



# 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 Newsletter

January 2017

### Fish & Game

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

### Gun Laws

The education of new and experienced shooters Gun Laws

See article on page 5

### Clubhouse

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

### Pistol & Rifle

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

### 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

See page 2

### Archery

Year round programs for both junior and adult archers. USA Archery, State Assoc., National Assoc., and the Junior Olympic Archery Development (JOAD) program.

See page on page 4

### Banquet Facility

Large function hall, dance floor, band stand and attached 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.

## 2017 Fishing Derby & RAFFLE



Details on page 3.

## 2016 Christmas Party



See article on page 3.

## 2016 SAAM Indoor JOAD & Star FITA



See article on page 4

## Skeet & Trap

## Winter updates

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## GUN LAWS

from the Riverside  
Education Director

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New Shooting  
Coming this Spring

See article on page 6

## HELPING NEW SHOOTERS

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## from the PRESIDENT'S DESK

I'm an outdoor sportsman — my principal activity is fishing, but most importantly I'm a conservationist. I love being along side a stream observing nature close up during any season. Fishing is a sport of change — ability to adapt to the environment is necessary. I'm fishing whether it's rain or snow, clouds or sun — it's a great escape from our worldly problems, but we are increasingly forced to confront the aspects of global warming and the man-made climate changes. Maybe this means fewer fish, the absence of insects (fish food) or habitat lost to wildfires, floods, or higher atmospheric temperatures.

Climate changes are not new. The earth's temperature has always fluctuated to such degree of an ice age only to recover to warm extended periods of warming. As the ice age climate submitted to the global warming, the change to permitted Greenland to become habitable and the Vikings settled there. They farmed and raised livestock (likely reindeer) until the little ice age closed in and made the growing seasons too short to sustain the settlement's food source. The thing that bothers many scientists about the current warming trend is the rate of change currently ongoing; therefore many conclude the rapid warming trend is man  
(continued on page 3)

# RGC SKEET & TRAP NEWS

## WINTER

Another year has flown by; amazing how quickly this seems to happen.

We had a fun and productive 2016. We have welcomed many new shooters to skeet and trap. Coaching by our NRA instructors has helped these shooters develop basic skills, and make steady improvement. We have also had several shooters achieve first-time perfect rounds on the skeet field. Congratulations!



*Ken shooting at night in the snow*

Our trap field has become more popular over the last year. More new shooters are showing interest in the sport, and some veteran skeet enthusiasts have expanded their horizons in this area. We encourage more of you to try it... you might like it. Our 5-stand setup has been busy taunting shooters to no end. We have several 5-stand setups depending on the weather (winter) and other activities and will continue to make challenging targets a must.



*Jim clearing ice.*

We had a record 23 outings last year, ranging from corporate work groups, to birthdays and bachelor parties. Most participants have never shot skeet or trap and it is always fun to see them hit their first target. The Scouts visit us regularly to shoot trap, and many 1:1 lessons have taken place. Our Thanksgiving and New Year's Day fun shoots went well. The pot luck was fantastic (thank to all who brought food), and lots of turkeys found good homes in the freezers of many. Unfortunately, our Christmas shoot was cancelled due to ice and rain, but part of the fun is planning these events, so at least a few of us had a good time. Our second annual fun competition shoot with our friends from the Maynard Rod & Gun Club took place this past summer. We shot 5-stand, skeet and trap, followed by food and prizes. The club that placed first will go unnamed, but please stop by the RGC skeet shack to check out the trophy!

On the facilities improvement front, we completed the equipment upgrade project by replacing our three oldest clay machines, and now have most 5-stand, all skeet and trap machines working wirelessly, which helps tremendously in the snowy winter months.



*Paul shooting at night in the snow*

A new electric utility feed line was installed, along with complete underground recabling of power distribution to the skeet and trap houses. The new power is stable and reliable, so machines are no longer subject to damage related to poor power quality. Thank you, Bill, for all your work on that front. Finally, our good friend Art applied his horticultural skills to make our fields look great. It's amazing how good grass can look when you know what you are doing...

Hope everyone had a good holiday and look forward to seeing everyone in 2017.

