



**AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION  
A PUBLICATION OF THE DELAWARE STATE SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION**

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## **DSSA: WINNING OFF AND ON THE TRACK**

By: Jonathan Contant



This car would go on to make appearances at a gun shop during a DSSA outreach program, at DSSA's gun-rights rally in Dover, and in 23 races in 2021.

On September 11th 2020, I traveled to Delaware International Speedway in Georgetown to watch a night of dirt track racing. The stands were packed. There were six classes of racers there. Excitement gripped spectators as these drivers threw their cars (and trucks) into dirt filled corners at high rates of speed. It was an absolute blast!

However, a good time with friends wasn't the only reason I was there. I wanted to see the crowds for myself. I wanted to gauge the types of people who were in attendance. I wanted to see if there was a way to spread DSSA's pro-gun rights message and awareness. I came away from that night, with probably close to 3,000 in attendance (not counting simulcast), realizing one thing: these people were our people. They believed in freedom. They believed in our constitutional rights. Most importantly, they believed in the individual right to keep and bear arms. Recon was done and feedback was positive, now for a plan...

At the beginning of the 2021, I was approached by a group of pro-gun Delawareans who planned to run a race team on

Delaware's three dirt tracks. The team was Kwik Motorsports and their crew: Jay Lowman, Sabrina Vetter, Billy Cummings, Shelly Strain, and Wyatt Cummings. The car was the "2A," a Ford Focus that had been transformed from a teenagers first car in to a lean, mean, racing machine. The series was the DelMarVa Chargers series. A four-cylinder, front wheel drive, naturally aspirated dirt track class which would end up having 25 drivers compete over the course of 2021.

The team had a simple ask: sponsor the "2A" for the upcoming season. Based on what I saw the prior September, this was a no brainer. A motion was brought before the Board of DSSA and passed unanimously. DSSA was going racing! The sponsorship came in the form of two large rear quarter panels emblazoned with "DSSA.US Protecting Gun Rights" in high visibility yellow on a black Kryptek body wrap. The roof was wrapped with a crossfade of the American flag and the Gadsden flag reading, "Don't tread on me."



Speaking of races, the "2A" started the season in March with driver Jay Lowman behind the wheel and took first place on March 12<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place on March 13<sup>th</sup>. The season was off to a great start and was a constant battle between the #61 of Ashley Merritt and the #3 of Joe Waters. Over the course of 13 points races the standard deviation was just 28 points (race leader earns 80 points per race)! Going into the final points race of the season on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, the top three were separated by just 36 points with our team in the lead.

When the dirt settled Jay Lowman and the "2A" of Kwik

Motorsports were victorious, taking 1<sup>st</sup> in the race and clinching the season at the top of the leaderboard!



Over the course of 2021 the “2A” would take (6)-first place, (4)-second place, and (4)-third place finishes with two out of state races left for the year. In that time, DSSA’s name has grown in recognition through Kwik Motorsports’ wins and an opportunity to set up a booth at one of the Georgetown races and talk to people but there was also another avenue of growth: organic grass roots style. With the pro-gun Kwik Motorsports team talking to fellow racing teams in the pits, word spread, and we received requests for DSSA decals similar to what is on the “2A” for other teams to proudly display and even give shoutouts when they were in victory lane. Those cars are: Delmarva Chargers series: #61 of Ashley Tubbs Merritt, #62 of Randy Merritt Jr., #9 of Chris Carroll, #72 Kwik Motorsports- Wyatt & Billy Cummings, #13 of Paul Gary Jr., and the #6 of John Bailey. In the Delaware Super Trucks series: #25 of Kevin Taylor, #37 of Sean Martinez, and the #4 of Tim Quay. In the Modifieds series: #37 of Chris Tippy Martinez and the #9 of Greg Nailor Jr. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

With 2021 nearly over, DSSA is looking toward to 2022 with lingering legislation trying to restrict our rights, statewide elections with newly drawn districts, and a continuing partnership with Kwik Motorsports. Come out and support the car, team, and DSSA throughout next year’s dirt track season in Georgetown, Seaford, and DelMar!

### Up-Date – HB 125 ('Ghost Gun' Bill)

On October 20, 2021, Governor Carney signed into law House Bill 125, the ban on so-called “ghost guns” as well as 3-D printed guns.

On October 27, in an action captioned as *Rigby v. Carney*, plaintiffs John Rigby, Alan Knight and the Firearms Policy Coalition filed suit in U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware challenging the constitutionality of HB 125 on First, Second, Fifth and Fourteenth Amendment grounds, praying for declaratory and injunctive relief from enforcement of that new law.

The Delaware State Sportsmen’s Association thanks the plaintiffs in this case for stepping forward in this matter. Their

willingness to take the lead in this case allows the DSSA shepherd its scarce resources for other matters that are on the horizon which will undoubtedly require everything DSSA and its allies can bring to the table in defense of the right to keep and bear arms in Delaware.

DSSA supports the efforts of these plaintiffs and wishes them success in challenging this constitutionally questionable measure. While these plaintiffs are litigating this case, DSSA will continue its efforts to repeal and amend these most draconian portions of this legislation during the 2022 Session of the General Assembly, and beyond, if necessary.

As you will remember, working with our allies and other like-minded organizations and individuals, DSSA attempted first to defeat this measure and then to remove unconstitutional portions of HB 125. However, last-minute behind the scenes, ethically questionable maneuvering resulted in the failure of those efforts. Once the General Assembly returns in January, DSSA will renew its efforts to restore the rights of Delawareans infringed by the passage of HB 125. Your assistance and support will be needed when that time comes – as always.

It is our hope that both our efforts and those of the plaintiffs in this newly filed suit will ultimately see success.

### Despite the anti-gunners' dire predictions, Texas streets are not running red with blood

By: Lee Williams

Submitted by: John Sigler

<https://thegunwriter.substack.com/p/despite-the-anti-gunners-dire-predictions>



It’s been three weeks since constitutional carry became law in Texas, and the changes in the Lone Star State have been, well, almost boring.

