

April 27, 2010 2nd Amendment News 'collected' by J P Puette

To learn more about the National Rifle Association's support and defense of your 2nd Amendment rights, plan to attend the NRA Annual Meeting in Charlotte NC, May 13-16, 2010, go to the web site, www.nra.org. for information, or donate at www.nragive.com.

If the United States Constitution is the "Owner's Manual" for US Citizens, then according to George Washington, the 2nd Amendment is the "teeth and bedrock" of our freedoms. Richard Henry Lee, an American Statesman in the late 1700s, said, "To preserve Liberty, it is essential that the whole body of the people always possess arms and be taught alike, especially when young, how to use them."

We should not be surprised at the attacks on the 2nd Amendment. Gun control is not about guns; it's about control. The American Revolution would not have happened with gun control.

Guns do not kill; people kill. Or maybe I just have stupid guns. I got up this morning and went to work and my guns were not smart enough to get out of the gun safe, much less get out, load themselves, and shoot somebody.

If we stand together we can stop the current regime from it's fiscally ruinous agenda, elect genuinely conservative representatives who grasp that this is supposed to be a 'representative republic', and start the restoration of the freedoms granted to the people by the Constitution.

I firmly agree with President John Adams, 1797-1801, who said, "Those who trade Liberty for Security will have neither."

Here is a short summary of the latest info on 5 of the current battles over the 2nd Amendment and a plug that Chuck Norris will be at the NRA Annual Meeting in Charlotte in May. (See the SVARW website for more specific information.)

1) Friday, April 23, 2010, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down an overbroad federal animal cruelty law that would have criminalized all hunting videos and magazines. This is a huge win. We all 'are against animal cruelty, but hunting and depictions of hunting are not animal cruelty'.

2) Friday, February 26, 2010 a new law took effect that applies state firearms laws to national parks and wildlife refuges in America. Under the new law, every park is subject to all the firearms laws of the state (or states) where the park is located.

Park visitors must know and obey state laws, including knowing which state laws apply in parks (such as Yellowstone) that cross state boundaries. (For information on state laws, go to www.nraila.org/gunlaws.)

Visitors are still subject to Hunting regulations and a separate law that prohibits firearms in a "federal facility". NPS officials stress that prohibited locations will be marked with signs.

3) Joint Statement from Wayne LaPierre and Chris Cox, Executive Director of NRA-ILA, Regarding Oral Argument Before the U.S. Supreme Court in McDonald v. Chicago

Tuesday, March 02, 2010 - As a party to the case, NRA argued before the U.S. Supreme Court today that the Second Amendment protects the fundamental, individual right to keep and bear arms no matter in which city or state one resides. We are optimistic the Court will hold that the Second Amendment applies to state and local governments through the Fourteenth Amendment and that handgun bans, like those in the City of Chicago and the Village of Oak Park, are unconstitutional under any standard of judicial review. This view is shared by a bipartisan group of 309 members of Congress from both chambers, 38 state attorneys general and the majority of the American people. We look forward to the decision by the Court later this Term.

4) Trigger The Vote Chairman, Chuck Norris, Coming To Charlotte!

Chuck Norris, legendary action star and the Honorary Chairman of our "Trigger the Vote" voter registration campaign, is coming to the NRA Annual Meeting in Charlotte in May. He will be a featured speaker at the Friday Celebration of American Values Leadership Forum. Chuck and his wife Gena will be Guests of Honor at the NRA-ILA Friday Dinner Auction, and they will also host a book-signing in the Exhibit Hall on Saturday. Click here to see a brief interview with Chuck about his new book, and plan to see him in Charlotte! NRA-ILA will be conducting an on-site voter registration drive at the Annual Meetings as well.

5) The United Nations and International Treaties to restrict US citizens from having and using guns have been held at bay by previous administrations. Formerly, our Presidents said there could be no agreement to any arms treaties without 100% agreement and the US would not agree. The current administration has seriously weakened this position. The NRA has been fighting for years to protect our "sovereignty and gun rights". "The current issue under discussion, the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), is in the early stages of the negotiation process. There is no actual draft text at this time. Work on the ATT is scheduled to continue by a consensus process between now and 2012. It should be noted that any treaty must be approved by two thirds of the U.S. Senate for ratification".

