



SAGA SNIPPETS

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Big Prize Winner

We would like to congratulate Mr Ruthven from Alberton, as the winner of the special skinning knife, custom made by Stephen Mackrill of Mackrill Custom Knives. Made of Bohler N690 steel, the blade has a satin finish and a brass bolster. The handle is made from tamboti wood with a brass name plaque inlaid into it. There is also a sheath made of kudu hide. Presented in a beautiful custom box.

Ons wil graag vir Mnr Ruthven van Alberton geluk wens as die wenner van die enig-in-sy-soort handgemaakte afslagmes wat deur Stephen Mackrill van Mackrill Custom Knives spesiaal vir SAGA gemaak is. Tussen die Bohler N690-staal lem met 'n dow-we afwerking en die tambotiehout handvatsel met 'n ingelegde geelkoper naamplaatjie, is 'n geelkoper stut. Die mes pas in 'n egte koedoeleer skede en word in 'n handgemaakte kassie vertoon.



Upcoming HuntEx Dates

HuntEx Cape Game Fair

Dates: Friday 26 to Sunday 28
February 2016

Show Times:

Friday and Saturday: 09:00 - 17:00
Sunday: 09:00 - 15:00

Entrance Fees:

All prices include parking fees
R100 - adults
R50 - members of accredited hunting associations, pensioners, students and under 21s
Kids under 10 free

Venue:

Rhebokskloof Wine Estate
Windmeul, Agter Paarl

WHAT'S ON SHOW?

This is the place for guns, optics, knives, bows, ammunition, clothing, vehicles, camping and shooting equipment, gear and accessories, and hunting destinations.

Demos include black powder shooting, archery and falconry. Visitors can participate in clay pigeon shooting and various other target shooting competitions with big prizes up for grabs.

HuntEx 2016 Johannesburg

Dates: Thursday 14 April by invitation only
Friday 15 to Sunday 17 April 2016 open to public

Entrance Fees:

Adults: R120.00
Members of SAHGCA, PHASA, CHASA, NSA: R60.00
Students and U21: R60.00
Kids U10: Free

Venue:

Gallagher Convention
Centre, Midrand, Gauteng

WHAT'S ON SHOW?

The expo offers a full immersion experience with demonstrations and informative talks by experts. On show will be the latest in hunting, sports, tactical and defensive firearms, ammunition, gear, accessories, shooting and reloading equipment, optics, hunting, outdoor and tactical garments, footwear, knives, archery, taxidermy, hunting and fishing destinations, vehicles, camping, outdoor equipment, wildlife art, and much more.



Gun-Friendly Texas Is Getting Even Friendlier

From: http://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/01/us/-2016-01-01-texas-open-carry-gun-law.html?emc=edit_th_20160101&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=16098491&_r=0

By Manny Fernandez and David Montgomery
DEC. 31, 2015

HOUSTON—Texas is so gun-friendly that it is easier to get into the Capitol in Austin with a firearm than without one — licensed, gun-carrying lawmakers and members of the public have their own no-wait security lane, and the unarmed masses have to stand in line and slog through the metal detectors.

But on Friday, gun rights throughout the state expanded still more, as a new law took effect that allows certain Texans to wear their handguns in holsters on their hips — or in shoulder holsters, Dirty Harry-style — openly displaying the fact that they are armed as they work, shop, dine and go about their day.

The so-called open-carry law has set off a long-simmering debate over the limits of the Texas gun culture and has given gun rights advocates a hard-fought victory after they pushed for the expansion for years. Members of the pro-gun group Open Carry Texas were to gather at noon Friday on the south steps of the Capitol for a gun-on-their-hips celebration before walking down Congress Avenue. Other groups plan to display their weaponry at events in Houston, Dallas and other cities.

“I think most people can expect Friday to be just like Thursday,” said C. J. Grisham, 41, a retired Army sergeant who formed Open Carry Texas in 2013. He says he plans to carry two semiautomatic pistols at the Capitol rally, and gave his 13-year-old daughter a pink .22-caliber rifle for her 12th

birthday. “I think everybody is overreacting.”

More than 40 states allow some form of open carry. But Texas will become the most populous open-carry state, and the public nature of the debate and vote has produced measures of elation, anxiety and confusion over the new law. The mixed emotions have prompted law enforcement agencies to hold public meetings and release informational videos to help put some residents at ease, particularly in the wake of high-profile mass shootings.

Open-carry supporters say more public weapons will help deter would-be criminals. Opponents say that police officers will have a hard time separating the good guys from the bad, and that there is no evidence that open-carry states are safer.

The change directly affects only a small fraction of Texans — 925,000 men and women with active state-issued licenses to carry a concealed firearm, close to 4 percent of the state’s 27.4 million residents. Only those with a concealed-handgun permit are allowed to open carry, and all of them must submit their fingerprints and pass a criminal background check.

