting Sports.

4H Shooing Programs – The Friends have funded multiple requests from the 4H, again exposing many young people to the Shooting Sports.

University of Delaware Trap & Skeet Team – The Friends have funded this Club Sport Team, allowing them to be competitive in their region.

The Friends have also helped send several young Delawareans to the NRA Youth Education Summit (Y.E.S.) over the years. The mission of the Y.E.S. program is to help students explore our American government, Bill of Rights and the U.S. Constitution, while encouraging them to become responsible citizens who participate in the democratic process and return to their community with a proactive voice for the Second Amendment. This youth education summit gathers some of America's bright, ambitious, and patriotic youth together in our nation's capital each summer for a week of fun they'll never forget. Students engage with political leaders, visit historical monuments, and apply their skills in competitive debates, all to enrich and inspire the future of our nation.

NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund: In the past 2 years alone, The Delaware Friends of the NRA Committee has given **\$33,000** to the NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund, earmarked for Delaware. These funds have assisted in legal defense of our second amendment rights, right here at home!

Your attendance and active participation at these events will allow us to continue in our efforts to promote the Shooting

Sports for all Delawareans, and you get to spend a nice evening with like-minded folks!

As with many of these types of activities, we are always looking for enthusiastic volunteers. It is not a big time commitment and you would be part of the effort to promote our values, again, right here at home. We hope to see you at our next event, scheduled for April 24th at the Modern Maturity Center in Dover.

You can learn more about the Friends of NRA here;

<https://www.friendsofnra.org/>

NJ gave Texas church gunman plea deal that wiped out gun felony

By Sergio Bichao

Submitted by Vickie Prickett

<https://nj1015.com/nj-gave-texas-church-gunman-plea-deal-that-wiped-out-gun-felony/>

ELIZABETH, NJ: The gunman who killed two congregants at a Texas church last month had been charged years earlier with a felony gun offense in New Jersey, where prosecutors later downgraded the crime to a low-level misdemeanor that had nothing to do with firearms.

Since the Dec. 29 shootout at the West Freeway Church of Christ in White Settlement, Texas, much has come out about Keith Thomas Kinnunen's criminal record, which seems to follow a pattern: He would get charged with serious, sometimes violent crimes, which later were pleaded down to less-consequential offenses.

While plea deals are common in the criminal justice system in New Jersey and elsewhere, this case raises questions about the effectiveness of laws meant to bar certain people from buying or possessing guns.

Despite Kinnunen's history of mental illness — including a 2012 judge's order declaring him unfit to stand trial — it does not appear his plea deals were enough to trigger legal provisions limiting gun ownership, which would apply in cases involving domestic violence and felonies.

Linden police arrested Kinnunen in Sept. 12, 2016, after finding him with a 12-gauge shotgun, the same kind he used last month in the Texas church. Linden police said Kinnunen, who had been riding a bicycle near the Phillips 66 refinery, told them he was homeless and was taking photos of "interesting sites."

He was charged with unlawful possession of a rifle/shotgun, a third-degree indictable crime that in other states would be called a felony.

In January 2017, he accepted a plea deal finding him guilty of criminal trespass, a low-level misdemeanor that state law classifies as a petty disorderly persons offense.

As part of the deal, a Superior Court judge in July 2017 sentenced him to 303 days of time served at Union County Jail and ordered him to forfeit his weapon.

A spokesman for the Union County Prosecutor's Office last week defended the deal as "fully reasonable and legally appropriate."

"The assistant prosecutor assigned to this case consulted with a member of the Union County Police Department Ballistics Unit, who determined that because the recovered weapon was missing a fundamental component, it was inoperable under the definition outlined in the applicable statute," the spokesman for the office said in a written statement.

In Oklahoma in 2011, Kinnunen was charged with felony assault and battery with a dangerous weapon after attacking the owner of a doughnut shop. He was also charged with arson in a separate offense in which he was accused of starting a fire at a cotton field with flaming tampons. Police also said that he forced his underage son to throw around a flaming football.

An Oklahoma judge in 2012 ruled him mentally incompetent to stand trial and committed him to a psychiatric facility. A year later, he pleaded guilty after the charges were downgraded to misdemeanors.

In 2012, an ex-wife in Oklahoma filed for a protective order that described him as "a violent, paranoid person with a long line of assault and battery w/ and without firearms."

Another ex-wife told The Associated Press that they divorced in 2011 after he got "more and more" into drugs that "messed with his head."

In 2008, he was charged with aggravated assault in Texas. The charge was later downgraded to misdemeanor deadly conduct.

On Dec. 29, Kinnunen walked into the packed White Settlement church wearing a fake beard and wig and opened fire, killing 67-year-old Richard White and 64-year-old Anton "Tony" Wallace. Kinnunen was then killed by a single shot by security volunteer Jack Wilson.

The motive for the attack was unclear. The church had previously helped feed the shooter. The pastor told The Associated Press that Kinnunen was angry when the congregation declined to give him money.

New Berger LRHT Bullets!

By Frank Nedza

Whether you are a new shooter, or an 'old timer', the name Berger is likely one you know. Berger Bullets was founded by Walt and Eunice Berger and has grown tremendously over the years. Recently (late 2016), the company was acquired by NAMMO, now known in the United States as the Capstone Precision Group, and I, for one, hoped that the quality bullets that were the hallmark of the Berger Bullets Company would continue to be manufactured to the high standard that I had come to know and respect. Over the several years that Capstone has been in charge, I have been well satisfied with their product. One potential advantage to having increased exposure with a larger company might be increased research dollars, and this might be reflected in some new bullet designs. That was the hope, anyway, and Berger sure didn't disappoint,

with the recent release of their new Long-Range Hybrid Target bullets in several popular calibers.



These new bullets are 'heavy for caliber' offerings in .22, 6mm, 6.5mm, 7mm and .30 caliber. As the name implies, they utilize their 'Hybrid' ogive design, which combines the best aspects of tangent and secant ogive technology, yielding high Ballistic Coefficients (BC) and good Jump Tolerance. These bullets also boast the use of Berger's new Meplat Reduction Technology, which is used to minimize and uniform the area of the meplat, also contributing to the high BC.



