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Cover Story

A Nation of Cowards
Jeffrey R. Snyder


Features

CCM “Profiles” - Dr. Neal Trent & Gary Shade
Timothy J. Schmidt / Maria M. D’Amato

Dr. Neal Trent from Fort Hood, Texas and Gary Shade from Apple Valley, Minnesota, give our readers the opportunity to get to know them better. They write about their experiences and how firearms play an important part of their lives. Read everything from what they do for a living to what firearms they carry.

Book Review
Timothy J. Schmidt
The Complete Glock Reference Guide

Read the stories that confirm why self-defense is mandatory in today’s society. Everything’s exposed from a big-rig driver shooting an assailant, to a robber receiving more than he bargained for.

A Woman’s Perspective
Maria Heil - Guest Editor
A False Sense of Security - Maria writes from her own experience about the false sense of security people receive in airports and amusement parks.

2nd Amendment
John Silveira - Guest Editor
We Don’t Need No “Steenking” 2nd Amendment - Have you ever searched to understand the depth of the 2nd Amendment? This articles’ dialogue will provide all the answers for you.

Departments

Publisher’s Comments
Improvements Already!

Letters to the Editor
A reflection, a cherished article, speaking about the price and a simple request.

“Cocked and Locked” Column by: Robert H. Boatman
3-Gun Civilian Carry? - Robert H. Boatman dresses down, adds some metal and presents us with the fashion phenomena of the century!

Tactics & Training
Kevin Michalowski - Guest Editor
Fighting With Light - Kevin explains how to prepare yourself by shining a light on things. Make it clear that you mean business when you are in a potential life-threatening situation.

Gun Review
Robert H. Boatman
The Seecamp Surprise - Robert H. Boatman follows his column up with a review of the Seecamp LWS32.

Gear Review
Nicholas Albright - Guest Editor
SmartCarry® by Concealed Protection 3, Inc. - Nicholas writes a detailed journal including order placement, purchase, receipt and real-life use of the SmartCarry® holster.

Gun Review
George Hill - Guest Editor
Detonics Combat Master MKI - George puts the good with the bad in this great review! From the master, the Combat Master looks like a keeper.

Upcoming Issues
A look ahead to the next issues of CCM.

Cover Design and Photography by: Delta Media, LLC
We are committed to continually improving Concealed Carry Magazine. I will take this opportunity to tell you about what is in the works to make this publication even better. Over the past few months, we have received more “CCM Profile” submissions than we expected. So starting with this issue, we will have TWO profile stories per issue. Most, if not all, of our most recent Profile submissions are coming from subscribers. This is fantastic. It is important that we tell everyone’s story to show that people who go armed are responsible, upstanding citizens.

The other exciting improvement is the addition of a regular column by Gabe Suarez. The column will be called “Street Tactics: Reality-Based Gun and Knife Fighting”. For those of you who aren’t familiar with Mr. Suarez, he is the founder of Suarez International, a world-class weapons and tactics training facility. His training courses are described as reality-based, student-focused, concepts-driven and combat proven. I have read two of his books and am very excited that he is willing to join the Concealed Carry Magazine editorial staff.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate the winner of our first handgun promotion. The STI LS40 went to Robert Montoya of Grand Junction, Colorado. I spoke with Robert on the phone and he was very surprised that he had won. Congratulations!

In closing, if there are any other improvements you would like to see in Concealed Carry Magazine, please don’t hesitate to write or email me. I take each one of your letters to heart as we strive to make this a really valuable publication.

Timothy J. Schmidt
Publisher / Editor
TO THE EDITOR

Sir/Madam,

First of all, let me say that I have never written to the editor of any magazine before. I have thoroughly enjoyed reading both the introductory issue (during which I subscribed to the magazine) and the March/April 2004 issue. I found the articles refreshing and enlightening.

The article on the G36 was very timely, as I recently purchased this firearm; and, I would agree with another reader that the magazine not be dedicated to Glock only, but to all concealed handguns, accessories and uses.

While reading the March/April 2004 issue I came across a letter to the editor that I must respond to. The letter is on page 3 by Rabbi Sander Goldberg, titled OPINIONATED...

I agree totally with the way the article on the G36 was written. I do not care to see the technical details about a particular handgun. These are available in numerous magazines. If this is what you printed, you would be no different than the numerous gun magazines on the market. I subscribed to “CONCEALED CARRY” to read articles like; what firearms and accessories are available for Concealed Carry, how did people use there weapons to prevent a crime, 2nd Amendment issues, types and accessories are available for Concealed Carry, how did people use there weapons to prevent a crime, 2nd Amendment issues, types of training we can do at home or at the range, where training is available...Basically the format you have chosen for the magazine.

I do not need to know how many lands and grooves the barrel has, how the ejection system functions, what the muzzle velocity was, or how far into gel the bullet travels...If I need that information I can find it in any other gun magazine. I need to know what I can carry, how best to conceal it and how to use it in many different situations. I believe your magazine answers my questions. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

John

TEXAS

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Dear Editor,

The article “Cocked & Locked”, by Robert H. Boatman, in the March/April issue of Concealed Carry Magazine was not only an excellent insight into the proper way to carry a concealed handgun, but will also be of great assistance to me!

As the manufacturer of SmartCarry®, concealed carry holsters, we often have customers ask us questions such as, “I carry a (name of firearm), would it be safe to carry it with a round in the chamber?” My answer has always been to advise them to carry it in the condition they feel most comfortable with; but, then I proceed to tell them how I’ve been carrying my 1911 for over the past 10 years, cocked and locked with a round in the chamber.

In fact, the ad we run in Concealed Carry Magazine shows my 1911 carry gun in one of our large size right hand draw SmartCarry® holsters. When the picture was taken we got a new SmartCarry® out of inventory and I took my carry gun out of the SmartCarry® holster I was wearing and simply put it in the new holster for the photo. It’s shown exactly as I carry it, and have been doing so for the past 10 years, cocked & locked with a round in the chamber! Like Mr. Boatman said, cocked and locked is the “One & Only”!

Now when I get those questions, I will advise the caller of Mr. Boatman’s column in Concealed Carry Magazine, and add that I couldn’t agree with the article more!

Charles W. Parrott, III
SmartCarry®

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Dear Editor,

I had to write and tell you that I sincerely enjoyed reading your March/April issue. I am a beginner in firearms training; and I found your articles very resourceful and informative. I thought the price was slightly high; but for the information you receive, it is definitely worth the money. Thank you for a great read!

Thank you,

Julie

PENNSYLVANIA

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Dear Editor,

I would like to request a review on any training courses; I think your readers would benefit from information on different places they could train for self-defense. I am looking forward to the next issue.

Tony

COLORADO

Send your letters to:
Concealed Carry Magazine, Attn: Editor, 4466 Hwy P - Suite 204, Jackson, WI 53037. Or Email: editor@concealedcarrymag.com.

Due to volume received, not all letters can be answered. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.
I'm Neal Trent; I was a soldier once, and a lot younger then. Actually, I retired from the Army on July 1st, 2003 after a total of 32 years. It's in my blood, I guess. I was born at Fort Benning, Georgia in 1947 and pretty much lived all over the world for most of my life. I used to call Florida home, but got to Texas as fast as I could. My Dad retired from the military in 1962, and moved us to Deerfield, Illinois, where I eventually graduated from high school with a remarkably undistinguished record. I somehow managed to get into the University of Tampa, where I continued to amaze professors with an ability to slink by academically while maintaining a full time party schedule.

Honorable discharge in hand, I re-entered theUniversity of Tampa in January, 1973 and graduated with honors in August, 1973 with a BA in psychology. After a year or so of a management job, I knew I really wanted to go back to school and get back in uniform. Taking a risk in terms of income loss and a new baby, I entered Northwestern State University in January, 1975, enrolled in ROTC, and graduated in May, 1977 with a regular army commission and an MS in Clinical Psychology. The next 10 years were some of the best of my life; command, operations, troop duty, field duty, platform instructor, great people, great assignments. The Army sent me for a few months as Deputy Chief of Staff, III (US) Corps before I retired.

Today, I'm a faculty member in the Family Medicine Residency Program here at Fort Hood, Texas. The academic rank that goes with that is Assistant Professor of Family Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences, but I'm on the ground 100% at Fort Hood. My biggest fear at retirement was the idea of doing the same thing everyday for the rest of my life, but that was unfounded and I really love working with young physicians in training. Besides, they're the best type of physicians: Army physicians! This is home now, and my wife and I love Central Texas. Kids are grown, but we've got two Golden Retrievers who we both work to support in the style to which they've grown accustomed. With Donna a teacher and me a psychologist, we both are concerned about the ethos of guy, but I am a big proponent of the right to defend ourselves is essential to both freedom and safety.
CCM: Was there a specific incident that caused you to carry a gun?

Neal: No, not any specific incident. It’s more due to the fact that in one way or another I’ve spent most of my adult life in and around the criminal justice system, as an M.P. working in prison settings and in forensic practice as a psychologist. When you’re that familiar with cases and files, you pretty much have the “it can’t happen to me” myth exploded. I had a colleague who used to say, “These aren’t bad people, they’ve just done bad things”.

I’m probably not smart enough to sort out the philosophy of that world view; but, to me it’s irrelevant when you’re on the receiving end of a criminal or predator who is intent on harming you or your family.

CCM: Have you ever had to use your firearm in a defensive situation?

Neal: Not as a civilian. But, I did have a close call last fall in Dallas. Thankfully, my CCW training here in Texas, and lots of mental rehearsals, pretty much allowed me to avoid the use of deadly force. I will say that there is a fine line between “brandishing” a weapon and signaling a predator that you’re not going to be a victim. Your best weapon is between the ears, and on that day, most of my neurons were firing and the ones that weren’t didn’t matter. I was alert to his presence before he made his intent known, but I was not in a situation to be able to retreat, given my bad back and the fact that the guy would have been on me like Elvis on a cheeseburger. While I didn’t technically brandish, tactical placement of hands on certain parts of my clothing caused him to reconsider and walk off. That’s the beauty of concealed carry laws; the bad guys just don’t know anymore.

CCM: What training methods do you employ? Do you have any recommendations?

Neal: With my job now, I don’t get nearly enough range time anymore. I think that’s pretty common for a lot of people, even though we all know that proficiency requires practice. But, you can develop proficiency in other ways than just punching holes in paper. You can rehearse accessing the weapon; you can rehearse clearing stoppages; you can mentally rehearse actions you will take if A-B-or C happens. I’m a big believer in the 6 P’s: Prior Planning Prevents Piss Poor Performance.

Recommendations? Get to the range often. I’m working on it. Fire the ammo you will be carrying, drill under as realistic conditions as you can, and read everything Massad Ayoob ever wrote!

Continued on page 6
CCM: How long have you carried a concealed weapon?

Neal: I’ve been licensed in Texas for over 7 years now.

CCM: What weapons do you carry?

Neal: I have a couple of favorite configurations, depending on the context. I’m a 1911 type of guy, so I’m naturally fond of the Kimber Ultra CDP .45 ACP: small package, very reliable, very easy to master. The only problem is, in many situations I’m in, it’s still too large. For that reason, I just broke in a Kahr PM9, and have been carrying that for the last few months. Great carry weapon, utterly reliable, and once you get the grip down, pretty damned accurate too. For back-up, I just sold my Kel-Tec P-32 and broke in a P-3AT. Obviously, I’m not as critical of the 9 mm as other guys who like the .45. In a perfect world, I’d carry nothing but .45 ACP or .40 S&W. Reality gets in the way, though, so to me it’s important to find the right balance. Hell, I love the Glock 27, but for me it’s still too bulky for my applications.

CCM: What type of ammunition do you carry?

Neal: Hollow point. But here’s the rub: You’ve got to know your gun and know whether or not it likes Brand A vs. Brand B or C. They’re not all the same, especially with the ability of a semi-auto to digest them all. You’d better find that out on the range first.

Actually, hollow points aren’t exclusive for me. The P-3AT has Glaser Safety Slugs in the first magazine. It feeds them very well, and the steroid effect compensates for the caliber. With the 70 grain load, it develops 1350 fps at the muzzle, and a maximum energy of 283. That compares quite favorably to a .38 Special +P. Back up magazine is loaded with .380 Winchester SXT 95 grain hollowpoints, which is what I broke it in on. But the Kahr is loaded both mags with Speer Gold Dot 124 grain hollowpoints, again, what the gun was broken in with. On house guns, I favor revolvers rather than automatics, mostly due to the fewer moving parts and simplicity at Zero-Dark-Thirty AM when you’re still groggy. But, both are loaded with hollowpoints. I used to keep one with the first two chambers loaded with snake shot, but I’ve abandoned that recently. My reasoning was that it might be a good idea to be able to prove to some overly enthusiastic District Attorney that I tried something sub-lethal first, even though it was in my own damn house. I’ve been witness in court to some pretty strange distortions of both law and common sense, but (a) our DA’s in this part of Texas are pretty level headed guys and (b) when you read the literature on the true effects of stopping power, you come to the conclusion that quick stops are always best. It’s like Jeff Cooper said, “if you shoot somebody with something like that, you’d better remind him that he’s been shot, otherwise he might become quite annoyed”.

CCM: What concealment holsters do you use?

Neal: I’ve tried most of them. A gain, it’s size and concealability as it pertains to your body build. Shirt out, an inside the waist holster works for me, strong side normally, but cross side when in the car. Shirt in, it’s a Pager Pal. That’s probably man’s best invention to date, except for canned beer and peanut butter. The back-up goes in an ankle holster, or in a pocket holster depending on the situation. But, and this is important, as you change configurations you also need to rehearse access enough times so that you don’t get stupid in the fog of battle.

CCM: What do you do for a living?

Neal: I just retired from the Army last summer after 32 years. If I’d known civilians could have this much fun, I’d have retired sooner. My PhD is in Clinical Psychology, so I pretty much split my time between 50% teaching and developing the behavioral medicine curriculum, 50% seeing patients, and 50% doing consultations. Glutton for punishment that I am, I’m also in a psychopharmacology training fellowship, so besides smoking cigars, drinking ice tea, and reading a lot of gun books, that pretty much accounts for the other 50% of my time.

