

KSRA

# CHIPS & RICOCHETS

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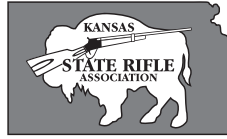
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## Letter from the Membership

Bill Artman, KSRA Member

I am writing each of you to share my thoughts regarding Kansas 2A rights.

I read the very informative article titled “Missouri Bills Would Take on All Federal Gun Control: Past, Present and Future” on page 13 of the Jan-Mar 2021 issue of CHIPS. The article talks about Missouri House Bills 85 and 310 that were filed on December 1st and 2nd 2020 and are progressing through the legislative process. The Bill is titled “The Second Amendment Preservation Act”.

The legislation would ban any person, including any public officer or employee of the state and its political subdivisions, from enforcing any past, present or future federal “acts, laws, executive orders, administrative orders, court orders, rules, regulations, statutes, or ordinances” that infringe on the right to keep and bear arms. The two Missouri bills have received very positive comments on several firearm websites and columns. There is a YouTube video 8.5 minutes in length that give an excellent explanation of the Bills. I ask that you please view the video. The YouTube link is <https://youtu.be/53VRXZbuhws>

Recently I asked Bruce Williams if Kansas has any 2A protection laws. Bruce suggested Kansas Bill 50-1206 that was passed in 2013. Actually there are several: 50-1201 through 1211 that pertain to the Second Amendment. Several Internet “opinion” articles that I also read states the original Kansas bill was pretty good but the final version that passed was changed and watered down significantly from the original version.

I, as hopefully all of the KSRA Board, am extremely concerned that the Biden administration will go crazy in an attempt to destroy the 2nd Amendment and gun rights of law abiding citizens. Kansas has for several years been a very gun friendly state. In fact last year and to date this year Kansas was the 4th most gun friendly state in the Union - something we should be proud of and definitely worth keeping and defending.

As a KSRA member I look to you, the Board of Directors to take action whenever possible to suggest new or change legislation to maintain and advance Kansas gun rights. I, as a Kansas citizen could write letters to all the members of the state legislature but I am confident if the KSRA became involved to suggest and support a “Second Amendment Preservation Act” similar to that of Missouri the results hopefully would be much more effective. I also believe the KSRA PAC is much more knowledgeable of the legislative

process and “appropriate contacts” than I am. Looking at the KSRA history of 2A accomplishments I am confident our efforts to introduce and fight to support this legislation would be very worthwhile to all Kansas gun owners and would be a model for other states to replicate just as other states are looking at Missouri.

I would appreciate your thoughts and comments. I am a member of the KSRA, SAF, GOA and the NRA.

## Kansas State Rifle Association 2021 Ballot

As a dues-paying member of the Kansas State Rifle Association, you have the right to vote in our annual elections. Voting will occur at the Annual Meeting. The ballot we, as a member body, will vote on is below.

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Travis Couture-Lovelady

### **Vice President** (1-year term)

Michael Bogina

### **Secretary/Treasurer** (1-year term)

Zachary Hein

### **Quadrant Directors** (1-year term)

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Sue Boldra

#### **Northeast:**

John Morgan

#### **Southwest:**

Harry Williams

#### **Southeast:**

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(Four will be selected)

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# Handgun Ammunition: What Is The Difference Between 9mm and 9mm Luger?

thetruthaboutguns.com

The difference between 9mm and 9mm Luger ammunition is either nothing or the latter is part of the former. Depending on how you define it.

## Huh?

Most of the time, when a person says “9mm” when talking about ammunition, they mean 9x19mm, which is the most commonly used handgun round. This is what you feed your GLOCK 19, your S&W M&P, your SIG P365 or — if you actually have taste in handguns (kidding!) — your 9mm 1911, Browning Hi Power, or CZ-75.

However, there is an entire family of handgun cartridges that uses the same size (9mm) projectile.

Why do people get them confused? Mostly it’s because of colloquial usage, as we here in the USA like our brevity. But it’s also because we don’t like the metric system and its infernal witchery.

But I digress. To get it out of the way, the 9x19mm round itself is the 9mm Luger round. It’s also known as 9mm Parabellum and 9mm NATO. It’s all the same bullet and cartridge used in semi-automatic handguns (mostly).

The round itself was developed by Georg Luger during the design process of his famous pistol, often referred to simply as a “Luger.” The comment section will probably hate me for skipping a lot of details, but I will just have to find a way to live with myself.

Initially, the pistol was chambered for a 7.65x21mm bullet, which Luger developed from the 7.65x25mm Borchardt cartridge...which also was the basis for the 7.63mm Mauser and 7.63mm Tokarev rounds. However, the German military felt that a larger round was probably a good idea, so he trimmed the case and inserted a 9mm (0.355-in) projectile.

Since the name of Luger’s pistol was actually the Pistole Parabellum (basically “pistol of war”) he therefore dubbed the two rounds 7.65mm Parabellum and 9mm Parabellum, respectively. However, the authorities of SAAMI and CIP being what they are, decided to call them .30 Luger and 9mm Luger (respectively) instead.

Further compounding the confusion, NATO decided to make it their standard pistol round. NATO has their own handloading manual and created a standard load for it. The standard 9mm NATO round is a 124-grain FMJ, loaded to 36,500 psi, which is a bit hotter than the CIP standard of about 34,000 psi. (SAAMI standards are 35,000 psi.) Thus, 9mm NATO is an overpressure variant.

A 124-grain 9mm NATO round zips along at about 1200 fps and just shy of 400 ft-lbs of energy. The standard pressure 124-gr loading of 9mm is usually slower by about 100 fps (depending) and carries about 50 fewer ft-lbs of energy out of the muzzle.

So, that’s the difference. 9mm Parabellum, 9x19mm Parabellum and 9mm Luger are all the same cartridge; 9mm NATO is just a specific loading of the round that’s approved by NATO for NATO use.

But I keep hearing about 9mm Browning and 9mm Makarov. What are those, you ask?

## Let the hair-splitting begin!

Okay, so the 9mm Parabellum is just part of a family of handgun rounds that chamber the same 0.355-in (that’s 9 millimeters) projectile. There are a number of them, though only a few are popular in the United States.

It’s kind of like when people talk about 7mm rifles. Usually, when someone talks about “7mm” they typically mean 7mm Remington Magnum, 7mm-08 Remington or possibly 7x57mm Mauser as those are the most popular rounds with a 7mm-diameter projectile.

However, there are plenty of rounds that use the same size bullet, such as 7mm Remington Ultra, 7mm Weatherby Magnum, 7mm Shooting Times Westerner, Warren Page’s favorite wildcat the 7mm Mashburn Super Magnum, .280 Remington, .284 Winchester and .280 Ackley Improved...and more.

The most popular member of the 9mm family outside of 9mm Luger is .380 ACP, also called .380 Auto. Invented by John Browning, it uses the same size bullet as 9mm Parabellum, but in a much shorter case. The Europeans don’t know what a Quarter Pounder or a .380 is, so they refer to it by its metric diameter of 9 millimeters. As a result, it’s called 9mm Short, 9mm Kurz (German for “short”), 9mm Browning and 9x17mm, though not 9mm with cheese.

A similar round developed in Spain around the same time as the 9mm Parabellum was the 9mm Largo. 9mm Largo, or 9x23mm, employs a longer case than the 9mm Parabellum (23mm vs 19mm) and an ever-so-slightly lesser powder charge. Basically, knock 50 fps off a 9mm Luger and you got it.

While not common in the US at all, 9mm Largo (Spanish for “long,” should you ask) is popular in some Latin American countries.

Another variant, which found some adoption among European police agencies, was the 9x18mm Ultra. The 9x18mm Ultra uses a slightly longer case than the .380 ACP — 18mm vs 17mm — and nets about 20 fps and 60+ ft-lbs more. You won’t find it anywhere, though you might find the odd SIG P230 or P232 chambered for it.

The 9mm Makarov, or 9x18mm Makarov, however, is different. 9mm Makarov employs a .365-in diameter projectile, so it’s technically 9.27mm Makarov. However, the most important thing you should know about that minor detail is that nobody really cares.

Another variant is 9x21mm, also called 9mm IMI. This round was developed by Israel Military Industries for use in countries where civilians are forbidden to purchase firearms chambered in “military calibers.” 9x21mm IMI is basically the same as 9mm Parabellum. IMI, being some clever folks, seated the bullet deeper in the case so it’s the same overall length as 9mm Parabellum.

**Handgun Ammunition** (Continued on page 6)

## Handgun Ammunition (Continued from page 5)

The competitive shooting world has also given us 9x25mm Dillon and 9x23mm Winchester. The former round is a 10mm case necked down for a 9mm projectile (sort of like .357 SIG) and the latter is (in broad strokes) a rimless .38 Super. These cartridges meet the Major power factor of IPSC and other competitive shooting events but haven't caught on outside of that.

Dr. Brad Miller of Shooting Times and Handguns Magazine even proposed a new variant he called 9mm Auto. The 9mm Auto is a duplicate of the 9mm Parabellum ballistically, but revises the case to straight walls.

The 9mm Luger round actually has a slight taper (it narrows by about 0.01 inches from the base to the case mouth) which causes an exaggerated nosedive gap (the space between cartridges in a magazine) and thus causes the round to hit the pistol's feed ramp at a rather low angle. This has been known to cause feeding problems in single-stack magazines. The 9mm Auto aims to correct this problem.