L-R: 80 gr Sierra, 80.5 gr Berger, 80 gr Hornady ELD-M, 85.5 gr Berger

The new 85.5 grain bullet is a bit longer than the current 80 grain class offerings, but not by too much (hey, it's only a 5 grain difference, right). The bearing surface of the 85.5 Berger is also a bit longer than the 80.5 Berger and the 80 grain Hornady ELD-M, but is actually shorter than the 80 grain Sierra, which likely contributes to its ability to be driven to a relatively high velocity without undue pressure (more on that later). The photo below shows the 4 bullets discussed.



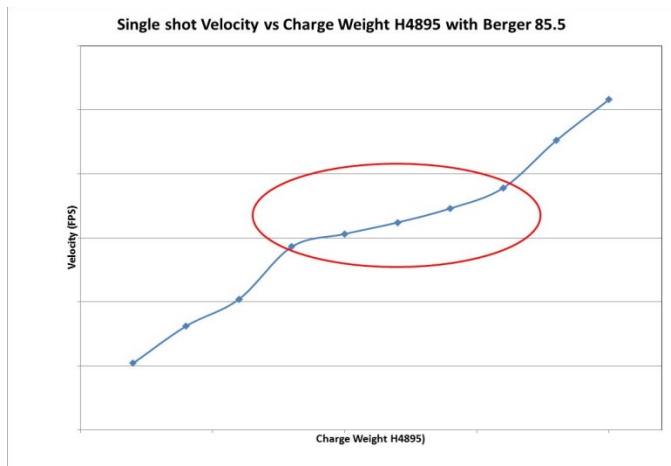
L-R: 80 gr Sierra, 80.5 gr Berger, 80 gr Hornady ELD-M, 85.5 gr Berger

After recently working with a friend (Steve P.) to help him get the 85.5 grain .22 caliber bullets to shoot in his match rifle, I was interested enough in them to decide to give them a try myself. What follows is an outline of both my process and my results.

The rifle is a Barnard Actioned Palma Rifle with a 30" long medium Palma taper barrel, in 1:7 twist. The chamber was reamed with a PTG .223 Remington Match reamer, and throated out to allow the shank/boattail junction of the bullet to sit just above the neck/shoulder junction in the case. The cartridge overall length is 2.595" inches—considerably longer than anything you will find in a factory rifle, and many competition rifles currently out there, so **DON'T TRY WORKING WITH THIS BULLET WITHOUT CONSULTING YOUR GUNSMITH!** The cases used in testing are Lake City 09, which have been match prepped and sorted for neck thickness variation. It is sometimes surprising how well-made Lake City brass can be. I like them quite a lot—they are good-to-great when prepped, tough as nails, and CHEAP!

If you are looking for specific load data in this article, you will be very disappointed. I will go through the steps and process I used, but will not give out my load data. Reloading can be dangerous if done improperly or haphazardly—nothing in this article is intended to be reloading advice in any way, shape or form. Be careful out there folks!

Anyway, initial testing centered on finding out what velocities were reasonably achievable with this bullet and my powder choice (H4895). As those who know me will attest, I am a big fan of H4895. I plan to also test with Varget and AR-Comp at some point, (like, when Varget becomes available again) so I am not totally biased ☺. Initial testing was done in 0.2 grain increments firing a single shot at each charge weight over a chronograph. The seating depth I used was a fairly standard 0.020" off the lands. This initial work served two purposes—gaining velocity information allowed me to see if these bullets were going to be viable for long range (1000 yard) competition using a ballistic calculator, while at the same time allowing me to explore the upper ends of pressure. I did indeed hit pressure in the form of a blown primer at a velocity slightly above 3000 feet per second. I also noted case head expansion at a charge weight under that. These two indicators let me define how high I would be willing to go in search of velocity and still be safe. We only get one set of eyes, and I like mine, so safety is important for sure! Graphing the chronograph data also allowed me to see what the charge/velocity curve looked like with an eye toward finding an area that velocity increased gradually with increasing charge weight. You can see from the graph below that there is a rather wide area of consistent, gradual velocity increase (circled in red). It was this area where I would begin testing for precision. You will also note that velocity increases rather sharply to the right of the red circle—this is a clue to the pressure excursions that I observed in my testing. I will tell you that my final result for powder charge was on the low (left) end of the red circle.



With a maximum load established, and a minimum useable velocity for 1000 yard shooting, it was time to get to testing.

From this point forward, all testing was done at 300 yards, prone, off a rest, with a scope. I am the world's WORST rest shooter, so second and third rounds of testing were done to minimize my poor efforts off the rest. The initial round of testing focused on charge weight versus accuracy, or more correctly, precision, as the intended and measured outcome was group size. My minimum charge was set at the charge weight one step lower than my minimum desired velocity, and going up to my own maximum charge limit, in 0.1 grain steps. I was unsure of the tune window I would find with this bullet/powder combination, and sure didn't want to skip over a good load. The 0.1 grain increment in powder charge is only a fraction of a percent of the total charge, but those small differences can often be meaningful in small capacity cases like the .223 Remington. This test was performed at a seating depth of 0.020" off the lands. Following the charge weight testing, the best load was selected, and the next test was seating depth. I tend to use the VLD seating depth test as outlined by Berger for VLD bullets. I have found that it works pretty reliably with most any bullet that I have not been familiar with, and encourage you to try it and see if it works for you. Here is a link to the test method;

<https://bergerbullets.com/vld-making-shoot/>

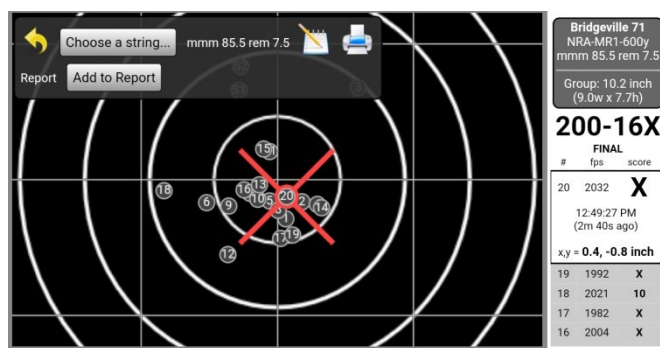
The results for the seating depth test were not exactly what I was anticipating, given the whole 'jump tolerant' idea of the Hybrid ogive, but the results were clear –a jump of 0.010" off the lands was clearly better than most others, with bullet jumps of 0.015" and 0.040" essentially tied for second place.

