

Michigan Open Carry News

August 2013

No. 2

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Michigan Open Carry News

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Letter From the President

It has been a good six months for Michigan Open Carry. Our membership has been growing steadily. Obama's attempt at gun control have all gone exactly where they should: nowhere. This is in large part thanks to our National Partners such as the Gun Owners of America and National Association of Gun Rights.

This past six months I have had several interesting experiences myself:

I was kicked out of the GOP State Convention for Openly Carrying

I was told I couldn't ride a bus

Agents for the City of Lansing tried to disarm me for the Fourth of July

A few interesting follow-up notes:

1. It turns out the Lansing Center doesn't have a written policy banning guns – the MI GOP lied.
2. CATA (the bus "authority") sent me a check for \$1.25 to refund my bus fare and have since changed their policy to allow people to lawfully carry (with a CPL).

If you're interested in helping Michigan Open Carry, Inc., here are a few ideas:

1. Become a **dues paying member** if you aren't already. If you are, consider renewing
2. Tell a friend about our mailing list and the content you receive from it. Invite them to signup: <http://miopencarry.org/updates>
3. Consider volunteering. It would involve as little as 1 – 2 hours a month. If you're interested, contact me and we can discuss the best way you can help: phofmeister@miopencarry.org

Dan Griffin and our other authors have prepared another excellent newsletter. I hope you will take the time to read the articles contained here-in.

"Stay safe and stay armed."



Phillip Hofmeister
President
Michigan Open Carry, Inc.

ALSO OF INTEREST

Why Should You Open Carry? Come Out Of The Closet



Phillip Hofmeister, MOC President, weighs in.

Why I Carry Openly



Open or concealed, I will carry. I don't ever want to have to say "My little girl would have been 15 years old today, if only I would have had my gun with me that day."

Nugent: Zimmerman Verdict Vindicates Citizen Patrols, Self-Defense



Ted Nugent shares his view on the Zimmerman verdict

IN THE NEWS

Got Insurance?



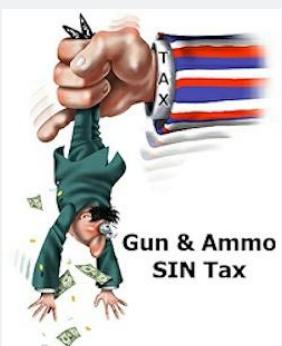
Lawmakers in at least half a dozen states plus the District of Columbia have proposed new legislation that would require gun owners to buy liability insurance.

Need Ammo?



Not until you complete an anger management program.

Federal, State Bills Seek Firearms and Ammunition Taxes



Efforts are underway in Congress and at least half a dozen states to raise taxes on firearms and ammunition to pay for programs targeting gun violence.

Current Firearms Legislation Pending in 2013

This is a subset of firearms and weapons bills currently before the Michigan Legislature. MOC, Inc. does not take a formal position on many of them. This information is given here as an aid to the reader so he can contact his or her representative and voice his support or opposition as appropriate.

SB 213 modifies many aspects of carry, including CPL class certifications expiring after five years, eliminates some establishments from PFZ restrictions, and replaces the County Gun Boards with the MI State Police. This bill has only been introduced in the Senate. MOC strongly supports this bill.

HB 4774, HB 4775, and HB 4776 propose to change the regulation of selling, purchasing, possessing, and carrying of firearms. These have only been introduced in the House. MOC strongly opposed these bills.

SB 429 and **SB 430** propose tax credits and Renaissance Zone status to firearms manufacturing. These have only been introduced in the Senate.

HB 4262 proposes new restrictions to the carrying of knives. This bill has currently been passed by the House.

SB 407 proposes to modify MCL 28.425o to add language defining "Gun-Free Zone" signage. This bill has only been introduced in the Senate. MOC opposes this bill.

HB 4872 proposes changes to the law affecting people who have been ordered by a court not to possess firearms. This bill has only been introduced in the House. MOC opposes this bill.

HB 4332 provides for members of the military to obtain a CPL at 18 years of age. This bill has only been introduced in the Senate.

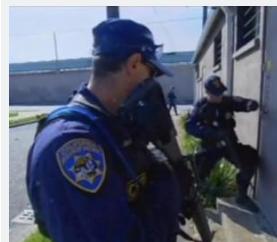
SB 63 declares that personal firearms, accessories, and ammunition that are manufactured in Michigan and do not leave the state are not subject to Federal regulation. This bill has passed out of committee. MOC supports this bill.

HB 4457 declares that personal firearms, accessories, and ammunition that are manufactured in Michigan and do not leave the state are not subject to Federal regulation. This bill imposes criminal penalties against federal officials who violate this law. This bill has only been introduced in the House. MOC supports this bill.

SB 49 and **HB 4349** add a FOIA exemption to the pistol registration database, and have been amended to eliminate pistol registration. SB 49 has passed out of committee. MOC supports this bill.

HB 4027 gives Michigan workers the right to store a firearm in their car on private property, i.e. their employer's parking lot or garage. This bill has only been introduced in the House.

Police to Confiscate Guns From Americans?



From Katrina to Seattle to Small-town Alabama, watch the unthinkable

A Woman's Right To Choose Self-Protection



Carry laws help reverse the balance of power

"A woman who demands further gun control legislation is like a chicken who roots for Colonel Sanders."

— Larry Elder

The Truth About 'Stand Your Ground' Laws



Self-defense is the law in all 50 states, regardless of 'Stand Your Ground.'

Just the Beginning



Rep. Jan Schakowsky:
More crackdowns
coming, as "I'm against
handguns."

Senate Committee Approves 'Assault Weapons' Ban



But Sen. Diane Feinstein
admits the road is uphill

Democrats Quietly Continue to Push for Gun Control



Democrat Leaders in Congress and the White House renewed their push for gun legislation just months after it was defeated in the Senate

HB 4104 and **HB 4105** add public libraries to the list of pistol free zones, and HB 4104 prohibits open carry in pistol free zones. These bills have only been introduced in the House. MOC strongly opposes these bills.

CADL v. MOC



In an effort to prohibit the lawful carry of firearms in the Capital Area District Library (CADL) system, in February 2011 CADL filed a lawsuit against Michigan Open Carry seeking both a declaratory judgment establishing the validity of its weapons policy and injunctive relief to enforce the policy. Ingham County Circuit Court Judge Aquilina immediately issued an Emergency Ex-Parte Temporary Restraining Order prohibiting the public from carrying a firearm on CADL property. She later found in favor of CADL.

MOC appealed the ruling, and the Michigan Court of Appeals reversed the lower court's ruling. In finding in favor of MOC, the court reaffirmed that the state completely occupies the field of firearms regulation. In fact, the Appeals Court further stated that the lower court abused its discretion by granting CADL's request for permanent injunctive relief.

CADL v. MOC Court of Appeals Ruling

CADL filed a motion to reconsider, which the Court of Appeals denied.

In January 2013 CADL filed a Leave to Appeal to the Michigan Supreme Court.

CADL v. MOC Leave to Appeal to the Michigan Supreme Court

In February 2013, twelve public and district libraries and a library cooperative filed an Amicus Curiae brief in support of CADL.

CADL v. MOC Libraries Amicus Curiae

The Michigan Municipal League and Michigan Association of Police Chiefs filed an Amicus Curiae brief in support of CADL in May 2013.

CADL v. MOC MML and MAP Chiefs Amicus Curiae

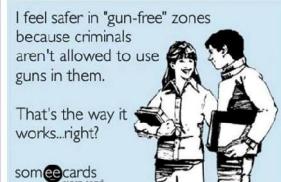
MOC has filed to Deny Leave. We await the decision of the Michigan Supreme Court whether they will hear this case or not.

Open Carry in a Post-Apocalyptic World

Skip Coryell (Skip Coryell)

Okay, open carriers. Here's the scenario. There's just been a cyber-terrorist attack on the nation's power grid, and a cascading power failure ensues. Eventually every toaster, light bulb and television set goes dark and powerless, leaving the world without Twitter, Facebook and cable TV. What a dark and nasty world that would be. But that's exactly what happens in my novel *The God Virus*.

Raging Against Self-Defense



A psychiatrist examines the anti-gun mentality

"A fear of weapons is a sign of retarded sexual and emotional maturity."

— Sigmund Freud

Why Gun Control is a Logical Fallacy



Random rants from a former airline employee

"I have a very strict gun control policy: if there's a gun around, I want to be in control of it."

— Clint Eastwood

Beretta Leaves Maryland



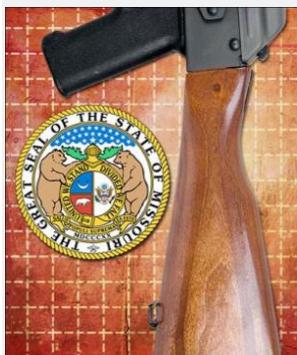
New anti-gun laws force manufacturer out of state

Biden Vows to 'Beat the Gun Lobby' by Passing Stronger Laws



"This fight isn't over, far from it."

Missouri Democrats Introduce Bill to Confiscate Firearms



Gives gun owners 90 days to turn in weapons

Minnesota Dems Introduce Law to Confiscate Guns...



...Using same language as Missouri Democrats

"There are no dangerous weapons. There are only dangerous men."

— Robert A. Heinlein

That thin veneer of civilization is stripped away and the demons of a million souls are set loose on an unsuspecting and unprepared humanity. Well, I guess that's a worst-case scenario. I suspect that most open carriers would be more prepared than the general population, and here's why.

Because we open carry as a way of life, we already move and live in a world of heightened awareness. We know that at any moment in time Johnny Badguy can pop up out of the woodwork and do his darndest to put us under. But as an open carrier, you see him coming, pull your favorite firearm and double-tap center of bad-guy-exposed-mass (before most people can clear leather) to remove him from the gene pool and keep your family safe. Happy ending to a scary story.

