

# Windage

Benton Gun Club Newsletter December 2007

## Range and Match News

The dirt work for the 600-yard range began on November 14. It should be completed by the time this newsletter goes to press, but just in case it isn't, please be sure to call the club information line to make sure the range is open BEFORE you drive out to the range. (Choose option 4 to get the current status.) The dirt work on the upper part of the road has been partially completed, but was halted due to bad weather. This work may also be completed by the time you read this.

In match news, a motion was made to allocate a budget of \$1,200.00 for the spring regional smallbore rifle silhouette match. This motion was seconded and passed. Since this amount exceeds \$1,000.00, a followup vote will be required at the January club meeting.

In other news, the new Conex storage has been purchased and installed near the plinking range. It will be used for storing match materials and range supplies.

Also, the IDPA safety officer class set for November 17 was cancelled.

Finally, Dan Wagner reported that the layout for the archery range has been completed. It will be presented to the membership at the January club meeting.

## Important Renewal Information

Your newsletter includes important information on the address label. If you see the letters "NS7" after your name it means that you have not taken the required range and safety orientation. You will not receive a 2008 membership renewal form until this requirement is taken care of. If an "8" appears after your name it means that the club has received your 2008 membership renewal form and you will receive your new gate key sometime during the first week of February 2008. If "07" appears after your name it means, the club has not received your 2008 membership renewal form as of the release date of the December newsletter.

Please note that the December and January issues of the newsletter will be sent by regular mail only, so that members can view the address label and see their current membership status.

## Renewal Forms Mailed

All 2007 members in good standing have been mailed the 2008 membership renewal form. If you have not received yours, please call the club phone number (315-3071) and leave a message with your current address and another form will be sent to you. The current deadline for renewing your 2008 membership is February 11, 2008.

## Special NRA Renewal Rate

At the November club meeting the NRA offered a special NRA membership renewal rate to our club members: five years for \$100.00. The offer is good from November 26 to December 26, 2007. Send a check to the club at P. O. box #139, Benton, AR. The club secretary will fill out the necessary paperwork and send it to NRA headquarters. Your check must be received on or before December 26, 2007.

## 2008 Match Schedule

You'll find the 2008 Benton Gun Club match schedule on page three of this newsletter. We have many matches in a wide variety of disciplines, with something scheduled for almost every week of the year. Please take a look. We're sure you'll find something you'll like.

## Please Observe All Range Rules

Anyone observed violating the club range and safety rules is subject to dismissal from the club. New members, make sure that you know what type of firearm may be used on each range. If you don't know, read your bylaws.

Someone has caused severe damage to some of the target board posts on the plinking range. Hidden, motion-sensitive security cameras have been installed to find out who is doing this. James Squires once again asks that shooters PLEASE stop shooting at the posts. If you need a practice target, contact James and he'll get you one.

Copyright © 2007, Benton Gun Club, Inc., P. O. Box 139, Benton, Arkansas 72018-0139.

**Newsletter Editor:** Craig Boyd. Send newsletter submissions and "for sale" notices to the club P. O. box.

[www.bentongunclub.org](http://www.bentongunclub.org)

Range and Club Information Hotline..... 501-315-3071

### Club Meetings

Meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Ramada Inn in Benton (I-30 Exit 117).

### Officers

President..... Paul Stiedle (517-0756)  
Vice-President..... George Rhode  
Secretary-Treasurer..... Rex Gismond (315-3071)  
Range Maintenance Officer..... Bob Elrod (778-2165)  
Range & Safety Orientation..... James Squires (847-2147)  
Youth Program Coordinator.....  
..... Chuck Anderson (602-2971 or 951-3066)

### Range Subcommittee

Chairman..... Pat Holsted (766-4942)  
Smallbore Rifle and Pistol Silhouette.....  
..... Frank Bray, Jr. (653-0630) or Jim Wood (847-9244)  
High Power Rifle..... Open  
Pistol..... Larry Egger (803-9002)  
Rifle, up to 200 Yards..... Open  
Shotgun..... James Squires (847-2147)  
Plinking Range..... Open

We'd also like to remind club members not to move target stands closer to the sheds or pads. All target stands must be placed directly in front of a designated berm or backstop. Failure to comply with this rule, or any other range rule, may result in revocation of your membership.

## New Members

We welcomed fifteen new members at the December meeting. They are Aaron Lofton, Aubry "Roy" James, Arthur Helmkamp, Sean Guerrero, David McCarney, Tom Stoddard, Jim Lindsey, Harlon Glover, Ted Meyer, Richard Ackley, Donald O'Conner, Jeffery Lovell, Bobby McGehee, Bill Parker, and Robert Burnett. Welcome to the club, folks!

If you are a new club member and a new member of the NRA, please send a copy of your membership card or the label from your NRA magazine to the club post office box. This will enable the club secretary to update the files with your NRA number and correct expiration date.

Please note that all new members must attend the mandatory range and safety orientation before using the range. You are not a fully qualified member until you attend the orientation.

Also, don't forget that all new members are entitled to shoot in one club match per shooting discipline free of charge. Look over that match schedule, and come out and experience the fun of competition shooting.

## News from the NRA

Here are some news items from the NRA Institute for Legislative Action ([www.nra-ila.org](http://www.nra-ila.org)). The following items are copyright 2007, National Rifle Association of America, Institute for Legislative Action.

### ***The Supreme Court and the DC Gun Ban - Setting the Record Straight***

Now that the Supreme Court has agreed to review the decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, in *District of Columbia v. Heller* (formerly *Parker v. District of Columbia*), which struck down three D.C. gun bans as unconstitutional, many newspapers are publishing editorials, opinion pieces, and letters to the editor that read suspiciously like the anti-Parker "essays" that the Brady Campaign has been posting on its website for the last few months.

