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WHO AM I – WHO ARE WE?

By John C. Sigler, Esq.
Past President NRA
Past President DSSA

Every year around the 4th of July, I take a moment to reflect and to ask myself “Who am I” and “Who are we”? I ask that you join me in this exercise –an exercise that I suggest is most appropriate for inclusion in this specific edition of this publication which spans the 4th of July holiday and sets the stage for the coming election season.

I respectfully suggest that I (and we) can answer both of those questions, “Who am I?” and “Who are we?” by reading the excerpts from the three Founding Documents set forth below. Please join me, and as you read and reflect, I hope that the answers to those questions will become self-evident to you.

We begin our search for answers in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. – That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. - That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to then shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. – Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the

establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States....”
Excerpt -The Declaration of Independence.

And then, let us move forward in history to the Golden Fleece Tavern on The Green in Dover on December 7, 1787, as Delaware became the First State and:

"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.” Preamble - United States Constitution.

And then last, let’s fast forward to 1897 to Delaware’s fourth document of self-governance:

“Through Divine goodness, all people have by nature the rights of worshiping and serving their Creator according to the dictates of their consciences, of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of acquiring and protecting reputation and property, and in general of obtaining objects suitable to their condition, without injury by one to another; and as these rights are essential to their welfare, for due exercise thereof, power is inherent in them; and therefore all just authority in the institutions of political society is derived from the people, and established with their consent, to advance their happiness; and they may for this end, as circumstances require, from time to time, alter their Constitution of government.”. Preamble – Delaware Constitution of 1897 (You may wish to note that the Preambles to both the Delaware Constitution of 1792 and the Delaware Constitution of 1831 contain the same language and are identical).

By reading these excerpts from these three great documents, I am reminded who I am as an individual citizen and who we are as a People. These documents help me to remember and to focus upon my duties and responsibilities as a citizen. And most importantly, I will remember them and focus upon their combined message in the days and weeks ahead as we prepare for the 2020 General Election.

I will keep them in mind as the various candidates vie for my vote between now and Election Day - and I will most certainly hold them near and dear in my heart as I cast my ballot on Election Day, 2020.

I hope you will too.

DEFENSIVE USES OF FIREARMS – A NEW DATABASE

By Curtis Clements

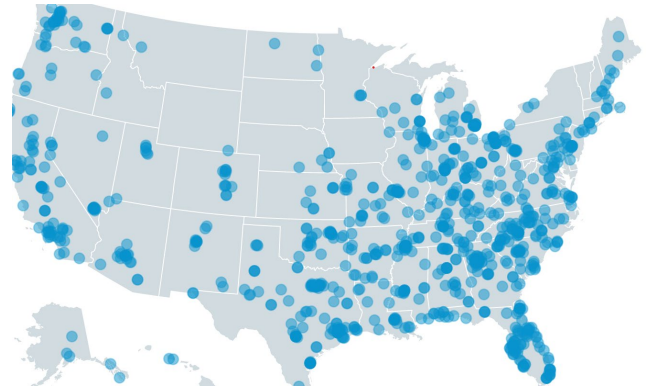
If you are a gun owner, it is quite likely that one of your reasons for owning a firearm in the first place is recognition of the potential for needing one at some point in time to protect yourself and your family. You hope that it never happens, but you want to be prepared, just in case. And, if your experience is anything like mine, you probably have one or more people in your circle of friends and acquaintances who just don't see why anybody would ever need to own a gun. They completely discount the statistics that firearms are reportedly used successfully for self-defense anywhere from 500,000 times to as many as 2 to 3 million times a year. You are likely to hear something along the lines of "that's fake news" or "that's just gun-lobby-propaganda."

In a recent exchange on Facebook, I was in a discussion about why modern sporting rifles, like AR-15 platforms, are appropriate to consider for home defense. This was prior to the current examples of civil unrest, so I did not raise that possibility as an obvious reason, but I did cite the potential for a home invasion by multiple assailants. One snarky comment which I got in response was, "Well gee, I guess that happens, like NEVER." So, how do you arm yourself (pun intended) to address comments like that? The reality is that with the people who say things like that (and I am sure that you know a few), it is probably not worth the effort to make a rational response; however, for the benefit of others, who might still have an open mind on the subject, I have found that sometimes, being able to show actual examples from the news is very helpful.

