



MIXED CALIBERS

Official Publication of The FLORIDA SPORT SHOOTING ASSOCIATION

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

Web Version

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Camp Perry 2009

by Ed Hess

Every year hundreds of shooters make their way to a National Guard base in northwest Ohio for the National Smallbore Rifle Championships. All of those shooters wondering, “Is this the year I win”. Most of the shooters do not have a chance of winning but they come back year after year. I know personally that my chances of winning the Smallbore Prone Championship are as good as winning the Lotto. And we all know how hard that is, but we all shoot hoping that this is the time we win.

Leading up to Shooting at Camp Perry, I was not training as much as I should have. Though I really wasn't that concerned about it, because I have been shooting very well this spring. But as everyone knows shooting at Camp Perry is a totally different thing.

As I pulled into Camp Perry, the skies opened up, and I was not feeling very good about the upcoming week. Rain is one of those things that Smallbore shooters hate, but its Camp Perry and the weather very unpredictable. After checking in and getting everything settled, I walked up to the firing line to talk to a few shooting friends. We all had to stand under canopies as the rain got heavier, and we all stated it was good that we were not shooting today.

As day one started, everyone was concerned by the possibility of rain and the strong blowing wind. Being on the second relay, I had a chance to see how the wind was

reacting. The first match of the day is a Dewar course, which is one 50 yard target and one 100 yard target. I dropped five points on that match, and felt good with that score. The rest of the day was very hard, because I am not use to the wind constantly changing.

With the first day finished, I looked forward to shooting the Mentor Match. This year Maggie Mical and I fired as a team. Maggie shoots at the Wyoming Antelope Club, in the Tampa area. The Mentor Match is a Dewar course with a team consisting of an adult and a junior shooter. Our team did not do as well as we should have, because we were still having to deal with the strong winds. Maggie and I did win 1st place in the B class with a score of 788-34x.

The rest of the week of shooting was fun, but I will have

to say that being around friends was the best part of it. I got to see some other shooters that I have seen since last year, and one I haven't seen in 20 years.

I would have to say that Camp Perry is both very competitive and at the same time very friendly. No matter what shooting sport you participate in, everyone should at least once shoot at Camp Perry. Until next year, I hope everyone had a great time at Camp Perry.



FL CCWs are now recognized by Nebraska and South Carolina (Florida residents only).

FL CCWs are NO LONGER recognized by Nevada.

Link to DOACS reciprocity page:

http://licgweb.doacs.state.fl.us/news/concealed_carry.html

These changes occurred within the past six months.

FLORIDA LEGISLATION by Joe Waldron

The legislature is out of session, thus making it more difficult (but probably not impossible) to dig into our wallets or gun safes.

The legislature is scheduled to meet in three weeks of interim committee hearings in October, November and December, in preparation for the next regular session which convenes March 2, 2010.

Two bills of interest have been filed for the 2010 legislative session. HM 19 would send a reminder to Washington that the 10th Amendment ensures the states and the people retain those powers not specifically delegated (given) to the federal government in the Constitution. HM 19 is a memorial and carries no force of law. It's just a reminder to those in D.C. that we retain states' and individual rights. Unfortunately, that

issue was largely settled in 1865, and -- with the acquiescence of the Supreme Court -- Congress has been grabbing more and more power ever since.

The second bill would actually enact a law, if passed by the legislature and signed by the governor. HB 21, the Florida Firearms Freedom Act, says if a firearm was made in Florida, with raw materials from Florida, it is not subject to federal firearms regulations. Similar bills passed in Montana and Tennessee earlier this year, and others were filed in Texas, Alaska, Michigan and South Carolina (and maybe one or two more I missed). The legal basis for the bill is recognition of the Commerce Clause (which is Congress' justification for most laws passed at the federal level) and makes the argument that if no interstate commerce is involved in manufacturing or commerce (sales) of firearms, federal firearms laws do not apply.

A similar bill will be filed in the Senate by Senator Carey Baker, a gun shop owner from the Orlando area. HB 21 is sponsored by Rep. H. Marlene O'Toole.