So...to sum up: 9mm is actually a family of cartridges, but we most often use it as shorthand to refer to the 9mm Luger, which is the most popular member of that family. Got it? Good.

## Accurizing and Bedding

By Mike Allee  
GunSmithingOnly.com

I asked people on Facebook what I should write about, and several people wanted an explanation of accurizing and bedding. This could be a long book, but I will try to be concise.

Let's discuss the bolt action (Mauser, 700 Remington, M-70, etc.). Wood-to-metal fit is a key concern. The best stock is likely a thin laminate that is so common these days. The best ones are shaped and then placed in a vacuum chamber, where a resin is pumped in to it to be absorbed by the wood. Afterward, the wood is very stable. The resin filled laminate does not fluctuate with temperature, but monolithic steel or aluminum stocks can, as can polymer. Humidity has no effect, but temperature does. Good fiberglass stocks with aluminum bedding inserts or blocks are very good as well. All stocks need at least 'spot' bedding, just enough to keep the metal from moving around. I am frequently asked to bed rifles, and part of the job is to make sure that when the rear screw is tightened, the action does not warp. I see "bed" jobs that are poor in quality. On those, one can crush the front screw and then tighten the rear and you can see or feel the action warp. That can be avoided by not crushing anything. You must also ensure that the action sits low enough. If it does not, you must carefully remove stock material to allow the action to sit properly. Often, this includes opening the barrel channel to allow the entire barrel to lie lower in the stock. In my world, the barrel must never contact anything, if at all possible. All metal parts need to be coated with a release agent (a substance that the bedding material will not stick to), as bedding material is a superb glue. Failure to properly apply release agent can result in a ruined stock. I've seen that happen, but fortunately have never done it. I carve out enough out of the action recess and lower metal recess to allow the bedding to grasp the wood properly. It can't be paper thin, as it may not stick. You can spot bed the original inlet but don't take the gun back out of the stock.

After the bedding compound is in, and the front screw is installed just enough to feel the action bottom out in the stock, the rear screw is tightened enough to level out the action, but no further. Then, the excess material is carefully removed. After that, set the gun in a safe, level spot and get back to it the next day, after the bedding compound has hardened. To remove the barreled action the next day, remove the screws, turn gun upside down and smack the barrel underneath a few times carefully with a leather

hammer. Remove, clean and reassemble.

Keep in mind, we're just addressing the bedding here. There are 40 other things to attend to. Is the muzzle crown ok? If not, re-crown it. Does the firing pin stick out far enough? For most cartridges, 62 thousandths of an inch is needed. A gun may fire with 40 thousandths, but it may need 62 thousandths to be accurate. If the firing pin strikes light enough to just barely ignite primers, inconsistent burn and bad groups will be the order of the day (it's more common than you think).

I'm the only guy I know who thinks blueprinting the action isn't that important. I mean, it's important if you screw guns together the old way, but following my methods, you don't need it. If the gun is so out of square as to need \$400 worth of gunsmithing to fix it, just get a different action. Few are that bad. Very few.

I make sure the chamber in the barrel is cut well and is not oversized. Sometimes, the brass supplied by the customer is not exactly large enough to fit well. For the very best accuracy, a shooter would make up a batch of ammo, handloading, setting bullet depth, etc., and then have a good ream maker make a reamer for that brass. However, that's an expensive process, and you will lose some brass. Out of a few hundred cases, maybe 30 would be lost, as they will be too big or too small. I set the headspace to about zero, but you'd need to be a good reloader to handle such a gun. I once built a very specific gun, with a very specific chamber, and the new owner could not deal with the difficulty of loading for the gun.

The trigger must be light and crisp. The scope must be powerful and well made. No junk scopes! Only \$200 from Sportsman's Warehouse Villa? No way, it's going to let you down. You are better off with a 2x Steel 1960's Weaver. You can use cheap Weaver rings and bases but steel bases if the gun is a hot magnum. No-Name Crap is crap.

I fit the barrels to where the headspace is minimal, when the barrel stops screwing in by hand. Then I glue it in. No crush, no stress, better accuracy.

Float the barrel, good trigger, good ammo, scope, bases, bedding, good barrel and chamber, clean crown, and that is about it. Flat target crowns are easier to make closer to perfect over a classic round crown. I will not do round crowns, unless the shooter knows it likely less accurate.

Oh yeah, shoot a lot. A LOT.



# The 15 Forgotten Benefits of Shooting

Minute Man Review

[www.minutemanreview.com](http://www.minutemanreview.com)

If you feel like taking a break from everyday life and your tough routine, you need to take up shooting. Shooting is an activity that comes with many health benefits. Ranging from physical benefits to mental benefits these will all help you grow into a better person. So without a further ado, let's review the 15 benefits of shooting that will reaffirm your faith in this activity:

## 1. It Increases Your Ability to Focus

Shooting helps you to clear out the background noise and focus on only one thing at a time – your target.

## 2. It Improves Your Eyesight

No, shooting will not magically give you 20-20 vision. But it WILL improve your body's ability to deal with eye strain as well as improve your hand eye coordination!

## 3. It Makes You More Responsible

With a gun in your hand you'll become more responsible and more accountable – both towards yourself and others. With great power comes great liability.

## 4. It Builds Up Your Courage

A firearm brings out the survival instinct in people. With proper training. With proper training on the shooting range, you will tap deeply into yourself to find – and bring forward – an unbending courage.

## 5. It Makes You Become More Confident

With time, Knowing how to man a gun will increase confidence and will make you more assertive in life.

## 6. It "Hones" Your Balance

Standing in one position for hours at a time will strengthen your core, give you more control over the fine muscles in your body, and ultimately improve your balance over the long run.

## 7. It Teaches Discipline

Learning to discipline yourself is a vital skill. Shooting helps to increase your stamina and motor skills, and every other type of self-discipline there is.

## 8. It Helps You Relax

Many consider shooting a physical activity, but it is actually more of a mental game than a physical one. By focusing on only one task at hand, your mind will relax and your body will follow.

## 9. It Teaches Rules

You don't need to be an aspiring PHD candidate to know that rules matter. The shooting range is full with dangers and by learning to control your emotions you will learn the rules of the game as well.

## 10. It Provides Great Stress Relief

Navigating the challenges of life can be hard, frustrating, and often stressful to no avail. Handling a gun serves as an outlet to release these emotions in a safe and healthy way.

## 11. It Trains Your Body

Many don't exercise because gyms require expensive monthly memberships, are often packed, and the majority of them feature equipment in closed spaces. Shooting is like a breath of fresh air that builds muscle without you even knowing it.

## 12. It Builds A Community

Today, finding people who enjoy doing the same activity has become more difficult than ever. Shooting helps to build a community of people who have the same interest goals and desires.

## 13. It Builds The Economy

Shooting has helped to contribute in the economic growth of countries where it is practiced a lot. More precisely, it has urges governments to add more taxes to be used for the betterment of people and societies.

## 14. It "Fills" You Up With Adrenaline

Shooting in a controlled environment makes you go all out. In turn, your body releases adrenaline which helps to keep you more alert, energized, and happy.

## 15. It Manages Chaos

Firing a gun makes you learn how to manage the chaos in your life. When you get back to it, you will know how to handle every situation and make it less chaotic.

# CrossBreed Holsters Drives Donations to Project ChildSafe

nssf.org

In a show of support for responsible gun ownership, CrossBreed Holsters ([www.crossbreedholsters.com](http://www.crossbreedholsters.com)) provides its customers the opportunity to donate to the nation's most influential firearm safety education program, Project ChildSafe, through its online shopping portal.

The checkout-donation initiative has been a big success, with customers generously giving back to their community by supporting Project ChildSafe, a program of the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF).

"Encouraging responsible gun handling and storage is very important to our company," said Carolyn Craighead, CEO of CrossBreed Holsters. "The work NSSF is doing through Project ChildSafe to help prevent firearm accidents, thefts and misuse couldn't be more valuable to our industry. We began giving our customers this online donation option more than a year ago, and the level of support they have shown has been extraordinary. We encourage all businesses to join us in supporting the NSSF and help raise the next generation of shooters to be safe and responsible firearm owners."

CrossBreed Holsters, founded in 2005 by the late Mark Craighead, gained national recognition as a leading manufacturer of innovative, functional concealment holsters.

"We salute CrossBreed Holsters for its leadership in providing this donation opportunity, and we thank their customers for supporting our firearm safety efforts, which we know are saving lives," said NSSF President and CEO Joe Bartozzi. "We encourage all outdoor sporting retail businesses that have an online shopping platform to consider adding a similar donation option to their checkout screen."

Founded in 1999 by NSSF (and originally known as Project HomeSafe), Project ChildSafe is a firearm industry program that provides firearm safety education for adults and children, along with free gun-locking devices, in every state and the U.S. territories through more than 15,000 program partners.

For more information about NSSF's Project ChildSafe program or the Project ChildSafe Foundation, contact Bill Brassard, NSSF Senior Director, Communications, at [bbrassard@nssf.org](mailto:bbrassard@nssf.org).



## Bill Would Create Statewide Guidelines for Gun Safety Education Program in School Districts

[www.ksnt.com](http://www.ksnt.com)

Kansas lawmakers are moving quickly to try and get a new gun safety bill passed. The new proposal aims to teach students about gun safety.