Isn't it nice to know your draw is quicker than most, because you don't have to worry about first clearing that bulky clothing? When I teach my advanced concealed carry classes, I routinely watch shooters struggle with clearing the vest or jacket or shirt while drawing. It slows them down and even adds an element of danger. I can't tell you how many times I've watched people try to re-holster their pistol with nylon or cotton fabric shoved into the holster. It just gums up the whole works and breaks your rhythm.

In today's politically correct and "proper" world, sometimes open carriers are frowned upon by others in the gun community. We are sometimes referred to as "the rebels of the gun world." In a post-apocalyptic world, all that political and useless BS would go away. There would only be two categories of people: those with a pulse and those without. Not only can I live with that rebellious label, but I can also wear it like a badge of honor.

In the post-apocalyptic world, after the Shit Hits the Fan (SHTF) society would cease to function as we know it. The world would suddenly revert to its natural state. (If you haven't already, I recommend reading James Wesley Rawles' book *How to Survive the End of the World as we Know it*. Preppers commonly refer to that as TEOTWAWKI.) In the world of TEOTWAWKI, very few people would bother to carry concealed. What for? It would serve no useful purpose. Let's face it, the only reason people bother to cover up their gun in today's world is so we don't scare the sheep.

In my book *Blood in the Streets: Concealed Carry and the OK Corral* I make this statement:

"Sheep are born and bred for one purpose: to be killed and to have their parts processed into something useful by predators. They stand on the hill and go "Baa", as they're being slaughtered."

If open carriers are sheep, then Justin Bieber's a cigar-smoking body builder.

When the SHTF you don't want that gun covered up. You want it accessible and flaunted out front as the mother of all deterrents. In all honesty, anyone with a lick of brains will not only be openly carrying their pistols,

Magpul Begins Making Magazines Outside of Colorado



In response to anti-gun legislation Magpul plans to move other items out of state as well

Four Firearms Companies Leave Colorado



Colorado's new gun laws send businesses packing

Colt to Bolt?



Colt feels unwelcome in Connecticut

PTR Industries to Leave Connecticut



HK-91 clone maker to leave state due to new anti-gun legislation

Kahr Firearms to Leave New York



Anti-gun law forces move to Pennsylvania

Poll: “Stand Your Ground” divided along racial lines



White voters support “Stand Your Ground” laws 57—37 percent, while black voters are opposed 57—37 percent.

Rep. Jackson Lee Introduces Bill to Cut Funds to “Stand Your Ground” States



A response to the acquittal of George Zimmerman in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin, new bill would mandate a 20% cut in federal funds to states with “Stand Your Ground” laws.

Democrats Vow To Repeal Alabama’s “Stand Your Ground” Law



Admit it will be an uphill battle.

but they'll also be carrying their favorite shotgun or home defense rifle. Now that's the ultimate in open carry. In a TEOTWAWKI scenario, open carry would become the norm, and concealed carry would go the way of all things electric.

However, probably the one trait open carriers possess above all others that would enable them to survive in the post-apocalyptic world is this: Many open carriers just don't give a damn what other people think about them. They tend to do what's right regardless of the judgment of others. That in itself is a very freeing benefit. Open carriers would no longer be stopped by police simply because “they were carrying,” because there would be no police. It would be law of the jungle and the rule of tooth, fang and claw. In a wild world of survival of the fittest, open carriers would survive; no, more than that; they would thrive and move to the top of the food chain, helping others in their community to adapt to the brutal changes of this new life.

Hmm, is that a comforting thought, that we would survive and thrive in a world where good and evil battle for control on a daily basis? Perhaps, to some, it's not much of a consolation being the most prepared for the end of the world as we know it. But then again ... it sure beats being a sheep.

And next time ... we talk about Zombies! (Yes, that was a joke.) In the meantime, carry safe and carry often.

Skip Coryell lives with his wife and children in Michigan. Skip Coryell is the author of nine books including Blood in the Streets: Concealed Carry and the OK Corral, RKBA: Defending the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, The God Virus, and We Hold These Truths. He is the founder of The Second Amendment March, a Marine Corps veteran, and the President of White Feather Press. He is an avid hunter and sportsman, a Marine Corps veteran, and a graduate of Cornerstone University. For more details on Skip Coryell, or to contact him personally, go to his website at www.skipcoryell.com. Buy Skip's latest book The Shadow Militia at amazon.com.

Training with MDFI (Michigan Defensive Firearms Institute)

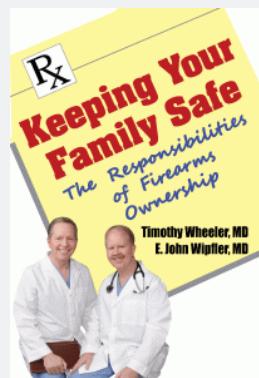
Dan Griffin (gryphon)

“How was your evening?” one of the instructors asked on the second day. “Good,” I replied with a smile. “I just went home and relaxed. I didn't realize a full day of shooting drills was going to be so exhausting.” He returned my smile. “Yeah.”

A little more than eight hours later I had completed two full days of intensive handgun training: malfunction drills, fighting from cover, fighting from the ground, multiple target threats, advancing fire, retreating fire, running drills, single hand operation (strong hand and weak hand, including reloads and clearing malfunctions with one hand), walk-back drills, and more.

I took MDFI's Handgun 1 and 2 back-to-back the first weekend in May. There are both advantages and disadvantages to taking them together,

Harvard Study Cherry-Picks Gun Data



In reality, laws have no effect on gun deaths

Open Carry Wednesday



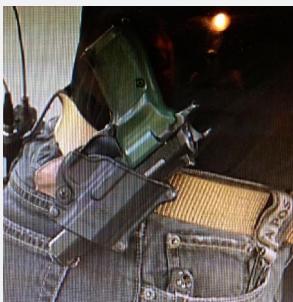
Guns and gumbo: restaurant encourages customers to open carry

Why Gun Owners Are Right to Fight Against Gun Control



The anti-gun crowd doesn't want “compromise.” They want confiscation and control.

Washington Open Carrier Awarded \$15,000 Settlement After Cop Drew Gun on Him



"I wasn't breaking the law...I don't like being bullied."

"In England, if you commit a crime, the police don't have a gun and you don't have a gun. If you commit a crime, the police say, 'Stop, or I'll say stop again.'"

— Robin Williams

FROM THE FEDERAL COURTS

NRA asks SCOTUS to Strike Down Gun Limits For Minors



NRA joins two 19-year-olds challenging a law that bans the sale of handguns from FFLs to those between 18 and 21 years of age.

SCOTUS petition.

but because I travel for work a lot, and MDFI's full year's training schedule hadn't been published yet, I opted to take them when I knew I could get them in. I wanted to run multiple guns over the two days for a couple of reasons, and so I checked with the instructors beforehand. They said there was no problem, that others have run multiple guns, and so I brought the three pistols I have carried or currently carry. On the first day I ran all three. One of them was a 1911-style handgun, a single stack Para LDA, but I only used that for one instruction period as I could not keep that sufficiently fed! On the second day I ran with just one of those handguns all day, the first handgun I ever purchased, a S&W .40 SW40F, while carrying three spare 15 round magazines.

I've been shooting pistols for a number of years, but this was the first "professional" handgun training I've had. It was very instructional for me. I learned what I needed to focus on, I learned new tactics, and I did a lot of things I had never done before, such as shooting from awkward positions because you might have to in a real-world defensive situation.

As MDFI's website states, Handgun 1 stresses the importance of proper weapons manipulation and shooting techniques. It is designed to work with a shooter who has their CPL but is looking for further instruction on the real-world application of getting their gun into the fight and using it properly. The class covers mindset, proper draw stroke, trigger control and reset, admin and emergency reloads, malfunction clearance, and multiple target engagement. Handgun 2 picks up where Handgun 1 leaves off, focusing on movement in all directions, proper use of cover, strong/weak hand fighting, increased speed, movement and getting to cover at speed, multiple target engagement, and a more critical look at weapon manipulations for the draw stroke, reloads, solving the problems a malfunctioning firearm can create, shooting from the ground, the considerations to be made when the distance is very close or at the edge of our own personal effective range with a handgun, and other topics. This class is faster paced and more physically demanding than the Level 1 course, although not beyond the ability of most handgun carriers. The ammunition requirements for Handgun 1 are 500 rounds, and 600 rounds for Handgun 2, although you may not actually shoot that many. How many rounds you shoot depend on the class as a whole as well as your individual proficiency.

There were drills when I nailed it first shot every time, even running around. Then there were others when I would miss several times in a row (close but still miss) and have to stop for a second, slow it down and concentrate. "Threat!" Miss-miss-miss-breathe-hit.

It soon became evident that I need to work on my consistency, especially as speed increased. That is one thing MDFI focuses on, increasing your speed during the class. Of course, my misses were just misses to the 6" diameter center of mass, pelvic girdle, or the tiny "Y" in the head eye/nose region on a human silhouette target. All would still have been pretty bad — even devastating — in a real world self-defense situation. But that's the point, being able to be accurate while being under stress and being distracted by other things. That's why MDFI does multiple step drills, so your mind has to think about all these other things yet you still have to be able to deliver accurate kill shots effectively and quickly

What Are You Training For?



Are open enrollment courses "The New Golf?"

Packing List For a Shooting School



You don't want any surprises that could affect your training

"The ultimate authority resides in the people alone."

— James Madison

44% Think Government Effort to Confiscate Guns Likely



A sizeable number of Americans think the federal government will come after their guns

Federal Judge Rules That USPS Violated Second Amendment By Prohibiting Guns in Parking Lot



Note that this is not binding in Michigan

FIREARM LEGISLATION FROM THE STATES

Alabama

Omnibus pro-gun firearms reform bill passes out of committee

Alaska

No duty to retreat: Gov. Parnell (R) signs 'Stand Your Ground' into law

Arkansas

Arkansas now recognizes any valid Right-to-Carry permit issued by another state.