So, where can you go to find appropriate examples to support your arguments? Internet searches are certainly one possibility, as well as regular features about defensive uses of firearms found in a number of the gun magazines. Recently, however, I came upon a source where you can find hundreds of recent, documented cases regarding defensive uses of firearms. It is a web-based database, maintained and hosted by The Heritage Foundation, entitled "Defensive Gun Uses in the U.S." You can find it at:

<https://www.heritage.org/data-visualizations/firearms/defensive-gun-uses-in-the-us/>

Their database currently covers 2019 and 2020, and you can even specify instances just within the past 90 days. When you go to the web page, you will see a map of the United States, with lots of dots on it.



You can click on the button(s) for the year(s) or time period in which you are interested. You can also enlarge the map to zoom in, or focus, on just a particular state or region of interest, if finding examples "close to home" is your objective.

Click on a dot and it will give you the location(s) and date(s) of the incident(s) that occurred there. As an example, I clicked on a dot in Delaware and found an incident from late last year that occurred in Dover. If you look at the area just below the map, you will see the basic information about the incident displayed:

DATE	LOCATION	CONTEXT	CONCEALED-CARRY PERMIT?
November 5, 2019	Dover, DE	Assault/Other	Yes
MULTIPLE ASSAILANTS?	SHOTS FIRED?	FIREARM TYPE	DETAILS
Yes	Yes	Handgun	Media Report

NOTE: Locations are approximate.
SOURCE: Heritage Foundation research.
DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT: Data visual produced by John W. Fleming and Jay Simon. Data compiled by Amy Sewanee.

The thing that I like most about this interactive database, however, is the "Media Report" button under the "Details" heading. Click on that and it will take you to a web link for the actual news report from the local media.

<http://firststateupdate.com/2019/11/armed-woman-defends-herself-after-gunfire-erupts-in-dover>

In some cases, you will also find a video file linked to the written news article.

With this database, you have access to the actual, contemporaneous media reports which document cases of legally-armed citizens, successfully defending themselves or others, using firearms. You can share the links with the skeptics in your conversations to show specific examples which back up the statistics regarding defensive uses of guns. Will that be enough to convince them? Maybe yes, maybe no, but in any event, you now have a readily-available supply of "ammunition" to bolster your position.

Thank you, Heritage Foundation!

INSTRUCTORS CORNER

NEW AND SEASONED PISTOL INSTRUCTORS

By: Roger Boyce

For this issue, we will go into more detail on triggering, and pick up where we left off.

Jerking or Slapping the Trigger

The most common problem for a new shooter is pressing or slapping the trigger too hard, disturbing the sight picture before the bullet exits the muzzle.

In any type of shooting, the finger is truly faster than a speeding bullet. During the student's basic instruction (NRA Basic Pistol Segment #2) they should have learned the Cartridge Firing Sequence. As the gun's sear breaks, the firing sequence begins and goes as follows (for a hammered fired gun):

1. Sear breaks
2. Hammer falls towards the transfer bar, striking the transfer bar
3. The transfer bar moves forward striking the firing pin
4. The firing pin moves forward striking the cartridge primer
5. The primer denotates
6. The denotation creates a flame which progresses through the flash hole in the cartridge case
7. The flash ignites the powder in the cartridge case
8. The powder burns very rapidly creating gas pressure inside the cartridge case
9. The pressure is exerted in all directions (cartridge head, sidewalls and base of the bullet)
10. The sidewalls of the cartridge case expand against the chamber walls sealing the chamber
11. Pressure continues to build until the pressure on the base of the bullet exceeds the restraining force of the cartridge case crimp
12. The bullet exits the cartridge case and enters the throat of the barrel
13. The bullet engages with the rifling of the barrel
14. The bullet proceeds down the length of the barrel and exits the muzzle

In this sequence, 13 separate and distinct actions occurred from the time of the sear breaking until the bullet exited the muzzle. During that entire time, the sight picture must be maintained. Without a correct and gentle trigger press, the shot is pulled off target. The finger is truly faster than a speeding bullet.

Gentle Press of the Trigger

No matter how much you tell the student to "gently" press the trigger, it is not tangible in their mind what "gently" really means. Next is an exercise to make the trigger press tangible.

Feeling the Trigger

This exercise needs to be done in a quiet place so if others are shooting on the range, take the student to a safe and quite

place to do this exercise. The instructor should demonstrate the exercise first so the student knows what's expected of them. The description below is how to do this exercise through the student's eyes. Do this before the student ever takes the first shot.