It would require the Kansas State Board of Education to create curriculum guidelines for a gun safety education program. Local school boards would have the option to teach it in their district.

It could start as early as kindergarten. It would be based on the National Rifle Association's Eddie Eagle GunSafe program.

Older students could be offered the training, or the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism's hunter education program.

Some people don't like that the proposal specifically can use instruction from a private organization like the NRA. They

also wanted the proposal to be debated in greater length. But supporters said this needs to pass to prevent accidents from happening.

"Doing something that would help further our Kansas community across the state, no matter what your constituency is, with training on how to properly engage a firearm as a child," Wichita Representative Patrick Penn said. "Very simply the concept is, stop, don't touch, run away, tell an adult, that's pretty much the standard, so if people can't get behind that, okay."

Penn said this still leaves it up to local officials to decide if they want to have the training in place.

"It's not a mandate," Penn said. "We're not directing the schools to do anything."

The bill now heads to the House floor for a full vote.

# Federal's FireStick Will Be a Game Changer in the Muzzleloader Hunting World

outdoorlife.com

The technological advancement that's going to open muzzleloader hunting up to a whole wave of new people is a polyethylene capsule that's filled with black powder. So ... not exactly space-age technology. While the product itself might not be super advanced tech, the idea behind it is pretty brilliant.

One of the great pains of shooting a muzzleloader is loading it (usually measuring out powder charges) and then cleaning it after every other shot (or sometimes with every shot). For newbies, this process is not only a pain in the neck, it can also be really intimidating. If you don't add the right amount of powder or seat the bullet properly ... bad things can happen.

Federal has solved those problems with the FireStick, which is a capsule that comes pre-loaded with either 100 grains or 120 grains of Hodgdon Triple 8 powder. The FireStick pairs specifically with a new Traditions Nitrofire muzzleloader. Here's how the system works. First you load a .50 cal muzzleloader bullet through the muzzle of the rifle. Then, you break open the gun and load the FireStick through the specially designed breech of the muzzleloader and then press a standard 209 primer into the FireStick's primer pocket. Snap the gun closed and you're ready to shoot.

## Advantages

The fact that this is way easier than loading a regular inline muzzleloader is obvious. But, there are a few more nuanced advantages to this system, too. First, it's really easy to unload. Simply pull the FireStick out when you're done hunting and leave the bullet seated.

Another huge benefit of the system is that your powder is protected from the elements. The FireStick is sealed on both ends. In testing, Federal engineers submerged it underwater for up to four hours and then fired it with very little change in ballistics. They also tested it in negative 20 degree temps and high-humidity conditions without seeing detrimental changes in muzzle velocity.

The Nitrofire muzzleloader was designed with an internal bullet shelf so that bullets are seated in the same position every time (which helps with accuracy and safety). This also makes it impossible to load the gun from the rear. The FireStick will only work in the new Nitrofire muzzleloader, you can't fit it into existing muzzleloader models. Likewise, you can't use the Nitrofire with loose traditional powder like standard muzzleloaders.

Lastly, the FireStick system is way cleaner than standard inline muzzleloaders. I got the chance to shoot it at a range day with Federal engineers (more on this in a minute) and we shot 10 rounds before cleaning the barrel—one fouling shot and then three, three-shot groups. There was no decline in accuracy and it didn't become impossible to push the bullets down the barrel. The system is cleaner because the powder is igniting inside the capsule, there's no powder touching the barrel directly. Also, because of the bullet shelf design, that crud ring or powder ring doesn't develop the way it would in standard muzzleloaders. Lastly, there's no breech plug to pull out and soak.

## Accuracy

I was shooting a pre-production rifle at the range day with Federal engineers (production models will be ready before fall) so it's too early to make a final statement on the system's accuracy. That said, you should expect to see slightly above-average accuracy from the FireStick and the Nitrofire rifle. At 100 yards, I was shooting about two-inch average groups with Federal's 270-grain Bor Lock Trophy Copper bullets and 1.6-inch average groups with Smackdown Carnivore 305-grain bullets. My best group was 1.09 inches. This is not game-changing accuracy. As you can see when compared to our muzzleloader test a few years ago, this is on par with how the better bullet/powder/rifle combinations perform. In broader testing, the Federal guys were getting average groups from 3 inches to about 1.6 inches from a wide sampling of name-brand muzzleloader bullets (the system works with all name-brand bullets).

Federal also shared some of its early velocity testing data with me, proving that consistent muzzle velocities were helping with better accuracy. With the Traditions Smackdown Carnivore 250-grain bullet, testing showed a variance of 44 fps and with Federal Premium B.O.R. Lock MZ Trophy Copper 270-grain bullet there was a variance of 37 fps. The muzzleloader industry standard of muzzle velocity variance is 75 fps, according to Federal. In other words, since there is a consistent amount of powder loaded into each capsule, FireStick is turning out very consistent muzzle velocities which in turn helps with accuracy.

But other than that, there's nothing about this system that makes it inherently more accurate than standard muzzleloaders. This is not long-range muzzleloading technology that's turning out ultra-fast velocities (the mean velocities were 1,973 fps for Carnivore and 1,957 fps for BOR Lock).

## Should It Be Legal?

So should this product be allowed in regular muzzleloader seasons? Many game agencies answer loudly and clearly—yes. These agencies see it as a way to bring more hunters in to muzzleloading with a safe product that's easy to use.

"The muzzleloader season is important for mentored hunts because oftentimes the states have more liberal seasons, so you get multiple weekends," says Jon Zinnel, the Conservation & Youth Shooting Sports Program Manager for Federal. Besides that, it's often easier to get mentors on board for a muzzleloader season because they've already been able to hunt for themselves during the archery season and the regular gun season.

"When you look at where we are as a hunting society, the most important thing is that we get the next generation of new hunters engaged, and oftentimes innovation and technology is what helps bring some of those people to the table," Zinnel says.

**Federal's Firestick** (Continued on page 10)

Federal's Firestick (Continued from page 9)

There is real potential here too, with an estimated 3.4 million muzzleloader hunters in the U.S., Zinnel says.

He's been working with state game agencies around the country to confirm that the FireStick is legal for hunting within the state—or to bring up a rule change that would legalize the product. He says that by this fall there will be about 30 states that will allow FireStick to be used in hunting seasons.

Ohio is one of the states that decided to tweak the language in its regulations to allow FireStick to be used during deer hunting season. Peter Novotny, the assistant chief of the state's Department of Natural Resources compares it to when the state started allowing inline muzzleloaders to be used decades ago.

"We've been very progressive in allowing muzzleloaders in our state," Novotny says. "As soon as the industry announced [the FireStick], our hunters were asking 'can I use this new system?' It was actually requested by the hunting community to allow it."

There has been some small opposition from folks who argue the product takes some of the challenge out of muzzleloading. But in reality, the FireStick doesn't actually make the hunting part easier, just the loading and reloading

aspect of shooting a muzzleloader.

"We've seen groups who say 'my way is the only right way to do it'" Novotny says. "But when that conversation becomes exclusionary, and creates unnecessary barriers to entry, that's when it's our job to look at it and see if we are really doing our part to serve the whole public and the resource... It should be the individual's freedom to make that choice on what type of hunting implement they want to use—as long as it falls under our safety parameters."

The state has some good recent history to look back on when it comes to allowing new technology into deer seasons. Ohio has allowed crossbows in the regular bow season for more than 30 years, and despite some naysaying from some old-school archers, the state's deer population didn't crash. The state more recently allowed pistol-rifle (or straight-wall) cartridges to be used during the gun season and it was immensely popular among young hunters, Novotny says.

"Ohio has focused more on the resource rather than being exclusionary about the methods of the hunt," he says. "We emphasize safety, we emphasize the resource, and we emphasize fair chase."

It's likely that many other states, at least in whitetail country, will follow Ohio's lead.

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## Page Nine

By Alan Korwin

### Dems Introduced Total Gun Bans

**HR 127 Isn't enacted yet**

**Long List of Common Guns Banned**

**Possessing .50 Cal Ammo To Be Outlawed Immediately**

**Every Gun You Now Own  
Will Require A Federal License**

Full description and storage location must be provided for each one

Listing errors would be major offenses, simply relocating a gun would be illegal

**License Requires Psych Test — of your family too**

**The Ban on a Federal Gun Registry Is Repealed**

**Registry Contents Accessible to the Public, and Anyone**

**No Firearm Possession by Anyone Under 18**

**No Wiggle Room, No Appeals**

**Penalties from \$75,000 and 15 Years**

**Attorney General Gets All Powers**

**Entire bill described in Plain English below:**

**Read the bill for yourself:**

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/127/text>

### HR 127 Main Sponsor, Sheila Jackson Lee

I am describing the bill in plain English terms, which requires some ease on the grammar, but no substantive changes. (e.g., "Wherefore art thou Romeo" becomes "Where are you Romeo", etc.)

### USC Section § 923 Licensing of Firearm and Ammunition Possession; Registration of Firearms

The Attorney General (AG) working through the BATFE, shall establish a system for licensing and registering all firearms and ammo in private hands.

This must include make, model number, serial number, owner, date acquired and where the firearm is or will be stored.

Plus, the identity of any person to whom the firearm will be loaned, and for any period of time (both undefined).

You're in violation if you don't provide this info within 3 months of passage. The same info must be provided for newly obtained firearms, immediately.