Texans do not need a state license to buy a handgun but must meet the federal qualifications. If Texas gun owners want to carry their handguns outside their home, they must apply for a license through the Texas Department of Public Safety, be at least 21 and complete training courses and a written examination.

State lawmakers and gun rights advocates have played down the effect of the new law, saying that they believe that the majority of those licensed to carry a firearm will choose to keep it concealed. Even the author of the law, State

Representative Larry Phillips, Republican Sherman, said he did not plan on routinely wearing his handgun on his hip.

“I don’t think you’re going to see a major change,” Mr. Phillips said. “Most people I talk to say they’re going to conceal carry.”

Tim Vasquez, the chief of police in the West Texas city of San Angelo and the president of the Texas Police Chiefs Association, said police officials were bracing for “a huge learning curve” as they begin enforcing the law. “Most of us do support concealed, but we also understand that open carry creates a whole new set of problems,” Chief Vasquez said. “If our officers see someone with an open carry, they do have the ability to stop and identify whether that person is permitted or not.”

Gun rights will advance again in August, when students and faculty members at Texas universities will be allowed to carry concealed handguns on campus, although openly carrying them is prohibited.

The new open-carry law allows businesses to ban the visible wearing of handguns, by posting signs with specific required wording in English and Spanish. Merchants and restaurant owners have been busy in recent weeks deciding what to do, and gun rights advocates have vowed not to spend money anywhere that bans open carry. One pro-gun website, Texas3006.com, has been keeping track of the businesses that have posted signs and created a “Wall of Shame” for those with the most entries (at the top of the list was the Sprouts grocery chain).

Opponents of open carry have publicized their own lists, including the national group Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, which applauded H-E-B grocery stores, the Chuy’s Tex-Mex restaurant chain and others

Gun-Friendly Texas Continued

for banning open carry.

"We feel customers and employees will feel safer when people are not openly walking around with guns," said Anna Kehde, the Texas chapter leader of Moms Demand Action. "It's hard to tell who is a responsible gun owner and who is someone I should seek cover from."

Certain places are off-limits to concealed and unconcealed handguns under Texas law in most cases, including sporting events, amusement parks, bars, courts,

governmental meetings and places of worship.

The law has brought renewed attention to the state's licensed gun carriers, and questions of who will and who will not open carry.

For many pro-gun Texans, the arrival of open carry is not enough. Many of them did not support the open-carry bill but instead called for legislation for what they called "constitutional carry" — allowing Texans to display and wear their handguns regardless of whether they were licensed to carry a concealed fire-

arm because, they argued, the Second Amendment gives them the right to do so. They are urging the passage of a constitutional-carry bill in the next session of the Legislature.

The new law is anticlimactic for one other reason. Texas has no prohibition on the open carrying of rifles, shotguns and other long guns, a right that gun owners have taken advantage of in recent years by showing up at open-carry rallies and other events with loaded AR-15s and other military-style rifles strapped across their backs.

Concealed Handgun License

Extracted from <http://www.gunlaws.com>

Concealed Handgun License (CHL) officially changes to a **Texas License To Carry** or LTC - because it now protects both discreet and open carry of sidearms.

Bit by bit, the lost right to bear arms in Texas is being restored - at least for those with government carry papers - after decades of near-total infringement. carry without papers remains banned in Texas. ..

As Texas joins the rest of the nation in varying degrees of freedom to bear arms in public, I advise caution while the kinks are worked out, authorities get used to the new standards and procedures, social norms develop, shopkeepers acclimatize, the public gets used to the new normal of open carry, some bad apples test the limits of endurance and civility (not recommended), and a few of you become test cases to clarify the gray areas...

Do your best to avoid being a test case. The anti-rights advocates out there and some authorities will be looking for the very worst examples to make into test cases, to hurt our rights, make gun owners look bad in public, and set precedents that limit exercise of the Second Amendment. ... Don't argue in public while armed.

Especially in the early days of open carry, watch out for each other and be on best behavior. We don't live in the same wild west any longer. Belligerence or anything less than calm civilized behavior while you're reasonably well dressed and carrying openly is an invitation for scrutiny and attention you would do best to avoid... Go slowly as you test the waters.

Open carry has advantages, especially the "inoculation effect" on the uninitiated, when they see reasonable people going about business politely armed. Because you can switch over as circumstance merits, your carry options

grow. Criminals get the message, and things get better (despite lunatic ravings... in the "news" media).

But if I'm open, I am constantly on alert for a grab, and I know I've given up tactical advantage, along with all the chilling glances open carry attracts like superconducting magnetism. So I need a reason for it, like convenience on a range trip, or any of the many open carry banquets ("tasteful open carry appreciated"), political meetings and other events where it's the modern normal.