Another new law, HB1700, is still causing confusion. Its legislative sponsors say it legalizes open carry without a license.

However, the Arkansas Attorney General has issued an opinion that it does NOT permit open carry, but the opinion concerned a very narrowly limited part of the law.

all the while processing various info and dealing with malfunctions, out of ammo reloads (FEED IT! FEED IT! FEED IT!), and all the while using the least lethal firearm we have available, a pistol. And since every student is running a different gun and has probably shot a different number of rounds, we all run out of ammo at different times, not counting other issues, so every student is not necessarily always doing everything the exact same as the other students. You do whatever you need to do to stay in the fight.

I'm going to hear "jam mags and hydrate, be back in five" in my sleep as that's all I've heard for two days.



Fighting from the ground during Handgun 2. The author, far left, in transition from sitting to a more upright position.

Early on day one we were doing a simple drill, one of those "two to the chest, one to the head, emergency reload, two to the pelvic girdle" things when half way through the instructor yells "FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT!" This was unexpected and I had never heard this before, but I started dumping mags center mass!

As an example of one of the exercises we performed, during HG2 we had one drill where we had two 4' x 8' slotted barriers placed at opposite sides of the range, opposite orientation to each other. We had to run up to them, shoot an 8" x 10" steel plate 15 yards away through each hole in succession, top to bottom. We couldn't move on until we had one hit in each hole. Misses don't count. Then race across the field to the other barrier and do the same thing top to bottom on another 8" x 10" steel plate. The aim was, "one shot, one hit" as fast as you can: bang-ding, bang-ding, bang-ding, bang-ding. We ran this drill over and over in round robin fashion a number of times.

In between the rigorous training drills there are also opportunities for fun, including a couple of distance exercises. Of course, during the lunch hour, if you wish you can mingle with other MDFI students, talk, share thoughts, and shoot each other's pistols and long guns.

MDFI stresses safety, both on and off the course. One of the first things they do is go over basic firearms safety and the safety rules and commands for the class. Not only do the instructors watch out for potential

"Foolish liberals who are trying to read the Second Amendment out of the constitution by claiming it's not an individual right or that it's too much of a safety hazard don't see the danger of the big picture. They're courting disaster by encouraging others to use this same means to eliminate portions of the Constitution they don't like."

— Alan Dershowitz

Top Ten Reasons Why You Should Not Talk To The Police



It won't help you.

"Stand Your Ground" is as American as Apple Pie



"Stand Your Ground" laws essentially extend the Castle Doctrine to anywhere one happens to be.

<p>California</p> <p>San Francisco passes ammunition bills it acknowledges might be unconstitutional</p>	<p>safety violations, but your fellow students do as well. In two days of instruction I did not see one muzzle sweep another person or be pointed in an unsafe direction, even when people were running with gun in hand. In addition to two primary instructors, we had additional class assistants that would watch, give individual instruction or “motivation” when necessary, and an EMT present.</p>	<p>The Argument That Wins the Assault Weapon Debate</p> 
<p>Colorado</p> <p>Lawmakers pass anti-gun bills banning high capacity magazines, imposes a tax for background checks, and criminalizes the private transfer of a firearm.</p>	<p>MDFI also offers other courses, including Close Contact Shooting, Low Light, Carbine, Shotgun, Home Defense classes, a shoot house, and more. There's even a new class they are just starting called Drill Skill. There's so much more that I could say about these classes and the instructors, but I highly recommend you check them out for yourself.</p> <p>http://www.michigantrainer.com/</p>	<p>This debate is the basic and natural human right of self-defense</p>
<p>Connecticut</p> <p>A coalition of gun owners, gun dealers, and firearms rights organizations have sued the governor and the state attorney's office, contending that the gun law passed in the aftermath of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings violates the constitution.</p>	<p><i>“I believe in Right, Wrong, and Justice as part of the American Way! And what makes these beliefs stand are that I also am an American Patriot and above all, a Christian. Sin should have consequences, and should be deterred and made as difficult as reasonably possible.”</i></p> <p>Just a Common Man, promoting Common Carry</p> <p>I work, sleep, eat, and have hobbies like you all, and think the worst crime is to harm another “Image of God.” Our nation left the Bible as a whole and now sees every person as a product of random chance of monkey breeding. Is it a wonder that these beliefs coincide with homicide? I fear God as did most of our ancestors!</p>	<p>Why Do Civilians Need Assault Weapons?</p>  <p>The answer is self-defense and defense against tyranny</p>
<p>Demand for gun permits soar after Newtown school shooting.</p>	<p>My grandfather was in World War II, a medic in Burma. My father broke the beachhead in Vietnam, thankfully to come back and be my dad. My cousin was not so blessed. No matter what anyone feels about the politics of any specific war, the fact remains that these men fought for our freedoms.</p>	<p>Why does Anyone Need a High Capacity Magazine?</p> 
<p>Illinois</p> <p>General Assembly overrides governor's veto of concealed carry bill</p>	<p>You and I may not have fought overseas, but we have our freedoms and safety to protect here in our own backyard. Do you have family? A wife or children who rely on you to protect their well being?</p>	<p>Misconception of bullet stopping power, shooting accuracy, and multiple attackers</p>
<p>Indiana</p> <p>Lawmakers consider an upper-tier carry permit</p>	<p>We have a God-given responsibility to those charges which He has blessed us with. To ignore that fact is dishonorable and unloving. Do we love our families? If we are not willing to protect them or correct them, then we are as much telling them that we really hate them and do not care for their wellness and safety. Would my forefathers have survived World War II or Vietnam with that attitude?</p>	<hr/> <p><i>“That rifle on the wall of the labourer's cottage or working class flat is the symbol of democracy. It is our job to see that it stays there.”</i></p> <p>— George Orwell</p> <hr/>
<p>Iowa</p> <p>Expansive gun bill that would criminalize the private transfer of firearms introduced</p>	<p>Would you feed your children poison or let them play on a freeway? Do we take them to parks to play, knowing that there may be stalkers and yet take no precaution? Rather, we stay on guard.</p> <p>Bad things happen to good people as well, and even Jesus warned his disciples to take precautions. Too many Christians think Jesus advocated pacifism when in fact He advocated pro-active defense! We are not to be the cause of harm but that does not mean we let our charges suffer harm which we may have prevented.</p> <p>This topic is enough to fill a book and even then many people will not</p>	

<p>Kansas</p> <p>Lawmakers pass bill against using state funds for gun lobbying</p>	<p>heed its logical conclusion.</p> <p><i>Turn the other cheek</i> if you are slapped. But if someone threatens your God-given charges with great bodily harm or loss of life – then <u>by God, man, do something</u> for your loved ones!</p>	<p>Gunshot Wounds and Ballistics, a Doctor's Perspective</p> 
<p>Louisiana</p> <p>The legislature has passed a number of pro-gun bills and sent HB8, which prohibits and provides penalties for the release of information on those who have applied or received carry permits, to the governor's desk.</p>	<p>I am a Common Man who walks on guard. ALWAYS! And even in cases where a firearm is not allowed, then there are knives, bats, and even canes.</p> <p>I am a Common Man who never walks alone. My faith in God goes with me always, but I know that He also warns me to be wise and a good steward of all the charges which He has left me.</p> <p>Common Carry is an attitude. All day, every day. Anywhere. Your mind is the weapon of choice. Everything else are just tools for your defense. Choose wisely and choose ALWAYS!</p>	 <p>9mm v. .45 v. rifle (34 min. video)</p>
<p>Maine</p> <p>Bill to overturn law requiring a permit to carry a concealed handgun fails by one vote</p>	<p>Galco Ankle Glove Holster Review</p> <p>Dan Griffin (gryphon)</p> <p><i>"I will never buy an ankle holster," I said to myself. "How impractical is that? You can't access your back-up all that quickly. You have to bend down or forward to reach it. It might not even fit my pants. Do people actually use them in real life, or is that all in the movies?"</i></p>	<p>The NRA Institute for Legislative Action</p>  <p>Chris Cox from the NRA-ILA weighs in</p>
<p>Maryland</p> <p>Governor O'Malley (D) signs 'assault weapons' ban bill</p>	<p>Most of us reading this open carry our firearms on a regular basis. But do we carry a back-up gun (BUG)? There is a saying, "one is none, two is one," meaning one should always carry a back-up in case something happens to your primary weapon. Do you carry a BUG? If you do, you have another choice to make. You've already taken great care in choosing your primary sidearm and holster, but what about your back-up?</p>	<p><i>"Among other evils which being unarmed brings you, it causes you to be despised."</i></p> <p>— Charlton Heston</p>
<p>Michigan</p> <p>Teachers as armed guards in Michigan</p>	<p>As an open carrier, you have one decision to make right off the bat. If you choose to conceal carry your back-up gun, unless you're a law enforcement officer or are otherwise able to obtain an exemption, you've already eliminated carry in the Michigan pistol free zones. Some choose to open carry two pistols. But if you decide to conceal carry a back-up, there are four common options: pocket carry, IWB (traditional inside the waistband), belly-band, and ankle carry. I have done all four.</p>	<p>SELECT 2A AND MOC EVENTS</p>
<p>Mississippi</p> <p>New law allowing unpermitted open carry declared "unconstitutionally vague." NRA and others want to join lawsuit.</p>	<p>A while back I began thinking about ankle carry again. I had discarded that idea a long time ago, but I began reconsidering that as a back-up position. As we all have learned, everything is a trade-off. I was carrying an all steel BUG, and was open to alternatives, so after some research I purchased a Galco Ankle Glove holster for my Kahr K40.</p>	<p>MOC President Phil Hofmeister Testifies</p> 
<p>Missouri</p> <p>Legislature nullifies all federal gun control measures by veto-proof majority.</p> <p>Governor vetoes bill</p>	<p>After strapping it on and holstering my K40, my first reaction was, "Wow, is this nice!" I mean, really nice. It is super comfortable, and it carries way nicer than in my pocket. After wearing it for a few days my reaction hadn't changed. After wearing it for six months my reaction still hadn't changed. It has to be one of the most comfortable holsters I have ever worn.</p> <p>There are drawbacks. You have to wear loose pants. I don't care how small your BUG is, unless it is the size of a Kel-Tec P3AT you will need</p>	<p>Phil advocates for SB63, the Michigan Firearms Freedom Act, at the Lansing Capitol</p>