*Frank Harrington*

Chairman

# 2016 Kids Annual Christmas Party

The Christmas Party was a big success.



Twenty-Seven Children had a great time—Pizza Lunch, Entertainment by a Magician and for the Grand Finale,



Santa arrived on a Fire Truck and presented each child with a gift.



Everyone had a great time.



made. Some go out really far on the limb and claim that the man made events are irreversible—well, maybe or maybe not. Skeptics say that the weatherman or lady on TV, using the same science the climate change advocate are using, yet they have a difficult time getting the forecast right next week, much less 10 or 20 years from now. No doubt carbon emission contribute to warming and whether the earth's atmosphere can cleanse itself as it has in the past isn't the purpose of my article! I do know that trout adjust to changes over time. However, the Coldwater fish like trout and salmon and the organisms supporting the aquatic food chain have adapted to past change, the question facing us is whether the currently rapid changes in temperature will allow nature's evolution to keep up with the trend---that could be a biggie! I don't intend to discuss whether global warming is going to terminate the world.

Well, here we are and we can only do what we can and maybe that is simply adjust to the conditions.

I know that warm water is lethal for cold-water fish species. Maybe I'll be fishing for warm water bass versus trout and landlocked salmon. So, after the fire, after the flood, after the warming spawning water, some organizations come along to restore the habitat, the best they can. There are many organizations that support wildlife. Two are worth mentioning: Ducks Unlimited and Trout Unlimited do a lot for the improvement of wildlife habitat. There are many others that contribute a great deal to upland game, turkeys, Deer through Sportsman clubs like ours, private organizations and the Federal Wildlife Restoration Programs. Since our wildlife is a public trust resource, I like to say that it's important to support the organization that supports you.

I wish you all a Happy New Year

I'll see you on the Range.

*Mike Connelley*

## RAFFLE—FISHING PACKAGE



2017 Fishing Derby Raffle – Proceeds to Jr. Rifle and Trout Pond

### PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Creek Country 8 ft Pontoon Boat
- Air Pump—Used one season
- Trolling motor--New
- Portable Fish finder --Hummingbird (Piranha Max 215)--New
- 1 Cabela's Fresh Water Spinning Rod & Reel--New
- 1 Cabela's Fresh Water Bait Casting Rod & Reel --New
- 1 Cabela's Salt Water Spinning Rod & Reel--New

Drawing Takes Place at Riverside Fishing Derby April (Date--TBD)

Raffle Tickets: \$5.00 each or 4 for \$15.00.

# 2016 SAAM INDOOR JOAD & STAR FITA

By Megan Regensburger, Riverside Archers Road Team Member and Level 2 Certified Archery Instructor

From Dec. 2 to 4, 2016, the Riverside Gun Club hosted the 2016 SAAM Indoor JOAD & Star FITA archery tournament. This is the Massachusetts State Archery Tournament for youth involved in USA Archery's Junior Olympic Archery Development (JOAD) program.



There was a great turnout of 143 Archers in 41 Divisions, filling the six time slots. It will be an event to remember from the very youngest to the most experienced archer that participated.

Thanks to the wonderful work from our Tournament Director Udo Regensburger, Archery Chairman Larry Sullivan, and our IT-specialist, Sung-Hee Do. The competition ran as smoothly as possible and all competitors had a good time.

We also wish to thank Dan Mongeau - our equipment manager, Brad Reynolds - our "utility outfielder," for their great help and Rosaleen Sullivan who did a wonderful job organizing the concession stand and preparing most of the food that was offered. We also wish to thank the Riverside JOAD group and the many, many other volunteers who lent a hand to make this the most successful archery tournament event for the Riverside Archers thus far.



It is a beautiful thing to share an event like this with fellow archers coming from as far away as New Hampshire and Rhode Island or from as close as Wellesley College. I am certain that everyone enjoys the social aspect of a tournament, since you are able to meet fellow archers from all over New England and spend some time executing your favorite past time in the company of friends.

A good number of adult Riverside archers shot in the Star FITA at this competition. It was a pleasure to see many of the JOAD archers participating in this event as well. The Riverside Road Team had 7 archers competing and won 5 Silver medals and 2 Bronze medals.