Have the student turn and face 90° to the target or safe direction. With an unloaded gun, have the student place the gun in their support hand, gun laid on its side in front of the student's stomach where they can relax with the muzzle pointed down range or in a safe direction.



Semi-Auto Pistol – with a semi-auto pistol (let's assume a striker fired gun for this description) with the gun cocked, have the student place their finger on the trigger while supporting the gun with the non-shooting hand. At this point it's a great opportunity to show the student what the proper amount of finger should be on the trigger and where the finger should be placed on the trigger. See earlier discussion on finger placement.

Have the student "close their eyes" and just focus on taking up the slack in the trigger to the point where they can "feel the wall" (engagement of the sear). Have the student do this several times with their eyes closed so they know where the wall is for that specific gun.

Closing the eyes blocks out extraneous stimuli and allows the brain to focus on the "feel" of the trigger. Closing the eyes also allows proprioception to be more sensory aware and shortens the learning curve. If they push through the wall and the sear breaks, start them over.

Again, with the eyes closed, once they know where the wall is, have the student take up the slack in the trigger, find the wall and STOP. Continuing with the exercise with their eyes still closed, once they have found the wall, they should gradually increase pressure until the sear breaks. You can describe the pressure increase perceptually by saying add pressure in 5 lb. increments i.e. 5, 10, 15, 20 until the sear breaks. In most cases the student will go 5, 10 -- 50 and blast through the wall. Reset and have them slow down the press until the trigger press is smooth and consistent all the way through the trigger press. It should look like the finger is moving in slow motion. It may take 5-10 seconds from the time they start pressing until the sear breaks. That's good

because they are feeling the trigger, not just pressing the trigger.

Have them do this several times. They are “feeling the trigger” and what’s required to take up slack, find the wall and press through the wall smoothly.

Revolver – With a revolver the exercise is similar but there is no slack to speak of. During double action, the student pulls straight through the trigger stroke. Single action, the student cocks the gun, puts their finger on the trigger and gradually increases pressure (5, 10, 15...) on the trigger until the sear breaks.

If done properly, the student will be able to feel any roughness, glitchiness or drag in the trigger up to the wall and while pressing through the wall to the point where the sear breaks. It’s amazing what they can feel. Very quickly they can tell a good trigger from a lousy trigger. If the trigger press is done properly, the student will feel a poor trigger that moves in steps or a series of increments that they can count until the sear breaks. Other triggers will feel gritty or mechanically rough. A few triggers will feel smooth and crisp. Doesn’t matter what they feel. It only matters that they feel it and can articulate it.

The purpose of this exercise is to make the feel of the trigger and how much pressure it takes to break a shot “tangible” to the student. In 6 or 8 trigger presses the student will understand what it should feel like before and after the shot breaks. Tell the student to do this with every gun they ever pick up, before they shoot it.

Follow-up Exercise - Now that the trigger press is tangible to the student, do this follow-up exercise.

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTE: First do this exercise in dry fire with no ammunition in the gun and the gun pointed in a safe direction. After dry fire, then the instructor and student can progress to live fire.

The instructor will talk the student through three or four shooting cycles (both dry fire and life fire). This exercise puts into practice what they just learned with the “Feeling the Trigger” exercise.

With an unloaded gun, dry fire, and then with a loaded gun live fire, from the low ready, give the student the following commands/instruction:

Note: instructor should be looking at the hands, not the target during these commands. You will see mistakes and correct them during or after the shot.

Come up – Student raises the gun from low ready up to and in line with the target.

Put your finger on the trigger - Tell the student that when they are shooting, they should put their finger on the trigger as soon as they are up on target but before they have a good sight picture. Most students will waste time and energy getting a sight picture before their finger is on the trigger and have taken up slack. This wastes time (gets student tired) and is futile because when the finger goes on the trigger and they

take up slack, it will disturb the sight picture and they must obtain a sight picture all over again.

Take up slack – Student places their finger properly on the trigger and removes slack from the trigger stroke until they find the wall.

STOP - This reinforces to the student to momentarily stop when they hit the wall and not just blast through it. It allows them to mentally transition from pressing the trigger to obtaining a sight picture and then gently pressing the trigger. The three separate components of the shooting sequence are, STOP, Sight Picture, Press.

Sight picture – Reminds the student to get and hold a sight picture just prior to breaking the shot.

Press – Trigger straight to the rear. You can also say “gently press the trigger straight back”.