The AG must build and maintain a database for all this info. [NOTE: The Brady system, just for purchases, cost a quarter of a billion dollars.] The content of the database "shall be accessible to all members of the public" and all federal authorities, all branches of the Armed Forces, and state and local governments, "as defined by BATFE."

The AG must issue a license to you if:

- You're 21 years old;
- You get a Brady background check and are not a prohibited possessor (that's 18 USC §922 (g) or (n));
- You go through an unspecified psychological evaluation and are not "psychologically unsuited to possess a firearm";
- Successfully complete an AG certified course in gun use, safety, safe storage and 24 hours of training;

- Have proof of the approved insurance policy (defined below).

A special set of conditions are described for having or displaying an antique firearm, in addition to this.

A special set of conditions are described to own and possess a military-style weapon, described later, in addition to these license requirements, and live-fire training.

The psych test must be conducted according to standards the AG will establish later, by a licensed psychologist the AG will approve later. At the psychologist's discretion, a psychological evaluation of other members of the gun owner's household will be required. The psychologist will interview the applicant's spouse, any former spouse, and "at least two other people who are family members, or associates of the applicant, to determine the mental, emotional and relational stability of the applicant in relation to firearms."

The AG shall deny the license if you're banned by law, were ever hospitalized for mental problems (listed broadly, like "disturbance"), drugs, alcohol use, or conduct that endangers others or self.

The license can be easily revoked or suspended, including for letting the insurance policy lapse.

Worded in a strange way, the license is only good for one year:

"(6) EXPIRATION OF LICENSE.—A license issued to an individual under this subsection shall expire—“(A) in the case of a license that has been in effect for less than 5 years, 1 year after issuance or renewal, as the case may be; or “(B) in the case of a license that has been in effect for at least 5 years, 3 years after the most recent date the license is renewed.”

[NOTE: Since all new licenses will be issued less than five years ago, they will only be good for one year, as I read it. If you keep renewing, they remain "issued less than five years ago," and at the discretion of the AG. Go ahead, argue with me. The rest of this bill is patently illegal, why should you expect expiration to be any different. A fee for the license is not specified, so it's left up to the AG. The same for the insurance policy, whose terms are unknown. Who, you must wonder, is the underwriter, and what is covered?]

The AG "shall renew a license" if you "request the renewal by the end of the 60-day period that begins with the date the license expires;" Read it carefully. It seems to say you apply after expiration, and will spend time with your arms and no license. §923(C)(7)(A). You must re-qualify of course, and 8 hours of training are required.

However long the license is good for, the mandatory insurance policy: "that insures the person against liability for losses and damages resulting from the use of any firearm by the person during the 1-year period that begins with the date the policy is issued," costs \$800.

"Military-style weapon" is defined based on familiar and common cosmetic features and by name, including ARs, AKs, semi-auto pistols, rifles and shotguns with specific features — see the bill so I don't have to bog this down with tech specs. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/127/text>

The penalties are gigantic but do not include anything

for commission of crimes, only peaceful, law-abiding possession of property. Owning, transferring, carrying, using, buying or selling any firearms or ammo, including for everything you now legally own, without the required license and registration, carries penalties for simple violations up to \$150,000 and 40 years in prison. Moving a firearm from where the records say you store it, to another place, is a violation. [NOTE: Federal proposals like this one are why states, counties, cities and town are enacting important Sanctuary Policies, putting certain legislation exclusively under local control, using the Constitution's Supremacy Clause and Amendment 10 as a foundation. I'll have a separate report on that soon.]

The long-standing ban on creating a central firearms registry, Title 18 Section 926(a), is deleted.

It is unlawful for anyone to possess 0.50 caliber ammo (or greater).

Magazines that hold more than 10 rounds are banned.

SEC. 3. None of this applies to "the proper authorities" who are named and spelled out. In other words, officials can have everything you are being banned from, tipping the balance of power much further in their direction than it already is.

### Had enough? That's it.

Now keep in mind, I didn't comment very much as I went, which was hard. This is the greatest pile of dictatorial trash ever introduced into the United States Congress with respect to RKBA. It is prima facie evidence of the left-wing disrespect for the U.S. Constitution, your rights, the rule of law, the balance of power this nation runs on, or is supposed to run on, and undercuts any thing being said about Unity, Inclusion, Tolerance, Diversity, sanctity of human rights or crime control.

Democrats, who are behind this, cannot claim to support The American Way. This is the opposite of The American Way. This is how communists and dictators operate. We have guns, you don't. They're saying the Constitution provides no constraints, we have no respect at all for what it says. In a just system, this could not even make it to a proposal, righteous people would say you can't do that. Yet here we are.

Perhaps Sheila Jackson Lee is being used as a scapegoat, behind an impossible bill, with no hopes of floating, so when the real bill comes out, they can say, "See, we're being reasonable." Nah. The bill currently sits in committee, unmoved.

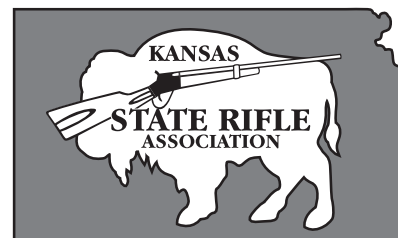
Join The Second Amendment Foundation, <https://www.saf.org>, who will be filing lawsuits. Join your local state association, and work for Sanctuary status.



# Chips-n-Ricochets

## ADVERTISING RATES AND POLICIES

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**Publication Size:** 8 1/2" x 11"  
**Format:** 2 Column  
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**Circulation:**  
 6000 Individuals & 20,000 Club Members

### ADVERTISING DEADLINES

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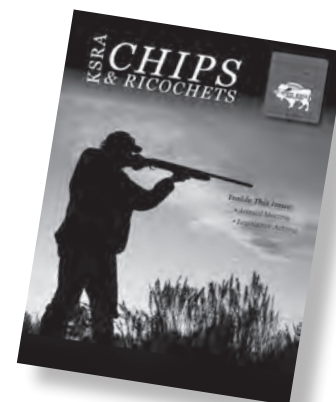
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### PUBLICATION DATES

- January 15
- April 15
- July 15
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# KSRA Annual Meeting Schedule May 7 & 8, 2021

**Hilton Garden Inn  
Convention Center  
Hays, Kansas**

Volunteers are needed to assist at the range events, and to also help out at the Convention Center. Please contact the KSRA at 913-608-1910, or Vern Swick at 316-250-6184.

We've got several great activities planned for our Annual Meeting this year, held in Hays, Kansas. We'll have a Banquet and Auction Friday evening for several great products and accessories, as well as a keynote speaker and the presentation of the Kent Radcliff Memorial Law Enforcement Award.

### Friday, May 7

6:00 p.m. Banquet, keynote speaker and KR award presentation  
Vendors and Auction  
Cost for Banquet: \$35/plate,  
\$40/plate with dessert

Saturday we've got lots of great stuff at the Hays City Sportsmen's Club. We'll close the day and the Annual Meeting out back at the Hilton Garden Inn and Convention Center with our Annual Member Meeting.

### Saturday, May 8

8:00 a.m. Coffee with legislators, vendors, and day's events at the range

10:00 a.m. Hays City Sportsman's Club (HCSC) activities

- Plate shoot \$10/Entry, KSRA Members only, 30 rounds, any cal >.22 (no magnums)
- Traps
- Bianchi Cup demonstration
- Black Powder demo

Food Trucks for lunch on your own

3:00 p.m. Back to Hilton for Annual Member Meeting

4:00 p.m. Dismissal

## Hotels for KSRA Annual Meeting Hays Friday, May 7 - Sat., May 8, 2021

We've got a block of rooms at several hotels in Hays set aside, so be sure to mention the KSRA at the time of booking to get our special discounted room rate. Rooms are limited at each hotel, so book your room early!

Hotel	# of Rooms	Rates
1. <b>Holiday Inn Express</b> .....	30 .....	King \$119
		Cut-off Date: April 24 Double Queen \$99.99
4650 Roth Avenue • (785) 625-8000		
2. <b>Hilton Garden Inn</b> .....	30 .....	King or Double Queen
		Cut-off Date: April 24 \$114
223 W. 43rd St. • (785) 727-7721		
3. <b>Marriot</b> .....	15 ...	King or Double Queen \$129
		Cut-off Date: April 9 Double Queen \$114
4001 General Hays Road • (785) 261-9630		
4. <b>Fairfield</b> .....	20 .....	King or Double Queen \$99
		Cut-off Date: April 16
377 Mopar Drive • (785) 625-3344		
5. <b>Best Western Butterfield</b> ..	20 .....	King \$114
		Cut-off Date: April 24 Double Queen \$124
1010 E 41st Street • (785) 621-4337		
6. <b>Hampton Inn</b> .....	20 .....	King or Double Queen
		Cut-off Date: April 24 \$96
4002 General Hays Road • (785) 624-4444		
7. <b>Comfort Inn</b> .....	20 .....	King or Double Queen
		Cut-off Date: April 24 \$94
1001 E 41st Street • (785) 625-9322		
8. <b>Sleep Inn</b> .....	20 .....	King or Double Queen
		Cut-off Date: April 24 \$89
1011 E 41st Street • (785) 625-2700		



Bushnell has announced it is now offering its VIP Purchase Program to members of the Kansas State Rifle Association. Members can take advantage of discounts up to 50% off of MSRP at Bushnell's retail outlet in Lenexa, KS.

