



SAGA SNIPPETS

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The Myth of “Declining” Gun Ownership

<https://www.nraila.org/articles/20160708/the-myth-of-declining-gun-ownership>

Friday, July 8, 2016

Americans are buying guns at an unprecedented rate and have been doing so for some time, but is gun ownership declining, as gun control supporters claim?

Gun control supporters want politicians to believe that it is, on the theory that politicians are more likely to vote for restrictions if they think that opponents of restrictions are in the minority.

Are gun control supporters guilty of what might be called “fuzzy math?” The fact that Americans are acquiring guns at a record pace is not in dispute. In the most recent report on background checks for firearm acquisitions, firearm purchase permits, and carry permits (which in many states allow a person to buy firearms without going through another background check) the data shows that checks have been increasing at a tremendous rate for several years. Similarly, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives reports a comparable trend in domestic firearms production and firearm importation over the same period.

The notion that gun ownership is declining comes from surveys asking people whether they or anyone else in their homes own firearms. Ever since the early 1990s, when then-President Bill Clinton pushed the Brady bill, the federal so-called “assault weapons” and “large” ammunition

magazine “ban,” and regulations that drove many gun dealers out of business, many gun owners have not identified themselves as such during the surveys.

For example, during the first three years of Clinton’s war on guns, Gallup surveys found that the share of people acknowledging that they had guns in their homes dropped from 51 percent to 38 percent. When the survey question was expanded to include guns in the home or anywhere else on the residential property, the figure fell from 54 percent to 40 percent.

Gun control supporters immediately seized upon the trends as “proof” that their campaign to convince the American people to dispose of firearms and to not acquire additional ones was succeeding.

However, like anyone else with common sense, Gallup recognized that trends in responses to its gun ownership questions might be explained by the degree to which people would want to acknowledge their gun ownership to strangers on the phone.

In 2011, when after hovering around 42 percent for the previous six years, the percentage of people indicating that they had guns at home or elsewhere on their property jumped to 47 percent in one year’s time, Gallup said:

“A clear societal change took place regarding gun ownership in the early 1990s, when the percentage of Americans

saying there was a gun in their home or on their property dropped from the low to mid-50s into the low to mid-40s and remained at that level for the next 15 years. Whether this reflected a true decline in gun ownership or a cultural shift in Americans’ willingness to say they had guns is unclear. However, the new data suggest that attitudes may again be changing. At 47%, reported gun ownership is the highest it has been in nearly two decades. . . .”

In addition, there is an even simpler reason that many respondents to a survey may not be entirely forthright about whether they own guns or have them in their home – they simply don’t want a stranger on the phone to know about their guns any more than they would admit to having other items of significant value in the home.

Though background check, firearm production, and firearm importation numbers show gun acquisitions soaring, a CBS News poll, conducted right after the terrorist attack on a night club in Orlando last month, with President Obama and others calling for gun control, found that the percentage of households with at least one gun owner had declined 10 percent since 2012.



Continued.....The Myth of “Declining” Gun Ownership

That’s a ten percent drop in four years, all the while firearm sales are skyrocketing. It doesn’t take a Ph.D. to know the reliability of these results should be questioned, if not discarded entirely.

Many in the media, out of their habit of believing anything that appears on its face to validate the theories of the gun control supporters with whom they intrinsically agree, have swallowed the “declining gun ownership” myth hook, line and sinker. For example, as we noted in January last year, in July 2014, Time.com identified firearms as one of the 10

Things That Americans Have Suddenly Stopped Buying.” “Stopped buying,” during a year in which there were 21 million firearm-related background checks and 12 million firearms manufactured or imported for sale in the United States.

These “reporters” fail to consider any explanation for survey trends other than the one that is sync with anti-gun activist groups’ propaganda. And they also fail to comprehend the conflict between what they want to believe about survey trends and other surveys that show a marked increase in

public support for gun ownership and opposition to gun control. As we noted in March, a year ago, as gun control supporters were claiming that gun ownership was declining, public support for gun ownership instead of gun control, and for the proposition that gun ownership increases one’s safety were increasing generally and among most demographic groups.

