

Michigan Open Carry News

July 2014

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [Letter From the President](#)
- [Current Pending Firearms Legislation](#)
- [Gun Ownership By The Numbers: An Analysis](#)
- [I Support the Second Amendment, But...](#)
- [The Open Carry Debate](#)
- [Lessons From Zimmerman: Part II](#)
- [MOC Member Profile: Ryan Ransom](#)
- [My Open Carry Journey](#)
- [Romulus Open Carry Demonstration](#)
- [Upcoming MOC Events](#)
- [Firearms Fact](#)
- [Reader Opinion](#)
- [Missed an Issue?](#)
- [Become a Member of Michigan Open Carry](#)

Michigan Open Carry News

Editor: Dan Griffin
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Letter From the President

This issue we have a guest letter from our outgoing Vice President, Adam Yancer.

Fellow open carriers,

After two years as Vice President of Michigan Open Carry, Inc., I am bidding a very bittersweet farewell to my position on the board of directors. It has been quite a pleasure to serve as Vice President watching this organization grow and helping contribute to every aspect of the organization. I have come to know my fellow board members well and consider them all friends as well as the many of you I have had the pleasure of meeting and speaking to.

When I started with Michigan Open Carry in 2011 we were still looked at as a fringe organization that was going to get everyone's rights stripped away by our "in your face attitude" as they called it. Today, thanks to our members and our followers, we can proudly say we are one of the big three gun rights organizations in this state and we are taken seriously for what we do and what we represent.

It has been an honor to work with my fellow board members, past and present, and though I'm sad to not run again, I know not only will the Vice President position be in good hands but so will the organization itself. I have met so many good people in my time, and volunteering for this organization has been one of the most rewarding and fulfilling things I've ever been a part of.

Though I'm not running for a board position, I do hope to continue to volunteer as a member of leadership helping to organize events around the state. I look forward to watching this organization grow even larger than it is today with the help of the good, law abiding people of this state.

As always, stay safe and carry on.



Adam Yancer
 Director of Regional Operations
 Vice President, Michigan Open Carry, Inc.
AYancer@miopencarry.org

ALSO OF INTEREST

Pride of Ignorance on Firearms



When it comes to the Second Amendment, the Left doesn't even understand what it's getting wrong

"The supreme power in America cannot enforce unjust laws by the sword; because the whole body of the people are armed, and constitute a force superior to any band of regular troops that can be, on any pretense, raised in the United States."

— Noah Webster

Open Carrier Alleges Jackson City Police Violated His Rights When They Arrested Him For Openly Carrying His Pistol



Suing for \$900,000 for First, Second and 14th amendment violations

IN THE NEWS

Obama Says He Will Continue Gun Control Push Without Congress



President vows in State of Union address to work with or without congress on gun control

Obama Praises Australia's Gun Confiscation



President praises a government for forcefully removing all semi-automatic firearms from its citizenry.

"The people have a right to keep and bear arms."

— George Mason

Ban Imported "Assault Rifles, Pistols"



So says Senator Feinstein in a letter to President Obama

Current Firearms Legislation Pending in 2014

This is a subset of firearms and weapons bills currently before the Michigan Legislature. Michigan Open Carry 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 977 would allow active duty military service members, reservists, and guardsmen to file CPL renewals by mail. This bill has only been introduced in the Senate.

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 opposes these bills.

HB 4262 proposes new restrictions to the carrying of knives. This bill has 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 House.

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. SB 49 has been signed into law. MOC supported this bill.

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.

Open Carry Gun Lawsuit Claims Flint Township Police Improperly Jailed Man Christmas Eve



A lawsuit is seeking more than \$25,000 in damages has been filed

Florida Carry Sues Broward County For Continued Violations Of State Firearms Preemption Laws



County refuses to comply with Florida preemption law

Connecticut Man Sues After False Arrest for Legally Open Carrying



Judge dismisses suit claiming police have governmental immunity

Blumenthal Wants to Bring Back Gun Bills



Senate urged to reconsider more gun-control laws in wake of UCSB shootings

Senate Bill Would Let Families Confiscate Guns of 'Unstable' People



Pause for Safety Act is in response to the May 23 spree killing in Isla Vista, CA

Former MAIG Member: Goal is Confiscation of Guns



Mayors Against Illegal Guns intends to promote confiscation of guns from law-abiding citizens

"Let your gun therefore be your constant companion of your walks."

— Thomas Jefferson

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.

HB 5085 adds a person who has certain training (safety course or training required for a CPL) to the list of people a minor is allowed to possess or shoot a pistol with. This bill has been signed into law.

SB 610 allows manufacture, sale, and possession of a short-barreled shotgun (SBS) or short-barreled rifle (SBR) in Michigan. This bill has been signed into law.

SB 572 allows tasers in pistol-free zones for CPL holders. This bill has passed out of committee.

HB 4283 allows certain rifles to be used to hunt deer in the southern part of the state. This bill has passed the House.

HB 4134 creates a special class of people by creating CPL training exemptions for peace officers and active duty or retired military. This bill has been passed by the House. MOC strongly opposes this bill.

HB 4350 creates another special class of people by allowing prosecutors and former LEOs to carry firearms in pistol-free zones. This bill has been passed by the House. MOC strongly opposes this bill.

HB 4133 creates another special class of people by allowing active or retired corrections officers, probation officers, and parole officers to carry firearms in pistol-free zones. This bill has been passed by the House. MOC strongly opposes this bill.

SB 984 eliminated the contiguous state requirement for long gun purchases. This bill has been enacted into law.

HB 5091 and **HB 5092** clarify the definition of brandishing and explicitly state that the lawful open carry of a holstered pistol or slung rifle is not brandishing. These bills have been passed in the House. MOC strongly supports these bills.

House Bills **4155**, **5324**, **5325**, **5326**, **5327** and **5328**, collectively known as the "Firearms Records Confidentiality Package," pass overwhelmingly in the legislature and get sent to the governor for his signature. These bills aim to rework the current regulations regarding how firearms records are collected, used, and accessed. They reiterate that information contained in a firearms record is confidential and not subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. MOC supports these bills.

SB 789 eliminates county gun boards. This bill has been passed by the Senate. MOC supports this bill.

HB 5500 adds teeth to Michigan's firearms preemption law by forcing units of government that lose in court to pay for plaintiff's legal costs, provides punishment for elected officials who knowingly and willfully violate preemption, and grants standing to groups to bring lawsuits. This bill has been introduced in the House. MOC strongly supports this bill.

Bellingham to Pay \$15,000 to Man Who Wore Gun in Park



Lawyers say Bellingham has agreed to pay \$15,000 to a man who was threatened by a police officer for wearing a holstered gun in a city park

New Push in California to Carry Guns Openly



Gun Owners of California moving to the next round, the courts

Arkansas City Council Conspires Against Open Carriers



City Council conspires to push police and businesses to shut the town and refuse service to open carriers

Markey Calls for Personalized Gun Law



Sen. Markey (D-MA) wants gun manufacturers held liable if they produce guns that don't meet the new safety standard

New York Lawmaker Blasts State's Gun Policies



Points to stringent firearms laws for keeping away business

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

— Samuel Adams

Union Official Blames Remington Arms Expansion in Alabama on NY SAFE Act



Union president says the SAFE Act has been a terrible thing from the beginning

Gun Ownership By The Numbers: An Analysis

Dan Griffin (gryphon)



Just how many guns are there in the United States? From kitchen tables to political back rooms this question has been pondered by some with an eye toward firearms restriction and regulation, and by others looking to ensure that our freedom to keep and bear arms remains intact. While no one knows exactly, our most reliable estimates have long put the numbers of firearms in the hands of U.S. civilians at 300 – 310 million, but I am convinced that old number can no longer be anywhere close to accurate. I suspect the true numbers are a lot higher.

In 2007, the Geneva based Small Arms Survey estimated that there were over 270 million privately owned firearms in the United States. This estimate is a very rough educated guess at best, but is often used as a starting point for discussion. A number of criteria were used to come up with this number, including gun registration numbers, expert estimates, household surveys, proxy indicators such as GDP and gun suicides, and comparison with similar countries. But even they have admitted that there are no easy rules to rely on, and that "social science, with its emphasis on verifiable indexes, naturally leads to undercounting total civilian arsenals." Each of the five criteria listed has problems, potentially huge problems. There is no mandatory gun registration in the United States. Their expert estimates have differed by as much as a factor of ten for some countries, even modern Western countries such as Switzerland. Household surveys tend to be less reliable the more sensitive the subject, of which gun ownership certainly is one. Some people will just not readily give out that information. We've just witnessed what happened in one state. Even under the threat of penalty of a felony charge, it is estimated that the compliance rate for gun registration in Connecticut is less than four percent.

NICS Checks

As part of the Brady Act, the FBI launched NICS (National Instant Criminal Background Check System) in 1998, but are those checks a reliable indicator of firearms ownership? Over 19 million NICS checks were performed in 2012 alone according to the latest published records. But those don't include many private sales, nor do they include firearms transactions for whom the federal government doesn't require NICS checks. Owners of renewable carry licenses from states who meet the federal guidelines are exempt from the NICS check requirement. A NICS check hasn't been required for the last dozen guns I've purchased or sold.

Firearms Manufacturing and Importation

Let's look at the production figures from the gun manufacturers and importers. This should begin to weed out the new gun sales from the checks for licenses and the resale of existing guns.

Good Luck George, You're Gonna Need It



Amended complaint in Deffert case points out City of Grand Rapids liability for showing deliberate indifference to individuals by willfully leaving unlawful firearms ordinances on the books

"Arms in the hands of citizens may be used at individual discretion in private self-defense."

— John Adams, paraphrased, *A Defence of the Constitutions of the United States* 475 (1787-1788)

What Do I Do When Someone Is Shooting At Me?



The answer to the question is, "It depends."

The Five Stages of Violent Crime



There is a big difference between self-defense and personal safety

ABC News Reports On Guns Mislead Americans



Tries to scare people into not owning guns

Chicago Ordinance Would Require Videotaping Gun Sales

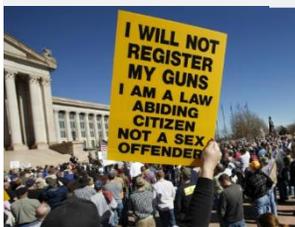


Law would also require waiting period and bans sales near schools

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

— Samuel Adams

Untold Thousands Flout Gun Registration Law



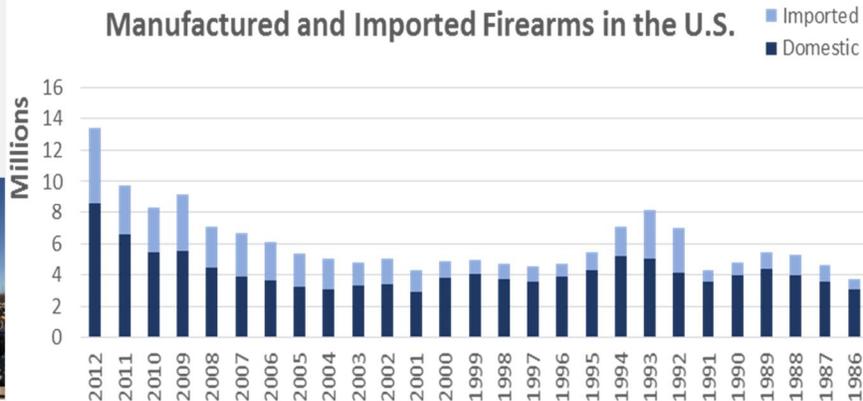
"If you pass laws that people have no respect for and they don't follow them, then you have a real problem."

