



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

**Visit us on the web: [DSSA.us](http://DSSA.us)  
P.O. Box 94, Lincoln, DE 19960**

## **SENATOR BONINI FILES "GUN OWNERS' BILL OF RIGHTS"**

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

At long last, Delawareans may finally enjoy the benefits of their very own "Gun Owners' Bill of Rights". For years your DSSA leadership, our late Past President John J. Thompson, myself, Jeff Hague and others, have been searching for the right time and the right sponsor to introduce a "Gun Owners' Bill of Rights" for the People of the State of Delaware – at long last, it has finally happened.

On, Thursday, May 11, 2022, Senator Colin Bonini (R) of Dover's 16th Senate District filed Senate Bill 266, titled "The Gun Owners' Bill of Rights". Joining Senator Bonini as co-sponsors are Senators Ennis, Lawson, Hocker, and Pettyjohn.

Over the years we have seen, primarily in other jurisdictions but sometimes here in Delaware, instances where the rights of businesses relating to hunting and the shooting sports, and individual law-abiding gun owners were made victims of economic discrimination based solely upon their status as gun owners, as owners of gun related businesses, or because of their memberships in clubs and organizations that support the shooting sports such as DSSA and the NRA, among others.

We have seen banks refuse to lend money and extend credit to gun shops, shooting ranges, firearms manufacturers, gunsmiths and gun clubs because of their lawful exercise of their fundamental right to keep and bear arms.

We have seen restaurants and hotels refuse food and lodging to hunters and competitive shooters traveling to and from their respective jurisdictions solely because of their lawful exercise of their fundamental right to keep and bear arms.

We have seen insurance companies refuse to insure gun clubs, ranges, gun shops, other retailers and hunting clubs because of their exercise of and support for the right to keep and bear arms for lawful purposes.

And, most sadly of all, we have seen businesses of all sorts discriminate against individual law-abiding citizens solely because of their membership in gun clubs, hunting clubs and other organizations that lawfully support the right to keep and bear arms for lawful purposes.

When we view this long list of terrible injustices, we of course think of what former Governor Cuomo did in New York, and pray that such things never happen again, especially here in Delaware.

All of these various forms of economic discrimination are detrimental to Delaware's economic system and to the American promise of "Liberty and Justice for All", and the sacred promise of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Discrimination in any form is unacceptable and inherently deplorable. Discrimination because of a person's exercise of fundamental rights protected by the First and Second Amendments and the Delaware Bill of Rights is totally unacceptable, and must be prevented whenever and however possible.

Senator Bonini's Gun Owners' Bill of Rights, Senate Bill 266, is specifically designed to address these very important issues, and to put an end to this most invidious form of economic discrimination.

For years we have been searching for the right sponsor willing to go where others have feared to tread. Senator Bonini has enthusiastically accepted that challenge and has wholeheartedly expressed his willingness and desire to fight for our rights and to stamp out this most invidious form of economic discrimination.

Now it is up to each of us to do our part – to reach out to each of our respective Senators and Representatives and to ask them to stand with Senator Bonini as he fights to protect our rights, to vote "Yes" to end this most invidious form of discrimination by voting "Yes" for Senate Bill 266.

Act now. Let your voice be heard!

And don't forget to say "Thank You" to Senator Bonini and the other Senate co-sponsors for bringing this much needed and very important legislation.

---

## HOW THE ALVES FAMILY BECAME ACTIVE IN COMPETITIVE SHOOTING AND THE HISTORY OF THE GEORGE ALVES MEMORIAL TROPHY

By: Ann Alves



As a young boy in California, George was responsible for keeping varmints out of the chicken houses on his parent's farm. As a 6 year old he had a small .22 rifle to shoot the varmints. During WWII he was stationed at a ballistics lab at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. Fast forward to the late 1960's when George's son, Warren, wanted a BB gun like many of his friends in the neighborhood shot. George did not believe BB guns were safe because there was no way to determine if all of the BBs had been removed, but did want his son to learn to shoot safely. George, who worked for DuPont, enrolled Warren in the DuPont Fish and Game Junior Rifle Club which was located at the DuPont Louviers site in Newark. The Club had several NRA qualified instructors and equipment available to juniors to borrow while at the range. Warren excelled and soon went to matches and won medals and trophies. Little sister, Ann, was quite jealous of his sparkling and shiny awards so she wanted to learn to shoot. Ann started shooting when she was 11 and soon followed Warren to matches. In the 1970's, .177 air rifle shooting, which was becoming a big sport in parts of Europe, was introduced in the United States; and NRA began offering air rifle/pistol events. It was discovered that .177 air guns were illegal in DE. George and others in the DuPont JRC were instrumental in getting the law changed to allow .177 air guns. Warren and Ann both shot competitively while in college. George was an active volunteer with DuPont Junior Rifle Club from the late 1960's to 2006 and a Certified NRA Instructor.

In the early to mid 1980's, George volunteered for a group of students from the John Dickinson H.S. one day a week during the school year, teaching them 4-position small bore rifle at the Louviers range. George also was a volunteer Daisy Air Gun Regional Consultant, assisted in running Junior matches in a 5-state area, and chaperoned area Juniors to Arkansas each year for the National Championship Matches.

George volunteered at several National Hunting and Fishing Days, Family Day in Dagsboro, and various club open houses in neighboring states promoting gun safety and competitive rifle and pistol shooting sports. When George was 75 he began shooting sporting clays at Ommelanden Range in New Castle and volunteered with a Junior Club there as well.

