

www.countrypondfishandgameclub.com

Country Pond Fish & Game Club - Newton, NH

January 2015

Established 1903

Volume 15-01

Upcoming & Ongoing Events



Trap ShootingSaturdays: 13:00Sundays: 09:00



Winter Handicap Trap Tournament Sundays at 12:00, starting 4 January



Indoor Work Parties Mondays, starting 5 January 18:00 - 20:00



Indoor Archery Jeague Tuesdays, starting 13 January, 18:30 Organizational Meeting, Tuesday, 6 January, 19:00



22 Pistol League Wednesdays, 17:30 - 20:00



Indoor .22 Rimfire Pin Shoot Tuesday, 30 December, 19:00



50-Bird Lewis Trap Shoot Thursday, 1 January, 09:00



Board of Directors Meeting Thursday, 8 January, 19:00 (Email <u>Piney</u> if you'd like to have something placed on the agenda) NRA Basic Pistol Instructor Course

Saturday, 10 January, 08:00 - 18:00





Indoor Centerfire Pin Shoots Thursdays, 15 & 29 January, 19:00



Chowderfest Saturday, 17 January, 17:00 - 18:30



Monthly Members Meeting Thursday, 22 January, 19:00 Your attendance would be appreciated.



Range Safety Officer Course Saturday, 24 January, 08:00 - 17:00



New Member Orientation Sunday, 25 January, 10:00



Ice Fishing Derby Sunday, 1 February (Ice and weather permitting)



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DEADLINE 31 DECEMBER - NO EXCEPTIONS



40.00 00.00



Trap and Membership Tours

Christmas

22 Plate Shoot

RANGE CLOSURES

thru January

(Hours shown are ACTUAL TIMES CLOSED)

TRAP RANGE

Saturdays	13:00 - 15:00
Sundays	10:00 - 12:00
Regular Trap (closed to o	ther activities)
Sundays	12:00 - 15:00
Winter Trap Tourney (star	
Thursday, 25 DEC	ALL DAY
Christmas	

OUTDOOR RANGE Sundays 10:00 - 12:00

Thursday, 25 DEC.....ALL DAY

Sunday, 11 JAN 09:00 - 16:00



New Members

15 new members were voted into the Club this month.

MEMBER	<u>SPONSOR</u>
John DeFusco	Ron Sevigny
Peter Eaton	Clyde Hanshaw
Peter "PJ" O`Loughlin	Clyde Hanshaw
Michael St Jean	Frank Pigliccino
Christopher Byron	Joseph Fraize
Larry Foote	William Ingalls
Vlasios Danos	James Tuite
Andrew Tenaglia	. Erik Maartmann-Moe
Jillian Holmberg	Bert Holmberg
•	Bert Holmberg
Jillian Holmberg	Bert Holmberg George Ead
Jillian Holmberg Paul Sevigny	Bert Holmberg George Ead George Ead
Jillian Holmberg Paul Sevigny Mark Marlowe	Bert Holmberg George Ead George Ead Bodo Wallem
Jillian Holmberg Paul Sevigny Mark Marlowe William Brace	Bert Holmberg George Ead George Ead Bodo Wallem James Takach Jr

We hope you all enjoy Country Pond Fish & Game Club, and we're looking forward to getting to know you on the ranges and at our events. SHOOTING ON A CLOSED RANGE IS A SERIOUS SAFETY VIOLATION. MEMBERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR KNOWING WHEN RANGES ARE CLOSED.

CPF&G Club FFL Fees & Rules

All purchases: Cost + 5% + shipping All Firearms Transfers: \$20

PURCHASES THROUGH THE CLUB FFL ARE LIMITED TO <u>FIREARMS ONLY</u> THIS SERVICE IS FOR CLUB MEMBERS ONLY

Club Members may contact Jeff Gersbach at jgersbach@gmail.com to order firearms through the Club FFL.

Club Members may also order guns themselves, to be delivered to the Club, but must have the sender include a copy of the Club's **Firearms Order Form**. This form is available on the <u>"Members Only" page</u> of the Club website. If this form is not included, the firearm will be returned to the sender, and the Member will be assessed return shipping costs plus a \$10.00 service charge.

There will be an additional \$20.00 charge for items shipped via FEDEX. Choose UPS or USPS instead.