Manufactured and Imported Firearms in the U.S. 2008—2012

Domestic	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Pistols	3,487,883	2,598,133	2,258,450	1,868,258	1,609,381
Revolvers	667,357	572,857	558,927	547,195	431,753
Rifles	3,168,206	2,318,088	1,830,556	2,248,851	1,734,536
Shotguns	949,010	862,401	743,378	752,699	630,710
Misc f'arms	306,154	190,407	67,929	138,815	92,564
Subtotal	8,578,610	6,541,886	5459,240	5,555,818	4,498,944
Imported	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Handguns	2,627,201	1,725,276	1,782,585	2,184,417	1,468,062
Rifles	1,243,924	998,072	547,449	864,010	602,364
Shotguns	973,465	529,056	509,913	558,679	535,960
Subtotal	4,844,590	3,252,404	2,839,947	3,607,106	2,606,386
Total	13,423,200	9,794,290	8,299,187	9,162,924	7,105,330
Grand total 2008 – 2012	47,784,931				

There were over 47 million guns imported, manufactured, and sold between 2008 and 2012. Add another 15 million for 2013—a reasonable guess based on what we know—and we're well over 60 million new guns in the hands of gun owners since 2008. That means we have averaged over ten million new guns sold per year for the last six years alone. Fully one-third of new guns in recent years have been imported into the United States from other countries.

And while the trend in new gun sales is decidedly upward, it has fluctuated dramatically in the past. Around the time of the Clinton Assault Weapon Ban, there was a sharp increase in the number of domestic firearms manufactured, and total firearms sales were averaging seven to eight million per year. The end of the 1980's also saw a large increase in the number of firearms produced domestically, with total gun sales averaging well over five million annually. See the chart below.



Data from the BATFE's "Firearms Commerce in the United States Annual Statistical Update" and the U.S. International Trade Commission. Graph by author.

Now not every firearm manufactured gets sold that year, but we can assume that every firearms dealer has X amount of stock at the beginning

Women's Gun Sales, Licenses Skyrocket in Michigan



Overwhelming majority are in West Michigan

Teach Your Daughters to Shoot



Summer 2012

As a woman, a mother, and a gun owner I understand the importance of safeguarding the right to own firearms for self-defense

"No freeman shall be debarred the use of arms."

— Thomas Jefferson

Women the 'Holy Grail' of Gun Rights Movement



The Second Amendment will stand or fall depending on the way women vote.

The Law May Be Unconstitutional, But We're Going To Arrest and Prosecute You Anyway



"We do not doubt that many sincerely believe the measure violates the Second Amendment. But that doesn't give them the right to disobey it."

"The laws that forbid the carrying of arms are laws of such a nature. They 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."

— Collected by Thomas Jefferson from Cesare Beccaria's "Essay on Crimes and Punishments"

Connecticut Gun Owners Revolt



State law enforcement officials are now in the difficult position of dealing with one of the most widely flouted laws since Prohibition

of the year, and approximately X amount of stock at the end of the year, so for our purposes all quantities manufactured each year are a pass-through for that year and get averaged out over time. These guns aren't being stacked up in warehouses unsold. In fact, over the last couple of years the shelves of many gun stores have been empty, and the virtual shelves of online retailers, likewise. Some of our largest firearms manufacturers are running their production lines 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

ATF Factoid: there were more than 3.1 million National Firearms Act-registered weapons in the U.S. as of March 2012. That includes more than 488,000 machine guns.

So where are all of these guns going?

In March 2014, the international internet-based market research firm YouGov published a survey breaking down firearms ownership in the United States according to several categories: age, sex, race, income, region, and political party affiliation.

The data suggest that Republicans own guns more than two-to-one over Democrats. 36% of men own guns, and while only 15% of women have a personal firearm, only one in four women say they feel less safe with a gun in the house. Women seem to "get it," and understand vulnerability to criminals who can overpower them. Not coincidentally, women are also the fastest growing segment of gun owners.

Somewhat surprising is that the South has the lowest rate of gun ownership, putting the lie to the image conjured up by some politicians and those in the media. The Midwest has the highest.

Gun ownership pretty evenly straddles the income brackets, with only the lowest income seeing any significant drop. I suspect that has to do with a combination of less disposable income coupled with the fact that certain segments of our society, who are often low income to start with, view gun ownership in a negative light.

I should note that an October 2011 Gallup poll put the number of men who own guns at 46% and the number of women who personally own a firearm at 23%. This just illustrates how hard it is to put an accurate number on firearms ownership in the United States using answers voluntarily supplied by gun owners. Still, these various polls do reveal similar trends, even if their numbers aren't identical.

Start 'em young

The question "What do you think is an appropriate age for someone to fire a handgun, shotgun or rifle for the first time?" was asked. Interestingly enough, it almost didn't matter what age, sex, race, income, region you lived in, or political party you identified with, the answer was almost all uniformly nine years old. As a rule, and not surprisingly, the only deviation from this were Democrats, the wealthiest, or people living in the Northeast. The people with the very highest incomes and Democrats pushed the age to ten, while people in the Northeast thought eleven was more appropriate. Countering that were our seniors, who thought that

'Shoot Like a Girl' Concept Appeals to New Shooters



SLG2 utilizes a state-of-the-art, 52-foot trailer where women participate in a military grade firearms simulation system.

Gun Classes Drawing More Women



Teaching women to shoot is often easier than men because women have fewer bad habits to correct

Firearm Training: Not Just for the Guys



Dramatic increase in the number of women who are interested in firearm classes

"To preserve liberty it is essential that the whole body of the people always possess arms, and be taught alike, especially when young, how to use them."

— attributed to both Melancton Smith and Richard Henry Lee

Confusion Reigns As Gun Control Law Takes Effect



Connecticut State Police admit that confiscation letters being sent out are authentic

99% of New Yorkers Fail to Comply With SAFE Act



Leaks from within the NY State Police indicate less than 1% compliance rate

"The best we can hope for concerning the people at large is that they be properly armed."

— Alexander Hamilton

SAFE Act Protesters Burn Nearly 1,000 Gun Registration Forms



Organizer Lisa Donovan warns that registration will lead to confiscation

seven years of age was old enough. That might give us some indication of how the culture of guns and gun ownership has changed in the United States over the last fifty or sixty years.

Per-capita gun ownership

At 1.0 (1:1), the United States has the highest per-capita gun ownership in the world. That's one gun for every man, women, and child in the United States. Figuring in the 24% of the US population that is under the age of 18, that leaves about 240 million adults. The U.S. could easily have a 1.5 rate of gun ownership among those of legal age to own a firearm. That is an incredible statistic. Compare the U.S. rate to that of Sweden, Norway, France, Canada, Germany, and Austria whose per-capita gun ownership is all roughly 0.3, less than one-third of ours. Plus, we can carry firearms with us outside the home for personal protection, something not allowed with such ease in most other Western countries. Even in the traditionally gun-friendly countries Switzerland and Finland, the rate of firearms ownership is only 0.45, less than half that of the United States.

For another comparison, the rate in Australia is 0.15, and England and Wales boast a gun ownership rate of only 0.06, with Scotland slightly less yet.

The future of gun ownership in the U.S.

Despite the best efforts of some for more gun control out of our nation's capital, nothing has happened to date. And although there have been isolated instances of stricter gun regulation in a couple of states, the overwhelming majority of states continue to pass and sign into law pro-2A legislation as outlined in this newsletter's state-by-state brief legislative updates. Just quickly looking down the list in each issue shows that states are expanding where and how its citizens can own and carry firearms for personal protection. There are more open carry states, and as more states enact pre-emption into law and slowly eliminate gun-free zones, citizens are increasingly able to protect themselves better in their everyday lives.

Since 2007 U.S. gun manufacturers have more than doubled their output. Just for the years I have detailed above (1986 – 2012) over 164 million new firearms have been manufactured or imported and sold in the United States, and it doesn't show signs of slowing down any time soon. By the end of 2014, I fully expect to see this number approach 200 million. The Congressional Research Service put the number of civilian firearms ownership in the United States at 310 million back in 2009: 114 million handguns, 110 million rifles, and 86 million shotguns. Although we won't get the official domestic production figures for 2013 until January 2015, you can see from the manufacturing and import figures above that another 45 – 47 million guns have been added since then (2010 through 2013). Conservatively, we probably have well over 350 million guns in this country right now, and I believe that is a low estimate for the reasons stated above. My guess is—at a minimum—another 30 million new guns will be manufactured and sold before Barack Obama leaves office at the end of 2016. I predict the numbers of firearms owned in the

Woman Holds Home Invader at Gunpoint, Cops Take 23 Minutes to Show Up



"Firearms allow women to introduce an equalizer into the situation, [and carrying one] clearly shows that a woman refuses to be a victim, and will instead stand firm as a survivor."

"Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety."

— Benjamin Franklin

Women and Guns – the New Normal



The number of women applying for concealed carry permits has continued to steadily increase as more and more of them have decided to take responsibility for their own safety, as well as the protection of their families

Protesters 'will not comply' with SAFE Act



Gun-rights advocates estimate compliance will be less than 10 percent

“Rank and File Troopers Don’t Want Anything To Do With It.”



“I don’t know of a single sheriff upstate who is going to enforce it.”

“[A]rms...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 the use of them.”

— Thomas Paine

NY State Police Won't Enforce Mag Limit



Ban is “capricious, ill-conceived, and unconstitutional.”

United States will easily top 400 million well before this decade is out. And to my mind, that’s a Good Thing™.

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“I Support the Second Amendment, But...”

Michael Perchard (Ezerharden)



“I support the Second Amendment, but...”

How many times have we heard people utter these words? Many in the pro-gun community will consider the person saying it to be an anti-gun person. Politicians say it, police officers say it, and average people not associated with any pro-gun groups say it. And all are

equally labeled as being anti-gun or anti-Second Amendment by the pro-gun community.

However, in some pro-gun groups members say the same thing, but it is accepted from our own community when talking about people in our community. I am not referring to any one gun group, but the overall community of all gun groups from any state. It comes down to what you believe in. Here are just a few examples.

Concealed Carry vs. Open Carry. Many people that are die hard concealed carriers will state that “they support the Second Amendment, but...” open carry is too dangerous, open carry makes you more of a target, open carry removes your element of surprise and your tactical advantage (I have always loved that one since the element of surprise is almost always an offensive tactic). And you have the flip side of that argument. I support the Second Amendment, but...” concealed carry looks suspicious because that’s how criminals carry, or if you conceal carry no one knows you are armed and therefore others don’t think anyone carries for self-defense.

Long gun open carry. Recently there have been news reports out of Texas about people there exercising their right to open carry a long gun. Bear in mind that in Texas it is illegal to open carry a hand gun, so without a CPL there is no other option. But again you get the “I support the Second Amendment, but...” arguments. Long gun open carry hurts the

Firearms Makers Moving to More Gun-friendly U.S. Southern States



First gun manufacturer to leave Connecticut after it enacted tough new gun control laws last year presented a commemorative rifle to the governor of South Carolina, its new home.

“What do we mean by the Revolution? The war? That was no part of the revolution; it was only an effect and consequence of it. The revolution was in the minds of the people, and this was effected from 1760 - 1775, in the course of fifteen years, before a drop of blood was shed at Lexington.”

— John Adams

Beretta Expands in the South, Not Maryland



Bringing 300 jobs to Tennessee

Steyr Arms Expanding in Alabama



Steyr has moved into its new 33,000 square foot facility in Bessemer, Alabama

Suit Against SAFE Act's 'Warrantless' Police Searches



Under NY law guns can be seized without warrant or review

Judge Upholds New York's Tough Gun Law



Rejects claim that its restrictions violate the Second Amendment

"Americans have the right and advantage of being armed, unlike the people of other countries, whose leaders are afraid to trust them with arms."

— James Madison, paraphrased from Federalist No. 46

Opposition Rising To Colorado Gun Control Laws



Colorado Democrats are finding it harder than ever to get the state's residents to get behind them

cause, it makes people uncomfortable, it is only done to attract attention. Any of the above may be true at the moment. However open carry of a hand gun used to get much of the same reaction in its early years. Over time due to the persistence of open carry advocates, that has changed. Perhaps in time long gun open carry may become more common just as hand gun open carry has become.

The bottom line here, people, is if you are going to discriminate against ANY form of carry, you do NOT support the Second Amendment. The Second Amendment makes no provision for how you carry a weapon, or for that matter what you carry. Now for me personally, I open carry 99% of the time. I only conceal carry if the situation mandates it to me. Would I open carry a long gun into a store? No. Do I support another's right to do so if they choose? Yes.

The pro-gun community is its own worst enemy in this area by creating divisions that don't need to be there. We all should adopt this simple philosophy; I don't care what you carry or how you carry it, just be sure to carry every day.