Proof of KSRA membership is required and the discount is exclusive to in-store purchases.

For more information, please contact the Lenexa store at 913-310-0783. Reference Walt Whitaker.

# KSRA 2021 Annual Meeting Vendor/Sponsor Packages

## Pistol Level (\$150)

- Vendor space (if desired) • \$50 for vendor space only
- 2 tickets for the banquet with featured speaker
- Social media and print exposure as a vendor or donor

## Revolver Level (\$250)

- Vendor space (if desired)
- 2 tickets for the banquet with featured speaker
- Social media and print exposure as a vendor or donor

## Shotgun Level (\$500)

- Vendor space (if desired)
- Banner placement
- 2 tickets for the banquet with featured speaker
- Social media and print exposure as a vendor or donor
- 1/8 page ad in *Chips 'n Ricochet* Magazine

## Rifle Level (\$1000 and above)

- Vendor space (if desired)
- 4 tickets for the banquet with featured speaker
- Banner placement throughout the facility and a visual donor thank you
- Social media and print exposure as a vendor or donor
- 1/4 page ad in *Chips 'n Ricochet* Magazine
- Business alliance membership worth \$1000 or lifetime membership for an individual

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## The Second Amendment Assumes a Moral People

By Joe Strader from the American Thinker Website

When the Framers put the Bill of Rights into place, they did so assuming that Americans were a fundamentally moral people. John Adams stated that explicitly, saying, “Our constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.” One element of this assumption was that the people could be trusted with firearms. Now, though, those in charge of the government presumptively assess Americans as immoral and untrustworthy.

Immediately after the Framers created the Union, they passed the ten constitutional amendments that we call the Bill of Rights. The Framers understood these to be inalienable rights from our Creator. They forbade the new government to infringe on these rights.

The First Amendment is a moral people’s right to communicate to the government a proper course of action. The Framers knew that government has no morality in and of itself and would depend on moral people to speak and write to redress the errors of government. To be moral, a government must trust the people to develop and guard their moral principles.

The Second Amendment embodies the implied trust that the government should have in the people. There is no greater trust than the trust required when people can possess the means of lethal force without regulation. The people should be trusted because they could be trusted.

It has been said that the Second Amendment is necessary to protect the other amendments. That is quite true. However, the First Amendment also protects the Second. The Framers expected that people would seek the moral teachings of their religious institutions and act upon them — and not just in their speech and in the redress of grievances. They believed that a moral people would handle lethal force in a moral way, whether hunting for food, self-defense, or defending the nation against enemies both foreign and domestic.

The Framers knew that not all people would act morally. To constrain their worst behaviors, they created a judicial system by which the people could judge each other through a jury of their peers. Any facts presented to the jury had to comport with centuries-old refinements aimed at excluding unreliable evidence. A person found to be outside the bounds of legal morality could be denied liberty — and one liberty that can be denied is possessing lethal force.

The framers had built a system in which free moral people could be trusted to govern themselves. It is the definition of liberty. Removing liberty from those who prove that they do not have the moral guidance to be trusted is the regulating force to compel people to seek morality. This is not compelled religion. It is compelled moral behavior, and people can learn that from religious teaching without participating in the faith and practices.

It is a delicate balance. The people could be free except when they proved by their own actions that they should not be completely free. Of late, this has changed.

The government now seeks to take away people’s liberty first and then force them to prove their morality before they have the government’s permission to be trusted. It is a battle that cannot be won. The government will make it increasingly difficult to prove morality. Since a person might act immorally in the future, a person can never be trusted. It has been a slow and subtle change, but now the government defines morality, and it has no need for religion and the morality it teaches.

In the past, the left would decry laws made based on morality. “You can’t legislate morality,” they would scream. They were wrong. A government can define morality based on the demands of a moral people. That is not the government determining morality; it is the government reflecting the morality of the people in its laws.

We are increasingly upside-down from the Framers’ intentions. The government defines morality — it does not reflect it — and the people can never meet the government’s constantly changing definition of morality because the government doesn’t trust the people. Now a person is guilty until proven innocent. We do not have permission to speak certain things, and we cannot approach the government with a moral argument to redress grievances. To make certain that we do not get uppity, they have shown that they are willing to use government force to deny us access to moral teaching not from the government.

It is surprising that the greatest example of trust given to the people — the right to bear arms — remains at all. It hangs by a thin thread that can be severed in a moment. Maybe the people who back the Second Amendment are correct when they say the Second Amendment protects the rest, but the rest are already gone when the government wants them gone. The Second Amendment may be protecting only itself.

# The Great Ammo Shortage Explained

www.shootingillustrated.com

Fake news hit high tide when cartridges and components vanished from store shelves and website inventories. The tsunami of misinformation drowned out common sense and customer-service lines, with every manufacturer flooded with complaints, many of them conspiratorial in nature. Lizard people are not stockpiling ammo, nor is it Russian malware at work, according to the experts contacted by Shooting Illustrated.

"There are a lot of rumors right now about ammunition and components not making their way to retail that are just not true," Jason Vanderbrink, Vista Outdoor president, cautioned. "We are running our CCI/Speer and Federal factories 24/7 and shipping products for commercial distribution every day."

Jason Hornady, vice president at Hornady Manufacturing, concurred, adding perspective to the current demand. "We have orders that would be the equivalent of two and a half years of production," he said.

SIG Sauer Chief Marketing Officer and Executive Vice President of Commercial Sales Tom Taylor agrees sales are simply outpacing production capacity. "Demand has far exceeded our manufacturing capability, but we've still been able to double our shipments in all categories." He added, "We have greatly expanded our work force and are running three shifts in our factory."

## Measured Expansion

Every company Shooting Illustrated contacted indicated their respective workforces have been bolstered, shifts added and expansion plans are in the works. The latter requires meticulous planning, however, as well as painful months or years waiting for permit approval and often time-consuming re-zoning before construction begins. Powder, cartridge and primer manufacturing, after all, are not everyone's concept of an ideal neighbor. Even well-established factories encounter regulatory delays when expanding operations.

Additionally, ammunition demand tends to be cyclic, which means there's fiscal risk in making unplanned and rushed investment in new machinery and facilities. Hornady explained, "We have planned for growth regardless of these super-demand surges and that's what we call this, a super demand, not a shortage. It's very similar to the toilet-paper shortage—nobody used more or less toilet paper than they did a year ago..." He noted, though, sales today are, "... very different, because we have added 7 million new shooters that weren't there before, but everything we do is for growth that we were planning on, regardless... The thing is, you can't build

your capacity based around these events." He cited the 1993 Brady Bill, the Y2K scare, the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and President Barack Obama's election and re-election as other times ammunition demand soared temporarily, followed quickly by stalling sales and stockpiled inventory.

Taylor said his company also has plans for growth in the works, but in the meantime, "SIG Sauer has added capacity, equipment, people, shifts and every resource we can find to expand production to meet as much market demand as we can."

## Raw Material Availability

Availability of raw material during the pandemic has also been a concern. "We did have the foresight to bring in about six months' worth of inventory when COVID really hit, which made a huge difference and that's why we were able to keep running," according to Hornady. "Had we not done that, we probably would be having a hard time."

Taylor did not note any struggle with component supply, but did admit primers were the most constrained item. He noted that 9 mm and 5.56 NATO are the cartridges currently being produced in highest volume at the factory. Over at Hornady, it's the same.

## Light at the End of the Tunnel

Expansion of factories and purchasing the specialized machinery may seem painfully slow to ammo-starved enthusiasts, but there is a light at the end of this shortage tunnel. One of the nation's largest cartridge producers ground slowly to a halt during Remington's bankruptcy proceedings last year, and some of its workers are already back at work. "We're proud to now own and operate the Remington ammunition factory in Lonoke, AR, and are excited to get that great facility back up to full capacity in the coming months," Vanderbrink said.

Gun owners should keep in mind this is the most demanding market in history by far. Retailers and consumers are frustrated, but manufacturers have added as much capacity as possible to meet demand.



# A Simple Topic: Gun Screws

Mike Allee – mallee@gunsmithingonly.com

Gun Screws! Simple, right? No, not even a little bit simple. As I have said before, no one knows what a real gunsmith does, even other gunsmiths sometimes. "Screws" is a vast and complicated subject in the gun world. I will attempt to build this story and make sense.

Sometimes I can remove a screw, and then replace it with one out of a box and all is well. \$2, and everyone is happy.

Sometimes an hour or more must be spent to remove a bad screw, then I have to make one to replace it, because there are none like it available. Using long-practiced methods of drilling, grinding, using carbide bits, HSS bits, stones and carbide burrs. Such processes require many years of handwork experience. Oftentimes, the process of removing one bad screw uses up expensive tooling. At that point, the \$2 fantasy becomes a \$200 reality, and a pain in my rear. As always, the end question is, "Is the gun worth the work?"

Winchester has many "proprietary" screw sizes and threads. And quite often, no replacements are available. In those cases, its best to re-tap them to a common screw size and thread. I do not play the silly game of making or having on-hand a special tap and die of 10/37/ 1/3 to replace a Winchester screw to keep it perfectly original. Want to spend an EXTRA \$200 on that screw? Go find someone else who wants such tomfoolery. I can run a 10/32 tap in that hole and make a screw from my 2 dozen grade 8, 10x32 sizes I have in boxes.