Gun Purchases Continue to Soar

<https://www.nraila.org/articles/20160708/gun-purchases-continue-to-soar>
Friday, July 8, 2016

Maybe Americans aren’t taking to Hillary Clinton’s sour attitude toward guns. Maybe they’re arming themselves out of concern about terrorists and criminals of a more conventional stripe. And maybe they’re showing what they think of members of Congress who use terrorists’ crimes as the excuse to push for more gun control.

One way or the other, though, Americans are continuing to acquire guns at an unprecedented level. The FBI reported this week that in June 2016, firearm-related background checks set a new record for any month of June, up 39% from the number of checks conducted in June 2015.

For the first six months of 2016, checks are up 32 percent over the same period in 2015. If the present rate of checks holds through December, there will be over 32 million checks conducted this year, more than double the number conducted during President Obama’s first year in office. There have been 26.5 million checks during the last 12 months, more than in any 12-month period previously.

NICS checks don’t precisely indicate the number of firearms acquired in a given time frame. But the trend in checks makes clear that Americans are acquiring firearms at a record pace. The annual number of checks has risen from 12.7 million during the last year of President George W. Bush’s administration to an average of 23

million during Obama’s second term.

NICS checks don’t stop criminals from stealing guns or acquiring guns on the black market, and criminals defeat checks by having other people, who can pass checks, buy guns for them. But they continue to deliver data undermining gun control supporters’ perennial boast that gun ownership is declining. If anything, the data suggest that the opposite is true.

Watch this space ...for more interesting firearm snippets

Doug Kirton 13 September 1954 to 11 June 2016

Long standing Trustee, Doug Kirton, sadly passed away on 11 June 2016 after bravely battling cancer.

Doug was a staunch supporter of firearm rights and of SAGA. He initiated many SAGA projects the most well-known being the two hugely successful Firearms Festivals which he organised in Durban in the early 1990s. These showcased to the public the many shooting disciplines, included firearm and other displays and were real demonstrations of responsible firearms ownership.



Apart from his involvement in SAGA, among other things Doug was a serious Comrades marathon runner, keen cycad collector, and directly supported many charities particularly for the aged, for children and for the abused.

He will be missed for his considered opinions, firearms knowledge and real diplomacy.

Our sincere condolences to his family on their loss.

General News

Trustees:

With the recent loss of Doug Kirton, SAGA has just three remaining Trustees. We are thus in the process of appointing new Trustees. Once this is finalised, more information on these appointments will be announced and appear in Snippets.

Office:

Mrs Gaye Marshall-Goodridge has been appointed as the new SAGA office manager. She is currently learning the ropes.

We welcome her to the position and have every confidence that she will settle in quickly and grow to be part of our SAGA family.

Rio Olympics 2016:

We have just been informed that not one single shooter (shottists) of any discipline, is going to the Olympic Games in Rio – can this possibly be true?

New eligibility rulings taken by SASCOC appear to be the reason. See document at this link for more:

<http://www.sascoc.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Olympics-SA-Shooting-Sport-Confederation.pdf>

SAAACA Arms Fair: 6-7 August 2016

The annual Arms Fair organised by SAAACA Gauteng will take place on 6-7 August 2016 at the Ditsong National Museum of Military History, Saxonwold, Johannesburg

SAGA will have a table and will be able to assist with memberships, have insignia for sale, etc.

The Fair will be open:

Saturday 6 Aug 9 to 5
Sunday 7 Aug 9 to mid-afternoon

For more information please contact SAAACA

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Hunters Contribute \$426 Million to African Economy



<https://www.americanhunter.org/articles/2016/6/15/hunters-contribute-426-million-to-african-economy/>

by Karen Mehall Phillips
Wednesday, June 15, 2016

Remember the recent story we posted about how hunters are contributing \$1.1 billion to U.S. wildlife conservation in 2016 alone?

Our collective economic impact doesn't end there. The latest scoop on what visiting hunters spend in Africa is \$426 million annually according to a new study from market research firm Southwick Associates (SA). The report "The Economic Contributions of Hunting-Related Tourism in Eastern and Southern Africa" re-searched hunters' total economic contributions between 2012 and 2014 in the top eight African hunting destinations: South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia. The findings? For starters, American hunters led the charge with the total number of visiting hunters worldwide exceeding 18,000 accounting for 53,000-plus jobs. Once again, hunting takes center stage as a driving force in wildlife conservation and in the growth of local economies.