The Open Carry Debate

Dan Griffin (gryphon)



People carry their firearms openly for different reasons, sometimes multiple reasons. Some people open carry as a political statement. Some open carry to normalize it among the populace, to show that not only "bad people" carry guns. Most just carry openly because they think that works best for them, for whatever reason.

If you're reading this, you are probably already of the opinion that open carry is a viable method of carrying a firearm for personal protection and one that you likely employ regularly. But should it be a preferred method? Below I'll list some of the advantages, disadvantages, and arguments that some use for and against open carry. This will probably not be new ground for most readers, and likely you will have already thought of many of these yourself.

"Open carry gives away a citizen's greatest tactical advantage, stealth and surprise."

Concealing as a tactical advantage is an offensive strategy, not a defensive one. The people who claim they carry concealed so they can surprise an attacker are foolish. In most cases you will have only seconds to realize what's happening, make a decision, and react. Think about it. You see a potential encounter coming. Is their intent to victimize you? If you draw your concealed pistol on an innocent person, you will likely be arrested and lose your firearm rights. If you wait until there's an actual threat, you have to decide between complying and trying to draw your hidden pistol, if you think you can. If you have to surprise someone, you're already in deep kimchi. After you've been attacked, surprising your attacker is ridiculous. They already have the upper hand.

Gun Makers Find Greener Pastures Down South



Joins other firearm manufacturers in the South

Colt is Buying LWRC for \$60 Million



The LWRC M6 Individual Carbine (M6IC) rifle will become a Colt branded product

Remington Arms Moving 2,000+ Jobs From NY to Alabama



"In Alabama we strongly support and uphold our great U.S. Constitution on which our nation and our states were founded," Alabama Gov. Bentley

"The said Constitution be never construed to authorize Congress to infringe the just liberty of the press, or the rights of conscience; or to prevent the people of the United States, who are peaceable citizens, from keeping their own arms."

— Samuel Adams

DeLeo, MA Pushes Tighter Gun Law



Local police would be given expanded discretion to consider a person's "suitability" to own a gun

"The constitutions of most of our States assert that all power is inherent in the people; that they may exercise it by themselves, ... or they may act by representatives, freely and equally chosen; that it is their right and duty to be at all times armed."

— Thomas Jefferson

Massachusetts Gun Licenses On the Rise As State Considers Changes In Gun Laws



Cite fear that changes in state and federal laws are coming that will make it more difficult to obtain a license

"A free people ought not only to be armed, but disciplined."

— George Washington

"Open carry tips your hand. I want to reveal my gun on my own terms."

Once you are attacked you are not on your own terms. Can a successful defense be made then? It is possible, but why appear to be defenseless and a soft target in the first place? People who want that "element of surprise" always assume they will simply be a bystander instead of the target victim. Your element of surprise doesn't work when you are the one being surprised by a direct attack for giving the impression of being an easy target rather than assuming you'll be a bystander.

Transitions are always the most dangerous part of any journey: the transition from your house to your car, the transition from the store to your car, the transition from your office to your car. If someone's going to attack you, they're most likely to strike when you're between "safe" places. Parking lots and gas stations are two of the most likely places you'll need your gun, places where you'll be largely alone and the target of an attack. Chances are high you won't be getting into a situation on your terms, but those of your attacker. What are you going to do, pull your concealed carry gun and point it at the guy who just wants to ask you directions on how to get back to the interstate? Only if you want to end up losing your gun and spending the night in jail.

If the bad guy is finding out about your gun on your terms, then you've probably injected yourself into a situation you didn't need to be in.

"Open carry sets you up as the first target to be eliminated by bad guys."

My usual response to people who make the unfounded claim that the open carrier will be the first one to be shot is, "I hate it when that happens!" Yet people continue to spout this nonsense despite any evidence that it has ever happened.

Again, the argument for the advocacy of concealed carry typically hinges on the assumption that the carrier will be a bystander and not the intended target, thus relying on the element of surprise rather than preparing for being surprised yourself.

Could it ever happen? Could you conceivably be taken out as the first threat in a robbery? Yes, anything is possible, but that presupposes that the criminal is going to come in shooting every conceivable threat, and you're just the first if you get noticed. The fact is that criminals typically have tunnel vision and are focused on the object of their attack. They are looking at the clerk behind the counter to make sure he doesn't pull a gun, not the shopper getting ice cream from the frozen dairy counter. There have been instances where robbers have held up convenience stores with uniformed police in the store because they are focused on one thing, the cash register and getting in and out as quickly as possible. The possibility of you being the target when you are alone is exponentially higher than if a criminal is walking through a 7-11 shooting all the shoppers, starting with the open carrier first, before he robs the store.

"I don't want the hassle from law enforcement for open carrying."

SIG SAUER to Produce All Guns In US by 2015



Older models and some of the high maintenance designs are still manufactured in Germany

Remington Announces Product Recall on Model 700 and Model Seven Rifles



Rifles with XMP triggers could unintentionally discharge

"There is danger from all men. The only maxim of a free government ought to be to trust no man living with power to endanger the public liberty."

— John Adams

The Gun Feed Marks its One Year Anniversary



Drudge Report-like 24/7 news website for guns has had almost 1.5 million visitors and has covered more than 20,000 firearms related stories in its first year

Gun Control Group Sues NJ, Accusing Them of Ignoring Smart Gun Law



Accuses AG of not following law mandate

"Posterity! You will never know how much it cost the present generation to preserve your freedom! I hope you will make a good use of it. If you do not, I shall repent in Heaven that I ever took half the pains to preserve it."

— John Adams

New Jersey Second Amendment Society Suit Against The New Jersey State Police Continues



Secret guide being used as an excuse for the unlawful practices of their police departments

NH Rep: Food Stamp Recipients Should Be Able to Buy Guns with EBT Cards



Admitted liberal says prohibition a violation of 2A

Although it is true that in the past law enforcement has given law-abiding citizens a hard time for exercising their right to open carry, that occurs far less frequently than it has in the past. Open carry has grown tremendously in popularity, and because of that most all law enforcement has been or is being trained on how to handle encounters with open carriers. The fact is, most police do not bother open carriers at all. However, this is nothing more than a personal preference for the carrier.

"Open carry makes the average citizen very nervous."

While there are some people who have a genuine fear of guns, most don't. Gun owners who carry openly have had thousands of positive citizen encounters where people have either asked about carrying because they didn't know open carry was legal or they want to get a handgun carry license themselves, or they have been thanked for exercising their right to self-protection. Open carry of a holstered pistol while going about your everyday life is really a non-event. Most people don't notice, most people don't care. If someone who is afraid of guns is bothered that you are carrying a gun openly, they will also be upset if you are carrying a gun concealed. If you really want to eradicate the fears of the public who are afraid of guns, educate them. Show them that they have nothing to fear from a peaceable citizen lawfully carrying a holstered firearm. Show them their fears are based on emotion, not fact. The argument of scaring the public is made by people who haven't carried openly themselves. Those of us who do so on a regular basis have an entirely different experience.

"Open carry is bad pro-gun PR and will likely lead to stricter gun control."

Open carry is becoming more prevalent, more widespread across the United States, and—with just a couple of narrow exceptions—most states are simultaneously enacting more pro-gun legislation every year. Although some do have limits, 44 states currently allow open carry. Arkansas recently joined the ranks of full open carry states, and South Carolina had a bill working its way through the legislature that would have also allowed unlicensed open carry. Unfortunately it was killed for this session. Texas is also working very hard to legalize open carry. As with the other spurious anti-open carry arguments, the facts prove just the opposite of what they claim. More states are expanding their "stand your ground" laws and slowly eliminating gun-free zones. I have actually read arguments stating that people shouldn't open carry because then lawmakers will make open carry illegal and then they won't be able to open carry. Somehow the logic is lost on them that if they refuse to open carry, it really doesn't make much difference if it is outlawed.

The most serious issue here is that some people are afraid they're going to offend others. That is entirely in the mind of the person making the argument. There is no negative impact on the community from someone carrying a handgun openly, minding their own business, obeying the law, and engaging in commerce or social activities.

Dismantling the Stigma of Guns



"Black people have been programmed to think that self-defense is someone else's responsibility—that good, honest, decent black people have nothing to do with guns, because guns are for white folks, police, and black criminals. The vast majority of gun laws in America have been aimed at trying to disarm black people."

"No Guns For Negroes: Part One"

"No Guns For Negroes: Part Two"

"Children should be educated and instructed in the principles of freedom."

— John Adams

I Already Know How To Shoot!



I challenge you all to look at yourself honestly, evaluate your skill and train areas you feel weak in

Concealed Gun Permit Applications Overwhelm Orange County



Applicants said they have been assigned interview and background-check appointments as late as mid-2016

West Virginia AG Files Motion to Dismiss Lawsuit Filed by Anti-gun Mayor



MAIG member disputes preemption law

"The ultimate authority resides in the people alone."

— James Madison

US Firearm Production Sets Record In 2012



AR-15 Production Up Over 100%

"No well-known firearms instructor recommends open carry."

Those same firearms instructors likely also recommend carrying spare magazines or speed loaders, and to carry no caliber less powerful than 9mm. How many of those who use this anti-open carry argument carry the latest .380 wonderauto they saw on the cover of some gun magazine because they are small and easy to carry, or say, "If I can't get it done in six rounds...?" If so, those people would seem to be picking and choosing which pieces of professional advice they want to follow because it fits their own agenda.

The fact is that this argument is not accurate in the first place. A number of nationally known self-defense firearms instructors were recently asked their opinions on open carry, and some of them said that in fact they were not against it. Erik Utrecht of Michigan Defensive Firearms Institute stated, "I fully support those who do responsibly open carry. I think more people should, but sadly most can't handle the situational awareness required to do it properly." He also noted the poor gear many firearms carriers select as being an issue.

Steve Fisher from Magpul Dynamics stated, "I like the debate of it. [Open carry] is a right, it should be done, but it should be done smartly. It's kind of like the debate between 9mm vs. 45. Who cares, as long as the person is smart about it and responsible? I see no difference between the two arguments (CC and OC)." And Michael Lamb from Stoic Ventures said, "Open carry is one of our fundamental liberties under the Second Amendment," but noted that it can be divisive in some places. In fact, instructors who advise against it often use that reasoning, that it is not "normal" in many parts of the country and makes others "uncomfortable."

While it is true that there are instructors who are against open carry because "tactically they don't want to 'show their hand' and want to 'surprise' their attacker," it is by no means a universal position. And—as previously mentioned—there are people who lack situational awareness and fail to select the proper gear, so some instructors simply do not recommend carrying openly. Yes, it is a bad idea to carry a pistol in a cheap, open top nylon holster loosely hanging off of your belt while paying absolutely no attention to your weapon or surroundings, but I think it would be better if instructors took the position of teaching people the proper way to conceal carry and the proper way to open carry rather than just address the lowest common denominator.

Clint Smith doesn't preach that you have to carry a certain handgun, he preaches that if you choose to carry a revolver, you learn to be the best with it, and if you choose to carry a semi-auto, you learn to be the best with it.

"Other than a desire to show everyone how big yours is, what is the advantage to OC?"

Ignoring the double-entendre nature of this all-to-frequent question, I'll just answer it as best I can because some people really don't know or haven't thought about it. Of the many people I personally know who

Pros and Cons of Red Dots on Pistols



More gun-owners are carrying red dot sights—know the good and the bad

"Among the natural rights of the Colonists are these: First, a right to life; Secondly, to liberty; Thirdly, to property; together with the right to support and defend them in the best manner they can. These are evident branches of, rather than deductions from, the duty of self-preservation, commonly called the first law of nature."

— Samuel Adams

Drawing a Pistol In a Car



Defensive Pistol Tip from SIG SAUER Academy

Introduction to Vehicle Defense



With Clint Smith of Thunder Ranch

Addled by the AR-15



The AR-15 rifle serves as a totem and a fetish

More Guns, Less Crime

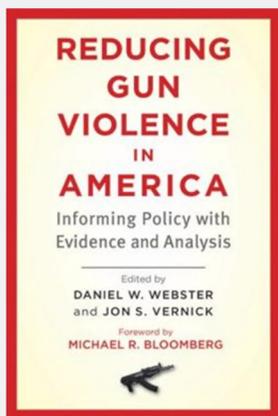


New FBI report says that violent crime continues to fall nationwide as gun purchases continue to rise

"Here every private person is authorized to arm himself...for their defense."