The revenues from this tournament will benefit all of the Riverside Gun Club archery programs. This ensures that there will be another year of wonderful archery time at the Club with no increase in program participation price.

This was a great finish to our 2016 season. We all now look forward to prepare for the 48th Indoor USA Nationals in Fiskdale, MA in February, spring, and the return of the outdoor archery season.

# BRINGING NEW SHOOTERS TO THE RANGE

I'm following through with Part-2 of the article, "Bringing New Shooters to the Range" by Blogger--Straight Shooter Jake. The article is divided into four parts so that it can more easily be fit in our newsletter. Part 1 was included in the Oct 2016 newsletter. However you can read the full article at the following website:

<http://straightshooterjake.blogspot.com/p/part-i-bringing-new-shooters-to-range.html>

Whether you are new to shooting or a veteran, you can benefit from the article.

Chapter focuses on the fundamentals of shooting—namely safety. It's a great read—check it out!

## HELPING NEW SHOOTERS PART 2: TEACHING BEGINNERS

### 1 Goals for beginners

When bringing beginners to the range, think about the goals that will be achieved during their first few range days. Many people want to get to the range and fire off a bunch of rounds. You may have guessed that I am not a believer in that goal. Here are my goals for a new shooter's first few visits to the range.

- They should know how to unload a gun and make it safe.
- While unloading, keep the muzzle in a safe direction and keep their finger off the trigger.
- They should get familiar with firing a gun.
- They should have a good time.
- I hope they also learn to hit a target, but that's gravy.

These goals tie directly to my earlier point about starting with only one round per magazine. Beginners should get comfortable with loading and unloading procedures. By starting with just one round in the magazine, they will get a lot of practice handling the firearm and changing magazines. After they are comfortable with one round, have them load two or three. By the time they have shot 30 rounds, they will have switched magazines more than ten times and they will start to know how the gun works.

Often, new shooters only have good focus for 30 or 40 rounds. I have seen people start a new shooter by loading a full magazine into the gun for them. These new shooters may shoot 40 rounds on their first day without ever loading the gun themselves. I don't think that makes their day easier; really it kind of cheats them. At the end of the day, that person has shot a gun, but they still can't use one.

### 2 Equipment for training beginners

To create a positive experience for new shooters, you need the right equipment. For both rifle and pistol, people should start with a .22 if possible. The low noise and minimal recoil of a .22 allows beginners to stay focused on fundamentals. If you don't have a .22, you should think about getting one. You'll enjoy shooting it too.

Semi-autos are not ideal for beginners, but they are fine if you handle them properly. As mentioned above, load only one round at a time until you know the person can maintain control of the firearm. Loading

one round is easiest if you have several magazines and can load one round in each one. If you don't have many magazines, this may be the excuse to buy more.

You need dummy rounds or snap caps for training. People should learn basic firearm handling in a safe quiet area. The basic handling drills should include load, unload, and make safe, and dry fire. I'll discuss this more below, but dummy rounds are a requirement.

Think carefully about what guns beginners will use when they are ready to move up from a .22. I am going to specifically discuss handguns here because I see the most issues with them. Several factors make guns harder to shoot. These factors include: firing a more powerful round, having a smaller grip size, lighter overall weight, heavier trigger pull, and shorter sight radius. In short, many popular handguns for carry and concealment are very difficult to shoot. These guns are not suitable for introducing beginners to centerfire. Many beginners will be ready to shoot these guns fairly soon, but often not on the first day.

Full sized pistols service pistols in .38 special and 9mm are the best choice for when people are ready to move up from a .22 to a centerfire. I personally love snub-nosed double-action-only revolvers, but they are hard to shoot, and people need to work up to them.

If you do not have a .22, it may be OK to start some beginners with a full sized pistol in .38 special or 9mm. This is a judgment call based on the confidence and competence of the individual. A full size pistol is really preferable here, and using a smaller or more powerful handgun will make training much more difficult.