Be assured the real objective is to disarm United States citizens. Please read the full comments from the NRA.

6) We conclude with a positive note, Friday, April 16, 2010, Governor Jan Brewer signed the NRA-backed bill, "Arizona Constitutional Carry", into law. This removes the licensing requirement for law-abiding citizen to carry concealed in the state of Arizona. This is a major victory for gun owners in Arizona and all over the US for the precedent it creates. Thank you, Governor Brewer!

I close with these words from George Washington, First President of the United States, "Firearms stand next in importance to the Constitution itself. They are the American people's liberty teeth and keystone under independence... from the hour the Pilgrims landed to the present day, events, occurrences, and tendencies prove that to ensure peace, security, and happiness, the rifle and pistol are equally indispensable...the very atmosphere of firearms anywhere restrains evil interference - they deserve a place of honor with all that's good."

Respectfully Submitted,

J P Puette

Know guns, know peace, know safety.
No guns, no peace, no safety.

4/27/2010 from the NRA's Institute for Legislative Action (ILA)

1) U.S. Supreme Court Issues Decision to Protect Hunting Media

Friday, April 23, 2010 - This week, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a federal animal cruelty law so broadly written that it would criminalize the distribution of hunting videos and magazines under many circumstances. The 8-1 ruling in U.S. v. Stevens is a big win for NRA, and for hunters across America. A brief submitted by NRA was cited in the majority's opinion.

"The NRA condemns animal cruelty. However, hunting and depictions of hunting are not animal cruelty. This excessive law would have imposed felony penalties for creating, possessing or selling mainstream hunting images. Therefore, we are pleased that the Supreme Court ruled against this overbroad law," said NRA-ILA Executive Director Chris W. Cox. "Indeed, NRA publications like American Hunter, the largest-circulation all-hunting magazine in the world, could have been in jeopardy if this law was upheld."

Anti-hunting extremist organizations like the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) were the primary advocates for the deliberately overreaching language in Congress and its main defenders in Court. HSUS's intentions should have been apparent from the beginning. Before becoming president of the organization, Wayne Pacelle said, "The definition of obscenity on the newsstands should be extended to many hunting magazines." And, this is precisely what the law the Court struck down did.

"American hunters and sportsmen are our country's true conservationists. It is offensive that those who work hardest for the preservation efforts of wildlife in this country are grouped with those who commit actual animal cruelty," concluded Cox. "Fortunately, the Supreme Court chose the First Amendment over Pacelle's radical agenda, and the overruling of this law prevents the unwarranted punishment of ethical hunters and outdoor media in the United States."

2) Friday, February 26, 2010 - On February 22, a new law took effect that applied state firearms laws to national parks and wildlife refuges across America.

The implementation of the new law, which the National Park Service (NPS) has planned for since passage of H.R. 627 last May, has so far been without major problems. NPS management reports that it has worked with the 493 individual parks, promoting a consistent message on several key points:

Under the new law, every park is subject to all the firearms laws of the state (or states) where the park is located.

Park visitors must know and obey state laws, including knowing which state laws apply in parks (such as Yellowstone) that cross state boundaries. (For information on state laws, go to www.nraila.org/gunlaws.)

The new law affects firearms possession, not use. Laws regarding hunting, poaching, target shooting or any unlawful discharge remain unchanged.

It will remain unlawful to carry in certain locations, under a separate law that prohibits possession of any firearm in a "federal facility." This last point-and especially the definition of "federal facility"-may be the one most likely to cause confusion for visitors. The National Park Service has indicated that, according to its apparently broad interpretation of the law, the law prohibits firearms not only in buildings (such as visitor centers, ranger stations, and administrative offices) but also in other areas that are regularly staffed by federal employees (such as developed caves and gated outdoor performance areas). However, NPS officials stress that all prohibited locations will be marked with signs.

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5) UN And International Treaties

Wednesday, November 25, 2009

Over the last few weeks, we have received many inquiries regarding the UN and the impact of international treaties on our Second Amendment freedom.