The next step of the process was to test different primers using the best charge weight and seating depth. I had on hand and used Tula (Wolf) small rifle magnum, Remington 7 ½'s, CCI BR4's, and Federal Gold Medal 205M's. The results of this test were also interesting. I didn't really expect to see large differences in the group sizes, but there were two clear winners –the Tula SRM's, and the Remington 7-½'s.



The final product –this is definitely not your Father's .223 round!

At the end of the day, I was able to get repeatable groups on the order of 1/3 minute at 300 yards, or approximately 1 inch groups –this result repeated several times during testing, so I think it might be real. The real proof though is in shooting from position in a manner that I am comfortable with, so we headed off to the 600 yard range to do some slung-up shooting from the prone position with iron sights. I was pleasantly surprised to find that this testing stuff might just have some merit. I repeated the primer test I did previously at 300 yards, and found that the results held up well at 600 yards too, with five consecutive scores of 200/200 with good X-Count. My best load/primer combination yielded a pretty nice 200-16X. For this shooter, that is WAY above my paygrade, but I will definitely take it!



Based on the calculated results from JBM Ballistics, at the velocity that I am getting from these new bullets, they should shoot inside my normal .308 /155 grain competition load all the way out to 1000 yards with much less recoil and obviously great accuracy/precision.

In summary, if the rest of the new Long Range Hybrid Target bullets perform as well as this one does, I believe that they are worth the effort to get them shooting properly.

How To Teach Slide Locking And Slide Racking Of A Semi-Automatic Pistol

By Roger Boyce

One of the most common things I see as an instructor is the difficulty new students have learning to slide lock or rack a semi-automatic pistol.

Many students will come to a class and say they need a revolver because it's too hard to rack the slide. Typically they have gone to a gun store (always a bastion of knowledge and teaching skills – with some exceptions) and tried to rack the slide without success. At this point they are convinced they

can't do it. "It's too hard" or "I am not strong enough" are common statements. Some are so convinced that they don't even want to try. That's a shame because in most cases the problem is they weren't properly taught how to slide lock or rack a slide.

There are several ways to teach/learn slide locking or racking a semi-automatic pistol. YouTube has dozens of videos. This article is intended to specifically discuss the issue in detail for Instructors of Basic Pistol.

Slide locking involves moving the slide to the rear while engaging a slide lock lever to lock the slide to the rear. Racking is the act of cycling a semi-automatic pistol slide to chamber a cartridge or clear a malfunction.

Being able to safely slide lock or rack a semi-automatic pistol is essential. You cannot safely load, unload or handle a malfunction if you can't safely slide lock and rack your semi-automatic pistol.

People with various physical constraints such as extreme weakness, arthritis, missing fingers, limbs, or other disabilities can have trouble with slide locking a semi-automatic pistol. For others, it may be impossible. There are devices on the market for disabled shooters to perform a one-handed slide rack such as "rack-it" from [Eliminating the Limitations](#). There are also many aftermarket devices that can be added to slides to increase the gripping surface or provide finger purchase to enhance the ability to slide lock or rack a semi-automatic pistol.

It can also be a function of the gun. Some semi-automatic pistols are harder to slide lock than others. This can be due to many reasons such as pistol design, lack of gripping serrations, stout recoil springs and other design factors. Some manufacturers saw a need and developed newer semi-automatic pistol models that specifically cater to this issue such as the S&W EZ .380 and 9MM.

More often than not the vast majority of people that don't feel they can slide lock a gun is because they haven't been properly taught how to slide lock a slide. They get frustrated and give up, opting for a revolver or other solution to avoid the semi-automatic pistol.

Slide-locking a semi-automatic pistol is a complex fine motor skill. Using a right handed person as an example, the left hand has to move the slide to the rear while the right hand moves the gun frame forward. Concurrently the right thumb must press up on the slide lock lever. As the slide travels to the rear and the slide lock lever rises into the locked position, the left hand has to release pressure on the slide to allow the slide lock to engage the slide. All of this action has to occur in one fluid motion while keeping the finger off the trigger and the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.

Racking the slide is easier because it is a gross motor skill. There are several ways to rack a slide but the two most common are:

1. Using the strong hand thumb, release the slide lock allowing the slide to go forward into battery.
2. Using the weak hand tug method (over the top or rear pinch) where the weak hand pulls the slide to the rear (while

the right hand stabilizes the gun), allowing the weak hand to slide off the back of the slide which allows the slide to move forward using the full stroke of the slide and the full potential of the recoil spring to put the slide into battery, (avoiding the commonly seen technique of "riding the slide"). A sure fire way to create a malfunction.

Teaching How To Slide Lock And Rack A Semi-Automatic Pistol

As an instructor it is important to stress the necessity for being able to slide lock and rack a semi-automatic pistol. As noted before a semi-automatic pistol cannot be handled safely if you can't perform both functions.

Equally important is that the operation has to be done while maintaining all safety rules. The two most important are:

- 1. Keep your finger off the trigger.**
- 2. Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.**

It's very common for an inexperienced shooter to grip the gun with their strong hand and in doing so, place their trigger finger on the trigger. This gives the student a stronger purchase on the gun. The instructor has to be very clear that the trigger finger must be kept along-side the frame. Not on the trigger and not on the trigger guard, but only on the frame. This means that the student will lose some of their dexterity during the maneuver. They won't like that but it's an essential point of safety and shouldn't need any further explanation to an Instructor.

Concurrently, the student must maintain muzzle control for both safe direction and being sure not to muzzle sweep any of their own body, including parts such as fingers, hands, arms, legs or stomach.

As we continue to discuss this teaching method, it is assumed that the student's finger is on the frame, and at no time does the student muzzle sweep themselves or point the gun in an unsafe direction. If this happens, the Instructor must stop and correct the condition immediately! The student is learning a new skill. If you allow them to do it unsafely, they will continue to do it unsafely when you're not there to observe.