Hold (follow through) - Make sure the student holds the trigger back one or two seconds to reinforce follow through. Let the bullet exit the muzzle.

Release -Student releases the finger from the trigger, places the finger on the frame of the gun and comes down to low ready position.

Repeat several times dry firing.

During live fire:

Assess shot placement – Repeat for three or four cycles.

During this exercise it is common for the student to fail on one or more of the exercise components because they are still in the learning process.

Examples are:

- Instead of taking up slack and stopping at the resistance or wall, they blow through it, jerking the trigger. Remind them to STOP at the wall.
- Most common is they fail to follow through, instantly releasing the trigger before the shot clears the muzzle. Remind them to follow through. Have them count to two in their head after the shot breaks.
- Assess the target shot and see where they are hitting. If they jerked/slapped the trigger or did not follow though you should have seen that while watching their hands and you should see the result on the target. You can also see the jerk during dry fire. Sometimes they get lucky and get a good shot so look at consistency.
- If you did not see a trigger jerk and they had good follow through, but the hits are low left or upper right, (opposite for left hand shooters) suspect anticipation. At this point run the drill again and if it persists, move to the “ball and dummy” drill to diagnose anticipation or flinching (discussed later in this article).

The student needs to do three or four successful cycles as you lead them with commands. Once they have done three or four successful cycles, have the student do it on their own but you still observe, analyze and diagnose.

These two exercises together should solve most of the basic problems of the beginning shooter.

Natural Arc of Movement

At the point where the trigger is against the wall and the student is obtaining a good sight picture you will see them spend a significant amount of time refining the sight picture. The student should obtain the sight picture in one or two seconds (front sight focus, equal height, equal light with rear sight, front sight on bullseye). Actually, what they are doing is watching the front weave back and forth in what is called the natural arc of movement. The time a student will take trying to stabilize the gun will range from four to five seconds to in some cases 15-20 seconds (I've watched it happen). You will see this in dry fire and live fire.

As the instructor, when you see this occur, stop the student and have them bring the gun down to low ready. Explain to the student that they will never hold the gun perfectly still during the sight picture. Because they are breathing, muscles flexing, heart pumping, veins and arteries pulsing, the gun is going to weave or wobble in what may be perceived as a figure eight pattern around the bullseye. They cannot stop the movement. Only a dead person can keep a gun perfectly still.

There are two problems with this condition. First, they are wasting time and getting tired as they are holding the gun out there to get the perfect sight picture. The wobble will just get worse with each second that passes.

The second problem is that the student will try and trap the shot. This is a natural response to tracking a target. The problem is the firing sequence described earlier. Trapping the shot will create inconsistency in shot placement. Sometimes the shot will be in the bullseye and sometimes it will be just left, just right or low left due to jerking the trigger while trying to trap the shot. This is because the student pressed the trigger when they saw the front sight aligning with the bullseye but by the time the 13 component firing sequence occurs and the bullet exits the muzzle, their front sight passed the bullseye.

Explain to the student to focus on the front sight and let the gun wobble. The student's targeting brain will do all the compensating necessary to get a good, consistent shot placement and group without any conscious awareness on the student's part. Sometimes you just have to let it happen. For our next installment, we will focus on the progression of solving new shooter problems includes eye issues, anticipation/flinching and heeling.

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BRIDGEVILLE RIFLE AND PISTOL CLUB STEEL SHOOT

By Dave Bell –DSSA Board Member

It is always a joy to watch new shooters become aware of different aspects of the shooting sports. On Saturday June 13, 2020, the Bridgeville Rifle and Pistol Club hosted a Steel Challenge Event, held at the BRPC Pistol Range, and it was FREE TO CLUB MEMBERS AND FAMILIES.

The event was billed as a FUN SHOOT with no timer or scoring, just ringing steel targets in interesting scenarios using Pistols and Pistol Caliber Carbines (rifles) to complete the course. The shooters signed in and were broken into two flights with three squads in each flight. Targets were steel plates, poppers, knock down plates and a 'Texas Star' that rotates when hit.

A Safety Briefing was conducted for the competitors before the shoot and safety equipment mandated. The first flight was to shoot in the morning and the second flight in the afternoon. Pistol caliber carbines were made available to those who didn't have one and even included ammo for the competitors!