The initial warnings about HB 1927 from leftist politicians, the anti-gun industry and their supporters in the legacy media were dire, but of course none proved true.

Now, they’re all eating their words.

**“As Mayor of Houston, I am very concerned that the State of Texas loosened gun laws, especially during a time of increased gun violence,” Mayor Sylvester Turner said in a**

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statement. **“Many Texans prize their Second Amendment rights, but the Second Amendment does not provide for the right of reckless endangerment.”**

**“Under this bill, even a law-abiding citizen can become a danger. Someone who has literally no firearms training and has never even fired a gun could legally carry a gun,” Mayor Sylvester claimed. “They could become a danger to themselves and others due to mishandling a deadly weapon.”**

The good mayor is not the first anti-gunner to look foolish because the murder and mayhem he predicted never occurred.

Rolling Stone called the new law the “firearms equivalent of abandoning drivers licenses,” – a frequently used but specious argument, since driving a vehicle is not a constitutional right. Bearing arms is.

Ari Frielich, Giffords Texas policy director, predicted constitutional carry would endanger both residents and cops, which also proved untrue.

**“These lawmakers may simply prefer a society that includes zero safeguards to ensure people meet basic eligibility standards and receive basic training before they can carry weapons designed to take human life into public crowds,” Frielich said in numerous media statements. “The research is clear that flooding public spaces with more hidden loaded guns in more hands makes them less safe. It turns more arguments, road rage incidents, and fistfights into shootings, more injuries into burials, and it can create a civilian arms race in communities most impacted by violence.”**

In another statement that was widely circulated, Frielich said, “This is about creating a profitable culture of fear and do-it-yourself armed security, and there is no evidence that these laws promote public safety.”

Everytown’s policy advisor, Andrew Karwoski, claimed he knew “what most people would feel” about Constitutional Carry. (Most Texans support the new law.)

“Just allowing almost anyone to carry a handgun in public, no questions asked, no background check or safety training, is really dangerous,” Karwoski said.

The Texas Municipal Police Association opposed the legislation from the start. Their executive director, Kevin Lawrence, said it will place a “tremendous burden” on police.

**“We were opposed to this bill from the very get-go,” Lawrence said in a statement. “We’ve shifted the burden to the cops on the street, and made it a lot more difficult for them.”**

Head demanding mom, Shannon Watts, blamed “extremist Republicans” for the growing national trend.

**“There are some extremist Republican legislatures that are polarized, and they have been more successful and determined really to ignore the will of their constituents,” Watts claimed in a statement to CNN.**

As usual, all of them were wrong.

### Reality check

Houston Mayor Turner is right about one aspect of the new law. Texas constitutional carry includes no government training mandates, but most people who carry a handgun seek training. Other states have shown us that. As to Texans shooting each other “due to mishandling a deadly weapon” – that’s almost laughable. It hasn’t happened and never will. There has been zero data indicating negligent discharges increase in states that have passed constitutional carry laws – it’s fearmongering from anti-gun groups and their flawed data.

The allegations that constitutional carry will make policing more difficult are also bunk. First, the leftists have proven they don’t care about policing difficulties – why else would they seek to defund police – and most cops support making it easier for law-abiding citizens to defend themselves. Their chiefs of police usually don’t, because they’re appointed by anti-gun politicians like Turner, so the chiefs parrot their boss’ anti-gun beliefs.

What the gun-banners get right is that constitutional carry cannot stop bad guys from carrying weapons illegally, but neither did the permitting system or any of the other 20,000 gun-control laws on the books in this country. No piece of paper – even one with a governor’s signature – can prevent criminals from breaking the law. After all, that’s why they’re called criminals.

The bottom line is this, all constitutional carry does is make it easier for law abiding folks to protect themselves, without having to bend a knee, pay a tax and beg the government to sell them back their constitutional rights.

Nowadays, with all of that’s going on in this country, more good people with guns is a very good thing.

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## DEFENDING OUR 2ND AMENDMENT RIGHTS – MORE IMPORTANT NOW THAN EVER

By D. Fender O’Freedom

If all your sources of news and entertainment are within the “mainstream media,” you may think that everything in our country is going along just fine, but unfortunately, the tune that they are singing is a Siren song. It is an attractive and lilting melody, intended to blind and deafen you to the reality that our Republic is in grave peril, both from without, and perhaps even more significantly, from within.

Under the not-so-subtle cover of the “COVID crisis,” the enemies of freedom, liberty and individual rights have engaged in an accelerating campaign to advance their ultimate objective of total domination and control of every aspect of

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our daily lives, both collectively and as individuals. In short, it is a march toward Totalitarianism on steroids. Every individual right which we hold dear is under relentless attack, from our freedoms of assembly, speech, and religion, to our rights to due process and even our rights to private property, basic privacy and control of our bodies, themselves. While the main attacks are coming from the left side of the political spectrum, do not be deceived. There are plenty of willing enablers and accomplices on the right side, as well.

This is not something new, nor is it limited to the United States. It started a long time ago, but it is rapidly reaching a tipping point. From the States of Emergency used to restrict our movements, our rights to assemble and associate, and our rights to earn a living, it is moving into ever more dangerous territory, especially in threatening our right to free speech.

One of the more interesting current battlegrounds is public education. Now, the Left has controlled our institutions of higher education for some time, but the inroads and the grip which they have upon our primary and secondary educational systems is now becoming frighteningly apparent. Parents, opposed to the indoctrination of their children in left-wing ideology by their schools have had the temerity to actually exercise their rights to assemble at public meetings and speak out against these policies. These parents have been told, in so many words, to shut up and sit down, and if they do not, they are domestic terrorists.