The ATF disagrees, and has sent letters to FFLs in MT and TN informing them of same. The Montana Sport Shooting Association and the Second Amendment Foundation have filed suit in federal court in Montana asking for a declaratory judgment upholding the Montana law and thus striking a blow to Congress' unconstitutional(?) expansion of the commerce clause.

The NRA is cool to the idea, as well. In the latest edition of the American Rifleman, they advise FFLs to consult with an attorney before following the Firearms Freedom Act. They close with the comment, "no one who puts himself in that situation (of challenging the law in criminal courts) should expect support from the NRA. Again, keep in mind the purpose of the Firearms Freedom Act is to open the door to CIVIL litigation, not avoidance of the National Firearms Act of 1934, the Gun Control Act of 1968 and subsequent federal gun control laws.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Still no movement on CIFTA (the Inter-American Convention Against Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms. With the seating of Al Franken as the second Senator from Minnesota, it will require 67 votes in the Senate to ratify CIFTA. The votes are not there at this time. And Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid is in big trouble at home, if the polls are to be believed. He's currently trailing TWO Republican challengers for his reelection bid next year.

No new gun bills of significance have been filed in Congress, nor is any motion expected on any over the next several months.

An attempt by South Dakota Republican John Thune to pass an amendment forcing nationwide recognition of concealed carry licenses was defeated last month. The amendment required 60 votes, and fell short by two. A lot of drama, but the outcome was never in doubt. The whole deal was carefully orchestrated by Senate Democrats to provide a "cover vote" for rural state Democrat Senators. With only 40 Republicans in the Senate (two voted against us), that opened the door for 20 or so Democrats to cast a "pro-gun" vote while not allowing the amendment to pass. If you watched the vote on C-Span, you would have seen Senator Charles Schumer coordinating the Democrat votes, telling those Senators who felt they needed it whether or not they could vote pro-gun. Florida's Senators split, with Martinez voting "aye" and Nelson "nay." No surprises there.

SCOTUS AND FEDERAL COURTS

Sonia Sotomayor has been confirmed by the Senate and sworn in as the 111th Justice of the Supreme Court. Just for the record, ALL of the alleged six or eight pro-gun Democrat Senators voted for confirmation. At this point, it doesn't signal any significant change in the make-up of the court, as she is replacing liberal Justice David Souter. The SCOTUS essentially remains split four conservatives--four liberals, with Justice Kennedy swinging both ways.

The 9th Circuit Court has put its incorporation of the Second Amendment on hold, pending an en banc hearing by 12 judges.

Preliminary arguments are slated for late September.

Three Second Amendment incorporation cases have been filed with the Supreme Court: MacDonald v City of Chicago, NRA v City of Chicago, and Maloney v Cuomo. The first two, filed by the Illinois State Rifle Association and the Second Amendment Foundation, and by the NRA, respectively, are direct challenges to the Chicago handgun ban. The Maloney case addresses nun-chuks and their role as "arms" protected by the Second Amendment. The SCOTUS will decide in late September whether or not to grant certiorari (hear) any of these cases. 33 states' Attorney Generals have filed an amicus brief asking that the SCOTUS address the issue of incorporation, and a 34th -- California AG Jerry Brown filed a separate brief, also asking that the SCOTUS incorporate (apply) the Second Amendment to the states.

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

Our president is still too distracted with the health care issue to go after guns -- for now.

There was a media firestorm a few weeks ago after several gun owners carried openly at an Obama town hall meeting in Arizona, including one man with an AR-15 (and a spare magazine sticking out of his pocket). At a press conference a few days later, responding to a questions about the incident, White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs noted that state law governs how firearms may be carried -- openly or concealed. Arizona is probably our strongest open carry state.

Questions? Clarifications? You can reach me by e-mail at jwaldron@halcyon.com.

Have Gun Will Travel

By Tom Brusherd

Traveling to a match may give you that extra push of confidence for a new shooter and for the seasoned shooter you will learn different tips on the way to improve on what you do in your personal shooting style. Weather at a major match or a local club gathering competitive shooters come in all types and sizes and shooting skills and each shooter with a unique different personal shooting style.