For 31 years George traveled to Camp Perry, Ohio, for the NRA National Rifle Championships, an 8-day fully outdoor event with hundreds of competitors. He volunteered at the Nationals for many years after his own children no longer competed in smallbore rifle. For the last 18 of his volunteer years, his wife, Marguerite, joined him scoring targets and recording scores. This was long before the days of personal computers! George's 31 volunteer years at the NRA National Matches was a record, which included the pistol and high power phases. His record stood for many years.

Over the decades, George was an ardent supporter of the 2nd Amendment and often called or wrote letters to various politicians to voice his opinion and to urge them to support American Constitutional rights.

In 2004, George was awarded the NRA Member of the Year award at the Annual Meeting in Pittsburg. The entire family attended the Meeting and left with many happy memories of the weekend.

When George passed away in 2007, John Sigler quickly offered to begin the process of obtaining funding for the creation of the George Alves Memorial Trophy, which would be awarded to a Junior shooter at the NRA Nationals during the iron sight 3-position rifle phase. Tom King, an NRA BOD member and President of NYSRPA, offered a large antique silver trophy that had been in storage for many years. To say it needed some repair would be an understatement! George always seemed to fix anything and recycled items long before it was as popular as today. So, refurbishing and 'recycling' a trophy to honor him was a perfect solution. Bob Blatchley, a smallbore rifle prone shooter from New Jersey created the lovely wooden base. Except for a small photo that was emailed after the repair/refurbishing, we did not see the trophy until Marguerite and Ann flew to Louisville for the 2008 NRA Annual Members Meeting and Board meeting where the trophy was officially presented to NRA and accepted by the Board. We were extremely impressed and grateful when we saw the trophy up close! The names of the original winners and dates at the turn of the 20th century remain engraved on the large bowl, and the base has brass plaques for many future winners in the 21st Century. Marguerite and Ann traveled to Camp Perry in 2008 & 2009, for the initial awarding of the trophy and also volunteered. George's trophy was by far the largest among the many other antique and newer trophies that NRA awards during the Rifle National Championships. All trophy winners at the National Championships receive a plaque with a laminated black & white photo of the trophy. Marguerite completed 20 years of volunteering at Camp Perry, and Ann continued for a few more years. Later the Nationals were relocated to another location further away so Ann stopped volunteering at the Nationals.

---

The Alves family is appreciative of the efforts by John Sigler and DSSA to recognize and honor George with this distinctive and historical trophy.

---

## ARTICLE I § 20 - A 'NEW' PERSPECTIVE

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

By now, almost everyone reading this column can probably recite from memory the words from Article I Section 20 of the Delaware Constitution – but just to be sure, let's look at it together, one more time:

**“A person has the right to keep and bear arms for defense of self, family, home and State, and for hunting, and recreation.”**

For years we have viewed these few words as primarily protecting the right of self-defense. The United States Supreme Court, in its famous Heller and MacDonald decisions, focused on the right of self-defense when analyzing the Second Amendment, as did the Delaware Supreme Court in their Doe and Bridgeville decisions when analyzing Art. I Sec. 20.

And, of course, since those decisions, Delawareans have found that at times the protections contained in Art. I § 20 addressing hunting and recreation have a home in Delaware's jurisprudence, on both a practical level and a theoretical level.

And now comes Vladimir Putin – also known by some as “Vlad the Invader” - and the Russian Army ravaging the Ukraine, and the Ukrainian President distributing fully-automatic AK-47s (real assault weapons) to his previously disarmed populace, calling for everyone to build and stockpile Molotov Cocktails to fight off the invader. And now, for the first time in its relative short history, what is perhaps the most important part of Article I § 20 comes clearly into focus, and takes on real meaning.

Separately parsed and phrased, with visions from the Evening News and scenes of Ukrainian civilians preparing for a guerrilla war of insurgency against Vlad the Invader's occupying forces fresh in our minds, Article I § 20 now reads:

“A person has the right to keep and bear arms for defense of State.”

We learned from documents captured at the end of World War II that one of the reasons the Imperial Japanese Army never seriously considered invading California, Washington or Oregon was that they believed the images of our Western Movies; that behind every American's front door was a lever-action Winchester 30-30 rifle, and the belief that the American people would fight door-to-door to repel a hostile invading force.

One wonders if “Vlad the Invader” would have invaded the Ukraine if the Ukrainian people had also been known to be

openly armed with personally owned rifles, pistols and shotguns.

One wonders if the Russian invasion of the Ukraine would have occurred if the Ukrainian people had been blessed with Delaware's Article I § 20.

One wonders if the world would be on the brink of World War III at this moment if the Ukrainian constitution contained the same guarantee of the fundamental right to keep and bear arms “for defense of State”, and a more general fundamental right to keep and bear arms for the “defense of self, family, (and) home” that Delawareans enjoy in Article I § 20 of our Delaware Constitution.

There is much we do not know – but we do know that the Ukrainian people are ready, willing, and able to fight the Russian invaders, if only they had the wherewithal – if only they had the guns and ammunition. They are showing their will to fight for their country, for their homes, for their families and for their freedom.

Just as the Dutch and the French Underground movements fought the German invaders of the last century, it appears that a new “Ukrainian Underground” is about to do the same thing in the first quarter of this century.

With that willingness and desire to fight, the Ukrainian people have shown us the value of America's fundamental right to keep and bear arms. They have shown us that “self-defense” and “defense of home” and “defense of family” includes the concept of “defense of state.” Yes, the Russians are attacking the Ukrainian state, but they are also attacking and killing Ukrainian civilians, Ukrainian families and Ukrainian homes – all of which are in dire need of the ability to defend themselves.

Delawareans are blessed with a State Constitution that protects the right to keep arms, and the right to bear arms, for lawful purposes – Defense of self; Defense of family; Defense of home; Defense of the State of Delaware – And for Hunting and Recreation.