It's a double-edged blade to be sure. Sure, while it's new and you try it out, what an experience. Some acceptance, some disapproval, some fearful departures from your sight, some high fives and thumbs up, a woman clutches her child, talk about a conversation starter. Trying to act natural around traffic cops even when you know you've done nothing wrong...

David Cameron Uses Paris Attacks to Push EU Gun Controls

<https://www.nraila.org/articles/20151218/david-cameron-uses-paris-attacks-to-push-eu-gun-controls-while-finns-czechs-and-others-share-concerns>

Friday, December 18, 2015

Before a similar quote was attributed to Rahm Emanuel, former United Kingdom Prime Minister Winston Churchill supposedly stated, "never let a good crisis go to waste." While the quote is of questionable veracity, current-UK PM David Cameron seems to embrace the sentiment. Following November's heinous terrorist attacks in Paris, the Tory leader no longer appears content to merely subjugate the proles of Airstrip One, and has, in the run up to a European Council meeting held Friday December 18, demanded that the rest of Europe enact severe gun controls. While most of the EU is not a paragon of gun rights, at the moment some of its countries are considerably more respectful of those rights than the UK.

Back in 2010 when a coalition government led by the Tories took power, one might have reasonably expected that after having their rights demolished by Tony Blair and Gordon Brown's Labour government, UK gun owners might be afforded a respite. Unfortunately, if there's one thing the UK's two largest parties can agree on, it's diminishing any remaining civil liberties of British subjects. Other than a call for reason in the immediate aftermath of a 2010 shooting that left 12 dead in England's Cumbria County, under

Cameron's Tory government things have continued to decline for gun owners.

Most recently, the United Kingdom Home Office instituted a policy whereby gun owners are subject to unannounced inspections of their firearm storage practices. Moreover, it is yet to be seen if Cameron and the Tories will adopt a slew of recommendations from a September 2015 report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, which proposed further collaboration between a license holder's physician and the licensing authorities and granting police even more authority to conduct firearm storage home inspections.

The typically opaque EU has not provided a great deal of information on the precise nature of the what is contemplated at the European Council's forthcoming meeting, only stating in a backgrounder that, "leaders are expected to call on the Council and the Commission to identify and examine further ways to combat terrorism, including on terrorist financing and banning of high-powered semi-automatic weapons." In October, the council concluded that the European Commission should draft new gun restrictions. In the EU legislative process, the European Commission initiates legislation, which then must be approved by the European Parliament and the European Council.

On November 18, in the immediate aftermath of the terrorist shootings in Paris, the European Commission issued their proposed changes to European gun

law. The most highly publicized change would classify semi-automatic firearms in the same manner that fully-automatic firearms are currently, effectively banning these guns for civilian use. Other changes include stringent new recordkeeping requirements, new burdens on acquiring and maintaining firearms licenses, deactivation of cultural and historic firearms and the institution of a privacy-violating medical testing regime for license holders.

As of press time, only thirteen of the twenty-eight member states have submitted formal comments to the Commission on Firearms measures adopted on November 18, nine of which express concern with proposed semi-automatic reclassification (ban). The responses range from general reservations with the language and definitions to outright objections from member states such as Austria, Finland, Germany, Lithuania and Slovakia, with the latter emphatically noting that the envisaged ban "bears no relation to the core problem of the illegal 'black market' with firearms, which is the main source of weapons used in crime including terrorism".

On the media front, Finland appears to be leading the charge against the new restrictions in their current form. The Finns, who famously and against long odds fought off a Soviet invasion in the Winter War of 1939-40, have demanded exceptions to the ban in order to accommodate their system of national defense. According to a Reuters article, Finnish Interior Minister Petteri Orpo explained, "[w]e have tens of thousands of reservists who practice

Watch this space ...for more interesting firearm snippets

EU Gun Control Continued

national defense training voluntarily... That is part of our whole national defense and it must be protected." Another source quoted Orpo as stating, "[v]oluntary national defence is such an important part of Finnish national defence that Finland doesn't have room to compromise (on this issue)."

In addition to their availability for use in reservist training activities, Finns also own and use semi-automatic firearms for hunting. Exhibiting the characteristic aloofness of Brussels, Finnish news

outlet Yle Uutiset reported, "EU sources contacted by the Finnish Broadcasting Company Yle did not initially understand the use of semi-automatic firearms for hunting, and were not familiar with Finland's reservist operations."

While developments in EU gun control might seem a world away to many American gun owners, it is important to remember that the right to self-defense, and with it the right to keep and bear arms, is not merely an American right protected by the Second Amendment to our constitution, but a human

right that should be afforded to all peoples. Further, gun control supporters are quick to use foreign gun control regimes in attempts to portray the United States as an outlier in the Western world for our respect for individual rights. NRA will continue to monitor the proceedings in Brussels and keep our members apprised of updates concerning the firearms proposal.