Because slide locking is a complex fine motor skill, it helps if you can break the learning session down into a few basic components. This allows the student to work on specific motor skills and master them before moving on to a complex motor skill. The following are some suggested steps for teaching this method:

All instruction must be done with an empty gun and magazine using approved dummy rounds of the proper caliber.

For the first four steps use a gun and empty magazine that incorporates an empty magazine slide lock feature. This will relieve the student from having to perform the complex fine motor skill of pushing up on the slide lock lever while learning the skill and finesse of moving the slide to the rear.

Learning to Move the Slide to the Rear

Step 1. With the gun in the strong hand, get the student in a safe and ergonomic position to perform the maneuver.

Having designated a safe direction, have the student turn their body 90° from the safe direction while keeping the

muzzle pointed in the designated safe direction. This will allow the student to bring the gun close into the body placing the gun in a more ergonomic position to manipulate the slide. For a right handed student they would be turning 90° to the right with the gun still pointing in a safe direction.

Step 2. Insert an empty magazine that has the empty magazine slide lock feature.

Caution the student to keep their finger on the frame of the gun and do not muzzle any body parts.

Step 3. Roll the frame of the gun away (out from the body) from vertical to place the gun in a more ergonomic position. Using the left hand, squeeze the rear of the slide with the heel of the hand and the four fingers.

Note: At this point the student will want to rest the palm of their left hand on the top of the slide because it's natural and they get a better purchase on the slide. This needs to be corrected. The left hand must be off and clear of the ejection port of the gun. This is to allow any cartridge or spent casing to properly eject from the gun. In addition, if the slide lock does not engage and the palm of the hand is near the ejection port when the gun goes into battery it may pinch the hand resulting in a painful condition (Ask me how I know...).

Step 4. As one motion, using the chest, shoulder and arm muscles together, push the slide to the rear and at the same time push the frame of the gun in the right hand forward toward the designated safe area. This is an opposing force intended to increase the physics of the maneuver.

The goal of Step 4 is to use left and right side chest, shoulder and arm muscles in a coordinated maneuver to move both the slide and the frame of the gun in opposing directions, causing the slide to move to the rear stops. Because of the magazine slide lock feature, as soon as the student starts to relieve pressure on the slide, the slide will lock to the rear without any other skill set involved. Have the student do this maneuver several times. The student is learning the amount of muscle coordination and effort necessary to get the slide back to the locked position.

In addition, the student will develop speed (velocity of the slide). Instead of trying to muscle the slide back, the student will quickly learn that adding velocity to the slide/frame makes getting the slide to the rear much easier. It's a basic principle of physics. Learning the speed element is half of the finesse of the maneuver.

After 4 or 5 tries it will become intuitive to the student and they are ready to move on to the next step.

Slide Locking

Now that the student has learned how to coordinate the various muscles and add velocity, they are ready to add the complex motor skill of engaging the slide lock lever while performing Steps 1-4

Picking up from Step – 4, move on to: (again paying close attention to all safety requirements)

Step 5. Remove the magazine or insert several dummy rounds into the magazine to prevent the slide lock feature of the magazine from engaging.

Step 6. Have the student roll the gun in their right hand so that the right thumb can reach and put upward tension on the slide lock lever.

Rolling the right hand will cause the student to lose some fine control/strength controlling the gun. They will adjust to this quickly.

Explain to the student that in order for the slide lock to work, you have to engage the slide lock lever with an upward movement of the thumb while the slide is being moved to the rear. Demonstrate how the slide lock will travel up and remain engaged when the slide is allowed to travel forward so that the slide engages with the slide lock lever. This allows the student to visualize what is occurring mechanically.

Step 7. As one motion, have the student move the slide to the rear while pressing up on the slide lock lever.

At this point the student may have trouble getting the slide lock to engage. It's normal because they release pressure off of the slide lock lever before they have released pressure off the rearward movement of the slide. Because the slide lock lever is spring loaded, it will retract and not engage the slide.

In two or three tries the student should get the coordination of the slide release and the upward control of the slide lock lever.

At this point the student should have the gun to slide lock.

With just a few minutes of practice they will develop the finesse to do a slide lock smoothly and safely for almost any semi-automatic pistol. Remember, velocity and finesse is the key to getting most semi-automatic pistols to slide lock.

Some other hints.

- During Steps 1-4, if you have a hammered SA or DA/SA gun, you can cock the hammer to eliminate the hammer spring tension that is working against the initial rearward movement of the slide.
- Emphasize using the chest, shoulder and arm muscles together. Also choose a gun that has grip serrations or other devices to help get a good purchase on the slide with the left hand.
- I have seen 8 and 9 year old little girls slide lock full size guns at USPSA matches. If they can do it, most adults should also be able to do it.

Racking A Slide

If you can slide lock a slide, then racking a slide is easy. There are several different techniques to rack slide.

Some instructors are insistent on tug over the top method. Others will teach pinching the rear of the slide and cycling. Some say use the slide lock lever as a release and so on. I am not going down that rabbit hole. All of those methods have a place and purpose.

Suffice it to say that however you rack the slide, do it safely with your **FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER and the MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION.**

With the exception of some folks with disabilities, I have not yet found a student that I can't teach to slide lock almost any semi-automatic pistol if they are willing to take the time to learn.

Please be patient and encouraging with your student. It's easy for you because you've done it thousands of times. This is their first time and they are being instructed by a knowledgeable and experienced instructor. Make it happen.

What's in Your Range Kit?

An Interview of John Sigler, Member of the U.S. F-Open Rifle Team

This article is in response to questions several of our members have asked about the rifles and equipment used in F-Class Rifle Competition. Instead of simply giving you a list of things, we thought that perhaps doing an interview with a member of the United States F-Class (Open) Rifle Team might be more fun, and maybe even more informative, so that's what we have done. We all know John Sigler and we thank him for taking a moment to share his thoughts with us – and with you.

EDITOR: John, thanks for sitting down with us to talk about F-Class. I know that you shoot with both the Bridgeville Rifle & Pistol Club Long Range Rifle Team and as a member of the United States F-Open Rifle Team. Can you tell us about the rifles and equipment you use?