While it is true that the United States isn't right next door to Vlad the Invader, it is also true that the United States is not immune from the possible depredations of some future “invader”. And it is also true that the drafters of Article I Section 20 of our Delaware Constitution understood that fact and prepared for that eventuality – however remote it may seem to be at this moment in our history.

The lessons to be learned are this – while there may have been signs and signals to the contrary, the German and Japanese invasions of their neighbors in the last century came as a surprise to most, just as Russia's invasions of its neighbors in this century came as a surprise to most. In fact, there is nothing to guarantee that America will never be invaded by a foreign force.

However, there is one thing that we Americans possess which none of the victims of past invaders have enjoyed, and that is the constitutional right to keep and bear arms – for defense of state and for defense of self, family and home - thanks to the Second Amendment and Delaware's own Article I Section 20.

Maybe the Japanese were right – maybe there is a lever-action 30-30 Winchester behind every American’s front door – or today’s equivalent – an AR-15.

And if there isn’t an AR-15 behind every American’s front door, perhaps the Ukrainian Invasion tells us there should be – perhaps.

---

## BUYING A GUN IN MARYLAND

By: Roger Boyce, VP, DSSA

So what does it take to buy a handgun in Maryland? What does that have to do with Delaware?

I have a friend named Jim who lives in Maryland, and who recently went through the process for a first-time purchase of a handgun for home and self-protection. Below is his description of the process he went through:

**At last, I have completed all the rigmarole Maryland requires for handgun ownership:**

1. **Apply for Handgun Qualification License (HQL)**
2. **Take a HQL class (at Tactical Shepherd in Rising Sun, MD) (by the way, great instructors and class with some emphasis on home defense)**
3. **Fill out forms for Maryland State Police (MSP) Licensing Account**
4. **Get electronically fingerprinted**
5. **Fill out forms for MSP HQL License**
6. **Wait for MSP HQL License approval**
7. **Go to JLowe’s Guns/Tactical Shepherd to shop and purchase firearm**
8. **Fill out MSP firearm application forms and leave firearm in store**
9. **Wait for MSP to send “...your application to purchase a regulated firearm from JLOWE’S GUNS has been Not Disapproved by the Maryland State Police...”**
10. **Return to gun shop and pick up my firearm.**

In addition, of course, I had to pay fees, cost, and tax at each step of the process. I am now the proud owner of a Smith & Wesson M&P 9mm Shield EZ. All that being accomplished, the only ranges in Maryland near me come highly NOT recommended and I am anxious to become skilled, safe, and competent. So, what do I need to do to become a member of Delaware Rifle and Pistol Club?

Thanks,  
Jim

I have submitted this article for two reasons:

1. To let Delawareans see what other citizens from neighboring states have to go through just to get a handgun to protect their home, family and themselves.

2. Illustrate what will happen if Delaware passes the Permit to Purchase bill. I think that the process in Delaware will be much worse.

In Delaware, it will cost more and will be more restrictive than Maryland. Additionally, you could be denied just because your local police chief doesn’t want to issue the permit to purchase for any number of undeclared reasons.

The gun control zealots really want to pass the Permit to Purchase. We have to stop them.

---

## NOT EVEN ATF CAN VERIFY ATF’S ‘GHOST GUN’ CLAIMS: ATF’S FALSE CLAIMS LED TO A WAR ON HOMEMADE FIREARMS



By: Lee Williams

<https://thegunwriter.substack.com/>

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives has a unique reputation among federal law enforcement agencies. Quite frankly, the ATF is well known for not always telling the truth. Whether its firearm statistics, after-action reports downplaying the body count of their latest sting to backfire or quotes from senior executives, any information coming from ATF is always suspect and must always be verified.

Verifying ATF information is not easy either. They put up a lot of roadblocks. The ATF ignores Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, and its spokespeople rarely answer their phones or return emails. It’s as if the ATF doesn’t want the public to peek behind their curtain, because they too are scared of what will be found.

For example, one senior ATF official — Carlos A. Canino, former Special Agent in Charge (SAC) of the ATF’s Los Angeles Field Division — can be credited for jumpstarting the war on homemade firearms, so it is especially important to verify everything he has said. After all, last year the ATF announced notice of proposed rulemaking that could regulate many of the core components of homemade firearms. To be clear, Canino’s quotes caused all of this.

In 2020, activists from the propaganda arm of former New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg’s anti-gun empire asked

---

Canino about the prevalence of homemade firearms in California. An earlier study said 30% of the guns recovered by ATF in California were unserialized “ghost guns,” but Canino said the real numbers were actually much higher. “Forty-one percent, so almost half our cases we’re coming across are these ‘ghost guns,’” Canino told the anti-gun activists. That was all it took. The entire gun-ban industry jumped on Canino’s statement like a duck on a June bug. The war on homemade firearms had officially begun, and ATF’s Los Angeles SAC fired the first shots.

### **Unverifiable**

Erik Longnecker likely will not have a long or prosperous career at the ATF. Longnecker, the program manager for the ATF’s Public Affairs Division’s Office of Public and Governmental Affairs, has a habit of returning emails from investigative reporters. This is rare and not exactly career enhancing at the ATF.

In a lengthy email chain yesterday, I asked Longnecker to verify Canino’s comments, and to add some context. Specifically, how many firearms did ATF’s Los Angeles Field Division seize? Did the 41% constitute five or six homemade firearms or were there hundreds or thousands?

To be clear, Longnecker was unable to verify Canino’s statement or add any context.