Firearms transfers and pickups are by appointment only. Contact Andy Deardorff at <u>a-deardorff@comcast.net</u> or 603-382-3434.

INDOOR PISTOL RANGE

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CPF&G Club Election Results

Club Elections were held at the Annual Meeting on 18 December. All of the Candidates were running unopposed.

Your Club Officers for 2015 are:

President	John Carr
Vice-President	Sharon Theobald
Secretary	Martin Kenney
Treasurer	Andy Deardorff
Director Seat ∦l	Jim Rogers
Director Seat ∦2*	Paul Gilberti
Director Seat #3	William Colbert
Director Seat #4*	Jeff Gersbach
Director Seat ∦5	Ron MacLeod

* Director Seats #2 and #4 were not up for election this year.

Following the elections a buffet style dinner was held.

Thanks to Chuck Rancourt for once again officiating the Club's Annual Elections and thanks to all of the volunteers who helped make the Annual Meeting a success.

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"A Nation of Cowards"

By Jeffrey R. Snyder Reprinted with permission, originally published in the Fall, '93 issue of The Public Interest

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

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

Now how can this be? How can a person who values himself so highly calmly accept the indignity of a criminal assault? How can one who believes that the essence of his dignity lies in his self-determination passively accept the forcible deprivation of that self-determination? How can he, quietly, with great dignity and poise, simply hand over the goods?

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

Crime is not only a complete disavowal of the social contract, but also a commandeering of the victim's person and liberty. If the individual's dignity lies in the fact that he is a moral agent engaging in actions of his own will, in free exchange with others, then crime always violates the victim's dignity. It is, in fact, an act of enslavement. Your wallet, your purse, or your car may not be worth your life, but your dignity is; and if it is not worth fighting for, it can hardly be said to exist.

The Gift of Life

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

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

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

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

The police act as a general deterrent to crime by apprehending criminals after the fact... they have no legal obligation to protect anyone.

Do You Feel Lucky?

In 1991, when then-Attorney General Richard Thornburgh released the FBI's annual crime statistics, he noted that it is now more likely that a person will be the victim of a violent crime than that he will be in an auto accident. Despite this, most people readily believe that the existence of the police relieves them of the responsibility to

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take full measures to protect themselves. The police, however, are not personal bodyguards. Rather, they act as a general deterrent to crime, both by their presence and by apprehending criminals after the fact. As numerous courts have held, they have no legal obligation to protect anyone in particular. You cannot sue them for failing to prevent you from being the victim of a crime.

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

Should you ever be the victim of an assault, a robbery, or a rape, you will find it very difficult to call the police while the act is in progress, even if you are carrying a portable cellular phone. Nevertheless, you might be interested to know how long it takes them to show up. Department of Justice statistics for 1991 show that, for all crimes of violence, only 28 percent of calls are responded to within five minutes. The idea that protection is a service people can call to have delivered and expect to receive in a timely fashion is often mocked by gun owners, who love to recite the challenge, "Call for a cop, call for an ambulance, and call for a pizza. See who shows up first."

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

Power And Responsibility

Is your life worth protecting? If so,

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

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

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

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

The handgun is the only weapon that would give a lone female jogger a chance of prevailing against a gang of thugs intent on rape, a teacher a chance of protecting children at recess from a madman intent on massacring them, a family of tourists waiting at a mid-town subway station the means to protect themselves from a gang of teens armed with razors and knives.

But since we live in a society that by and large outlaws the carrying of arms, we are brought into the fray of the Great American Gun War. Gun control is one of the most prominent battlegrounds in our current culture wars. Yet it is unique in the halfheartedness with which our conservative leaders and pundits -- our "conservative elite" -- do battle, and have conceded the moral high ground to liberal gun control proponents. It is not a topic often written about, or written about with any great fervor, by William F. Buckley or Patrick Buchanan. As drug czar, William Bennett advised President Bush to ban "assault weapons." George Will is on record as recommending the repeal of the Second Amendment, and Jack Kemp is on record as favoring a ban on the possession of semiautomatic "assault weapons." The battle for gun rights is one fought predominantly by the common man. The beliefs of both our liberal and conservative elites are in fact abetting the criminal rampage through our society.

