



SAGA SNIPPETS

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Happy 30th Birthday SAGA

**1985-2015 :
30 YEARS OF
DEDICATED SERVICE
TO FIREARM OWNERS**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

SAGA was founded in 1985 – yes, that's 30 years ago! Since its inception SAGA has proudly fought to secure and maintain firearm ownership rights for all legitimate firearm owners. It has been a long road with lots of ups and downs, and but one thing is clear – SAGA has built a solid reputation for being open and honest and is considered a reliable and responsible representative body.

To commemorate this important year SAGA has three objectives:

- 1) to get members to keep their memberships up to date
- 2) to attract new members with a membership drive
- 3) to remain in the fore front of firearm ownership matters

The fun part of having a birthday is the celebration and we are celebrating with all sorts of special insignia. From a simple cloth patch right through to the brand name items....

See our website for photos of the insignia and online orders at www.saga.org.za

Working Draft Firearms Control Amendment Bill

SAGA and the other firearm associations received a working draft of the Firearms Amendment Bill for our information on 14 November 2014. We were invited to comment by 18 November and immediately requested an extension of time but this was not answered so a response was submitted by SAGA and the other associations although it was not possible to really provide in-depth comment.

Mr A Soman, the Director: Legislation, Civilian Secretariat of Police, who sent us the draft has advised that after consideration of our responses, the draft Bill will be submitted to Cabinet for consideration and approval and will then be

published in the Government Gazette for general comment. Public consultation will be part of the process.

To date there has been no further progress on this draft Bill. It is likely that the next draft will differ from the version we have.

As soon as SAGA has any update on this Bill we will advise our members.



Advertising Standards Authority Feedback



GFSA Advertising Campaign

Summary so far:

GFSA printed adverts in the Sunday newspapers and flighted anti-gun adverts on local television. SAGA lodged a complaint with the Advertising Standards Authority initially about the newspaper advert and then about the television adverts as they are considered two separate media.

On 11 July 2014 the ASASA ruled in our favour and GFSA were ordered to refrain from using the advertising.

GFSA appealed the decision and SAGA had to submit documenta-

tion to ASASA in reply to the Appeal.

A hearing was held by the ASASA on 28 October 2014 at which Stef Grobler, our Interim Council Chairman, and John Welch, Trustee, were able to speak. Questions were directed at SAGA and GFSA.

On 11 November 2014 the ASASA ruled that the appeal was dismissed.

On 1 December 2014 GFSA lodged an appeal to the Final Appeal Committee of the ASASA. Resulting from this SAGA had until 22 December to reply.

SAGA has since engaged legal counsel to work in conjunction with ourselves to handle the matter and a reply was submitted to ASASA. An attorney will now have to be engaged to argue the matter at the appeal.

SAGA and/or our legal representatives (max 3 people) are entitled to appear before the Final Appeal Committee. The date of the appeal is set for 19 February 2015.

In the meantime the adverts have been seen on You Tube and other media and so on 14 January 2015 SAGA's counsel lodged an objection to GFSA.

On 15 January we received a response advising us that the adverts would be withdrawn.

The adverts continue to appear in various media, despite the ASASA rulings, and a letter from GFSA to SAGA advising that the adverts will no longer be flighted.

Points to Note:

The adverts were created on a pro bono basis for GFSA by Y&R Advertising. The production company used by Y&R Advertising is Frieze Films. The attorneys used by GFSA are Read Hope Phillips Thomas Cadman Inc. You choose where to place your business.....

To view some of the documents please go to our website at www.saga.org.za

HuntEx Dates for 2015

HuntEx 2015 promises to be bigger and better than last year. Diarise the dates now to avoid disappointment. This year there is an extra show, in the Eastern Cape. SAGA will be at all three shows.



Gauteng
Gallagher Estate
Midrand
24-27 April 2015

Stand number 251 in Hall 2. Please note that this is the same hall we have always been in, but our stand has moved to a different location in the hall.

West Cape
Nelson's Creek Wine Estate
Paarl
24-27 September 2015

East Cape
Mentor's Country Estate
Jeffreys Bay
29-31 May 2015

United Firearms Forum

SAGA attended a meeting of firearm groups in Pretoria on 11 December 2014. The aim is for the groups to have the opportunity to work together in a cohesive manner on legislative and other relevant issues. The working draft of the Amendment Bill was the first issue that benefited from this joint initiative.