JOHN: Sure, but before I begin, I want to make it clear to your readers that I am not the only member of the Bridgeville Team to be associated with the United States F-Open Rifle Team. Keith Weil is also a member of our U.S. team. And both Bridgeville Team Captain Dave Kokoszka and Bridgeville Team Member George Van Why are members of the U.S. F-Open Reserve Team.

But the first member of the Bridgeville Rifle and Pistol Club to be a member of the United States F-Open Rifle Team was the late Tony Robertson. Tony led the way, so to speak, by being a firing member of both the 2013 U.S. Team that competed in the 2013 World Championships here in the U.S. and a member of the US Team that competed in Canada in the 2017 World Championships. Unfortunately, Tony passed away just weeks before that match. Tony was our leader, our good friend, and our mentor – we miss him.

EDITOR: Tell me about your rifles. I understand that F-Open rifles are all custom built.

John: That's right. You don't simply walk into a store or a gun shop and buy one of these rifles, new and off-the-shelf. They are all custom-made from actions and parts purchased by me and expertly assembled by my gunsmith here in Delaware, Paul Williams of Paul's Riflesmith Service. There are custom shops like Surgeon Arms and Speedy Gonzalez, and others who will build a rifle to your specifications and there is always a used rifle or two for sale that you can find, but for the most part these rifles are all custom-made.

EDITOR: Ok, let's begin with the stock. What kind of stock do you use?

JOHN: I have two rifles I use for competition. One is my "Team Gun" and the other is my "back-up". As you might expect, my team gun is the newer of the two and is built on a "LowBoy" Stock made by Precision Rifle & Tool. My back-up rifle is stocked with a Robertson F-Class stock. Both are composite stocks, and both are fully adjustable.

EDITOR: Why the difference in stocks?

JOHN: The Robertson stock is a taller stock meaning that the barrel sits higher and because of that is more prone to "torque" or twisting when fired. The LowBoy stock is lower and helps to reduce the amount of torque experienced when fired. As you know, F-Open rifles are fired from the prone position using a front rest and a rear bag. We want the rifle to track straight back on the bag on recoil as much as possible. Taking the torque or twist from the equation helps in maintaining that straight back tracking process.

EDITOR: Ok, so what kind of action do you use?

JOHN: Well, right now I have two actions in use – the team rifle has a Panda Action by Kelby's and the back-up rifle currently has a BAT action.

EDITOR: Again, why two different types of action?

JOHN: First let me say that they are both great actions. I have enjoyed success with both. But to answer your question, it's mostly about weight. It also has to do with sponsorship. Kelby's helps to sponsor the U.S. F-Class Rifle Team and I want to use the quality products of our sponsors whenever I can. But there is a real difference in weight. The BAT action is a steel action and thus weighs more than the Kelby action that's made of aluminum. They are both .284 actions set up to shoot the .284 Win. cartridge.

EDITOR: Weight? Why is weight an issue?

JOHN: We have a weight limit on our rifles of 22 lbs. Between the weight of the stock, the action, the barrel and the scope, plus a few ounces for the trigger, it's really easy to push up against that 22-pound limit, especially when you add the weight of a mirage shield and a rain cover – yes, we shoot in the rain!

EDITOR: Ok, you mentioned barrels. Let me guess, do you use two different barrels too?

JOHN: That's funny.... Actually, yes, but for different reasons. Primarily I use either a Krieger barrel or a Bartlein barrel. They are both great barrels and both Krieger and Bartlein sponsor and support the US Team. Right now I have a Bartlein barrel on my backup rifle and a Kreiger on my team rifle, but only because I won one barrel at one match and won the other in another match. As I said, they are both great barrels and both are available in the specs that I need: I shoot a 30" barrel, bored to 7 mm., with 1-9 twist, 5 right lands and a 1.25" outside diameter. Let me add that I have also used Benchmark barrels and a lot of my teammates on both teams are using Brux barrels. They are all good barrels.

EDITOR: How many barrels do you generally use in a season and what kind of barrel life are you experiencing?

JOHN: I will generally wear out two or three barrels per season. I'm getting around 1800-2200 rounds per barrel, give or take a few, before the groups start to open up. Remember,

this is a high-precision sport where we are shooting on ½ MOA (minute of angle) targets out to 1,000 yards – very unforgiving.

EDITOR: And your choice of rifle scope? Two of those too?

JOHN: Yes, I'm afraid so. Because it is an older rifle and has been around awhile my back-up rifle also has the older scope. I am a firm believer in NightForce scopes for my rifles. And, again, NightForce is a major sponsor of the U.S. Rifle Team – Thanks NightForce!

My back-up rifle sports an older Night Force NXS 12-42x56, with .125 MOA adjustments and a NP-R1 graduated reticle. This scope is no longer in production but is a really great scope, especially for times when the mirage is so heavy that you can't see the lines on the target clearly and the graduations in the reticle of this scope help to center the target in the scope.

I have a NightForce Competition on my team gun, 15-55x52, also with .125 MOA adjustments but with Zero-Stop, a .125 MOA center dot and a thin cross hair system with no graduations. I find this scope very useful in pinpointing shots in team matches when the wind coach is telling me to "hold-off" fractions of a ring either right or left of dead center.

EDITOR: OK, I guess that leaves the trigger, what kind of trigger do you use?

JOHN: There are a number of really good trigger systems out there. I have a Jewell trigger in my team gun and a Shilen trigger in my backup rifle – they are both real good systems. I just ordered a Bix'n Andy trigger to go with a new Kelby action. I'll let you know how that works out. And before you ask, yes, these triggers can be adjusted and I like mine very light and very crisp, indeed. All these triggers are very safe even when set to break very light.

EDITOR: I think you told us that F-Open is fired prone from a front rest and rear bag – tell me about your setup.

JOHN: Like a lot of shooters and most of my co-team members, both at Bridgeville and on the US Team, I use a SEB NEO front rest and a SEB Bigfoot rear bag. These are manufactured by an Indonesian shooter by the name of Sebastian Lambang – a really great guy who makes some very nice and highly reliable products. And yes, Seb is another highly supportive US Team sponsor.

EDITOR: And your spotting scope?

