



Riverside

Located in the densely wooded New England countryside with facilities to support our members whether your interests are competitive shooting, breaking clays, fishing, plinking, sharpening your skills for hunting or just socializing.

Quarterly

April 2024

Archery

Year round programs for both junior and adult archers. USA Archery, State Assoc., National Assoc., and the Junior Olympic Archery Development (JOAD) Program. [\(page 4\)](#)



High Power Rifle

A variety of programs for a range of shooting interests including participation in the Highpower, CMP Civilian Marksmanship Program events and the Rifle Clinic.

Pistol & Rifle

A variety of programs for a range of shooting interests

Skeet & Trap

Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday Shoots every week. Three fields are configured to support different shooting programs including skeet, trap and 5 stand with lights. [\(page 2\)](#)



Banquet Facility

Function hall, dance floor, band stand, and kitchen area with a separate entrance area and full function bar has a capacity of 150. Rental includes bartender and cleanup. Caterer and DJ available for functions.



Clubhouse

Outdoor Patio, Horse Shoes, Trout Pond, Sports Bar Big Screen in the Smoke free Club House, Banquet Hall dates available.



Club information will be maintained on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/RiversideGC.org>

Fish & Game

The trout are jump'n in our fully stocked trout pond. Badges available at the clubhouse.



Education & Training

The hands-on firearms courses, education & tactical schedules

SKEET & TRAP



It has been a busy season at the clay fields. The mild winter was conducive to lots of shooting and completing some backlog of projects.

We had near-record turnout for special events, including the popular holiday shoots. In addition to our large number of regulars, there has been an influx of new shooters including several couples across skeet, trap & 5-stand. We also hosted a men's baby shower outing; a first!

[\(Continued on page 2\)](#)

← Archery →

Winter has been very busy for Riverside GC Archery!

The indoor range was updated in December with a new convertible target wall system that transitions from 12 lanes to 10 for tournament compliance. These changes made it possible to have a sold-out tournament return to Riverside, hosting 100 archers from across New England.



[\(Continued on \(Continued on page 4\)](#)

from the President's Desk

The annual spring cleanup is scheduled for April 13th starting at 9:00 am. Volunteers should bring tools like rakes, shovels, and leaf blowers. We usually have need for a little chain saw work. The club grounds, trout pond and outdoor ranges are included in the area needing a cleanup. We normally have good crowd out there and it goes pretty fast. Many hands make short work. Neal Pressman is directing the activity.

The Pistol Team finished the season and awarded Chad Brigham top shooter with a 269 average and Jeffery Croteau the most improved shooter beating last year's average by 45 points. Shooters making the top 5 were 2nd Mike Hoeffler – 265, 3rd Claud Clerc

[\(Continued on page 5\)](#)



What a crowd!



Michael K shooting station 3



Everyone having fun.



Dan L Station 1



John B Station 7



Ping L shooting Trap at Thanksgiving

The end trap field is now equipped with voice-activated release, allowing smaller groups or singles to shoot. Stop by and give it a try.

Fall cleanup was a snap. With over a dozen volunteers, we raked fields, cleared some debris and cleaned & restocked houses in record time.

Thank you to Ken B and Paul C for refurbishing the benches at each of the fields. I would also like to thank Medina Tree Service right here in Hudson and Mark Nardone Tree Service for their help and generosity in removing several very large tree limbs threatening some of our structures on high field.

Last fall 17 students from the Assabet Valley Regional Technical School, Painting & Design team provided a makeover of all the outer skeet, trap and 5-stand structures including some fences led by their instructor Tim Tonelli. The students did an outstanding job of scraping, painting & staining everything. All these structures look brand new! Field work is part of the program curriculum, giving students experience working in a variety of conditions and environments.



OUTDOOR CLEANUP VOLUNTEERS



Paul C, Ken B & Frank H working on benches



Assabet students prepping his House



Mark Nardone Tree Service on upper field



Fall loading targets, Thank everyone!



Assabet students prepping house



Medina Tree Service from Hudson doing tree work



End Trap field voice release set up



Assabet students finished high house



Ken B with Johnny D fixing road

If you are interested in learning to shoot skeet or trap, please contact me at fharrington@riversidegc.org. The 2024 clay fields schedule is on our website here:

<https://riversidegc.org/Skeet.shtml>

Hope to see you at the fields.