Selling Crime Prevention

By any rational measure, nearly all gun control proposals are hokum. The Brady Bill, for example, would not have prevented John Hinckley from obtaining a gun to shoot President Reagan; Hinckley purchased his weapon five months before the attack, and his medical records could not have served as a basis to deny his purchase of a gun, since medical records are not public documents filed with the police. Similarly, California's waiting period and background check did not stop Patrick Purdy from purchasing the "assault rifle" and handguns he used to massacre children during recess in a Stockton schoolyard; the felony conviction that would have provided (Continued on page 5)

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the basis for stopping the sales did not exist, because Mr. Purdy's previous weapons violations were pleabargained down from felonies to misdemeanors.

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

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

The files of HCI and other gun control organizations are filled with proposals to limit the availability of semiautomatic and other firearms to law-abiding citizens, and barren of proposals for apprehending and punishing violent criminals. It is ludicrous to expect that the proposals of HCI, or any gun control laws, will significantly curb crime. According to Department of Justice and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) statistics, fully 90 percent of violent crimes are committed without a handgun, and 93 percent of the guns obtained by violent criminals are not obtained through the lawful purchase and sale transactions that are the object of most gun control legislation.

Furthermore, the number of violent criminals is minute in comparison to the number of firearms in America --estimated by the ATF at about 200 million, approximately one-third of which are handguns. With so abundant a supply, there will always be enough guns available for those who wish to use them for nefarious ends, no matter how complete the legal prohibitions against them, or how draconian the punishment for their acquisition or use. No, the gun control proposals of HCI and other organizations are not seriously intended as crime control. Something else is at work here.

The Tyranny of the Elite

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

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

Conservatives must understand that the antipathy many liberals have for gun owners arises in good measure from their statist utopianism. This habit of mind has nowhere been better explored than in The Republic. There, Plato argues that the perfectly just society is one in which an unarmed people exhibit virtue by minding their own business in the performance of their assigned functions, while the government of philosopher-kings, above the law and protected by armed guardians unquestioning in their loyalty to the state, engineers, implements, and fine-tunes the creation of that society, aided and abetted by myths that both hide and justify their totalitarian manipulation.

The Unarmed Life

When columnist Carl Rowan preaches gun control and uses a gun to defend his home, when Maryland Governor William Donald Schaefer seeks legislation year after year to ban semiautomatic "assault weapons", whose only purpose, we are told, is to kill people, while he is escorted by state police armed with large-capacity 9mm semiautomatic pistols, it is not simple hypocrisy. It is the workings of that habit of mind possessed by all superior beings who have taken upon themselves the terrible burden of civilizing the masses and who understand, like our Congress, that laws are for other people.

The liberal elite know that they are philosopher-kings. They know that the people simply cannot be trusted; that they are incapable of just and fair selfgovernment; that left to their own devices, their society will be racist, sexist, homophobic, and inequitable --and the liberal elite know how to fix things. They will help us live the good and just life, even if they have to lie to us and force us to do it. And they detest those who stand in their way.

The private ownership of firearms is a rebuke to this utopian zeal. To own firearms is to affirm that freedom and liberty are not gifts from the state. It is to reserve final judgment about

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whether the state is encroaching on freedom and liberty, to stand ready to defend that freedom with more than mere words, and to stand outside the state's totalitarian reach.



The Florida Experience

The elitist distrust of the people underlying the gun control movement is illustrated beautifully in HCI's campaign against a new concealed carry law in Florida. Prior to 1987, the Florida law permitting the issuance of concealed-carry permits was administered at the county level. The law was vague, and, as a result, was subject to conflicting interpretation and political manipulation. Permits were issued principally to security personnel and the privileged few with political connections. Permits were valid only within the county of issuance.

In 1987, however, Florida enacted a uniform concealed-carry law which mandates that county authorities issue a permit to anyone who satisfies certain objective criteria. The law requires that a permit be issued to any applicant who is a resident, at least twenty-one years of age, has no criminal record, no record of alcohol or drug abuse, no history of mental illness, and provides evidence of having satisfactorily completed a firearms safety course offered by the NRA or other competent instructor. The applicant must provide a set of fingerprints, after which the authorities make a background check. The permit must be issued or denied within ninety days, is valid throughout the state, and must be renewed every three years, which provides authorities a regular means of reevaluating whether the permit holder still qualifies.