Of significant note, there were the good number of female competitors, first time shooters and youngsters present! The Kids are absolutely amazing as they show respect, are given respect and appreciate the chance to compete on an equal basis with adults with sincere encouragement.

My grand-niece was given safety instructions and range discipline rules as well as handling points the day before by her grandmother (who also participated). In the first scenario she cleaned the course -with a reload, demonstrating that a thirteen year old young lady can be as competitive as anyone well-schooled in fire arms handling. Several young men aged nine to eleven did just as well and no-doubt had fun doing it too!

The WELL ARMED WOMAN group was also well represented showing off their shooting skills and some 'new' handguns as well.

I would like to extend a HUGE Thank You to the officers and members of the Bridgeville Rifle and Pistol Club who helped put this event on, giving not only of their time but resources to make our shooting community better.

THOMAS, KAVANAUGH LAMENT 'DECADE-LONG FAILURE TO PROTECT THE SECOND AMENDMENT'

By Tyler Olson

Submitted By Vickie Prickett

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/thomas-kavanaugh-lament-decade-long-failure-to-protect-the-second-amendment>

Supreme Court Justices Clarence Thomas and Brett Kavanaugh on Monday admonished their fellow justices for letting Second Amendment cases languish in the lower courts

in a dissent to the tribunal's decision not to take up a gun rights case.

The last major Supreme Court cases to decide gun rights issues were McDonald v. Chicago and D.C. v. Heller, both of which came out more than a decade ago. Kavanaugh and Thomas, in the case of an ATM service worker who takes care of machines in "high-crime areas" but was told by New Jersey that is not a good enough reason for him to have a permit to carry a handgun, accused their fellow justices of ambivalence to potential violations of Americans' constitutional right to bear arms.

"This Court would almost certainly review the constitutionality of a law requiring citizens to establish a justifiable need before exercising their free speech rights. And it seems highly unlikely that the Court would allow a State to enforce a law requiring a woman to provide a justifiable need before seeking an abortion," Thomas wrote, in an opinion joined by Kavanaugh. "But today, faced with a petition challenging just such a restriction on citizens' Second Amendment rights, the Court simply looks the other way."



Justices Clarence Thomas and Brett Kavanaugh

Supreme Court Justices Brett Kavanaugh and Clarence Thomas joined forces on a dissent Monday charging their Supreme Court colleagues with a "decade-long failure to protect the Second Amendment." (AP)

Thomas also detailed the backlog of similar cases in lower courts that have led to split decisions on what restrictions a state may place on a person seeking a permit to carry a gun in public.

"The Courts of Appeals are squarely divided on the constitutionality of these onerous 'justifiable need' or 'good cause' restrictions. The D. C. Circuit has held that a law limiting public carry to those with a 'good reason to fear injury to [their] person or property' violates the Second Amendment," he said. "By contrast, the First, Second, Third, and Fourth Circuits have upheld the constitutionality of licensing schemes with 'justifiable need' or 'good reason' requirements, applying what purported to be an intermediate scrutiny standard."

Such a split between the circuits is generally one of the most compelling reasons for the Supreme Court to take up a case, and is actually laid out in the tribunal's official rulebook.

Rule 10, which discusses what the court takes into consideration when deciding to hear a case, says the court is

likely to step in when "a United States court of appeals has entered a decision in conflict with the decision of another United States court of appeals on the same important matter."

The Supreme Court had a chance to issue a major ruling on a Second Amendment case earlier this year, but punted on it, saying the New York City law in question was changed after the litigation was initiated, making the case "moot."

So gun-control and gun-rights activists are still waiting to hear what the Supreme Court has to say on a number of restrictive laws that have been implemented in recent years. Thomas, in his dissent Monday, appeared to say he would be willing to strike down the New Jersey law in question.

"Petitioner asks this Court to grant certiorari to determine whether New Jersey's near-total prohibition on carrying a firearm in public violates his Second Amendment right to bear arms, made applicable to the States through the Fourteenth Amendment," he said. "This case gives us the opportunity to provide guidance on the proper approach for evaluating Second Amendment claims; acknowledge that the Second Amendment protects the right to carry in public; and resolve a square Circuit split on the constitutionality of justifiable need restrictions on that right."

Thomas closed with a parting shot at his fellow justices.

"Rather than prolonging our decade-long failure to protect the Second Amendment, I would grant this petition," he said.