Frank Harrington

Chairman

fharrington@riversidegc.org



ARCHERY



Riverside’s adult (Rogue Team) and youth (Riverside Archers) tournament teams have been venturing out across New England collecting top positions in multiple divisions during the indoor season. The State Archery Association of Massachusetts compiles an annual ranking of individual archers that has placed many from RGC at the top for 2023; Certificates of achievement have been posted in the range. The group picture is from the most recent 55th USA Archery Indoor Nationals held at Tantasqua Regional High School with over 600 archers from the northeast.

Outdoor season is just around the corner, with more changes in store for the outdoor ranges. Thanks to archery range officers Buzz and Marnie Hooker for getting a big jump clearing the main field.

If you are an archer or interested in becoming involved, please send an email to RGCArchers@gmail.com to be put on the mailing list. This will keep everyone informed of changes and events. The largest uncertainty remaining pertains to the new Hudson transfer station that is planned to abut the long-distance range. I walked the range in November with the owners of BP and was given assurances that the integrity of that range should not be adversely affected. Fencing and berm placement seems promising. One concession will be the loss of the field targets to the right of the 70M range. That is undisputable Hudson property and necessary to keep the proposed fence as far into the wood as possible and away from the other ranges. We are still waiting for the final plan revisions.



Constructing a new Target Wall

Thank you,

Mark Garriepy
RGC Archery Committee Chair
President -State Archery Association of Massachusetts
USA Archery State Director
– Massachusetts



Archers on the line

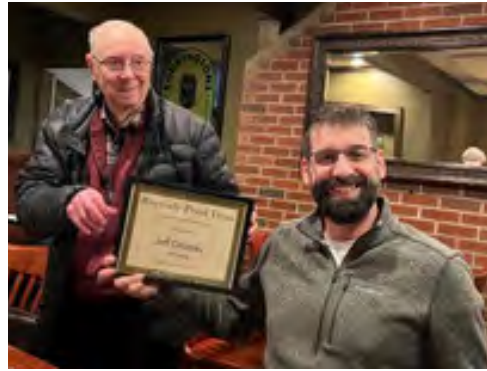


PRESIDENT’S DESK *(continued from cover page)*

PISTOL TEAM



Chad Brigham—Pistol Team highest Average - 269



Jeffery Croteau Most improved pistol shooter 2024



Riverside Pistol Team Banquet

253, 4th Mike Connelley – 253 and 5th Neal Pressman – 246. The Pistol Team will continue shooting on Wednesday night throughout the summer with a very relaxed and casual score-your-own target session.

The summer session is a very good time for new shooters to come out. If anyone is interested just drop by any Wed Night around 6:00pm for an orientation.

No experience is necessary.

The **High Power Rifle Team** kicks off the new season soon. Contact Mike Hoeffler for details relating to the program. You are welcome to observe a home match and an orientation. Check the schedule on the club website, <https://riversidegc.org> at the High Power page.

Bill McDonough has a very robust training and education program with **Home Firearm Safety** and **Basic Pistol Skills**

classes. For the more experienced shooter the **Beyond Basic Pistol Skills** class expands and builds upon the basic knowledge, skills learned in the **Basic Pistol Skills** course. You can find more information in the Education Director’s article in this newsletter or you can email Bill for course information and/or registration packages on any of these programs at BMcDonough@riversidegc.org.

We stock the pond every spring—predominately rainbows and browns. Trout pond badges are required for the season and are available in the club for \$20. Look for the first trout stocking the end of April. There will be no fishing 3 or 4 days following the stocking to allow the fish to acclimate.

See you on the Range.

Mike Connelley

CRUZ DOES IT AGAIN

On November 20th our old friend Gregory Cruz put on a fantastic Advanced Pistol course on the Riverside 60-yard range. Cruz is one of the premier firearms instructors in the country, having taught the federal air marshals, many police departments and was the instructor for the Smith & Wesson Academy and more.

It was a frigid November day with the thermometer never getting as high as 35 degrees. Nonetheless the class was fantastic, and all of the students learned a whole lot about defensive shooting. Everyone improved their shooting skills and got to experience the challenges of cold weather shooting. With a little luck, we will get Cruz back this Spring for a Fighting Shotgun course. He put on the course two years ago and it was amazing.