In perhaps the most egregious example, to-date, the distraught father of a 9th Grade student in a Loudon County Virginia High School was forcibly arrested, beaten and dragged out of a School Board Meeting after trying to find out why the violent rape and sodomization of his teenage daughter, in one of the school restrooms, was being swept under the rug, with the school district denying any knowledge of the heinous crime. Why was this a problem? Well, basically, it involved the fact that this school district had recently adopted a policy, over significant public opposition, which allowed students to use the restroom of the gender with which they identified, rather than that associated with their birth gender. The alleged perpetrator of this crime dressed in skirts and was exercising his right to use the girls' bathrooms under the (presumed, in this case) guise of self-identifying as a female. The issue here is not LBGQT rights; rather, a felony crime was committed, but because of the school district's concern that its publicity could call its transgender policy into question, this father's legitimate request for a redress of a valid grievance was forcibly denied.

As a result of events like this one, a powerful national school board association even got the White House and the (supposedly non-politicized) Department of Justice to threaten parents with investigation by the FBI. Now, the FBI and DOJ turned a blind eye to the activities of organizations which can legitimately be branded as "domestic terrorists" as parts of several major cities were burned and looted over the summer. "Enlightened" local District Attorneys refused to press any charges against people who clearly committed multiple, violent felonies, but, if you dare to show up at your local School

Board to voice your opposition, you are the "domestic terrorist."

So, what has any of this got to do with the Second Amendment you ask?

Well, it is part of a pattern:

1. Deny the right to peaceably assemble.
2. Deny the right to free speech.
3. Marginalize, denigrate and threaten anyone who challenges the agenda of this New Order.
4. Mandate compliance with edicts (like vaccination) or lose the right to travel or work.
5. Deny the right to due process.
6. Expand the power of the Federal Government to spy on the financial transactions of every person, without any probable cause or proper search warrant.

And the list goes on and on, which brings us to the Second Amendment. As you know, it clearly, succinctly, and simply states in its independent clause, "The Right of the People to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." This right has been under continuous assault for the past 90 years. Why? Because the power-hungry forces of the Political Elite know that it is the last bulwark which protects the other rights. The icon of Chinese Communism, Mao Tse-tung, once said, "all political power comes from the barrel of a gun." In enshrining the right to keep and bear arms as a fundamental liberty in our Constitution's Bill of Rights, our Founding Fathers clearly recognized and believed this fundamental truism almost two centuries before Mao.

More recently, Judge Alex Kozinski, while serving on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, is quoted as saying, circa 2003:

**"The simple truth – born of experience – is that tyranny thrives best where government need not fear the wrath of an armed people.**

**The prospect of tyranny may not grab the headlines the way vivid stories of gun crime routinely do, but few saw the Third Reich coming until it was too late. The Second Amendment is a doomsday provision, one designed for those exceptionally rare circumstances where all other rights have failed – where the government refuses to stand for reelection and silences those who protest; where courts have lost the courage to oppose or can find no one to enforce their decrees. However improbable these contingencies may seem today, facing them unprepared is a mistake a free people get to make only once."**

I am deeply afraid that the "contingencies," which Judge Kozinski said "seemed improbable" a scant two decades ago, are increasingly becoming our current reality. Government actions, and subsequent reactions to events, prove this more and more, every day. So, friends and fellow cherishers of freedom, it is more important than ever that you defend all of



your rights, but especially those protected by the Second Amendment, as a hedge against the doomsday scenario foreshadowed by Judge Kozinski. Because, if you listen carefully, you can hear that the clock is ticking...

such as, working, going to school or being a mediator in potentially violent situations.

Payments are made in the form of gift cards and will be monitored, the San Francisco Examiner reported.

**"As you become better, your community benefits from that," Davis said.**

Mayor London Breed previously spoke approvingly of the idea as one that could cut down on violence in the city.

**"My desire is to get to them, not to just make an arrest, but to get to them and to try and figure out if they would be willing to work with us on something that is an alternative," Breed said at a Violence Prevention Summit hosted by the Human Rights Commission in August. "We can't just put them in a program without making sure that they have money, without making sure that they have something to take care of themselves."**

Shootings have spiked in the city this year, with 119 recorded gun crime victims in the first half of the year, which is double the number during the same timeframe in 2020.

The program follows a similar one in Richmond, California, which was dubbed "cash for criminals" by the media after gun crimes increased. A 2019 study credited the program with helping reduce gun homicides in the city by 55%.

Critics of the program have pointed out that similar initiatives haven't been very successful, with the Washington Examiner's David Freddoso saying in a Wednesday op-ed, "It was also tried in Sacramento, where its promoters boast that 'only' 44% of participants were subsequently arrested on new charges — well, as long as you don't count about one-third of the participants who dropped out or were arrested in its first six months. (D'oh!)"

**"Violent criminals need jail. They do not need cash. People who shoot other people need to be walled off in prisons and kept away from the rest of us," he added.**

The move comes as California also works to become the first state to pay drug addicts a few hundred dollars to stay sober.

Gov. Gavin Newsom asked the federal government last week for permission to use tax dollars to pay for the program through Medicaid. Meanwhile, a similar proposal is also working through California's Legislature, with the state Senate already passing the bill.

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## San Francisco will pay people to not shoot others:

### 'Cash for criminals'

By: Emma Colton/Fox News

Submitted By: Vickie Prickett

<https://www.foxnews.com/us/san-francisco-pay-people-not-shoot-gun-crimes>



San Francisco is rolling out a pilot program that will pay high-risk individuals to not shoot anyone as gun crimes tick up in the city.

**"These small investments can transform the lives of individuals, but they can also transform communities," Sheryl Davis, executive director of the Human Rights Commission, told Newsweek.**

**The Dream Keeper Fellowship will pay 10 individuals who are at high risk of being on either end of a shooting \$300 each month to not be involved in such crimes.**

The fellowship is being rolled out by the Human Rights Commission and Office of Economic and Workforce Development and is funded through the Dream Keeper Initiative, which is San Francisco's program that works to redirect funding into the Black community. It will launch in October.

