



A PUBLICATION OF THE  
NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
FALL 2022

# CLUB CONNECTION

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# CLUB CONNECTION

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Archery event at the Central Region YHEC



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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



By Charles L. Cotton  
President

### 2022 NRA Annual Meetings And Moving Forward

**W**ith the 151st NRA Annual Meetings and Exhibits in my hometown of Houston still fresh in my mind, I want to give you a report—because what you probably read in the news, and what those of us who attended the event witnessed, were entirely different.

First, I'm grateful and humbled for being re-elected as your NRA President for another year. It's an honor for me to serve the cause of freedom and the Second Amendment that guarantees our ability to protect ourselves, our families and the individual rights that define and defend our nation.

But what I want to talk about today is you—the NRA members like you whom I met in Houston. The pride, passion, sense of a shared higher purpose and, above all, courage that I witnessed throughout the weekend's celebration of freedom was like a battery recharge.

If you saw legacy media reports on the Annual Meetings, you probably heard that attendance was down from previous years. More than 61,000 men, women, children and families attended—enough to fill the Houston Astrodome to standing-room-only capacity. Yet, the media tried to portray this as a setback for NRA. During a TV newscast, a report claimed that there were "thousands of protesters" at the NRA convention. While that "newscast" was airing, I was looking down from a window at Discovery Green, where there were no more than 100 protesters. While I suspect the goal was to keep the NRA crowd to a minimum, more than 61,000 loyal NRA members joined us for our first NRA convention in three years. As is always the case, NRA members don't scare easily.

Let's be clear: Like all Americans, NRA members are sickened by what happened in Uvalde. We have families, too, and like all good people everywhere, our hearts break and our prayers go out to the families struck by that horror. We share the world's outrage and wish that there were a way to ensure such a monstrous crime could never happen again. But, we also know that evil cannot be banished from the earth by any law. So, what we will not do, and never will, is surrender our ability to defend ourselves and our families from that evil, or from anyone who would do us harm.

Yet, that's what many in the anti-gun press and political class want us to do. They're pushing every kind of anti-gun policy you can imagine. President Biden called for a ban on the most-popular rifles in America or "at least" a ban on anyone under the age of 21 from buying them, a ban on standard-capacity magazines, so-called "red-flag" laws that would deny your right to self-defense without due process, repeal of the law protecting America's firearm industry from frivolous lawsuits and more.

And they're not just demanding new laws—they're also inciting the lawless. In a June 3 article for National Public Radio affiliate WAMC in Albany, N.Y., retired professor Michael Meeropol even went so far as to urge readers to level "personal attacks" on NRA board members, including "activities that might land oneself in jail."

It takes courage to confront evil. When faced with lies, hatred and irrational anger, it takes guts to stand for principle, reason and truth. But, that kind of courage is exactly what I saw in Houston from NRA members like you.

Yes, there are things we can do to make our nation safer: We need to secure our schools and protect our children. We need to support law enforcement with the training and resources they depend on to protect us. Over the past 60 years, NRA has trained nearly 60,000 law enforcement firearms instructors—more than any other group. We need to put violent criminals behind bars and keep them there—with no bail, no deals and no early releases for dangerous predators. These are the things that'll make us safer.

Demonizing lawful, peaceable people, defunding police, "decriminalizing" offenses, abolishing bail, releasing inmates, denying fundamental human rights, disarming victims—all these things cost innocent lives.

The NRA members like you that I spoke with in Houston understand that and aren't afraid to stand up and say so. So, it makes me proud and humbled to stand among you, and it gives me great hope for America's future.

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Share this column online at  
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# NRA Online Regional Report

To search for events in your area, go to

[nrapublications.org/regional-report](http://nrapublications.org/regional-report)

Visit the links below to find gun shows, programs, clubs, events and training in your area.



## LAW ENFORCEMENT

[le.nra.org](http://le.nra.org)

Public and private officers interested in becoming law enforcement firearm instructors should attend one of NRA's Law Enforcement Firearms Instructor Development Schools. NRA Police Pistol Combat competition is intended to be used as an extension of an officer's training.



## GUN SHOWS

[gunshows.nra.org](http://gunshows.nra.org)

Dates and locations of gun shows are subject to change. Please contact the show before traveling. Discounted NRA memberships are sold through NRA recruiters. Some shows may offer free admission to people who sign up for new memberships or renewals. To become an NRA Recruiter contact NRA Recruiting Programs at [recruiter@nrahq.org](mailto:recruiter@nrahq.org).



## AREA SHOOTS

[ssusa.org/coming-events](http://ssusa.org/coming-events)

For more information, send an email to Shelly Kramer at [mkramer@nrahq.org](mailto:mkramer@nrahq.org) or call (703) 267-1459.



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[friendsofnra.org](http://friendsofnra.org)

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## TRAINING

[refuse.nra.org](http://refuse.nra.org) | [nrainstructors.org](http://nrainstructors.org)

The NRA's Refuse To Be A Victim® program provides information on crime prevention and personal safety. To learn more about the program, visit [refuse.nra.org](http://refuse.nra.org). The most up-to-date seminar and instructor training schedule is available on the Internet by visiting [nrainstructors.org](http://nrainstructors.org), or online training is available at [nraonlinetraining.org](http://nraonlinetraining.org). Questions? Email to [refuse@nrahq.org](mailto:refuse@nrahq.org) or by calling (800) 861-1166.