Cruz explaining a shooting concept



RIVERSIDE EDUCATION

The 2024 Riverside education schedule provides opportunities for our members and guests to enhance their knowledge, safety and proficiency. These courses not only provide essential skills but also promote responsible firearm ownership. Beyond the education, those who participate experience great camaraderie. This is a summary of the courses that will be offered during 2024. Keep an eye on your email for schedules and announcements.

Fighting Shotgun

By popular demand, Gregory Cruz is returning to Riverside with his incredible Fighting Shotgun course. Cruz is the premier shotgun instructor in the country. If you own a shotgun, you don't want to miss this course. Learn how to load multiple shells into your shotgun with lightning speed and quickly fire aimed rounds. Learn to load one and shoot, load one and shoot..... These drills are guaranteed to put a major league smile on your face.



Advanced Pistol

The USCCA DFS1 Course - The USCCA DFS1 course is designed for experienced pistol owners looking to enhance their skills. It delves deep into advanced shooting techniques, concealed carry considerations, and defensive strategies, providing a solid foundation for responsible armed self-defense. Again, this year, Bill Dalpe from the Patriot Firearms School will run this course for us. Bill is an outstanding instructor.

Defensive AR-15 Course

This course will also be taught by Bill Dalpe from Patriot Firearms School. The defensive AR-15 course is tailored to those who own an AR-15-style rifle. Participants learn how to operate this firearm safely and effectively, with a focus on defensive shooting techniques, marksmanship, and home defense scenarios.



The NRA Home Firearm Safety Course

(Massachusetts Firearms Licensing Requirement) - In Massachusetts, prior to owning a firearm citizens must complete a state approved course. After completion of said course, citizens can apply for a Firearms Identification Card (FID) or a License to Carry (LTC). The NRA Home Firearm Safety course when combined with a module which teaches crucial elements of Massachusetts firearm laws is a prerequisite for obtaining a firearms license. This course emphasizes safe handling, storage, and transport of firearms, ensuring that individuals meet the state's stringent firearm laws. Given the ongoing effort by the Massachusetts Legislature to further restrict our Second Amendment rights, every citizen of the state needs to get licensed now before the requirements change for the worse.

The NRA Basic Rifle Course

Riverside's own Tony Tufo will be the instructor for this course. It is designed to provide participants with the fundamental knowledge, skills, and attitude necessary for owning and using a rifle safely and effectively. Throughout the course, students will be introduced to various types of rifles, including bolt-action, semi-automatic, and lever-action models, and they will learn how to safely handle, operate, and maintain them. Key topics covered in the course include firearm safety rules, rifle parts and operation, ammunition knowledge, shooting fundamentals, shooting positions, rifle shooting techniques, range rules, cleaning and maintenance procedures, and storage options. The course consists of both classroom instruction and hands-on shooting exercises conducted under the supervision of NRA-certified instructors. By the end of the course, students can expect to have a comprehensive understanding of rifle safety principles, marksmanship fundamentals, and the confidence to handle rifles responsibly and competently. Whether they are beginners seeking to learn the basics of rifle shooting or experienced shooters looking to refine their skills, participants will gain valuable knowledge and proficiency to become safe and effective rifle enthusiasts.



Tactical Tuesdays

“Tactical Tuesdays” is a popular weekly tactical handgun advanced shooting session that provides ongoing training and practice opportunities. It covers a wide range of topics, including rapid target acquisition, movement drills, and scenario-based training, allowing participants to continually refine their skills and stay prepared for real-world situations. It is done on the 60 yard range from May through mid-October.

Basic Pistol Skills (3 courses)

The Basic Pistol Skills program consists of three progressive courses. The first course (Basic Pistol Skills) starts with the very basics. Assuming that the students are new to handguns we must start with the most fundamental skills.

The second course in the series (Basic Pistol Skills Plus) builds on the skills which are developed in the first course. In this course the students work on improving accuracy and begin to work on multiple target engagement.

The third and final course in the series (Beyond Basic Pistol Skills) is advanced shooting. The students continue to work on accuracy and new more complex drills are added to the course curriculum and the students can work on moving around the range and shooting at multiple targets. These courses provide a path for new shooters to learn the skills they need to really become great shooters and feel confident should they decide to take more advanced courses from the great outside instructors that we bring to Riverside.