The group will work together on common issues while individual groups will continue to deal with their specific issues.

Parties involved so far (in no particular order) are:

SAGA; Collectors; Gunsite; CHASA; Dealers; PHASA; GOSA;

Security Industry Alliance; TAU; SAPSA; SADPA; NSA; PFTC.

Others will be included going forward.

Extra, Extra! Media Mogul Bloomberg

Pro-gun websites and message boards have been abuzz with news that Michael Bloomberg's, Everytown for Gun Safety, is partnering with the Columbia Journalism School to offer a two-day workshop for media figures who cover guns and gun issues on April 17-18.

Michael Bloomberg is a former mayor of New York City and majority owner of a global financial data and media company, Bloomberg L.P. He's also the 13th wealthiest person on planet earth.

Bloomberg has invested what he considers his two most precious resources into a nationwide anti-gun campaign: his money and his ego. Last year, Bloomberg infamously pledged \$50 million to enact gun control and defeat the NRA. So far, he has little to show for it.

Under other circumstances such an event might seem reasonable enough. In this case, however, the seminar's announcement betrays its ideological agenda by mentioning in the first paragraph the discredited, inaccurate, and unethical falsehood that "[n]early 100 school shootings have occurred since the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary only two years ago." In a previous version

of this bogus claim, Bloomberg's Everytown group was so desperate to pad the statistics that they even included an act of self-defense that happened to occur on or near an academic campus as a "school shooting." So egregious were the distortions in that Everytown report that a journalistic fact-check labeled it "mostly false." This is the sort of "reportage" Bloomberg now hopes to train his own specially-indoctrinated media corps to inflict on the American public.

The workshop advertises speakers that include "national public health and policy experts; researchers and clinicians; award-winning journalists, and prevention advocates and survivors." Nowhere does the workshop's announcement suggest participants will actually be able to experience handling and using guns, or that any pro-gun viewpoints will be represented amongst the presenters.

Nor will the workshop likely see any pro-gun attendees. Again displaying Bloomberg's propensity for using money to get his way, attendees must "apply" by submitting resumes and "letters of interest," and half could qualify for "travel stipends" of up to \$350. A paid trip to sunny Phoenix in early spring, for a free seminar associated with a prestigious New York journalism school, with only hand-picked and vetted participants, could certainly aid enlistment for Bloomberg's anti-gun media army.

Extracted from an article by NRA-ILA (Institute for Legislative Action)

Friday 16 January 2015

UK Research: The Value of Shooting

The study "The Value of Shooting", conducted by Cambridge-based Public and Corporate Economic Consultants (PCEC), is the most comprehensive research into the economic, environmental and social contributions of shooting ever undertaken in the UK.

The study shows that shooting is worth £2 billion a year (gross value added) to the UK economy and provides significant conservation benefits, according to the results of independent research released today by leading shooting and countryside organisations.

The study reveals that shooting supports the equivalent of 74,000 full-time jobs. People who shoot

spend £2.5 billion each year on goods and services, bringing income into rural areas, particularly in the low-season for tourism. The research shows that an established shoot generates local economic benefits for businesses in a radius of up to fifteen miles.

The figures show that the amount spent on shooting (£2.5bn) equals almost 10% of the total amount spent on outdoor recreation in a year, which has been measured at £27bn by the Sport and Recreation Alliance.

Shooting is involved in the management of two-thirds of the UK's rural land area. Almost two million hectares are actively managed for conservation as a result of shoot-

ing. Nearly £250 million a year is spent on conservation and habitat management which benefits a wide range of wildlife. People who shoot put in 3.9 million work days on conservation every year – the equivalent of 16,000 full-time conservation jobs.

At least 600,000 people in the UK shoot live quarry, clay pigeons or targets and existing industry information shows that there are at least 1.6 million individuals who shoot live quarry with an airgun.

Extracted from The WFSA Newsletter, December 2014.

Peruvian Congress Approves New Gun Bill



In a landslide vote on 11th December 2014, the Peruvian Congress approved a new gun bill. This is a landmark for grassroots organisations in the region, since it is the first time a firearms civil rights association has been able to completely reverse a country's gun control system.