— John Adams

Reducing Gun Violence in America



New book encourages the states to adopt gun control restrictions that have been imposed in Australia, Brazil, and the United Kingdom

open carry, and the many more I have met online across many states who open carry, not a single one carries openly to show off either their gun or their manhood.

The deterrent value of open carry

Carrying a concealed firearm presents to a criminal that you are unarmed. Every study says that criminals will avoid an armed person or home when selecting a victim. I do not understand the advantage of appearing to be unarmed. As Ed Levine, founder of Virginia Open Carry, has stated, the probability of me being a victim of a violent crime is completely unchanged by the fact that I have a gun hidden beneath my shirt. My goal is not to be a victim in the first place.

I don't want to have to shoot someone. The people that will attack an open carrier are rare. If you feel better concealing, that's your choice. I prefer to stop the threat before it turns into a real life physical threat if I can. If you think it's better to stop the threat once you're on your back getting your head smashed in to the pavement by using your surprise tactics, that's your decision to make.

Anti-open carriers fail to describe how surprise is defensive. Luring someone to attack you so you can attack them is still offensive in nature. If you think it is better to lure someone into attacking you rather than deterring them from attacking you, you may want to rethink your strategy. If a criminal has pulled a weapon on you, he has already made up his mind on his course of action. Your element of surprise plays no role in deterring the criminal's decision to attack you.

Concealing your firearm is like having a "No Guns" sign on a business when in reality all the employees are armed. It might be robbed, but you can surprise the robber with your guns, which may lead to a shoot-out. Or, you could put up an "Armed Personnel on the Premises" sign. That would deter most criminals. Why wait until the threat is physical and poses a danger to you to act?

There is well-documented and researched analysis by criminal profilers and psychologists that says criminals will look for a soft target. As with everything there are exceptions to the rule, but the majority of criminals are indeed opportunistic and run when facing something that will keep them from accomplishing their goal. There is no good way to prove when or how often it does occur, but there are people who have experienced specific instances of open carrying deterring criminality. Let's face it, what are you going to do, ask someone if he was planning to rob you until he saw your gun? Unlikely.

Simply put, there is a deterrent value to openly carrying. Truthfully many don't notice, but if a criminal does he will pick another victim. Statistics are hard to come by here, but there is much anecdotal evidence. One of the more famous cases that made the national news was the Waffle House robbery in Kennesaw, Georgia that was avoided simply because there were armed citizens sitting in there eating.

On several state gun forums I've read stories of open carry criminal

Measuring Recoil – A Comparison of Pistols (Part 1)



Scientific assumptions on felt recoil aren't true

Why the 1911 For Everyday Carry



Advice from a crusty old Marine veteran

A Beginner's Guide to 1911 Malfunctions



It's not a question of "if," it's a question of "when"

"[W]hen the resolution of enslaving America was formed in Great Britain, the British Parliament was advised by an artful man, who was governor of Pennsylvania, to disarm the people; that it was the best and most effectual way to enslave them; but that they should not do it openly, but weaken them, and let them sink gradually."

— George Mason

Percentage of Americans Wanting Less Restrictive Gun Laws Triples in 2014



Overall dissatisfaction with gun laws largely from those clamoring for more Second Amendment freedoms hit its highest level since 2001

"If ye love wealth better than liberty, the tranquility of servitude than the animated contest of freedom — go home from us in peace. We ask not your counsels or arms. Crouch down and lick the hands which feed you. May your chains sit lightly upon you, and may posterity forget that you were our countrymen."

— Samuel Adams

Ten Reasons Why States Should Reject "Assault Weapon" and "Large" Magazine Bans



Because efforts to restrict assault weapons are more likely to succeed than those to restrict handguns

avoidance encounters. One story that sticks in my mind was a father and his daughter returning to their car in a store parking lot when a man began walking toward them. His approach "line" was asking for a light, but when he got close enough to see the father was openly carrying a holstered pistol, he quickly turned around mid-sentence and left. Maybe innocent? We'll never know for sure.

In another encounter a man who had been hanging around a gas station pay phone began approaching a husband and his wife when they pulled into the gas station. While the husband was out of his truck, the man began heading in his direction and picked up his pace slightly as if he had more intent. The husband didn't look directly at him, but instead raised his arm up to appear to be checking the straps holding their cargo. When the man saw his openly carried pistol, he immediately changed his direction and began walking down the street away from the truck instead of toward it like he had been. Do we know for sure the man had evil intent? No, but his actions indicated it was likely.

Again, a very similar thing happened to another open carrier at a gas station. A group of guys were approaching the armed citizen as he was out of his car pumping gas with the intent to rob him until one cried out, "Sh*t, he's got a gun!" At that point they all ran back to their car, jumped in, and peeled out in a hurry.

The fact is, there are many stories like these. You don't hear about them for the same reason you don't hear about all the other successful uses of guns to protect oneself against crime on CBS/NBC/ABC/PBS/MSNBC/CNN. That's not news, or at least it's not news they want to broadcast. Also, most people don't read gun forums where gun owners share their experiences while going about their lives open carrying daily.

Some anti-gun or anti-open carry people claim that if a criminal sees a gun, he will either just wait until the gun-owner leaves, or he will go elsewhere and commit his crime against someone else or another business, so there was no "real" deterrent value to openly carrying. To that I say, "Good." Remember, my goal is not to be a victim in the first place. I carry to protect myself and my family. If a business or citizen happens to benefit from crime avoidance because I am nearby, that's fine, but it is not my job to protect them and it's not why I carry a gun. If they choose to go about their lives defenseless, that is a choice they made. I carry not to prevent all attacks, I carry to prevent all attacks on ME.

And if, by some chance, a criminal doesn't notice you are carrying and begins his attack on you, who do you think would have the advantage then, someone openly carrying his pistol or someone concealing his pistol?

As one open carrier stated, "I'm not a ninja. By concealing you have to attempt to ambush your ambusher in order to use your weapon, and that is just something I'm not interested in doing." I will never claim that openly carrying a firearm will deter all criminals. The world is not that black and white. I am of the opinion that open carry is one tool in a vast arsenal that can help reduce your chance of being selected as a potential target.

.40 S&W Ballistic Test

Brand	Velocity (FPS)	Barrel Penetration (Inches)	1 Layer Our Gel Depth (Inches)	Expansion Path (Inches)	Expansion Through 3 Layers (Inches)
Lawson Bond Ball 180 gr.	1100	18.5	11	0.85	0.85
Lawson Bond Ball 270 gr.	880	18.25	10.5	0.75	0.75
Remington-Union City 180 gr.	1115	18.25	10.75	0.85	0.85
Remington-Union City 270 gr.	895	18	10.75	0.75	0.75
Remington-Union City 180 gr.	1115	18	10.75	0.85	0.85
Remington-Union City 270 gr.	895	18	10.75	0.75	0.75
Remington-Union City 180 gr.	1115	18	10.75	0.85	0.85
Remington-Union City 270 gr.	895	18	10.75	0.75	0.75

Includes full background on the .40 S&W

.40 S&W: The Perfect Middle Ground, Pt. 1



.40 S&W: The Perfect Middle Ground, Pt. 2

.40 S&W: The Perfect Middle Ground, Pt. 3

What Your Carry Ammo Says About You



The long awaited, definitive list of what your carry ammo says about you

"A strong body makes the mind strong. As to the species of exercises, I advise the gun. While this gives moderate exercise to the body, it gives boldness, enterprise and independence to the mind."

Let your gun therefore be your constant companion of your walks."

— Thomas Jefferson

H.R. 2959, Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act of 2013 Introduced in the House

117TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION H. R. 2959

To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a national standard in accordance with which residents of a State may carry concealed firearms in the State.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 1, 2013

Mr. STANNEY (for himself and Mr. MERTZENS) introduced the following bill, which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a national standard in accordance with which residents of a State may carry concealed firearms in the State.

1. *It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives:*

Would provide for reciprocal recognition of concealed carry licenses. Govtrack predicts 2% chance of being enacted

“How strangely will the Tools of a Tyrant pervert the plain Meaning of Words!”

— Samuel Adams

MI Governor Snyder Hesitant to Sign Open Carry Bill



MOC's Tom Lambert speaks to Human Events

“The constitutions of most of our States assert, that all power is inherent in the people; that they may exercise it by themselves, ... or they may act by representatives, freely and equally chosen; that it is their right and duty to be at all times armed.”

— Thomas Jefferson

Ease of carry

Another advantage open carry gives you is that you can carry a full-sized pistol easier than carrying it concealed. An easily concealable handgun is often a compromise in size and caliber. When I carried concealed exclusively, I did still carry larger pistols, but so many people today carry small, low round capacity pistols, even tiny .380s, because to them carrying a concealed medium or full-sized 9mm, .40 S&W, or .45 ACP pistol is too uncomfortable or too hard to dress around. Many of those people don't even carry extra magazines.

Not only does a larger gun have a higher round capacity, but it has a longer sight radius so aiming is easier. The larger weight and size soak up felt recoil. In short, it is easier to shoot and more controllable. You're going to be more accurate both on initial and follow-up shots should you ever have to use it.

***“There will always be predators, and there will always be prey.
But not me. Not today.”***

There is a subset of concealed carriers that go so far as to take hacksaws to perfectly good Glocks and will cut the grip of a G19 down to a G26 size or a G23 down to a G27 size so it doesn't "print." Some have even cut G17s down to G26 size, unbelievable as that sounds. Not only have they decreased their round capacity, they now also have the disadvantage of a harder to control pistol due to its abbreviated subcompact grip length. Brilliant.

Ease and safety of use

In training it has always been pointed out that learning the draw strokes and duplicating them over and over again with an easily accessible, quality, outside the waistband holster is preferred because of safety. Talk to some trainers who actually teach concealed carry gun manipulation, not just self-defense tactics using openly carried holsters on the range during training. Listen to their stories, they're eye-opening. That's not to say that drawing from concealment under stress can't be mastered, it certainly can. But small motor skills are the first to go during high stress situations. It's just another element to consider. Drawing openly from the hip saves time, no matter how small, because you do not have to move your shirt or reach into your pocket. There is less chance your firearm will snag on your clothing. Your life is on the line, and wasting precious time could mean the difference between life and death.

The right to open carry

Stated plainly, it is your right. A right not exercised is effectively a right lost. You don't need to justify it. Limits on fundamental rights have to be justified, not the other way around. Let me say it again: exercising a fundamental right requires no justification, limiting it in any way is what has to be justified.

Spokane Baristas Packing More Than a Shot of Caffeine



“I figure if they can see it, maybe it will be a deterrent, apparently being a girl isn't enough.”

Moscow, ID BBQ Restaurant Encourages Open Carry



Offers a 10% discount to customers who openly carry firearms while scarfing their ribs

Grill Staff Packing Six Shooters While Serving Burgers Second Amendment-style



This restaurant is welcoming customers who are packing – and they're waited on by armed servers

Bloomberg's Stats on School Gun Violence Ignore Reality



Their statistics are not what they seem

"A Constitution of Government once changed from Freedom, can never be restored. Liberty, once lost, is lost forever."

— John Adams

How the ATF Manufactures Crime



Report: caprice, carelessness, and downright incompetence is endemic in the ATF

Botched ATF sting in Milwaukee ensnares brain-damaged man



ATF agents running an undercover storefront in Milwaukee used a brain-damaged man with a low IQ to set up gun and drug deals, paying him in cigarettes, merchandise and money

Open carry as a public statement

By open carrying, it shows the general public that bad things don't magically happen when a gun is present, and it helps to dispel the various gun myths that have been promulgated by the government, the police, Hollywood, and the media. As long as armed Americans are forced to conceal their firearms, the people who would deny them their natural, civil, and constitutionally protected right to keep and bear arms can maintain their anti-gun belief system thinking they're winning—even when they're not. They will not change their minds.