Going to different matches may give that extra push of confidence for a new shooter and for the seasoned shooter you will learn different tips on the way to improve on what you do in your personal shooting style. By varying your location and shooting at different ranges will accomplish a couple of things. It will give some experience in dealing with different layouts and local rules, and it will get you accustomed to traveling and playing at “games away.” This is crucial to successful competition in this sport, since almost every important match will require you to travel and compete out of your normal environment.

When traveling with your guns please check the

local laws for where you are going and make sure you are in 100% in compliance. If traveling by air to a match, this can make things a little more complicated. Call your airlines and find out their rule’s also call TSA or look on their website for their requirements. Packing for the most part is not hard. All items go inside locked containers which in turn go inside a well traveled (but secure) suitcase. The goal is not to attract attention especially at the luggage carousel where it is possible but admittedly unlikely that your suitcase will come sliding out for public grabbing well before you get there. Just remember unique ugly and worthless is a good look. People don’t take bums home for a reason and they probably won’t pick up your crappy looking suitcase. Another good tip when traveling to the different matches is to keep a couple of hours open in your schedule for after the competition. You may find that’s the most memorable time.

At the end your shooting skills will be dramatically improved. It will also help you sharpen your personal match performance and knowledge of the sport.



Reloading for Accuracy

By David Parks, FSSA Member

What I'm going to write about is hand loading rifle bullets to make them as accurate as you can. Most hunters and shooters buy factory ammo with good results but by loading your own you can make them work better.

As an example I load 223 for competition. In my rifle I have a 26 inch barrel with a 1:7 twist so I can use heavier bullets for out to 600 yards. For 200 and 300 yards I use 69 grain Sierra match kings and for 600 yards I use 80 grain Sierra match king. You may want to use something different but those I found, work well in my rifle.

Now to get started. To start reloading you will need a loading press. There are quite a few companies making presses. To name a few, Lee, Lyman, Rcbs, Redding and there are more. Most of these companies sell a starter kit that has all the tools you need to get started loading. Get some catalogs from Midway USA (www.midwayusa.com) or Midsouth Shooters (www.midwouthshooters.com). Their catalogs are full of all the loading components that you will need. You will need at least two loading manuals to get the loading data for your rifle cartridge. The reason for two books is to back each other up in the rare event of a misprint. If the data in both books are the same or close, you're good for that load. I use a Sierra manual and a Speer manual.

Mount your press to a strong bench so nothing wobbles around. Set up your full length sizing die in the press. Once that is done you can size your new brass. Next you need measure the length of the brass. Your manuals give you all that data. When that's done you need to debur the case necks inside and outside.

Now this is where SAFETY comes in. Safety

glasses need to be worn when working with primers and powder. Do not have any distractions around. If you forget to step you can ruin your gun or worse.

Use the book to find the primers you need for your load. Prime all the cases and set them in a target. The book will tell you to use 23.5 grains. Set up your scale to 23.5 and slowly add powder to the scale pan until it gets to 23.4. Use your funnel and put one charge in 10 cases. Look into each case and confirm a charge and that they look the same.

Set up the seating die per your instructions and seat your first bullet. Measure the overall length and if it's correct load the other nine cases.

When you get to the range to try your loads, set your target at 100 yards if you have already sighted in and 50 yards if not.

Use hearing protection and glasses for safety!!!!

If loads shoot well with no pressure signs you can increase the charge a little at a time until you get to your best accuracy. DO NOT go more than max load that is in your books..

Loading ammo is not hard to learn. After you do it a while you will want to move up in equipment and components. Have fun reloading.

Again any load I use in this writing is for my gun, all guns are different. Work up slow at first and as you gain confidence you will get faster at loading. Keep your guns clean and they will be as accurate as you can make it.

I can not stress safety enough in this hobby. Safety glasses and hearing protection need to be used at the range. Don't let a lack of judgement cause you to lose your sight or hearing.