J. Thomas Saldias, regional representative for SCI and executive director of the Latin American Coalition for Legal Firearms (CALL), led the efforts in Peru with the initial assistance of SCI and the World Forum on Shooting Activities (WFSA).

This new law is very favourable to the legal user and will change the control model the country had in place to date. In short, a few benefits of the new gun bill include:

- switching from the current system in which each firearm has a license, to a system which will issue a single property card (with no expiration) per firearm and one single license per user;
- people will be allowed to have up to 3 handguns for self-defence with no limitation on caliber (previously .380 was the maximum caliber allowed);
- there is no limit on caliber or number of firearms a sport hunter, sport shooter or collector may possess;
- suppressors will be allowed for sport hunting;
- there is new and modern legis-

lation on collections which will allow the maintenance of a fully operational firearm and the authorisation of educational or exhibition demonstrations;

- restrictions on the use of military ammunition such as armor piercing ammunition, iron nuclei, tracer ammunition, explosive or incendiary ammunition. Use of all other ammunition, such as hydra shock ammunition, is now allowed;
- firearms for private use by army personnel or national police personnel need to be registered with the national authority.

The gun bill is awaiting signature by President Ollanta Humala.

Extracted from The WFSA Newsletter, December 2014.

11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (COP11)

The 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (COP11) was held on 4-9 November 2014 in Quito (Ecuador). ANPAM and SAAMI attended the various meetings on behalf of the industry; FACE attended the meeting on behalf of the hunting sector.

The proposal of a ban of lead in ammunition formulated by the CMS Scientific Committee last July in Bonn (Germany) was presented and approved. However, thanks to the lobbying activities carried out by ANPAM, AFEMS, CIC, FACE,

IEACS and SAAMI both at the national and EU level, it was possible to obtain a last-minute modification of article 1 of the draft resolution, giving to Parties the power to determine whether or how to implement the recommended actions.

Moreover, during the COP11 works in Quito it was highlighted that proposals were made and resolutions adopted without taking into consideration the industry position. As a consequence of this, from now on the industry will be involved in future meetings orga-

nized by the working groups dealing with issues of our interest.

The situation remains very delicate as the aim to phase out the use of lead in ammunition in all hunting environments over the next three years was confirmed.

Extracted from The WFSA Newsletter, December 2014.



Thank Heaven Robin Williams Didn't Shoot Himself

Dear Editor,
Robin Williams' unfortunate strangulation suicide pointed out the horrific moral bankruptcy of the gun-control movement in America. We're watching it play out with the nine-year old at the Arizona range.

You know if Williams had shot himself, we Americans, instead of enduring massive legitimate grief for the loss of this phenomenal talent, we would have been out in the streets desperately defending our right to keep and bear arms against withering attacks from the usual suspects. Just like now.

The familiar cast of characters and "news" outlets would be using the desperate act of a depressed genius in need of help, as cover for an excuse to assault our fundamental human and civil rights. We've seen it countless times. A beloved comedian would make no difference. The relief we felt was palpable.

By strangling himself, Williams denied that movement a monumental opportunity to dance in his

blood and screech for more gun control, as they are virtually pre-programmed to do. No one is clamoring for belt control. Why not? The parallel is perfect. No cries for fewer holes in belts, more safety features on belts, less availability, more controls on sales, more lists. No one is saying anything, but the same tired arguments would work, use tragedy as a bludgeon against everyone who owns a bunch of belts yet did nothing (but could!) and heap vicious assaults in the name of the dead. Did you know that about 6,000 people a year commit suicide - using belts?

Now the suicide prevention and medical people could finally talk about finally getting a grip on the growing medical problem (not gun problem) of suicide.

What a golden opportunity to separate the legitimate and serious medical issue of depression from the bigotry of anti-rights crusaders awash in the blood of the dead, who use tragedy to

advance their perverse cause. The illegitimately conjoined twins have been separated at last.

From this day forward - any misguided or deliberate individuals who hijack a suicide to promote a political agenda against the American Bill of Rights should be publicly called out as bigots and stopped.

Rest easy, our great friend and entertainer Robin Williams, You have left us with one great lasting final farewell message, our rights remain unblemished by your passage.

Taken from letters in "The Uninvited Ombudsman" by Alan Korwin www.pagenine.org