Old-style slotted head screws of hard, high quality, do not seem to exist. There is an extensive "KIT" available of many fillister head screws but they are short and soft. So the USA-made hard screws that are best to use are Allen head, and must be welded to fill the Allen head hole and then cut to the right appearance and blued or rusted to match as well as can be done. A slot cut in the head by a jeweler's coping saw or a 409 cut off wheel for the screwdriver.

I once worked on a rare valuable caplock shotgun that needed all the screws replaced. The rest of the gun was costing over \$2,400 to refinish and repair. The screw replacements and repair cost over \$600 just by themselves. Some had to be engraved. My engraver is retiring so I may be out of that biz.

In the 1980's, Browning introduced its A-5 shotgun, which was manufactured in Japan, and it was nowhere near the same quality as the previous vintage Belgian-manufactured guns. But you use what you can get. They are not horrible. The buttstock retaining screw was often cross threaded in the hole from the factory, or the screw was made too large for the hole. Either way, they were often impossible to remove via normal method, using a screwdriver, and when you find those Japan-made guns nowadays, they often still have the same problem. Even with the gun in a padded vise, a square shank screwdriver, perfectly fitted to the screw slot, pushed into the slot by a drill press and a wrench on the square shank, you STILL can't get them out. So, they have to be drilled out, and that is a quite a job. The objective is to protect the lower tang of the shotgun while destroying a long, large screw. It can be done, but it takes an hour or so.

Another pure joy is wood screws. Old wood screws are generally of high quality, hard and sharp. But they get ruined

from many directions. The fix is often drilling out the wood, filling the hole with a proper hardwood plug, making a screw from an existing wood screw, reshaping it and fitting it to be just right. One problem I often run into with this fix though is that the right size screw is nickel-plated - not what one wants on an 1860 gun (or any gun, really). I never throw any wood screw away since it might be close enough to recut to work as a replacement screw on some gun in the future. It's not like a machine screw of the same diameter, which would have consistent and simple threads the full length of the screw. Wood screws are also tapered, and threads are not easy to cut. In fact, I have no idea how to make a wood screw threaded area on a piece of steel. I once hand cut the threads on a barrel with a "V" shaped file when my lathe broke down and the boss said, "Get it done. Now!" It worked, much to my amazement. A 44-40 Winchester lived again, and as far as I know, it's still shooting to this day. But I'm not going to cut wood screws by hand. In fact, I'm the boss now and if the lathe is down, the job can wait.

Making screws can entail many steps: first, you must select the steel (drill rod is best), then you must shape it in the lathe using measurements off the old screw or hole, after determining the thread pitch (how many turns per inch). Sometimes you even have to pay attention to the actual "V" shape, which can be important (it can vary). Set the lathe to the right TPI (threads per inch) and set the cutter to the correct angle and height, then select speed for that steel. Then after cutting, remove from lathe, cut off the parent piece of steel, and then turn screw body around and put it back in the lathe 3 or 4 or 6 jaw chuck, and shape the head to fit the gun. Then slot it and apply the desired finish (most often blued). Now you don't want to boil an entire bath of bluing salts to blue one screw, so one must wait until there are other guns or parts to be blued.

The good thing about making a screw in the lathe is the exacting control over dimensions. You can even make an oversize screw for a worn hole. Brownell's makes a "save your tailfeathers" oversize 6x48 screw for scope base mounting. This is mighty handy. Often the holes in the top or side of a rifle receiver/action can be stripped out or damaged in some way. There is a time-consuming, lengthy and pain in the rear way to fix that, but if the screw hole is in the right place, and 6x48 (the most common size) one may buy the slightly oversize tap for the slightly oversize screw and use them to mount the base on properly, clean and tight. I have used that concept to fix all sorts of bad holes. In an emergency (lack of time or money), a screw, loose in a hole, may be squeezed in a vise to make it more oval rather than round, and still retain threads, and tighten up in the hole very well.

I found a 6x48 hole in a thin shotgun barrel that had been damaged. The new 6x48 shotgun bead was loose in the hole. So I re-tapped only half of the hole with the oversize 6x48 tap and screwed in an oversize 6x48 screw, forcing it in the second half and cut it off and filed the existing proud part of the body to almost perfect fit to exterior of shotgun barrel. Then I re-drilled it to 4x40 and inserted a 4x48 shotgun bead. Worked great!

Screws, not so simple.

# Bass Reeves: Old West Lawman

By Larry Richardson

This brief article is a bit of a change-up from my previous offerings in that it is not about the bad guys but rather a good guy with an interesting beginning and story. I was first alerted to the subject by Jackie Todd, KSRA Membership Secretary, who thought I should consider writing something about Bass Reeves as it was suggested, in some quarters, that his story might have been the inspiration for the "Lone Ranger" character which first appeared in the late 1930's. My research showed something different, but nonetheless, interesting enough in its own right that I thought it was worth writing about. So here goes!

Bass Reeves, a Black man, was born into slavery in Crawford County, Arkansas in 1838. He was named after his grandfather, Bass Washington. Reeves and his family were enslaved by Arkansas state legislator William Reeves. When Bass was about eight years old in 1846, William Reeves moved to Grayson County, Texas, near Sherman in the Peters Colony. Reeves was kept in bondage by William Reeves's son, Colonel George R. Reeves. The younger Reeves was a sheriff and legislator in Texas and a one-time speaker of the Texas House of Representatives until his death from rabies in 1882.

When the American Civil War began, and Texas seceded from the Union, George Reeves joined the Confederate army, taking Bass with him. It is unclear how, or exactly when Bass Reeves left his enslaver, but at some point, he gained his freedom. One story is that Bass and his "owner" George Reeves, were playing cards one day and an argument ensued resulting in a fight between the two, and Bass beating the crap out of George. Knowing that the repercussions of a slave beating up his master were usually pretty dire, he fled into Indian Territory. While there, he lived among the Cherokee, Creek and Seminole tribes, learning their languages and customs until after the end of the Civil War where he was freed by the enactment of the 13th Amendment, in 1865, which abolished slavery. As a freedman, Reeves moved back to Arkansas and farmed near Van Buren.

Reeves married, and he and his family farmed in Arkansas until 1875, when his life changed forever. Isaac Parker was Federal judge for Indian Territory. Parker appointed James F. Fagan as U.S. Marshal (he was one of the Confederate generals who got "overwhelmed" along with Marmaduke at the Battle of Mine Creek - small world!). Fagan was given the task to hire 200 deputy U.S. Marshals. Fagan had heard about Reeves as a man who knew the Territory, spoke the languages,

and could move freely within Native American, Black and White communities. Fagan was able to successfully recruit Reeves as a deputy. As a result, Reeves became the first Black deputy west of the Mississippi River. Reeves was assigned as a deputy U.S. Marshal for the Western District of Arkansas which also had the responsibility for the native reservations in Indian Territory. He served there until 1893. That year, he was transferred to the Eastern District in Texas in Paris, Texas until 1897 when he was transferred, again, to work with the Muskogee Federal Court in eastern Indian Territory.



Reeves worked for 32 years as a Federal Marshal in Indian Territory and became one of Judge Parker's most valued deputies. Using many tools at his disposal, including disguises, Reeves was very effective in rounding up and capturing or killing some of the most dangerous thieves and killers of the time, mostly single handedly. During this time, he was never wounded despite having his hat and belt shot off on separate occasions. He was an expert marksman with a rifle and revolver, and during his long tenure he developed superior detective skills. When he retired in 1907, Reeves had made over 3,000 arrests of felons. He also killed 14 outlaws who had, unfortunately, chosen to fight it out rather than be captured. One incident involved Reeves tracking an infamous horse thief for days. Having finally figured out where his target was likely to be, Reeves waited for the thief to show up along the trail. Upon seeing the

thief approach, he sprang from the bushes and confronted the man with a warrant for his arrest. The desperado then went for his gun, but Reeves drew his own gun and killed the thief before his gun could "clear leather."

On an interesting note, which speaks to the character of Bass Reeves, he assumed the responsibility of arresting his son, Bennie, one of his 11 children, who was charged with the murder of his own wife. Reeves was shaken by the event, but he demanded the responsibility of bringing him to justice. Bennie was tracked down, captured, tried and convicted. He served 11 years at Ft. Leavenworth in Kansas before his sentence was commuted. He reportedly lived the rest of his life as a model citizen.

Reeves himself was once put on trial for murder, having been accused of killing a posse's cook. He claimed innocence as he accidentally shot the cook while cleaning his gun (even we know that you should always unload your gun before cleaning it!). He was represented by former United

State Attorney, W.H.H. Clayton, who was a colleague and friend. The judge was the same one he served under as a Marshal, known to have considered Reeves one of his most effective lawmen. The details of the trial are not known, but he was acquitted and continued to serve as a Marshal until Oklahoma was granted statehood in 1907. After statehood, Reeves joined the police department at Muskogee. He retired from the Muskogee police department two years later, at the age of 70.

On January 12, 1910, Reeves, whose health was failing, died as the result of "Bright's disease" (which is acute nephritis, or kidney disease).

Reeves was married twice. In 1864, he married Nellie Jennie, who passed away in 1896. He subsequently married Winnie Sumter in 1900. His children were named Newland, Benjamin (Bennie), George, Lula, Robert, Sally, Edgar, Bass Jr., Harriet, Homer and Alice.