**"It's not necessarily as cut and dry as folks may think. It's not as transactional as, 'Here's a few dollars so that you don't do something bad,' but it really is about how you help us improve public safety in the neighborhood," Davis added.**

Participants of the program will be paired with life coaches from the city's Street Violence Intervention Program and will serve as "community ambassadors." Participants are also eligible to receive an additional \$200 per month through ways

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## Have You Considered The NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund?

**By: John C. Sigler  
NRA Past President**

*This column is based upon an article I first authored for the NRA official journals when I was NRA president. The times have changed and so have some of the words, but the message remains as timely today it was back then. So, if some of this appears to be somewhat familiar to you, that's because you may have read these words from me before – please read them again.*

When considering the constant threat to our constitutionally-guaranteed, God-given right to keep and bear arms, most of us think in terms of political threats rather than threats coming from judges and lawyers in courtrooms and judicial decisions. Likewise, when we focus on political threats we tend to think of supporting ILA and the NRA Political Victory Fund at the national level and DSSA and the Delaware Foundation for Legislative action here at the local level - as we should.

By the time you read this, it is likely that the U.S. Supreme Court will have heard oral arguments in *New York State Rifle and Pistol Association v. New York*- the New York right to carry case. At this writing, however, the Supreme Court has not yet spoken. But regardless of how the Court rules, you may rest assured that lawyers and judges will have their say about our rights for generations to come – and we must be prepared.

It is for that reason that I urge you, in the strongest possible terms, to momentarily shift your focus to the NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund and to join me in providing the financial ammunition it needs to continue fighting for our Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

Indeed, even a so-called "win" for our side won't mean this fight is over. On the contrary, since the *Heller* case, this is the first case to fully and directly address the Second Amendment, and it is merely the opening salvo in a renewed and ongoing war.

The NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that provides legal and financial assistance to individuals and groups striving to defend your human, civil and constitutional Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

*1. The NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund fights, and wins, decisive legal battles to establish important case law and legal precedent that can stand for generations.*

For example, in addition to assisting in the *Heller* Washington, D.C. gun-ban case, The Fund supported the precedent-setting case of *United States v. Emerson*, in which the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals wrote that the Second Amendment guarantees an individual right to keep and bear

arms. The Fund also supported gun owners' rights in *Printz v. United States*, where the U.S. Supreme Court struck down unconstitutional portions of the Brady Law.

*2. The NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund assists with scores of cases every year ... but the need is much greater.*

The Fund has supported hundreds of cases over the past 30 years, averaging approximately 60 active cases at a time. In just the two year period from 2006 to 2008, the Fund considered 299 applications for help, with monetary requests totaling nearly \$6.4 million. But it could only approve 123 applications and award grants totaling just over \$1.3 million – a mere fraction of the total needed. From 1994 to 2005, the Fund reviewed over 1,000 requests for assistance but could only assist in 559 of those cases, awarding approximately \$5.6 million in grants – but much more was needed - and the demand is growing!

*3. The Civil Rights Defense Fund actively wages legal action in defense of your Second Amendment rights.*

For example, the Fund combats the unlawful seizure of firearms by officials who violate of the Constitution – such as we saw in New Orleans after hurricane Katrina.

The Fund also supports cases to protect the right of self-defense, defends the freedom to hunt, and brings civil actions against officials who violate the rights of the very citizens they have sworn to protect.

*4. The NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund underwrites constitutional research and scholarly work that changes the entire debate.*

In addition to legal and financial assistance, the Fund also sponsors important constitutional research and legal education through grants, scholarships, law student writing contests, distribution of books to libraries, and more.

These efforts have brought increased academic attention to the right to keep and bear arms and our Second Amendment, including analysis and discussion in important legal journals, college curricula and popular culture, plus an increased constitutional awareness among today's students as they become tomorrow's legal and political leaders.

In fact, if not for the groundbreaking research that the NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund made possible, the "individual-rights view" of the Second Amendment would never have emerged as the "standard model" that scholars and Supreme Court Justices speak of today.

*5. The NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund has helped us score major wins right here in Delaware.*

By now almost every Firearms Freedom Activist in Delaware knows all about the landmark case known as *Doe v. Wilmington Housing Authority*, the case that struck down the

ban on private ownership of firearms in public housing and, for the first time, established the true meaning of our own constitution's Bill of Rights Article I Section 20. But did you know that both the NRA ILA and the NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund helped to finance that big win?

And did you know that that the NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund helped us to win three other landmark cases right here in Delaware? Well, it did – and without the help of the NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund, none of those big wins would have been possible and your right to keep and bear arms in Delaware would be far different and far more restrictive than it is. Without those wins, we would look a lot more like New Jersey, California and New York.

With Joe Biden in the White House, Pelosi and Schumer in Congress, and Delaware's own brand of "Progressive Socialists" and totalitarian gun-grabbers running things in Dover, you know the lawsuits are coming, and the NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund will be busy - and so will DSSA. Now is the time to act!

There are many ways you can support the NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund, and many ways you can support DSSA. Lawsuits are expensive; very, very expensive – but you can help.

You can help prepare for the legal battles you know are coming by doing two things:

1. Make a generous contribution to the NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund, earmarking your tax-exempt gift for exclusive use in Delaware litigation.
2. Make a second generous gift to DSSA's own Civil Rights Defense Fund – unfortunately this gift won't be tax exempt, but it will be used right here in Delaware to fight for your right to keep and bear arms.

Both of those things are important - please do your best for the cause of Firearm Freedom in Delaware – Now is the time - do it today!