Alternatively, anti-gunners who regularly and routinely encounter guns openly carried by their fellow Americans—without spree killings—will gradually shift their perspective towards respect for gun rights, much as they did for civil rights.

Conclusion

There is a saying among backpackers: "Each person has to hike his own hike." It is the same with self-defense. If some choose to carry concealed, that is fine. It is up to each person to provide for his own self-defense however seems best to him or her. That may be carrying a firearm, pepper spray, employing martial arts, or using nothing at all, simply choosing to rely on law enforcement for protection.

Stopping a violent crime before a criminal injures a citizen is practically unheard of. It simply is not humanly possible, no matter how dedicated the police force. In the end, you must take responsibility for your own safety, and you are the only one who can guarantee that safety. How you choose to do so is up to you. Open carry is one option for carrying a firearm for self-defense, concealing is another. Finding the balance is an exercise for the reader. To those who are overly vocal on the subject, I say to them that I choose to open carry, but I do not begrudge you to carry however you wish. Please allow me the same courtesy. As far as I'm concerned, you are either pro-gun and pro-liberty or you're not. If you are, then stop drawing division lines and let people enjoy their liberty and choose for themselves.

Lessons from Zimmerman: Part II

Steven Sundeen (SteveS)



In the **Aug 2013** issue of the Michigan Open Carry Newsletter, Danny Griffin (gryphon) decided to tackle the George Zimmerman murder trial and see what could be learned from things he did and said and how that can be applied to the rest of us, or at least those of us that could potentially find themselves having to act in self-defense. I'd like to respond to Dan's analysis and offer a few additional points.

First of all, I agree with Dan in that the trial and the events surrounding it was huge and there are dozens of ways a person could pick it apart. The likelihood that one will be involved in some kind of defensive shoot-

This 9-year-old Can Probably Shoot Better Than You



Do you think you can shoot as well as a 9 year-old? You may want to think otherwise after watching this video.

Your Gun Safe Is Probably Crap



Most are made in China and cost-cutting is par-amount.

"Perhaps it is a universal truth that the loss of liberty at home is to be charged against provisions against danger, real or pretended from abroad."

— James Madison

Silencer Sales Booming



The civilian market for silencers soared 37% in 2013, when the total number shot up to nearly a half a million

ATF's Milwaukee Sting Operation Marred By Mistakes, Failures



Incompetent ATF agents totally botch operation, including having \$35,000 in merchandise stolen from its store

ATF Uses Rogue Tactics in Storefront Stings Across Nation



ATF employing mentally disabled, felons, refusing to pay bills to facilitate botched stings across the country

ATF Using Mentally Disabled Teens to Run Drug-and-Gun Stings



If you thought the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) couldn't stoop any lower, you'd be wrong

ing are remote. The likelihood that one will be involved in a defensive shooting that garners regional, much less national, attention are probably astronomical. Despite this, there still are some practical lessons to be learned in case you ever have to defend yourself or someone else.

The previous article extensively looked at the justification for self-defense. I don't know that I have anything to add to that, as it was very thorough. I also agree that we can debate his actions prior to the altercation, but ultimately those actions didn't have as much of an influence as what the jury believed. That belief was that George Zimmerman was pinned on the ground and having his head struck repeatedly against the concrete by Trayvon Martin. The defense was able to show that the gunshot wounds were consistent with how Zimmerman described it happened. In addition, a former police instructor and self-defense trainer testified at the high levels of fear and anxiety someone goes through when they are engaged in that type of melee, and that the length of time it went on was very long.

As Dan pointed out, the state tried all sorts of things and paraded more than a few less than credible witnesses in an attempt to show Zimmerman as an angry racist that profiled Martin and stalked and killed him. In his closing argument, State Attorney Bernie de la Rionda basically said that Zimmerman was a vigilante that profiled Martin and killed him. It was also pointed out that if Zimmerman had not acted the way he did, Martin would be alive and that Zimmerman made numerous, inconsistent statements to the police.

I would note that while Zimmerman ultimately prevailed, there were jurors that disagreed with his actions, most notably one that thought he was guilty of something, but just not murder.

I agree 100% with Dan's suggestion that people exercise great caution in talking to the police. There are numerous videos and articles by prominent people in the legal profession, so I probably don't need to go into all the reasons why this is a good idea. This trial reinforces that notion. One of the components of the prosecution was that Zimmerman was not truthful and gave inconsistent statements.

While George Zimmerman didn't testify, this is unusual in a case where the defendant is claiming self-defense. In most jurisdictions, self-defense is an affirmative defense. In other words, you are admitting that you killed the other person, but that it was justified. Typically, this will have to be shown by testimony given by the defendant that tends to show that they were in fear for their life and had no other options. If it is necessary for the defendant to testify, any previous statements made to the police can (and likely will) be used to point out any inconsistencies. This can be unintentional. You may not be deliberately lying, but may just not recall the exact sequence or timeframe the same way that you did months ago. Despite this, the jury may view you as less than credible and discount what you have to say.

The Zimmerman trial is also notable for being a media circus, with all sorts of dirt being dredged up. This included numerous aspects of Zimmerman's past, including his school records, possible drug use, his his-

What Is the Legal Risk of Buying a Gun at a Turn In (a/k/a Gun Buy Back)?



The risk of purchasing stolen firearms at a gun turn in event is very small

NRA Launches New, Free Website



Geared toward young shooters and their families, as well as anyone who is new to firearms, nrafamilyinsights.org, is updated daily with articles, blogs, videos and news.

"A standing military force, with an overgrown Executive will not long be safe companions to liberty. The means of defence against foreign danger have been always the instruments of tyranny at home."

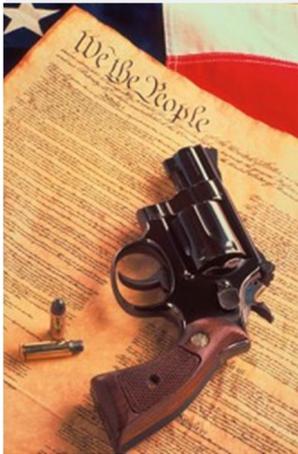
— James Madison

The Social Utility of Firearms



Looking down the wrong end of a telescope gives you an entirely mistaken perspective on the universe.

A Brief Look at the Origins and History of the Second Amendment

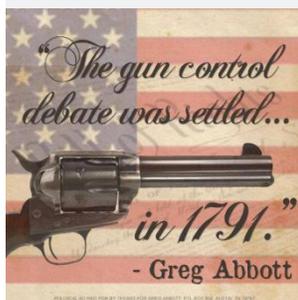


The Second Amendment: What it Says and What it Means

The Costs and Benefits of the Second Amendment – Without the Benefits

“Are we at last brought to such humiliating and debasing degradation that we cannot be trusted with arms for our defense? Where is the difference between having our arms in possession and under our direction, and having them under the management of Congress? If our defense be the real object of having those arms, in whose hands can they be trusted with more propriety, or equal safety to us, as in our own hands?”

— Patrick Henry



tory as a neighborhood “watcher,” that he was a wannabe cop, and that he was a racist. While most of this was not brought out at the trial, I am doubtful that the jurors didn’t know anything about his past.

This dovetails into another aspect of the trial that I believe applies in other situations. If you are ever involved in a defensive shooting, expect the prosecution to throw everything at you. There are a line of questions that get asked frequently in magazines, forums, and classes. “Am I going to get charged if I use reloads in a defensive shooting? Am I going to get in trouble if I get a trigger job? What about other custom work?” The simple answer is, no. A “good” defensive shoot isn’t going to be turned into a murder just because you did any of those things. What I am trying to say is that if you are involved in what the state believes is a questionable shoot, then you can expect those things to be brought up at trial. The rules of evidence in most states say that all relevant evidence is admissible. There are some limits and judges will rein attorneys in if they wander too far off track, but you should expect the jury to hear about all the aspects of what happened, what led to what happened, and what was used.

This doesn’t mean that you should only use innocuous looking firearms with police-approved ammunition. This does mean that whatever gun you carry or use will be shown to the jury and that jury is not likely to be made up of gun people, but rather people whose gun knowledge comes from TV and the movies. If the prosecutor tries to paint you as violent, looking for trouble, or just “itching to use you gun,” then you had better be prepared to counter those arguments with your own experts. We all know that most custom work is done to improve function, reliability, and comfort. The jury just doesn’t know this.

This also means that the jury will hear about everything that led up to the incident. If you acted stupidly, they will hear about it. If you baited the other person in some way or contributed to the altercation, they will hear about it. If you didn’t retreat, they will hear about it. Despite Michigan being a state that does not require retreat before using lethal force, a jury is allowed to consider a failure to retreat when evaluating the reasonableness of the defendant’s actions.

George Zimmerman, whether you believe he was a fool or a hero, was ultimately acquitted because the jury believed he had no other choice. He could shoot or he could die. We can’t predict the future, but we can do our best to avoid intentionally putting ourselves in risky situations and we can take steps to be aware of our surroundings. If you are ever forced into this situation and you need to use lethal force, ideally it needs to be readily apparent that there were no other reasonable options. Following that, limiting your contact with the police, not making public statements, and following the advice of your attorney will go a long way to keeping you out of jail.

Steven Sundeen is a member of Michigan Open Carry and a solo practice lawyer in the Mid-Michigan area. You can contact Steve at steven.sundeen@gmail.com or 517-927-6642

Guns, Bathrooms, and Legal Consequences



One of the most legally dangerous places to carry a handgun is in the bathroom

“A dependence on the people is, no doubt, the primary control on the government; but experience has taught mankind the necessity of auxiliary precautions.”

— James Madison

Reporting Self Defense with a Gun To Law Enforcement



To Call It In, or Not Call It In, That Is the Question

Should I Really ‘Say Nothing’ To Police Without My Lawyer?



Anything you say (and don’t say) can be used against you

FROM THE FEDERAL COURTS

SCOTUS Declines Gun Rights Cases



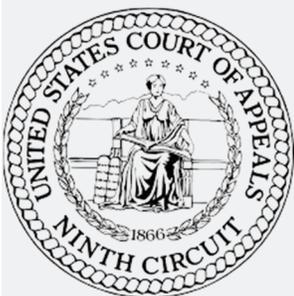
The Supreme Court refused to settle the issue of whether Second Amendment rights extend beyond the home

U.S. District Court Judge Grants Permanent Injunction Against New Mexico's "Citizen's Only" Concealed Carry Law



Law unfairly discriminates against permanent legal resident aliens in case brought by Second Amendment Foundation

Ninth Circuit Holds Second Amendment Secures a Right to Carry a Gun



'Good cause' provision violates the Second Amendment

MOC Member Profile

with Ryan Ransom (autosurgeon)
Treasurer, Michigan Open Carry



MOC: This month we're interviewing Ryan Ransom, Treasurer of Michigan Open Carry. Ryan, tell us a little bit about yourself!

Ryan: My name is Ryan Ransom, and I'm the treasurer of Michigan Open Carry. I'm a school teacher, and that sometimes throws people a little bit, but I'm a tech teacher, I teach automotive technology, and you'll find in the public schools, at least in Michigan, that most of the tech teachers are pretty conservative, because they come out of industries where there are more conservatives than there are liberals or progressives. So among my peers, talking about guns is no big deal. It's pretty much the norm: talking about hunting, fishing, shooting, guns and sports to do with firearms is no big deal.

MOC: How did you first become interested in firearms?

Ryan: It was my dad, really. When I was growing up, he was, and he still is, a hunter. A pretty good hunter for that matter. So that's when I really got involved, and that's when I learned gun safety, with my dad, and learned to respect firearms and to respect the power of them. And actually I did some small game hunting and deer hunting with him when I was a young man. But as I got out on my own I just didn't have the time and the inclination and didn't find it to be something that was of interest. And really, to this day, hunting is not a great interest to me.

My dad got me involved with firearms then, but what got me involved with firearms later was really my younger brother. He wanted to buy a pistol when he turned 21. He went out to buy a pistol so I went with him. That got me back looking at guns, going into gun stores, and thinking about it. Of course, I was paying attention to the news and I started seeing people wanting to ban firearms, and it was at that point when I was searching for information about concealed carry that I came across opencarry.org, and I really started reading the laws

MOC: When did you begin carrying a pistol for self-defense? Were you able to obtain a CPL?