Passage of this legislation was vehemently opposed by HCI and the media. The law, they said, would lead to citizens shooting each other over everyday disputes involving fender benders, impolite behavior, and other slights to their dignity. Terms like "Florida, the Gunshine State" and "Dodge City East" were coined to suggest that the state, and those seeking passage of the law, were encouraging individuals to act as judge, jury, and executioner in a "Death Wish" society.

Trigger Times

No HCI campaign more clearly demonstrates the elitist beliefs underlying the campaign to eradicate gun ownership. Given the qualifications required of permit holders, HCI and the media can only believe that common, law-abiding citizens are seething cauldrons of homicidal rage, ready to kill to avenge any slight to their dignity, eager to seek out and summarily execute the lawless. Only lack of immediate access to a gun restrains them and prevents the blood from flowing in the streets. They are so mentally and morally deficient that they would mistake a permit to carry a weapon in selfdefense as a state-sanctioned license to kill at will.

Did the dire predictions come true? Despite the fact that Miami and Dade County have severe problems with the drug trade, the homicide rate fell in Florida following enactment of this law, as it did in Oregon following enactment of similar legislation there. There are, in addition, several documented cases of new permit holders successfully using their weapons to defend themselves. Information from the Florida Department of State shows that, from the beginning of the program in 1987 through June 1993, 160,823 permits have been issued, and only 530, or about 0.33 percent of the applicants, have been denied a permit for failure to satisfy the criteria, indicating that the law is benefitting those whom it was intended to benefit -- the law-abiding. Only 16 permits, less than 1/100th of 1 percent, have been revoked due to the post-issuance commission of a crime involving a firearm.

The Florida legislation has been used as a model for legislation adopted by Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Mississippi. There are, in addition, seven other states (Maine, North and South Dakota, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, and, with the exception of cities with a population in excess of 1 million, Pennsylvania) which provide that concealed-carry permits must be issued to law-abiding citizens who satisfy various objective criteria. Finally, no permit is required at all in Vermont. Altogether, then, there are thirteen states in which law-abiding citizens who wish to carry arms to defend themselves may do so. While no one appears to have compiled the statistics from all of these jurisdictions, there is certainly an ample data base for those seeking the truth about the trustworthiness of law -abiding citizens who carry firearms.

Other evidence also suggests that armed citizens are very responsible in using guns to defend themselves. Florida State University criminologist Gary Kleck, using surveys and other data, has determined that armed citizens defend their lives or property with firearms against criminals approximately 1 million times a year. In 98 percent of these instances, the citizen merely brandishes the weapon or fires a warning shot. Only in 2 percent of the cases do citizens actually shoot their assailants. In defending themselves with their firearms, armed citizens kill 2,000 to 3,000 criminals each year, three times the number killed by the police. A nationwide study by Kates, the constitutional lawyer and criminologist, found that only 2 percent of civilian shootings involved an innocent person mistakenly identified as a criminal. The "error rate" for the police, however, was 11 percent, over five times as high.

It is simply not possible to square the numbers above and the experience of Florida with the notions that honest, law-abiding gun owners are borderline psychopaths itching for an excuse to shoot someone, vigilantes eager to seek out and summarily execute the lawless, or incompetent fools incapable of determining when it is proper to use lethal force in defense of their lives. Nor upon reflection should these results seem surprising. Rape, robbery, and attempted murder are not typically actions rife with ambiguity or subtlety, requiring special powers of observation and great book-learning to

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discern. When a man pulls a knife on a woman and says, "You're coming with me," her judgment that a crime is being committed is not likely to be in error. There is little chance that she is going to shoot the wrong person. It is the police, because they are rarely at the scene of the crime when it occurs, who are more likely to find themselves in circumstances where guilt and innocence are not so clear-cut, and in which the probability for mistakes is higher.