CCM: Do you have any advice for our readers?

Neal: You bet. We all know that our right to own and carry weapons does not derive from the government’s granting it to us. The government’s duty is to protect this inalienable right. But, the reality is that we are licensed by the government to carry. That’s OK, but here’s the deal: We are held to a higher standard. Think of that every time you holster your weapon and leave the house. By virtue of your license, you have a duty to avoid the use of deadly force unless you can’t. You have a duty to avoid risky situations if you can, and to be vigilant. You have a duty to retreat in certain situations, if you can. Every one of us who is licensed to carry, no matter where the jurisdiction is, represents all of us every day. If you can’t swallow your pride long enough to de-escalate a situation, or better yet, stay out of those places where you know bad situations happen, then you probably shouldn’t be licensed to carry anyway. Our training here in Texas turns on the fact the ability to use lethal force brings with it an enormous responsibility, and that’s worth remembering.
Growing up in a Chicago suburb, I received my first firearm for my 12th birthday, a single shot, Stevens .22 bolt action rifle. My father and I would go to the range almost weekly for the next two years. There were not many opportunities to go hunting when I was growing up, but there was always an indoor and outdoor range nearby. Unfortunately, Illinois is still one of only four states along with the District of Columbia, where the right to carry a firearm in public is denied. 

Time passed, and after a stint in the military, I got married and settled into a quiet life in a northwest suburb of Chicago. In 1981, Morton Grove’s City Council passed an ordinance banning handguns within city limits. An awakening occurred, and I’ve been tireless in my defense of the 2nd Amendment ever since.

My view on the 2nd Amendment is this: The 2nd Amendment is not about hunting or target shooting. It’s about being politically active and vigilant of our liberties. It’s about the people controlling their government, not government controlling the people. It’s about being able to defend yourself and your loved ones from internal or external threats to our country, and if need be, the 2nd Amendment exists to protect the American people from a despotic government that would treat its citizens as subjects rather than free men and women. Common law ensures we have the right to self-defense from individuals.

When Morton Grove passed their handgun ban, I did what many citizens did and others should have done. I exercised my civil rights by purchasing a handgun, in fact a couple. I still have my stainless Smith and Wesson Model 65 that I fondly call my Morton Grove Special. It’s the best carry revolver I’ve ever owned. When I first got it, I wanted to be sure my wife knew how to load it from a speed loader. I found that she was faster than I was and a slightly better shot! I always called her before I came home if I had worked late. We’ve been into firearms, hunting and target shooting ever since.

In 1988, we moved to Minnesota. In 1989, I testified at the State Legislature against Minnesota’s version of the so-called “assault weapons ban.” There I met Attorneys David Gross and Joe Olson. And last year, the Minnesota legislature passed the Minnesota Citizen Personal Protection Act (MCPPA) of 2003, making Minnesota the 35th state to pass shall issue carry permit legislation. They and others continue to work hard in protecting our firearm rights in Minnesota, and were instrumental in assisting legislators draft our new carry law.

My wife and I own and operate Shade’s Landing Inc., a web site design and hosting company. The company was formed in 1995, just in time for us to catch the Internet wave. Susan is Vice-President and I am the President and CEO. Our son Jason is now in college, studying to become a gunsmith. Our daughter will be entering high school this fall and will begin her shooting education this summer.

One of our company-owned web sites is the popular Firearms And Liberty web site www.FirearmsAndLiberty.com. It has over 15 megabytes of archived documents, laws, court decisions and articles for 2nd Amendment research.

The company also has a corporate policy mandating that all employees be armed with a weapon of their choice. You’ll only find “Permit Holders Welcome” signs at our Minnesota business. In September of 2003, we began to offer firearms safety courses including personal protection courses.

I also believe strongly in life-long learning and I just completed my Master’s degree in business last December. I am an amateur radio operator (K0LFP) and I volunteer as a severe weather spotter for the National Weather Service. I am also lucky enough to be a published author with five books on computers and technology.

I collect historical firearms and have a Curio and Relic FFL. I am also an NRA certified instructor and Range Safety Officer. Our carry courses are approved by the State of Minnesota, Florida and Utah as meeting the requirements for carry permits. I am also a certified Test Administrator for North Dakota concealed carry permits. I personally have carry permits from Minnesota, Utah, New Hampshire, North Dakota, and Pennsylvania. I’ll get around to obtaining my Florida non-resident permit when time permits.

I usually carry a Taurus Millennium .45 or for dress occasions, my Bersa .380. They are like my MasterCard: I don’t leave home without them. I go shooting on my land or at the range at least twice a week.

We teach our NRA Personal Protection classes at the Lakeville, Minnesota Gander Mountain store with another NRA instructor, Rod Brooks. Our training program has recently been endorsed by Gander Mountain’s corporate office and we are now scheduling courses at Gander Mountain stores throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa.

On completing our course, our students are able to apply for Minnesota and Utah permits that will allow legal carry in over 20 states. Add Florida, New Hampshire and Pennsylvania, and the total states where you can legally carry jumps to 29 states! That’s the value we provide through the NRA courses we offer.

It’s only a matter of time before Wisconsin and Illinois get concealed carry and we want to be there for them.

Continued on page 8
**The CCM Interview:**

**CCM:** Was there a specific incident that caused you to carry a gun?

**Gary:** Actually several, but they were all acts of Congress or state gun laws. For me it is a civil right, like voting. Exercise your right or loose it. It’s as much a political statement as it is about self-defense with me. Through the 1980’s, I became more and more active as a gun collector, hunter and in 2nd Amendment issues.

**CCM:** Have you ever had to use your firearm in a defensive situation?

**Gary:** Thankfully no, I’ve never had to use my firearm in defense of my life or others.

I have however, been involved in violent situations before and only one involved a weapon being used against me and that was a knife. In certain situations, a person can deploy non-lethal means to end or escape from a violent encounter (i.e. martial arts, pepper spray, or stun guns where legally allowed). I’d still recommend retreat or escape as the first way to avoid taking a life or losing yours.

**CCM:** What training methods do you employ? Do you have any recommendations?

**Gary:** I train myself and others in close quarter handgun defense using aimed, and aimed point shooting. Aimed point shooting is an easily taught close-quarter technique, and one that can be remembered in times of stress. I can’t take credit for it; but, readers can find out more about it at: http://www.pointshooting.com

I’d recommend dry firing as a great, inexpensive way to improve trigger pull and sight alignment. We use the BeamHit laser training system in our classroom and I use it myself for practice. It costs less than most quality handguns and in my opinion is a must if you are serious about improving your marksmanship and self-defense skills using a firearm. And no… I don’t get paid to say that.

**CCM:** How long have you carried a concealed weapon?

**Gary:** I’ve legally carried a firearm since the Minnesota Personal Protection Act of 2003 passed on April 28th of last year. Prior to that, I’ve always had a firearm legally stored in my vehicle just in case it was needed. Here in Minnesota prior to 2003, legally carrying concealed was next to impossible since the Twin Cities metro-area Police Chiefs rarely, if ever, issued a permit. Illinois, where I am originally from, still does not have a concealed carry law on the books nor did they when I lived there.

**CCM:** What weapons do you carry?

**Gary:** I’ll carry a Taurus PT 145 (.45 ACP) or a Bersa .380 for dress occasions. If I am up North, I may carry a S&W Model 65 in .357 as we have many black bears that wander through property we own.

**CCM:** What type of ammunition do you carry?

**Gary:** For the .45 I carry 230 grain Remington JHPs.

**CCM:** What concealment holsters do you use?

**Gary:** I use most every type of holster depending on what I activity I am engaged in. In the summer: For yard work up north, it’s a shoulder holster, for out and about town, its an IWB (in-waist-band) or a fanny pack if I am wearing shorts. I just ordered two CTAC holsters from Comp-Tac that are IWB Kydex holsters. The CTAC holster will allow me to wear a sports shirt that is tucked into my pants and around the gun. Total concealment without the need for a light jacket.

The one holster I don’t like and would not recommend (though others like them) is an ankle holster. I want my firearms to be at the ready, within arms reach, should the crap hit the fan. As I get older, I’m not very fast at bending over or raising my leg to retrieve my weapon.

**CCM:** What do you do for a living?

**Gary:** The main business of the company I co-own with my beautiful wife Susan is that of a web site design and hosting company. It has been around since 1995. We added firearms training to the services we offer back in September, 2003. We now offer CCW courses for Minnesota, Utah, Florida and other states through the Gander Mountain stores in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Training now accounts for a large percentage of our overall sales. I see us continuing to add more CCW courses as well as other courses like shotgun and rifle in the near future.

**CCM:** Do you have any advice for our readers?

**Gary:** Yes! Carry your firearm 24/7. You never know when it will be needed. Get your spouse and legal aged children to acquire training and permits. Don’t stop with just one permit, get out-of-state permits like Florida and Utah non-resident permits so you are able to carry when you are in other states that recognize those permits. And: PRACTICE, PRACTICE and then PRACTICE some more. It is only through practice (live-fire and dry-fire) that you will develop skills that will be remembered in a time of crisis.

Remember that a firearm is a tool of last resort and it is NOT to be used to settle disputes. Walk away from confrontations and swallow your pride if you have to. Only use the firearm if you have no retreat, no lesser force will do and you are in fear of great bodily harm or death. Most important: Have the proper attitude and mind set to survive a deadly encounter.

Lastly, don’t be afraid to use your firearm to defend your life. This is particularly true for women. We’ve had some high profile abductions and murders in Minnesota by Level III sex offenders. If those women had been armed and trained to use deadly force to stop their abductors, I am sure there would have been a different outcome.

Contact Gary at: Training@FirearmsAndLiberty.com
I’m one of those guys who can’t resist buying a new gun book. I’ll go to www.amazon.com or www.paladin-press.com and order 5 books at a time. When the books arrive, I’ll start to read one of them and put the rest on a pile. By the time I’ve finished that first one, I’ve already forgotten about the books in the pile and I’m back on amazon.com ordering more. The best part about this vicious cycle is when I clean my office about every 6 months. I find all these great gun books that I had completely forgotten about. It’s kind of like “gun-book” Christmas!

As far as books go, I’ve read the good, the bad and the ugly. I’ve read them all. For me, a good book has to have solid information, high quality pictures (if applicable), and a high entertainment value. This brings me to this issue’s book review. I recently procured a copy of The Complete Glock Reference Guide, published by Ptooma Productions. It was a fun book to read and it has found a permanent spot on my gun workbench.

The book is spiral bound which really comes in handy when you’re working on one of your Glocks and you want to leave it open to a specific page. I thought that was a great move by the publisher. I’ve got a few 1911 manuals that are bound like regular books. When you try to keep these books open as they lay on your workbench, the bindings end up getting destroyed! Good move by Ptooma Productions.

As far as what is inside the book, well it is just as good. This book seems to be written and laid out by someone who really knows and loves Glocks. The photographs are just plain fantastic. There is nothing worse than when you’re reading a step by step procedure on re-assembling a trigger mechanism and they show you only ONE picture! Well not in this book. Chapter 8 covers the complete re-assembly of a Glock pistol. There are 54 pictures in this section alone. I think it is almost impossible to learn something without seeing it done. The guys that put The Complete Glock Reference Guide together must feel the same way. Their step-by-step photos were excellent.

The first six chapters cover the basics of the Glock pistol. There is an informative introduction chapter, followed by chapters on the Glock safety devices, field stripping, cleaning, function testing and diagnostics. Chapters seven and eight cover the complete disassembly and re-assembly of the Glock. I don’t recommend you completely disassemble your Glock unless you really know what you’re doing, but it sure is nice to have this information at your fingertips.

Chapters nine through thirteen cover sights, parts interchangeability, shooting stances, shooting techniques, holsters, and customization. The holsters chapter has an informative section that shows the manufacturing process for molded Kydex holsters.

Chapter fourteen is where the fun begins. The authors conduct what they call the “Ultimate Glock Torture Test”. Honestly, some readers may think this chapter goes a little overboard. I though it was pretty cool. I don’t want to give away all the crazy things these guys did in the torture test, but I will tell you that one of the tests involved a cement mixer!

The appendix of this reference guide was very impressive. It starts with a quick reference caliber/pistol size chart. This chart lists all the Glock models in rows of caliber and columns of relative pistol size. Next in the appendix are 22 pages of detailed technical specifications for each Glock model. These technical specs are flat-out beautiful. If you are a numbers geek like me, you’ll love the appendix of this book.

In conclusion, I think this book is definitely worth the $29.95 you’ll have to pay to get one. The Complete Glock Reference Guide is one of those books that you’ll read not once or twice, but probably 50 times. You can order a copy directly from: PTOOMA productions @ www.ptooma.com or you can call Lone Wolf Distributors @ (208) 437-0612.
TRUE STORIES
Carry a gun...it will save your life.

Compiled by Sten Jackson

NEVER GIVE UP

TACOMA, Washington — Police in Tacoma have found the body of a man they believe was killed by a disabled homeowner, after he attempted to rob the bedridden man in his Tacoma home Monday afternoon.

A 64-year-old man, reportedly a paraplegic, told authorities he heard someone enter his house in the 600 block of 88th Street at about 12:30 p.m.

That's when he armed himself with his gun. When the masked intruder entered his bedroom, the man fired at least one shot at the suspect, who fled from the home. Jim Mathies, Tacoma police spokesman, said investigators followed the blood trail and scoured the area, but found no sign of the suspect.

It wasn't until just after 1 a.m. Tuesday morning that officials received a phone call from a man who claimed he was shot in his back.

That led them to a house in the 6400 block of South Lawrence Street. Inside, they discovered the man suspected of breaking into the victim's home. He had already died.

Officer Mark Fulgham, of the Tacoma Police Department, said the 33-year-old suspect was well-known to officers and had a lengthy criminal history, including robbery.

The homeowner was not injured in the incident. It is still unknown whether charges will be filed against him, but Fulgham said initial investigation finds that he acted in self-defense.