He was a great-uncle of Paul Brady, who became the first Black man appointed as a Federal administrative law judge in 1972.

His great-great-great grandson is National Hockey League player, Ryan Reeves, 34, born in Canada and currently a wing for the Vegas Golden Knights. His brother, Jordan, is also a player for the Saskatchewan Rough Riders, for you hockey fans out there.

## The Lone Ranger Connection

Thad Morgan, along with Mike Vago, raised the question of the possible connection between Reeves's legendary exploits and the character that is The Lone Ranger. Vago notes that episodes of "Gunslingers" and "Legends and Lies: The Real West" have been called "Bass Reeves: The Real Lone Ranger". In actuality, there is no evidence that the

creators, George W. Trendle and Fran Striker, had Reeves in mind when the series first appeared on the radio station WXYZ in Detroit, Michigan, in 1933. The story behind the character involved a fictional Texas Ranger named John Reid, who was the sole survivor of a group of Texas Rangers who were ambushed by outlaws. The outlaws killed five Rangers, including John's older brother, Daniel. An Indian named Tonto found Reid and nursed him back to health. Reid then donned a black mask, mounted his stallion, Silver, and roamed the West as The Lone Ranger to aid those in need, fight evil and to establish justice. The story was serialized in the movies in 1938. In 1949, when televisions became more commonplace, ABC started the series starring Clayton Moore as The Lone Ranger and Jay Silverheels as Tonto. Moore would go on to play The Lone Ranger for the life of the show, except when



he was replaced by actor John Hart in 1952-53 during a contract dispute with ABC. The television series ended in 1957, but still endures in popular culture. Every time I hear the finale of Rossini's William Tell Overture, I expect to hear "Hi-Yo Silver-Away!"

## Other Notable Accounts

In 1992, Reeves was inducted into the Hall of Great Westerners of the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum.

In 2011, the US-62 bridge, which spans the Arkansas River between Muskogee and Fort Gibson, Oklahoma, was renamed the Bass Reeves Memorial Bridge.

In May 2012, a bronze statue of Reeves by Oklahoma sculptor Harold Holden was erected in Pendergraft Park in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

In 2013, Reeves was inducted into the Texas Trail of Fame.

A book, "Black Gun and Silver Star: The Life and Legend of Frontier Marshal Bass Reeves" by Art T. Burton (1999), was

published. He was also the subject of another book, "The Legend of Bass Reeves," by Gary Paulsen which features both true and fictional accounts. And finally, a non-fiction biography written in 2005 by Paul L. Brady titled "The Black Badge: Deputy United States Marshal Bass Reeves: From Slave to Historic Lawman."

A fictional account of Reeves was presented in the 2010 movie "Bass Reeves" starring James A. House.

In the 2013 movie "They Die By Dawn,"

Reeves is portrayed by Harry Lennix.

A 2019 movie "Hell on the Border," based on the early law enforcement career of Reeves stars David Gyasi. (The trailer looks great!-I'm getting the DVD.)

A mini-series for HBO is based on Burton's book is reportedly currently under development.

## Afterword

I had a great time learning about this great historic lawman. I did not read any of the books about Bass Reeves but found several summaries online from which I gleaned this article. I know that now, I am prompted to find out more about his life and times. In addition, I am motivated, now to research and write some more articles about some of the old west "good guys" in the future. Hope you enjoyed it.



# Kent Radcliff Law Enforcement Memorial Award

By Bryan and Noel Richardson

In 2016, the Kansas State Rifle Association established the Kent Radcliff Law Enforcement Memorial Fund in honor of a long time KSRA board member and champion of the shooting sports, Kent Radcliff. This Memorial Fund's purpose is to honor someone who is a lifelong supporter of the Second Amendment. The qualified person looks for opportunities to educate and inspire others of the importance of our right to keep and bear arms. They put their effort into improving their community, making safety and wellbeing of others a priority. He or she goes above and beyond in the serving of others.

Kent loved the shooting sports. He truly believed that everyone should know how to operate a firearm safely. He dedicated his life to instilling love for firearms through exposure. His love for the Second Amendment was tireless. He was a Lifetime Member of Kansas State Rifle Association and the Oklahoma Rifle Association. When asked why he was a member in both states, Kent would say we all must give what we can to ensure we never lose our right to bear arms.

Kent was a long-serving board member for the Kansas State Rifle Association. He also was an Endowment-level Member of the National Rifle Association. Kent, along with two others, established the Cowley County Friends of the NRA. For 21 years, he held an office in this organization. The Cowley County Friends of the NRA generated funds to bring shooting activities to Cowley County. Women on Target and the NRA Youth Hunter Education Challenge were two shooting activities organized by Cowley County Friends of the NRA. The main objective of these events is to demonstrate firearm skills and safety practices while exposing their participants to a variety of firearms. These events were hosted on Radcliff Ranch for 21 years, touching countless lives through creating awareness and lifelong support for the shooting sports. Kent engaged those he knew that had a fear of firearms and through instruction and awareness eased those fears. Kent's eyes would light up watching a young person take their first shot. He was delighted when a woman with fear of firearms proudly showed a target riddled with bullet holes. Kent also helped in starting Echo Valley Pistol league which hosted monthly competitions and numerous firearm trainings.

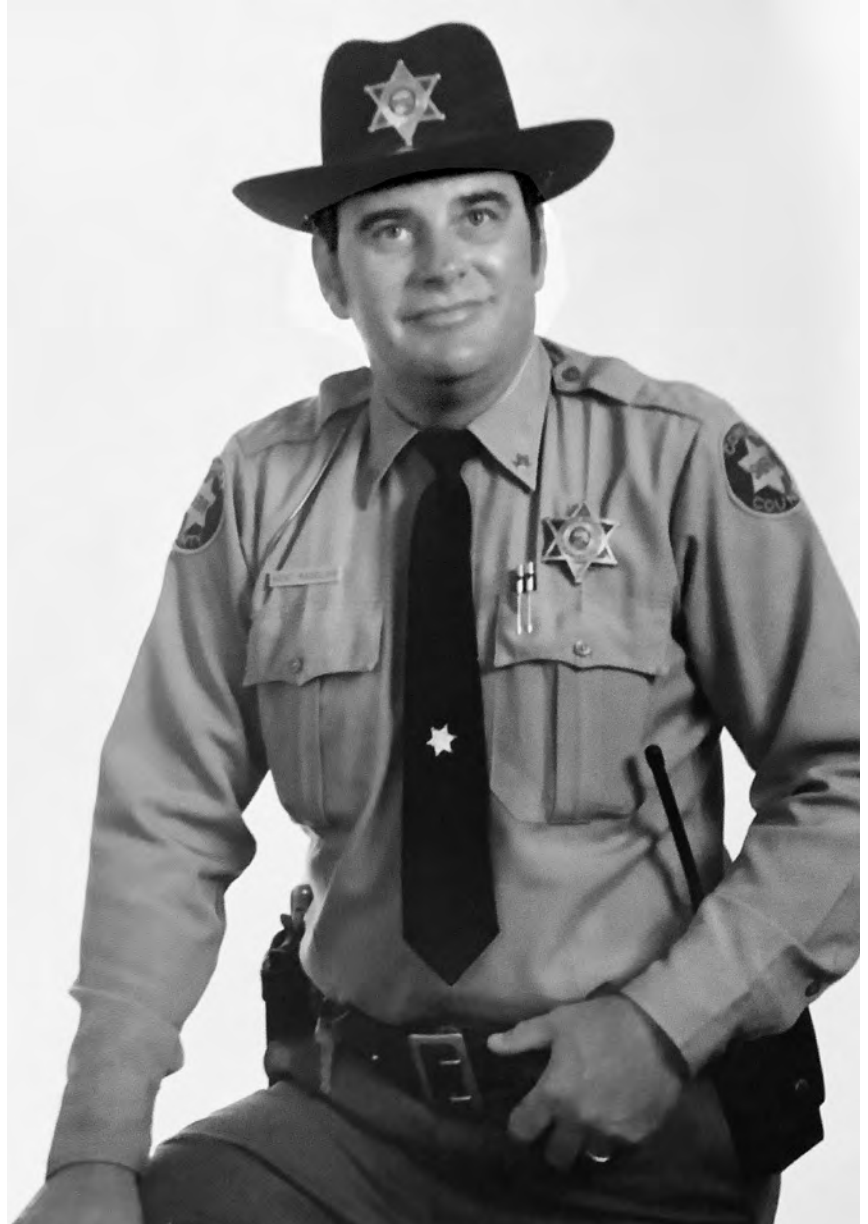
When he wasn't sharing his love of firearms with others, Kent dedicated a large part of his life serving and protecting. He served as Dexter Fire Chief and was instrumental in organizing the Cowley County Fire Districts and Fire Departments. Kent started with the Cowley County Sheriff's Department as a reserve Deputy in 1980. He then became a deputy with the Cowley County Sheriff's Department, where he was on active duty from August 1985 until 1991. He remained on staff as a firearm instructor

with the Cowley County Sheriff's Department until 2015. He also was a trainer for the Clearwater Police Department and Burden Police Department.

An Endowment has been established in Kent's name by Powder Valley Inc. Powder Valley is excited to assist in continuing the legacy Kent exemplified by honoring a person annually who supports the Second Amendment and has dedicated their life to serving others.