Although not yet scheduled, we will be setting up:

- NRA Rifle Instructor
- USCCA Concealed Carry and Home Defense
- NTRA Refuse to Be a Victim, First Aid, Stop the Bleed

Whether you're a novice seeking basic firearm safety or an experienced enthusiast looking to hone your skills, these courses offer valuable resources for a safer and more informed shooting community.

Education Director

Bill McDonough

bmcdonough@riversidegc.org

CRUZ RETURNS TO RIVERSIDE WITH FIGHTING SHOTGUN

On November 20th our old friend Gregory Cruz put on a fantastic Advanced Pistol course on the Riverside 60-yard range. Cruz is one of the premier firearms instructors in the country, having taught the federal air marshals, many police departments and was the instructor for the Smith & Wesson Academy and more.

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ARE YOU AWARE

At least half of all people who have a Firearms Identification Card (FID) or a Massachusetts License to Carry (LTC) are not aware that you must inform the state and the local communities when you move. You have 30 days from the date of the move to get it done. We are in really good company on this as the only two categories of people who have to notify the state/city when moving are firearms permit holders and sex offenders. (I can not control myself so I will editorialize now – Gun owners and sex offenders must register. I suspect that many of our legislators would rather have the sex offenders living next door to them than gun owners.)

Be aware that any change of address must be reported. If you move from 1 Main Street, Unit 1 to 1 Main Street Unit 2 in the same town, you must report the change of address. Not reporting your move can prevent you from being able to renew your FID/LTC or even get it suspended.

Fortunately, the Change of Address form is very simple and not a major deal. The information required is at your fingertips.

Unfortunately, the form must be sent by certified mail, although not difficult, it does require a trip to the post office. Make sure that you do not carry your firearms onto post office property as it is a serious offense. The form must be sent to the Firearms Records Bureau, the police department that issued your current license, and the police department of the community you are moving to. Note that as of 2020, you can call the Firearms Records Bureau rather than sending the form in the mail, however since you will be at the post office anyway.....

You can get the form [here](#).

The important section of the form looks like this:

Date			FID card or LTC #		
Last Name, First Name			Date of Birth		
My new <u>residential</u> address is:					
Number			Street		
Apt.# or Unit #			Apt. # or Unit #		
City/Town		State	City/Town		State
Zip			Zip		
Change of Address Notification – 02.2020					

What if you moved more than 30 days ago and did not send in the form? You should probably do it now. There is a good chance that the local police department won't be concerned about the timing so long as they know where you are.



The best \$30 a gun owner in Massachusetts can spend! Become a GOAL member. GOAL is our first line of defense against the anti-Second Amendment forces in Massachusetts.

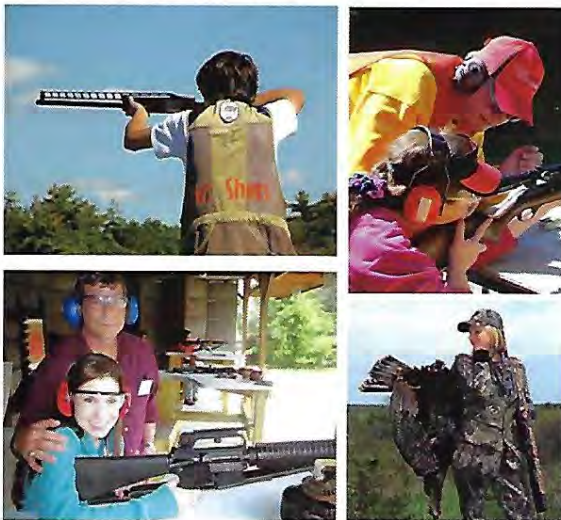
Join Today!



Gun Owners' Action League was formed in 1974 to protect the right to keep and bear arms for lawful purposes in Massachusetts. We are a grass-roots organization of law-abiding citizens who are working to protect our rights and our shooting sports heritage.

Whether you choose to lawfully own a firearm for recreation, self-defense, hunting, competition, collecting, or any other lawful reason, GOAL is working to restore and defend our rights and heritage in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Please join the thousands of other lawful gun owners who have made the commitment to restoring and protecting what is rightfully ours. Your membership could make the difference in how the future looks for lawful gun owners! Thank You.