## STATE ASSOCIATIONS

[stateassociations.nra.org](http://stateassociations.nra.org)

Joining NRA-affiliated state associations supports NRA's mission in your state. See [clubs.nra.org](http://clubs.nra.org) for more information.

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The "NRA Regional Report," a service for NRA members, is an up-to-date listing of NRA conducted and/or sponsored events scheduled in your region for the current month. Call to verify event dates and locations before traveling.

## NRA INDY '23

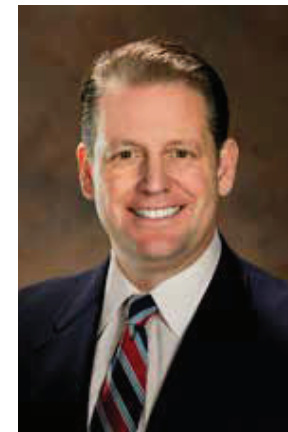
ANNUAL MEETINGS & EXHIBITS

APRIL 14-16, 2023

For hotel accommodations at the NRA Annual Meetings, visit [nraam.org](http://nraam.org).



## INSIDE NRA | PROGRAMS & SERVICES



By Joseph P. DeBergalis, Jr.  
Executive Director,  
General Operations



The new Doc Thurston Gallery adds about 450 firearms to the NRA National Firearms Museum's total display, including artifacts from the Old West.



[nramuseum.org](http://nramuseum.org)

## NRA National Firearms Museum's New Doc Thurston Gallery

This year, your NRA National Firearms Museum is marking 87 years in operation, preserving and chronicling nearly seven centuries worth of firearms history during that time. With the opening of the new Doc Thurston Gallery to the public at NRA headquarters in Fairfax, Virginia, this past May, I want to take this opportunity to celebrate the rich history of the museum.

The result of working with late NRA Benefactor Member Doc Thurston's estate for seven years, the new gallery includes many Old West artifacts from his collection and adds about 450 firearms to the museum's total display. In total, the NRA National Firearms Museum boasts 2,600 firearms filling 85 exhibit cases in 15 different galleries—each evocative of the time period of the firearms represented.

Originally an offshoot of the NRA Publications Technical Staff, the NRA National Firearms Museum first opened its doors in 1935 inside the Barr Building in Washington, D.C.'s Farragut Square. During its early years, the museum had a series of six-foot tall, double-sided display cases covered in burlap, each containing anywhere from 10 to 20 firearms mounted with S-hooks to a pegboard. In those days, the display description text was typed on index cards near each gun.

In 1954, when NRA headquarters moved to 1600 Rhode Island Avenue, the museum moved with it. Forty years later, the NRA relocated to Virginia, and the museum reopened in 1998 with 15,000 square-feet of display space on the first floor of NRA headquarters in Fairfax, where it remains today. The modern-day NRA National Firearms Museum is dedicated to firearms history, freedom, the Second Amendment and the uniquely American experience.

In addition to the museum at NRA headquarters in Fairfax, more than 25,000 people a month visit the NRA National Sporting Arms Museum at Bass Pro Shops in Springfield, Missouri, which opened its doors in 2013.

Although the National Firearms Museum at NRA headquarters was closed for about two years due to the pandemic prior to its reopening on May 9, staff used the downtime to freshen up the exhibits, along with updating graphics and other displays. More historic firearms are added to the museum collection every month—one to look out for in the near future is Audie Murphy's Springfield Rifle from the 1951 Civil War film "The Red Badge of Courage."

Open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. except Christmas, admission is free. Learn more at [nramuseum.org](http://nramuseum.org).

*Joe*



Photos by Peter Fountain



# National Firearms Museum Re-Opens!

By: Philip Schreier, Director, NRA Museums

After a 2 year hiatus, the NRA's flagship museum, the National Firearms Museum (NFM) at NRA HQ in Fairfax, VA has reopened to the public. The museum, established in 1935, is entering its 25th year at its Fairfax location and the staff is excited to re-connect with the NRA members and general guests that visit the 20,000 square foot facility daily.

Open 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. seven days a week and free of charge, the NFM displays over 2,400 firearms spanning seven centuries. National treasures such as the Robert E. Petersen Collection, Napoleon's shotgun, 11 Gatling Guns and the belt-fed machine gun used by Theodore Roosevelt and the Rough Rider's at San Juan Hill are just a few of the spectacular and historic firearms that bring together firearms, freedom and the American experience.

There is plenty of free parking and admission is, as it always has been for the past 87 years, free!

Check out [www.nramuseums.org](http://www.nramuseums.org) for more info.

CAPTION:

NRA 1st Vice President Willes K. Lee and Philip Schreier, Director, NRA Museums, remove the CLOSED sign from the entrance to the National Firearms Museum on May 9th.