JOHN: I use a Kowa TSN-82SV spotting scope with a 25x long relief eye piece. I've found that this combination works best for me when I'm trying to read the mirage to tell me what the wind is doing. These old eyes need all the help they can get.

EDITOR: I think our readers understand that F-Class rifle competitors all load their own ammo. Tell us about your loads. What components do you use and why do you use those particular components?

JOHN: They say that Long Range matches are won and lost at the loading bench, and I agree. Right now, both of my rifles are chambered in .284 Win. So, I'm using similar, but not identical, loads in both rifles. As you know, each barrel is different, and the actual loads will be somewhat different from barrel to barrel. But, generally speaking, I use Berger 180 grain

Hybrid bullets loaded into either Lapua or Norma cases with Federal Match large rifle primers and Hodgdon H4350 powder. Some of my teammates have moved to the heavier Berger 184's but I still like the 180's.

I use Berger bullets for two reasons – I have had very good results using Berbers in terms of consistency and quality and because Berger is one of our biggest sponsors and I like to support our sponsors - the same with the Lapua brass.

A lot of folks like CCI primers and I do too. But the Federal primers have always tested well with the H4350 powder that I like.

As for the powder, I prefer the H4350 because it is less "heat sensitive" and is more reliable in terms of consistency when exposed to variable temperature conditions. I have also found it to be the most consistent during load testing.

EDITOR: Are you willing to share with us the load you are currently using in your Team Gun?

JOHN: Sure, no real secrets here – This particular barrel seems to like 52.1 grains of H4350, starting the Berger 180 grain 7mm Hybrid bullet 13/1000ths off the lands, producing a muzzle velocity averaging around 2808 feet-per-second as read by my LabRadar chronograph. This combination generated a dime-sized 5-shot group at 300 yards with a Standard Deviation of 3.68 during my last testing cycle. Unfortunately, that means anything that didn't end up in the X-ring at 1,000 yards during my last match in Phoenix was all my fault.

EDITOR: Well, that's just about all the questions I have. Is there anything you want to add?

JOHN: No, I don't think so – except to say that there are a lot of really good products out there and a lot of really good shooters who would readily disagree with my choice of products and/or my reasons for choosing as I have. In other words, you asked me what I used and why – others might disagree. I encourage your readers to seek other opinions before relying on what I do – but then that's part of the fun in this game – making choices, testing those choices, and changing your mind as your experience grows.

EDITOR: Thanks John – that was fun – and good luck with the new shooting year.

JOHN: Yea, that was fun. I hope your readers enjoyed it too – But now you owe me one – come shoot F-Class with us!

Black Guns Matter Founder: 'Governor Blackface' Is Pushing 'Tyrannical' and 'Racist' Gun Control Policies

By Robert Kraychik

<https://www.breitbart.com/radio/2020/01/21/black-guns-matter-founder-what-governor-blackface-is-trying-to-do-is-tyrannical/>

Maj Toure, founder of Black Guns Matter, told Breitbart News on Monday that Gov. Ralph Northam's (D-VA) "gun control" proposals — including gun confiscation orders, criminalization of private gun sales, and an "assault weapons" ban — are tyrannical, offering his remarks in an interview on

SiriusXM's Breitbart News Tonight with host Rebecca Mansour and special guest host Sonnie Johnson.



Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam, center, gestures as he delivers his State of the Commonwealth address

"We're a firearm safety training [and] conflict resolution organization," said Toure of Black Guns Matter, "and what we're doing in urban centers across the country is informing a demographic that has been left out of the Second Amendment conversation, and that's what created the spaces where that false narrative of 'the Second Amendment is only for old white dudes' [has] been able to persist, and so, we've pushed back against that narrative with actual work. That's what we do all across the nation."

Toure organizes and directs educational events across America regarding "gun rights" and "gun responsibilities," noted Johnson.

Toure said, "We can complain, but we actually just have to keep doing more. We've got to do more with less, sometimes. We've got to do more with more. If somebody wants to give us a platform to talk about our work — things of that nature — it doesn't matter if I'm running for city council at the same time. The human body's designed to deal with stress, and that's just what we have to do if we actually want to get free and have more liberation."

"The history of gun control in America has been very — extremely — racist from the beginning," remarked Toure. "It was designed — in Virginia, ironically — and created to make sure [people] do not have the means to defend themselves. That's what gun control is designed to do. It doesn't make us safer. It doesn't make us more responsible. It doesn't make us more informed."

Toure continued, "You have a state like Virginia. They're just throwing a Hail Mary attempt. They've got a very egotistical and confident governor that has been caught in a scandal with blackface, talking about eugenics and infanticide,

and he hasn't been taken out of his seat. So because of that, he thought, 'Okay, I can throw a Hail Mary.'"

"What we saw in response was that do-not-comply energy, even though generally, gun owners are very respectful [and] responsible individuals," said Toure of Monday's rally in Richmond, Virginia, supporting the Second Amendment. "What we're seeing is people say, 'Do not comply,' because that is a violation of our Second Amendment and human right to keep and bear arms. So we are not going to comply with that."

Toure went on, "But at the same time, what we're not going to do is create a space where we look like we're just these reckless irresponsible gonna-break-the-law people. Our duty is to resist tyranny. Our obligation is to defy and not comply with unjust laws. SB64 — Senate Bill 64 — and what governor blackface down there in Virginia is trying to do is very tyrannical. It's our job to make sure we're showing the general public that, 'Hey, we're not wildin' out here, but at the same time, we're [resisting] unjustifiable, very racist practices in the form of gun control.'"

Toure contrasted the approaches of Second Amendment defenders with Black Lives Matters activists.

"That's why the conversation is more about non-compliance — 'we will not comply' — education on legislation more so than this take-a-knee, submit, hands-up-don't-shoot-type vibe," Toure explained. "As Americans, we tend to not do the submissive thing very, very well, and we shouldn't."

Non-white minorities are disproportionately impacted by policies eroding Second Amendment rights, Toure stated.

"Gun control disproportionately affects melanin beings across the country tremendously," said Toure. "We're not talking about thugs and gangs killing people, robbing, raping, and all that. We're talking about people who might live in a rough neighborhood to have a firearm to protect themselves, even though the rules are designed to make sure they don't have the ability to protect themselves."