SOUTH PHILLY GUNSTORE OWNER GUARDING SHOP OVERNIGHT SHOTS, KILLS ARMED LOOTER

**By Vandana Rambaran
Submitted By Vickie Prickett**

A 67-year-old South Philadelphia gun store owner shot and killed a man he said was looting his business for what he suspects is the second night in a row.

Greg Isabella, who owns the Firing Line Inc, one of the oldest gun shops in the city, said he saw a group of looters on his surveillance video breaking a padlock on his gate using bolt cutters and descending on his shop in the early hours of Tuesday morning. The incident occurred just after 4 a.m. when Isabella then confronted the thieves, and one -- in a group of what he says consisted of 3 or 4 people-- pointed a gun at him, according to reports by Fox affiliate WTFX.

Isabella fatally shot the gun-wielding robber using an AR-15 and the alleged thief died on the scene, reports say. The owner likely injured a second suspect in the shoulder. The rest of the thieves fled, but a local hospital informed police that a man was being treated for a gunshot wound to the shoulder, and police suspect he may have been involved in the botched heist.

The owner suspects that on the previous night, looters attempted to break in through a back door of the shop, ramming and beating at a steel door that showed signs of battering, and even marks that a crowbar was used to pry it open -- to no avail.

He told local media on the scene on Tuesday morning he had "no comment."

Philadelphia has been racked by violence over the last four days as some protest demanding justice for George Floyd turned vicious. Floyd, an unarmed black man, died on Memorial Day in police custody after a white police officer in Minneapolis knelt on his neck for over 8 minutes.

On Monday night, a confrontation between police and protesters trying to shut down a major highway turned aggressive, and the SWAT team was called in. Law enforcement fired tear gas, rubber bullets and bean bags at the crowd in an effort to disperse them and several people were arrested.

IT'S HIGH POWER SEASON –AGAIN.

By Frank Nedza

Well, after long delays caused by various State Government mandated shutdowns, along with other events, we are finally back to shooting High Power matches!

Reade Range Long Range Regional June 5th to 7th.



This match is always on the "Must Attend" list, as it is set in a beautiful location overlooking some gorgeous scenery in western Pennsylvania. They run a great match too! There were several members of the Bridgeville Rifle and Pistol Club in attendance this year, with a COVID-limited total of 50 shooters on the line.

Friday was team match day, with a total of 6 Sling Teams and one F-Class Team. The Bridgeville Gold Team took the win in Palma Rifle category (well, there WAS only one team shooting Palma, so... ☺) –on a more serious note, the Reade Range Any Rifle Team took the win, with a nice 1584-78X score (out of 1600 possible). The Bridgeville F-Class guys also took the win in F-Class, (just like the Palma Team...) At any rate, a good time was had by all, and we got to shoot as a team again after a too-long layoff. The 'regular portion of the match ran smoothly, with good weather for shooting. As usual, Tammy

kept us well-fed each day (maybe too well-fed, as we ARE shooting off our bellies... ☺).

At the end of Sunday's match, the Overall winner, and Any rifle winner was Guard Shooter Amanda Elsenboss, posting a really nice 990-45X score (out of 1000 points possible), followed closely by Jon Howell, at 989-40X, and Dave Shellhammer at 987-48X. In Palma category (iron sights all weekend, and .308 or .223 caliber), the class winner was Angel Rodriguez who posted a nice 981-34X, followed by Bob Steckmeyer at 974-41X, and John Usher at 971-26X. In F-Class, the overall class winner was Gwen Basalla who posted a 975-27X (F-Open) followed by Dave Kokoszka with a reeeeeeally close 974-38X, and Ken Livengood who posted a nice 973-35X. In F-TR, Chris Fairbanks led the way at 958-24X. I am already looking forward to getting back to Reade Range for their Missing Camp Perry match in July!

For those that are interested, match results may be found here; <http://readerange.org/>

Bridgeville Mid-Range 3 X 600 June 14th.

The first Bridgeville Mid-Range Match of the year went off without a hitch –good weather, and decent conditions were the order of the day. It was really nice to connect with old friends again on the firing line. We had a total of 34 shooters on the line, with an even split (17 each) of F-Class and Sling shooters.

In F-Open, Andy Amber took the win with a really nice 597-28X score, closely followed by our own John Sigler at 596-39X and Dave Kokoszka at 592-33X. In Master/Expert/Sharpshooter class, New shooter Mike Haines led the way with a nice 589-27X (well done!). In F-T/R, Jim Crofts posted a really nice 592-24X for the class win, followed by Chris Fairbanks at 590-17X. In the Master/Expert ranks, Geof Slichter led with a 568-15X.