## The National Firearms Museum Has Reopened

**Open 7 days a week**

**9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Free Admission, Ample Parking**

**11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, Virginia**





# INDY 23 **NRA**

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Best of all, NRA members and their immediate family get **FREE ENTRY!** Don't miss out - Make your plans now for the 2023 NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits and we'll see you there!

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## Central Region YHEC 2022

**Submitted by Gary Jobe,  
ARYHEC State Coordinator**

NRA's Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC) provides a fun environment for kids 18 and under to improve their hunting, marksmanship and safety skills. Through its simulated hunting situations, live fire exercises, educational and responsibility events, YHEC helps build upon skills learned in basic hunter education courses and encourages safer, lifelong hunting habits.

From rifle, bow and muzzleloader shooting at life-sized targets, to wildlife identification, map and compass orienteering and more,

YHEC participants can get hands-on training in eight skill areas, giving them expertise in all methods of take and all types of game.

This year's Central Region Youth Hunter Education Challenge had 130 competitors, (actual competitors, plus competing coaches). There were another 15 non competing coaches. We had 65 volunteers.

Opening Ceremony was Tuesday night July 19. Arkansas State Senator Bart Hester, a very pro-gun, 2nd Amendment supporter was guest speaker. Competitions were Wed-Thu-Fri. Awards Presentation/banquet was Saturday.



Photo Captions:

Pictured to the right:  
First Place Senior Team from Arkansas

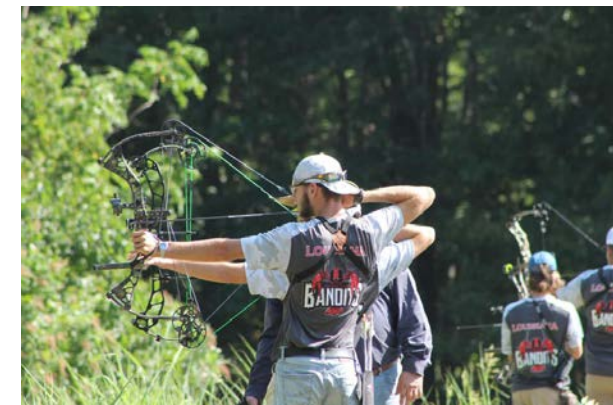
Pictured in the header (top):  
Louisiana Junior Team

Except for the heat (which set record temps of 102-105 degrees each day) all went well. We went thru 60 cases of water, 25 cases of sport drinks, over 2,000 lbs of ice, and kept 25 5-gallon water coolers full of ice and water at all times.

We conducted 3 events a day.....Completing 3 events a day instead of having all events going at one time, provided for less stress and work on competitors as well as coaches and volunteers, especially in the heat.

Fun Events: In addition to the Hunter Pistol Challenge, we did a Flu-Flu Archery shoot, 3 Person Shot Gun Challenge, Daisy Mobile Air Rifle Trailer, Trade Nights, and Cajun Night on Friday-Jambalaya, red beans/sausage, and friend catfish, along with a DJ for all to dance to.

Overall attendance for the Cajun Night Dinner was over 700 including participants, coaches, YHEC program volunteers, family and friends.



Interested in participating in the 2023 Central Region YHEC? Contact Gary Jobe, YHEC-Arkansas, and Central Regional Coordinator at 713 253 7914 or by email at [aryhec@hotmail.com](mailto:aryhec@hotmail.com)



Interested in starting a YHEC event in your area? Visit our website at <https://yhec.nra.org/> to get started today!

Photo Captions:

Pictured to left: Louisiana Archery Event

Pictured above: 3 awesome guys who braved the heat to help set up YHEC!

Pictured below: Second Place Senior Team from Louisiana







## Firearm Trainers: 4 Dangerous Pitfalls to Avoid:

Firearm training is about as serious as a business gets. If you are an instructor, it's incumbent on you to run a safe class.

Reprinted with permission from NRA Women  
by HEIDI LYN RAO posted on August 10, 2022  
NEWS, FIREARMS, GEAR

When I am conducting an NRA Instructor Course, whether it be a rifle, shotgun or pistol class, I do my best to impress upon my instructor candidate students that if there is an accident involving a firearm in their class, it is the instructor who is ultimately responsible. This includes any firearms training course being taught, even if it's not an NRA course. The level of the instructor's liability is dependent upon several factors.

This can particularly be an issue with students in their 20s and 30s, as this demographic grew up in a world of striker-fired pistols and Modern Sporting Rifles (MSRs). I make it clear to the students who wish to become instructors that they cannot turn their NRA Basic Pistol Course into a "Glock" course, nor can they turn their NRA Basic Rifle Course into an "AR-15" Course. I let them know that they need to become familiar with ALL types of firearms, if for no other reason but safety.

There are four things that I have encountered during instruction that could have led to serious accidents or death. These include the use of antique firearms; sporterized rifles; choked shotgun barrels; and loose ammunition in the classroom and on the range.