Toure continued, "If you have a firearm to do that and you get caught with it, now you're labeled a felon. You've got the scarlet letter on you for the rest of life. Now you've got that grey cloud hanging over you where you're like, 'Okay, I'm in a rough neighborhood. I want to defend myself, but I can't, because of some arbitrary statute that is in direct violation of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights of the United States of America,' which in essence makes it unjustifiable in the first place."

Black Guns Matter seeks to educate and inform Americans of the Second Amendment's purpose, Toure added. "Our job at Black Guns Matter is to educate and inform those urban

centers which have high concentrations of people — melanin beings — to make them have that understanding, as well, so they can not comply with unjust laws.”

Toure went on, “We are targeted, affected, from the inception to the origin, to the manifestation of gun control. It was designed, specifically, to stop people of color from having the means to defend themselves.”

Johnson invited Toure’s definition of liberty.

“My definition of liberty is you having the right to believe what you want to believe,” replied Toure. “But that belief, it doesn’t become liberty until you have the means to defend those beliefs from people that would or could stop you from exercising those beliefs. That’s what liberty is. If you believe in something — on Wednesdays, I want to slather myself with butter, that’s what you believe in, cool, you have the right to do that — you are free to do that. Now, somebody feels like you shouldn’t be able to do that in the privacy of your own home, and they would have arms to stop you from slathering yourself up with butter, then that’s not actually liberty. That’s actually slavery. You don’t have the means to do the things that you want and then defend them from people that would stop you.”

Toure declared, “You have to have the means to defend [your beliefs]. Having arms, or firearms, is the superior means to defend your value systems and your views and the things you believe in.”

“Our job is to make sure that your government is out of our way, the government be as minimal as possible [in] interacting with the people to protect and defend our human rights as stated and codified in the Bill of Rights, and that’s how the structure of this matrix called the United States of America [is] fundamentally created,” determined Toure.

Toure concluded, “They will now try to have people, especially these urban demographics, feeling like, ‘That’s not the case. That’s not what they’re for. We’re supposed to do what the government tells us,’ and that’s the furthest thing from the truth. It’s definitely the furthest thing from my reality.”

Baltimore breaks city record for killings per capita in 2019

By The Associated Press

Submitted By Vickie Prickett

BALTIMORE -- Baltimore broke its annual per capita homicide record after reaching 342 killings Friday. With just over 600,000 residents, the city hit a historically high homicide rate of about 57 per 100,000 people after recent relentless gunfire saw eight people shot — three fatally — in one day and nine others — one fatally — another day.

The new rate eclipses that of 1993, when the city had a record 353 killings but was much more populous before years of population exodus.

By contrast, New York City, with more than 8 million residents, had 306 homicides through Dec. 15.

The total is up from 309 in 2018 and matches the 342 killings tallied in 2017 and 2015, the year when the city’s homicide rate suddenly spiked.

A statement from Baltimore police said officers were dispatched late Thursday night to a location on Pratt Street, where they found a man with gunshot wounds. A police spokesman said the man died from his wounds at a local hospital early Friday.

This is the fifth year in a row that Baltimore has reported more than 300 killings. Before 2015, that number had generally been on the decline, but it reversed after civil unrest followed the death in police custody of a young black man, Freddie Gray.

Reasons for the change vary and are subject to interpretation.

Many have accused police of taking a hands-off approach to crime-fighting since six of their own were charged in connection with Gray’s death. None of the officers was ultimately convicted.

Others have attributed it to the apparent free flow of illegal guns, the effects of a punishing opioid epidemic, social inequalities and a lack of decent jobs for many in disenfranchised neighborhoods. Some say political incompetence at City Hall also has contributed.

Last week, federal and local law enforcement officials unveiled another round of strategies to try to bring down violent crime. They include federal funding that can help pay for new police officers and a pilot program to fly three surveillance planes above the city during the months that historically have seen high rates of crime.

Your Vote Doesn’t Count If You Aren’t Registered

By Bill Walsh

I know we all feel we are doing our part with our membership in the NRA and DSSA, supporting our lobbyists, and showing up at rallies. Your money and your voice are appreciated, but they don’t count unless you vote, and **you can’t vote unless you are registered**. Why the bold type? Because, an alarming number of us actually put off getting registered and don’t vote! The excuses range from “too busy,”

"don't know where to go," "don't know how," "too difficult," and "I thought I was registered."

If you received this DSSA News Letter in your e-mail you obviously have access to the internet, and finding out if you are, or aren't registered, how to register, and then actually registering is just a few key strokes away.

Go to: IVOTE.DE.gov and follow the prompts. It's as simple as that!

- 1) You can check whether or not you are registered.
- 2) Register for the first time
 - * By April 4, 2020 to vote in the Presidential Primary
 - * By August 22, 2020 to vote in the State Primary
 - * By October 10, 2020 to vote in the General Election
- 3) Change your address.
 - * If you have moved since the last time you voted
- 4) Change Party affiliation (Only for voting in a primary)
 - * Before February 28, 2020 to vote in Presidential Primary
 - * Before May 29, 2020 to vote in State Primary
- 5) Request an Absentee Ballot
- 6) Find your Polling Place
- 7) Find additional information

To get similar help for PA, MD, & NJ (and the other 47 States): Go to Vote411.org. This non-partisan site will also give you issue position statements from the Delaware candidates as we get closer to each election.

The 2020 High Power Season is HERE!

By Frank Nedza

Recently, several members of the Bridgeville Rifle and Pistol Club had the opportunity to participate in an early season Fullbore and Palma match held at the North Carolina National Guard KD Range 4 and sponsored by the North State Shooting Club. The crew at NSSC generally put on a good match, and this one was no exception. The match was held on February 22nd and 23rd. As it **IS** February, we were all anxiously watching the weather reports and hoping for a good forecast. The initial forecast was rain, rain, and more rain, but as the weekend approached, the forecast brightened, then dimmed considerably with the prediction of SNOW for Thursday before the match –a LOT of snow (for North Carolina...). You all know that even one flake sends the locals into a 'french toast ingredient' (eggs, milk, and bread) buying frenzy ☺. At any rate, it looked like it would be cold on both Saturday and Sunday mornings, but would warm up to be reasonable by the afternoons of both days. The decision was made to go, and off we went. We did indeed encounter snow on the trip, which didn't give us a lot of confidence that we had made a good decision...