ALL RIGHT, SO FAR (at least as far as gun control is concerned)

By Joe Waldron, FSSA Legislative Director

FLORIDA LEGISLATURE

The Florida legislature adjourned its 2009 regular session without passing any gun legislation, good or bad. They did make one surprising move: they "raided" a number of trust funds to balance the budget. The concealed weapon license fund was one of the funds raided. After pressure from gun owners across Florida and "strong advice" given by Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services Charles Bronson and Unified Sportsmen of Florida Executive Director and e-mails from constituents all across the state of Florida, Governor Crist vetoed that portion of the budget bill dealing with the CCW trust fund.

The legislature doesn't meet in regular session until next year, but will hold at least three interim committee meeting weeks in the fall. One of the bills already filed for next year's session is the Florida Firearms Freedom Act (HB 21) by Rep. H. Marlene O'Toole. Like bills passed in Montana and Tennessee and filed in several other states, the bill would exempt firearms totally manufactured and sold in Florida from Federal firearms regulations. The ATF disagrees, and the Montana version is already being disputed in federal court. This is a state sovereignty/10th Amendment/Commerce Clause issue, and will likely not be solved any time soon! Even the NRA is cool to the idea. A counterpart bill will be filed in the Senate by Senator Carey Baker.

The purpose of the bill is to open the door to CIVIL LITIGATION, not to create criminal violations of federal gun laws. FFLs take note.

CONGRESS

While both gun control and pro-gun bills continue to be filed in Congress, NO GUN BILLS ARE MOVING AT THIS TIME. Congress is likely waiting to clear the deck of health care reform legislation before tackling another controversial topic!

An amendment vote was held in the U.S. Senate in July that would have forced most states to accept concealed carry licenses issued by other states. Under Senate rules, it required 60 "aye" votes -- it received 58. Just for the record, the amendment, by SD Senator John Thune, never stood a chance. Under the "leadership" of Nevada Democrat Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, the vote was carefully orchestrated to give rural state Democrats pro-gun "cover" votes while still killing the amendment. Now nearly 20 Democrat Senators can go back to their home states and take credit for a pro-gun vote.

Shortly after Attorney General Eric Holder called for

reenactment of the Clinton "assault weapons" ban, 65 DEMOCRAT members of Congress sent a letter to the AG, telling him they would NOT vote for an assault weapon

bill. If such a bill were to move, I wouldn't expect all 65

to hold out, but most of those coming from rural districts

would.

President Obama called on the Senate to ratify the Inter-American Convention Against The Illicit Manufacturing Of And Trafficking In Firearms,

Ammunition, Explosives And Other Related Materials (CIFTA) treaty. The treaty was written in the 1990s, but never ratified by the U.S. Senate.

The hard requirements of the treaty are limited, such as all firearms manufactured in member countries must have a serial number and name/location of manufacturer or importer clearly marked on the firearm. We have been in compliance with this since 1968. Other parts, such as restrictions on the "flow of ammunition," are open to interpretation. Some believe it could mean the end of reloading.

It takes a 2/3 vote of the Senate to ratify a treaty. With 60 Democrats and 40 Republicans in the Senate, it is unlikely that the required 66 or 67 votes will be there for ratification. But it wouldn't hurt to write to our two U.S. Senators and ask them to oppose CIFTA.

SUPREME COURT

Three Second Amendment incorporation cases have been filed with the U.S. Supreme Court: McDonald v City of Chicago, NRA v City of Chicago, and Maloney v Cuomo. At this time, McDonald and NRA have been combined. 33 states' Attorney General have filed an amicus brief with the Court asking them to address the issue of incorporation. California AG Jerry Brown filed a 34th similar, though more restrictive, brief.

The Supreme Court will announce some of the cases it will hear in its 2010 session later this month. Incorporation (application to the states) of the Second Amendment is the next major step in 2A jurisprudence. Let's hope the Court steps up to the plate (or should I say, out to the firing line). Gun rights activism is my full-time vocation. I'm available to answer your questions as best I can. You can reach me by e-mail at jwaldron@halcyon.com.