### Antique Firearms



Antique firearms in a firearms training course can create a potential hazard. Remember, never shoot modern smokeless powder out of antique firearms made for black powder. I am not talking about muzzleloading firearms. I am talking about old firearms designed to shoot cartridges or shells filled with black powder, not modern smokeless powder. Manufacturers of firearms that shot black powder cartridges and shells phased out these guns by the early 1930s. Cartridge and shell manufacturers continued making black powder ammunition up until 1940.

Modern smokeless cartridges and shells produce higher pressures than cartridges made from black powder cartridges and shells. Shooting modern smokeless powder cartridges or shells out of firearms manufactured for black powder could create a condition that could lead to serious bodily injury or death. The pressure created by modern smokeless cartridges or shells could cause a catastrophic

failure of equipment, or in layman's term, the gun could blow up!

Therefore, it is extremely important for firearm instructors to educate themselves on all types of firearms from different eras. I had a situation in one of my NRA Basic Pistol Courses I was conducting. An individual showed up with an obsolete firearm: a ".41 Colt." He had ".41 Magnum" ammunition. Had I not been familiar with antique revolvers or prepared for a situation like this, our day could have taken a turn for the worse.

### Sporterized Rifles



Sporterized rifles can create a unique problem in your firearms training course. Several of my students have brought these into my NRA Basic Rifle Courses. These rifles are old military rifles that have been refitted for hunting or target shooting. The fore-ends of these rifles were shortened, and military sights were replaced with hunting or target sights. Sporterized rifles were common in the 1970s and 1980s, then seemed to have been put in the back end of closets and gun safes, replaced by modern rifles. Sporterized rifles seem to be on the rebound, however. Firearms instructors need to be aware of the problems that could arise.

For starters, many military rifles did not have a data stamp depicting the caliber of the firearm. There are many individuals who have used the wrong ammunition in old military and sporterized firearms, sometimes with disastrous results. To make sporterized rifles even more risky, many have been rebored to accept a different caliber altogether.

I do not allow sporterized rifles in my NRA Basic Rifle Classes for two reasons. The first is that many old military rifles have been abused and handled roughly. I do not want to take a chance on one of these rifles having a catastrophic failure in my class. Second, without a verification from a qualified gunsmith, there may be no way of telling exactly what caliber a sporterized rifle is chambered for. I always err on the side of caution!

### Choked Barrels

Watch out for choked shotgun barrels that are brought into your class. Choked shotgun barrels are barrels that have their choke already built into the end of the barrel. By the late 1980s, choked barrels were replaced with modern shotgun barrels that have screw-in chokes. Prior to 1990, a shotgunner might have three different barrels to go with the action of their shotgun. These barrels will be marked Imp or IC (Improved Cylinder), Mod or M (Modified), or Full or F (Full). Now shotgunners have one barrel and three screw-in chokes.



Choked barrels prior to 1990 are still very common. The rule of thumb is that you should never shoot nontoxic (steel) shot out of a choked barrel. Nontoxic shot does not compress like lead, so it can blow the end out of a choked barrel. If you are conducting a class at a range that allows only nontoxic shot, then you should not allow choked barrels in your class. If the range you use allows lead shot, you, as the instructor, need to ensure that the shooter does not have any steel shot.

Continued on page 12:



Continued from page 11:

There is another rule you need follow when it comes to choked barrels. If the range does not allow lead shot and your student has a full-choked shotgun barrel, once again, do not allow them to use it in your class. The metals prior to 1990 were not as strong as modern metals and as a result, the end of the barrel could split. I am a little bit stricter in my classes than many, but I just do not want any mishaps or accidents.

### Loose Ammunition

Loose ammunition should never be allowed to be used in your firearms training course. All ammunition that is allowed on your range should be in its original packaging. The original packaging should have all the ballistic data you need to determine that the ammunition is safe to shoot. This data includes muzzle velocity, grains of powder and bullet weight. Most commercial ammunition is Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers Institute (SAAMI) approved. SAAMI sets the recommended ballistics that is safe for each specific caliber. It would be a good policy to adopt for your class that all ammunition must be in its original packaging and must be SAAMI approved. Just remember that not all commercial ammunition is SAAMI approved.

Loose ammunition might also be handloads or reloads. Reloaded ammunition might be loaded too hot (too much propellant) or even too light (too little). Both conditions can cause a serious issue. Ammunition that is loaded too hot could cause catastrophic failure of the firearm, which could lead to the gun coming apart under great pressure. Ammunition reloaded too light could lead to squib loads that lodge inside the barrel. If a round is lodged in the barrel and another round is fired behind, it could also lead to a catastrophic failure of the firearm coming apart under great pressure. Both conditions could lead to bodily injury or death.

Other ammunition issues include soft-nosed and solid ammunition. Many individuals do not understand the performance of these types of bullets. Soft-nosed ammunition expands quickly, and solids have deep penetration. This is important to know depending on the type of backstop at the range and the rules of the facility. Many facilities prohibit the use of solids, so it is up to the instructor to know the differences.

Another factor is shotgun ammunition and whether the shells have steel shot or lead shot. The only way to guarantee what type of shot you have in your shells is marked on the original box. Some ranges only allow lead shot, while other ranges only allow steel shot. I do not allow loose ammunition in my classes and make it clear in e-mails prior to the class so that the students can make any adjustments. Still, I have students show up with loose ammunition in range bags and zip lock storage bags. I do not make exceptions because safety is always paramount. These students must go to the store at the range where I conduct classes and purchase the proper ammunition for our training.