### 3 Some general notes on teaching

When you bring new people to the range, you are actually coaching an athletic activity. You need to guide people through basic skills before moving to more complex skills, which rely on those basics. This is not always exciting, but it is how people learn every physical skill.

Stay within people's capabilities. If people have never shot before, their first shots should be with a .22 from a bench rest position. This position lets them really focus on sight picture and trigger pull.

Some people will need a bit of practice before they can visualize the sights correctly. Other people may be ready to shoot centerfires from standing position within a few minutes. Watch each person and see that they are comfortable and have good control before moving to a harder skill. I see a lot of issues caused by people doing things they are not ready for just because other people are doing them.

If you are working with children, or with students who are nervous about firearms, it is important to start with a .22 rifle. Rimfire rifles are the easiest and quietest firearms to shoot, and it is important to make a positive first impression for young or nervous shooters.

Set realistic goals for the first few lessons. Good goals might be: learn safe gun handling, get comfortable loading and clearing the firearm, put many shots into a great big target, have a good time. Many times someone coaching a new shooter has told me that the person needs to fire a very powerful gun on the first day for some "important" reason. The reason might be "that's our house gun" or "everyone should experience big magnums". All people really learn from moving ahead too quickly is how to flinch. Flinching is a natural instinct, so it is easy to teach. Let's teach control instead.

You should be careful not to teach too much at once. People need an introduction to firearms safety, operation of firearms, and fundamentals of shooting before they can safely take their first shots. Do not include things at the beginning, which could safely wait until later. For someone who is new to firearms, even the basics can be an overwhelming amount of information.

I also want to mention trying to be quick with firearms. Being quick is a very advanced skill and people should not do anything quickly until their basics are solid.

Now that I have discussed not pushing people ahead too quickly, I want to talk about one exception. Sometimes people are convinced that they can't do something, which they really can. Part of being a good coach is helping people move through these barriers successfully, so in some cases you may need to push people a little.◊

*New Shooting Pits Coming this Spring*

The Riverside Gun Club continues to make the Club better and better. In case you have not noticed, there have been a lot of improvements done in recent months such as the repaved parking lot, significant repairs to the Clubhouse new carpets and hard wood floor in the function hall, upgraded bathrooms in the function hall and more. The outdoor ranges were de-leaded, the indoor pistol range was repainted and skeet and trap added five stand. There is even more which I am not mentioning.

Now we are working on building two new shooting pits adjacent to the 25-yard range. Recognizing that defensive shooting has been growing faster than all other types, the Club has been working to provide improved facilities for this growing demand. The sketch provides an