Arms and Liberty

Classical republican philosophy has long recognized the critical relationship between personal liberty and the possession of arms by a people ready and willing to use them. Political theorists as dissimilar as Niccolo Machiavelli, Sir Thomas More, James Harrington, Algernon Sidney, John Locke, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau all shared the view that the possession of arms is vital for resisting tyranny, and that to be disarmed by one's government is tantamount to being enslaved by it. The possession of arms by the people is the ultimate warrant that government governs only with the consent of the governed. As Kates has shown, the Second Amendment is as much a product of this political philosophy as it is of the American experience in the Revolutionary War. Yet our conservative elite has abandoned this aspect of republican theory. Although our conservative pundits recognize and embrace gun owners as allies in other arenas, their battle for gun rights is desultory. The problem here is not a statist utopianism, although goodness knows that liberals are not alone in the confidence they have in the state's ability to solve society's problems. Rather, the problem seems to lie in certain cultural traits shared by our conservative and liberal elites.

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

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

Polite Society

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

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

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

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

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

Take Back the Night

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

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

Judging by the numerous articles about concealed-carry in gun

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

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

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

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

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



As an NRA affiliated club, it is important for us to support the National Rifle Association. By joining the NRA through Country Pond Fish & Game Club, \$5 of the annual \$35 fee (or \$10 of the \$85 3-yr membership) is paid back to our club.

To join, go to <u>http://membership.nrahq.org/default.asp?campaignid=XC004701</u>, contact Sharon Theobald at <u>shootinlady655@aol.com</u> or 978-374-8061, or contact any member of the BOD.

2015 Winter Handicap Trap Tournament



Sundays at noon - January thru March - 10 week Tournament 50 targets per week - \$15.00 Weekly Prizes - Awards Banquet

This Tournament is Open to the Public

For more details, contact Ron Sevigny at 603-474-1168 or ron7e@comcast.net

Indoor Centerfire BOWLING PIN SHOOTS



THESE SHOOTS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Call or write Sharon Theobald 978-374-8061 or shootinlady655@aol.com

Indoor Archery League

The 2015 Indoor Archery League will have its annual organizational meeting in the CPF&G Clubhouse on 6 January at 19:00.



Beginning on 13 January and running thru 14 April (possibly extended in the event of weather cancellations), the League will shoot every Tuesday evening, starting at 18:30.

We're looking for some new members to join us and have a fun time. CPF&G Club Members of any age are welcome to participate, regardless of previous experience shooting a bow.

For more information, contact Steve Chase at 603-475-2594 or browndogsoftware@aol.com

The *Trigger Times* is the official newsletter of Country Pond Fish & Game Club, Inc., 82 Pond St, Newton, NH 03858, and is published monthly. Editor: Piney Woods Any comments, questions, or suggestions should be submitted via email only to: <u>piney@pineywoodsplace.com</u>



Stay in touch with your Employees

(that's right... they work for YOU.)

<u>http://www.congress.org/</u> has links to the White House, the US Senate, the US House of Representatives, and all of your state government representatives.

Let them know how you feel about things.



January is the time to put away the Christmas presents, take the cure for the New Year's hangover, and pay attention to what the politicians are up to.

As you may have heard, the shenanigans have started under the golden dome in Concord. The republican caucus chose Bill O'Brien, former Speaker of the House, to once again lead the NH House. Shawn Jasper, the Republicans in Name Only, and Jasper's coalition of House Democrats usurped the will of the Republican Caucus. Jasper is the House Speaker for this term unless things change under a procedural vote. Jasper is no friend of gun owners and users. Extreme compromise is Mr. Jasper's only claim to fame. Hopefully I'm wrong, but I cannot see him leading the fight for our rights, firearms or otherwise.

I have had conversations with several representatives about the looming legislative session. The Legislative Service Requests (LSR's) have been filed. Unfortunately they have titles but the text and the bill numbers are not yet available. Judging the bills by title only is very misleading. Several bills filed by notorious anti-gun legislators have been noticed. Universal background checks, universal carry (eliminate CCL), and restrictions on open carry are some of



Politics & Legislation

by John Faro, Political Junkie

the issues we may have to deal with this session. Some committee assignments have been issues. David Welch will be the co-chairman of the Criminal Justice Committee. We had hoped to have a very pro-gun legislature this year, but the rift between conservative and moderate Republicans is a cause for the citizens who voted for these folks to be very leery. Eternal vigilance is still the key.