Montana <p>Lawmakers are looking to expand their concealed carry law and prohibit the state enforcement of federal gun bans, including a criminal liability clause</p>	<p>to wear pants with loose pant legs. That is no problem for me because I like loose slacks, but if you are young and wear skin-tight pants this won't work for you. Second of all, your draw will be slowed down. There is simply no way you can pull your pants up and draw as quickly as other methods. Having said this, this is only a back-up, and the ease of carry for a BUG outweighs the draw inconvenience for me. I figure if I'm in a protracted gunfight where my primary isn't sufficient, a few extra seconds accessing my BUG won't matter. I hope.</p>	<h3>Gun Rights Rally In Lansing</h3>  <p>600 people gathered in Lansing on a cold January day (1/19/2013)</p>
Nevada <p>Governor Sandoval (R) vetoed a bill that would have banned private firearms sales without FFL</p>	<p>From the factory, my holster wouldn't easily fit my gun. It looked like it should, but it was just a little too small. If I had read the instructions first I would have noticed they stated that this was intended, and you are supposed to initially insert your gun with a plastic baggie around it, otherwise you might not be able to get your gun out.</p>	<h3>2A Rally In Lansing</h3>  <p>On the steps of the capitol February 8, 2013</p>
New Hampshire <p>Senate tables bill that would repeal 'Stand Your Ground'</p>	<p>So after I went out to the garage and retrieved a wood dowel and pounded my gun out of the holster using a hammer (yes, this really happened. It wouldn't have happened to my wife, because she always reads the instructions first), I reinserted it in a sandwich baggie. Although the leather is already formed to the outline of your pistol, this allows your holster to further form fit itself to your pistol while permitting easy draw and re-holster. This break-in process allows your holster to fit your firearm, well, like a glove.</p>	<h3>Cabela's NRA Weekend Feb 2013</h3>  <p>Michigan Open Carry was there!</p>
New Jersey <p>NJ Assembly passes 22 anti-gun bills</p>	<p>The ankle wrap is made of a wide neoprene and Velcro closure with a sheepskin interior padding. It has a reinforced thumb break and detailed molding for firearm retention. The ankle glove also has an optional calf strap that lifts and supports the holster if you want to wear it a little higher to lessen the possibility of it riding too low and showing with some shorter slacks. It comes in right-hand or left-hand draw, and can be worn on the inside or outside of the ankle. A right-hand draw holster would be worn inside the left leg or outside the right leg.</p>	<h3>Michigan Open Carry</h3> <p>Open Carry of A Handgun is LEGAL! Find out more here www.miopenccarry.org</p>
New York <p>Governor Cuomo offers \$500 reward for reporting illegal gun owners</p>	<p>Even though my back-up pistol is not as accessible wearing it on my ankle, I must say that I really like it. The Galco Ankle Glove is really comfortable, and my K40 is probably both larger and heavier than what many people carry as a back-up.</p>	<h3>MOC Dinner at Col's in Madison Heights</h3>  <p>January 20, 2013</p>
North Carolina <p>Bill expanding allowable carry locations signed into law. However, the repeal of purchase permits part has been omitted.</p>	<p>If you have ever considered ankle carry, you owe it to yourself to try the Galco Ankle Glove. If you try something else first, you will likely end up here in the end.</p>	<h3>BDSTactical Holsters Review</h3> <p>Reg Carr (woodtic31) Northern Michigan Regional Coordinator</p>
Ohio <p>Concealed carry licenses issued sets new record</p>	<p> This is a review of a couple of tactical holsters that I purchased from BDSTactical.com. The first one is a drop leg. I have worn this holster for many hours working around the yard and walking in the woods. It is comfortable and stays in position due</p>	

<p>Oregon</p> <p>New bill requires all firearms owners possess \$250,000 liability insurance for their firearms, and imposes a \$10,000 penalty per firearm not covered. You also cannot transfer ammunition or firearms to another person without first verifying they also have firearms liability insurance.</p>	<p>to the double leg straps. It also has double straps that attach to your belt. I've worn it while driving and had no comfort issues.</p>	<p>MOC Lunch in Cadillac</p>  <p>February 3, 2013</p>
<p>Pennsylvania</p> <p>Applications skyrocket for carry permits, employees work through breaks and lunch to keep up</p>	<p>These holsters are adjustable using Velcro strips. They accommodate many platforms. I have a 1911, two Ruger SRC's, a Jimenez JA9, and an SCCY CPX2. These holsters easily adjust to fit any of these frames. Holster retention is great. They have a thumb snap strap and a Velcro strap that goes over the thumb snap strap. On the drop leg I ordered the optional paratrooper's retention strap. Not really sure it is needed, but it is a little more security.</p>	<p>MOC Open Carry Seminar in Taylor</p>  <p>February 20, 2013</p>
<p>Rhode Island</p> <p>Lawmakers looking at gun registration</p>	<p>These are not the cheap type holster that you find at the local military outlet store. They are a bit pricey, but worth the money to protect your expensive pistols. I would recommend these holsters to the gun owner that is looking for quality tactical holsters that will hold up for years of abuse.</p>	<p>MOC Dinner at Bob Evans in Monroe</p>  <p>March 7, 2013</p>
<p>South Carolina</p> <p>Senate subcommittee passes bill that allows unlicensed open carry</p>	<p>MOC Member Profile with Tom Lambert (Bigt)</p>  <p>MOC: Tom, tell us a little bit about yourself!</p> <p>Bigt: I'm 29, I work in web/database development, live in the Grand Rapids area, and was born and raised in West Michigan. I've lived here all my life. I've been married for a little over a year and a half, and our firstborn—a boy—came about two weeks ago. When I found out he was going to be a boy, of course all this stuff starts flooding through my head...in the future, when am I going to teach him how to shoot and what's the first gun I'm going to buy him? It's years off, but I'm incredibly excited.</p>	<p>MOC Open Carry Seminar in Battle Creek</p>  <p>March 24, 2013</p>
<p>Texas</p> <p>House approves guns on campus bill</p>	<p>MOC: It seems you've quickly become a fixture in the Michigan Open Carry movement, particularly in the Grand Rapids area. We have read many of your encounters with the mayor and some of the municipal employees. In a recent comment period, you talked about Amanda Collins, a student at the University of Nevada, who had a carry permit but was not carrying because she was in a "gun-free zone" and she got raped 300 yards from the campus police office. Later that same attacker went on to murder a 19 year-old coed. You provided powerful and, from our point of view, devastating commentary. What were the reactions in the room after the people heard that?</p>	<p><i>"...the right to defend one's home and one's person when attacked has been guaranteed through the ages by common law."</i></p> <p>— Martin Luther King, Jr.</p>
<p>Vermont</p> <p>Lawmakers seek to impose waiting periods</p>		
<p>Washington</p> <p>Orwellian bill allows county sheriffs to inspect the homes of 'assault weapons' owners to make sure they are storing them safely</p>		

Washington State AG Ferguson (D) revokes reciprocity with Florida because Florida allows members of the military who are under 21 years of age to carry firearms

Bigt: I don't know the reactions from the other people in the room standing behind me, the other citizens attending, but the commission, it was basically no reaction at all. Blank stares, if they were looking up and paying attention. It seems to be fairly standard that they don't react. They are pretty good at just not reacting. I think it's on purpose.

MOC: We were particularly struck by your open admonishment of Grand Rapids Mayor Heartwell when you stated the following:

"What kind of message does it send when a city leader openly states that he is not interested in following a law and then openly advocates for people to be confused about their rights? What kind of message does it send to the people in the community whom you ask to obey the law every day and punish when they don't? What kind of message does that send to the students who go to this school that we hope will someday grow up to be responsible citizens?"

West Virginia

Governor signs bill that prohibits any restrictions on firearms during a state of emergency

ACROSS THE POND

Israel

In an effort to reduce the number of guns owned by citizens, medical and psychological evaluations will now be required for gun ownership.

And then you followed up with...

"Just yesterday Amanda Collins asked a Colorado State Senate committee "How does rendering me defenseless protect you from violent crime?"

We have the same question to that, what were their reactions to those great questions, but we're guessing that they didn't give any.

Bigt: Yeah, you would guess correctly. [When I speak] I really have two audiences in mind. The first is the people in front of me, the commission. The second is the rest of the people in the room, all the other citizens that happen to be attending the meeting. I try to have as much effect as possible, understanding that I am going to have very little on the commission, while there are other people in the room that are forced as well to listen to me for three minutes and maybe I can get to some of them.

MOC: We read one newspaper report where the mayor threatened to have you removed from the room on one occasion. Do you care to comment on that?

Bigt: That was a misunderstanding between us [because of meeting rules]. He was already visibly upset because of the number of people speaking on a [pro-gun] topic that he didn't agree with. He had a short temper and lashed out in a manner that I didn't find acceptable and I don't think he found acceptable, which is why he apologized for it later.

MOC: We understand you eventually had a personal one-on-one discussion with Mayor Heartwell.