In Sling world, Nate Guernsey took the overall win, and the match win with a very nice 597-31X shooting Palma Rifle, followed by Jeff Hague at 595-28X and Frank Nedza at 594-22X. In the Master class, Madonna Nedza posted a nice 591-22X. I don't think she will be a Master for too much longer, as scores like that will bump her up to High Master soon. In AR-Tactical, Rufus Standefer (the only AR-Tactical competitor) posted a nice 593-27X. Guys, he really needs someone to shoot against for the next match!

Bridgeville 6th Annual Long-Range Regional Match June 26th – 28th

Now we really get cooking, in more ways than one. This match normally occurs after folks have had some time to get seasonal shooting fitness built, and rifles finely tuned, but coming as it did after the lockdowns didn't seem to hurt too badly. The weather was hot and steamy, but we do shoot from under cover, so it isn't as bad as it could have been, and no pit duty means no cooking in the pits!

We started off with team matches on Friday, where we had a total of 8 teams firing. 5 Teams were sling teams, with

two F-Open teams and an F-T/R team too. The day consisted of two matches of 20 shots per shooter, one with iron sights and one using scopes (for the sling shooters). In Sling category, the NSSC +1 Team took the win with a score of 1560-58X. Over in F-Open, the Bridgeville Team 1 posted a nice 1541-36X score, while over at F-T/R, the Bridgeville team posted a 1487-24X.

Saturday was hot and humid, with winds building as the day went on, but that didn't stop Dave Shellhammer from posting a nice 597-28X over on the sling side of Any Rifle. He was closely followed by Reade Range teammate Tom Ferraro, who posted a nice 596-26X. On the Palma side of the sling world, Mike Halsey posted a nice 593-24X (with iron sights), for the class win, followed by Nash Neubauer at 592-25X. In Master class, Tom Snodgrass (still my favorite Marine ☺) posted a nice 586-26X.

Over in F-Open, Dave Kokoszka shot a leading 589-25X for the days win, followed by George VanWhy (Master class) who shot a nice 585-20X. In the Expert class, Gwen Basalla took the class win for the day with a 583-18X. In F-T/R, Josh Driessen (Master) was the day's winner with a nice 575-16X, followed by Jim Crofts at 573-21X.



Friends that are more like Family



I once caught a fish thiiiiissss big...



High Power gets the cutest spectators...

Saturday afternoon shooting was followed by a feast prepared by Fat Daddy's in Bridgeville (it was GOOOOOD Too!), and that in turn was followed by the chance to win some really nice door prizes. Optics manufacturer Vortex donated a really nice riflescope, and many other things as well, and many other manufacturers super-generous, donating prizes to make up a really nice prize table.



Prizes Large and Small

I am pretty sure that everyone who attended went away with something. The only thing happier than a well-fed shooter is one who also ends up with a nice prize at the end of the day! I think our shooters were very happy at the end of the day. Many thanks for those who donated prizes to this match!!

Sunday also dawned hot and humid, maybe even worse than Saturday... With only two matches to shoot though, it went pretty well, and pretty quickly. Sunday taught us once

again (as if we needed reminding) that you can't ever give up –even if things don't go as well as you might like for one match, or even a whole day. In F-T/R, James Crofts took the aggregate win, with a nice 968-34X, followed by Josh Driessen and Todd Norfleet both at 960-22X (Josh creedmoored Todd for the edge).



In F-Open, Dave Kokoszka took the win, with a very nice 980-36X, followed by Matt Basalla (Master) at 974-34X, and John Sigler (Master) at 974-30X.



On the sling side of things, Nash Neubauer took the overall Match win and the category win, with a very nice 991-52X – shooting a Palma rifle!



Well done, Nash, well done. Keeping him honest was Jon Howell, at 991-37X –also a super-nice score, for sure! Following Nash and Jon were Dave Shellhammer (990-43X), Guard shooter John Cogshall (989-44X) and Nate Guernsey (988-42X –Palma).

In truth, there were a lot of really great scores shot over the weekend, including 8 'clean' targets shot (200 out of 200 possible), and more 199's than you can shake a scope at! Well done, shooters!

I hope everyone had a good experience, and can come back again next year for more of the same.

