

“Bulldog’s Corner” - George “Bulldog” Pena

Yes folks, we had another one! Fun shoot, I mean. At the conference this year, we got together one more time and showed our stuff. I mean shot our...well, you know what I mean.

We had a good crowd at the range and it started with silhouette targets. Judd Earley, Gail Wood and I ran that event. Most had great scores and a few were above average — and a couple were talked about later over cocktails.

Also, there was an eighty-yard event run by Larry Arnold, set up for those who like to brag. There were quite a few who acquired bragging rights that day. And, as I see it, if you can hit a target at eighty yards with a handgun, you can brag all you want.

We had speed steel targets. Larry also took care of that one with help from Tac-Pro’s Bill Davison. My brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Chuck and Barbara Lazzara, TCHA members from Pennsylvania, were visiting and came to the conference with us. Although Chuck was not a shooter, he borrowed one of my guns prior to the fun shoot and practiced on my range for a few days and shot fairly well. I think he’s a shooter now....I can tell by that big smile on his face while he shoots.

Lastly, the event I was waiting for..the board splitting. We stand two-by-fours on end and draw 1 line in the middle of it. The object is to cut the board in two at the line. We began with groups of four and my groups consisted of Smoky, brother-in-law Chuck, Gail Wood and myself. We cut that board with time to spare. After a few rounds, the competition dwindled. We backed up and put a little more distance between us and the board. Soon Gail and I were taking on all comers. Let me tell you folks, Gail Wood can shoot! If you ever need a back up or someone to be with you in a gunfight, it’s Gail. He can shoot. It seems Gail and I couldn’t lose. Now THAT was fun!

That was our fun shoot and we plan to have more of the same in years to come. Like I say, you don’t have to be a perfect shooter, you just need to want to have fun shooting...which is exactly what we did.



Chuck Lazzara gets shooting tips from Tac-Pro’s Bill Davison during the fun shoot.



Ready on the line? Have some fun and shoot! The Association extends its deep appreciation to Jack N. Burch II, Executive Director of the Hill Country Shooting Sports Center, Home of the 2007 USA National Shooting Championships. We thank Jack, not only for providing an outstanding venue for our Fun Shoot for the past 2 years, but then donating the entry fees back to the Association. A true gentleman and sportsman. Thanks Jack.

Dallas Police Dept. Uninsured Motorist Towing, Firearm Policy - Garry Brookman

As of January 1, 2009, the Dallas Police Department has instituted a policy of “mandatory” towing the vehicles of operators who cannot show proof of Texas liability insurance.

In Texas, 20% of the vehicles on our roads have no insurance coverage. That’s 1 in every 5 cars and trucks, which equates to an estimated \$1 billion extra in insurance premiums that law-abiding Texans are paying annually to protect themselves against uninsured and underinsured motorists.

The state of Texas has implemented the new Texas Financial Responsibility Verification Program (TexasSure) that will allow law enforcement officers to immediately verify whether a driver has car insurance. The TexasSure program will put an end to the days of uninsured motorists, drivers dropping coverage after receiving a valid insurance card, and fraudulent insurance cards. TexasSure is a database that connects every registered vehicle in the state by its license plate, vehicle identification number (VIN), and liability insurance policy. That means that law enforcement officers can immediately access the database and verify if you are driving without insurance.

There are severe penalties for violating the state’s financial responsibility law. A first conviction will result in a fine between \$175 and \$350. Subsequent convictions could result in fines of \$350 to \$1,000, suspension of your driver’s license, and impoundment of your vehicle.

FIREARM POLICY

When there is a firearm, ammunition, magazines, etc. in the vehicle being towed, there are two (2) possibilities: 1) the operator has a CHL that is recognized by the state of Texas or 2) the operator does NOT have a CHL recognized by the state of Texas.

If the operator is a CHL holder, it is the officer’s discretion on whether or not they will return the firearm to the driver. If there is no possibility of concealing the weapon, it will be confiscated.

If the operator is not a CHL holder, the firearm will be confiscated.

The firearm, ammunition, magazines, etc. will be taken to:

Dallas Police Property Room
1725 Baylor St., Dallas TX 75226
214-671-0909
Tue-Fri 8:00–3:30 p.m.