Bigt: That's correct. We met in his office, we talked for about half an hour. I would classify it as a respectful and polite conversation, both ways. He sat there and listened to what I had to say, and he spoke to many of his experiences [that made him against guns]. I wanted to get on his gun control coalition because I wanted to focus away from stuff that doesn't work, that would punish law-abiding citizens instead of the

"Gun control defined: The theory that people who are willing to ignore laws against rape, torture, kidnapping, theft, and murder will obey a law which prohibits them from owning a firearm."

— Anonymous

Moms Demand Action Gun Control Rally Counter-Protest at the Capitol



March 7, 2013

"Gun control is like trying to reduce drunk driving by making it tougher for sober people to own cars."

— Anonymous

MOC Open Carry Seminar at Gander Mountain



people that are committing the actual crime, and instead focus their group on stuff that would help. I came prepared with many ideas. I did a lot of research to find things that both sides could agree on, things that I refer to as common ground, not middle ground. Not things where we have to come to some agreement on, but things we already agree on. And that if we can set the other stuff aside for a while, maybe we can actually get something done instead of facing off in trench warfare where there's no progress.

MOC: It looks like you have had success with the Grand Rapids Transit Authority as well.

Bigt: Yes. I went to them and told them that their weapons policy was preempted by state law. I sent them the statute and some cases: *MCRGO v. Ferndale* and *CADL v. MOC*. Their initial reply to me was no, they are not preempted as MCL 123.1101 does not include them. My response back was yes, they are preempted, please read the cases that I cited, specifically *CADL v. MOC*, here are some more quotes that you will find from this ruling, here are the page numbers, here are the paragraphs. [After following up at a later board meeting] they told me that they had decided to change their policy and that they would be taking steps in the following weeks to change it, and since then they have changed it.

MOC: Okay, let's back up a little bit. How did you become interested in firearms?

Bigt: I grew up shooting with my dad. I remember shooting his bolt action .22 all the time, and eventually graduated to a semi-automatic. Eventually we started shooting trap with the 20 gauge. I went away to college and kind of got out of it for a little while. Then one day at my current job, my coworker said, "Hey, let's go to the range." So we went to the range and I rented a 1911 off of the wall because I've always wanted to shoot a .45, and right then and there I was bit by the bug, and that bug has had quite a hold of me ever since.

MOC: When did you begin open carrying, and why?

Bigt: I first read a case about Mark Fiorino who is in Philadelphia. I followed his case, I followed the forums on PAFOA, I knew the ins and outs, all the legal documents, I knew their laws, I knew how bad it was, and I figured there has to be something like that in Michigan. So I did a search, I found OCDO, and I eventually found Michigan Open Carry. I followed on the forums for a while, and I eventually attended an MOC lunch. That was my first time open carrying. That was March 2012. That day I open carried to Denny's, Meijer, 5/3 Bank, and Lake Michigan Credit Union. I jumped in with both feet, if you will.

MOC: Had you been concealed carrying prior to that? Did you have a CPL?

Bigt: I actually got my CPL before buying my first handgun. I got it for ease of purchase and ease of transportation, then I learned all the extra stuff it could do, and then I learned about open carry. I started seeing

MOC Sponsored CPL Class in Taylor



April 20, 2013

MOC Lunch at IHOP in Woodhaven



May 5, 2013

MOC Open Carry Seminar at the VFW in Owosso



March 7, 2013

Coast Guard Fest in Grand Haven



July 30, 2013

how police didn't follow the law and it just made my blood boil. These people that are sworn to uphold the law are the ones openly not following it. That's not how it's supposed to work. How can I change that, what can I do about this? I can understand how the police would not know the ins and outs of the laws they have to enforce every day, but there's a difference between trying to do something right and just not caring and trying to stop something that you just disagree with. And that's what really, really irritated me, so I got more involved.

MOC: When you began open carrying yourself, was it easy for you? Did you have any problems?

Bigt: I have never had a problem with an officer, and I would say that the only problems I've ever had with any private individual has been at a city commission meeting. I've adopted the motto, "It's no big deal." If I want it to be no big deal to other people, it has to be no big deal to myself. Because of the work of other people coming before me, I would classify it as easy for myself.

MOC: What is your preferred carry gun?

Bigt: I generally open carry my Springfield 1911. Something about the 1911 speaks to me. There are times when I do conceal, and usually I'll carry a Springfield XDS.

MOC: What, if anything, are you looking forward to this year?

Bigt: I'm looking forward to the fall legislative session, and hopefully we'll get to some of the bills that we have proposed, like SB213. I really feel that we have a lot of momentum with us.

MOC: What other things are you interested in besides firearms and self-defense?

Bigt: Computers. I have a very large tower that I use for gaming. That's something I've always been interested in, and probably why I work with computers in my everyday life. Aside from my family and my son. Just the two weeks I've had with him so far has been fantastic.

MOC: Is there anything you'd wish we'd have asked but didn't? This is your last chance to tell us anything about yourself that we didn't know enough to ask you about.

Bigt: Part of what I've started doing during a lot of these rallies, especially anti-gun rallies, and I love to do this, and I've become somewhat good at it, is going to these rallies and communicating, interacting with people from the other side. I take a table and put a sign on either side saying "Reasonable Conversation Zone," and I set a chair down on the other side that usually remained empty because—we've heard this big cry from the other side about how we need a reasonable conversation about gun control—okay, let's sit down and talk about it. I'll be happy to sit here, shake your hand, and discuss politely and respectfully the issues with you. And by and large, people on the other side really did not want the reasonable conversation that they called for. In fact, not only did they not want to talk, the majority of them preferred to hurl insults and

MOC Fundraiser at Stevie B's Pizza in Woodhaven



August 6, 2013

MOC-MCRGO Picnic in Grayling



"Gun control has not worked in D.C. The only people who have guns are criminals. We have the strictest gun laws in the nation and one of the highest murder rates. It's quicker to pull your Smith and Wesson than to dial 911 if you're being robbed."

– Lieutenant Lowell Duckett, President of the Black Police Caucus, Special Assistant to the Washington, D.C. Police

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yell and not pay attention to anything I said. But on rare occasions there would be people that would sit down and would talk and discuss reasonably. And it was interesting the stuff that I got out of them. A lot of what I really learned from them is what works. What is the stuff that I said that works with them, and what was the stuff that I said that was just cast away immediately? I also learned what they were looking at, how they were viewing it, and how I could come up with stuff that could really counter what they were saying. One lady said, "You have everything you want. Can't you just give a little bit?" And I was shocked by that statement. She believed it, and she was 100% serious that she thought we had everything that we could want. Why can't we just compromise a little bit? I said, "Ma'am, that's just not the case at all. I don't see it that way, I don't think anybody on my side sees it that way. In fact, I see that we are very, very far from what we want to do. We have all these restrictions, we have all this stuff," and of course, she didn't really want to hear that.

I would really push people to learn how to talk and engage the other side politely and respectfully. Especially so if they (the other side) are not doing that, because a lot of this becomes public perception when the cameras are there and the news media is there. And so as they're screaming and they're yelling and using profanity, the kinder and nicer you are the worse it makes them look. And the more reasonable you are, especially when you're the one with the gun, and they're telling you you're the unreasonable one, and you're standing there very, very politely and they're screaming...I've gotten a lot out of it, I should say that.

MOC: Your full name is Tom Lambert. Can we use your full name?

Bigt: When I started the whole process, especially with the city of Grand Rapids, I didn't want to be in the spotlight. I didn't want to interview with the news. I turned down interviews initially because I didn't want to be on camera, I didn't want to be "that person," I didn't want a big deal made out of it. I just wanted to see Grand Rapids obey the state law. Eventually, as I saw the narratives spinning out of control, I learned that I was going to have to step up and accept the public spotlight so I could have some sort of control on the narrative. The way I reasoned to myself was, "If I want these other people to stand up and fight for me, and put their personal lives and personal reputations on the line, I'm not going to ask something of someone else that I'm not going to do myself." And so eventually I accepted it and I started using my name and stopped redacting my name out of pieces, and accepted that, yep, my name is Tom Lambert and I support the Second Amendment. And I'll freely stand up and say so publicly.

MOC: Thank you, Tom. We appreciate you taking the time to do this. You are certainly an informed, articulate, and eloquent spokesman for open carry and firearm rights. Keep fighting the Good Fight.

The following is an excerpt of one of Tom's testimonies in front of the Grand Rapids City Commission.

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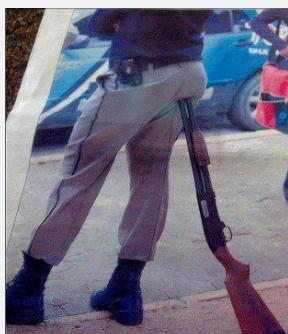
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THE LIGHTER SIDE

Hey!



You're doing it wrong.

"In October of 2007, Amanda Collins was walking to her car after a night class at the University of Nevada at Reno. Amanda had a concealed carry permit for her 9mm Glock that she carried for self-defense. Unfortunately for Amanda, UNR is, like most college campuses, a gun-free zone, much like what many in this room promote. So, like the law-abiding citizen that Amanda is, she did not have her gun with her in this gun-free zone when she was attacked by James Biela. Biela raped her on the UNR campus, less than 300 yards from the Campus Police Office. He then walked away, and a few months later, this human predator went on to murder 19-year-old Brianna Dennison. Amanda Collins went on to say, 'I know, having been the first victim, that Brianna Dennison would still be alive had I been able to defend myself that night.'

Now some people – and that includes many of you in this room tonight – want to place the blame for recent tragedies on things like thirty round magazines or semiautomatic rifles. We want to blame something, anything that we can control – but what we really want to ban is violence, and murder, and insanity. We don't talk about that, though, because deep in our hearts each of us knows that violence, and murder, and insanity are built into the human condition, and likely always will be.

You know, there are two kinds of animals in this world: predators and prey.