“I contacted the Los Angeles Field Division earlier today after your initial email, and their Public Information Officer was unable to verify any figures provided in 2019 by former-SAC Canino without knowing the time-period(s) he used for his comments,” Longnecker said in the email. “For that reason, we rely on verifiable data generally documented on our website or obtained through a FOIA request.”

Longnecker supplied statistics about the numbers of homemade firearms he claimed were recovered by law enforcement at possible crime scenes nationwide from Jan. 1, 2016, through Dec. 31, 2020, which were submitted to ATF for tracing — a total of 23,906 guns during the five-year period, or roughly 13 guns per day.

- 2016: 1,750
- 2017: 2,507
- 2018: 3,776
- 2019: 7,161
- 2020: 8,712

“I am not aware of any other verified PMF (Privately Made Firearm) data that has been published by ATF,” Longnecker wrote.

This is outrageous. The entire war on homemade firearms was based on alleged ATF data, which the ATF now claims it cannot verify. Civil rights are about to be violated, and gunmakers and firearm parts manufacturers are about to be put out of business, all based on spurious data from a former ATF official whom the agency now appears to have disavowed.

### **Weaponized data**

“ATF does not label any firearm as a ‘ghost gun,’ but prefers to use the term ‘privately made firearm,’” Longnecker explained during our correspondence Monday.

Whatever. No one seems to have told the Biden-Harris administration about the ATF’s preferred label. Like the anti-gun industry, the White House grabbed onto Canino’s comments and took off.

“In May 2021, the Justice Department’s Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) issued a proposed rule to help stop the proliferation of “ghost guns,” which are unserialized, privately made firearms that are increasingly being recovered at crime scenes and have been identified by law enforcement officials as a serious threat to public safety. Today, criminals are buying kits containing nearly all of the components and directions for finishing a firearm within as little as 30 minutes and using these firearms to commit crimes,” according to a White House Fact Sheet published last week, in the section titled: “Reining in the proliferation of ghost guns.”

The Chicago-Sun Times is the latest media outlet to glom onto the fact-free ghost-gun cavalcade, in an editorial titled “‘Ghost’ guns are a gift to criminals. It’s time to ban them.”

“Ghost guns are firearms purchasers assemble themselves without serial numbers, making them easy to obtain and hard to trace. Some are ‘printed’ on 3-D printers and include no metal, allowing owners to carry them through metal detectors undetected,” the paper’s editorial board wrote.

Note: If some of their readers try to carry a “ghost gun” through a TSA checkpoint, they and the editorial board will likely be very surprised at the outcome.

The Chicago newspaper cited Canino’s fictional statistics and used the tired attempt at attribution — police say.

“Police say ghost guns are a growing problem,” the newspaper wrote. “Last year, they confiscated 455 ghost guns in Chicago. In 2019, law enforcement agencies recovered 10,000 ghost guns nationwide. In 2020, 41% of the ATF’s cases in Los Angeles were ghost guns.”

### **Police don’t say**

None of the senior law enforcement officers I’ve interviewed about homemade firearms have said they’re a problem. Most haven’t seen any — not one. Several had their staff check their property rooms for homemade firearms recovered from crime scenes. None were found.

Several top cops accused the ATF of conflating homemade firearms with factory-made guns that have had their serial numbers illegally altered or removed, which could account for ATF’s high number of trace requests. I asked Longnecker about this. His response was somewhat vague:

“ATF investigates the criminal possession and other criminal misuse of both commercially manufactured and privately made firearms. These privately made firearms can be made from multiple sources and frequently lack serial numbers and other markings which generally make the

---

firearms more difficult to trace,” he wrote. “ATF also investigates the criminal possession and other criminal misuse of firearms that have had serial numbers altered or obliterated. Firearms that have had serial numbers partially or fully obliterated usually have other markings that assist in the positive identification and tracing of the firearms. ATF uses this information to identify firearms trafficking patterns and related crimes.”

### Takeaways

The war on homemade firearms — like the war on guns itself — is based on false claims, skewed statistics, faulty logic and lashings of media hype. Both seek to demonize an inanimate object and punish legitimate gun owners for the sins of a few bad men. Whether you own a homemade firearm or not, we must all push back against what is an assault on our civil rights. Clearly, the gun-ban industry is using their bumpstock template to target yet another legal product. Their move was expected, similar to their ongoing effort to ban pistol braces.

ATF’s role was expected too. They’re clearly assisting the anti-gunners by pumping up the number of tracing requests by combining homemade firearms with factory guns with altered serial numbers. How else could they claim “ghost guns” are a growing problem, right?

I have said before no one makes a better case to abolish the ATF than the ATF.

<https://armedamericanews.org/no-one-makes-a-better-case-to-abolish-the-atf-than-the-atf/>

Then, as now, the country would be safer without them. The Second Amendment Foundation’s Investigative Journalism Project wouldn’t be possible without you.

---

## INSTRUCTING SOUND SENSITIVE PEOPLE TO SHOOT A HANDGUN

by: Roger T. Boyce

Director of Education and Safety, Delaware Rifle and Pistol Club

This article is a “how to” article when working with sound sensitive want-to-be shooters. It describes the condition and a suggested process to help a sound-sensitive person become a shooter and enjoy the shooting sports.

Delaware Rifle and Pistol Club has an Adaptive Shooter Program which encourages persons with a disability to join our Club and learn to shoot. We have worked with shooters that have cognitive and physical disabilities. This has included stroke victims, persons with palsy, quadriplegics and many with various vision issues.

Recently, we had the opportunity to work with persons that are sound sensitive to the point where they could not tolerate the sound of gun fire. The sound creates a multitude of emotional and physical responses that prevented the

person from being around gun fire. This article describes the lessons we learned and hope it will help other instructors with similar clients.