The firearm, ammunition, magazines, etc. will be kept a minimum of forty-five (45) days while the following is completed:

A release is obtained from the police officer or a court

An in-depth background check of the alleged owner in all fifty (50) states and the Federal system is performed; outstanding cases, warrants, etc.; all must be cleared and/or resolved before firearm can be released

Ballistics test (NIBIN) results on the firearm reported to ATF with no “hits”

Firearm serial number is checked thru NCIC; stolen, used in a criminal act, obliterated, etc.

When all checks, tests, and verifications are complete, a letter will be sent to the owner stating the firearm, ammunition, magazines, etc. is ready to be returned. The owner has sixty (60) days to respond or the firearm, ammunition, magazines, etc. will be destroyed.

When the owner visits the DPD Property room, they will need to provide government issued identification (drivers license, identification card, CHL, etc.), the letter from DPD, and possibly “proof of purchase”. Only the firearm and accessories will be returned on the first visit. The owner may obtain the ammunition on their second visit three (3) days later.



CONGRATULATIONS to Carter Harris, winner of the 2009 TCHA raffle of a Taurus Judge.

12th Annual TCHA Conference



Chris Bird thanks Keynote Speaker Larry Pratt, Executive Director of Gun Owners of America



Larry Arnold, TCHA Director and Webmaster, speaks during Members' Meeting.



Larry Arnold, Bill Titus, TCHA Secretary and Judd Earley discuss business after the Fun Shoot.



Walt Cleveland explains legal ramifications of a gun incident and the Concealed Handgun License

Larry Pratt: "Assault" Weapons Ban Unlikely Soon - Chris Bird

Ever since President Obama was elected, retailers and manufacturers have been struggling to keep up with a huge demand for guns and ammunition from a public afraid the new administration and Democratic Congress will enact more draconian gun-control laws. In particular there has been a rush on military-style semi-automatic rifles and full-capacity magazines by buyers afraid that Obama and other Democrats will renew the so-called assault weapons ban.

However, one man who keeps tabs on gun legislation doesn't foresee a reintroduction of the ban in the near future. Larry Pratt, executive director of Gun Owners of America, was speaking at the Texas Concealed Handgun Association annual conference in Kerrville. Gun Owners of America has been called the only no compromise pro Second Amendment organization in Washington D.C.

"I don't really think they're going to do anything that is called gun control and put that through the Congress, at least not in the early time of this Congress and the early time of this administration," Pratt said.

He thinks that any new gun-control laws will have to be passed deceptively. "What I think they are going to try to do is either look for legislation that they can claim is not gun control or tuck it into something else where it moves fast and doesn't get seen in time."

Recently, Eric Holder, Obama's new attorney general and a strong gun control advocate, called for a renewal of the Clinton semi-auto ban. It was House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, another strong gun control supporter, who had to give him "a reality check," Pratt said. She had to explain to Holder that the votes for the ban were not there.

"Her public statement was: 'Why don't we just enforce the laws that are already on the books?' Well, we've always thought that was a bad idea because those are the laws that ought to be taken off the books," he said.

Note: Since the TCHA conference, 65 Democratic representatives led by Congressman Mike Ross (D-AR) signed a letter to Holder saying they will oppose any attempt to renew the ban. They cited studies showing the ban was ineffective in reducing crime and said that many of their constituents owned semi-automatic rifles for legitimate reasons including defense of themselves and their families. Several of these representatives are from Texas - Gene Green, Chet Edwards, Ciro Rodriguez and Solomon Ortiz. If you are in their districts, you might thank them.

Pratt was encouraged by another development in Congress. The Democratic leadership of the House of Representatives wanted to pass legislation that would give a congressman to Washington D.C. However an amendment was attached to the bill that would give residents of the district more gun rights. Many Democrats particularly from rural areas made it quite clear that they supported the amendment so the leadership pulled the bill from consideration.

"Reading the articles in the Washington papers has been almost fun because they are bleeding visibly about how terrible this development is and how they don't know what to do about it," Pratt said.

He thinks the problems for gun owners will be more at the administrative level with laws that are already on the books rather than in passing new laws. "The agenda for the anti-gunners is still on track," he added.