No one watches a leopard chase down a gazelle and denies that the gazelle has a right to use its hooves and horns to protect itself from the predator. But there are people in this room tonight, and across the country, who would deny that same right to self-defense to other human beings. Such people seem to think that the way to stop the leopard is to cut the horns off of the gazelle – that by somehow making it easier for the predator, the predator will somehow go away. This is insane. When you make it easier for the predator you get more predators.

Now, that's nice and everything, but what does that mean here? Well, what kind of message does it send when a city leader openly states that he is not interested in following a law and then openly advocates for people to be confused about their rights? [A direct reference to the mayor of Grand Rapids who publicly stated that he is not interested in following the law and hopes people are confused about what is lawful. – Editor] What kind of message does it send to the people in the community whom you ask to obey the law every day and punish when they don't? What kind of message does that send to the students who go to this school that we hope will someday grow up to be responsible citizens?

I've said it before and I'll say it again – I do not believe you have evil in your hearts – you're just well-meaning. I guess I'll leave it up to you to demonstrate how that difference should mean anything to people like Amanda Collins and Briana Dennison. Just yesterday Amanda Collins asked a Colorado State Senate committee, 'How does rendering me defenseless protect you from violent crime?' Unfortunately, Briana Denison wasn't able to provide her thoughts on the matter because of

her attacker. I mean she was protected by a well-meaning politician.

Our Constitution exists to protect the People from tyranny. Our Constitution exists to protect law abiding people like Amanda and Briana from supposedly well-meaning politicians like you.”

Self-Defense: An American Tradition

The stranglehold of oppression cannot be loosened by a plea to the oppressor's conscience. Social change in something as fundamental as racist oppression involves violence. You cannot have progress here without violence and upheaval because it is a struggle for survival for one and a struggle for liberation for the other. Always the powers in command are ruthless and unmerciful in defending their position and privileges. This is not an abstract rule to be mediated upon by Americans. This is a truth that was revealed many times in our history. The principle of self-defense is an American tradition that began at Lexington and Concord.

— Robert F. Williams, *Negroes With Guns*, Wayne State University Press, June 1, 1998

Lessons From Zimmerman Part I

Dan Griffin (gryphon)

I am writing this within minutes of George Zimmerman's acquittal of murdering Trayvon Martin on Feb 26, 2012. For those who have been following the case, you've seen that it has been a roller-coaster of evidence releases and governmental interference, both federal and state.

There are too many questions and issues to deal with in one piece, so perhaps I can address this in future columns, if needed. Initially I'd like to deal with just two, discrete, small but important pieces of the trial: justification and evidence.

Okay, I hear you laughing. Small, you ask? That was the entire trial! Perhaps not small, but relatively simple would perhaps explain it better, at least compared to the way the trial played out. I would note that this is neither an exhaustive nor a scholarly study of the trial, but just my opinion. Perhaps Part 2 can be a response by one of our respected firearms attorneys as a rebuttal to Part 1. Let me see what I can do. Stay tuned.

We can debate whether George Zimmerman's actions prior to the physical altercation with Trayvon Martin were wise, but they were not unlawful, so we'll dismiss those for now. We'll focus on one and only one facet of that encounter: the physical interaction.

George Zimmerman stated that Trayvon Martin attacked him first, punching him in the nose, driving him to the ground, and then straddling him, continued to beat him mercilessly while driving his head repeatedly into a concrete sidewalk. In fear for his life, Zimmerman drew his lawfully carried handgun and shot Trayvon Martin once in the chest. That 9mm bullet pierced Trayvon's lung and lodged in his heart, killing him.

The State (prosecution) questions this scenario, positing that possibly Zimmerman started the affray and then ended up on the bottom, the worse for wear. In any event, the evidence supports the facts that Trayvon Martin was on top, pummeling George Zimmerman beneath him.

Some, including the State, however, argue that George Zimmerman's injuries weren't serious and didn't warrant shooting his assailant. The question was asked during the trial, "Would the next concrete blow to the head have rendered him unconscious, or worse, even dead?"

Experts, including doctors and police, were asked that during questioning. Without exception they all stated that all it takes is one blow to incapacitate or kill someone, and that not defending yourself would be the wrong choice. One of the leading forensic pathologists in the entire country, Dr. Vincent DiMaio, testified in open court that you can get severe head trauma without ever sustaining an outside injury, and that the medical community sees skull fractures with no outside visible injury often. Lacerations from a flat surface just shows how bad the impact was.

How do you tear your skin from impact on a flat surface? It's pretty hard to do. Zimmerman had them. Additional blows compound the head trauma.

That's not the way it works from direct, flat hits on flat surfaces. It wasn't a scraping, it was a bash so hard it split the skin. Take the edge of your hand where you have some bone and smash it hard, straight down against a flat surface. How hard do you have to hit it to smash the skin so thin it tears? That's what the doctors said happened to Zimmerman.

People die from compound trauma all the time, and it may not even happen immediately. Cases of high school football players who get their bell rung during a game but appear okay, then the next game when they get their head hit again, they die were brought up. It's not the cut on the outside of the head, it's what's happening inside.

How much physical damage and injury should one be required to endure before defending himself or herself?

How insignificant would those injuries have been if Zimmerman had been unarmed? The gunshot was the only reason Trayvon stopped. Would those people have been as affected had Trayvon kept at it until Zimmerman was dead? Would any of us have even heard of the case if Trayvon had beaten Zimmerman to death?

As to evidence, I am not talking about physical evidence such as injuries or blood or DNA, I am talking about voluntary statements made by the defendant himself.

George Zimmerman thought he had done nothing illegal. In his mind he had only defended his life when absolutely necessary, thus he had nothing to fear. Or so he thought. He called the Sanford police non-emergency number and reported suspicious behavior, voluntarily spoke with the police all that night after the shooting, then did a video recreation of the incident with them the next day.

That is the only evidence the prosecution had against George Zimmerman, his own words.

At first they tried to use his words during his initial police non-emergency number call against him, trying to infer that since all the previous burglars had been black, that George Zimmerman hated and was profiling blacks, never mind that George didn't describe the suspicious person as black until asked by the police, and that George had a lengthy history of helping blacks by tutoring them and advocating for them against the police. It probably won't surprise you to learn the prosecution hid this from the jury.

The prosecution also tried to use Zimmerman's own description of the events to the police against him. George Zimmerman spent hours and hours with various patrol officers and detectives going over the sad events of that night. He voluntarily performed a video recreation of the event the next day. I'm sure he thought he had nothing to fear from simply telling the truth. Unfortunately he thought wrong.

The State of Florida, under pressure from the federal government, took authority away from the city of Sanford. State Attorney Angela Corey canceled the Grand Jury less than 24 hours before it was to convene to hear this case and decided to prefer charges herself because I think she knew the Grand Jury would no-bill it (choose not to prosecute).

In the end George Zimmerman found himself in court facing Second Degree Murder and a lesser charge of Manslaughter with no evidence against him except his own words. All the evidence the prosecution admitted was either easily proven wrong, perjured, or it actually supported Zimmerman. In its closing arguments, the prosecution said it presented evidence that didn't support its assertion because it believed they had a duty to present all the evidence to the jury, even evidence that did not support its case. That is quite a fatuous tale. The fact is the State had little to support its case, but had to put up something. The prosecution tried to impeach many of its own witnesses. It was humorous and sad at the same time.

The prosecution (the State) then spent two hours in summation remaking its entire case that Zimmerman lied in his statements to the police, which they played in great detail point by point. They contrasted minuscule point against minuscule point, and they weren't above lying outright, which they did nearly a dozen times that I counted. They never relied on their evidence, because it was either unreliable or actually supported Zimmerman. In the State's summation they made an entirely new case that Zimmerman lied because in hours and hours of voluntary statements without an attorney, they perceived a few inconsistencies, whether they really existed or not. They used those to paint Zimmerman as an intentional liar and that he was trying to craft a defense after the fact out of whole cloth.

If this case does not stress the point of never talking to the police without an attorney, I don't know what does. Most readers have probably already seen this video, but if you haven't, stop what you are doing right now and watch it. Your future may depend on it.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6wXkl4t7nuc>

Legislators ‘Miss the Mark’ on Assault Weapons

MOC Editorial

In the Jan 2013 issue of the Michigan Open Carry newsletter, we noted that in New York, new legislation (S1422-2013) had been introduced that redefined and banned “assault weapons” and high capacity magazines. Within days of publication, New York passed and signed into law this legislation.

Immediately afterward President Barack Obama held a press conference where he put forth nearly two-dozen new gun control proposals, and urged congress to ban so-called assault weapons and high capacity magazines. Joe Biden ‘guaranteed’ that their administration would pass new gun control legislation by the end of January 2013.

It is the president’s opinion, and that of the New York Legislature, governor, and many others that only law enforcement should have access to these types of firearms. Actually, they also think retired law enforcement officers should be exempt from the restrictions that they want to force others to live with, although we wonder why those ‘civilians’ are exempted, but we’ll ignore that for now since there is really no good reason. (If anyone reading this thinks they know the original reason retired LEOs were exempted from civilian carry regulations years ago, email me. Maybe I’ll award a prize for the correct answer. You will also be mentioned in the next newsletter). We also notice that military veterans are not exempted.

So why do they think law enforcement and retirees should be exempt from the same laws the rest of us have to live under? Is it because their jobs are so dangerous that they have a higher incidence of homicide by criminals? In fact, are police more likely to be killed by a criminal than the average citizen? Using the stats from one very recent year, there were 800,000 federal, state, and local law enforcement officers in the US, and 138 were killed.

That is 17.25 per 100,000.

In fact, the rate was lower, about 14 per 100,000 a few years later, but the numbers do bounce around a little, so let’s go with the former.

