



MIXED CALIBERS

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The FLORIDA SPORT SHOOTING ASSOCIATION

Dedicated to defending the “Right to keep and bear arms” and the promotion of the shooting sports

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The Reason We Celebrate the Fourth of July

If you think because of the food, the parades or the fireworks you are wrong! These are traditions on the fourth but not reason. The real reason behind all the celebration is:

The colonists of the original thirteen colonies are weary, bone weary. They've been under the subjugation of Britain for years. They have to live in fear of the British soldiers; they are under the rule of King George III. They have to abide by laws that have been enacted (which are blatantly unfair to them), and have to pay taxes; the British seem to be getting richer, while they are getting poorer. They've decided to do something about it.

This is the day that they adopt the Declaration of Independence, which will allow them to finally break from the rule of Britain, and will allow them to have their own government. The colonists are tired of the British, and they decide they are not going to be pushed around any more. This

Declaration states that a government should be run by the wishes of the people and for the people. If this doesn't happen, the people have the right to

revolt. This means FREEDOM for the United States of America and its citizens.

Cities and towns all over America have their own unique ways of celebrating the Fourth of July. Families and friends get together and have picnics; they watch parades and hear patriotic speeches; listen to patriotic music; see displays of the flag and watch big ships in the harbor (if

they live near the coast), play games, hold family reunions and participate in special contests, and at the end of a long, fun day, watch fireworks explode from one end of the sky to the other.



The main reason we celebrate the Fourth of July--FREEDOM

It's NOT a Weapon - or, at least it's not the only one by Tom Eichling

Okay, so what is that 'thing' you have at home, carry in your car, or have in a holster on your belt? Is it a weapon or a tool? What is a weapon?

A weapon is merely a tool that becomes useful for offense or defense, depending on the situation. Hopefully, no one here will ever use one for offense except in the line of police or military duty. Thus, for the average civilian, guns are self defense tools and we should think of them in that way. Firearms are also the tools and equipment used for marksmanship training and competition.

Firearms can be weapons, yes. So can car keys, automobiles, fire extinguishers, baseball bats, toothpicks, and screwdrivers. Yet, you don't tell your spouse that 'you are going to the garage to get your weapon so you can tighten the screws on the front door hinge'. Or, do you? Somehow I doubt it. So, if you don't call your screwdriver a weapon on a daily basis then why call your firearm a weapon on a daily basis? Sure, you could use your screwdriver as a weapon. But it's not commonly used or referred to in that way. It's a tool.

Go into a hardware store and ask the employees where their weapons are located and you'll probably get some strange looks, to say the least. There are all kinds of weapons in the store, such as screwdrivers, nail guns (yep, guns), saws, drills, and more. Some of these same types of things are even used in (orthopedic) surgery, but they're called surgical tools (yep, tools).

The term weapon is regularly used by some politicians and the media to define guns as bad things. As shooters, hunters, NRA members, instructors, and Second Amendment backers, we should be trying to turn that around.

The State of Florida has already helped to get this



started, but many haven't noticed. Part of that is the fault of the curriculum of some of the short two hour concealed carry classes held throughout the state since those instructors haven't noticed or don't care. Chapter 790 of the Florida statutes is entitled Weapons or Firearms. The state separates firearms from other weapons. If you read your carry license, it's entitled a Concealed Weapon or Firearm License (CWFL). So, it's not a Concealed Weapons Permit (CWP) as so many insist on calling it.

FS 790.06 (2) (h) (7) provides details on what the Florida legislature wants license applicants to learn as well as the instructor's duties and record keeping requirements. Florida does not require any training in Florida law or statute in order to apply for a carry license. The only thing they require is training in firearm safety and marksmanship. Yet, much of what is taught in short courses is about the Florida statutes, while the safety and marksmanship issues are glossed over. In some courses, the instructor even loads and unloads the pistol for the student! The rest of the class covers law and statute rather than more extensive firearm training. This can be risky. I've heard of at least one class being shut down for this.