When a disabled person wants to join our Club, our adaptive shooter program begins with an analysis of the person to identify what issues will be involved with their instruction. As part of the analysis, we develop a plan to provide instruction that will accommodate the individual’s disability. This plan is developed with the disabled person’s participation so they understand and agree with the approach. In developing the plan, it’s important to listen to the disabled person. They have been dealing with the issues much longer than you. Your job is to blend their knowledge with your instructional skills. Concurrently, it must be recognized that the plan must be flexible and adjust to circumstances as they develop through the instructional process.

### The Disorder

Hyperacusis is a hearing disorder that makes it hard to deal with everyday sounds. You might also hear it called sound or noise sensitivity. The persons that we helped had not received a specific diagnosis but medical professionals indicate that this is the mostly likely condition that the person is experiencing. Some antidotal information would indicate that the condition can be hereditary. In one case a mother and daughter both had the condition.

We were able to work with three different persons (all female) that came to us with the self-described sensitivity to loud noises. With all three persons, the sound sensitivity was severe and acute, accompanied and complicated by a significant fear of shooting a gun. Not sure which came first but the sound sensitivity and fear combined complicated the resolution.

Despite their sensitivity and fear, for various reasons each of these persons wanted to learn to shoot and handle a handgun safely. Their motivation was key in getting them to the point where they could shoot a gun, manage their sensitivity and fear. From this point in the article I will refer to the sound-sensitive persons as “shooters”.

Once we established that the shooters were motivated, we developed a three-part plan to:

1. Educate
2. Desensitize
3. Instruct on basic shooting skills – live fire

Note: The process described here is for an indoor range using handguns. The process for outdoor ranges and rifles will be different.

Education - Each shooter attended several hours of classroom basic pistol instruction, learning how the gun works, components, ammunition, all the usual items covered in a basic pistol class. This included typical malfunctions, range hazards and health cautions. This education helped the shooter become comfortable being around the gun, holding the gun and understanding the safety features and safety rules

---

for gun handling. It help reduced some of the fear associated with guns.

During the educational process we explained to the shooter that the sound is not the only thing that is contributing to their sensitivity/apprehension. Other contributors are best described as follows:

When on the range during shooting, the shooter is exposed to what is loosely called “the BANG”. The Bang consists of three distinct components:

1. The Sound of the Shot Breaking (breaking the sound barrier). Can exceed 125 db and higher.
2. The concussive wave from the shot that hits you in the chest (360-degree cone of movement)
3. The recoil of the gun (pushing the shooter up and back)

Together, these three items are what we call the BANG, and this is what the shooter sees, hears and feels. Each one of the components of 'the bang' work together to impact the shooter and their senses. The bang is what produces both an emotional and physical response on the part of the shooter. The bang can contribute to varying shooting problems such as anticipation and flinching. But in this case the bang is instilling the fight or fright reaction in the shooter.

You must describe and prepare the shooter for the Bang. You have to explain to them what causes the sound to be so loud. How they will feel the concussive wave on their face and chest. And the gun is going to lift and push back, what they think of as “kick”.

Help them to understand that these three components are normal and there is nothing to fear. Through hearing protection, eye protection, desensitization, proper grip, stance, and gun sizing, we can mitigate each of these components and get them comfortable with the shooting process.

Desensitization -This is a process that will vary depending on the range layout being utilized. The ranged used in this process has a very low (worst condition) ceiling and no sound reduction qualities or sound absorbing materials on the range. As a result the sound levels and sound transmission are acute.

The range has an attached Ready Room. Between the Ready Room and the range is an acoustic/ballistic wall with a double door sound vestibule utilizing sound deadening and sound absorption materials.

The goal here is to get the shooter to be able to shoot a centerfire handgun using factory ammunition.

Explain to the shooter that the desensitization process will start with:

- .22 caliber rimfire, then progress to:
- .38 caliber centerfire with reduced loads, then progress to:
- .38 caliber centerfire with factory loads.

Also, this process must be done with no other shooting activity on the range.

After the educational classroom work, the process continues as follows:

#### First Shooting Session

1. The shooter starts with being desensitized in the Ready Room. Sound vestibule doors closed. An instructor fires 5 rounds from a .22 caliber pistol at the 21' shooting line (approximately 75' away from the shooter being desensitized). The shooter being desensitized can hear the shots but they are very faint and at a very comfortable db.
  2. The shooter is provided with double hearing protection using standard foam ear plugs and standard hearing muffs, (without electronic amplification). The shooter is placed in the sound vestibule between the two doors. This is done with a support person (usually a sympathetic instructor) along with the shooter being desensitized. Again, the shooting instructor fires 5 rounds at the 21' table. In this case, the shooter being desensitized can clearly hear the shots at a higher db than when in the Ready Room but the noise level is still very comfortable and muffled by the hearing protection.
  3. The shooter is placed just inside the shooting range approximately 40' behind the shooting instructor who is at the 21' line. The instructor shoots another 5 rounds. At this point the shooter will hear a much louder sound but with the small caliber .22 there is no concussive wave.
  4. The next sequence moves the shooter to approximately 20' behind the instructor shooter. Again the instructor shooter fires 5 rounds.
  5. The next sequence moves the shooter directly behind the instructor shooter within 3'. Again the shooting instructor fires 5 rounds.
- Note: Never allow the shooter being desensitized to stand beside the shooter firing the gun. The concussive wave is at its greatest strength 90 degrees from the muzzle and will produce maximum impact on the shooter being desensitized.
6. At this point, if the shooter is still comfortable (and acclimated to the sound) we move the shooter to firing the .22 caliber handgun. This is done with one round in the magazine, one shot at a time. Our experience at this point is the shooter moves right to the .22 caliber without any problems.