But wait! Almost half of them were from traffic accidents. Filtering that data out, that leaves maybe 8 to 10 per 100,000 depending on the year. And even some of those are “other causes.” Those range from falls to aircraft accidents to drowning to job-related illnesses to being struck by a vehicle on the side of the road during a traffic stop. The fact is, when you look at officer murders by criminals (shooting, stabbing, beaten to death), the true rate for police homicides from criminals ranges from 5.0 to 7.6 per 100,000 depending on the year.

By comparison, the homicide rate for US citizens for the past few years ranges from 4.8 to 5.8 per 100,000, or roughly the same as law enforcement. Yet because of the laws one might incorrectly assume that police get killed by criminals much more than civilians like you and I. They

don't.

That doesn't even take into account that violent assaults to citizens that result in serious bodily injury — excluding rape, other sexual assaults, and violence leading to death — ranged between 260 to 290 per 100,000 for the last few years. Shouldn't the average citizen have whatever means possible to counter these attacks from criminals?

This is all to say, your expectation of meeting a violent assault or death from a criminal is not really all that much different than a police officer. You should have the exact same means of self-defense that a cop does. As Massad Ayoob has said, the police are the experts on what it takes to fight against criminals. If they have determined that a "high capacity" semi-automatic pistol and a .223 semi-automatic rifle with 30-round magazines are the best firearms for them to use to protect people like me and my family, they are obviously the best things for us to use to protect ourselves and our families.

While all this was going on, a new bill was introduced into the Illinois House. Allowing the residents of Illinois to carry a firearm, HB0154 states in part:

A community college, college, or university may prohibit the carrying of a firearm on its campus in a manner that is not inconsistent with subsection (d). If a community college, college, or university elects to prohibit the carrying of firearms on its campus, it shall be civilly liable for any injury from a criminal act upon a person holding a permit for carrying a concealed firearm who was prohibited from carrying a concealed firearm on the premises.

Paradoxically, the only state traditionally more restrictive than New York was looking at crafting new firearm carry legislation that would also hold colleges and universities civilly liable for denying campus carry. We applaud this type of forward thinking. Unfortunately the version that made it to the Illinois governor's desk omitted the campus carry liability clause.

We clearly still have a lot of work to do. It is only with your continued and active support that we will continue to make progress in advancing the rights of firearms owners here in Michigan and elsewhere in these United States.

Cites:

<http://www.nleomf.org/facts/officer-fatalities-data/causes.html>
<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/statistics/data.html>

Upcoming MOC Events

Dinner in Woodhaven, Thursday August 15 at 7:00 PM

Never open carried before? Just curious? Well, here is a great opportunity to get your questions answered and see other open carriers "in action." Join us for dinner at IHOP, and bring your friends!

Lawful open carry of a holstered firearm is encouraged but not required.

When: Thursday, August 15, 2013

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: IHOP

Address: 21055 West Road, Woodhaven, MI 48183

Map: [Link](#)

Event flyer: [Link](#)

For more information: <http://forums.michiganopencarry.org/index.php/topic,3246.0.html>

Dinner in Petosky, Saturday August 17 at 4:00 PM

Never open carried before? Just curious? Well, here is a great opportunity to get your questions answered and see other open carriers “in action.” Join us for dinner at Big Boy, and bring your friends!

Lawful open carry of a holstered firearm is encouraged but not required.

When: Saturday, August 17, 2013

Time: 4:00 PM

Place: Big Boy Restaurant

Address: 751 Spring Street, Petoskey, MI 49770

Phone: 231-347-2931

Map: [Link](#)

Event flyer: [Link](#)

For more information: <http://forums.michiganopencarry.org/index.php/topic,3225.0.html>

Lunch in Howell, Saturday August 24 at 1:00 PM

Never open carried before? Just curious? Well, here is a great opportunity to get your questions answered and see other open carriers “in action.” Join us for dinner at Mark’s Midtown Coney Island, and bring your friends!

Lawful open carry of a holstered firearm is encouraged but not required.

When: Saturday, August 24, 2013

Time: 1:00 PM

Place: Mark’s Midtown Coney Island

Address: 208 West Grand River Avenue, Howell, MI 48843

Map: [Link](#)

For more information: <http://forums.michiganopencarry.org/index.php/topic,3249.0.html>

Second Amendment Campout in Frederic, MI Labor Day Weekend, August 30 — September 2, 2013

Michigan Open Carry will be hosting a Second Amendment campout over the Labor Day holiday weekend at The Trails Campground in

Frederic, MI. This is a chance to camp with like minded people who love the Second Amendment and the freedoms it affords.

The Trails is a nice, quiet campground with clean restrooms, showers and a playground for the kids. The campground borders state land for those who want to shoot.

Although there is no waterfront, there is a river within a mile from the campground. If you want to canoe or kayak, there are four canoe liveries in or near Grayling. If you have never floated the AuSable or Manistee Rivers, you are in for a real treat! Reservations are encouraged. We will be putting on an OC seminar during the weekend.

Sites with water and electric are \$20 per night. Primitive sites are also available. Camp hosts will be Reg Carr and Cindy Walker.

Safe and lawful open carry of a holstered firearm is encouraged but not required.

No fireworks or discharge of weapons within the park are allowed.

You do not have to be a member of MOC to attend.

When: Friday, August 30—Monday, September 2, 2013

Place: The Trails Campground

Address: 4066 Old 27 North, Frederic, MI 49733

Map: [Link](#)

Campground facebook page: [Link](#)

Reservations: call the camp at 989-348-8692 or email

rcarr@michiganopencarry.org

For more information: <http://forums.michiganopencarry.org/index.php/topic,3259.0.html>

Open Carry Seminar in Frederic, MI Saturday August 31 at 1:00 PM

Never open carried before? Just curious about it? Join us for an Open Carry Seminar at The Trails Campground in Frederic. These seminars, presented by Michigan Open Carry, are an excellent opportunity to learn about the laws and myths that surround the open carry of a handgun in Michigan. Bring a friend and learn more about open carry and Michigan Open Carry, Inc. You are also welcome to spend the weekend there and camp with like-minded people. See the event announcement above.

Lawful open carry of a holstered firearm is encouraged but not required.

When: Saturday, August 31, 2013

Time: 1:00 PM

Place: The Trails Campground

Address: 4066 Old 27 North, Frederic, MI 49733

Map: [Link](#)

Campground facebook page: [Link](#)

For more information: <http://forums.michiganopencarry.org/index.php/topic,3293.0.html>

Lunch in Kalamazoo, Saturday August 31 at 2:00 PM

Have you wanted to open carry but never found an opportunity you were comfortable with? Come join Michigan Open Carry at Theo and Stacy's for an open carry lunch. You will be joined by other members and will be OCing and like-minded individuals. Theo and Stacy's fully supports your right to open carry, and this would be a great chance to get out and OC for the first time. As always, these events are open to the public, so anyone may feel free to join.

Lawful open carry of a holstered firearm is encouraged but not required.

When: Saturday, August 31, 2013

Time: 2:00 PM

Place: Theo and Stacy's Restaurant

Address: 4311 S. Westnedge, Kalamazoo, MI 49008

For more information: <http://forums.michiganopencarry.org/index.php/topic,3275.0.html>

All Day Fund Raiser in Woodhaven, Thursday September 5 from 11:00 AM until 9:00 PM

Michigan Open Carry is hosting a fund-raiser at Stevi B's Pizza Buffet in Woodhaven. Tell them when you pay that you are supporting Michigan Open Carry and 17% of the profits from the meals will be donated to Michigan Open Carry. This also applies to carry-out.

Lawful open carry of a holstered firearm is encouraged but not required.

When: Thursday, September 5, 2013

Time: 11:00 AM until 9:00 PM

Place: Stevi B's Pizza Buffet

Address: 19135 West Road, Woodhaven, MI 48183 (Woodhaven Commons Shopping Center)

Phone: 734-675-5777

Map: [Link](#)

For more information: <http://forums.michiganopencarry.org/index.php/topic,3042.msg24764.html>

Cabela's NRA Days in Dundee, Saturday—Sunday September 14-15

Michigan Open Carry will have an information table at the Dundee Cabela's September 14 and 15. Come on by and show your support. Bring a friend and introduce them to Michigan Open Carry.

MOC President Phil Hofmeister is tentatively scheduled to speak Saturday the 14th from 2:30 PM until 3:00 PM. Time and date subject to change.

As with the NRA Days we had in February, any volunteers to help work the table are welcome.

Lawful open carry of a holstered firearm is encouraged but not required.

When: Saturday, September 14, 2013 from 8 AM until 9 PM

Sunday, September 15, 2013 from 10 AM until 8 PM

Place: Cabela's

Address: 110 Cabelas Blvd, Dundee, MI 48131

Map: [Link](#)

For more information: <http://forums.michiganopencarry.org/>

[index.php/topic,3247.0.html](#)

Open Carry Seminar in Taylor, Thursday September 19 at 7:00 PM

Never open carried before? Just curious about it? Join us for an Open Carry Seminar at Gander Mountain in Taylor. These seminars, presented by Michigan Open Carry, are an excellent opportunity to learn about the laws and myths that surround the open carry of a handgun in Michigan. Bring a friend and learn more about open carry and Michigan Open Carry, Inc.

Lawful open carry of a holstered firearm is encouraged but not required.

When: Thursday, September 19, 2013

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Gander Mountain

Address: 14100 Pardee Road, Taylor, MI 48180

Map: [Link](#)

Event flyer: [Link](#)

For more information: <http://forums.michiganopencarry.org/>

[index.php/topic,3247.0.html](#)

MOC / MCRGO / MGO Picnic in Belleville, Saturday September 21 at 1:30 PM

Michigan's 'Big Three' gun organizations will be hosting a late summer BBQ in Belleville. We will be providing hot dogs, buns, condiments, plates, napkins, and cola. Please bring your family, invite a friend, and bring a dish to pass.

