

"A strong body makes the mind strong. As to the species of exercises, I advise the gun. While this gives moderate exercise to the body, it gives boldness, enterprise and independence to the mind. Games played with the ball, and others of that nature, are too violent for the body and stamp no character on the mind. Let your gun therefore be your constant companion of your walks."

*-Thomas Jefferson to Peter Carr, 1785.
The Writings of Thomas Jefferson, (Memorial Edition)
Lipscomb and Bergh, editors.*

Not sure where to begin with this newsletter. So many things have been changed in the past 6 months and many are being challenged by individuals and states. It is definitely not a time to become slack in protecting our rights and being a part of this wonderful country.

Went to the law symposium at the NRA convention in Arizona and found there are many hard working people earning their livings and still working to keep this country of free men free. There was a lot of talk about “natural law” – a pre-existing right protected by the Constitution. The opinion recognizes self-defense as a natural right in the same light as *The Federalist* papers.

The attorneys in this field all agree that there are lots of things that can be used to defend those who must protect themselves and who own and have guns but that we all must stay prepared and knowledgeable to keep the rights to be free.

One of the highlights of my trip to Seattle and back was a place in south Colorado. Stopped in a motel parking lot to switch gas tanks on my vehicle and there in all their glory were 20 to 30 pickup trucks and suburbans backed up to the doors and guys relaxing and visiting while cleaning their guns – rifles, shotguns, and handguns. Really did my heart good.

Thankfully, the Legislature of Texas has ended for this term. There may be a “called special session” but it will only be on specific items so even though there were proposed matters that might have helped our situation in defense, at least we did not get any thing that would limit us further.

The HR 45 Blair Holt Firearm Licensing & Record of Sales Act of 2009 is still pending the U. S. Congress. This is the Blair Holt Firearm Licensing & Record of Sale Act of 2009.

To find out about this - go to any government website and type in HR 45 or Google HR 45 Blair Holt Firearm Licensing & Record of Sales Act of 2009. You will get all the information. Basically this law could make owning a firearm - any rifle with a clip or ANY pistol unless:

It is registered. You supply a current Driver's License, Social Security number, and submit to a physical & mental evaluation at any time of their choosing. Each update - change or ownership through private or public sale - must be reported and costs \$25.

Failure to any of the above could cause you to automatically lose the right to own a firearm and be subject up to a year in jail. Also a child provision clause would require that all guns be locked and inaccessible to any child under 18.

The Government could have the right to come and inspect how you are storing your guns and if safely away from the accessibility of children with a fine up to 5 years in prison. See at <http://www.opencongress.org> .

Another situation that needs input to our representatives in U.S. Congress is the request by President Obama for the Senate to ratify the inter-American arms trafficking treaty which would totally change the security and freedoms under the Second Amendment. Be sure that they know your fears of any passage of such a treaty and giving up the freedoms that Americans have fought and died for. <http://www.state.gov/p/wha/rls/49907.htm>

The Texas State Rifle Association has done a summary on the proposed laws to the 80th Texas Legislature and their outcome:

THE FOLLOWING DID NOT PASS:

Employee Rights: Allow Storage of Legally-Owned Firearms in Private Motor Vehicles Parked in Employer-Owned Parking Lots ~SB 730 by Sen. Hegar (R-Katy) & HB 1301 by Rep. Frost (D-Atlanta)

SB 730 by Hegar passed in the Texas Senate. SB 730 overtook HB 1301 in the process and was picked up by Rep. Frost, who moved the bill thru House Public Safety Committee. Thanks to calls from TSRA members SB 730 went on the House Calendar, May 23rd, but was listed after the Voter-ID bill. The subsequent slow-down to stop Voter-ID by certain House members killed any chance for SB 730 and hundreds of other bills. **Did not Pass**

Campus Personal Protection Act ~ SB 1164 by Sen. Wentworth (R-San Antonio) & HB 1893 by Rep. Driver (R-Garland)

HB 1893 by Driver was set on the House Calendar too late for a House bill to be debated. SB 1164 by Wentworth passed in the Texas Senate, cleared the House Public Safety Committee and just missed being set on the House Calendar. This was the first time this important self defense issue came before the Texas Legislature and while it didn't pass, more than half the Texas House signed on as Co-Authors, a tribute to the hard work by our House and Senate bill sponsors, and a tribute to the calls and letters from TSRA members. Special thanks to Students for Concealed Carry on Campus, a national organization formed after the tragedy at Virginia Tech. **Did not Pass**