KOMO TV
June 3, 2003

HOW’S MY SHOOTING?

LODI, California — A big-rig driver fatally shot one of two assailants trying to rob him late Wednesday at a Flag City truck stop, authorities said.

Byne Delorio, 44, of Weed was pistol-whipped before he opened fire with his own gun, the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office said. Ira Joe Bragg's, 52, of Stockton was killed, the Sheriff's Office said. The shooting comes less than a month after a Stockton store owner shot a would-be robber, who later died. Victims stand up to their assailants "from time to time," Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Nelida Stone said. "We do not tell people to confront suspects. Sometimes it's just easier to turn over your property, but when someone points a gun on you, things change." Law enforcement officials said Delorio had stopped for a snack about 11:45 p.m. Wednesday at 3 B's Auto Plaza near the interchange of Interstate 5 and Highway 12.

After Delorio walked out of the market, he was approached by Bragg's and 38-year-old David Banks of Stockton. The men asked for directions and followed Delorio to his rig, authorities said. Bragg's then pulled out a gun and started beating Delorio inside the cab, Stone said. Delorio got his .45-caliber handgun and shot Bragg's once in the chest, Stone said. Bragg's died at San Joaquin General Hospital soon after.

Banks fled but was caught a few hours later near the White Slough waste water treatment plant. Deputies found him wet, without shoes and trying to catch a ride from passing motorists, Stone said.

He was arrested on charges of murder, attempted robbery and a parole violation. According to state law, culpability for Bragg's death falls on the perpetrator of the attempted robbery.

Bragg's and Banks apparently were targeting Delorio's personal belongings, not his cargo of cardboard, Stone said. Delorio had a valid permit to carry a concealed weapon and was not immediately charged with a crime, Stone said. The Sheriff's Office will finish its investigation and hand the case over to the San Joaquin County District Attorney's Office for review, she said.

The Record
March 7, 2003

DIAMONDS...NOT A MAN'S BEST FRIEND

OKLAHOMA CITY, Oklahoma — Larry Rowell's jewelry business had been robbed repeatedly. So, police weren't surprised when they were summoned to R & R Jewelry Tuesday night. Police swarmed the business when they got the call the store had been robbed and someone had been shot.

This time, though, the owner said, "Enough is enough."

Rowell has learned to spot a thief.

“The store owner said he had been in during the day casing the joint,” said Sgt. Isaac Goodman, with the Oklahoma City police department. And when the suspect thought it was all clear, he made his move.

“The suspect entered the store with a handgun, robbed the owner, the only person inside the business at the time,” Goodman said.

Rowell was at the robber's mercy, but not for long. Police say a small mistake by the robber gave Rowell the upper hand.

"He looked down at the diamond case and the owner retrieved his gun and fired shots at the suspect,” Goodman said.

Witnesses say they heard five shots. When the dust settled, Rowell had one wound to his abdomen but was alert when EMSA took him to the hospital.

The suspect, on the other hand, wasn't so lucky. "After being shot, the suspect retreated into another room, collapsed and is deceased due to his wounds,” Goodman said.

Police have not released any information about the suspect tonight. Rowell's wife said her husband is in fair condition. And after several robberies at the store they may consider moving it.

Police are also questioning a young woman who may have had a relationship with the suspect.

KFOR TV
June 18, 2003

GET OVER IT BUDDY!

VISTA, California — A man armed with a machete was shot to death yesterday while apparently invading a home where his ex-girlfriend was staying with another man, the Sheriff's Department said.

Homicide Lt. Terry Wisniewski said detectives were trying to determine whether Philip Carmine Stuckey, 45, killed the other man in self-defense or fired after any threat had passed. "All the physical evidence supports his statements at this point,” Wisniewski said.

Stuckey was not arrested.

The name of the 39-year-old deceased man was not released.

The shooting occurred about 6 a.m. on La Rueda Road, near Monte Vista Drive, on a rural property with two houses, a garage and a trailer.

Stuckey's girlfriend, Darlene Bechthold, 34, had moved into the guest house with him Thursday night. His parents live in the main house, Wisniewski said.

He said the man who was killed reportedly was upset over Bechthold's new relationship.
Wisniewski said it appears the man came onto the property with a machete early yesterday and chased Stuckey into the house, yelling that he would kill Stuckey.

Stuckey grabbed a shotgun and shot the man three times. The man staggered to his vehicle, slid behind the wheel and died, his left foot still on the ground outside.

The San Diego Union - Tribune May 10, 2003

TURNING THE TABLES

WARREN, Michigan — A would-be robber got a little more than he bargained for after targeting the wrong motorist at a Warren intersection. A ting as if he had a handgun, the man tried to rob a 40-year-old woman. But he wound up on the wrong end of a pistol wielded by his intended victim.

The Warren woman told police she braked for a stop sign on Lorraine Boulevard at Dodge Avenue, when the man opened the driver’s door of her 1991 Oldsmobile Cutlass.

With his hand in his right pocket, he pressed an object to her jaw that she believed was a gun. The culprit ordered her to give him money; but, she had other thoughts. Clutching $6 in one hand, she began struggling with him as he again demanded her money. Determined not to become a robbery statistic, the woman reached with her other hand to the passenger seat for her 9 mm handgun, grabbed the pistol and pointed it at his face.

“If you’re going to shoot me then do it, ‘cause I’m definitely going to kill you,” the brave resident replied, according to police reports.

The surprised assailant ran without getting a cent. He is described as a black male in his mid 20s, 6 feet tall, 165 pounds, wearing a blue skull cap and baggy blue jeans. No shots were fired.

Shaken by the incident, the woman waited until Tuesday to report the March 19 holdup attempt. Reports state that she felt by the time she had regained her composure, she thought it was too late to file a complaint. The woman eventually approached two Warren patrolmen investigating a report of a stolen automobile on her block on Packard Avenue.

The Warren woman, whose name is not being published by The Macomb Daily, has a permit to carry a concealed weapon, police said. Attempts by the newspaper to reach her for comment were unsuccessful.

Detectives have not yet determined if the attempted holdup is related to an earlier similar incident.

Police said a teen-age boy told a woman at FastTrack gasoline station on Van Dyke that he needed a ride to Lakeside mall in Sterling Heights. When she said no, he brandished a handgun, Detective Sgt. Scott Pavlik said.

The woman drove off, circled the area and called police after spotting the teen. Officers arrested him a short time later.

The Macomb Daily March 28, 2003

DRUGS WILL HURT YOU

KINGSPORT, Tennessee — A pharmacist raised the stakes on a man who attempted to rob a drug store at knife point on Sunday afternoon. The druggist pulled a .38-caliber Smith and Wesson pistol and shot the robber in the hand.

Carl Marcum, proprietor of Marcum’s Pharmacy, 121 E. Ravine Road, said the robber entered his store at 2:15 p.m. Marcum told police that the man came in wearing a camouflage mask over his face and armed with two large knives.

Marcum said the man demanded OxyContin, Percoset and other narcotics. Marcum pulled his pistol and shot at the robber. The man fled out the rear door and apparently got into a vehicle.

The police gave a description of the man to area hospitals and asked to be notified if such a man came in for treatment of a gunshot wound. At 4 p.m., the police department received word from Hawkins County Hospital that a man answering the description had come to their facility with a gunshot wound to his right hand. The man also had an abrasion to his left hand. Detectives responded to the hospital and spoke with the man, who identified himself as Jeffery Lynn Jessee, 33, 1000 Stonegate Road, Apt. G-8.

According to the detectives, Jessee eventually gave a statement in which he confessed to committing the attempted robbery. Jessee was treated at the hospital and then arrested on a charge of aggravated robbery. Jessee was taken to Kingsport City Jail, where he was held in lieu of a $20,000 bond. Employees at Marcum’s Pharmacy were reported to be uninjured in the robbery attempt.

The Johnson City Press January 20, 2003

DEMOCRATS FOR GUNS?

EAST CHICAGO, Illinois -- A former police officer shot a man whom he said threatened to rob him early Tuesday at a mayoral hopeful’s campaign headquarters.

Jose Vazquez, who decided to stay late at the George Pabey for Mayor campaign headquarters to watch TV, found himself on the wrong end of a gun when he answered a knock at the back door at 1913 E. Columbus Drive at 1 a.m.

Vazquez opened the door and came face to face with a man who was holding what appeared to be a handgun, telling him it was a robbery, and that he wanted his wallet, East Chicago Deputy Police Chief Ed Samuels said.

Christian Scott, 18, of East Chicago, walked into the headquarters’ conference room, where Vazquez said his wallet was.

Instead of picking up a wallet, Vazquez grabbed his .38-caliber revolver, turned and fired two shots, striking the man once in the stomach, Samuels said. Vazquez then called 911.

Scott was taken to St. Catherine Hospital in East Chicago, and he is believed to be in stable condition, Samuels said. A hospital spokeswoman said she had no information about his condition.

Pabey, a city councilman, is running against incumbent Mayor Robert A. Pastrick and former City Judge Lonnie Randolph in the city’s Democratic primary for mayor.

Pabey said he and several other campaign workers left the headquarters about 11:30 p.m., but said there are usually people there at all hours of the night.

On Tuesday morning, Pabey pointed to a rear window that had been pried open at the frame, believing Scott had first tried to break in.

“Jose told him, ‘Don’t kill me. I’ve got a family,’” Pabey said.

Vazquez was unable to be reached for comment.

Scott has been charged with one count of attempted robbery, a Class B felony, Samuels said. Samuels said Vazquez will not be charged in the shooting.

A pellet gun believed to belong to Scott was recovered at the scene along with personal items, such as coins and a tooth brush, apparently taken from Vazquez’s unlocked car parked behind the headquarters, Samuels said.

Pabey said he couldn’t understand why someone would want to rob his headquarters, as no cash is kept there, although there are computers, fax machines and a copy machine.

The Northwest Indiana Times April 30, 2003

RUN FOREST, RUN!

Maryland -- A gunman forced his way into a house in the first block of Hydroplane Drive in Middle River on Tuesday and tried to rob three male occupants, but fled when one of them threatened to shoot him with a shotgun.

The Baltimore Sun April 17, 2003
Our society has reached a pinnacle of self-expression and respect for individuality rare or unmatched in history. Our entire popular culture -- from fashion magazines to the cinema -- positively screams the matchless worth of the individual, and glories in eccentricity, nonconformity, independent judgment, and self-determination. This enthusiasm is reflected in the prevalent notion that helping someone entails increasing that person's "self-esteem"; that, if a person properly values himself, he will naturally be a happy, productive, and, in some inexplicable fashion, responsible member of society.

And yet, while people are encouraged to revel in their individuality and incalculable self-worth, the media and the law enforcement establishment continually advise us that, when confronted with the threat of lethal violence, we should not resist, but simply give the attacker what he wants. If the crime under consideration is rape, there is some notable wafting on this point, and the discussion quickly moves to how the woman can change her behavior to minimize the risk of rape, and the various ridiculous, non-lethal weapons she may acceptably carry, such as whistles, keys, mace or, that weapon which really sends shivers down a rapist's spine, the portable cellular phone. Nevertheless, you might be given in Philadelphia in 1747 unequivocally that to not defend that gift in contempt, to be a coward and to breach suicide:

He that suffers his life to be taken from him by one that hath no authority for that purpose, when he might preserve it by defense, incurs the Guilt of self murder since God hath enjoined him to seek the continuance of his life, and Nature itself teaches every creature to defend itself.

"Cowardice" and "self-respect" have largely disappeared from public discourse. In their place we are offered "self-esteem" as the bellwether of success and a proxy for dignity. "Self-respect" implies that one recognizes standards, and judges oneself worthy by the degree to which one lives up to them. "Self-esteem" simply means that one feels good about oneself. "Dignity" used to refer to the self-mastery and fortitude with which a person conducted himself in the face of life's vicissitudes and the boorish behavior of others. Now, judging by campus speech codes, dignity requires that we never encounter a discouraging word and that others be coerced into acting respectfully, evidently on the assumption that we are powerless to prevent our degradation if exposed to the demeaning behavior of others. These are signposts proclaiming the insubstantiality of our character, the hollowness of our souls.

It is impossible to address the problem of rampant crime without talking about the moral responsibility of the intended victim. Crime is rampant because the law-abiding, each of us, condone it, excuse it, permit it, submit to it. We permit and encourage it because we do not fight back, immediately, and there, where it happens. Crime is not rampant because we do not have enough prisons, because judges and prosecutors are too soft, because the police are hamstrung with absurd technicalities. The defect is there, in our character. We are a nation of cowards and shirkers.

DO YOU FEEL LUCKY?

In 1991, when then-Attorney General Richard Thornburgh released the FBI's annual crime statistics, he noted that it is now more likely that a person will be the victim of a violent crime than that he will be in an auto accident. Despite this, most people readily believe that the existence of the police relieves them of the responsibility to take full measures to protect themselves. The police, however, are not personal bodyguards. Rather, they act as a general deterrent to crime, both by their presence and by apprehending criminals after the fact. A numerous courts have held, they have no legal obligation to protect anyone in particular. You cannot sue them for failing to prevent you from being the victim of a crime.

Insofar as the police deter by their presence, they are very, very good. Criminals take great pains not to commit a crime in front of them. Unfortunately, the corollary is that you can pretty much bet your life (and you are) that they won't be there at the moment. Crime is rampant because the law-abiding, moral responsibility of the intended victim.

THE GIFT OF LIFE

Although difficult for modern man to fathom, it was once widely believed that life was a gift from God, that to not defend that life when offered violence was to hold God's gift in contempt, to be a coward and to breach one's duty to one's community. A sermon given in Philadelphia in 1747 unequivocally equated the failure to defend oneself with suicide.

The assumption, of course, is that there is no inconsistency. The advice not to resist a criminal assault and simply hand over the goods is founded on the notion that one's life is of incalculable value, and that no amount of property is worth it. Put aside, for a moment, the outrageousness of the suggestion that a criminal who proffers lethal violence should be treated as if he has instituted a new social contract: "I will not hurt or kill you if you give me what I want." For years, feminists have labored to educate people that rape is not about sex, but about domination, degradation and control. Evidently, someone needs to inform the law enforcement establishment and the media that kidnapping, robbery, carjacking, and assault are not about property.