The National Rifle Association requires that an attorney or other person qualified by the State of Florida to teach law and statute conduct lesson III in each of the personal protection courses. Most NRA instructors and many K license instructors do not meet the requirement to teach it. The topic varies slightly between the two courses but it is about the legal aspects of using deadly force, self defense, and carrying concealed firearms. Perhaps Florida should adopt the NRA standard regarding teaching this topic in the short courses. Unqualified instructors who teach this topic might be exposing themselves to some liability issues. NRA's requirement helps to shield NRA and the instructors from most, and perhaps all, of these liability issues.

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It's NOT a Weapon - or , at least it's not the only one - Continued from Page 2

NRA instructors and lesson III guest speakers are precluded from using the term 'weapon' in NRA approved courses. Yet, in all of the short courses that I've seen that are NOT NRA approved courses, the term is used in almost every other sentence. Thus, the term becomes ingrained in the mind of the student who then goes out and uses it all day in public venues. The sad thing is that many NRA instructors, who should know better, are the ones who are consistently doing this in their courses because they are conducting courses that are NOT NRA approved so they don't necessarily have to follow NRA policy.

When applying for a course called a CWP course, ask the staff if they are going to teach you about edged weapons, or numchuks, or throwing stars, or ballistic knives, or stun guns, or pepper spray, etc. They'll tell you no. They are going to teach you about firearms. Yet they call it, incorrectly, a CWP class or a concealed weapons class. This is also part of the terminology issue since each of these items could also be theoretically used as a tool (numchuks as a pry bar, throwing stars as fancy letter openers for instance).

FS 790.001 (13) defines weapons (note the firearm exemption): "Weapon" means any dirk, knife, metallic knuckles, slungshot, billie, tear gas gun, chemical weapon or device, or other deadly weapon except a firearm or a common pocketknife, plastic knife, or blunt-bladed table knife. So, are firearms 'weapons' when used for conventional pistol or rifle marksmanship

competition? Certainly not. They are tools. Equipment. For defense purposes, they are tools to help prevent imminent death or great bodily harm to you or another person. Unfortunately, those few civilians who use firearms as offensive weapons to disrupt public safety are what the media and some politicians focus on and are what gives them reason to brand firearms as weapons rather than tools. I grant you that sporting equipment such as firearms and baseball bats, or tools like firearms and screwdrivers, can become weapons but only after they're used in that way, not before.

It's this terminology issue that needs to be addressed. CWFL holders and law-abiding gun owners use firearms as tools. But, since the media and many politicians try to paint our tools and equipment in the blackest way possible (as weapons that are bad for public safety), we need to counter them in our own way to help protect our Second Amendment rights and our freedom to compete and to defend ourselves. So, call your gun a gun, firearm, rifle, pistol, shotgun, air gun, black powder rifle, wheel gun, or even a bullet launcher... but not a weapon.

It's your choice, your decision whether this is an important issue. NRA seems to think so. The Florida legislature seems to think so. Maybe we should, too. We need to use proper terminology and properly educate the public, because the media and the anti-gun politicians certainly won't do it for us. We need to stop promoting their agenda for them.





Sunshine State Games qualify Florida Shooters for the 2009 State Games of America

The State Games of America (SGA) is the premier, national multi-sport event for athletes of all ages and abilities held every biennium. Medal winners from 49 State Games nationwide earn the right to compete against other winners and match their skills and competitive desire in a national arena.

In order to qualify for the State Games of America, participants must have won a gold, silver or bronze medal in a SGA sport in their local State Games in a qualifying year (2007 or 2008 Summer), won a medal in the 2007 State Games of America or be residents of Colorado for at least 30 days prior to competition. College students, U.S. military personnel and their families who are stationed in Colorado, are also eligible to participate.

The 2009 State Games of America will be held July 30-August 2 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The State Games concept was developed in New York in 1978 with the Empire State Games. In 2007, more than 400,000 athletes competed in State Games nationwide. State Games feature various sports of the Olympic and Pan American Games as well as sports that have regional popularity within each state.

Here is the Opening Ceremony information for 2007:

2007 OPENING CEREMONY

In the tradition of the Olympic Games, the State Games of America will feature an Opening Ceremony, on Thursday, August 2, at the Colorado Springs World Arena, to celebrate the beginning of the State Games of America weekend.