Licences / Competency - Lisensie / Bevoegdheid

Licence Renewal Reminders

All SAGA members are urged to please check their firearm licence expiry dates as soon as possible. Licence renewals must be lodged **MORE** than 90 days **BEFORE** the expiry of the licence.

If your licence is due for renewal, we suggest that you get in touch with your local Designated Firearms Officer (DFO) to verify what specific supporting documents are required before handing in the application.

Vuurwapenlisensie Herinnering

Ons rig 'n dringende versoek aan alle SAGA lede om die verval datums van hulle vuurwapen lisensies so gou as moontlik na te gaan. Lisensie hernuwings moet **MEER** as 90 dae **VOOR** die vervaldatum van die lisensie ingedien word.

Indien u lisensie wel hernu moet word, stel ons voor u kontak u plaaslike Vuurwapenbeamppte (DFO) vir sy spesifieke vereistes en ondersteunende dokumentasie voor u die aansoek indien.

Competency Certificates (cards) as issued by the SAPS were valid for five years, if issued before 10 January 2011.

However if your competency certificate was valid as at 10 January 2011, then it has automatically been extended to expire on the same date as your longest **relevant** existing firearm licence.

Bevoegdheidsertifikate

(kaartjies) soos uitgereik deur die SAPD voor 10 Januarie 2011 was geldig vir vyf jaar. Maar indien jou bevoegdheidsertifikaat geldig was op 10 Januarie 2011, is die geldigheid daarvan outomaties verleng tot die vervaldatum van jou langdurigste **verwante** vuurwapenlisensie.



5 Reasons to Own a Suppressor

http://www.americanhunter.org/articles/2015/12/14/5-reasons-to-own-a-suppressor/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=insider&utm_campaign=1215

by Jeff Johnston
Monday, December 14, 2015

Thanks to tireless efforts of the NRA, the American Suppressor Association and several companies like SilencerCo and GEMTECH, silencers - perhaps more accurately described as suppressors - are legal for hunting in 37 states. Here's why you should pay the \$200 (plus the cost of the silencer) and start the process to purchase one now.

5. You'll spook less game.

Have you ever been hog hunting and saw three hogs, but only got one because the other two hogs ran off when you fired? With a suppressor there's a greater chance you can knock all three of them down. If you want the ultimate in spook-less shooting, use sub-sonic ammo. If deer are more your bag, being able to shoot does for management without making the bucks go as nocturnal as vampire bats is worth the \$200, albeit ridiculous, tax stamp to me.

4. They can save your ears.

It's like a muffler for your gun; hearing protection that you make your rifle wear at all times so you can forget yours. After all, if I lose my hearing now due to repeated gunfire, I won't be able to hear them announce my winning numbers at the bingo hall later on in life. Silencer owners are winners. Remember that.

3. Happy neighbors make happy hunters.

Most of us just want to live and hunt in peace. If we never see a Bambi-hugging neighbor who rushes to the sound of our gunshots and attempts CPR on our dying venison, we'd be peachy. Reality is, most land owners and Americans aren't anti-gun, they're just anti-getting-rocked-off-the-rocking-chair-while-they-watch-Tom-Selleck-do-his-thing-in-Blue-Bloods. Perhaps you can't help it that your hard-earned five acres in the country butts up to Mrs. Wallace's living room window, but if you choose to, you can help limit the noise produced from your 7mm shoulder cannon. It's called a silencer. Check them out on the Internet.

2. Less recoil means better accuracy.

There is absolutely no way that I am effected by a little recoil from a measly .30-06. I've been shooting all my life, and in fact, I relish a little love push from a cherished bullet pusher. Curiously, however, I shoot better with a .22 Win Mag. Isn't that weird? Most all humans perform better when they don't expect to get hammered in the face and shoulder by recoil. A silencer is like a muzzle break that mitigates recoil, but it also lessens the sound rather than exacerbating the boom. Just think, if only someone marketed a silencer for your son's car stereo system—what a world it would be.

1. It makes you a team player.

Because if you buy one, more people will buy them, and if more people buy them, more people will benefit from No. 2-5. In 1934 the \$200 tax stamp was like \$3,400 in today's money, and so because so few people bought silencers, over time many Americans assumed they were illegal. And with so few being sold, only a few companies were motivated enough to produce them. With little competition, silencers were expensive. But now that American hunters know they are legal and more states are legalizing them, more companies have sprung up, and good, old-fashioned competition has taken hold. Now silencers are finally coming down in price. As a bonus you'll save your ears, spook less game, your neighbors will love you, you'll shoot better and all your friends will want to be more like you. And that's a good thing, I think.

Note:

In South Africa suppressors (silencers) are legal without any permit or licence.