Crime is not only a complete disavowal of the social contract, but also a commandeering of the victim's person and liberty. If the individual's dignity lies in the fact that he is a responsible, independent member of society.

And yet, while people are encouraged to revel in their individuality and incalculable self-worth, the media and the law enforcement establishment continually advise us that, when confronted with the threat of lethal violence, we should not resist, but simply give the attacker what he wants. If the crime under consideration is rape, there is some notable wafting on this point, and the discussion quickly moves to how the woman can change her behavior to minimize the risk of rape, and the various ridiculous, non-lethal weapons she may acceptably carry, such as whistles, keys, mace or, that weapon which really sends shivers down a rapist's spine, the portable cellular phone. Nevertheless, you might be given in Philadelphia in 1747 unequivocally that to not defend that gift in contempt, to be a coward and to breach suicide:

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is a service people can call to have delivered and expect to receive in a timely fashion is often mocked by gun owners, who love to recite the challenge, “Call for a cop, call for an ambulance and call for a pizza. See who shows up first”.

Many people deal with the problem of crime by convincing themselves that they live, work, and travel only in special “crime-free” zones. Invariably, they react with shock and hurt surprise when they discover that criminals do not play by the rules and do not respect these imaginary boundaries. If, however, you understand that crime can occur anywhere at anytime, and if you understand that you can be maimed or mortally wounded in mere seconds, you may wish to consider whether you are willing to place the responsibility for safeguarding your life in the hands of others.

**POWER AND RESPONSIBILITY**

Is your life worth protecting? If so, whose responsibility is it to protect it? If you believe that it is the police’s, not only are you wrong -- since the courts universally rule that they have no legal obligation to do so -- but you face some difficult moral quandaries. How can you rightfully ask another human being to risk his life to protect yours, when you will assume no responsibility yourself? Because that is his job and we pay him to do it? Because your life is of incalculable value, but his is only worth the $30,000 salary we pay him? If you believe it reprehensible to possess the means and will to use lethal force to repel a criminal assault, how can you call upon another to do so for you?

Do you believe that you are forbidden to protect yourself because the police are better qualified to protect you, because they know what they are doing but you’re a rank amateur? Put aside that this is equivalent to believing that only concert pianists may play the piano and only professional athletes may play sports. What exactly are these special qualities possessed only by the police and beyond the rest of us mere mortals?

One who values his life and takes seriously his responsibilities to his family and community will possess and cultivate the means of fighting back, and will retaliate when threatened with death or grievous injury to himself or a loved one. He will never be content to rely solely on others for his safety, or to think he has done all that is possible by being aware of his surroundings and taking measures of avoidance. Let’s not mince words: He will be armed, will be trained in the use of his weapon, and will defend himself when faced with lethal violence.

Fortunately, there is a weapon for preserving life and liberty that can be wielded effectively by almost anyone -- the handgun. Small and light enough to be carried habitually, lethal, but unlike the knife or sword, not demanding great skill or strength, it truly is the “great equalizer.” Requiring only hand-eye coordination and a modicum of ability to remain cool under pressure, it can be used effectively by the old and the weak against the young and the strong, by the one against the many.

The handgun is the only weapon that would give a lone female jogger a chance of prevailing against a gang of thugs intent on rape, a teacher a chance of protecting children at recess from a madman intent on massacring them, a family of tourists waiting at a mid-town subway station the means to protect themselves from a gang of teens armed with razors and knives. But since we
live in a society that by and large outlaws the carrying of arms, we are brought into the fray of the Great American Gun War. Gun control is one of the most prominent battlegrounds in our current culture wars. Yet it is unique in the half-heartedness with which our conservative leaders and pundits -- our “conservative elite” -- do battle, and have conceded the moral high ground to liberal gun control proponents. It is not a topic often written about, or written about with any great fervor, by William F. Buckley or Patrick Buchanan. As a drug czar, William Bennett advised President Bush to ban “assault weapons.” George Will is on record as recommending the repeal of the Second Amendment, and Jack Kemp is on record as favoring a ban on the possession of semiautomatic “assault weapons.” The battle for gun rights is one fought predominantly by the common man. The beliefs of both our liberal and conservative elites are in fact abetting the criminal rampage through our society.

SELLING CRIME PREVENTION

By any rational measure, nearly all gun control proposals are hokum. The Brady Bill, for example, would not have prevented John Hinckley from obtaining a gun to shoot President Reagan; Hinckley purchased his weapon five months before the attack, and his medical records could not have served as a basis to deny his purchase of a gun, since medical records are not public documents filed with the police. Similarly, California’s waiting period and background check did not stop Patrick Purdy from purchasing the “assault rifle” and handguns he used to massacre children during recess in a Stockton schoolyard; the felony conviction that would have provided the basis for stopping the sales did not exist, because Mr. Purdy’s previous weapons violations were plea-bargained down from felonies to misdemeanors.

In the mid-sixties there was a public service advertising campaign targeted at car owners about the prevention of car theft. The purpose of the ad was to urge car owners not to leave their keys in their cars. The message was, “Don’t help a good boy go bad.” The implication was that, by leaving his keys in his car, the normal, law-abiding car owner was contributing to the delinquency of minors who, if they just weren’t tempted beyond their limits, would be “good.” Now, in those days people still had a fair sense of just who was responsible for whose behavior. The ad succeeded in enraging a goodly portion of the populace, and was soon dropped.

Nearly all of the gun control measures offered by Handgun Control, Inc. (HCI) and its ilk, embody the same philosophy. They are founded on the belief that America’s law-abiding gun owners are the source of the problem. With their unholy desire for firearms, they are creating a society awash in a sea of guns, thereby helping good boys go bad and helping bad boys be badder. This laying of moral blame for violent crime at the feet of the law-abiding, and the implicit absolution of violent criminals for their misdeeds, naturally infuriates honest gun owners.

The files of HCI and other gun control organizations are filled with proposals to limit the availability of semiautomatic and other firearms to law-abiding citizens, and barren of proposals for apprehending and punishing violent criminals. It is ludicrous to expect that the proposals of HCI, or any gun control laws, will significantly curb crime. According to Department of Justice and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) statistics, fully 90 percent of violent crimes are committed without a handgun, and 93 percent of the guns obtained by violent criminals are not obtained through the lawful purchase and sale transactions that are the object of most gun control legislation. Furthermore, the number of violent criminals is minute in comparison to the number of firearms in America -- estimated by the ATF at about 200 million, approximately one-third of which are handguns. With so abundant a supply, there will always be enough guns available for those who wish to use them for nefarious ends, no matter how complete the legal prohibitions against them, or how draconian the punishment for their acquisition or use. No, the gun control proposals of HCI and other organizations are not seriously intended as crime control. Something else is at work here.

THE TYRANNY OF THE ELITE

Gun control is a moral crusade against a benighted, barbaric citizenry. This is demonstrated not only by the ineffectualness of gun control in preventing crime, and by the fact that it focuses on restricting the behavior of the law-abiding rather than apprehending and punishing the guilty; but also, by the execration that gun control proponents heap on gun owners and their evil instrumentality, the NRA. Gun owners are routinely portrayed as uneducated, paranoid rednecks fascinated by and prone to violence, i.e., exactly the type of person who opposes the liberal agenda and whose moral and social “re-education” is the object of liberal social policies. Typical of such bigotry is New York Gov. Mario Cuomo’s famous characterization of gun-owners as “hunters who drink beer, don’t vote, and lie to their wives about where they were all weekend.” Similar vituperation is rained upon the NRA, characterized by Sen. Edward Kennedy as the “pusher’s best friend,” lampooned in political cartoons as standing for the right of children to carry firearms to school and, in general, portrayed as standing for an individual’s God-given right to blow people away at will.

The stereotype is, of course, false. As criminologist and constitutional lawyer Don B. Kates, Jr. and former HCI contributor Dr. Patricia Harris have pointed out, “studies consistently show that, on the average, gun owners are better educated and have more prestigious jobs than non-owners.... Later studies show that gun owners are less likely than non-owners to approve of police brutality, violence against dissenters, etc.”

Conservatives must understand that the antipathy many liberals have for gun owners arises in good measure from their statist utopianism. This habit of mind has nowhere been better explored than in The Republic. There, Plato argues that the perfectly just society is one in which an unarmed people exhibit virtue by minding their own business in the performance of their assigned functions,

Continued on page 16
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The private ownership of firearms is a protection against the state's totalitarian reach. The possession of arms by the people is the ultimate warrant that government governs only with the consent of the governed. A's Kates has shown, the Second Amendment is as much a product of this political philosophy as it is of the American experience in the Revolutionary War. Yet our conservative elite has abandoned this aspect of republican theory. Although our conservative pundits recognize and embrace gun owners as allies in other arenas, their battle for gun rights is desultory. The problem here is not a statist utopianism, although goodness knows that liberals are not alone in the confidence they have in the state's ability to solve society's problems. Rather, the problem seems to lie in certain cultural traits shared by our conservative and liberal elites.

One such trait is an abounding faith in the power of the word. The failure of our conservative elite to defend the Second Amendment stems in great measure from an overestimation of the power of the rights set forth in the First Amendment, and a general undervaluation of action. Implicit in calls for the repeal of the Second Amendment is the assumption that our First Amendment rights are sufficient to preserve our liberty. The belief is that liberty can be preserved as long as men freely speak their minds; that there is no tyranny or abuse that can survive being exposed in the press; and, that the truth need only be disclosed for the culprits to be shamed. The people will act, and the truth shall set us, and keep us, free.

History is not kind to this belief, tending rather to support the view of Hobbes, Machiavelli, and other republican theorists that only people willing and able to defend themselves can preserve their liberties. While it may be tempting and comforting to believe that the existence of mass electronic communication has forever altered the balance of power between the state and its subjects, the belief has certainly not been tested by time, and what little history there is in the age of mass communication is not especially encouraging. The camera, radio, and press are mere tools and, like guns, can be used for good or ill. Hitler, after all, was a masterful orator, used radio to very good effect, and is well known to have pioneered and exploited the propaganda opportunities afforded by film. And then, of course, there were the Brownshirts, who knew very well how to quell dissent among intellectuals.

POLITE SOCIETY

In addition to being enamored of the power of words, our conservative elite shares with liberals the notion that an armed society is just not civilized or progressive, that massive gun ownership is a blot on our civilization. This association of personal disarmament with civilized behavior is one of the great unexamined beliefs of our time.

Should you read English literature from the sixteenth through nineteenth centuries, you will discover numerous references to the fact that a gentleman, especially when out at night or traveling, armed himself with a sword or a pistol against the chance of encountering a highwayman or other such predator. This does not appear to have shocked the ladies accompanying him. True, for the most part there were no police in those days, but we have already addressed the notion that the presence of the police absolves people of the responsibility to look after their safety, and in any event the existence of the police cannot be said to have reduced crime to negligible levels.

It is by no means obvious why it is “civilized” to permit oneself to fall easy prey to criminal violence, and to permit criminals to continue unobstructed in their evil ways. While it may be that a society in which crime is so rare that no one ever needs to carry a weapon is “civilized,” a society that stigmatizes the carrying of weapons by the law-abiding - - because it distrusts its citizens more than it fears rapists, robbers, and murderers -- certainly cannot claim this distinction. Perhaps
the notion that defending oneself with lethal force is not “civilized” arises from the view that violence is always wrong, or the view that each human being is of such intrinsic worth that it is wrong to kill anyone under any circumstances. The necessary implication of these propositions, however, is that life is not worth defending. Far from being “civilized,” the beliefs that counterviolence and killing are always wrong are an invitation to the spread of barbarism. Such beliefs announce loudly and clearly that those who do not respect the lives and property of others will rule over those who do.

In truth, one who believes it wrong to arm himself against criminal violence shows contempt of God’s gift of life (or, in modern parlance, does not properly value himself), does not live up to his responsibilities to his family and community, and proclaims himself mentally and morally deficient, because he does not trust himself to behave responsibly. In truth, a state that deprives its law-abiding citizens of the means to effectively defend themselves is not civilized but barbarous, becoming an accomplice of murderers, rapists and thugs and revealing its totalitarian nature by its tacit admission that the disorganized, random havoc created by criminals is far less a threat than are men and women who believe themselves free and independent, and act accordingly.

While gun control proponents and other advocates of a kinder, gentler society incessantly decry our “armed society,” in truth we do not live in an armed society. We live in a society in which violent criminals and agents of the state habitually carry weapons, and in which many law-abiding citizens own firearms but do not go about armed. Department of Justice statistics indicate that 87 percent of all violent crimes occur outside the home. Essentially, although tens of millions own firearms, we are an unarmed society.

**TAKE BACK THE NIGHT**

Clearly the police and the courts are not providing a significant brake on criminal activity. While liberals call for more poverty, education, and drug treatment programs, conservatives take a more direct tack. George Will advocates a massive increase in the number of police and a shift toward “community-based policing.” Meanwhile, the NRA and many conservative leaders call for laws that would require violent criminals serve at least 85 percent of their sentences and would place repeat offenders permanently behind bars.

Our society suffers greatly from the beliefs that only official action is legitimate and that the state is the source of our earthly salvation. Both liberal and conservative prescriptions for violent crime suffer from the “not in my job description” school of thought regarding the responsibilities of the law-abiding citizen, and from an overestimation of the ability of the state to provide society’s moral moorings. As long as law-abiding citizens assume no personal responsibility for combating crime, liberal and conservative programs will fail to contain it.

Judging by the numerous articles about concealed-carry in gun magazines, the growing number of products advertised for such purpose, and the increase in the number of concealed-carry applications in states with mandatory-issuance laws, more and more people, including growing numbers of women, are carrying firearms for self-defense. Since there are still many states in which the issuance of permits is discretionary and in which law enforcement officials routinely deny applications, many people have been put to the hard choice between protecting their lives or respecting the law. Some of these people have learned the hard way, by being the victim of a crime, or by seeing a friend or loved one raped, robbed, or murdered, that violent crime can happen to anyone, anywhere at anytime, and that crime is not about sex or property but life, liberty, and dignity.