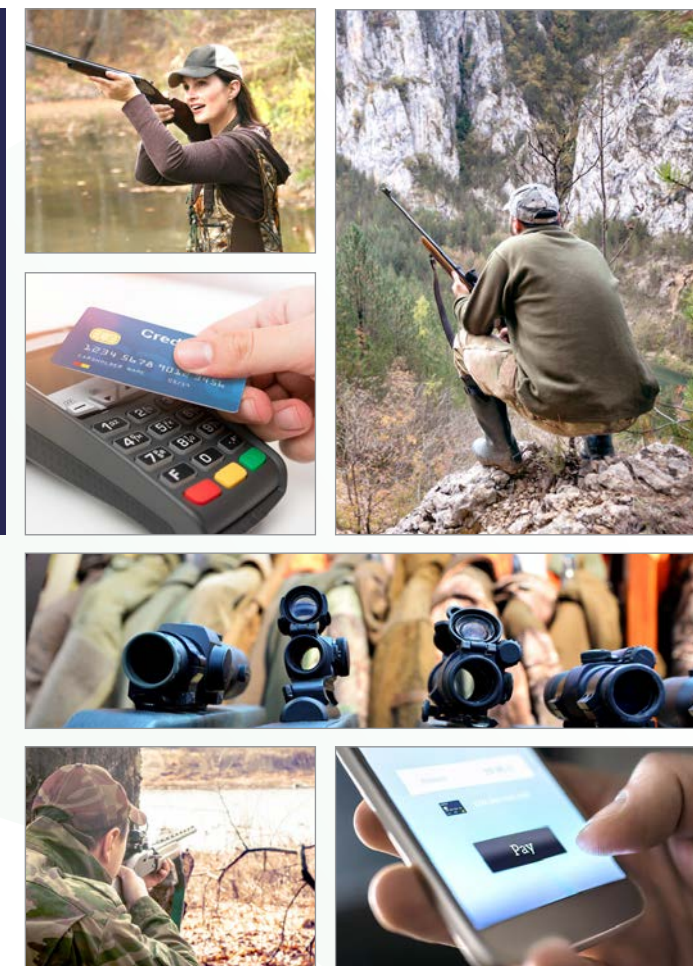
As instructors, it's incumbent upon us to practice what we preach and not let familiarity breed contempt when it comes to safety. Lead by example, follow these rules and your students will thank you!



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– Elizabeth Bush, Managing Director, NRA

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## Sip & the Second

Last week I started my first Sip & the Second basic handgun safety and gun laws class at, wait for it, a cute local coffee shop! I taught 6 beautiful ladies (and a baby too!) the importance of our Second Amendment Rights all while sipping on delicious coffee and tea.

With dummy rounds I demonstrated how to load magazines, and make a Glock 19 "hot".

We practiced a good grip, stance and sight alignment with a bullseye against a brightly painted teal blue wall. I let everyone know the steps to obtain their concealed carry permits here in North Carolina. All the women had a blast and felt very comfortable in this adorable setting.

Looking forward to my next class at another coffee shop down the road next Saturday!

Heather Allen  
NRA Basic Pistol Instructor  
Www.HighCaliberOC.com  
@HighCaliber\_NC



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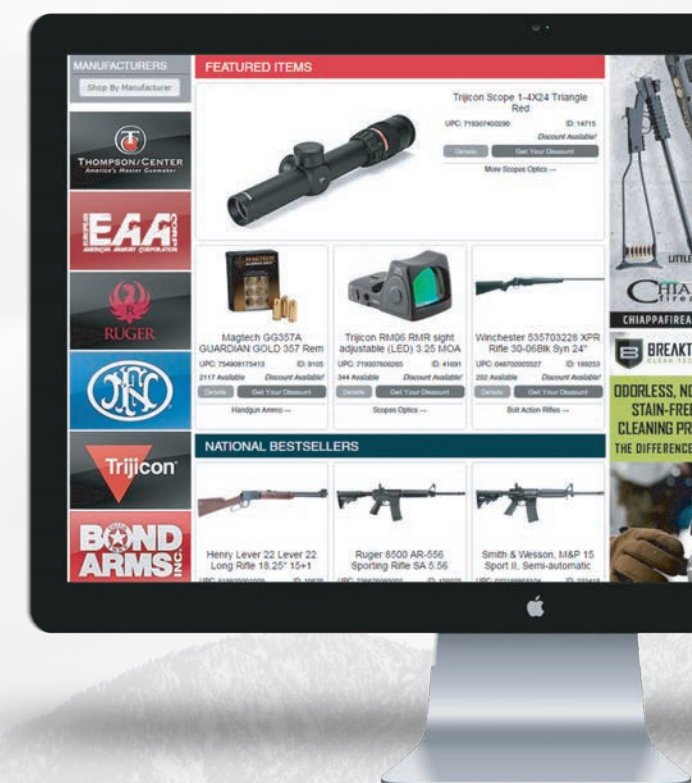
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## The Iowa Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) – An Unexpected Journey

Submitted by Michael Ware, Board Member, Iowa Firearms Coalition

4 years ago my daughters asked me if they could shoot Trap. Like most of us 2A freedom-loving dads, the answer was a swift and decisive, “Hell yes you can shoot trap”. The answer wasn’t as simple as I expected. So begins my unexpected journey...