Gun Owners' Action League



Post Office Box 567
Northboro, MA 01532
Phone: 508-393-5333
www.goal.org

Gun Owners' Action League 508-393-5333

Name _____
Street _____
City/Town _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email (required) _____

Go Paperless

New Former Renewal: ID # _____

Junior (under 21) 1 year \$15

Junior Date of Birth (Required): _____

Individual 1 year \$30

3 year \$75

5 year \$125

Family 1 year \$35

3 year \$95

5 year \$150

List family members:

Life Sustaining \$750

Benefactor \$1,500

Patron \$3,000

We offer a monthly payment for Life Memberships, please call us for details.

Donation amount \$ _____

Send check or money order — do not send cash!

Gun Owners' Action League
361 West Main Street
Northborough, MA 01532

Join online: goal.org/join-us





THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS TRAMPLES ON OUR RIGHTS AND SAYS "SCREW YOU" TO THE US SUPREME COURT

Once again, the Massachusetts legislature has decided to fix a problem that does not exist. The Massachusetts legislature will not be satisfied until it completely outlaws firearm ownership in Massachusetts. For the past year they have been working on the most egregious anti civil rights law in the country. This is clearly a temper tantrum by our elected officials who do not like the fact that the Supreme Court in the Bruen case stated that all of the enumerated rights of the Bill of Rights are absolute and that they cannot be "infringed". Prior to this ruling, many in government believe that the Second Amendment is secondary and does not have to be upheld with the same vigor as the other amendments, such as the First Amendment – The right to free speech and the exercise of religion, the Fourth Amendment – prohibiting unreasonable search and seizures, the Fifth Amendment – protection against *self incrimination* and more, the Sixth Amendment – due process. I won't go through them all, but you should get the gist.

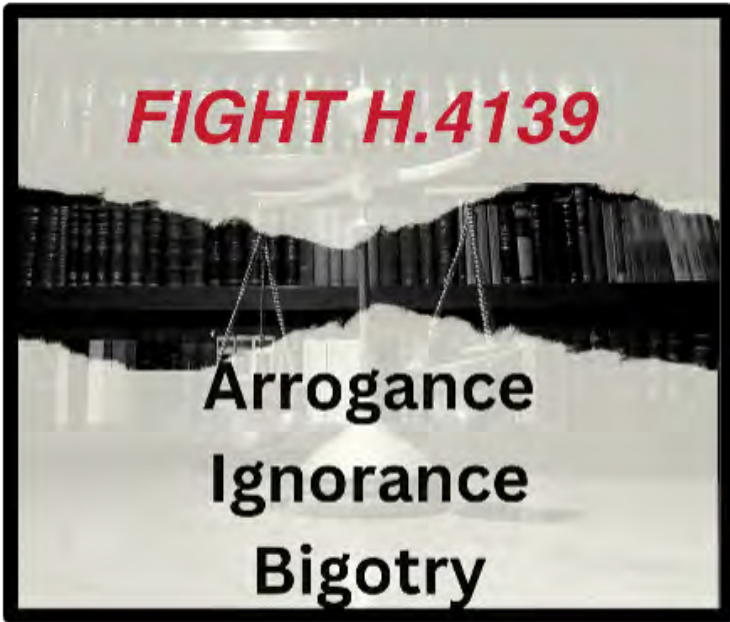
The Gun Owners Action League (GOAL) works tirelessly to stay on top of the proposed legislation and, in the past, has done a remarkable job of preventing the worst language from getting into the new laws. They have even managed some wins but this time, the cards are stacked, the legislature, the Governor, and the White House are aligned against us.

The Massachusetts State House is out of control!

ProcessMatters.org

Call your legislators and demand they restore order to the process.

617-722-2000

The preponderance of the Massachusetts legislature dislikes (many would say loathes) gun owners. They want unarmed society which must rely on the state for protection. We all know how well that works. Gun confiscation is not beyond their final target. You can accuse me of hyperbole. I have read the proposed language, and it is clear: guns and gun owners are *bad* and the Massachusetts legislature must do something about them.

This proposed law is not just insidious and extensive (the GOAL summary of the language is 28 pages – [read it here](#)), it has been pushed through with no transparency using the most underhanded methods that the legislature can manage. If the law is good, then why the shenanigans?

It is remarkable how so much of the country has been working to enhance the citizens' Second Amendment rights while a handful of states; Massachusetts, New York, California, etcetera are striving to eliminate those rights. Fifty Eight percent that is 29 states now have constitutional or permitless carry of concealed firearms. Among these are our friends to the *north*; Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. All of these have less violence, including violence using firearms than over-controlled Massachusetts. There is no denying the facts.