The laws proscribing concealed-carry of firearms by honest, law-abiding citizens breed nothing but disrespect for the law. As the Founding Fathers knew well, a government that does not trust its honest, law-abiding, law-abiding citizens with the means of self-defense is not itself worthy of trust. Laws disarming honest citizens proclaim that the government is the master, not the servant, of the people. A federal law along the lines of the Florida statute -- overriding all contradictory state and local laws and acknowledging that the carrying of firearms by law-abiding citizens is a privilege and immunity of citizenship -- is needed to correct the outrageous conduct of state and local officials operating under discretionary licensing systems.

What we certainly do not need is more gun control. Those who call for the repeal of the Second Amendment so that we can really begin controlling firearms betray a serious misunderstanding of the Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights does not grant rights to the people, such that its repeal would legitimize conferring upon government the powers otherwise proscribed. The Bill of Rights is the list of the fundamental, inalienable rights, endowed in man by his Creator, that define what it means to be a free and independent people, the rights which must exist to ensure that government governs only with the consent of the people.

At one time this was even understood by the Supreme Court. In United States vs. Cruikshank (1876), the first case in which the Court had an opportunity to interpret the Second Amendment, it stated that the right confirmed by the Second Amendment “is not a right granted by the constitution. Neither is it in any manner dependent upon that instrument for its existence.” The repeal of the Second Amendment would no more render the outlawing of firearms legitimate than the repeal of the due process clause of the Fifth Amendment would authorize the government to imprison and kill people at will. A government that abrogates any of the Bill of Rights, with or without majoritarian approval, forever acts illegitimately, becomes tyrannical, and loses the moral right to govern.

This is the uncompromising understanding reflected in the warning that America’s gun owners will not go gently into that good, utopian night: “You can have my gun when you pry it from my cold, dead hands.” While liberals take this statement as evidence of the retrograde, violent nature of gun owners, we gun owners hope that liberals hold equally strong sentiments about their printing presses, word processors, and television cameras. The republic depends upon fervent devotion to all our fundamental rights.
3-Gun Carry For Civilians?

If you live in a high-risk environment, practice a risky business, or just want to be better prepared than any Boy Scout, resign yourself to adding four or five pounds of metal to your daily wardrobe and dressing up like the real professionals do. If you are none of the above, you still might find something of interest in this fashion show.

The fully outfitted professional carries three guns in three different categories at all times. (1) Primary: This is the gun you are most familiar with, train with most frequently, and are prepared to use at less than a moment’s notice whenever and wherever you need to. Your Primary gun should be of a man-stopping caliber, .40 or above, and combat-accurate in your hands out to at least 25 yards. You carry it always, in a quickly accessible holster you are comfortable wearing all day long. A semiauto is a better choice for Primary than a revolver because of its greater magazine capacity and quick reloading capabilities, and you need to carry at least one extra magazine on your belt or the off-side of a shoulder holster rig. This is a lot of firepower and a lot of stopping power at hand.

(2) Backup: There are times when the fastest reload is another gun. Otherwise, your Backup is the gun you go for in the unlikely and unfortunate event that your Primary gun jams or fails to fire or is taken away from you. Your Backup should be accessible by either hand because sometimes the reason you lose your Primary weapon is because your strong hand suddenly has a bullet-hole through it. The Backup can be a smaller gun, semiauto or revolver, in a smaller caliber, like .38 Special or 9mm. Or your Backup may simply be a more compact version of your larger Primary gun, as in the case of the Glock 23/27 or the Government Model/Officer’s Model 1911. Some people wear a double shoulder holster rig with two identical guns, in which case you will need to designate one gun as your Primary and the other as your Backup and practice with them accordingly.

(3) Hideout: This gun is for last-ditch defense in dire emergencies. The Hideout is not chosen for its accuracy, even at medium-close distance, as it has primitive sights if it has any sights at all. It is intended for shots to the head at powder-burn range, where its small caliber, anything from .22 Magnum to .32 ACP, has a chance of being effective. The prime requirement of a Hideout gun is size. It must be small and shapely enough to hide in unlikely places on your body and may therefore not be immediately accessible, though a well designed pocket holster or over-the-underwear holster pretty much overcomes this potential problem.

Now, let’s be perfectly honest. Few civilians carry three guns. Those who do are totally committed to going armed, fully prepared for any imaginable eventuality, and undoubtedly spend a great deal of time...
training in the handling and shooting of all three weapons. My hat is off to them. Most people do not see the need to go so far, and if they live a normal life in a low-crime community they are probably right. Assuming you are only going to carry one gun, let's look at the three categories again.

(1) Primary: If you only carry one gun, it is by definition your Primary weapon. Train and practice with it until you are confident that you can get it into action quickly and shoot accurately enough to consistently hit the center mass of a man-size target at close range. There's an old adage that says "Beware the man who owns only one gun," the idea being that if you only have one you are intimately familiar with it and know how to use it.

(2) Backup: The gun a professional may carry as a backup will usually work quite well as the Primary gun for a civilian. Smaller automatics and revolvers are easier to carry and conceal and have saved many lives over the years. They may not offer the tremendous firepower and stopping power of larger guns, but they are quite capable of getting the job done if you do your part.

(3) Hideout: These small guns are lethal, but may not have the power to immediately stop an aggressor unless a head shot is delivered. They are not meant to be carried as your only gun, but there's another old adage that says, "any gun is better than no gun." This is true, and Hideouts have often enough come to the rescue and saved a situation that would have been otherwise lost. If you're a really lazy person and expect your life-saver to weigh in at a few ounces and fit easily into pocket or purse, to be perfectly frank, a Hideout gun is a thousand percent better than no gun at all.

Perhaps the best compromise a civilian can make is to choose two of the three categories. Primary and Backup is most effective. But if you just slip a little Hideout into a pocket or over-the-underwear holster to go along with your one regular carry gun, whatever you choose to call it, you're adding a lot to the one-gun carry in terms of real-life capabilities as well as psychological reassurance. You may never need to apply the emergency brakes on your car, but it's nice to know you can.

Robert H. Boatman is the author of Living With Glocks (Paladin Press, 2002) and Living With The Big Fifty (Paladin Press, 2004). He is currently at work on books about the 1911, the AR-15 and dangerous-game rifles, and can be reached at interboat@aol.com.

In ascending order of effectiveness, .22 Magnum, .32 ACP, .38 Special, .45 ACP, 10mm. Your regular carry gun — whether a professional would categorize it as Primary, Backup or Hideout — should be chambered in a caliber you can handle well enough to shoot accurately.
Criminals often lurk in the shadows or strike at night. The average assault lasts less than a minute. As a result, most self-defense situations occur in relative darkness and confusion, giving the attacker a distinct advantage. But don’t fear the darkness; control it.

If your plan to even the odds includes carrying a concealed handgun for self-defense, part of that plan should also include a light. The benefits of a small flashlight far outweigh the drawbacks of keeping such a light in your pocket or purse. For starters, a light allows you to follow one of the cardinal rules of gun handling: Know your target. Even a small flashlight will help in target identification. Shining a light on your target will help to insure that you don’t make a serious error in judgment. Is that really a potential attacker over there? Where, exactly, is he? What is he holding? What does his intent appear to be?

Even a small flashlight will help in target identification. Shining a light on your target will help to assure that you don’t make a serious error in judgment. Is that really a potential attacker over there? Where, exactly, is he? What is he holding? What does his intent appear to be?

Skipping ahead, there is the question of the investigation that will surely follow any use of lethal force for self-defense. What you certainly do not want is some overzealous prosecutor accusing you of reckless endangerment or even negligent homicide because you quite literally took a “shot in the dark.” And what if your scum bag attacker lives and decides to sue you claiming that with your weapon and the lights built to attach to the frame on your handgun are great, especially for home defense. But they aren’t always the best choice for concealed carry. First of all, with the light attached to your weapon, concealed carry, drawing and holstering become more difficult. At the same time, if you want to bring the light to bear on a suspected threat, you need to draw your gun and point it in that direction. Now you are pointing a loaded gun at something that may or may not be a threat. And you look like the classic cliché of the paranoid gun owner drawing a pistol at every odd noise. While there are great little belt clips for the weapon-mounted lights, that’s another cost and another item you must master. In a concealed carry situation, you are far better off with a well-built hand-held flashlight. It is simpler, cheaper and allows you to search the area without pulling your gun.

Your light needs to be small, powerful, durable, easy to operate and, above all, accessible. Any of the lightweight models by Surefire will fit the bill. There are even some new LED lights on the market that provide plenty of illumination without breaking the bank. Your first concern should be how you intend to hold the light, aim and accurately fire your handgun. Because there are several different methods, you need to first explore what is comfortable, and then get a light with the options.
specifically switch location, that best serve your chosen style of low-light shooting.

There are basically two different ways to hold the light: the saber hold and the hammer hold. The saber hold works great for lights with a push button switch on the side. You grab the light with the bulb housing more or less between your thumb and forefinger and operate the switch with your thumb. For the hammer hold, grab the light as if you were holding a hammer, but the bulb housing is near your little finger. Lights with push-button switches on the end of the battery housing lend themselves to the hammer hold.

**USING LIGHT RIGHT**

Selecting a light and learning to shoot while holding it are only two elements in successfully working a flashlight into your self-defense plan. The third, and perhaps most overlooked element, is knowing when and how to use the light. The answer to the first part of that question is that you should be ready to use the light any time you are entering an area where you need to see clearly. Now, that’s a pretty wide-open statement. But the reality is that you should dig that light out of your pocket or purse any time you enter an area where you think a threat may be lurking in the dark. Don’t wait until you are sure you are in danger to reach for your light. At that time you’ll likely be busy trying to draw your gun. Fumbling with a light in your other hand might cause some confusion and will certainly slow you down.

I’m not saying that you have to turn the light on and busily sweep every corner, but have it in your non-shooting hand and be willing to use it. Shine the light on anything you feel is suspicious and make sure you really know what you are looking at. Most times it will be nothing, but the one time you run into a dangerous situation, you’ll be happy you took the precautions.

Kevin Michalowski is the firearms book editor at Krause Publications and a member of the Waupaca County Sheriff’s Department Reserve.

With a larger light, like this D-cell Maglite, you can rest the body of the light on your forearm. Typically a light like this is too heavy for concealed carry, but it does work well coming out of a vehicle.

Your goal is to keep the gun and the light together so you can quickly index the weapon on the threat you have illuminated. Using the saber hold you bring the flashlight up under the magazine well. While this is not quite a two-handed shooting grasp, it does give you a little bit of extra support. This style allows you to fire from either an isosceles or a Weaver stance.

The hammer hold lends itself to the Harries technique, created by Michael Harries, an instructor at Gunsite. Hold the light hammer style in your left hand and bring your left hand up under the wrist of your gun hand to light your target and shoot from the Weaver stance. Because the arms are somewhat radically crossed, this style of light use requires the use of the Weaver stance. It also allows you, with some effort, to pivot the light and search without indexing the pistol on everything the light hits. Remember, most of the time, you won’t have to shoot. So it helps to search independently, even though the gun is right there if you need it.

You should practice these shooting styles in the daylight at the range to develop the muscle memory needed to shoot accurately. Shooting while you are holding a light is a bit more difficult and a bit less precise, so practice is of utmost importance.

The best light is the one that’s easiest to carry and use. You are more likely to have such a light with you when you need it. Low light practice is important to effectively put your rounds on target. Remember, most attacks happen in low light. You’ll need all your skills.
Robert H. Boatman

Even professionals who strap on a couple of full-size .45’s every morning always leave room for a little hideout gun. Some call it a surprise gun. These tiny life-savers are highly respected by well armed warriors because they have come to the rescue many times in the past when no other gun could have filled that role. Of these miniature cannons, the most desirable and sought-after has long been the elegant little Seecamp LWS32, the quintessential hideout gun for professionals system to convert the 1911 semi-automatic from single-action to double-action operation, and developed a telescoping double-spring “Captive Recoil Spring System” which is still the standard for compact, short-slide pistols manufactured by Colt, Glock, Kimber, Kahr, Para-Ordinance and others. Double-action short-slide .45 autos made by Seecamp were all the rage among gun-carrying professionals throughout the 1970s.

In 1981, Seecamp began manufacturing a stainless steel double-action-only .25 ACP pocket pistol based on the highly respected but no longer produced CZ models of 1936 and 1945. Four years later, Seecamp made history by figuring out for the first time how to accommodate the far more potent .32 ACP cartridge in the .25 ACP-size frame. The company has not been able to keep up with demand for the ground breaking LWS32 since.

The little gun was so innovative, so well engineered and made (and so expensive, as a lot of detailed hand-work went into its manufacture) and so highly respected by gun-savvy professionals that it was largely responsible for derailing the irresponsible attack on small defense pistols launched by the anti-gun New York politician Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan. The fraudulent attempt by Democrat Moynihan and his comrades in the left-wing press to demonize small weapons with the tag of “Saturday Night Specials” could not stand in the face of the high quality Seecamp with its crucial life-saving capabilities.

The LWS32 has always been a limited-production firearm, hard to find and therefore premium-priced. Today there are several less expensive imitations manufactured by Beretta, Autauga and North American Arms. It is still the Seecamp, however, that sets the standard and is most highly prized for its elegant design and reliable operation. There is a long waiting list (years, not months) for new guns from the factory, and premium prices are gladly paid for both new and used Seecamps on the open market.

In 1991, two years after Louis’ death, Seecamp introduced an additional version of the gun chambered for the larger .380 cartridge. Both .32 and .380 models are currently being produced. There has never been any evidence I’m aware of that the .380 is any more effective as a defense round than the .32, but there is considerable evidence that increasing bore size and chamber pressure in the same size pistol is harder on the gun. The company recommends that the recoil springs...
The LWS32 is not designed for plinking, but it is nevertheless a lot of fun to shoot. Recoil is very light and the ergonomics of the little weapon make it extremely comfortable to hold and fire. There are no sights, so keep your targets very close, as the Seecamp’s targets would be in real life, and develop a feel for the pointability of the gun, which is very friendly indeed. The trigger guard is as large as a normal-size gun so you don’t feel like you’re threading a needle when you fire it.