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## Springfield's New SA-35: Iconic Design with a Modern Flair

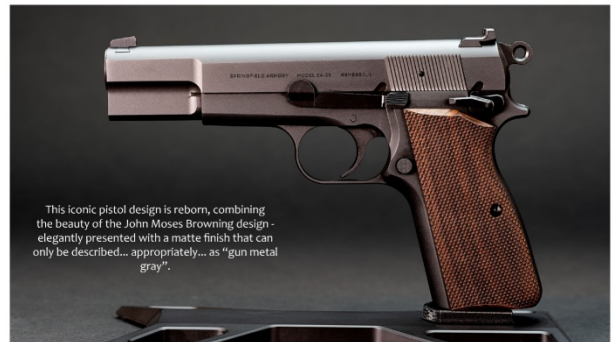
By: Justin Opinion

[As published by GunsAmerica, October 25, 2021]



In 1935 the handgun that John Moses Browning designed for yet another military request went into production – although Browning himself didn't live to see it finished. That gun would go on to become an iconic firearm. That gun was initially manufactured by FN, and later by Browning, and it has had several model names, such as the P-35. But most of us know it as the Browning Hi-Power. Now extinct, those wanting one have to take their chances – and their checkbook – to the used market.

While there is no substitute for a vintage classic, this author is betting that there are many firearm enthusiasts who would love to have a brand-new, modern version of this iconic design that they can appreciate as a tangible reminder of bygone elegance, and also as a range toy, or even the home defense gun. Heck, while we're at it – it is small enough to be your EDC! Let's face it, when John Browning put pencil to paper – magic happened. Best of all, the beloved design that most had sadly assumed extinct has risen from the ashes as the new Springfield Armory SA-35 – and it is something to cheer about!



This iconic pistol design is reborn, combining the beauty of the John Moses Browning design - elegantly presented with a matte finish that can only be described... appropriately... as "gun metal gray".

I think many of us presumed that somewhere, someday, someone would revive the classic Browning handgun, most assumed it would take the form of an offshore reproduction with both quality and pedigree perhaps in question. When this sample arrived for testing and review, I was already excited that a stoic American company was making it – and even better that it be Springfield Armory, who is well known for making superb 1911's. In fact, despite its enormous catalog of modern polymer framed, striker fired handguns – it is the perhaps the model 1911 for which Springfield remains famous. Having established itself as the go-to manufacturer for a high-quality, high-reliability classic handgun at a blue-collar price – the prospect of a production of "Browning's other handgun" is a sweet one, indeed!

My first impression when removing the SA-35 from its black nylon pouch was the beauty of the finish. The gun has been completed in a matte bluing that makes it look like it could have come from a time capsule. Solidifying that aesthetic is a pair of checkered wood grips that are done in the fashion of mid-century workmanship, with checkering that goes edge to edge except for the very top and bottom where they are nicely smoothed. The single grip screw nicely matches the finish of the gun – one of many examples of attention to detail.





Springfield indicated that it was a firm requirement to manufacture the SA-35 frames and slides from forgings – just as they do with their 1911s. This provides a strength and durability that will last.

And while the original design elements of the gun have been reverently observed, this is by no mistake a modern shooter. Some of the modernizations to the gun include:

- ✓ A modernized thumb safety that is more shooter friendly and fits today's aesthetics.
- ✓ Updated sights that present a modern sight picture without looking out of place.
- ✓ Changes made to the geometry of the hammer to prevent "hammer bite".
- ✓ Hammer forged barrel.
- ✓ An improved trigger than has a targeted max pull weight of 5.5 lbs.
- ✓ Tweaks to the feeding system to reliably handle modern defensive ammunition.

Simultaneously, Springfield was dedicated to staying true and authentic to the original styling of the handgun. Some internal changes were made as well, such as tweaking the barrel lug for a better blend to the frame.



Springfield tells me that the team strove to maintain as much interchangeability of parts as possible, while reducing tolerances and tweaking the gun for a more precise fitment, when compared to the original. I was pleased to hear that it was a specific goal to retain compatibility with aftermarket grip panels. As beautiful as the wood stocks are on the gun, it can be fun to change them for an easy statement of personality.

Other small details that the user can appreciate include beveling of the magazine well – bringing a modern touch and increasing user functionality. And speaking of user

functionality and general happiness – there is no magazine disconnect safety in this pistol.

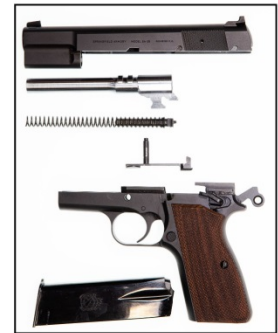
The SA-35 comes with a single 15-round magazine of Italian manufacture. It does not bear the name Mec-Gar, but I presume that is the OEM provider. The magazine is completely modern, but does not look a bit out of place with the gun. The purist may wish for a metal follower, but the black polymer one it has seems just fine to me, and is almost certainly more reliable.

Bringing the 85+ year old John Moses Browning design to the 2022 handgun market was no small feat. Springfield indicates that a great deal of engineering went into the creation of the new Model SA-35, for the purpose of modernizing the gun while remaining true to its design and heritage.

Parts interchangeability was a high priority, and although Springfield has improved many tolerances for a better gun - most parts remain compatible.

The barrels are hammer forged, and much time was taken on the integral barrel lug to make the exterior outline of it blend aesthetically with the frame.

Care was taken to ensure that existing aftermarket grips would be a fit to the frame contour. The author loves to personalize handguns with custom grips - as do many owners. This small detail will be appreciated by shooters and manufacturers alike.



The SA-35 is relatively small in most dimensions, and fits nicely into a smaller hand. The ergonomics are very nice – not unlike the 1911 (no surprise here), and the gun manages the recoil of the modern 9mm cartridge nicely.

### SHOOTING THE SA-35

Putting rounds downrange with the SA-35 was a joy. The ergonomics of the pistol seem frozen in time – hard to beat with even the most recently designed modern gun. Those with smaller hands will appreciate the shallow depth of the grip, which makes it feel thin despite the double-stacked magazine contained within.