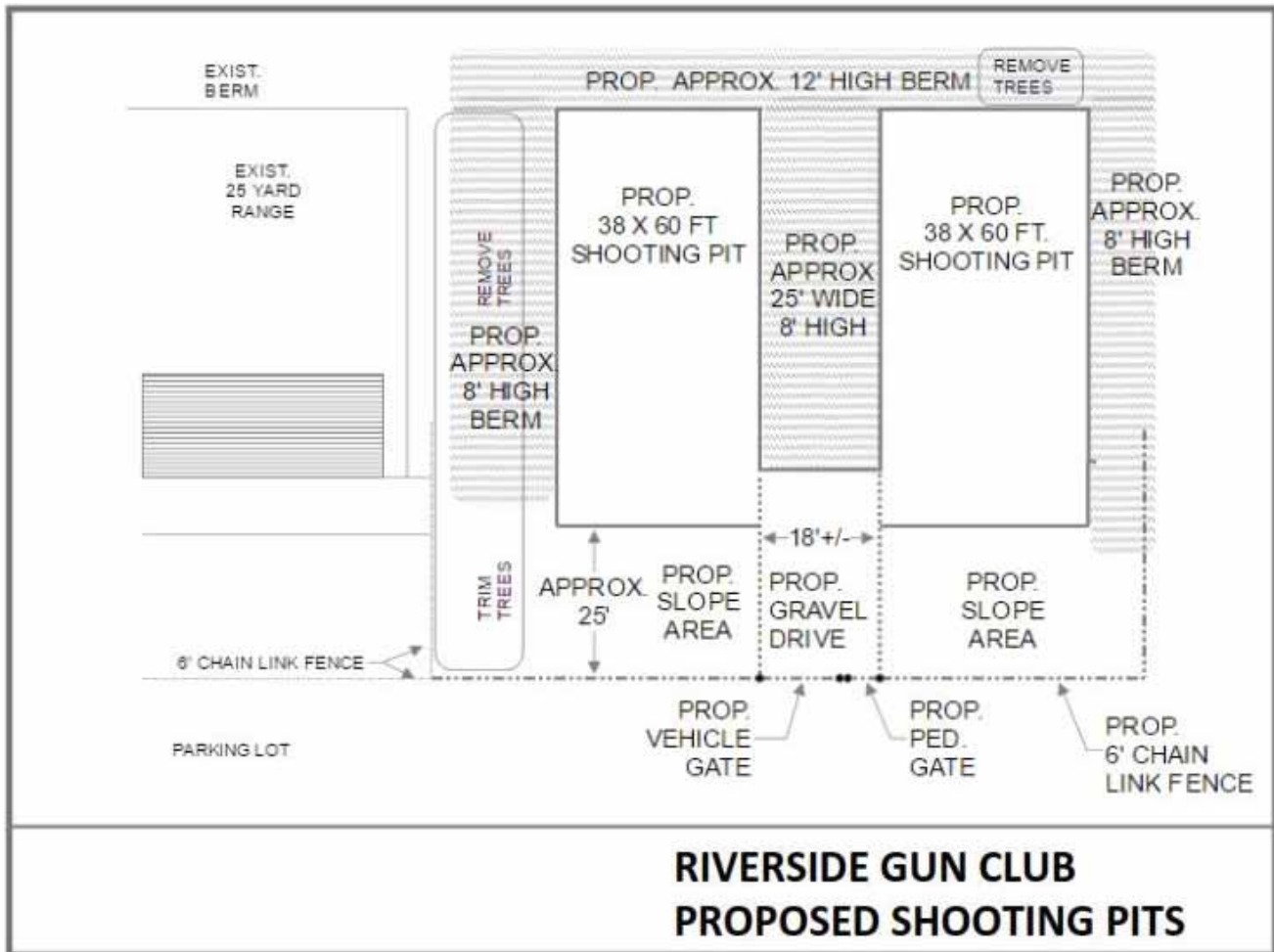
overview of the proposed shooting pits. If you go to the range and take a look, you will see the outline of the pits by short orange flags. They will be located to the right of the 25-yard range. A fence and berm will separate the new pits from the 25-yard range. There will be fence to enclose the pits with a gate which will provide separate, exclusive entry to the pits. A gravel driveway will extend from the parking lot to the central area between the pits for both pedestrian and vehicle access. Each of the pits will have berms on three sides to allow shooting in three directions. Multi-directional shooting in a new concept for Riverside. Some of the shooting techniques, such as drawing and shooting at multiple targets are also new or have been done on a limited basis before on the existing ranges.

Since shooting in these pits will offer more aggressive shooting techniques, shooting in these pits will require additional qualifications which will include demonstration of safety procedures, knowledge of defensive shooting techniques and demonstration of drawing and shooting proficiency. A separate endorsement will be added to the qualified members' key cards which will be set up to open the shooting pits gate. Look for more announcements as we get closer to opening.

Be Safe, Be Responsible

*Bill McDonough*

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*from the* Riverside Education Director

On Wednesday evenings, the Riverside bulls-eye pistol team shoots in the indoor pistol gallery. After shooting, we typically gather at the bar to discuss philosophy, higher mathematics, physics and other heady subjects (obviously, a bunch of over educated, elitists know-it-alls). I confess to being a blow-heart myself.