The grips are shaped for human hands and you won’t get nipped by the recoiling slide as often happens with other small autos. There is nothing wrong with taking your Seecamp out to admire and shoot often, but its real purpose in life is to remain hidden, constantly on alert in a secret place known only to its owner. Numerous holster makers have been attracted to the little gun and have designed products to take advantage of its small size while providing very fast accessibility in an emergency.

These are mostly of the pocket or wallet varieties as well as the over-the-underwear type, all of which are extremely effective ways to carry a hideout gun.

The Seecamp is equipped with a magazine safety, of which I disapprove as I disapprove of all unnecessary safety devices. With the magazine removed, the trigger does not work and the slide only retracts partially, making the gun useless. To empty a fully loaded pistol, you have to remove the magazine, empty it manually, and then reinsert it so the slide will work before you can eject the round in the chamber. This is a rather tedious operation that a good gunsmith could easily render unnecessary. There is no hope at all for a Seecamp headed for import into the tottering state of California, however, as Left Coast politicians have decreed that the Californicated version must have a primitive cross-bolt manual safety drilled through the frame, which is of course an outrage to both beauty and utility.

If you don’t live in California, and if you don’t currently have a hideout gun that satisfies your every desire, look at the Seecamp LWS32. If the factory wait is too long to tolerate, the guns can always be found in publications such as Gun List and Shotgun News, and listed on Internet sites such as www.gunsamerica.com.

It’s no secret anymore. The Seecamp is one of the finest little pistols ever made.

Robert H. Boatman is the author of Living With Glocks (Paladin Press, 2002) and Living With The Big Fifty (Paladin Press, 2004). He is currently at work on books about the 1911, the AR-15 and dangerous-game rifles, and can be reached at interboat@aol.com.

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SEECAMP LWS32

The direct ancestor of the 32-caliber Seecamp is the 25-caliber CZ45. Both are double-action-only pistols which require a long but reasonably smooth and consistent trigger pull, very similar to a double-action revolver. The .32 is a far more effective defense round than the tiny .25.

Length 4.25 in.
Height 3.25 in.
Slide Width 0.725 in.
Grip Width 0.91 in.
Magazine Capacity 6 + 1 in chamber
Weight (w/ Full Mag.) 13.25 oz.
Ammunition 32 ACP Silvertip
Grips Black Lexan
Type of Action Double-Action-Only Retarded Blowback

SEECAMP LWS32 Specs

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Disclaimer written by Nicholas Albright: I am not under any obligation to Concealed Protection 3. Prior to July 3rd I never had any contact with this company or any staff. I am not paid, either through advertisement or directly by anyone for my opinions contained in this article.

Weapons used for evaluation: S&W Model 3913, Charter Arms UC .38 Special, S&W Sigma. Clothing used to cover holster- Jeans, Shorts, dress slacks, sweats, and a skirt. (yes it was drafty).

Day One - July 3rd

Spent several hours online reading customer comments concerning the Smart Carry Holster. I also viewed the Patent information to get a general understanding about how the unit was developed.

I debated spending the money. After all, this holster hasn't been noticed by any major magazine since its birth, how good could it be?

Day Two - July 4th

Placed order for Holster. Order was placed mid day. I received a call from what I assumed was a company rep. I was told my credit card came back invalid. Not very surprising since I'd had problems with this bank before. A quick call to the bank got me a new number and a valid card. I re-placed the order. A few minutes later I received a call from Smart Carry® again. The same guy both times. I was surprised, so I asked him, “Who are you?” I was told his name was Charlie, and he OWNED smart carry. My initial thought, being a nicer web site, very pleased customers, and such a great looking product was that this company was large. However, as he explained I began to understand that this is a FAMILY RUN BUSINESS who places a great deal of effort in customer satisfaction. Charlie talked to me, LONG DISTANCE, for about 30 minutes, explaining the pros--- AND CONS about his holster. He spoke not as a sales person, but rather as a friend I'd known for years who just stumbled upon a wonderful product.

Charlie boasted that many police officers were buying his product, and that he had a recent inquiry from the United States Marshals Service. Of course, this boasting seemed to be the salesman in him coming out. So I decided to test him. After 4 phone calls to the US MARSHALS SERVICE I found that his claims were TRUE. Deputy Marshals from Colorado (my home state) were in fact ordering these items, and WEARING them for on and off duty protection. Working in the fugitive recovery field myself, I understand how a hidden gun is really the difference between life and death. Not to mention the recent publicity of SKY MARSHALS.

Day Three - July 5th

I tried to mimic the SmartCarry® holster by simply putting on a belly band, very low, and holstering my weapon. I was not happy with the results. I felt upset I purchased such an idea. Another Internet scam!

Day Four and Five - July 6th and 7th

I actually forgot I ordered unit. Slept a lot, tired after the holiday.

Day Six - July 8th

Surprised, I found a plain soft package from Florida in the mail. I opened the unit to find my dreaded purchase. It was Monday morning, and my wife had gone to work. I wore the holster all day with various weapons. My excitement was the only thing that would give the holster away. It concealed all my weapons with very little bulge. However I found using the holster in the method described in the instruction sheet was not comfortable for my build. It describes placing the gun over your “private area” however, I found that it was quite restricting there, and the extra pressure made it difficult to sit down. Also, there was a bulge made from the butt of the gun just to the left of the right pocket. This also made me feel odd, after all I’m not THAT large.

Day Seven - July 9th

I played with the holster a bit more, moving it around on my hips. I found that if I moved it slightly left, letting my groin ride UNDER the butt of the gun, and having the bottom of the magazine under my zipper, the “bulge” was gone. The holster was completely unnoticeable.

Nicholas Albright

GEAR REVIEW

SMARTCARRY®
BY CONCEALED PROTECTION 3, INC.

Day Four and Five - July 6th and 7th

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Surprised, I found a plain soft package from Florida in the mail. I opened the unit to find my dreaded purchase. It was Monday morning, and my wife had gone to work. I wore the holster all day with various weapons. My excitement was the only thing that would give the holster away. It concealed all my weapons with very little bulge. However I found using the holster in the method described in the instruction sheet was not comfortable for my build. It describes placing the gun over your “private area” however, I found that it was quite restricting there, and the extra pressure made it difficult to sit down. Also, there was a bulge made from the butt of the gun just to the left of the right pocket. This also made me feel odd, after all I’m not THAT large.

Day Seven - July 9th

I played with the holster a bit more, moving it around on my hips. I found that if I moved it slightly left, letting my groin ride UNDER the butt of the gun, and having the bottom of the magazine under my zipper, the “bulge” was gone. The holster was completely unnoticeable.

I wore several different outfits, and with the exception of sweat pants, I was unable to see a bulge via a video clip of myself walking through a room. I decided to show my wife. She was happy to see the holster came in, and even more thrilled that I had been wearing it for 2 days. She said she never noticed. Not even slightly. She did point out that it looked like I had a pocket knife in my left pocket, which seemed un-usual since I am right handed.

Continued on page 26
Day Eight - Day Ten, July 10th - July 12th

Wore holster during every waking hour. I did start to develop a raw spot on my leg were the barrel was rubbing, however this can not fault the holster, because I do not use it in the recommended fashion. On the 11th I emailed Charlie asking for a quote on a thinner holster, the Standard model, with a mag pouch for 1 simple magazine. He promptly sent me one to try, an exchange if I wish.

Day 11 - July 13th

I wore the SmartCarry® to a wedding (No, not my own; however, Jeff Foxworthy should use that in his next Redneck Joke.) and to a family gathering. I mention the gathering simply because the family I spent time with is very anti-gun, and it would have been a battle should they have seen it. I even had my shirt tucked in, which always puts suspicious people at ease. Out of sight, out of mind I suppose.

Day 12 - July 14th

I received the “Standard” SmartCarry® Holster, along with a couple of extra brochures. I was far more impressed with this style. The extra pouch provided by the security model just took up extra space. Since I no longer routinely carry handcuffs, I can place them in a back pocket should the need arise. The ammo pocket is also about half the size, which makes the “print” in my left pocket drastically less!

Duty Holsters are regulated by the retention ability. Since this item has no retention strap, or locking of any kind, one would rate it simple R1. However, with your outer garments protecting the weapon, it is nearly impossible to draw unless you are the wearer. The best proven retention level is an R3, however I could rate this higher, R4 or R5. This holster does not have any “riding” problems, unlike the belly band. My holster stayed in place, all day every day from 8 a.m. till 10 or 11 p.m.. The only comfort concern was the raw spot on my leg, which was easily fixed by placing a band-aid patch on the back of the holster.

The Draw time on this holster was introduced at about 1 and a half seconds, however I suspect with more practice and extended use I will reduce that figure. The nice part about drawing from the front of the body is that the weapon is immediately in the “WEAPON READY” position. Re holstering was quite an ordeal, but as my worker, an ARMY SRT member, pointed out, simply tucking the weapon in a waistband during cuffing, or other similar activity would by fine, until proper reholstering can be accomplished.

Considering the fabric the holsters were made

Front View Closed - SmartCarry®
out of, I would not make it a point to reholster a dirty weapon often, without washing. Save that for your Kydex or leather rigs.

The straps are made from durable Velcro®. They do not give easily under incredible strain. In fact, although CP3 advised me they do not support my abuse test, I felt it should be done. I tied the straps together around the hitch of my Durango, and hooked a tow rope around the holster. Simply placing the rope inside the holster would obviously rip out the seam, however the Velcro straps stayed intact, and very little stretching was done to the elastic. I managed to pull a Durango of equal size as my own. The pull was nearly 100 feet on a level grade. I then wore the holster for a day, making sure it did not have any problems. It continued to perform nicely.

I repeatedly washed the unit (it needed it after touching my tow rope) and all held tight. The only damage all this abuse caused to the holster is a slight bit of “dressing” (the black strap attached around the holster) being pulled up in a spot about 1 inch long. My wife was able to fix that with some thread.

With both units paid for, I gave one to my test partner and kept the standard one for myself. My test partner is an Army MP SRT member who wished to remain nameless due to his active status.

Due to the lack of fanny packs seen in public today, the inability to use leather coat rigs during the summer, as well as ankle holsters, this is the best method I’ve seen! The only time you will see me with a holster on is while I’m on duty or practicing speed draws. I have even replaced my Coronado leather with a lighter standard jacket.

Exposed Holster - SmartCarry®

See the SmartCarry® advertisement on page 21 of this issue. Please visit Concealed Protection 3, Inc. at www.smartcarry.com or email smartcarry.univox.com. To place your order today, call 1-888-459-2358 have VISA or MasterCard ready. Please visit the web site for current prices on holsters. Charlie does offer a discount to Police/Federal officers. Have a copy of your LEO ID ready to be faxed to 727-393-8153. This article was reprinted with permission from Concealed Protection 3, Inc.
You and Me

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Maria Heil

I recently had the pleasure of taking a much-needed vacation to Disney World in Florida. I did not go with my husband, or our four children. This was going to be a relaxing vacation. Instead, I went with my mother, two sisters, and one sister-in-law. Five grown women, all sharing one hotel room, and one bathroom! Who cares? I was on vacation and getting a break from my hectic schedule.

We had been planning the trip for months. Mom is the only one without email, so she wasn't in on much of the discussions that took part via email. Mom essentially just agreed to do whatever we wanted to do! I flew to Orlando from Baltimore while everyone else flew in from Chicago. Our planes landed within 20 minutes of each other, of course, we planned it that way! A little pre-planning goes a long way towards a smooth trip.

The first time I thought about the "false sense of security" we were living under was when I went through security at the airport in Baltimore. We all know that if someone really wanted to smuggle a weapon onto an airplane, they already would have discovered the many holes that exist in the security system. Obviously, I will not go into detail about the holes, as I would not want to be accused of aiding terrorism. You'll just have to believe me on this one.

Also, the “last line of defense” on airplanes is being hampered by the very system set up to ensure that there is a “last line of defense”. By “last line of defense” I mean the arming of pilots. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has been dragging its feet in certifying pilots, as well as making it downright difficult for anyone to go through the program! Now, I know from experience that not all TSA people feel that pilots should not have guns.

I once checked a bag full of Second Amendment Sisters (SAS) brochures at an airline baggage counter. When I got to my destination, I found that my bag had been searched by TSA, as they had put one of their notices inside the bag. Hand-written, at the bottom of the notice, was a note from the inspector. The inspector had written, “May God bless your organization.”

I usually carry my SAS bag with the printing away from me so that all can see the words, “Second Amendment Sisters”. I was on a layover at an airport and had time to grab some food before my next flight. While in line at the food court, a TSA person noticed my bag. She stopped and proudly said to her co-workers, “Second Amendment Sisters! I belong to them!”

So, the security at airports is probably as good as it can be without strip-searching every passenger. The TSA agents are doing their jobs, but the TSA administration is trying very hard to keep pilots from being armed. Makes you wonder, “What the heck is their problem?”

So, back to the vacation! Our party stayed on the Disney property, but at a hotel which is an Army R&R hotel. My one sister’s job falls under the Department of Defense, thus she is able to take advantage of such hotels.

Once we had settled in and went down to the pool, I noticed that many of the men could not quite relax. Many of them were standing in the “at ease” position while watching their family members in the pool. I guess it was their first day of vacation as well, and they hadn’t rested long enough to relax.

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At one point I overheard a teenager talking in the hallway. Curiously, she had been asking the person she was with a question about the hotel. When the answer came back that this was an Army hotel, she rolled her eyes and stated, “That’s all we need, a bunch of people with guns!” It was a good thing I was on vacation, or else I would have given her an earful!