Unchanged by time, the controls are all well within the operator's reach, and can be manipulated without altering the grip by most adult hands. Serrations on the slide are a sharply cut sawtooth pattern, in the traditional form – and are highly effective. The slide catch is easily within reach and functions easily to either lock or unlock the slide. The round hammer spur has nice grooves that make it easy to cock the gun with the strong hand thumb when necessary. The magazine release is of the traditional size and placement, and is not too stiff. Lastly, the manual thumb safety has been modernized by adding width and giving it a modern dogleg bend and 'shelf'



design. It feels and functions much like an up-market 1911 safety.



Among the subtle but appreciated changes made by Springfield, is a “no-bite” hammer spur geometry. Without increasing the size or shape of the beavertail, they were able to keep the hammer from biting the hand that feeds it. Also visible above, the thumb safety has been widened and given a modern angle and feel. It clicks on and off with just the right amount of resistance.

When you raise the gun to your eye to find the target, you appreciate the modern sights. The front sight is a standard blade containing a white dot, while the rear sight is all black with horizontal serrations to reduce glare and Springfield’s U-notch. Finding your target and maintaining a good sight picture is easy to do.

The rear sight is a modern sight that extends fully to the rear of the slide to increase sight radius. It is a blackout sight with anti-glare serrations and Springfield’s signature U-notch. It is drift adjustable for windage, with a set screw to keep it where you want it.



The front sight is a standard white dot, set into a dovetail. Together, they offer a nice sight picture.

Recoil is well managed by the SA-35, due in part to the recoil spring, and in part to the all-steel construction that balances the weight. Banging 6-inch steel targets from 15 yards was easily done. I also rested the pistol and put four groups (five shots each) on paper at 25 yards. Yours truly, being the weak link in the chain, produced a flyer or three in the process – but when I look at the “best three” results (which I do to help eliminate my errors) the SA-35 performed well. It was particularly fond of the SIG Sauer Elite Performance V-Crown 124 grain ammo.

25 Yard Results - Rested Springfield Armory SA-35			
Ammunition Brand	Ammunition Type	5-Shot Group (inches)	3-Shot Group (inches)
Magtech	115 gr. FMJ	3.963	1.956
Sig Sauer Elite Performance	124 gr. V-Crown	3.600	0.610
Federal American Eagle	124 gr. FMJ	3.442	1.117
Hornady Critical Duty	135 gr. FlexLock	3.583	1.512
Averages		3.647	1.299

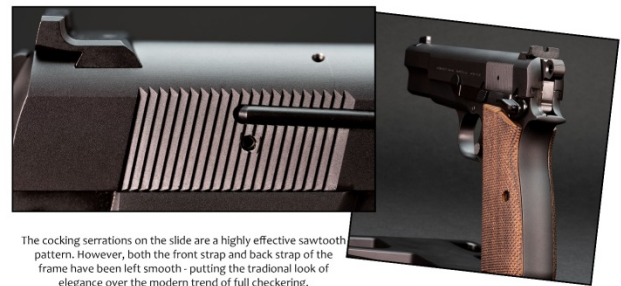
\* Rested on a CTK Precision handgun rest. Five shots of each ammunition type, with the best three indicated.



The author found shooting the SA-35 to be a joy. Not only does the gun feed every type of ammo without malfunction, it manages the recoil nicely - due to a good recoil spring and ergonomics that allow the user to maintain a high grip.

A trigger with a smooth grit-free pull and light crisp break lets you put 'em down range quickly and accurately.

What is significant about this is not only the accuracy of wide-mouth hollow point ammo – but the reliability of it. I shot a few types of hollow points during testing, as well as varying bullet weights, and the gun never even hinted at jamming. Springfield says that some geometry has been tweaked to accommodate modern defense ammo (aka hollow points), and my experience with the gun bears that out.



The cocking serrations on the slide are a highly effective sawtooth pattern. However, both the front strap and back strap of the frame have been left smooth - putting the traditional look of elegance over the modern trend of full checkering.

### JUST MY OPINION

Going after a legendary pistol design like this one from John Moses himself is a precarious path to tread, and I applaud the folks in Geneseo, IL for stepping into their trail shoes. There will be purists who nay-say some of the modernizations to the gun, and perhaps others will feel it was not modernized enough. I find it to be nearly a Goldilocks blend of vintage design being faithfully respected while being interpreted as a modern shooter.



The trigger on the test sample averaged 5 lbs. 1 oz. of trigger weight.

The single-action trigger of the SA-35 is very nice. After a short smooth takeup, there is a crisp break with no perceivable overtravel. Reset is a bit long, but equally smooth with decent tactile feedback.

And in the end, I believe that is the purpose of the SA-35. Owners of vintage pistols are not likely to want to use them as range toys – which will become truer as more time goes by. But even a fussy collector might like a near-perfect copy of that design to take to the range and do mag dumps, or simply enjoy and share the love of the design with young family members, etc. Priced as low as many common polymer framed, striker

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fired handguns – this is a taste of an elegant handgun design that can be a range toy, home defense, or concealed carry. If you can stop admiring the simple beauty, accented by a fantastic factory finish – it's a shooter!

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## **NRA instructor trains thousands of inner city women 'to ensure they're never victims'**

**By: Emma Colton/Fox News**

**Submitted By: Vickie Prickett**

<https://www.foxnews.com/us/nra-training-thousands-minority-women-second-amendment>



An NRA instructor described as "the Left's worst nightmare" helped train thousands of minority women from Detroit on how to safely protect themselves with guns "to ensure they're never victims."

"The left thinks the Second Amendment wasn't made for people who look like us. They said the same thing during the Jim Crow era too," NRA instructor Rick Ector, who is black, said in a video published by the NRA on Thursday morning.

Ector held a two-day annual event at the end of August where he helped train 4,000 minority women from inner city Detroit on gun safety and use, explaining that Americans deserve to use their Second Amendment rights to protect themselves as gun crimes continue to increase.