Here are the main points to use when refuting the Brady Campaign's erroneous claims:

1. The Supreme Court's decision in *Heller* may be limited. The Supreme Court has said that its review of the Court of Appeals decision will be "limited to the following question: Whether [Washington, D.C.'s bans on handguns, on having guns in operable condition in the home, and on carrying guns within the home] violate the Second Amendment rights of individuals who are not affiliated with any state-regulated militia, but who wish to keep handguns and other firearms for private use in their homes."

The case doesn't deal with carrying a gun away from home, doesn't seek to overturn D.C.'s firearm registration law, and doesn't seek to overturn other laws in D.C. or anywhere else.

2. In *U.S. v. Miller* (1939), the Supreme Court recognized that the Right To Keep And Bear Arms is a right of private individuals. It did not, as the District of Columbia claims, consider the Second Amendment to protect only a right to be armed while serving in a militia, or a "collective right" of a state to maintain a militia. As the Court of Appeals noted in *Parker*, the Supreme Court said in *Miller* that the militia consists of "civilians primarily, soldiers on occasion . . . bearing arms supplied by themselves." (Emphasis added.)

3. Under the Supreme Court's decision in *U.S. v. Miller*, the District of Columbia's ban on handguns is clearly unconstitutional. As the Court of Appeals ruled, "the District's claim runs afoul of *Miller's* discussion of 'Arms.' The *Miller* Court concluded . . . that militiamen were expected to bring their private arms with them when called up for service. Those weapons would be 'of the kind in common use at the time.' There can be no question that most handguns (those in common use) fit that description then and now."

4. The Right To Keep And Bear Arms is clearly a right of individuals, because it existed prior to the Constitution. Gun control supporters talk in terms of whether the amendment "creates," "grants," "establishes," or "confers" a right, because to acknowledge that the amendment protects a right that existed before the government did, would amount to admitting that the right belongs not to government, or those on duty in a government's militia, but instead belongs to private individuals. But, the amendment does not say, "the people shall have a right to keep and bear arms." It says, "the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." (Emphasis added.) As the Supreme Court said in *U.S. v. Cruikshank* (1876), "This is not a right granted by the Constitution. Neither is it in any manner dependent upon that instrument for its existence. The second amendment declares that it shall not be infringed."

5. The Second Amendment protects The Right To Keep Arms, as well as the Right To Bear Arms. Brady claims that "the right to keep and bear arms" means only "the right to bear arms" (when on active duty in a militia), but that the Supreme Court should ignore the word "keep." But the Court of Appeals rejected the idea that "keep" has no meaning, saying "we do not take it seriously," and saying that it "mocks usage, syntax, and common sense," adding, "Such outlandish views are likely advanced because the plain meaning of 'keep' strikes a mortal blow to the collective right theory. . . . We think 'keep' is a straightforward term that implies ownership or possession of a functioning weapon by an individual for private use." Of course, to "keep" means "at home," precisely what is at issue in *Heller*.

6. When the Second Amendment was written, it was universally considered to protect a private Right To Keep

And Bear Arms. The idea that the amendment protects a right to arms only when serving in a militia, or a so-called "right" of a state to have a militia, were first invented by activist lower courts in 1905 and 1943, respectively. Interestingly, the Brady Campaign adheres to both of the bogus theories, though they contradict one another.

### ***Fortifying The Right To Self-Defense***

"Law is order, and good law is good order," Aristotle said. Without doubt, Florida's recently enacted "Castle Doctrine" law is good law, casting a common-sense light onto the debate over the right of self-defense. It reverses the pendulum that for too long has swung in the direction of protecting the rights of criminals over the rights of their victims. Despite predictable howling from the anti-gun media elite that Florida was taking an unprecedented and dangerous action, in truth it joined 24 other states that reject "duty-to-retreat" laws.

Passed overwhelmingly in the state legislature--unanimously in the Senate and 94-20 in the House--the new law removes the "duty to retreat" when citizens are outside of their homes and where they have legal right to be. It says that if a criminal breaks into your home or occupied vehicle or a place where you are camping overnight, for example, you may presume that he is there to do bodily harm and use any force, including deadly

force, to protect yourself from a violent attack. Floridians who defend themselves from criminal attack are shielded by the new law from criminal prosecution and from civil suits brought by their attackers.

In testifying for the bill, Marion P. Hammer, executive director of Unified Sportsmen of Florida, said: "No one knows what is in the twisted mind of a violent criminal. You can't expect a victim to wait before taking action to protect herself and say: 'Excuse me, Mr. Criminal, did you drag me into this alley to rape and kill me or do you just want to beat me up and steal my purse?'"

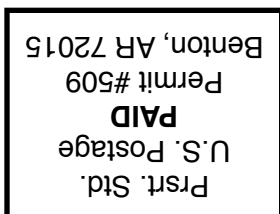
Florida's "Castle Doctrine" law does the following:

One: It establishes, in law, the presumption that a criminal who forcibly enters or intrudes into your home or occupied vehicle is there to cause death or great bodily harm, so the occupant may use force, including deadly force, against that person.

Two: It removes the "duty to retreat" if you are attacked in any place you have a right to be. You no longer have to turn your back on a criminal and try to run when attacked.

Three: It provides that persons using force authorized by law shall not be prosecuted for using such force. It also prohibits criminals and their families from suing victims for injuring or killing the criminals who have attacked them.

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year*



Benton Gun Club  
P.O. Box 139  
Benton, AR 72018-0139