Eliminate Notification Requirement & Associated Penalties for CHLs -HB 410 by Rep. Isett (R-Lubbock) & SB 838 by Sen. Hinojosa (D-McAllen)

Stand-a-lone legislation to repeal the requirement for a CHL when carrying their handgun and stopped by Law Enforcement to display their license and repealing the penalty. This bill failed but language was amended to HB 2730 by Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) the DPS Sunset bill. A CHL is still required to display their license to law enforcement when in possession of their handgun but there is no penalty for failure to do so. **Did not pass.**

THE FOLLOWING DID PASS:

Conforming Change to Texas Law Allowing Interstate Firearms Sales HB 267 by Rep. Bonnen (R-Angleton) & SB 1188 by Sen. Estes (R-Wichita Falls)

The bill harmonizes state and federal law, and allows Texans to purchase rifles and shotguns in non-contiguous states. This passed and has been signed by Governor Perry. **Passed!**

DPS Sunset Bill-HB 2730 by Rep. Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) & Sen. Juan Hinojosa (D-McAllen)

This 207 page omnibus bill dealing with most departments within the Texas Department of Public Safety became a vehicle for change in the last days of session. Below are some of the highlights that should have positive impact on CHL instructors and the licensing process. A step in the right direction toward streamlining. **Passed!**

Below is a brief summary of the changes related to Concealed Carry Licensing and Eligibility:

No more TR-100s and no more \$5 charge per form. The language was stricken. Instructors will only have to go to Austin to renew their certification every four years, can renew on the Internet in between.

All application materials will be available on the Internet.

Delinquent school loans are no longer disqualifying for a CHL.

Any conviction that was set aside, voided, or any manner invalidated will no longer be a "conviction" for CHL purposes.

In order to be disqualifying for CHL purposes, a "conviction" must be classified as a felony both at the time it was committed and at the time of application for a CHL.

The duty to display your CHL when asked for ID remains, but the penalty for not doing so is repealed.

We will be recertifying as instructors in the next few months and will send out any of the Department's new administrative matters and when these new laws will be in effect..

In the meantime here's a refresher course and some fun:

'Those who hammer their guns into plows will plow for those who do not.'

Thomas Jefferson

1. An armed man is a citizen. An unarmed man is a subject.
2. A gun in the hand is better than a cop on the phone.
3. Colt: The original point and click interface.
4. Gun control is not about guns; it's about control.
5. If guns are outlawed, can we use swords?
6. If guns cause crime, then pencils cause misspelled words.
- 6 1/2. spoons made Rosie O'Donnell fat.
7. If you don't know your rights, you don't have any.
8. Those who trade liberty for security have neither.
9. What part of 'shall not be infringed' do you not understand?
10. The Second Amendment is in place in case the politicians ignore the others.
11. 64,999,987 firearms owners killed no one yesterday.
12. Guns have only two enemies; rust and politicians.
13. Know guns, know peace, know safety. No guns, no peace, no safety.
14. You don't shoot to kill; you shoot to stay alive.
15. 911: Government sponsored Dial-a-Prayer.
16. Assault is a behavior, not a device.
17. Criminals love gun control; it makes their jobs safer.

18. If guns cause crime, then matches cause arson.
19. Only a government that is afraid of its citizens tries to control them.
20. You have only the rights you are willing to fight for.
21. Repeal the gun control laws we ALREADY have; don't make more.
22. When you remove the people's right to bear arms, you create slaves.
23. The American Revolution would never have happened with gun control.
24. It is better to be in court for protecting yourself with a gun than to be in a coffin for not.

25. I had rather be judged by 12 than carried by 6.

Thanks to all who called or e-mailed the legislature members and took part in protests and circulation of information to keep our basic beliefs before the leaders and representatives at the local, State and Federal levels.

If you are in the Central Texas area, be sure to come out to the

Lone Star Gun Range, 3795 Dry Creek Road, Lockhart, Texas on July 4th 9 to 6 pm to be a part of the Second Annual Independence Shoot.

Check out their web site for details www.ctxpta.com . We will be doing the barbeque again so come by and munch on some good eats and have a fun day.

Ross and Dottie Bransford
www.chl-texas.com
512/750 9843