This year's Opening Ceremony will be an enjoyable evening of family entertainment featuring a ceremonial parade of athletes, sport exhibitions and demonstrations and live entertainment. The evening will conclude with the lighting of the State Games of America cauldron by Olympic medalist and World Champion Figure Skater - Michelle Kwan.

Prominent State Games athletes include: Jeff Blatnick, Ralph Boston, Mike Mussina, Tracy Caulkins, Calbert Cheaney, Curt Clausen, Diane Dixon, Tom Dolan, Suzy Favor-Hamilton, Dan Gable, Rowdy Gaines, Harvey Gance, Nicole Hislett, Nancy Hogshead, Roy Jones, Adonis Jordan, Kobe Bryant, Nancy Kerrigan, Mike Richter, Rusty LaRue, Danny Manning, Henry Marsh, Eric Montross, Rick Hamilton, Chris Mullin, Tab Ramos, Glenn Robinson, Alberto Salazar, Doug Smith, Rex Walters, Lones Wigger, Jr. and Paul Wylie.

The State Games of America has previously been held in St. Louis, Missouri (1999, 2001), Hartford, Connecticut (2003) and Colorado Springs, Colorado (2005, 2007).

REGISTRATION INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE BEGINNING IN JANUARY 2009

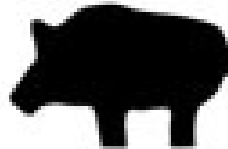


Smallbore Rifle Metallic Silhouette

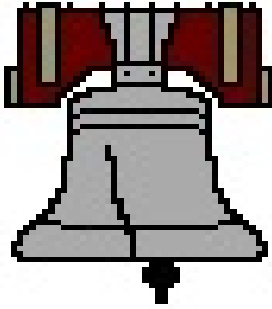
by Coates Watkins



This version of Silhouette is very similar to other types of Silhouette with only a few different features. First, Smallbore Rifle Silhouette is shot solely with the caliber .22LR, no other caliber is allowed. Also, the target silhouettes are set at different distances than any of the other silhouette sports, with chickens set at 40 meters, pigs at 60 meters, turkeys at 75 meters, and rams at 100 meters. And finally, the shooters have a time limit of 2 ½ minutes to shoot 5 shots, with a 15 second ready period. Each match is 40 shots, with two 5-shot banks at each animal. The purpose of this sport is to knock the metallic silhouette off the stand (or off its feet), when you knock the target off you get a point, thus the maximum score per match is 40. The reason I find this sport so enjoyable compared to position shooting, is that there is an immediate reaction to your shot, either the animal falls or it doesn't, there is no hole in the paper that you can't see without looking through a scope. Also, I love the atmosphere that surrounds this group of shooters, there is no "I HAVE to win" attitude, everyone is there to have fun and enjoy the time spent with all the other shooters, and if anyone is in need of help with equipment or advice everyone there is willing to do what they can to help another out. It is representing of a group of people you will find no where else in the world. The silhouette sport is shot in many different versions, including hunter pistol, air pistol, air rifle, smallbore rifle, high power rifle, cowboy lever



action. Each of the versions has slightly different size targets and also different distances appropriate to the caliber. Some allow scopes while others require iron sights. In all *versions of the* sport there is a spotter allowed for each shooter, to help call where the shot impacted and the weather conditions, this type of communication between the shooter and spotter forms very strong bonds and quite interesting comradeship spanning many different cultures. Another very common part of the silhouette culture is the love for food, most matches will have someone cooking various types of dishes, usually the local flare. Examples of this are the three matches that make up the Dan Healy Southern Tri-Fecta of Sunshine Classic in Jacksonville serves shrimp, the SouthernNationals in Winnsboro LA serves Cajun cuisine, and the Mid South Classic in Little Rock AR serves B-BQ. For further information on the subject there is a web site devoted to silhouette rifle, and it can be found at the follow link. <http://steelchickens.com/> It has lots of information about the equipment, and the forum page is where anyone can ask questions and only start to see the diversity of such a great group of shooters.



On every Fourth of July, at 2pm Eastern time, children who are descendants of Declaration signers symbolically tap the Liberty Bell 13 times while bells across the nation also ring 13 times in honor of the patriots from the original 13 states.

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