Ryan: I started carrying a pistol for self-defense in 2008, open carrying before I had my CPL. I actually went out and bought a pistol. I found a CPL class in the area and took the class. It took about two and a half months to turn my application around. I started carrying open around town, and of course reading about the laws and learning where I could and could not carry without a CPL. Then I got my CPL, and from then on I was carrying either concealed or open, depending on the situation. I just pretty much carry, I don't worry about which way it is. Certain circumstances sometimes dictate one or the other. There are certain family members who don't care if I conceal but they don't want me to carry open. It's their property, so I carry concealed there. I think it's a matter of

Open Carry 'Terror' and the Lies Hateful People Tell



Bloomberg propaganda machine pushing misleading stories about folks, mainly in Texas, who have been using the lawful, open carry of long guns as a political statement and protest.

"No free government was ever founded, or ever preserved its liberty, without uniting the characters of the citizen and soldier in those destined for the defense of the state...such a well-regulated militia, composed of the freeholders, citizen and husbandman, who take up arms to preserve their property, as individuals, and their rights as freemen."

— Richard Henry Lee

Kahr Arms to Offer Purple Pistols



Following the success of their Cobalt Blue CW9, Black and Orange Auto Ordnance 1911, Burnt Bronze Desert Eagle and the PM9 in Robin Eggshell Blue, Kahr partners with Davidson's to introduce a purple version in either the CW9 or CW380

Two Victories for SAF in 2014 So Far



Scoring multiple victories in 2013, SAF currently has over twenty open court cases throughout the United States defending 2A

"The great object is that every man be armed... Everyone who is able might have a gun."

— Patrick Henry

FIREARM LEGISLATION FROM THE STATES

Alabama

Senate committee okays vehicle carry without permit

Alaska

Legislature considers guns on university campuses

Arizona

HB 2535 requiring chief LEO to sign off on NFA firearms signed into law

HB 2517 that would have imposed fines of up to \$5,000 on cities, towns that violate preemption vetoed by governor

HB 2103 allowing 19-year old vets to get carry permit signed into law

respect.

MOC: So you began carrying openly initially when you were waiting for your CPL, but you continued open carrying and became involved with Michigan Open Carry. Why?

Ryan: I got interested in open carry probably in 2008, right about the time I started getting interested in having my own firearms. I grew up with firearms, but I had never purchased my own firearm until that time. I was very much interested, and I was reading on opencarry.org, Michigan Gun Owners, and various other places where I could find information, I joined the NRA for the first time at that point, and was getting their magazine and learning about federal issues.

I was involved with open carry, and Michigan Open Carry, pretty much right from the beginning, because I was interested in it, and when I'm interested in something, I really go after it. My first position with Michigan Open Carry was simply as a charter member. And I helped with picnics in my area, as they were available, things to do, I made sure I showed up at events that I could reach, and I did lots of reading and learning on the laws so that I could help people on the forums. Back in those days we were at opencarry.org.

In the summer time it's more open carry than concealed carry. In the morning I get up, put the gun on, and if I don't need a jacket, then it's open. Some people make a concerted effort to always carry a certain way, and that's fine. But the way I do it, it's kind of "it is what it is." When I go to events, I tend to carry in certain holsters, especially if I'm going to teach an open carry seminar just because I want to show certain types of holsters to people. Other than that, I don't make a big deal about it. I carry whatever way is most comfortable, which tends to be mostly open in the summer and in the winter it's open when I'm inside and it's concealed when the coat's on.

MOC: Can you tell us a little bit about your experiences in the early days of open carry here?

Ryan: Open carry was, I guess I would call it, every day could be exciting or not. Nowadays it's pretty much not a big deal. But back then it was exciting. I didn't have a lot of really bad experiences. I had a lot more questions back in 2008 and 2009 from people, restaurants specifically. I'd be sitting there eating and they'd see my gun, and almost always somebody would ask a question because it wasn't something very many people were doing, and it wasn't in the news much yet. And that was the big issue, that it wasn't in the news. The majority of the people had no idea this was something you could do, and the first question out of most people's mouths to me was not "Are you a cop?" It was "Can you do that?" And I have a sense of humor, a dry or screwy one, and I would say, "I guess so, I'm doing it," but then I'd say "and here's how I'm doing it" and would get out a tri-fold, which we already had. We had tri-folds pretty early on because Brian Jeffs actually made them, and he would email them to whoever wanted them. I printed them off myself and carried them around with me. Brian Jeffs had a lot to do with us having educational materials early on. He just put them together himself. I think he

SELECT 2A AND MOC EVENTS

MOC Seminar in Flint January 31, 2014



MOC Lunch in Howell February 22, 2014



MOC Dinner in Cadillac March 1, 2014



MOC Breakfast in Battle Creek March 2, 2014



California

NSSF, SAAMI file injunction to stop microstamping law

AB 1014 allowing police to “proactively” confiscate firearms and hold them for one-year (renewable) based on accusations from immediate family, law enforcement, or licensed mental health professionals, without due process, passes out of committee.

Colorado

HB 1041 allowing Constitutional concealed carry postponed indefinitely

House rejects bill to repeal magazine limit

Bill expanding CC permit process signed into law

SB 135 repealing restrictions on rifle and shotgun sales signed into law

Castle Rock successfully repeals open carry ban

Florida

SB 424 banning insurers from gun-based premiums signed into law

HB 89 extending “stand your ground” to warning shots signed into law

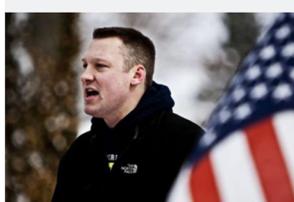
HB 7029, the so-called “Pop Tart” bill, prohibiting schools from disciplining students for simulating firearms as long as it doesn’t disrupt learning signed into law. Includes drawings, finger guns, and “Brandishing a partially consumed pastry or other food item to simulate a firearm or weapon.”

and Nathan Nephew would sit down and put stuff together. And they would put it on opencarry.org and people would critique it and we’d make it better. But in the early days, lots of questions was the big thing. Nowadays I hardly ever get a question. If people notice it at all, they don’t say anything. But law enforcement-wise, most of the time Barrien County didn’t have an issue with the sheriff’s department. They were pretty much up to speed on laws and they didn’t give me any trouble. And they didn’t give anybody else any trouble, for that matter. State police, never had any issues with them.

However, I was down at the festival in Coloma, I was working with my gun club, and I was actually running a tent about all of their different educational programs that our club puts on. So I had stuff about open carry seminars, and concealed carry classes, and archery classes, and hunter safety classes, all this information I was handing out to people, and I was showing a video of some of our classes, and as I was setting all this up the first night of the festival I had the whole entire police force of Coloma Township come over there, and about twenty feet from me beckon me over. They had just lost their chief of police, he had retired, and their acting chief—this was the first time he had to handle a festival like this, and I think he was feeling a bit overwhelmed as it was—and this guy shows up with a gun hanging on his hip. And so they call me over there, and I wouldn’t go the whole way, and said “you can come over here and we’ll meet half way.” So they came over there and they kind of surrounded me. And none of them were talking except for the acting chief, and he asked, “What are you doing?” And I said, “I am setting up an educational tent to discuss with the community as they come through the food tent, if they’re interested, the other educational things the gun club does.” And he said, “So what’s with that?” and he points to my gun. I said, “I’m carrying a pistol in the open, that’s legal in Michigan.” “Oh, you’re going to do that at the festival?” I said, “Yeah, pretty much every day.” “Oh, is anyone else going to do that?” I told him I didn’t know. He wanted me to give him my CPL, so I showed it to him and he wrote down half the number and I put it back in my wallet, because I knew I didn’t have to show it to him. My point in doing so was simply to show him that, look, there’s no dog here that hunts. At one point, one of the older officers who had been a sheriff’s deputy for years and who was semi-retired, said to the acting chief, “You are aware that this is legal, and I think we should leave this young man alone. We’ve got things we need to do.” So that was the end of that, and they walked away then and left me be. I went back to the tent and continued setting up, and all the gun club members asked, “You’re not getting arrested?” I said, “For what?” Because they were pretty sure I was going to get arrested.

I went home that night and planned to be back the next day at 7:00 AM to open up the education tent. I came a little early so I could get breakfast, and sat down at the table next to where the township police were sitting eating their breakfast. The two state troopers who were assigned to the festival came over and sat down at the table where I was, because I shoot old military rifles and I happen to shoot quite a bit with one of them, a Lieutenant, because he’s also into old military rifles. We’re sitting there talking and all of a sudden he said, “Hold on a minute, listen. The township guys are sitting over there talking about how they’re going to

MOC March in Battle Creek March 2, 2014



Georgia

Comprehensive pro-gun reform legislation HB 60 signed into law

Idaho

S 1254 allowing enhanced license holders to carry on university campuses signed into law

S 1332 making it illegal to confiscate firearms if ordered to by future federal law signed into law

Indiana

SB 229 eliminating "roaming gun-free school zones" and allowing school parking lot carry signed into law

Kansas

Senate passes preemption bill HB 2473. An amendment allows unlicensed car carry

HB 2578 requiring chief LEOs to sign NFA paperwork signed into law

SB 447 expanding preemption to open carry rolled into HB 2578 and signed into law

Senate rejects proposal to prohibit guns in libraries

Kentucky

SB 100 allowing online concealed carry applications signed into law

SB 232 requiring the chief LEO to sign off on NFA forms signed into law

arrest 'that guy' if they see him again. They're talking about you. Just a minute." He went over to the table and explained to them that if they arrested me that he would arrest them because they would be breaking the law, not me, and that they needed to settle down and do their job which was to control the crowds and the drunks, and leave the open carriers alone, because that is a perfectly legal activity. That was the first time I had both a positive and a negative incident at the same time with law enforcement. And really, that was the last time I had any interaction with law enforcement of any kind to do with open carry. I really haven't had any other incidents, because in southwest Michigan, whenever I'd hear about something going south, or somebody getting hassled, I would make a phone call to that chief and have a chat with him, and just explain that we are aware of the law and you guys should probably reeducate your officers, and I'd send them the package that Brian had put together for law enforcement. Most of the time it wasn't an issue and that took care of it.

Once Coloma Township got a chief, I gave him the packet and he posted it in the break room, and they've never had a problem since. The Coloma Township Chief is a retired state trooper. He retired either as a Lieutenant or Major. He was involved in the drug enforcement team up in Lansing, the detective's division. He knows what the law is and he's been involved in the training of new officers at the academy, so he's pretty straight up on the law. He took care of it, once I brought it to his attention that there might be an issue.

That's how it was in the early days. Over in southwest Michigan it was pretty quiet. There were some people who said they were having trouble over in St. Joe, so I went and open carried in St. Joe. They had a festival, and there were officers everywhere. St. Joe police, Barrien County deputies, and I got some looks. They watched. Some of the St. Joe officers actually followed me down the street for a way, for about a block, walking behind me, and observing me, and when they saw I wasn't doing anything, and that I wasn't a nut, they just turned off onto another sidewalk and I continued on my way. They never made contact with me. Barrien County, I know the sheriff pretty well, he is a member of our gun club, and I've asked him different times about where his position was, and it became clear that he was very pro-2A and that open carry was no big deal to him. He didn't care one way or the other. As far as he was concerned, we were the final line of backup for his deputies. On night patrol, when they are out there by themselves, a citizen with a gun is the only thing that's going to stand between them and death sometimes. That was his position on the whole thing, and he never gave us any trouble. None of his men did, either.

MOC: What is your preferred carry gun?