The NRA has been engaged at the United Nations and elsewhere internationally in response to anti-small arms initiatives for over 14 years. In most cases, agendas for the elimination of private ownership of firearms are disguised as calls for international arms control to stem the flow of illicit military weapons. These instruments are

generally promoted by a small group of nations and a large number of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) working in conjunction with departmental bureaucracies in multi-national institutions such as the UN and European Union.

The new U.S. administration, to no one's surprise, has changed direction in the UN with respect to international small arms control initiatives that were resisted by the previous administration.

The current issue under discussion, the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), is in the early stages of the negotiation process. There is no actual draft text at this time. Work on the ATT is scheduled to continue by a consensus process between now and 2012. It should be noted that any treaty must be approved by two thirds of the U.S. Senate for ratification.

Attempts to thwart our freedoms should be no surprise, given the anti-gun climate of the international community in general, and the current U.S. administration in particular.

More generally, the NRA does not concern itself with foreign policy or arms control initiatives-except to the extent they would directly or indirectly affect Second Amendment rights.

We have been actively opposing transnational efforts that would limit Second Amendment freedoms. For many years, NRA has been monitoring and actively fighting any credible attempts on the part of the UN to restrict our sovereignty and gun rights. As a recognized Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) at the United Nations since 1997, NRA gives gun owners a strong voice in the UN's debate over global "gun control." As one of over 2,000 NGOs representing everyone from religious groups to the banking industry, NRA has access to UN meetings that are closed to the general public, and is able to distribute informational materials to participants in UN activities.

Most importantly, NRA's status as an NGO allows us to monitor more closely the internal UN debate over firearm issues and report back to our members.

The role NRA plays within the UN as an NGO is almost identical to the role our registered lobbyists play every day on Capitol Hill and in state capitals across the nation-educating and informing decision-makers of the facts behind the debate, and working to protect the interests of American gun owners and NRA members.

Due to our NGO status, NRA was able to take an active role in thwarting the absurdly titled "UN Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects" in 2006, and the previous meeting, the "UN Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons" in the summer of 2001.

The UN Small Arms Conference ended in deadlock with no formal conclusions or recommendations, due in large part to the NRA. In the final analysis, the complexity of the issue and the concerns of hunters, sport shooters and firearm owners world-wide prevailed. The failure of the program was total; no recommendations on ammunition,

civilian possession or future UN meetings, or for that matter any other subjects, were adopted.

In addition to its UN activities, NRA is a founding member of the World Forum on the Future of Sport Shooting Activities (WFSA). The WFSA is an association of hunting, shooting, and industry organizations that was founded in 1996. The WFSA includes over 35 national and international organizations, and represents over 100 million sport shooters worldwide.

NRA members may rest assured that we are actively engaged in international matters. We have never hesitated, nor will we hesitate, to use the political and other resources available to us to resist any international agreement that could in any way affect our Second Amendment rights.

6) Governor Brewer Signs Arizona Constitutional Carry into Law

Friday, April 16, 2010

Today, Arizona Governor Jan Brewer (R) signed an important NRA-backed bill into law, which removes the licensure requirement for law-abiding citizens who choose to carry a concealed firearm in the state of Arizona. Senate Bill 1108 passed the state House on April 8, by a vote of 36-19 with five absent votes and the state Senate by a vote of 20-10 in late March.

"This is a major victory for gun owners in Arizona, and I would like to thank Governor Jan Brewer, as well as the primary bill sponsor, Senator Russell Pearce (R-Mesa), for their leadership in working to improve the self-defense rights of law-abiding citizens in Arizona," said Chris W. Cox, executive director of NRA-ILA. "Both Governor Brewer and state Senator Pearce have been strong supporters of the NRA. The NRA is also grateful to the legislators who voted for this measure making Arizona the third state in the nation behind Vermont and Alaska to offer its residents a constitutional carry option."

SB 1108 replaces Arizona's former law, which required anyone who wished to defend themselves outside their home to possess a state-issued concealed carry permit. In Arizona's constitution, Article 2, Section 26 states "the right of the individual citizen to bear arms in defense of himself or the state shall not be impaired..." The intention of this language could not be clearer.

Arizona residents will still be required to obtain a permit to carry concealed firearms across state lines in those states that have reciprocity agreements with Arizona.