Here's the deal. Unless we all stand up for our rights and make phone calls, write letters and challenge the legislature, we will lose our rights. Also, if you are not a member, join GOAL. Don't think that it is not that bad. Read the law, it is the anti-2A wish list. And, make no mistake about it: Not a single life will be saved by this law, but lives will be lost when we are not able to carry to defend ourselves.

See you on the Range,
Bill McDonough
Education Director
bmcdonough@riversidegc.org



AR-15 DEFENSIVE SHOOTING

On August 19th Bill Dalpe from the Patriot Firearm School put on an outstanding AR-15 course on our 60-yard range. Each student shot somewhere around 500 rounds of 0.223/5.56 and had a blast. Bill's excellent teaching techniques allow for a non-intimidating experience for every shooter, whether experienced or novice.

The defensive AR-15 course is tailored to those who own an AR-15-style rifle. Participants learn how to operate this firearm safely and effectively, with a focus on defensive shooting techniques, marksmanship, and home defense scenarios.



ALL responsibly armed Americans how to respond efficiently and effectively during a dynamic critical incident.

This Patriot AR-15 Defensive Shooting class is designed to expose students to an efficient method of defending themselves with an AR-15 during a dynamic critical incident. All of the principles and fundamentals of the USCCA AR-15 Shooting Fundamentals program are applied, and the following topics are covered:

- Four Points of Contact with an AR-15 and Intuitive Shooting Fundamentals
- The Balance of Speed & Precision with an AR-15
- Primary and Secondary Aiming Methods
- Zeroing concepts
- Volume of Fire
- Critical Incident Reloads & Efficient AR-15 Handling
- Fundamental AR-15 Malfunction Clearing

Notwithstanding the eight-hour length, the subject and the shooting in the class, AR-15 defensive shooting class was not a physically challenging course.

GOAL

OUR GOAL IS 100% MEMBERSHIP IN GOAL

The Gun Owners Action League (GOAL) is the official state firearms association in Massachusetts. GOAL is an association of law-abiding citizens who believe that the basic right of firearms ownership.

GOAL works to defend the Constitution and Bill of Rights against those in Massachusetts who wish to infringe upon the freedoms guaranteed by our forefathers.

Now, more than ever, we need to support GOAL and participate in their activities. HD4420 is an incredible attack on our Second Amendment and hunting rights. It has been described as worse than an amalgamation of the worst gun laws from California, New York and New Jersey. It is a

legislative temper tantrum because our single-party rulers in Massachusetts did not like the Supreme Court's Bruen decision.

If you are not a member of GOAL, you need to join. This organization is the defender of our rights. The Massachusetts legislature just passed a law that essentially allows anyone who is afraid of you because you own guns to file a complaint (valid or not) with the local police and without any hearing or other due process, the police can go to your house and confiscate your guns. The law does not provide a mechanism for you to get them back without an appeal to the court and, even if the complaint is found to be without merit, it can be used as a reason to deny your LTC renewal. This bill ignores all aspects of mental health. The only purpose is to allow the confiscation of our firearms/ removing our rights without due process.

If we don't have GOAL, we will lose our rights.

If you are not a member, please follow this link:

<http://www.goal.org/joinggoal.html> and join today.

WHO IS GOAL

- GOAL was founded in 1974
- Over 100 gun safety & educational training classes per year
- Protects conservation lands, Woodlands, hiking areas, fields, and more
- Grassroots and members supported
- From Beacon Hill to Advocacy
- Protecting your freedom begins with GOAL!

GOAL Gun Owners' Action League
Protecting Your Freedom Begins Here!

WELCOME A MEMBER TODAY

STAFF@GOAL.ORG



WHERE CAN I NOT CARRY MY GUN

There are a lot of places where firearms carrying is prohibited by law. (Yes, it has no effect on criminals. But we are law abiding citizens who gleefully follow every government edict.) Let's start with the Massachusetts basics. The following list is extensive but may not hit every prohibitions.