Ryan: I carry a lot of different guns, but I must say that lately my preferred gun for probably the last year and a half is an S&W 5906. It's a third generation S&W semi-automatic in 9mm. It's a heavy gun to carry, but extremely accurate. It has a 4-1/2" barrel. The standard magazine that was issued with it is a 15-round magazine, but you can get a 17-round flush mount or a 20-round extended for it. It's a very versatile gun. It's fun to shoot, it's got good sights, and options to add different sights to

MOC Seminar in Mio
February 18, 2014



MOC Seminar in
Traverse City
February 22, 2014



MOC Dinner in
Macomb Township
March 24, 2014



SB 128 providing for other pro-gun reforms signed into law

Louisiana

Anti-gun bill HB 1189 fails to pass House committee

HB 72 clarifying CC license holders can carry in restaurants serving alcohol signed into law

HB 1066 exempting permit holders from NICS checks signed into law

HB 186 allowing suppressors for hunting signed into law

Maryland

General Assembly adjourns *sine die*. No anti-gun legislation passed this year

Michigan

SBS/SBR bill SB 610 signed into law

HB 4774 requiring registration of all rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders, and pellet guns DOA

Mississippi

Governor signs sales tax holiday for guns, ammo into law

HB 314 protecting gun owners against confiscation and providing for preemption signed into law

Missouri

Extreme anti-gun bill disguised as Protecting the Second Amendment Act"

it. This particular one is a target model, meaning it has an adjustable rear sight. There are quite a few different versions of this gun. One thing mine has that a lot of people don't like is it has a magazine disconnect, and that's a preferential thing. The reason this gun does is because this gun was designed for law enforcement, and in a gun grab situation they are trained to dump the mag and try to kick it away. So now the bad guy has to try and fumble and get the mag back in the gun or it's not going to work. This gun, the way the mag release is set up, it's not too likely that you will accidentally dump the mag. I like the gun because of the way it shoots and I'm very comfortable with my accuracy with the gun.

MOC: What do you see for MOC's future?

Ryan: I think the future is extremely bright. I'm very pleased with the direction the organization is going. We've had our rough patches and struggles because that's the way it always is with volunteer organizations, especially young volunteer organizations, and organizations that are in topical areas that are controversial. It's not only controversial to the public in certain circles, it's also controversial, although less so now, even within the gun community. What I see as MOC's future is lobbying, and working from inside, not just on the street among the public, but also putting our best foot forward with the legislature directly and with the various legislative aides, getting them on board because—let's be honest—they're the ones that have the ear of the legislator. And once we get them on board with what we would like to do, then we have the options to do things that we've been doing recently. Tom Lambert has actually been able to sit down and write bills, write the text that has ended up in bills because our friends in the legislature like what we're doing, and are willing to put that into a bill and stick that out there, basically put their neck on the line for what we'd like to see happen. So I see legislative lobbying as very big in the future for MOC.

Also, of course, education. We're getting better. We've improved our ability to put on seminars by providing all of our regions with a projector and the necessary technical tools to get the job done, so that they can put on a much more professional presentation to the public. Also we are in the process of revamping not only our seminar slideshow that we use as a basis for our educational program, but our FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) on our website so it is much more user-friendly and allows people to gain the knowledge that they need quicker.

So I think that MOC has really stepped out there in getting that educational piece out. In the early days, seminars were kind of hit-or-miss, and they happened on a fairly random basis. I think I might have been the first, or one of the first to put on a seminar back in 2009, and we were flying by the seat of our pants.

I think that the educational piece is every bit as important as the lobbying piece, but I like the fact that we have both now. I think that has made the organization much stronger, and made us more on the forefront of the gun rights movement in Michigan than we were before. In the past we were the red-headed step-child. Now I think we are right there with MCRGO in the fact that we can lobby. We can have our name, our text,

MOC Dinner

March 25, 2014



MOC Seminar in Utica

March 29, 2014



MOC Dinner in Bay City

March 29, 2014



"If a law is unjust, a man is not only right to disobey it, he is obligated to do so."

— Thomas Jefferson

HB 1778 would prevent a landlord from prohibiting tenants from possessing a firearm

HB 1539 would remove the requirement that an applicant shoot with both a revolver and a semi-auto

SRJ 36 would strengthen Missouri's right to Keep and Bear Arms

SB 745 improving right to carry signed into law by governor

SB 656 includes multiple pro-gun reforms including open carry preemption and lowering the age for concealed carry permit to 19 goes to governor for signature

Nebraska

LB 699 containing several pro-gun reforms signed into law

Emergency Powers Protection Bill prohibiting firearms suspension during state of emergency signed into law

New Hampshire

Universal background check bill defeated

New Jersey

'Smart gun' law may be reversed

Magazine and gun ban legislation restricting the maximum capacity of magazines to 10 rounds and banning certain firearms vetoed by governor

the words we want to see in the bill, we can be the ones who are right there with the sponsor on the day when we sit down and testify before the committee. No longer are we just speaking up in support of somebody else's bill, we're speaking up in support of a bill we helped write, and that's tremendous.

MOC: Tell us a little more about your personal life. What do you do for enjoyment?

Ryan: I like to shoot guns. I'm into old military rifles and handguns. I have a lot of old military rifles—Russian, German, Chinese, I have some Czechoslovakian pistols, I have Hungarian pistols, so I'm into a lot of old Eastern Block stuff and Communist era stuff as well as things from the era of WWI and WWII, and even earlier. I have a Russian rifle that was made when the Czars were still in charge in Russia. It has actual Russian Czar stampings on the stock and on the breech of the gun. It was captured by the Finns during the Winter War, and then they used it to fight the Russians first, and then later on during WWII to fight the Germans. Historically it's a neat piece, and I'm into history, so that is an enjoyable part of having those guns, the history of them and studying, learning what they were used for. Also, I'm into off-roading. I started out helping my brother build up his jeep into something he could take off road, and just recently I've purchased a Jeep myself, so now I have got it set up to where I can take it off road. The third thing is I ride a motorcycle, but not just any motorcycle, I'm kind of into the old Japanese bikes. I've got two of them right now. I like to restore the old Japanese bikes. They're a lot of fun to work on, and they usually turn into pretty good riders. So that's my hobbies, the things I do beyond being involved with Michigan Open Carry.

MOC: Thank you Ryan. We appreciate you taking the time to do this, and thank you for all you do for Michigan Open Carry.

My Open Carry Journey

Brad Pagels (SD40VE)



I was first introduced to the concept of open carry last fall by my good friend Tony. But let me start by giving a bit of background on myself. I have been a firearm owner for many years. I also have had a CPL for the past few years. I am just an average law abiding Michigander. Before the conversation with Tony I had always concealed carried. This conversation was the beginning of my journey into the open carry world! I jumped on my laptop the next day. It happened to be a weekend with no issues from work so I had all of Saturday to search for information about open carry. I, like most, went to google and typed in open carry. The first listing was for what we have come to know as OCDO, www.opencarry.org.

I was running through the Michigan forums on OCDO when I found a trifold PDF from MOC. I opened the file and was blown away by the content in it. It clearly outlined where one can and cannot carry openly in Michigan. Having a CPL I was more interested in the places I could OC

MOC Dinner
March 30, 2014



MOC Lunch in Canton
April 3, 2014



MOC Dinner in
Houghton Lake
April 12, 2014



MOC Dinner in
Watervliet
April 26, 2014



MOC Lunch in
Fowlerville
April 26, 2014



Oklahoma

HB 2614 allowing school parking lot firearms storage signed into law

HB 3510 expanding use of deadly force to protect other people signed into law

House overrides governor's veto of HB 2461 requiring chief LEO to sign off on NFA forms for non-prohibited persons

Pennsylvania

Firearms preemption "teeth" bill removed from table twice

Employer parking lot bill stuck in committee

Rhode Island

No fewer than nine gun-control bills being considered; would ban assault weapons, limit magazine capacity, and boost sales tax on ammunition

Bills stalled due to pro-2A activism

South Carolina

Concealed carry reform bill signed into law

Governor expresses support for "Constitutional Carry"

Tennessee

SB 1701 redefining motor vehicle under TN parking lot law to include all vehicles lawfully possessed by permit holder signed into law

that concealed carry was not available. I also checked out the Michigan State Police Legal Update #86. Once I saw the information contained in the trifold I had to check out the site, so I typed in miopencarry.org in my web browser. Being an IT guy, when the site popped up first thing I did was check the forums. I was new so I registered as I do with all forums I go to. I have learned that you get the best experience and most features as a registered member of a forum community.

I browsed the "start here thread." It was a great starting point for finding the actual laws concerning open carry in Michigan. After doing some research there were some questions I had that were unanswered. I found the OC questions forum and posted a few questions. I was quite surprised with the replies. Everyone was so helpful and nice. It was great to not be made to feel dumb or stupid because of asking a legitimate question. I felt that MOC was a good place to go where people actually like to help and have a message worth spreading.

Armed with the information I had educated myself with I set off to start my OC adventure. I have personally openly carried in many stores, restaurants, parks, and various friends' properties. I also open carry while firearm hunting. For the most part the reaction of the public has been great. Many people ask if I am a cop. I am not. Some people want to learn about open carry. When this happens, I point them to Michigan Open Carry's website. One time I was in a Best Buy. I have open carried there before and had no issues. This particular day was a little different. I was in the home appliance section looking at a washer and dryer. The ones I had picked out were going to come to a total of just over \$2,000. I was looking for a sales associate when the store manager walked up to me and informed me that my firearm, which was lawfully carried in a holster and had remained there the entire time I was in the store, was making some of the customers uncomfortable. It was my understanding at the time that Best Buy followed state and federal laws concerning firearms in their stores. I explained this to the manager. He then replied by telling me this was his store and he was asking me to remove my firearm and leave it in my vehicle, then I could return and complete my purchase. Needless to say, Best Buy lost a customer that day and I purchased my items elsewhere.

Out of the many times I have carried with no issues, I will admit this experience at Best Buy left me a bit apprehensive about the whole open carry practice. I debated going back to strictly concealed carrying. At this point I decided to share my experience with the Michigan Open Carry community. The support and responses from the members reassured me that this was a fluke and there should be no issues with Best Buy as my assumptions on their firearm policies were correct. They follow state and federal laws concerning firearms.

There have been a few places that open carry without a CPL is not lawful. I frequent a few places regularly. I will go into a bit of detail concerning those places now. I have carried many times before in a local bar by my house. The owners are fine with it. In fact, I have noticed many people are fine with it. Many encounters I find people are glad someone is armed and has the ability to defend themselves should some criminal come in to rob the place. It gives them a little piece of mind. I am not

MOC March in Romulus April 27, 2014



No-permit open carry defeated in House after passing Senate

Utah

HB 276 prohibiting disorderly conduct charge for open carrying signed into law

Washington

SB 5956 legalizing short barreled rifles goes to governor for signature

West Virginia

SB 317 firearms preemption signed into law

HB 4186 clarifying and making concealed carry laws uniform signed into law

HB 4431 protecting non-hunting gun carriers from the DNR signed into law

Wisconsin

Bill to allow interstate long gun purchases and sales signed into law

"Before a standing army can rule, the people must be disarmed, as they are in almost every country in Europe."

— Noah Webster

THE TERRITORIES

Guam

Shall-issue legislation passes in Guam

much of a drinker so it is Jack and Coca-Cola's when I go there, minus the Jack of course as we all should know by now that firearms and alcohol do not mix. I have also been to Meijer and Kroger regularly. Since they sell alcohol you cannot carry there openly without a CPL. I have yet to have a negative experience in either of these places as well.

One other experience I wish to mention was at a local gun shop. The staff fully supports our rights to open carry and even gave me a discount on the purchase because I was a dues paying Michigan Open Carry member. I have since been back many times to that shop for purchasing items, openly carrying each time, and have always been treated with the respect a law abiding lawfully carrying citizen should get. They will continue to have me walking through their doors supporting their business because they supported my rights and understand my views concerning open carry.

Since joining the Michigan Open Carry community I have become active in working with the Southeast Regional Coordinator for setting up events. I have also been trying to work with our Northern Lower Peninsula Coordinator in setting some events up. I have also become a dues paying member of Michigan Open Carry. I have attended one open carry seminar in Flint and plan on attending and helping with many more to come.

Thank you for opening your arms and welcoming me to MOC. You guys are great!

Romulus Open Carry Demonstration

Chuck Bates (Raggs)



On a cold day last January, an open carrying black man in his early 20's was detained by several officers from the Romulus City Police Department who charged him with disorderly conduct. His firearm was seized, the footage he took with his phone was deleted, and a month later the case was thrown out of court. The fact that these days such things really aren't known to happen to whites open carrying in Michigan seems to speak for itself.