As an instructor, focus on the shooting fundamentals. This is where the shooter is going to learn the manipulative skills to shoot the gun during live fire. Stance, grip, finger placement, sight alignment, sight picture, trigger press and follow through. The shooter will feel a great sense of accomplishment. You should as well. This is a big deal for the shooter.

Let the shooter shoot as much as they want in this session. At this point they tend to tire quickly just from the emotional drain of the process. Don't rush the shooter. If at any point in the desensitization process the shooter becomes afraid, sick or visually concerned, stop the process and bring them back another day and start over from the beginning. If you push too hard, too fast you may lose their trust and confidence.

---

## Second Shooting Session

Note: Again, this process must be done with no other shooting activity on the range.

1. Start off with the shooter shooting the .22 caliber pistol until they are reacquainted and comfortable with the sound and recoil.
2. Let them take a break. During the break explain to them that you are going to do the same process with acclimating them to the Bang but this time you are going to use a centerfire handgun.

We found that the best arrangement is to use a large revolver (686 S&W works well) to perform this sequence. When the shooter gets to the point that they are going to shoot the gun, the heavier weight helps mitigate recoil. The single action makes the shooting process very simple. If the gun is too heavy, let them bench rest it.

In this desensitization session we use reduced loads (bunny fart loads) to reduce the overall impact of the Bang. This also makes a softer transition from the .22 caliber rimfire to larger caliber centerfire.

The rest of the process is identical to the first shooting session as follows:

3. Shooter being desensitized stays in the Ready Room. Sound vestibule doors closed. An instructor fires 5 rounds at the 21' shooting line. The shooter being desensitized can hear the shots but they are very faint and at a very comfortable db.
4. The shooter is provided with double hearing and eye protection.
5. The shooter is placed in the sound vestibule between the two doors. Again, the shooting instructor fires 5 rounds at the 21' table. In this case the shooter being desensitized can clearly hear the shots at a higher db and it is much louder than the .22 caliber. But the noise level is comfortable and muffled by the hearing protection.
6. The shooter is placed just inside the shooting range approximately 40' behind the shooting instructor at the 21' line. The instructor shoots another 5 rounds. At this point the shooter will hear a much louder sound and feel a minor amount of the concussive wave. Most experienced shooters would not even notice the concussive wave.
7. The next sequence moves the shooter to approximately 20' behind and in line with the instructor shooter. Again the instructor shooter fires 5 rounds. The sound level is about the same but the concussive wave is a bit more noticeable.
8. The next sequence moves the shooter directly behind the instructor shooter within 3'. Again the shooting instructor fires 5 rounds.

By placing the desensitized shooter directly behind the instructor shooting the gun, the concussive wave is not felt as strong from the shooter's position, (as opposed standing beside the shooter). The shooting instructor also

helps shield the desensitized shooter from the concussive wave.

9. At this point, if the shooter is still comfortable (and acclimated to the sound) we move the shooter to firing the centerfire revolver. Our experience has been that the shooter being desensitized will have some visible fear and hesitation. Don't push them. If they are not ready to shoot the gun, let them stand behind you for 5 more shots. If that isn't enough, bring them back another day and restart the process from the 40' point.

Comment: At this point the shooter may be content with just shooting .22 caliber and may not want to progress to the centerfire. Nothing wrong with that.

10. In our experience, the shooter being desensitized was able to take the revolver and shoot using the reduced loads. After about 10 rounds they became somewhat comfortable with a little residual discomfort.
11. Let them shoot as much as they will tolerate.

## Third Shooting Session

1. By this time you should be able to start the shooter on the range. Still using reduced loads, have them stand behind you while you shoot 5-10 rounds.
2. Have the shooter progress to shooting the revolver.
3. At some point you need to introduce factory loads. Again this is a process.

When you feel the shooter may be ready to handle a factory load, explain to them that you are going to a factory load in the revolver. Explain:

The sound will be louder.

The concussive wave will be a little stronger.

The recoil will be a little more forceful.

As the instructor you will shoot the factory loads first. This lets them see the recoil and feel the concussive wave from a factory round.

Have the shooter stand behind you while you slowly shoot one shot at a time. Check with the shooter between each shot to confirm that they are ok.

After 5-10 rounds, ask the shooter if they are willing to try the factory round. Reassure them that it is very safe and they have the skills to handle factory loads.

In our experience the shooter should be reasonably desensitized and be able to move to factory ammunition. The first shot will be a bit of a surprise to them due to the increased recoil.

Note: Never surprise the shooter with a factory round. It will set them (and you) back days and they will lose trust in you. It will take the shooter 10-20 rounds to get accustomed to the Bang of factory ammo.

Hopefully at this point the shooter is desensitized to the point where they can tolerate a centerfire handgun shooting factory ammunition.

So the last problem is that the shooter has become dependent on you for support and encouragement. You have to wean them from you.



---

In most cases the shooter was motivated to shoot because of someone else in their life. That might be a spouse, relative, friend, etc. who they want to shoot with and enjoy the sport with.

At this point you need to bring in the other person and “educate them” as how to shoot with the sound-sensitive shooter. It’s hard for a person that does not have a sound sensitivity to understand the significance of the issue to the sound-sensitive shooter. They need to understand that this is a “real issue for the sound-sensitive shooter” and they need to accommodate the sound-sensitive person. If not, they can undo everything you and the sensitive shooter have worked for.