For more on the study, which is so impressive that Bloomberg Economics covered it earlier this month, check out these five facts:

- The United States accounted for the greatest number of visiting hunters—74 percent—with Europe a distant second at 16 percent.

- Hunters spent an average of 14 days in Africa—11 of them hunting.

- Hunting parties averaged two hunters with one observer who provided additional economic benefits.

- The top three countries visited were South Africa (8,387), Namibia (7,076) and Zimbabwe (1,361).

- Average hunter spending was estimated at \$26,000.

Commenting on the study, which was conducted on behalf of the Safari Club International (SCI) Foundation, Rob Southwick, president of SA, said,

"Our results show that a substantial number of jobs and income are created by each hunter who visits Africa, and when you add them all together, hunting becomes a critical sector of the region's economy. Considering that hunting occurs in regions where photographic safari operations and agriculture are often limited, the economic benefits of hunting are critical."

This brings up an important point that emerged during the live "Hunters Conserve Wildlife" debate in New York City on May 4 when pro-hunting debater Catherine Semcer of H.O.P.E. (Humanitarian Operations Protecting Elephants) explained how photographic tourism and agriculture simply aren't feasible in many remote areas of Africa where hunting is the only viable method of providing economic opportunities and wildlife conservation incentives.

For more information on the study, click on the links below:

- Southwick Associates Full Report <http://www.southwickassociates.com/visiting-hunters-contribute-426-million-to-african-economy/>

- SCI Foundation - The Conservation Equation in Africa <http://safariclubfoundation.org/conservation-equation>

- Bloomberg Economics Full Article <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-06-09/hunters-answer-to-cecil-the-lion-outrage-we-create-53-000-jobs>

“Rap Back”: A New Federal Firearm Registry

By NRA-ILA Staff

Friday, May 27, 2016

As part of the FBI’s Next Generation Identification Program, the agency is implementing what it calls the “Rap Back” service. “Rap Back” provides law enforcement agencies – at their request – ongoing alerts on specific individuals. Once a person is entered into the system, the requesting agency is alerted whenever a new record is entered into an FBI database for that person. Such records include criminal arrests, warrants, convictions, and, in certain cases, the outcomes of civil proceedings.

The primary intended use of “Rap Back” appears to be for persons on probation, those who are the subject of an ongoing criminal investigation, or for others in highly sensitive positions, such as those with security clearances.

A new bill in Hawaii, however, would require all lawful gun owners in the state to be entered into the system. This is clearly not the intended purpose of the new system.

The Hawaii bill, SB 2954, would require local law enforcement to request a “Rap Back” on every person who applies for a firearm license or registers a firearm. In Hawaii, firearm registration is required for anyone who brings a firearm into the state, no matter how short the duration of their stay. In addition to creating a de facto gun registry of all legal firearms in the state, the bill would require that “Rap Backs” are requested on every hunter and competitive shooter who travels to Hawaii simply because they brought a firearm into the state – even if for only a single day.

The bill also contains no limits on the duration of the “Rap Back” requests, so even if a person sells their firearms or leaves the state, their names would continue to be in the system and Hawaii law enforcement would receive updates whenever a new record is entered into FBI’s database. In short, once gun owners are in the system, they are in forever.

This de facto registry conflicts with the intent of several provisions in federal law that are aimed at preventing the establishment of a federal firearm registry. And, while Hawaii is the first state to consider implementing “Rap Back” firearm owners, FBI has clearly contemplated widespread use of the “Rap Back” service for this purpose as FBI’s own Rap Back Services Form lists “firearms” as one of the limited categories for which a “Rap Back” can be requested.

NRA has long fought to protect the privacy of lawful gun owners and to prohibit the establishment of a federal gun registry. We are already hard at work to ensure that the “Rap Back” Service and anything like it cannot be used as a backdoor federal firearm registry or a mechanism to monitor law-abiding gun owners....

<https://www.nraila.org/articles/20160527/rap-back-a-new-federal-firearm-registry>