After footage of the stop was released on YouTube, a group of open carriers quickly decided that there needed to be an open carry march in Romulus. The goal of the march was two-fold. First was to show support to the man who was harassed by law enforcement for legally carrying a firearm, and secondly to let the people of Romulus know that open carry of a firearm was legal in this state.

On Sunday, April 27, 65 – 100 like-minded men and women came to Romulus to raise awareness about a man being illegally detained by Romulus PD. Most were open carrying holstered firearms; many were carrying signs; and several unarmed yet enthusiastic children also marched and carried signs. They marched from Romulus City Hall down Goddard to the Romulus City Police Department and back up to the City Hall.

Second Amendment March in Lansing April 29, 2014



"Guard with jealous attention the public liberty. Suspect everyone who approaches that jewel. Unfortunately nothing will preserve it but downright force. Whenever you give up that force, you are inevitably ruined"

— Patrick Henry

ACROSS THE BORDER

Canada

Quebec wants to start its own gun registry, Supreme Court to hear Quebec's appeal

Owners of reclassified Swiss Arms rifles to get amnesty

RCMP ruling may widen rifle magazine loophole

RCMP says magazine loophole was intended; law's author disagrees

"The constitutions of most of our States assert, that all power is inherent in the people; that they may exercise it by themselves, ... or they may act by representatives, freely and equally chosen; that it is their right and duty to be at all times armed."

— Thomas Jefferson

LATE ADDITIONS

Gura Files Renewed Petition in D.C. Case



The case was originally filed on August 6th, 2009, so the case has been pending for nearly five years; an incredible delay of justice.

Despite the windy weather, spirits were high, and there seemed to be a good mood among the participants. The police were aware of the event and entirely left us alone. The locals we met on the march all seemed happy and supportive. Not one person we encountered was hostile. Though it went largely unnoticed by the public, there is little doubt it was noted by the law enforcement community.



It is good to know that when an issue such as this comes up people can put aside their differences and come together for a good cause. When one of our own was taken by police illegally we reacted. It is my hope that we never have to have another march in Romulus or any other city. It is good to know that if one is needed we WILL respond.

Thanks to the many good people who came out to support the cause.

Upcoming MOC Events

Monthly MOC Leadership Meeting, Fourth Tuesday of Every Month
July 22, 8:00 PM, August 26, 8:00 PM, September 23, 8:00 PM,
October 28, 8:00 PM, November 25, 8:00 PM, December 23, 8:00 PM

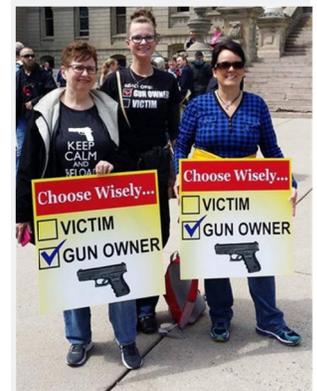
On the fourth Tuesday of every month at 8:00 PM, the Michigan Open Carry Board of Directors conducts a Leadership Meeting using a free online web chat service, <http://www.teamspeak.com> This allows members from all over the state to participate and contribute. Those with active MOC memberships are encouraged to attend.

If you would like to attend this meeting, please follow the tutorial listed at http://michiganopencarry.org?q=pages/ts3_tutorial that has been provided by our IT department.

Note: rarely the meeting date is changed out of necessity. MOC members will receive an email notification should this occur.

When: Fourth Tuesday of every month
Time: 8:00 PM
Place: Online

Second Amendment March (cont.)



"I ask, sir, what is the militia? It is the whole people, except for few public officials."

— George Mason

Concealed Carry Permit Holders Across the United States

Report from the Crime Prevention Research Center

Concealed Carry Permit Holders Across the United States

July 9, 2014

New report from the Crime Prevention Research Center shows:

1. Over 11 million concealed permit holders
2. Overall murder and violent crime rate drop coincides with more carriers
3. Firearms violations by police officers are higher than permit holders
4. The rate of all crimes committed by police is 6 and 10 times higher than permit holders in Texas and Florida (examples)
5. 5.62% of Michigan residents have CPLs

"The tree of liberty must be watered with the blood of patriots and tyrants."

— Thomas Jefferson

Open Carry Lunch in Pinckney, Saturday July 12 at 1:30 PM

Never open carried before? Well here is your chance! Just curious? Here's a great opportunity to come get some questions answered and see other open carriers "in action." Michigan Open Carry is inviting you to come have lunch with us at All Star Coney Island in Howell. Lawful open carry of a holstered firearm is encouraged but not required.

When: Saturday, July 12, 2014

Time: 1:30 PM

Place: Hamburg Coney Restaurant

Address: 9580 Chilson Road, Pinckney, MI 48169

Map: [Link](#)

For more information: <http://forums.michiganopencarry.org/index.php/topic,4231.0.html>

Open Carry Picnic in Grand Rapids, Sunday July 13, 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM

Come join Michigan Open Carry for an open carry picnic at Garfield Park in Grand Rapids. This event is open to the public and you do not need to be a member to attend. The carry of a firearm openly or concealed is not required. As always children and family are welcomed.

If you have never open carried before and are curious, this is a great chance to experience it for the first time or to ask questions from people who have plenty of experience doing it. Members of Michigan Open Carry leadership will be in attendance to answer any questions that you may have.

There is a disc golf course located at the park, so if you disc golf, bring your discs and play a few rounds!

When: Sunday, July 13, 2014

Time: 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM

Place: Garfield Park

Address: 334 Burton Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507

Parking: on Burton Street

For more information: <http://forums.michiganopencarry.org/index.php/topic,4186.0.html>

Joint MOC / MCRGO / MGO Picnic in Traverse City, Saturday July 19, 2:00 PM until 5:00 PM

Come join Michigan's "Big 3" for the first joint picnic in Traverse City! These picnics are a chance for all gun owners and Second Amendment supporters to come together and enjoy good food, good conversation, and to discuss current Second Amendment rights issues.

We encourage the lawful carry of firearms in a manner that is comfortable to you, however carrying a firearm is not required. Feel free to bring your family and friends. This picnic is open to the public and anyone can attend, membership not required. There will be members of leadership present from each gun rights organization, so if you have any questions

MOC Lunch in Canton May 3, 2014



MOC Dinner in Dearborn June 5, 2014



"The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

— James Madison

"[W]here and when did freedom exist when the power of the sword and purse were given up from the people?"

— Patrick Henry

Mossberg Adds 116,000 Sq. Ft. of Capacity to Texas Manufacturing Plant



Expansion in Texas over Connecticut Easy Decision



PATRIOTPOST.US

or concerns this is a fantastic chance to have your questions answered or to voice your concern about gun rights issue in our state.

We do ask that you do NOT bring any alcoholic beverages, but if you would like to bring a dish to pass or a beverage to share feel free to bring it along. Some food will be provided by the participating organizations, but you can never have enough!

When: Saturday, July 19, 2014

Time: 2:00 PM until 5:00 PM

Place: Cherry Bend Park

Address: 10090 E. Lincoln Road, Elmwood Charter Township, Traverse City, MI 49684

Map: [Link](#)

For more information: <http://forums.michiganopencarry.org/index.php/topic,4084.0.html>

Joint MOC / NW Ohio Carry Picnic in Oregon, Ohio, Saturday July 19, 1:00 PM until 6:00 PM

Come join us in a picnic with our brothers in Ohio from NW Ohio Carry at a joint picnic. As always, the open carry of a handgun is encouraged but not required. The park has many things to do such as paddle boat rental and a playground.

When: Saturday, July 19, 2014

Time: 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM

Place: Pearson Metropark

Address: 761 Lallendorf Rd, Oregon, Ohio 43616

Map: [Link](#)

For more information: <http://forums.michiganopencarry.org/index.php/topic,4209.0.html>

Michigan Open Carry Walk-About in Grayling, Saturday July 26, 12:00 Noon

The AuSable River Festival is fast approaching. Come and join us as we make our presence known! We will be handing out Tri-folds and answering questions. Open carry of a hand gun is encouraged but not required. Bring your friends and family and enjoy the craft booths, rides, and the classic car show, followed by a parade at 3:00 pm. We will meet down town in the food vendor area.

Link for events: <http://graylingchamber.com/chamber-events/ausable-river-festival-intl-canoe-marathon/>

When: Saturday, July 26, 2014

Time: 12:00 Noon

Where: Grayling, MI

Map: [Link](#)

For more information: <http://forums.michiganopencarry.org/index.php/topic,4322.0.html>

MOC Lunch in Brighton

June 7, 2014



MOC Seminar in Hershey

June 28, 2014



MOC Annual Membership Meeting in Holt

June 29, 2014



USEFUL OPEN CARRY LINKS

Michigan Open Carry Informational Tri-fold

Michigan Open Carry Email Updates

Michigan Open Carry FAQ 

Michigan State Police Legal Update #86

New to Open Carry? Start Here

Donate to MOC

"To see that the people be continually trained up in the exercise of arms, and the militia lodged only in the people's hands."

— John Adams

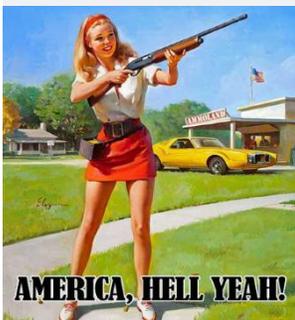
Well like I've always said.

If it weren't for guns, we would still be British.



"I prefer dangerous freedom over peaceful slavery."

— Translation of a Latin phrase used by Thomas Jefferson



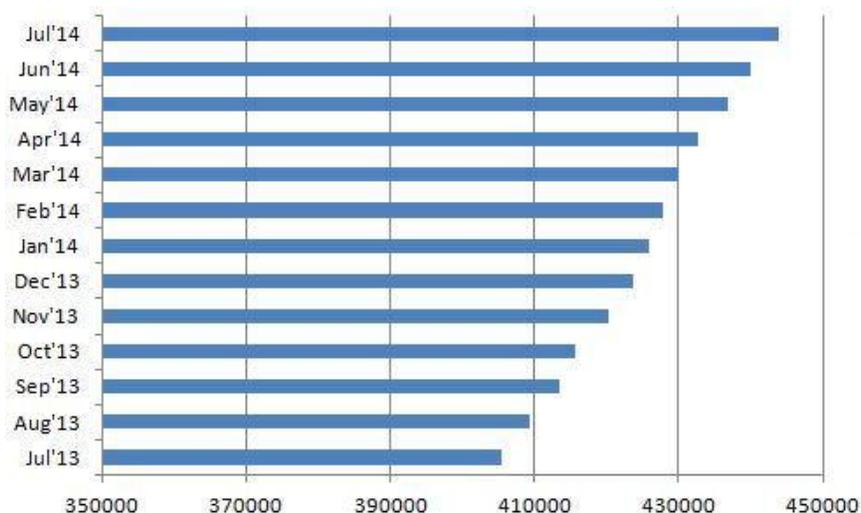
"Guard with jealous attention the public liberty. Suspect everyone who approaches that jewel. Unfortunately nothing will preserve it but downright force. Whenever you give up that force, you are inevitably ruined"

— Patrick Henry

Reader Opinion

What gun magazines (the paper kind, not the "clip" kind) do the readers of the Michigan Open Carry Newsletter enjoy reading or subscribe to? Online gun magazines count. Send a short email with your top picks to DGriffin@miopencarry.org and we'll publish the results in our next newsletter.

Firearms Fact



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

As of July 1, 2014, there were 443,847 concealed pistol license holders in Michigan.

Missed an Issue?

Back issues of the MOC Newsletter are always available.

No. 1 — Jan 2013

No. 2 — Aug 2013

No. 3 — Jan 2014

Become a Member of Michigan Open Carry!



Michigan Open Carry is a fully volunteer organization. Your membership and donations help us fight for the right to keep and bear arms both in the courts and in the legislature. Won't you consider becoming a dues paying member today?

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

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THE LIGHTER SIDE

"In our experience, Americans are uncouth misfits who should be run out of their own barbaric country."



"Well, Lieutenant...Major, we already run the misfits out of our country. We sent 'em back to England"