You see, our small rural community didn’t have a trap team and the larger communities surrounding us were at capacity and could not take on any additional athletes. So our only available option was to form our own trap team. This adventure turned out to be one of the most rewarding things I have ever done.

Did you know: Trap shooting is the fastest growing sport in the state of Iowa. In 2021 there were 147 registered teams in Iowa and over 4,200 athletes participated in the Scholastic Clay Target Program – Source: <https://www.iowadnr.gov>

Forming a trap team is no small feat. There isn’t exactly a step-by-step manual or playbook you can follow. Bank accounts needed to be opened, 501c3s had to be formed, a board of directors had to be recruited, parents had to be trained and certified as coaches, and...we needed a place to practice. I was fortunate enough to sync up with a couple of like-minded parents, and a neighboring district trap team agreed to let us use their range 1 night a week for practice. After getting all the administrative and logistical aspects ironed out we were ready to start shooting... right; well not so fast.

### I-35 Student-Athletes

If you’ve ever been involved in trap shooting, you know, it’s not cheap. An athlete can shoot between 200-400 shells a week (at a minimum). This adds up. Factoring in the cost of clays, match fees, and other expenses, the cost of a season for an athlete is in the \$1000 to \$1500 range (on the low side). This isn’t exactly pocket change, and not a lot of people have this sitting around. As a result, we struggled to get kids to sign up for the team. Not because there wasn’t interest, but because it was simply too expensive for our rural community and athletes. So, we had to go back to the drawing board. Our kids worked hard to raise money. Doing everything from bulk trash pickup day in Truro (really dirty, hard, and gross work) to Lions Club fundraising dinners. This work paid off and we were able to get the average fee per athlete down to ~800.

By this time 6 months of work was put in and we still hadn’t shot a round, but the kids, parents, and community persisted. In March of 2018, the I-35 Shooting Sports team held its first practice with 22 Athletes. My daughters Meredith (a senior now) and Natalie (a sophomore now) finally had their opportunity to compete in trap shooting and they brought 20 other kids along on their journey. That’s 20 kids that were introduced to a sport that they never would have had if not for the efforts of a couple of kids and their parents. That’s 20 kids that will learn how to safely handle a firearm and more importantly learn to value and cherish that right, and hopefully defend it as adults. That’s 20 kids that will grow up and hopefully one day pass the same knowledge, respect, and passion onto their kids.

### 2022 I-35 Shooting Sports Team

That first year was a whirlwind of learning as parents (who had never shot trap) were trying to coach, manage logistics of registering for matches, get ammo, and conduct organized practices all while flying by the seat of our pants. It was chaotic, to say the least.

Now that we are in our 4th year, and my oldest daughter is in her final year, I look back over the last 4 years and I am grateful for the opportunity. I’m grateful I didn’t give up. I’m grateful for the other parents and the support of the community. But most of all, I’m grateful for the opportunity to watch over 40 distinct kids cultivate a love and passion for the shooting sport with their friends and grow closer to each other via a common bond.

Even as my daughters grow and age out of High School Trap, I still plan on coaching and ensuring future generations have as much access to this sport as my daughters did. Opening up opportunities for young athletes to participate in this sport has brought more fulfillment and reward than I ever could have imagined.

Our demand continues to grow from the students; this year we are expanding our program to include skeet and sporting clays. We have some longer-term goals to one day have our own range for practices and to host matches so more kids have opportunities to compete throughout the season.

If you know if anyone with 6 acres of land near Truro, someone would like to donate to our 501c3 program or provide a long term lease at a low-cost, email [i35shootingsports@gmail.com](mailto:i35shootingsports@gmail.com)

As I wrap up, I want to express that I never dreamed of starting a trap team. I was the guy that said “yes” when someone asked to shoot my rifle, shotgun, or pistol because I wanted to dispel myths, bring others to the cause, and show folks what responsible firearm ownership looked like. But not one of those instances gave me the excitement I experienced when one of my athletes shot a perfect 25 for the first time. That’s happened a handful of times now, and I still get goosebumps as I relive those moments in vivid detail.

In closing, I only ask that if you can, find the time to seek out your closest high school trap team. Donate to them, volunteer for them, and if you can, become a certified coach and coach for them. If you are a parent, ask your kid if they might be interested in Trap. Take them to a local range and shoot a round with them. You just might find yourself on your own unexpected journey and help start a new unexpected journey for the next generation.