The tragedy that happened in Newtown, CT., has resurfaced once again. A coalition of the Newtown parents directly involved with this tragedy have sued the manufacturer of the firearm, saying the weapon should not have been sold because it had no reasonable civilian purpose (AR-15). "The weapon should not have been available to 20-year-old gunman Adam Lanza". If memory serves me Lanza stole the firearm from his mother who legally purchased the AR-15. This will be a test of the 2005 Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act which blocked liability suits against gun



manufacturers. This is a case every law -abiding gun owner should be concerned about.

A little off the legislative track – the NH Fish and Game Department has announced several changes in 2015 for fishing for smelts, striped bass, white perch, haddock and cod. The changes include daily limits and size limits. Check the NH Fish and Game website before you head out the door with ice fishing gear or rod and reel tucked under your arm. You may get a surprise you don't want.

I hope all remembered to renew their memberships with CPF&G Club. If we are to be successful in strengthening our firearms rights, actually all our rights, we need to be a cohesive political force. If you have not joined the Gun Owners of NH, the state NRA affiliate association, I hope you will consider doing so. The phrase "strength in numbers" has never been truer for all Americans.

Happy New Year to all and keep on shooting.

Gun Rights Organizations

"A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."

- United States Constitution - Amendment II - ratified 1791

American Sheepdog http://am	nericansheepdog.com/Forum/
Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arm	s <u>http://www.ccrkba.org/</u>
Gun Owner's Action League (MA)	<u>http://www.goal.org/</u>
Gun Owners of America	<u>http://www.gunowners.org/</u>
Gun Owners of New Hampshire	<u>http://www.gonh.org/</u>
Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership	<u>http://www.jpfo.org/</u>
Maine Gun Owners Assoc	<u>http://www.mgoa.com/</u>
National Rifle Association	<u>http://home.nra.org/#/home</u>
National Shooting Sports Foundation	<u>http://www.nssf.org/</u>
Pink Pistols	http://www.pinkpistols.org/
Second Amendment Foundation	<u>http://www.saf.org/</u>
Second Amendment Sisters	<u>http://www.2asisters.org/</u>
USA Carry	<u>http://www.usacarry.com/</u>
Women Against Gun Control	<u>http://www.wagc.com/</u>

NRA Basic Pistol Instructor Course 10 January 2015

During the course, candidates will learn NRA policies and procedures, basic public speaking skills, training methodology, use of a training team and training aids, organizing a course, building a budget, and finally preparing to teach. In addition, candidates will be provided the appropriate lesson plans and basic course student packets. Role-playing is a major part of an instructor course. Candidates take turns working in teams, actually conducting portions of the course to other candidates who portray basic students.

Candidates must possess and demonstrate a solid background in firearm safety and shooting skills acquired through previous firearm training and/or previous shooting experience. Instructor candidates must be intimately familiar with each action type in the discipline they wish to be certified.

Candidates will be required to demonstrate solid and safe firearms handling skills required to be successful during an instructor training course by completing precourse questionnaires and qualification exercises administered by the NRA Appointed Training Counselor.

Cost of the course is \$200.

THIS COURSE IS LIMITED TO 20 STUDENTS



NRA Range Safety Officer Course

24 January 2015

The NRA Range Safety Officer program was developed in response to the demand for a nationallyrecognized range safety officer certification. NRA Range Safety Officers are people who possess the knowledge, skills, and attitude essential to organizing, conducting, and supervising safe shooting activities and range operations. This is a nine-hour course that consists of classroom time and practical exercises conducted on a range.

Cost of the course is \$35.

THIS COURSE IS LIMITED TO 30 STUDENTS

http://www.countrypondfishandgameclub.com/training.html for more details and to register for either of the above classes

The Hardcopy Newsletter Crew

This month's Trigger Times is the last issue to be hard copy printed. From here on, the newsletter will be published in an electronic version only; one that is readily accessible from the Club's website.

The gentlemen in this photo have been largely responsible for getting the print edition out. They are, from left to right, Frank Corriveau, Bob Hodgdon, Jim Yurik, and Joe Emmells.

Because of the discontinuation of the printed version, these guys are now out of a job, but we'd like to thank them for all of their efforts for folding, sorting, stamping, sealing, and mailing every issue for the past several years.

We couldn't have done it without them.