A few weeks ago, I was in a discussion with another shooter about transporting shotguns. The other shooter stated that rifles and shotguns have to be unloaded and in a locked case while being transported. I disagreed and stated that, in Massachusetts, non-large capacity long guns only need to be cased during transport. He was so certain that he was correct he very gentlemanly asked if I minded if he looked it up. Not only did I not mind, I encouraged him to look it up. I truly believe that, when it comes to gun laws, especially the confusing Massachusetts gun laws, that we must always check and double check to make sure that we always remain on the right side of the laws. My friend was certain that he was right because when he and some other shotgunners went to Rhode Island for a shoot, they had to unload and put the guns in a locked case. And I agreed that the law required that their shotguns had to be unloaded and put in locked cases. What! Did I just contradict myself? NOPE!

In this case, we were talking about two different laws, Massachusetts v. Federal law. So under Massachusetts law, non-large capacity long guns only need to be unloaded and cased for transport within the state. When traveling to Rhode Island (or any other state, Federal law applies, specifically, the Firearms Owners Protection Act (FOPA). FOPA provides us with the lawful transportation of our guns across all states, provided that we can legally possess the firearms at both ends of the trip. So, here it is in summary, when transporting: Massachusetts – non-large capacity rifles and shotguns must be unloaded and cased, FOPA (transporting between states) – All guns must be unloaded and in a locked case - simple.

Note that for Massachusetts, I specified non-large capacity long guns but for the Federal law, I stated all guns. In Massachusetts, we complicate things. Our laws separate guns into three categories; firearms (legal definition-handguns and barrels less than 16 inches), long guns (rifles and shotguns), and large capacity weapons. So, as stated previously, non-large capacity long guns (rifles and shotguns) must be unloaded and cased. Firearms (think pistols), must be unloaded and in a locked case. Large capacity weapons (any hand gun or semi-automatic long gun with a magazine, attached or detached, which can hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition) must be unloaded and in a locked case. Clear?, good!

But, you ask, am I not I legal when I carry my handgun loaded in a holster on my hip and drive all over the state including into the People's Republic of Cambridge and the, better-to-be-a-victim-than-protect-yourself-with-a-gun, City of Boston? That depends on your License to Carry (LTC). Refusing simplicity, Massachusetts has two official types of licenses plus the option to place restrictions on the licenses. So, if you have an unrestricted License to Carry, you can legally carry a loaded handgun in your possession while traveling in Massachusetts with some limitations. Even with an unrestricted LTC, it is not legal to transport a loaded a rifle, shotgun or large capacity weapon in your possess or otherwise.

When I started writing the previous section, I thought that it would take a paragraph, one and a half paragraphs at most. Four paragraphs later, I still have not mentioned everything about transportation of guns in Massachusetts. Although I had to use it above, I hate using the word weapon when I refer to guns as the term weapon encompasses much more than guns. Weapons includes such everyday items like knives, fists, trucks, cars, hammers, sickles and so very much more. But our ever creative law makers chose to redefine the word firearm to be only handguns or guns with a barrel less than 16 inches in length. So while the rest of the world calls firearms, well firearms,

in good ole MA we can't. Thus, the word gun means any type of gun and ,in Massachusetts legalese, weapon is mostly about guns and, of course, firearms are handguns. Pay attention, there will be a quiz on this later.

Well, you are probably thinking why the heck should I give a damn about all of this semantics stuff, that as they say, is what makes the grass grow. Well, it is funny how important words are in the law. Remember, ignorance is no excuse under the law. Read the wrong meaning into the Language of the law and you could find your world turned completely upside down. Especially in a gun unfriendly state like Massachusetts, we must be very careful to always take a conservative approach to protect ourselves from legal overreach.

Ok, let's take a look at some other parts of the law.

Remember just a few lines above we discovered that the word firearm has special meaning under Massachusetts law. Well, our fantastic law makers decided back in '98 that not all firearms are suitable or adequately safe for our purchase from dealers in Massachusetts. We should show our law makers greater appreciation as they work so diligently to protect us from ourselves. So they came up with testing requirements which must be satisfied by all firearms by an independent testing lab prior to the firearms being eligible for sale by a firearms dealer in the Bay State. The end results of the testing process is that the three guns submitted for testing are destroyed (well messed up) in the process. If the guns pass muster, then they are included on the Approved Firearms Roster which is one of four rosters which define the guns which our state government has approved for us. It is a good idea to note at this point that many fine manufacturers of excellent firearms refuse to submit their expensive firearms for destruction, I mean testing, thereby removing many fine products from our selections. Among these are Kimber and Springfield Armory.