Nathan J Gibson, Father  
Coach I-35 Shooting Sports  
IFC Life Member  
NRA Life Member  
NRA Certified Chief Range Safety Officer

(Publisher’s Note: I have watched Meredith, Natalie, and many others, with enthusiasm over the years as they’ve grown and matured, not only in their thoughts but in the actions that stem from their thoughts. They undertake safety as their first priority in their handling of the weapons, thus critical attention to life. They think through and ponder each move they make. This naturally creates meaning and purpose in their lives. Meaning and purpose lead to consequences that are linked to the choices they undertake, thus responsibility in life. They, quite literally, are learning to arrange their lives in better and better ways on a daily basis. In a culture that is headed in the wrong direction, it is a breath of fresh spring air to witness our young lay foundational concepts in concrete that will not only benefit them, but the countless others they’ll touch throughout their lives. I’m proud of them. -Michael Ware)

Meredith Gibson – Does she look excited to you?







Paralympic shooter  
McKenna Geer  
Courtesy ssusa.org

## Shooting with Hypermobility & Muscle Weakness: Physical Therapist's Tips

Everyone's physical challenges are unique, but we can offer some general tips to get you started.

by DR. JOSEPH LOGAR, PT, DPT

I recently received a query from a person whose physical challenges include hypermobility—which is an abnormal range of motion—and upper-body muscle weakness. The good news is that although everyone's physical challenge is unique, we can offer some general tips to help you adapt to your abilities.

### First and Foremost: Hands-On Training

The first step is to seek out one of our NRA Instructors or Training Counselors for some hands-on training. Of course you can learn many valuable things online, but being physically present with the instructor is the best way to get an evaluation of your training needs and abilities. To get started, just go to the NRA Training website by clicking this link: <https://www.nrainstructors.org/>. Once on this page you will select the button for finding world-class in-person NRA training near you. That will bring up a page listing our courses, where you can select the course(s) of interest, enter your state, Zip Code and/or your comfortable travel distance to define your search. I would then encourage you to contact a couple of instructors from that list to have a discussion about your goals and expectations.

### Second: Never and Always

Everyone's level of ability is different, but I can start with two NEVER statements. NEVER compromise safety while you are trying to adapt to your abilities; and NEVER ignore pain or increasing symptoms. Consult with a firearm instructor and your physician, respectively, for help in these areas.

Now for an ALWAYS statement: ALWAYS work within your abilities to improve your technique. That may mean exercises to get a little stronger, modifying how you hold or manipulate the firearm, or even what type of firearm you use.

### Now for the tips!

Weakness and fatigue can be managed by taking your time. Determine your endurance level—for the sake of argument, we will say that you can stay relatively steady for two consecutive shots—and stay within your limits. Hopefully with repetition, your strength and endurance will increase, but don't be too hard on yourself.

### Gear Recommendations

Shooting gloves, grip tape or any method of increasing the traction between the firearm and your hand will enable you to maintain a solid grip with less effort. Wrist supports attached to gloves, wrist sleeves or braces will also help stabilize a very common area of weakness. These can, of course, be purchased on Amazon. The key here is fit: Watch out for anything restricting blood flow. You will know if any brace or support is too tight if you have numbness, tingling or a cold sensation in the extremity beyond the brace. Adjust the fit of the device if any of these symptoms appear or worsen. If symptoms persist after adjustment, stop using the device altogether. You may also employ elbow sleeves, supports or braces. Just as with the wrist supports, these are available on Amazon and you will need to monitor for correct fit.

Compression or support garments (think Superman's blue suit or the jackets worn by Olympic Air Rifle competitors) are similar to my earlier suggestion of using wrist and elbow supports. These, however, take it to the next level to incorporate the shoulder and trunk. They may make extending the arms and supporting the weight of the firearm a little easier. (Fit here is critical also—too loose and you will gain no support; too tight will restrict motion and possibly blood flow.)

There are also devices that incorporate springs or pulleys to provide some support for the firearm while still being slightly unstable so the operator has to demonstrate some skill to hit the target. They are often called spring stands even if they use a different mechanism and they are widely used in Paralympic shooting events. Spring stands are available to purchase online (although I cannot personally vouch for specific ones); some people even build their own.

Depending upon your level of ability, you may need only one or a combination of the gear and garments listed above. With determination, a good instructor and plenty of attention to safety and to your health, you can learn to shoot.



Image courtesy USA Shooting



# NRA-ILA UPDATE

## House-Passed Gun Ban Shows the Importance of the Election This November

On Friday, July 29th, after a last-minute rule change to allow its consideration, the United States House of Representatives passed H.R. 1808.