One example that he cited was that funding for what he called the Veterans Disarmament Act was tucked into the recent stimulus bill. The funding will enable the government to deny gun rights to many veterans who receive psychiatric counseling for post traumatic stress disorder. According to news reports as many as a third of soldiers and marines returning from Iraq and Afghanistan suffer from PTSD. The bill was introduced after the Virginia Tech shooting and was strongly opposed by Gun Owners of America. It was passed during the Bush administration but was not funded. Now it will be.

Chris Bird is a director of TCHA and is author of The Concealed Handgun Manual and Thank God I Had a Gun: True Accounts of Self-Defense.

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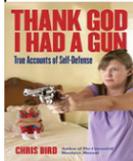
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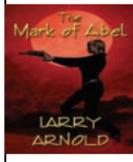


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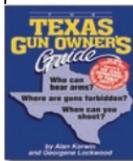
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As a member of the Texas Concealed Handgun Association, I hereby promise to promote the continuation and improvement of the Texas Concealed Handgun Laws, to present the standards and concerns of the members to the general public, the Department of Public Safety and the legislators who represent us. I further promise to promote responsible firearm safety, ownership and use in our communities, to provide current information to our members about the laws, lesson plans and topics related to the Concealed Handgun License program, and to promote high standards of instruction and training. I will support the right of responsible, law abiding citizens to own, keep and lawfully carry firearms for personal protection.

Enclosed are my dues for membership in the Association. *If you are a Texas CHL Instructor please submit a copy of your Texas CHL Instructor Certificate with this application.*

Send completed application to:

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Member Signature

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Joe Driver - continued from page 1

Representative Drive was a co-author of the Texas Castle Doctrine passed in 2007. He also discussed the importance and urgency of getting involved now. "We are fortunate to currently have a pro gun political climate in Texas right now, but that may not always be the case. Get to know your state Senators and Representative and contact us on a personal basis and let us know how you feel about different legislation that is before the Texas Legislature. That is more important than you think," explained Representative Driver.

Representative Joe Driver has been a good friend and ally of the Texas Concealed Handgun Association and each of us need to listen to him about getting involved. We don't have the same attitude nationally with the political climate as we do here in Texas so we need to remain diligent on both the national level as well as here in Texas. We need to contact our state and U.S. Senators and Representatives and make sure our voice is heard.

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The Concealed Handgun is published bi-monthly for the benefit of members to provide news and educational information of mutual interest. The association is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts or photographs. Comments or opinions expressed in by-lined text should not be considered official views of the association, its officers, or directors. Members are invited to submit material for publication to the association newsletter editor at: P.O. Box 116, Ropesville, Texas 79358.

The Texas Concealed Handgun Association is a membership organization. Its objectives and purposes are: to promote the continuation and improvement of the Texas Concealed Handgun (CHL) Law; represent the standards and concerns of members to the general public, news media, Department of Public Safety and legislators; to promote responsible firearms safety and ownership; to provide current information to members about the laws, lesson plans and topics related to the Concealed Handgun License program; to promote high standards of instruction and training; and to support the right of responsible, law abiding citizens to own, keep and lawfully carry firearms for personal protection.

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The address and phone number for the Texas Concealed Handgun Association is listed below. Any members needing to contact the Association with questions regarding membership, merchandise or other Association business should leave a detailed (name, phone number and what you are calling about) message. We will return your call as soon as we are able.

If you have legal questions or questions regarding your CHL, please call Texas Department of Public Safety at: (800) 224-5744.

DPS website: chl@txdps.state.tx.us

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE JOE DRIVER SPEAKS AT TCHA ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN KERRVILLE

- Rick Mackey -

State Representative Joe Driver (R-Garland) spoke to the attendees of the 12th Annual Conference in Kerrville about what is happening in Austin with the current legislature. Most of it is good such as the right to carry on campus bill that Representative Driver has authored and the right for CHL holders to keep their weapon in employer's parking lot locked up in their vehicle has unanimously passed the state Senate.

Representative Driver enlightened us with the inner workings of our state legislature which is somewhat similar to sausage making, but still informative. He has been a state Representative for 16 years and has had a very pro gun agenda during his tenure. He was one of the key advocates for the concealed handgun license in Texas in the early 90's, in fact his CHL number is 00000001. Continued on Page 3



TCHA President Rick Mackey and State Representative Joe Driver

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