The next day we started our visits to the various Disney parks. First on the agenda was the Magic Kingdom! We drove to the “Ticketing and Transportation Center” early in the morning. Yes, we were close to the center, but with Mom being in a wheelchair, it was better to drive there rather than take a shuttle bus. I also prefer having a private vehicle to relying on public transportation, should anything happen.

We wheeled Mom onto the monorail and shortly we arrived at the “Magic Kingdom”. I noticed that there were a number of security check stations on each side of the entrance, prior to the actual turnstiles. Everyone, myself included, dutifully opened each section of their backpacks or purses for the unarmed security guards to peek into. Once we were cleared, I wheeled Mom up to the wheelchair entrance.

I must have really been in a vacation mood, because I did not even think about these goings on until the third day. Maybe I was just tired of it all. Maybe it was the fact that when the male security guard saw the feminine supplies he looked no further. I don’t know, but I finally decided to open my mouth and at least say something to my traveling companions (none of them are exactly pro-gun).

I finally asked, AFTER we were away from security and the turnstiles, “What are they looking for anyway?”

My wonderful sister answered, “Well, they are looking for guns and knives. Maybe bombs too.”

I started to say that those searches would not prevent guns from getting through... but one in my party said that the schools catch kids bringing guns to school all the time. This seemed to solidify in their minds that they were now “safe”.

The conversation ended there, but my thought was, “OK, so MAYBE they MIGHT catch a really stupid person trying to carry a gun into the park in a purse or backpack, assuming the gun is not hidden under some feminine products. Big deal!”

What about the possible thousands of people who enter the park each day who have legal concealed carry permits in Florida, or in their own states and they have reciprocity with Florida? I saw NO signs prohibiting firearms. So, if a legal permit holder was carrying a firearm in their purse or backpack, what would the security team do?

Heck, if I was a legal permit holder, and there was no sign, and I knew that they were checking all bags, then I would just carry the firearm on my body! Duh! I’m sure that anyone, legal or not, that wanted to bring a firearm or knife into the parks could very easily do so merely by tucking such in their pocket! So much for keeping the guests safe from guns or knives!

Now, onto the bomb issue. Really, my mom was in her own wheelchair! How difficult would it be? They do not even take a second look at the wheelchairs or strollers people are bringing in, except if there is a bag of some type. I’m sure that any terrorist could figure out a number of ways to avoid having a bomb discovered.

The fact of the matter is, the security searches conducted at all these parks are lulling people into a false sense of security. These searches will catch only the very dumbest of common criminals as well as desensitize the masses to an invasion of privacy. Anyone who is determined to get a firearm, knife, or bomb into the park will most likely prevail.

I’m not a security expert, so I can’t tell you what the answer here is. What I can tell you is that even on vacation, we should never be unarmed, especially while visiting a “target” like theme parks. Remember, an armed citizen may be “the last line of defense” on the ground!

Stay safe, be prepared, and enjoy your summer!

Maria is the Vice President and National Press Coordinator for the Second Amendment Sisters. Visit the web site at: www.2asisters.org.
George Hill

Have you ever watched a movie where the character on the screen is lying in his death bed and says “I have no regrets”? There is a lot of envy over here when I hear that, because I have regrets... I have lots of regrets. I regret not sending my wife flowers last Valentines Day. I regret trading my Mustang for a Subaru. I regret selling a 1941 German Mauser rifle. I regret a lot of things and invent new regrets daily...but the one that just got under my skin was when I sold off a stainless Detonics Combat Master. In my defense it was to a friend, who needed it, and I needed the cash, but for years since I have kicked myself mercilessly.

A couple months ago when the opportunity came up to acquire a different Detonics Combat Master, I jumped on it. This was redemption. This was a second chance. I had to have it and I couldn’t waste time. So I purchased it sight unseen from someone selling it out in the Blue Grass state. I was very excited to get my new Combat Master and the wait for Fed Ex shipping was like a visit to a dental office. When it finally arrived, I felt like Ralphie on Christmas morning.

The first time I took it out, I was just plinking with it and pretty much just running ammo through it to make sure it was reliable. Indeed it was. I didn’t encounter a single jam or failure of any sort. I was even able to make hits on the targets I was plinking at. Since that time, the little Combat Master has been a constant companion.

You hear a lot of gun writers talk about how the 1911 is their first choice when it comes to an automatic pistol. There are good reasons for that, but I’m not going to go into those here. Let’s just say that the 1911 carries with it a great many admirable qualities that experts prefer. The only problem with the 1911 is that it is a large handgun. Custom gunsmiths used to do good business in chopping down 1911’s for under cover work. Detonics capitalized on that trend when they rolled out the Combat Master.

Few things make me geek out like a compact .45, and nothing geeks me out more than the Combat Master. Back when the original Detonics Combat Masters came out in the mid 70’s they were available in four calibers: .45 ACP, .451 Detonics Magnum, .38 Super and 9MM Parabellum. Detonics was well ahead of their time.

Had they been able to hold on through the Wonder Nine hype, they would have been able to reap the rewards of the reawakening that the shooting community experienced after the Crime Bill was passed and magazines were limited to a maximum of only ten rounds. After that, all of the sudden people loved powerful compact guns. Unfortunately, too many people had forgotten about the

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Detonics Combat Master MKI Specs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specification</th>
<th>Measurement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>6.75 in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height</td>
<td>4.5 in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width</td>
<td>1 1/8 in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sight Radius</td>
<td>4.0 in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barrel Length</td>
<td>3.5 in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magazine Capacity</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight (w/ Empty Mag.)</td>
<td>29 oz.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight (w/ Full Mag.)</td>
<td>35 oz.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Trigger Pull</td>
<td>6.0 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discharge Trigger Travel</td>
<td>2 1/2in. take up with 3/16in. pull</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
then defunct little company. Those that had Combat Masters cherished them. Few used examples are seen on the market.

Detonics offered two things to the shooting community that is only now being appreciated. First was offering a chopped and channeled 1911 as a production gun. Something no one else was doing outside of one-off custom jobs. Now, Para-Ordnance, Springfield, Kimber, STI and others make them.

Second, they had their .451 Detonics Magnum which was at the time cutting edge. Flash forward in time to this date and you have everyone offering sub-compact 1911’s and then we have .45 Super and .45 SM C, or .460 Roland, all doing what was done back in the day with the .451 Detonics.

Let’s look at what these guns are all about here. They were designed as an advanced, concealable, fighting gun. The CIA picked up a load of them for their field agents. You think James Bond was cool with his little .32 caliber Walther PPK? Our Spooks were packing good old .45’s in the slickest compact automatic on the planet. And here you probably thought they only used suppressed .22’s. These little guns were picked up by people who needed serious power in a concealable package. Law enforcement all across the country carried them... Federal Agents, Detectives, Private Investigators, you name it. They were carried undercover and close to the body for all these years. These guns were never meant to be safe queens and few ever were. They were the gun of choice by the elite and those in the know. They were on duty all the time. This one was no exception, and it shows.

These little Combat Masters even enjoyed some lime light. If you were a fan of either Magnum PI or Miami Vice, you may have seen one. Sonny Crockett carried his Detonics in an ankle rig, while Magnum carried his cross draw under his flowered shirts. (How did Magnum pull off looking tough in a flowered shirt? That’s what I want to know.) They have also appeared in “The Survivalist” novels by Jerry Ahern.

Being every bit as ruggedly handsome as Tom Selleck and as dashing as Don Johnson, I went out this morning to shoot some groups with it. Things didn’t go so well. Talk about a bad day. Out of all the shooting I did, I was only able to shoot one decent shot group. (And this was with cheap CCI Blazer ammunition) My frustrations only compounded when the wood grips decided to split like kindling in my hand.

As far as 1911’s go, this one has the worst trigger I have ever felt. And that includes a rusted out Norinco. The hammer is getting wear marks on one side. The brass ejection is all over the place. The finish is flaking off. The linkage under the barrel is worn to the point that it shakes, rattles, and rolls. The take down pin/slide stop can just about fall out if you turn the gun sideways. The slide to frame fit is, well, let’s just say the slide doesn’t quite fall off the frame... yet. In all honesty, this Combat Master is worn down and out.

This specific example isn’t a gun that I would want to recommend to anyone that I cared for. It just has too many miles on it. Most Combat Masters that I have seen are all pretty much in the same condition. I was at a gunshop in Salt Lake City and they had a Combat Master under the glass. When I asked to see it, the firing pin shot out and hit me in the chest. After 20 years of hard duty, these old war horses are due for either retirement or extensive restoration by artisan gunsmiths.

So why am I reviewing this gun for Concealed Carry Magazine? Because here is some good news - Detonics is coming back. New management, new factory, and they are going to be making the Combat Masters like they used to, and this is a good thing.

One of the interesting features about the Combat Master is the rear sight. This is something people tend to pick up on right off the bat because it is very different. The reason for this goes back to the gun fighting days before Jeff Cooper’s Modern Technique caught on. Back then you fired from the hip not even using the sights. You basically held it out in front of you at about belt level with one hand. (Thank you Jeff Cooper for putting that to rest!) It was also popular to carry the 1911 in condition two where you had to cock the hammer manually. The Detonics was the ideal little gun for that kind of fighting. With the rear sight moved forward and the deck contoured down, it allowed for the shooter to “fan” the hammer back just like they did in the old west. It was a very fast method for the time. Of course, we now recognize the advantages that John Moses Browning built into the 1911 with its ability to be properly carried in condition one. The old gunfighter days are best left to the western movies.

The Combat Master also used a captive recoil spring and a bushingless cone barrel.
These two features are common now, even on a 1911 clone, but back in the day that was cutting edge stuff. Another interesting feature that sets a Detonics apart from the others is the scalloping that they did to the ejection port. This MK I example has it as you can see in the picture. This exposes the extractor a bit and allows for a free ejection as is common on all other automatics that use an external extractor. Chalk that up to another “before its time” item.

Now we see external extractors on all sorts of 1911’s. Wilson Combat and Kimber are two, just to name a couple off the top of my head. Another advantage of this is that you can actually see the rim of the cartridge if the chamber is loaded. No need for a loaded chamber indicator or other gimmick. There is of course no need to press check either; you can see it.

Jeff Cooper wrote in Guns and Ammo: “This remarkable pistol is the smallest, lowest recoil single action .45 caliber semi-automatic in the world. The Detonics .45 is a premium quality professional tool for the serious handgun expert and combat shooter. It is capable of providing the brute force stopping power of the standard-sized .45 in a size no larger than a snub-nosed .38, or “pocket” 9 mm auto.

The Detonics .45 has an advanced mechanism which reduces the apparent recoil remarkably below the full-sized .45. This awesomely powerful pistol is smaller, more easily concealed, and has greater short/medium range rapid fire accuracy than any single action .45 weapon available today. This masterpiece of combat design is gaining recognition as the finest defensive handgun in the world today.”

There are probably a lot of guys like me who appreciate what the Combat Master was, and are very much looking forward to the new ones - especially when the guy leading the new Detonics charge is none other than Jerry Ahern.

These new Detonics guns should be just as good if not better than the old, and if that is the case, I would recommend getting one at the first opportunity.

Now I have to decide what to do with this Combat Master. Retire it, or restore it? Considering this little gun’s history and how well it carries concealed, I’m thinking it deserves a trip to a good gunsmith so it can pull its duty for another 20 years.

29 Ounces, 6.75 inches long, 4.5 inches height. Sight radius is 4 inches. Barrel Length is 3.5 inches. Trigger Pull: 2/16th take up followed by a 3/16th inch pull to the 6 pound break. Reach to the trigger is customizable. This one is 6 rounds in the magazine, and any 1911 type mag can work but will extend past the grips.

The new Detonics USA web site: http://www.detonicsusa.com


Photography by Deveni.
I thought a minute. “About a dozen.”

a voice that was tinged with exasperation.

“How many do you own?” he asked in

“Need one?” I asked again, not

“Why do you need one?” he

“I want it,” I said.

“Yes.”

“I want it,” I said.

“But why do you need a gun for?”

THE MEANING OF THE 2ND AMENDMENT

He was back to that. “I don’t know

where this is going. I don’t even understand

your question,” I said. “I don’t have to need

a gun to own one any more than I need a CD

player or a couch to own one of those. The 2nd

Amendment says I can have them. It doesn’t

say I have to show a need and it doesn’t limit

the number I can own.”

Bill shook his head. “So, you’re one of

those.”

Dave finished his call and turned to us as

he hung up and said, “Bill, what do you mean

by needing a gun?”

“The 2nd Amendment isn’t about you

guys owning guns,” Bill said. “It’s about the

state having guns. It says you’re only allowed

guns if you’re part of the militia and I don’t

see any of you guys with uniforms. The 2nd

Amendment is about the National Guard.”

“I don’t think that’s what it means,” Dave

said.

“It says it right in the amendment. It’s

for the militia. You can even ask Mac,” he

said and pumped his thumb back to the corner

where Mac was quietly reading. “I’ll bet even

he agrees with me.”

I think Bill was baiting Mac. He and

Mac had a lively discussion about our rights

the last time Bill was here about two years ago

(Issue No. 44 March/April 1997). But Mac

didn’t look up. He just kept reading.

Dave got out of his seat and pulled down

the almanac from the bookcase and flipped

through the pages.

Then he began to read, “A well regulated

Militia, being necessary to the security of a

free State, the right of the people to keep and

bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

“Yes,” Bill said. “It’s about having a well

regulated militia. Militia—that’s military. It’s

not about you.”

“Well, a whole bunch of people think it’s

about individual gun ownership”, Dave said.

“But it’s not. Read the amendment again.

It’s about the militia. It’s only you gun nuts

who think it’s about you.”

I shrugged. The wording of the 2nd

Amendment has always bothered me.

But Dave looked off into the corner to

where Mac was still reading. “What do you

think?” he asked.

Mac just looked at us and smiled, then

went back to his magazine.

“So,” Bill said. “Even he knows it’s

about the National Guard, not you guys.”

“We,” Bill smiled. “Mac, it says right there in

black and white—Dave just read it to us—

that it’s to ensure we have a well regulated

militia.”