15 March

Chowderfest Contestants Wanted



We're looking for people to participate in the Chowderfest

17 January 2015

If you have a chowder (fish, corn, clam, whatever) that you'd like to enter, purely for Braggin' Rights, call or write Sharon Theobald 978-374-8061 or <u>shootinlady655@aol.com</u>



.22 Rimfire Plate Shoots

Shooter Registration	
Matches start	High Noon

First Relay: CPF&G Members: \$5.00 Non-Members: \$10.00 Subsequent Relays: \$3.00 for everyone Tag Team Matches: \$1.00 Juniors (under 16) always shoot FREE

$\sim \sim \sim$ 2015 Schedule $\sim \sim \sim$

15 February

- II January
- 12 April
- . 12 July
- II October



Results and detailed rules and procedures are posted at <u>http://www.countrypondfishandgameclub.com/rfplates.html</u> For more details, contact John Coyne at jem362@msn.com or 603-362-6014

Trap Shooting



THE TRAP RANGE IS CLOSED TO OTHER ACTIVITIES DURING THESE SESSIONS

\$3.50 per round or \$30.00 for a 10-round card

THESE SESSIONS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

For more information, contact Ken Schultz 603-895-3083 papa.schulz@myfairpoint.net



ALL CPF&G CLUB MEMBERS ARE WELCOME, REGARDLESS OF EXPERIENCE

.22 RIMFIRE AMMO IS AVAILABLE FOR LEAGUE PARTICIPANTS

For more information, contact Jim Rogers 603-244-9885 jimshortcircuit@yahoo.com **Trigger Times**



For ice out info call 603-382-5681

wendy.menard@comcast.net or 603-234-9256 if you have any questions.

January 2015

CPF&G Club Contacts

Revised: 18 December 2014

				Revised. To December 2014
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			,	Тгар
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	Orders (Club M	÷,	Ron Sevigny	603-474-1168 ron7e@comcast.net
Jeff Gersbach (No ph	one orders - email o	nly) jgersbach@gmail.com	Roll Sevigity	·····
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Randy Belmont	603-362-9905	greenwinytaipoint.hot		Work Parties
. ta.taj Donnont			John DeYoung	603-642-3246 johnmdeyoung@comcast.net
D M I I	Hall Rentals		John Borroung	
Ron MacLeod	603-382-6671	gandgcobra@aol.com		
			1	

These names are listed here for a reason.

Call or email your questions or concerns to the appropriate party.

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 Individual\$ Married Couple\$26 Military Life Member Exececutive Officer or You must attach your approve Married Couple Members must 	2.50 N/C N/C Director ed Work Log st complete a	Discounted Married Couple \$210 SeniorN/C Honorary MemberN/C N/C Th to obtain the discounted rate. po	Change: Individual to Individual Life Change: Individual to Individual Life Change: Individual or Couple to Cou Change: Individual or Couple to Cou Change: Individual or Couple to Cou the Club Events Calendar and the Club News issted on the Club website monthly. If you do sh to receive hard copies sent to you via US can't read will be returned unprocessed.	(40+) \$1,750 ple Life (under 40) \$3,290 uple Life (40+) \$2,630 letter, <u>Trigger Times</u> , are not have internet access and
MEMBER #:		NAME:		
HOME ADDRESS:				
MAILING ADDRESS (if	different): _			
CITY:			STATE: ZIF	
PHONE:		CELL P	HONE:	
Are you a member of the	Are you a member of the NRA?			
NRA Certified Instructor	? □no		OTGUN (other)	
I hereby certify that I am not prohibited from possessing, selling, owning, or transferring firearms under state or federal law: I (A) have not been convicted of a felony that has not been annulled or expunged; or (B) have not been convicted of a violation of 18 USC \$ 922 that has not been annulled or expunged; and (C) am not a member of an organization that advocates the violent overthrow of the United States Government, and that I am not barred by any law from the possession, use, or control of firearms. I further affirm that I have read and understand the CPF&G Club Constitution, current Club Bylaws, and all Rules.				
(signed)			(date)	
RENEWALS After 31 December	try Pond POSTN , a "New I	Membership Application" will be		E ACCEPTED
For Credit Card pay	ments:	□ VISA □ MasterCa		
Card Number: Expiration Date:				
			3-Digit Security Code	
			d shredded after payment is process	

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