Our next scheduled High Power matches are set for July 13th (Across the Course), and July 14th (3X600 yard Mid-Range). Hope to see you there!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

First of all, as I write this on the 4th of July, I want to wish everyone a Happy and Joyous 4th. As we recall, 244 years ago a group of patriots gathered in Philadelphia and with the stroke of a pen, committed an act of treason, by declaring the 13 colonies independent from Great Britain. Those 56 brave men put their lives on the line for a noble cause that eventually ruined or killed many of them. One particularly notable part was:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Fast forward to present times. Those truths are being attacked from all quarters. It seems that some are holding themselves out to be more equal than others. It is not politically correct to

voice one's opinion, if it does not reflect the ideals and beliefs of others. No longer is it permissible to have public discourse without aggression. It seems that the radical left has taken over the narrative and is attempting to remake America into something that none of us recognize.

All of a sudden, it is permissible to tear down statutes and other symbols if they do not reflect the beliefs of the minority. It is suddenly okay to take over city blocks and turn them into a "free zone", while ignoring the rights of business owners, and citizens alike.

What we are seeing across the nation today is not the America I want going forward. I do not believe a vocal minority should control my life. According to the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Delaware, I have certain unalienable rights that no one, not even a government official or anarchist, can infringe upon or take away. But they are trying. That is why we have to stand up for our rights and tell those that would deny our rights, stop!

No better example exists that the executive orders that our Governor, John Carney has issued since March due to the COVID-19 virus that has created a panicemic.

Since March 12th, when the initial declaration of a State of Emergency was declared, to the first extension of the order on April 10th, the second extension on May 8th, the third extension on June 6th and the 23 modifications to the original order, we have seen the economy in our great state almost obliterated. Seemingly without any rhyme or reason, certain businesses were declared essential and could remain open and many others, including gun shops, were declared non-essential and had to closed. There was no regard for people's livelihood or the negative impact that would occur. It seemed that business owners were not considered intelligent enough to follow the CDC guidelines that were issued about the virus.

The question I have asked since this panicemic started was under what law does the Governor have the right to close a business? No where that I can find does it specifically allow the government to shutter a business. As usual, the Governor is hiding behind vague language that allows him to take action to protect the health and safety of the citizens.

Simply put, the Governor decided winners and losers. It has been estimated that upwards of 30% of restaurants will never reopen and upwards of 20% of small businesses will never reopen. It was touted that most people would be able to collect unemployment. That really worked well. The system crashed and it was weeks, even months, before benefits were issued. For many it was too late. Did the Governor care? Who knows.

Who were these bureaucrats making these decisions? From my perspective it was career political types with no real world experience.

DSSA had to expend a great deal of money to force the Governor to allow gun shops to be open for 2 appointments per half hour.

Something else that bothers me is that no one is being told what happens if you happen to test positive for this COVID-19. While a letter is issued to the person with guidelines as to what

one must do, no where is the person told that if they don't comply, they can be forced by Court order to comply, even to the point of being forcibly quarantined. If you get a chance read Title 20, Chapter 31 of the Delaware Code. Here is an excerpt.

§ 3136 Isolation and quarantine during public health emergency

(1) *General authority.* — The public safety authority may exercise, for such period as the state of emergency exists, the following emergency powers over persons:

c. To require isolation or quarantine of any person by the least restrictive means necessary to protect the public health, subject to the other provisions of this section. All reasonable means shall be taken to prevent the transmission of infection among the isolated or quarantined individuals. (emphasis added).

What this means is if you don't cooperate the state can get a court order mandating that you do, or be institutionalized. Why aren't they telling us this. Because they want you to voluntarily give up your rights.

What does all of the above mean? It means that come this November, we need to be ever vigilant and get out and vote for those that would not infringe on our god given rights.

DSSA advocates for the protection of the right to keep and bear arms here in Delaware, specifically, but also assists in the fight to keep our Second Amendment.

My point in addressing the emergency orders was to emphasize that we are in dangerous times. These emergency orders that our Governor has issued are prime time examples of how fragile our rights are under a liberal regime.

All of us want this virus to go away. But how much are we willing to sacrifice to be safe. Benjamin Franklin said, "Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety."

Is it surprising that June saw a record 3.93 million NIC's checks and 19 million for the first 6 months of the year? I'm not surprised at all. It is indicative of the level of concern that we have about the direction of our country. Almost 40% of the sales were first time buyers.

The only way to keep our right to keep and bear arms is to vote come November. Stay tuned.

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:

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