I looked expectantly to Mac who seemed
to be getting impatient because he really was

trying to read.

“Could you give us a little input into this?” I asked him.

“I can tell you that when the Founding

Fathers used the word militia, it meant

something different to them than what it

means to us now,” and he continued reading.

“Is that all you’ve got to say?” I asked.

He looked at me, then back at his

magazine. He knew we weren’t going to

let him stay out of this and he reluctantly

closed it.

WHAT IS THE MILITIA?

Now that I had him I asked, “What’s this

about how the guys who founded this country

used the word militia?”

“You’ve got to understand what the militia

is,” he said. “In May of 1792, five months

after the adoption of the 2nd Amendment, the

Militia Act was passed. That act distinguished

between the enrolled militia and the organized

militia. Before the passing of that act, there

was only the enrolled militia, which was the

body of all able-bodied men between the
Mac shrugged. “That’s okay. Even if you’re right and the 2nd Amendment refers only to the National Guard, the state police, or some other uniformed military or police organization we’d still have the right to keep and bear arms. We don’t need the 2nd Amendment.”

“What?” Bill yipped. “If the 2nd Amendment is about the states, and not the individual, you don’t have the right to own guns.”

“Yes we do,” Mac said.

“Wait a minute,” Dave said. “How do you figure we’d still have the right to have guns? Without the 2nd Amendment we’re lost.”

Bill was laughing. “Yeah, how do you come up with that?”

“Because the Founding Fathers believed we had that right. They spoke about it and wrote about it. And that’s enough.”

Bill laughed harder. “That’ll look good in court: ‘I can carry a gun because some guy who’s been dead for 200 years said I can. Here, let me show you the note he gave me. It’s in the form of a permission slip. Can I get a hall pass, too?’”

Dave laughed at what Bill said, but Mac didn’t seem in the least perturbed.

“I think Dave and Bill are right,” I said. “The whole question of gun rights hinges on the 2nd Amendment.”

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what the 2nd Amendment means. If it means the right to bear arms belongs to the states, then it means you and I don’t have any right to individual gun ownership.”

“Well, let’s start with this,” Mac said. “Can you find anything in the 2nd Amendment, or any other part of the Constitution, that says the individual can’t have arms?”

“What’s that got to do with it?” Bill asked. “That’s not an answer.” Just keep in mind my question is not whether you think the Constitution allows individuals to carry guns but whether or not there’s anything in it that says they can’t?

“Anyone can answer it, but the question is really directed at Bill.”

There was a long pause while we all thought about that. I don’t know where Mac was taking this, but it smelled suspiciously like a trap and I’m sure Bill felt that way, too. Mac waited patiently.

“I don’t think so,” Dave finally said. I agreed, too, but Bill still didn’t say anything.

**NATURAL RIGHTS**

“And do you also understand that the Bill of Rights is not the source of our rights. It’s not even a complete list of our rights.”

“What are you talking about?” I asked.

“Mac’s losing it,” Bill said and threw his arms up.

“I’m asking you if you understand that we do not get our rights from the Bill of Rights.”

“Of course we do,” Bill said. “That’s why they wrote the Bill of Rights.”

“I’ve got to agree with Bill,” I said.

Dave said nothing. He seemed to be thinking.

“I’m saying this because the Founding Fathers did not believe we got our rights from the Bill of Rights. Nor did they believe they came about as a result of being American, Christian, of European decent, or white. They believed everyone had these rights even if they lived in Europe, China, or the moon. They called them Natural Rights. Where these rights were not allowed, they believed they still existed but were denied.”

“You should be writing fiction,” Bill said.

“Well, it’s a question as to whether or not our rights exist apart from government,” Mac said. “Let me ask you this,” he said to Bill. “In a country where children have no civil rights, do they still have a right not to be molested? Do women in countries where they have a second-citizen status have the right not to be abused by their husbands, even if the government won’t protect them?”

Bill didn’t answer.

“Then is it too much of a stretch for you to understand that the Founding Fathers believed everyone has the right to free speech, freedom of religion, the right to fair trials...?”

His voice trailed off.

Bill still wouldn’t answer.

“In other words,” Dave said, “it’s a question as to whether the rights of the citizens in China are at the pleasure of the government or if they have them but are being denied, or if the Jews had basic human rights in Germany even if Hitler didn’t let them exercise them?”

“Yes. All I want to know is if that’s hard for you to see.” He looked at Bill who was still silent.

“Then I see what you’re saying,” Dave said, “But I’m not sure how it relates to the 2nd Amendment.”

Bill still said nothing—but neither did I.

“Take it a step further. If the government passed a law tomorrow that said we didn’t have the right to free speech, or the right to free worship, or freedom of the press, would those rights no longer exist, or would they be simply denied? If the Constitution is amended depriving us of our rights, do those rights cease to exist?”

“What’s the answer?” Dave asked Mac. The answer, according to the guys who set up this country, is yes, we would still have those rights. We’re just being denied them. Because of that, it’s the way we have to look at the Constitution.”

Bill rubbed his nose.

Dave said, “Okay, I never thought of it that way, but I’ll buy into it for a moment.”

“It may be,” Mac said, “that in reality, rights are a figment of our imagination. But the Founding Fathers believed they existed and that’s how this country was set up. Rights are something that come with being human. The Founders never believed we got them from the government. If and when the United States goes away, the rights will still be there.”

**WHY A BILL OF RIGHTS?**

“Then why have a Bill of Rights?” Bill asked. The question was posed as a challenge.

“You’re not the first person to ask that. Many like Alexander Hamilton asked it. He and many others thought having a Bill of rights was dangerous.”

Dangerous,” Bill laughed. “How could it be dangerous?”

“They were afraid that the existence of a Bill of Rights as a part of our Constitution implied that the government not only had the right to change them, but that any rights not listed there were fair game for the government to deny. And, as a matter of fact, that’s exactly what has happened. The government seems to have set itself up to be an interpreter of our rights; it acts as if it is also the source of our rights, and whatever rights weren’t mentioned in the Bill of Rights, the government has seen fit to declare exist only at its discretion.”

“Then how do we know what our rights are in court?” Bill asked.

“Have you ever read the Bill of Rights?” Mac asked. I think he was tired; there was no humor in his voice. “Specifically, have you ever read the 9th and 10th Amendments?”

Bill smiled and shook his head. “I never thought it was important to memorize them.”

“It’s important to understand what they say and know why they are written the way they are because they tie in with how the Founding Fathers viewed our rights and how they expected us to view them.”

“They were put there to quell the fears of men like Hamilton who were afraid that any rights not mentioned in the Bill of Rights would be usurped by the government. The 9th says: The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people. This means that any rights not mentioned in the Bill of Rights are not to be denied to the people. The 10th says: The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people. “So any powers not specifically given to the Federal government are not powers it can usurp.”

“So it’s enough to show the Founding Fathers thought we had a right for it to fall under the protection of the 9th or 10th Amendment. **The whole question of gun rights hinges on what the 2nd Amendment means.**

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organizations, we still have the right to keep and bear arms, because the Founding Fathers considered it a natural right. And if you don’t believe it, read what the Founding Fathers said in their papers, their letters, and their debates in both Congress and the state legislatures.”

He pulled more papers from his briefcase and started going through them.

“You know,” he said, “weapons have always been important. In Greece, Rome, and even under Anglo-Saxon law, when slaves were freed, part of the ceremony included placing a weapon in the man’s hand. It was symbolic of the man’s new rank.”

**WHAT THE FOUNDERSAID**

He paused as he looked through the papers. “Here’s one, and I quote:

*To suppose arms in the hands of citizens, to be used at individual discretion, except in private self-defense, or by partial orders of towns, countries or districts of a state, is to demolish every constitution, and lay the laws prostrate, so that liberty can be enjoyed by no man; it is a dissolution of the government. The fundamental law of the militia is, that it be created, directed and commanded by the laws, and ever for the support of the laws.*

“That was said by John Adams in A Defense Of The Constitution.

“Here’s another one:

*The Constitution shall never be construed to prevent the people of the United States who are peaceable citizens from keeping their own arms.*

“That was said by Samuel Adams, John Adams’ second or third cousin, during Massachusetts’ U.S. Constitution ratification convention in 1788.”

“This is all bull,” Bill said.

Mac looked up, then he started to put the papers back in the briefcase.

“No, I want to hear more of this,” Dave said. “What else have you got there?” Dave asked, and Mac began going through the papers again.

“If you really want to hear what they had to say, here are a few by Jefferson:

*No free man shall ever be barreled the use of arms.*

“He wrote this as part of the proposed Virginia Constitution, in 1776.”

**PERSONAL PROTECTION**

“And here’s one more. It’s Jefferson quoting Cesare Beccaria—a Milanese criminologist whom he admired who was also his contemporary—in *On Crimes and Punishment*:

*Laws that forbid the carrying of arms...disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes...Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they serve rather to encourage than to prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than an armed man.*

“I think it’s pretty clear that Jefferson felt we had the right to keep and bear arms for both personal protection and as a safeguard against tyranny.”

Bill went and poured himself some coffee and acted, for all the world, as if he wasn’t listening anymore.

“Here’s one by Thomas Paine that comes from his *Thoughts On Defensive War* written in 1775:

*Arms discourage and keep the invader and plunderer in awe, and preserve order in the world as well as property. Horrid mischief would ensue were the law-abiding deprived of the use of them.*

“Do you have more?” He went through more of his papers.

“Here’s one of my favorites: To disarm the people; that it was the best and most effectual way to enslave them.”

“That was by George Mason when the Constitution was being debated.”

“And who, may I ask, was George Mason?” Bill asked. “It sounds like you’re bringing in the second string now.”

“He’s the most underrated and unsung of all the Founding Fathers. Jefferson drew on him when composing the Declaration of Independence; his doctrine of inalienable rights was not only the basis for the Virginia Bill of Rights in 1776, but other states used them as the models for their own Bill of Rights, and James Madison drew upon them freely while composing the Bill of Rights for the United States.”

“Even though a Southerner, Mason recognized the evils of slavery and the fact that slaves were entitled to the same rights as the rest of humanity. He also feared the Constitution because it didn’t do a better job of limiting the powers of the Federal government. He believed local government should be strong and the Federal government

Continued on page 38
James Madison

force to be reckoned with. Without him, I can guarantee you that the United States would not be as free as it is now.

“You guys should do an article on him,” he said to Dave.

Dave quickly wrote something on his note pad, then glanced at me.

DEFENSE AGAINST TYRANNY

Mac continued to go through his papers.

“Here’s a quote by Elbridge Gerry, a representative to Congress from Massachusetts during the debates over the Bill of Rights. He’s also the man for whom gerrymandering is named because, as governor of Massachusetts, he tried to rig districts to favor his party. In this quote he was specifically referring to what we now call the 2nd Amendment:

What, Sir, is the use of a militia? It is to prevent the establishment of a standing army, the bane of liberty...Whenever Governments mean to invade the rights and liberties of the people, they always attempt to destroy the militia, in order to raise an army upon their ruins.

“Okay, go ahead,” Dave said.

That should also give you insight as to how the Founders defined the militia and why they thought it was important.

“Okay, I’ve heard enough,” Bill said.

“Me too,” Dave added.

“There’s one more,” Mac said.

“I’ve got more, but I think that’s enough.”

“So do I,” Mac said.

“I kind of like that one,” Dave said.

“I’ve got more, but I think that’s enough.”

But I think you can see how the Founding Fathers felt about the right of individuals to have weapons. In the last century, Americans would have been as amazed to find their right to have weapons a subject of debate as they would have to found their right to free speech or religion debated. There was no question to them, or to the Founders, that the right to keep and bear arms was one of the most fundamental—perhaps the most fundamental— of all civil rights.”

Elbridge Gerry

“Are any of the Founders on record saying they don’t believe individuals should have guns?” Dave asked.

“None I know of—and I’ve actually looked for some.

“Do you know of any, Bill?” he asked.

Bill didn’t reply. Again, I thought he as acting as if he wasn’t listening.

The phone rang again and someone called across the office to tell Dave it was an advertiser, so he took the call.

Mac put his papers back into the briefcase and picked up his magazine and started to look for his place.

Bill had even lost interest in the conversation. And it was time for me to get back to work. As I said, I was way behind. I took a last look at the gun parts to ensure they were clean, and I began to reassemble the rifle.

But I turned back to Mac for a moment and asked, “The lawyer friend you found this information for...were you giving him legal advice, doing research for him, or what?”

“I was winning a bet,” he said.

“What were the stakes?”

“I was winning a bet,” he said.

“A six-pack of beer.”

“Never heard of him,” Bill said.

“I’m not surprised. But you’re not alone because most people haven’t.”

“Why’s that?” Dave asked.

“He suffered bad health and had all kinds of family problems, so he never attained any office outside of Virginia—other than his membership to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. But he was the most vocal of the Founders on individual rights, and the other Founding Fathers recognized him as a
Media Bias
By Daniel Nauenburg

Okay, this is a rehearsal. Bob, you’re on.

“Um...” After the terrible, tragic, blood bath that traumatized the nation, prominent 2nd Amendment scholars overwhelmingly agree... The 2nd Amendment does not protect the individual right to bear arms. In light of irrefutable evidence that guns cause crime...-

Public opinion polls show overwhelming support for tighter gun laws. Laws such as banning the fully automatic assault revolver used in the shooting massacre of a man at “Big Tom’s” liquor store.

That was good, but I was thinking... maybe we should check our facts so we can be as honest and accurate as possible. That way our viewers can get unbiased information to form intelligent opinions, and not just emotionally charged hyperbole designed to boost short term ratings.

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

That’s a good one.

HA HA. Check our facts. Sniffs. Haha.
Another issue comes to a close. I hope you enjoyed reading this issue as much as we enjoyed putting it together. I am excited about having two "CCM Profile" articles per issue. It is really enjoyable to meet and interview my fellow armed citizens. Please keep all the letters and input coming in. As I said in my opening comments, we will continually strive to make Concealed Carry Magazine something all of our readers look forward to receiving. Thank you and be safe.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Schmidt
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