"If simply taking guns out of the hands of law-abiding citizens was the answer, Detroit would be the safest place on earth. Instead, it's seen a 53% increase in shootings in 2020 alone," Ector said. "In fact, last weekend, I've trained 4,000 lovely women to ensure they're never victims. And this isn't about politics for me — it's about common sense."

Detroit was among cities across the nation last year that saw a sharp increase in shootings, with Motor City notching a 19% increase in homicides in 2020 over 2019, and a 53% increase in nonfatal shootings.

"There's a wave of criminal violence sweeping across all big cities in America, fueled by politicians hell-bent on dismantling the police, releasing criminals onto the streets, and failing to enforce the gun laws on the books. Instead of protecting their constituents, these politicians continue to push their extreme gun control agenda," NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre told Fox News.

"Law-abiding Americans are going out in droves arming themselves and getting trained because they know a gun is the best way to protect themselves and their loved ones."

The women of Detroit who Ector trained echoed LaPierre's comments, expressing they are grateful for the courses amid the increase in gun crimes.

"In Detroit, yeah, the crime is increasing and you know, we just need something to protect ourselves," one woman who Ector trained said in the video.

Another woman added: "I just moved out so I'm kind of living on my own, and I sometimes work nights, and I be out at night. No one wants to walk alone at night and feel unprotected. Especially in this society and what happens today."

"Our focus is to push our message out across America to all law-abiding citizens that firearms education and safety are important no matter where you are or who you are," the NRA's second vice president, Retired Lt. Col. Willes K. Lee, added of the two-day event.

As for Ector, he said that after being "brainwashed" that gun ownership was "bad," he one day found himself being robbed at gunpoint in his own driveway. He was able to get the suspects to flee by telling them a "whopping lie" that he had a house full of guns and trained gun users.

"They fled," Hector said. "On that day, I made a promise to myself that I would never look down the barrel or be defenseless ever again, and I would use my experience to help others."

"Rick is the embodiment of the NRA's spirit of volunteerism that prevails among our millions of members. For years, he has led a crucial and substantive effort to help make Detroit a safer place. We are proud to have Rick as an NRA member, instructor, and member of our Outreach Committee," LaPierre added in his statement.

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## **Bridgeville Rifle and Pistol Club Highpower Report**

**By: Frank Nedza**

**September 25-26 Long-Range Match;** I am always a little bit sad to see the end of September matches roll into view. Not because it is unpleasant to shoot in the beautiful fall temperatures, not because the winds tend to increase, but because we are coming to the end of match season here in the Mid-Atlantic region, and with that end comes the last opportunities to spend time with good friends on the firing line. That said, our end of September long-range match attracted 33 of my friends to our range –we had a total of 33 shooters over the weekend, with a fairly even split of 15 sling shooters and 18 F-Class folks.

On the F-Class side, Joe Spina took the F-Class (Open) win with a very nice 1180-43X, narrowly missing the overall match win (1180-46X set by Jon Howell, a sling shooter). Great shooting Joe!! Backing Joe up was George VanWhy, with a nice 1175-49X! In the Master/Expert/Sharpshooter category, Paul Duret turned in a nice 1151-23X, followed by

Jack Neith at 1139-29X. Good shooting gents! In F-T/R, Chris Fairbanks turned in a solid 1150-29X for the class win.

On the sling side, Jon Howell took the overall match win in Any Rifle class, posting a really nice 1180-46X. Also in Any rifle was Mark Trew, with a nice 1174-47X. In the Palma Rifle category, Joe Wawrzaszek put up a nice 1178-40X (with iron sights) for the category win (Better watch out Jon!). He was followed closely by Tom Snodgrass, who posted a nice 1173-47X. I think that a good time was had by all.

**October 9-10 Long-Range Match;** In a switch up from our 'normal' schedule, we had more-or-less back to back long range matches, which was nice, as our long-range experiences of the match before were more at top of mind. We again had fairly cooperative weather for the event (I love Fall). We ended up with a total of 27 shooters for the event, with again, pretty even split of 14 sling shooters and 13 F-Class shooters.

On the sling side, Joe Fogg took the overall match win, shooting a really nice 1182-42X (with IRON SIGHTS). Nice shooting Joe! He was closely followed by Tom Snodgrass (my second favorite Marine) with a nice 1176-47X. Over in Master Class, Madonna Nedza posted a nice 1164-38X with her 6XC. This was her last-ever match as a Master, and she will be shooting as a High Master in both Mid-Range and Long-Range going forward. Well done, Kiddo!

On the F-Class (open) side of the range, Matt Basalla took the Category win, with a very good 1177-56X (that's a lotta X's!). Well done Matt! In the Master/Expert class, Bill Holden took the class win, posting a nice 1173-49X (also a lotta X's!). He was closely followed by Joe Spina, posting a nice 1172-46X. This was our last long-range match of the season, but we plan a full slate of long distance shooting for the 2022 season, so stay tuned.

**October 23-24 XTC and Mid-Range Matches;** Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> was our last Across the Course (XTC) match of the season. Attendance was a less-than-I-had-hoped-for eight shooters, but I think everyone had fun. I know Jeff Browning sure did! After he got off his feet (shooting a very nice 196-4X), he didn't drop a single point for the rest of the weekend!!! He shot SEVEN consecutive clean matches, including;

Seated Rapid fire	200-10X	200 yards
Prone Rapid Fire	200-10X	300 yards
Prone Slow Fire (XTC)	200=18X	600 Yards
Prone Slow Fire (XTC)	200-12X	600 Yards
Prone Slow Fire (Mid-R)	200-12X	600 Yards
Prone Slow Fire (Mid-R)	200-12X	600 Yards
Prone Slow Fire (Mid-R)	200-17X	600 Yards

All this with a bolt-action rifle, chambered in 6BR (especially noteworthy for the rapid-fire stages). That is some pretty fine shooting, I don't care who you are. Well done Jeff! Anyway, back the XTC portion of our report, Jeff was followed

by Ron Siliani, who fired a nice 987-44X. In the Master Class, Chris Moriarty fired a nice High Master level score of 973-37X (also with a bolt gun in the rapid-fire stages). I expect he will be moving up to High Master soon.