The other person needs to understand that the process we put the sound sensitive shooter through did not cure them, it just desensitized them. The condition is still there and its intensity can reoccur if not properly managed and respected. It can also reoccur if there is a long time between shooting sessions. It’s a perishable solution. It needs maintenance. The sound-sensitive shooter should never shoot side-by-side with other shooters until they are ready to handle that (if they ever get to that point).

Never have the sound-sensitive shooter shoot high power, large recoil guns.

Some shooters with sound sensitivity may never be able to shoot on a range with other shooters shooting concurrently. The multiple Bangs may be too much sensory overload.

#### **Summary**

It would appear (from an anecdotal perspective) that other health problems can exacerbate the sound-sensitive reaction by the shooter. In one case the shooter was diabetic and the reaction to the process included nausea. This impart was attributed to the diabetic condition by the shooter. The potential for other influencing factors is all the more reason to take things slow and have the shooter in a good state of health and mental attitude during the desensitization and shooting process.

Your job as an instructor is to teach and help shooters. Not all instructors will have the patience for this process but helping disabled persons and persons with unique situations can be most rewarding.

If you have any comments or similar experiences, I would love to hear them. Please let me know at [rogerb@systemsapproachltd.com](mailto:rogerb@systemsapproachltd.com).

Because of a high risk of squib rounds and several other variables, I have not given any information on reduced loads and their production in this article. For information on the production of reduced loads, (bunny fart loads) you can email me at [rogerb@systemsapproachltd.com](mailto:rogerb@systemsapproachltd.com).

Final Comment: It is not clear to me what physical/mental mechanism is at play but one of the sound-sensitive ladies complained about the flash coming out the sides of the gun. It scared her. I was baffled because I had never seen a flash. After working with a S&W 686 for several years, the only thing I had noticed was minor sparking from the forcing cone area and an occasional muzzle flash. Since all of my shooting has

been under sunlight and bright range lighting I had never noticed a large flash.

But the lady insisted that she saw a flash every time she shot the revolver. On a lark, I had her shoot the gun and I videoed in slow motion. I was stunned by what I saw. The photo at the top of this article was cut from an iPhone slow motion video that was running at 60 frames per second. The flash was only captured on a single frame of the video, meaning that the flash only lasted about 1/60th of a second. This is why the average shooter does not notice the actual size of the flash. But this lady could see it every time. I am still amazed and wondering how she could see it so clearly.

Once I started looking for the flash I could see some of it, but not to the magnitude of what is seen in the 1/60th of second photo.

---

### **IT'S HIGHPOWER SEASON AGAIN!**

**By: Frank Nedza**

**Orange Blossom Regional:** If you read these newsletters regularly, you have probably seen my ramblings about one of my favorite matches –the Orange Blossom Regional, held every spring near Melbourne, Florida. This year is no different, and it remains one of my favorite matches. Hey, it's sunny and warm there, and usually cold and gloomy here, so what's not to like!?!

This year, of the nearly 80 shooters in attendance, there were 12 Shooters representing the Bridgeville Rifle and Pistol Club –not bad, 15 percent of the total! The weather was quite temperate, with mild temperatures, some not so mild winds, and only one day with any real rain (on my relay, of course).

Bridgeville fielded a total of 6, two man teams on March 14<sup>th</sup>, with the Bridgeville Blue Team of David Buckley and Jeff Hague taking 5<sup>th</sup> place out of 25 total teams. Other teams did well too, taking 7<sup>th</sup> place, 10<sup>th</sup> place, 13<sup>th</sup> place, 17<sup>th</sup> place, and 18<sup>th</sup> place. Not too bad for a bunch of Yankees! We also had 3 4-man teams on March 15<sup>th</sup>, with our best finishing Bridgeville Red Team taking 4<sup>th</sup> place out of 12 total teams. Congrats to Jeff Hague, John Harrison, David Buckley, and Don Phister!

In individual matches, Jon Howell put in his usual great performance at 8<sup>th</sup> in the Any Rifle category, and was the High Grand Senior at the end of 4 days of shooting! Well done, Jon! The star of the show though was Geof Slichter who was the overall winner of his category, AR-Tactical. Geof had some really great matches in the 4 days of shooting, including a super nice 599-30X on day three. I believe he has the hang of that AR-Tactical thing, so if you are interested in learning, he might just be able to steer you in the right direction. Well done, Geof! Others of us did well too, coming up decently at the end of the match, but, as always, it is time spent with

---

friends old and new that make this match a must-attend for me.

**March 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>: Prone clinic and 3 x 600 yard Mid-Range Match.** We had a few brave folks in attendance at a chilly prone shooting clinic held on Saturday. I hope to expand this clinic idea at some point, but I think we helped a few new competitors gain the confidence they needed to join us on the firing line. We went over topics like rifle types, ammo, needed (and unneeded) equipment, and just what to expect at a match.

Sunday's match was also chilly, enough so that several of our 'regular' shooters decided to stay home and stay warm ☺. The rest of us ding-a-lings shot anyway. We had 32 total shooters, including several from the Saturday clinic, and 10 Midshipmen from the Naval Academy. It is always nice to see young men and women who are interested in the shooting sports on the line, and even better to have young, strong, healthy bodies in the pits to help put away the targets!

Anthony Witheridge was the leader in F-Open firing a very nice 593-24X, followed closely by Jack Neith at 592-26X. In F-T/R, Todd Norfleet took the win with a nice 591-25X with his .308 Winchester. Previously mentioned Geof Slichter fired a nice 584-28X in AR-Tactical on this cold and windy day, with 3 newby shooters joining him in that category. Jon Howell was the sling side top-dog, firing a nice 594-32X for the match win.