We will be in the South Shelter in the Big Bend Picnic Area, Area H (see park map link). Each person attending must have an RSVP so we can get an accurate count for buying food. There is a \$5 park vehicle entry fee that will be collected by the park management.

Lawful open carry of a holstered firearm is encouraged but not required.

When: Saturday, August 17, 2013

Time: 4:00 PM

Place: Willow Metropark

Address: 17845 Savage Road, Belleville, MI 48111

Phone: 734-697-9181

Park map: [Link](#)

RSVP: [Link](#)

For more information: <http://forums.michiganopencarry.org/index.php/topic,3248.0.html>

Dinner in Sears, MI Saturday September 21 at 4:00 PM

Never open carried before? Just curious? Well, here is a great opportunity to get your questions answered and see other open carriers “in action.” Join us for dinner at Smokey Bones BBQ, and bring your friends!

Lawful open carry of a holstered firearm is encouraged but not required.

When: Saturday, September 21, 2013

Time: 4:00 PM

Place: Smokey Bones BBQ

Address: 2959 US Highway 10, Sears, MI 49670

For more information: <http://forums.michiganopencarry.org/index.php/topic,3291.0.html>

Dinner in Allen Park, Thursday September 26 at 7:00 PM

Never open carried before? Just curious? Well, here is a great opportunity to get your questions answered and see other open carriers “in action.” Join us for dinner at Hunan Hunan, and bring your friends!

Lawful open carry of a holstered firearm is encouraged but not required.

When: Thursday, September 26, 2013

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Hunan Hunan

Address: 4327 Allen Road, Allen Park, MI 48101

Map: [Link](#)

For more information: <http://forums.michiganopencarry.org/index.php/topic,3285.0.html>

MOC / MCRGO / MGO BBQ in Grand Rapids, Saturday September 28 at 11:00 AM

Michigan’s ‘Big Three’ gun organizations will be hosting a late summer BBQ in Grand Rapids. We will be providing hot dogs, buns, condiments, plates, napkins, and cola. Please bring your family, invite a friend, and bring a dish to pass.

Lawful open carry of a holstered firearm is encouraged but not required.

When: Saturday, September 28, 2013

Time: 11:00 AM

Place: Riverside Park

Address: 2001 Monroe Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49505

Park map: [Link](#)

RSVP: [Link](#)

For more information: <http://forums.michiganopencarry.org/index.php/topic,3277.0.html>

Open Carry Seminar in Traverse City, Saturday October 5 at 1:00 PM

Never open carried before? Just curious about it? Join us for an Open Carry Seminar at Gander Mountain in Traverse City. These seminars, presented by Michigan Open Carry, are an excellent opportunity to learn about the laws and myths that surround the open carry of a handgun in Michigan. Bring a friend and learn more about open carry and Michigan Open Carry, Inc.

Lawful open carry of a holstered firearm is encouraged but not required.

When: Saturday, October 5, 2013

Time: 1:00 PM

Place: Gander Mountain

Address: 3500 Marketplace Circle, Traverse City, MI 49684

RSVP: [Link](#)

For more information: <http://forums.michiganopencarry.org/index.php/topic,3290.0.html>

Dinner in Traverse City, Saturday October 5 at 4:00 PM

There will be an Open Carry dinner at Big Boy following the MOC Open Carry Seminar at Gander Mountain earlier in the afternoon. If you attended the seminar, or even if you've never open carried before but are just curious, this is a great opportunity to get your questions answered and see other open carriers "in action." Join us for dinner at Big Boy in Traverse City, and bring your friends!

Lawful open carry of a holstered firearm is encouraged but not required.

When: Saturday, October 5, 2013

Time: 4:00 PM

Place: Big Boy Restaurant

Address: 3828 U.S. 31, Traverse City, MI 49684

Map: [Link](#)

For more information: <http://forums.michiganopencarry.org/index.php/topic,3290.0.html>

Second Amendment Activist Day at State Capitol in Lansing, Wednesday October 9 from 9:30 AM until 2:00 PM

On October 9, MOC/MCRGO/MGO/SAM are once again sponsoring a gathering at the State Capitol. People will be urged to visit their legislators to express their views on a variety of Second Amendment issues. Tentative schedule is as follows:

9:30 AM: March proceeds from Pennsylvania Avenue toward the Capitol
10:00 AM until 12:00 noon: Meet with your State House members

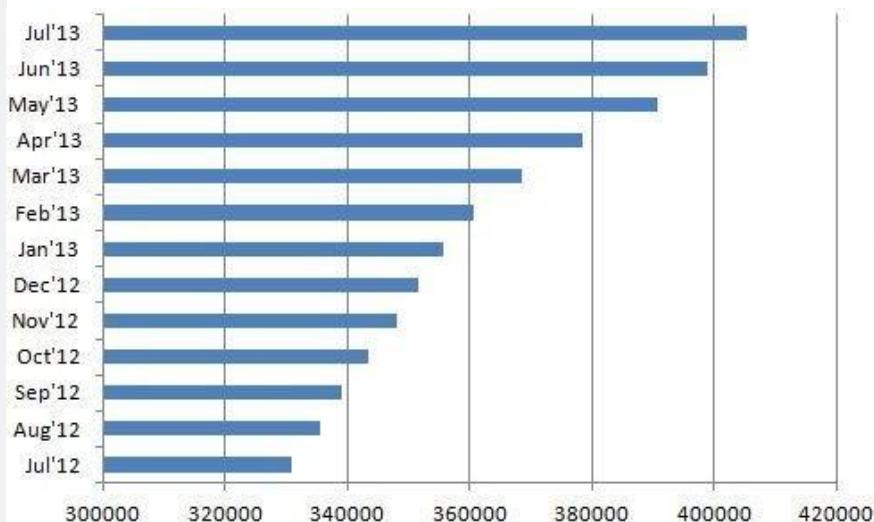
12:00 noon until 2:00 PM: Meet with your State Senators

We look forward to seeing everyone again as we promote the right to keep and bear arms with our lawmakers.

A Wednesday event was chosen not because it will give the best turnout, but rather because lawmakers are actually in the building.

For more information: <http://forums.michiganopencarry.org/index.php/topic,3272.0.html>

Fun Fact



Statistics from the Michigan State Police. Graph courtesy of MCRGO.

As of August 1, 2013, there were 409,040 concealed pistol license holders in Michigan.

Your Voice Matters

As a firearms owner and open carry advocate, we know you have opinions on laws and upcoming legislation. Have you voiced your opinions to both your legislators and to members of the appropriate committees to get certain legislation out of committee and onto the floor for vote?

Your voice makes a difference. We urge you to take advantage of MOC's resources as well as other public resources to make yourself aware of potential and upcoming legislation and make your voice heard. Join MOC's Legislative Alerts. Read MOC's forums and other Michigan firearms forums dealing with legislation. Read the text of the bills themselves on the Michigan legislature's web pages, and contact the members of the committees they are before as well as your own representatives.

Your voice makes a difference.

Call for Authors

Are you a writer? Do you have a story to share with other Michigan open carriers? Perhaps it is a firearm review, a holster review, a book review, a story of the first time you open carried, or your first LEO (Law Enforcement Officer) encounter. Maybe you'd like to relate some of your experiences open carrying across this great fruited plain. Or maybe you have some thoughts on current laws, proposed legislation, or news. Perhaps it is a safety caution based upon an incident you experienced first- or second-hand, or an essay of your thoughts on a particular subject. Are you an artist who draws political or firearms-related cartoons or art? We are a community, and we are particularly looking for first-person stories that will entertain or benefit us all in one way or another, although we will also accept third-person stories you write.

If you have a story to tell, but don't want to write it yourself, please contact DGriffin@miopencarry.org and we will work with you to write it. We want to hear YOUR stories.

Letters to the Editor and Other Changes to the MOC Newsletter

The Michigan Open Carry Newsletter is still in its infancy and going through some growing pains. We have been and will be making changes to make this newsletter better for you, the reader. Please help to make this newsletter better by offering your suggestions as well. We would like to begin a 'Letters to the Editor' section. If you have a response to anything we have written, or otherwise have an opinion, please email it to the editor at DGriffin@miopencarry.org.

Notice to Potential Advertisers

Do you support the open carry of firearms? Would you like to show your support of the Second Amendment in our newsletter? If you would like to advertise in the Michigan Open Carry Newsletter, please contact advertise@miopencarry.org. We are offering two free advertisements (two newsletters' worth). It does not have to be firearms-related. Restaurants or other establishments our readers would enjoy frequenting would also be considered. Readers, please feel free to pass this opportunity along to potential advertisers.

Missed an Issue?

Back issues of the MOC Newsletter are always available.

No. 1 — Jan 2013

No. 2 — Aug 2013

Become a Member of Michigan Open Carry!



We hope you've enjoyed this newsletter. Can I ask you one more thing?

Help MOC!

I know we all have limited resources to fund our lives. I'm also pretty sure that almost everyone in the Facebook Group has benefited from the work of MOC in one form or another. Won't you consider becoming a dues paying member of MOC? **Your dues helps ensure that we** have the financial resources needed to continue:

- Educating the public, law enforcement, and others.
- Fighting lawsuits such as CADL v. MOC and other future civil right suits involving 2A.
- Fund picnics and other fun activities.

MOC is the only 100% volunteer 2A organization in Michigan with a strong lobbying arm in Lansing that uses our mailing list (when required) to push our legislators to make the right decisions.

Won't you stand with me as we continue to stand for our rights?

Join (or renew) right now: <http://miopencarry.org/join>

If you have technical problems joining, please email board@miopencarry.org and we will help you through the process.

I truly appreciate your continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phillip Hofmeister".

Phillip Hofmeister
President (and a dues paying member)
Michigan Open Carry, Inc.