As I said to Madonna, 'well, if nothing else, this trip will be good for a story or two'.

Saturday morning dawned clear and bright, and COLD – about 21 degrees worth of cold. Standing under the pit overhang didn't give one a good feeling about the match. The one saving grace was that there was NO wind. There were icicles though... An amusing anecdote –Tom Snodgrass went to paste up a target face, and by the time he got the face over to our target, the wallpaper paste had frozen! Yeah, it was nippy, but handwarmers, long-johns, and boots got us through the morning hours.





Once we got to the line, we set up in snow, but not too much. Just enough to start melting through our mats and get us wet ☺.



It did indeed warm up as the day went on, and got to be downright pleasant –for February, for sure.

The Fullbore match went well, with Kent Reeve turning in a nice 449-29X for the match win. Our Bridgeville crew did pretty well, too. I think everyone had fun at least and really, I think we turned in respectable scores. The next event on Saturday was a team match, shot at 600 yards. There were three sling teams shooting, and while Bridgeville didn't win, I think it was a good warm-up event for us, and a reminder that shooting team matches is fun! Many thanks to Madonna and Steve for taking care of pit duty for our team!

Sunday was Palma day, and it dawned cold too, running right at 31 degrees at the start. It warmed up pretty quickly once the sun came out, and was a bright and beautiful day. As it warmed up the wind came up too, and was quite challenging by the time we got back to the 1000 yard line. Kent came out on top in that match too, putting up a nice 448-24X (out of 450

possible). The Bridgeville crew did OK at the Palma too, putting up respectable early season scores. Heck, three of us were even shooting the 'Mighty' .223 Remington (all the way out to 1000 yards) and all of us did OK. I was using the 85.5 grain Berger LRHT bullets described in another article in this newsletter. Anything that wasn't an 'X' was totally on me. By the end of the day, most of us had stripped down to tee-shirts, and were totally comfortable as it was well over 60 degrees. Bottom line, I think we all had a great time, and despite the weather forecast, it turned out to be better weather-wise than we have any right to expect in February. I, for one, am glad I went. Two days spent on the range with friends—it just doesn't get any better than that!



Match winner Kent Reeve, and his squad-mate Rich Kussman

For those who are interested you can find match scores here: http://www.northstateshootingclub.com/pdfs/2020/20200222_results.pdf

As a reminder, our first Bridgeville event will be a mid-range practice and Mid-Range Match scheduled for March 28th and 29th. I hope to see you there!

The Funny Pages

By Bill Walsh

A pastor skips services one Sunday to go bear hunting in the mountains. As he turns the corner along a narrow path, he and the bear collide. The pastor stumbles backwards, slips off the trail, and begins tumbling down the mountain with the bear in hot pursuit.

Finally, the pastor crashes into a boulder, sending his rifle flying and breaking both legs. The pastor is lying there; he's lost his gun, and the bear is coming closer. In desperation he cries out, "Lord, I repent for all I have done. Please make this bear a Christian."

The bear skids to a halt at the pastor's feet, falls to his knees, clasps his paws together, and says, "Lord, I do thank you for the food I am about to receive."

Speaking of bears and religion:

A Priest, a Pentecostal preacher, and a Rabbi challenged each other to a preaching contest.

They would all go out into the woods, and find a bear, preach to it, and try to convert it to their religion. Two days later, they got together to discuss the experience.

Father Flannery said, "Well, I read to him from the Catechism and I sprinkled him with holy water and Holy Mary Mother of God he was as gentle as a lamb. The Bishop is coming next week to give him first communion and confirmation."

Reverend Billy Bob said, "Well, I read to my bear from God's HOLY WORD! And, I took HOLD of him and wrestled him down to the creek. And I DUNKED him and BAPTIZED him and he became as gentle as a lamb. We spent the rest of the day praising Jesus."

They both looked down at the Rabbi, who was in a body cast. The Rabbi said, "Looking back on it, circumcision may not have been the best way to start!"

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As you read this newsletter the General Assembly is finishing up what are called, Joint Finance Committee hearings on the Governor's proposed budget. From the end of January to mid-March the General Assembly does not meet formally. Instead a joint committee of Senators and Representatives hold hearings with the various executive branch agencies testifying about why they need the money Governor has proposed.

Those hearings end and session begins again on Tuesday, March 17th. There are a couple of legislative matters that are pending and could see action that week. The first is House Bill 277, which is commonly referred to as the "ghost gun" bill. Currently the bill is awaiting action in the House. It was voted out of committee prior to the break. There are amendments that both DSSA and the NRA have proposed. It is our belief that these amendments will make sure that the rights of gun owners here in Delaware are not infringed.

The other matter is House Concurrent Resolution 77. This resolution is sponsored by Rep. Larry Mitchell and one aspect is to take a look at the FTAP bill that was developed by Sen. Gerald Hocker. Delaware used to have its own background check system until 2013. At that time the FTAP system was eliminated due to budgetary problems that state was having at the time. The argument was it was duplicative of the NICS system.

Sen. Hocker had mentioned at a Senate Hearing that perhaps it was time to bring our own background check system back, but with improvements. We are waiting for this task force to be formed and meetings to start. Stay tuned.

DSSA finally had the first court hearing on the current lawsuit against DNREC. As you will recall, DSSA filed suit against DNREC due to their, we believe, illegal, interpretation of the legislation dealing with straight-walled pistol calibers and rifles chambered in those calibers. DSSA filed the lawsuit back in November and it took until February 14th for DNREC to show up.

DNREC filed a motion to dismiss the case for three reasons. After written and oral arguments, Judge Primos ruled from the bench that the motion was denied. DNREC subsequently filed an answer to our complaint, which was extremely lacking in substance. The next step is to establish a briefing schedule.

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? Write up a match you attended or tell us about your favorite aspect of the sport?

Please send your article or special event to:

Roger T. Boyce

Vice President

DSSA

Roger.boyce@dssa.us



FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2020

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