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So, you would think, that making it onto the Approved Firearms Roster is enough, but oh no, not here where we must be protected from those underhanded firearms manufacturers. Enter the Massachusetts Attorney General's office. Apparently soon after the creation of the approved rosters, the then Attorney General decided to further protect us using the consumer protection regulations. You know those are the regulations which are used to stop the sale of certain consumer products, like can openers, microwave ovens etcetera, after said product has maimed or killed a bunch of people. Well, ever vigilant to protect us the Attorney General's office preemptively used its consumer regulations to further reduce the firearms available for purchase by adding more requirements for the manufacturers to include on the firearms. Many manufacturers tried to comply but not all were successful as the new regulations were not exactly clear. Thus, this additional hoop, some would say obstruction, further reduces the firearms for us to select for our collections. One example is Glock which is on the Approved Firearms Roster but is prevented from sale in Massachusetts by the Attorney General's undermining.

Of course, the final insult to the honest taxpayers of the Commonwealth is that law enforcement officers are exempt from the Attorney General's regulations and can buy these firearms for themselves. They are also exempt from the Assault Weapons Ban, which, with little doubt, has not and will not prevent a single crime or injury but magnificently serves its sole purpose - to keep law abiding citizens from exercising their constitutional rights.

Ok enough pontificating. Just the facts from now on.

If you have a firearms license in Massachusetts and you move, you must report your new addresses to the Massachusetts Firearms Records Bureau, the police department where you are moving from and to the police department in your new town.

Even if you are just moving within a municipality, you must still report your movement. You have 30 days to complete the reporting process and there is a simple form to use. By the way, in Massachusetts there are only two types of people who have to report to the police when they change address; sex offenders and firearms licensees. Perhaps there is a message in there. I seem to recall that a certain, to remain unnamed presidential candidate who did not win the election insinuated or maybe stated that all legal gun owners are essentially criminals.

**The law requires that ammunition be stored in its original box and kept in a locked container.**

When being stored, all guns must be kept in a locked container or equipped with a tamperproof locking device, such as a trigger lock. The exception is when the gun is under your direct control.

If you are transporting a firearm or a large capacity weapon, a trigger lock is not ok to use. The gun must be in a locked container.

Ammunition storage is covered by the fire protection regulations. You can have up to 10,000 rounds of center fire ammunition and 10,000 rounds of rimfire ammunition and 5,000 rounds of shotgun ammunition without having a special storage permit which is issued by the local fire department. There are also limits on primers, black powder and more.

The law requires that ammunition be stored in its original box (Yes, this can be difficult if you reload.) and kept in a locked container.

By Federal law, handguns must be

purchased in your state of residency. Long guns can be purchased in any state.

Should you purchase a gun, you must report it to the state within seven days on the EFA10 form. Note that I am not making predictions, but in Australia, first firearms registration was required "for public safety". Then, later, the registration list was used to identify, collect and destroy most of the privately held firearms in the country. Just making observations.

Now, on to 2017's educational plans.

If you look on the Riverside website, you can find the listing of courses planned for 2017. These include eight NRA Home Firearm Safety courses, Five Basic Pistol Skills courses and three Beyond Basic Pistol Skills courses. The NRA Home Firearm Safety course is the basic course required for licensing. The Basic Pistol Skills course is for new shooters who now have a handgun and need to learn the basics of shooting. The Beyond Basic Pistol Skills course is more advanced and is a preparatory course for more advanced defensive handgun courses. In this course, students learn and practice shooting using a holster and engaging targets.

Encourage your non-shooting friends to take the NRA Home Firearm Safety course and become licensed. If you or your friends need to improve your pistol techniques sign up for one of the pistol courses.

Everyone should have a Massachusetts firearms law review. I cover the laws between 10 AM and 1 PM about 2-3 hours as part of the Home Firearm Safety course. All members are invited to join us during that time for a refresher. Please email me for details or to reserve you spot. Of course, contact me for any educational questions or to request a course.

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