- It is unlawful to possess a firearm on your person on any school grounds; elementary, high school or college. However, if you have written permission of the school board or official in charge, you can have an exception. Good luck with that.
- You may not carry a firearm anywhere on post office property.
- You may not carry a firearm in any federal office building.
- You may not carry a firearm on Army Corp of Engineers property.
- You may not carry on a military base.
- You may carry your firearm in most national parks but not in the visitors' centers.
- You may not carry a firearm in any courthouse – all jurisdictions; federal, state, county or local.
- You may not carry a firearm on Massport property. You can have an unloaded, properly cased and locked firearm on the non-sterile side of an airport for the purpose of checking it for a flight.
- You may not carry a firearm if you are under the influence of alcohol or other substances.
- You may not openly carry a shotgun or rifle on a public way unless you are engaged in hunting.
- You may not carry a firearm in a casino.

So that is Massachusetts and some federal guidelines. What are the other rules?

In Massachusetts, does a no guns signs have any legal enforceability? The simple answer is no. However, nothing in Massachusetts is simple. If you are in a private establishment that prohibits firearms you are not breaking any laws, however if the legal occupant (owner/employee) tells you to leave because of your firearm, you must leave. Do not debate, argue, disagree, demand your 2A rights, just shut your pie hole and get out. If you don't, the police will arrest you for trespassing and since you have a firearm, the trespassing misdemeanor skyrockets exponentially to an aggravated charge and you will be spending some time in a 6X9 cinder block accommodation and big bucks on a difficult legal defense.

What if you are traveling?

By air – The TSA is very accommodating. They provide the information on their website. In addition, every airline includes detailed information on their websites. The folks at the ticket counter tend to be easy to deal with and will help. Put your unloaded handgun(s) in a good quality hard case with a good lock. Make sure that the case can not be opened more than about 1/8 inch with a lock in place. Keep in your luggage which is to be checked. Do not even think about putting it in your carry-on. If you do put a gun in your carry-on, you deserve what you get.

Go to the counter and tell the agent that you have a gun to check. They will have you show them the case so that they can check it out. They may want you to take the gun out and show that it is in a safe condition, I personally grimace at the thought of displaying a gun in a crowded airport, but, hey, it is their responsibility. You will be instructed to put the case back into your luggage which you will put on the scale, and they will put it on the luggage conveyor. You will also be required to complete a form attesting to the fact that the gun is unloaded. You can also put your ammunition in the luggage. At the other end of your flight, you can collect your luggage when it tumbles off the conveyor belt with all the other luggage. I recommend that, before you walk away, you open your luggage and check that the case is there. I do not recommend opening the case in the airport as there are too many eyes and people who would freak out. Not to mention that you might be breaking local laws about possessing a firearm in an airport.

Note that I only mentioned handguns. It works the same for long guns just the cases are bigger, and they don't go into your luggage.

Also be cautious if you are transporting a "large capacity" gun or magazines, or the dreaded "assault weapons". Make sure that they are legal to possess at the other end of your trip. Once off the plane, you are subject to the whims and crazy gun laws that may exist there. After all, Massachusetts is not the only whacky state.

["Where Can I Not Carry My Gun" on page 13](#)



WHERE CAN I NOT CARRY MY GUN

By bus – Every major long distance bus company prohibits carrying a firearm on their buses. Generally, this includes ammunition and firearm accessories. Some companies will make accommodations for licensed gun owners.

By cruise ship – Firearms are prohibited on a cruise ships.

By train – It is illegal to carry a firearm on an Amtrack train. If the service has checked baggage, reservations can be made to check guns with your baggage.

By auto/personal vehicle – The McClure-Volkmer Act, otherwise known as FOPA (The Firearm Owners Protection Act), provides protection for those of us who drive to various parts of the country. If you are traveling through a state in which you do not have a firearms license or reciprocity, you can legally transport your firearms across the state. There are caveats; all firearms must be unloaded and cased. The firearms must not be accessible to the passenger compartment. This is very difficult in an SUV but it is possible. You must be simply passing through the state. That means no stopping at tourist attractions or to take a tour. It does not provide protection if you for an overnight stay so get through the unfriendly state and spend the night in a free state.

Another note on FOPA. It only applies to vehicular travel (auto, truck, motor home, motorcycle, etc.). If you are traveling by air and have a connecting flight where you have to take possession of your luggage, make sure that it is in a state where you are licensed or have reciprocity, or even better make the change in one of the 29 constitutional carry states.

See you on the Range,

Bill McDonough

Education Director

bmcdonough@riversidegc.org