In Sunday's Mid-Range match, Bill Holden took the F-Open win, with a nice 600-34X. Nice shooting Bill! He was closely followed by Anthony Witheridge at 598-44X. In F-T/R, Ramsey Abid took the Category win, with nice 599-30X. Ramsey was closely followed by F-T/R 'newby' Dave Kokoszka at 596-31X. In the Master class, Frank Lawrence and Patrick Cook were the top shooters in F-Open and F-T/R, respectively, shooting 583-19X and 570-11X.

On the sling side of the range, Any Rifle shooter Jeff Browning was the Overall match winner, with his 600-41X clean day. He wasn't the only clean shooter though, as Joe Wawrzaszek, Rich Kussman, and Jim Cronin also posted 600 point scores, with the tie broken only by X-count. Jeff B; 41X, Joe W; 40X, Rich K; 39X, Jim C; 37X. Things are certainly tight at the top, aren't they! Outstanding shooting gents! (this includes you too, Bill).

In Palma rifle category, Jon Howell posted a nice 599-42X, using a .223 Remington (with Iron Sights). The 'Mighty' .223 is certainly showing what it can do with the new heavy bullets, and more than a few shooters are noticing that fact. Anyway, Jon was closely followed by Tom Snodgrass, who posted a nice 597-28X.

On a separate, but interesting note, the HEXta targets that Bridgeville Rifle and Pistol Club uses have amassed a total of **221,070** shots on them since we started with them in June of 2017. That's a 'hole' lotta shots!

Our final match of the season will November 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> when we will be shooting an all 600 yard Fullbore Match. Come on out and shoot with us!

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## Return of An Old Friend

By: Curtis Clements

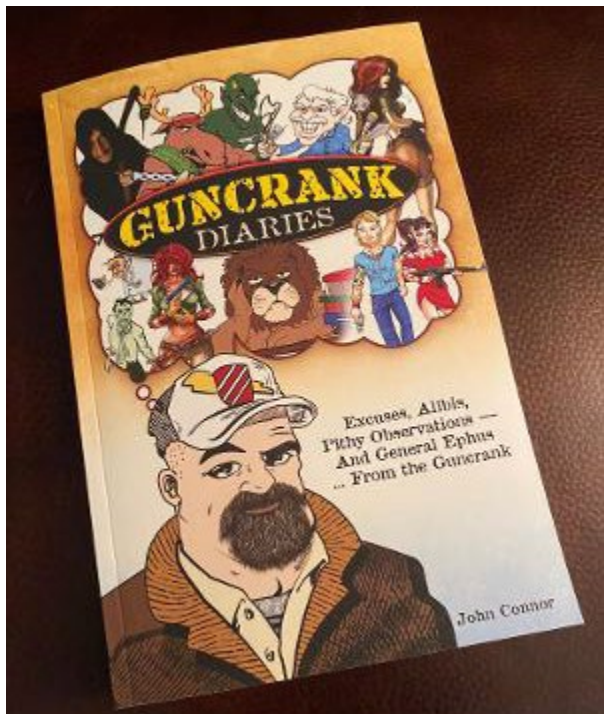
As a firearms collector and enthusiast (a.k.a. "a gun nut"), I subscribe to more periodicals in the gun-related publishing space than I can typically find the time to read, month to month. Nevertheless, over the years, I have developed preferences for the contributions of certain writers, and I have always looked forward to reading their articles each time a new magazine shows up in my mail box.

If you are a long-time reader of American Handgunner, you will recognize the name John Connor (not to be confused with the character of the same name in The Terminator movie franchise!). For many years, John wrote a regular column called The Guncrank Diaries.

His musings were wide-ranging, frequently enlightening, typically thought-provoking and always entertaining. Erudite in his own way, I would characterize many of them as being more plain-spoken versions of the same kinds of published

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observations of the late, great Col. Jeff Cooper. Since I almost always turned to his column as soon as I opened the magazine, you can imagine that I was saddened when he announced that he would no longer be writing the column. Recently, however, my sense of loss was assuaged somewhat – I discovered that the complete collection of his columns was now available in book form! You can find it on Amazon at a very reasonable price!! So, if you miss the Guncrank Diaries, I suggest you check out this book. Most of his columns are worthy of reading and re-reading, time and again, making this volume a worthwhile “occupier of space” on my over-crowded bookshelves!!



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

**Please send your article or special event to:**

**Roger T. Boyce**  
**Vice President**  
**DSSA**

[Roger.boyce@dssa.us](mailto:Roger.boyce@dssa.us)





# Sporting Clay Tournament

**Sunday, November 21, 2021**

at **Owen's Station**

12613 Hunters Cove Rd, Greenwood, DE

Registration **8:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

Shooting **9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

(Must be on the course by 11:30)



**\$75.00** per shooter

**Includes lunch**

Main event: **50 Targets/10 Stations**

**Awards:** 3 classes-3 deep

Ladies & Youth

**Cash Prizes: \$400, \$200, \$100**

**Side games:**

5 stand

Long bird

Rabbit



**Sponsorships available**

For more information call Jim @ (302) 363-3414



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Sponsorship Opportunities  
Sunday, November 21, 2021  
Owens Station**

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- Organization listed on DSSA Website

**Corporate Sponsor - \$300.00**

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- Acknowledgement on Welcome Banner
- 2 Entries to Shoot at Event

**Title Sponsor - \$500.00**

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- Sign placed at 1 of 10 Shooting Stations
- Organization listed on DSSA Website
- Organization listed at the heading of Welcome Banner
- 4 Entries to Shoot at Event



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