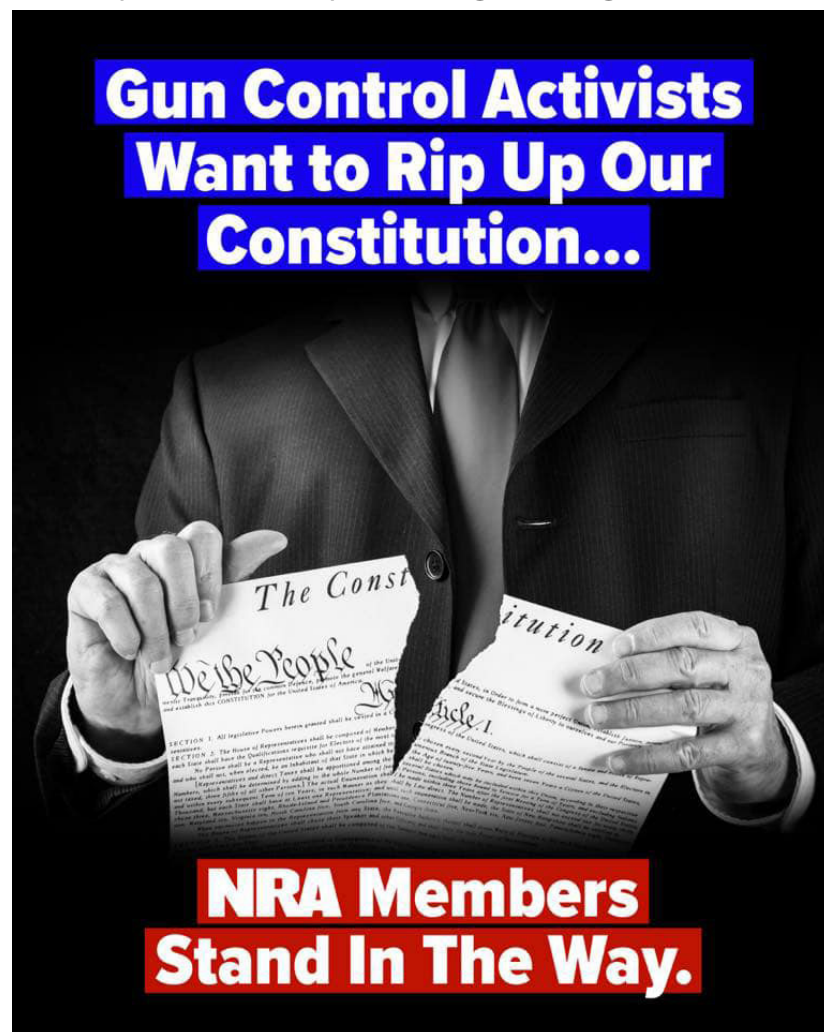
Authored by Rep. David N. Cicilline (D-RI), H.R. 1808 would ban the most popular semiautomatic rifles in America, many popular semiautomatic shotguns, and the magazines that come with firearms commonly used for self-defense. The bill would also put millions of existing gun owners at risk of committing a federal felony for simply transferring a covered gun to another person.

With gun ownership growing substantially over the last two years, it should be unsurprising that opposition to such a blatant attack on the right to keep and bear arms is dropping in popularity. A poll conducted by Quinnipiac University this June found that support for a so-called "assault weapons" ban had fallen to the lowest point since the pollster began asking about such a ban in 2013.

While passage of this unpopular measure remains unlikely by the Senate, its passage in the House shows how far anti-gun members of Congress would like to go if they simply had the votes to accomplish their gun ban agenda. With President Biden already signaling his intent to sign such a ban if it reached his desk, gun owners now have an even clearer choice this November.

The passage of this bill, and other anti-gun proposals, has pushed the Second Amendment to the forefront in this year's election, and has positioned your NRA-ILA Grassroots Programs and Campaign Field Operations Division to be able to have an even greater impact on Election Day, November 8th, by reminding voters who their pro-Second Amendment Candidates are.

While your NRA-ILA Grassroots team has been hard at work throughout the summer, we know the most challenging days in this election cycle still lay ahead. If you would like to become a part of this truly historic election effort – please don't hesitate to reach out to your Grassroots Coordinator today!



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Important upcoming deadlines:

- Deadline for Youth Wildlife Art Contest - October 31, 2022 - <https://artcontest.nra.org/>
- Deadline for Club Award Applications - December 1, 2022 - <https://awards.nra.org/awards/club-awards/>
- Deadline for State Association Annual Reports - December 1, 2022 - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NRASA2022>
- Deadline for NRA Gold Medal Award Program - February 15, 2023 - <https://awards.nra.org/awards/gold-medal-clubs/>





# CLUB CONNECTION

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

11250 Waples Mill Road

Fairfax, VA 22030



Like us on Facebook  
NRA Community Engagement

## DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW WHAT TO DO IF HE OR SHE FINDS A GUN?

The **Eddie Eagle GunSafe® Program** was developed in 1988 as a firearm accident prevention program seeking to help parents, law enforcement, community groups, and educators navigate a topic paramount to our children's safety.

For over 30 years, the program has taught children what to do if they find a gun:

**STOP! Don't Touch. Run Away. Tell A Grown Up.**

In fact, over **31 million children** have received Eddie's important message since the program began.

In 2015, the program evolved with a fresh new look and some new friends for Eddie—his Wing Team. Together they remind children of Eddie's important message. The program is designed for Pre-K through 4th graders and provides the tools to help parents and educators bring up an important safety issue with children in a fun and interactive way. Through a special kid-friendly web page, the **Eddie Eagle Tree House**, children are able to explore lessons, read storybooks, print coloring pages, watch Eddie's video, and more!



For the full Eddie Eagle  
experience visit  
**EDDIEEAGLE.COM**  
and watch Eddie's video and  
take his challenge!