**April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Mid-Range Matches:** Saturday April 9<sup>th</sup> found us shooting a 300/500/600 yard match (with only 2 convertible sighting shots per yard line). It was another cold, windy day, with a total of 19 shooters in attendance. I think we would have had more, but there was a 1000 yard match in North Carolina that drew some of our regulars away. Perhaps the lure of potentially warmer temperatures helped in that regard too... Anyway, Jon Howell and Mike Schallow battled for the match win on the sling side, firing identical scores (and nearly identical X-counts) at 300 and 500 yards, but on the 600 yard line, Jon pulled it out by one point, 199-11X versus 198-9X taking the win, 596-33X to Mike's 595-28X Your author fired the only clean of the day, with a 200-9X at the 300 yard line (usually my nemesis). Ian Swisher fired a nice 589-20X for the Master class win, with Dan Sappington hot on his heels at 588-21X. We had a few 'new to us' sling shooters in attendance, and I hope that they come back and enjoy warmer weather shooting with us soon.

In F-Open, Bill Holden took the lead, firing a nice 595-33X in those blustery conditions, followed by Hugh Cropper at 594-36X. Nicely done guys!

On Sunday, we had 19 shooters again, but a few different ones. Perhaps some of the Saturday shooters were still frozen. Sunday's format was a more 'traditional' 3 X 600 Mid-Range Match, with all firing from the 600 yard line. Mark Schaefer came out with a brand-new barrel on his rifle and smoked us

all, firing a nice 599-39X. I guess that new barrel will be OK once it gets broken-in a little bit... He was closely followed by Mike Schallow at 597-30X (who DIDN'T have a new barrel). Well done, gentlemen. Ian Swisher fired a nice 590-26X for the Master class win, with John Cymerman close behind at 588-20X. Over in F-Open, Hugh Cropper took the win with a nice 595-28X, with Paul Duret close behind at 592-28X. There were 5 'clean' targets fired on Sunday by Mark Schaefer (2), Mike Schallow (1), Tom Snodgrass (1) and Paul Duret (1). Great shooting guys!

**April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>: Long-Range Match.** You could not have asked for better weather for this match (well, maybe lighter winds, but that would be getting greedy...). It was truly a beautiful weekend to be with friends on the firing line. We attracted 47 shooters for Saturday's match, with 19 sling-shooters, 18 F-Open shooters, and 10 F-T/R shooters. Sunday was similarly attended with 37 shooters total. I guess those other guys had to cut the grass on Sunday ☺. At any rate the weather on both days was great even if the wind was a little more tricky than we would have liked.

In F-T/R, Master Class shooter Todd Strasavich took the win, firing a nice 1161-27X. Nicely done Todd! He was followed by Dave Kokoscza at 1157-34X, and HE was followed by Jim Crofts at 1154-38X. This was all with the .308 Winchester –no wind-beating hot-rods for these guys!

In F-Open, Andy Amber fired a nice 1177-51X for the win, followed by George VanWhy at 1171-42X. These guys can shoot! Master class shooter (for now) Jack Neith took the class with at 1164-44X followed by Bill Holden at 1164-40X.

On the sling side, in Palma category, Jon Howell (that name comes up a lot for some reason...) fired a nice 1174-39 X for the weekend using a .223 Remington, and iron sights. In Any Rifle, Joe Fogg took the win for the weekend firing a nice 1177-39X (using iron sights all weekend). Well done Joe, Jon, Andy, and Todd!

Our next scheduled event will be a Long-Range practice on Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> followed by a Palma Match (800/900/1000 yard) plus 20 additional shots at 1000 yards on May 7<sup>th</sup>. I hope that you can join us.

The rest of the Bridgeville Highpower Schedule can be found here:

<https://brpc-de.com/2021-high-power-match-schedule-and-bulletins/>

---

---

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

So far this legislative session, which ends at midnight on June 30<sup>th</sup>, has not produced many surprises. Senate Bill 3, commonly referred to as the permit to purchase bill, remains in the House Appropriations Committee. Senate Bill 6, referred to as the magazine ban, is back in the Senate after being extensively amended in the House.

It is hoped that no action will be taken on either of these bills before June 30<sup>th</sup>, which will result in them expiring. That means the anti's will have to start all over again in January of 2023, after the election. That being said, our attention now turns to the election in November.

Every legislative seat, House and Senate, are up for election. There are several House members, at least 3, that have decided not to run for re-election, which means there are several open seats. Also, due to redistricting House District 4 will be moving to Sussex County. A staunch supporter, Senator Bruce Ennis has also decided to retire.

This situation presents some interesting scenarios. As you all know, DSSA supports any candidate that supports our right to keep and bear arms under Delaware's Constitution as well as the Federal Constitution. That means candidates of either party, Republican or Democrat, can receive our support.

In this election cycle, as well as those in the past, you as members have to think openly about the candidates. That means throwing your support behind the candidates that DSSA endorses, whether they are Democrat or Republican. A prime example is Senate District 14, the seat the Sen. Ennis is retiring from. He is a Democrat, but is perhaps the strongest supporter of the right to keep and bear arms that we have had over the years. There are also examples in the House.

That being the case DSSA will again be supporting those who support us.

As the election cycle begins your DSSA will be participating at a level like never before. We have amassed a pretty extensive warchest over the past couple of years, primarily due to the generosity of the membership, through dinners and fund drives.

One thing that is paramount in this election year is that all members, plus family and friends, need to be engaged. This year presents the best opportunity in many years to elect those who believe in our Constitutional Right to Keep and Bear Arms. Stay tuned.

Jeff Hague, President

## Call for Articles

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

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

**Roger T. Boyce**

**Vice President**

**DSSA**

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