The Kent Radcliff Memorial Law Enforcement Award is bestowed annually by committee to determine the worthy recipient of this endowment. Noel is the Chairperson and Vern Swick (Director-at-Large) is a committee member. For information on joining the committee or for nominating a recipient, please contact the KSRA at 913-608-1910 or [info@kansasrifle.org](mailto:info@kansasrifle.org).

You can find more info about Powder Valley Inc. at [powdervalleyinc.com](http://powdervalleyinc.com)



# Understanding AR-15 Iron Sights

www.thetruthaboutguns.com

There is literally no end to the number of items that can be mounted on an AR-15 rifle in some fashion, be it a high-end \$4,000 scope designed for the most extreme range shooting or a rail-mounted bottle opener for extreme range drinking. Out of all the things that you are able to stick on an AR, though, the most common and seemingly least understood are iron sights.

Most people have a working knowledge of what iron sights are supposed to do, but often have very little understanding of what makes them work or what they are really good for. I hear it said over and over again these days that red dot sights and scopes are in all ways superior to iron sights, which, for many shooters, are nothing but close-range afterthoughts, but this is far from the truth.

The first thing we'll cover is the idea that AR-15 iron sights are cheap and outdated. The folks who think that are usually the same people who buy a budget set of low profile Picatinny-mounted iron sights that folds down, think of them strictly as backup sights, and only zero them by making them line up with their red dot in order to co-witness.

If you're thinking that iron sights are the gun equivalent of that donut tire in your trunk, you're doing it wrong. You should never buy a cheap set of folding flip-up sights and expect them to perform with any degree of repeatability or precision. You can sometimes get away with just a rear sight if your gun already has a front sight integral to the barrel.

The "battle sights" I'm referencing here are usually found on the budget/cheap trash tables at gun shows, right next to those \$50 'tactical' scopes and 'military' grade lasers. If you're paying only \$20 for a set of iron sights, you aren't spending enough. And you're getting even less.

I don't want to be a snob about it, but it turns out I am. I consider iron sight sets that are in the \$150-300 range to be of the best quality. You can even get good set of BUIS with a 45 degree offset in this price range to use in tandem with a magnified optic.

I talked to a guy at the range when I was working on another article who had a \$2,500 AR. His nice rifle was sporting a set of knockoff Magpul MBUS flip-ups mounted 'just in case the SHTF'. In addition to being tasteless and tacky, it was obvious to me that he lacked the experience to prioritize the minutia of his gear. Most \$1,500 rifles are easily as good and he then could have afforded a better, well, everything he had attached to it. A great rifle is nothing special when you're aiming it with junk.

A high quality set of AR-15 iron sights will give you greater precision than any red dot and many scopes. If you have cash to burn on a cheap scope in the \$200 range, realize that the USA-made, world-class set of sights pictured in this article, the Scalarworks PEAK sights, are \$239.00 for the set. You can either buy a cheap, easily broken piece of gun show junk, or you can buy something that works and will last. Your choice.

This brings us to the next problem associated with AR-15 iron sights: zeroing. There are many, many ways to zero a rifle and many are hard to grasp. I'm a National Match competitor and have won all my CMP medals with iron sights, but they are never zeroed at point of aim. How is that possible?

Well, I zero for what is called a six-o'clock hold, which means that my front post is aimed at the bottom of the black target center. My bullets impact about 7" high at 200 yards, which puts them in the center of the black.

The actual point the bullet intersects the tip of my front sight is somewhere around 275 yards depending on the caliber/bullet used, which means I can hold just a touch high to hit deer-sized game out to 325 yards, but would need to hold a bit low at 100 yards to be sure to hit vitals, as I'd be hitting too high at that closer distance. It may seem like a foreign concept to have a 'floating' zero, but you'd be surprised at how accessible it is after a range session.

The idea of a zero at a fixed distance is a myth. All that iron sights do is give you a reference to a specific point along a bullet's trajectory, but it is very flexible.

If I were to take the gun in the photos, which is a 7.5" barreled .300 Blackout, and zero it at 100 yards for point of impact (bullets hit right on the tip of the front sight) I can hold center mass on anything out to about 200 yards using most supersonic 110-125gr ammo. Past that, I can hold just high on the target, about head level, and hit center mass again. If I wanted to be more precise at longer ranges, I can adjust my front sight just like on a target scope. The PEAK sights are great in that they allow toolless, repeatable adjustment.

Advantages to having iron sight include their ruggedness and ability to hold their zero even with bumps in and out of the stand. It's much harder to lose zero with irons as the sights are attached in a much more integrated way than a scope.

Scopes, being much more delicate, are more prone to damage. Everyone has at least one story of smacking their scope on something before a key shot. You can idiot-proof your gun a bit by removing glass from the equation, especially since most hunting occurs inside 200 yards anyway. That's well inside the effective range of most iron sights.

The zero you want for an 'emergency' is one that accounts for the flattest part of your round's trajectory. This idea includes both 'close' and 'far' zeroes. Many AR shooters zero their sights at 50 yards, which is the 'close' zero. The bullet will rise above point of aim in the meantime and again cross point of aim somewhere around 200 yards.

This is not a precise means of zeroing, but it works for many people. If you do this, understand that there is no magic zero. You will certainly have to test it at all ranges you plan on shooting at.

An easy way to zero is to do it at 100 yards, as most iron sight use will take place inside that distance. Many shooters find it hard to see or aim at longer ranges, but it just takes time to learn and you will be able to adjust your sights as you gain skill and learn how to best apply them.

The last part I will address here is the size of the physical sights. Most front sights I see out there are far too thick, and a wide post won't allow for precision shooting. This is made worse by sloppy rear sights that have apertures with random dimensions.

The PEAK sights I recommend have a fine front post and a flip-style rear sight with both fine and wide same-plane

**AR-15 Iron Sights** (Continued on page 22)

apertures. Elevation settings do not change by switching from fine to wide, unlike many other sights out there. I like the wide one for close work and the fine one for precision shooting at longer ranges.

I recommend that you give iron sights a chance. If you haven't tried them before you may be pleasantly surprised by their affordability, accuracy, and durability. Although it takes a little getting used to, if you try out various styles and techniques I'm sure you'll find a zeroing style that works for you. You may even find yourself converting others at the range and sharing your success story with the skeptics.

## Dianne Feinstein's Latest 'Assault Weapon' Bill Is Just As Illogical As All the Previous Ones

reason.com

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) yesterday introduced an "updated" version of her proposed ban on "military-style assault weapons," invoking "domestic terrorism" as a justification. "We're now seeing a rise in domestic terrorism," she says, "and military-style assault weapons are increasingly becoming the guns of choice for these dangerous groups." Yet her bill, which so far has attracted 34 cosponsors in the Senate, makes no more sense as a response to terrorism than it does as a response to mass shootings.

The Assault Weapons Ban of 2021, like the Feinstein-sponsored 1994 ban that expired in 2004, would prohibit the manufacture and sale of numerous arbitrarily defined firearms, including some of the most popular rifles sold in the United States. It lists "205 military-style assault weapons" by name and also covers other guns with features Feinstein does not like. It would ban any semiautomatic rifle that accepts a detachable magazine and has "a pistol grip," "a forward grip," a folding or telescoping stock, "a grenade launcher," "a barrel shroud," or "a threaded barrel."

In contrast with the 1994 definition, which required two or more "military-style" features, Feinstein's new proposal, like the bills she has been sponsoring since 2013, says one is enough to make a rifle intolerable. Feinstein also continues to fiddle with her list of prohibited features. She no longer thinks we need to worry about bayonet mounts, but she is now sounding the alarm about the ominous barrel shroud, a covering that protects the shooter's hand from the heat generated by firing a rifle. And while her 2013 list included "a rocket launcher," that has since been excised, although "grenade launcher" is still there.

Crimes committed with rifle-mounted grenade launchers are about as common in the United States as crimes committed with rifle-mounted bayonets. Even if someone decided to attach a grenade launcher to his rifle, he would have a hard time finding something to launch with it, since grenades are strictly regulated as "destructive devices" under federal law. The rest of the targeted features likewise do not make a gun especially lethal: They have nothing to do with rate of fire, ammunition size, muzzle velocity, or muzzle energy.

President Joe Biden, who supports a new "assault weapon" ban, nevertheless concedes that the 1994 law had no impact on the lethality of legal firearms. The problem, according to Biden, was that manufacturers could comply with the law by "making minor modifications to their products—

modifications that leave them just as deadly." The new, supposedly improved ban does not solve that problem, which is unavoidable when politicians target guns based on arbitrary distinctions.

Yet Feinstein insists that the 1994 ban worked as intended, because mass shootings declined while it was in effect, then rose afterward. Even without dissecting her post hoc, ergo propter hoc reasoning or delving into the debate about mass shooting trends, it should suffice to point out that if Biden is right about the practical impact of the ban, Feinstein must be wrong. If that law left mass shooters with plenty of equally deadly alternatives (which it did), it is hard to see how it possibly could have obstructed them. Nor would the lack of a barrel shroud or a folding stock stand in their way in the unlikely event that Feinstein's current bill is enacted.

"I'm hopeful that with the new administration and Democratic control of the Senate, we can finally pass commonsense gun reforms to remove these deadly weapons from our communities," Feinstein says. But even that goal is plainly inconsistent with the terms of her bill. Like the 1994 law, it does not prohibit possession of "assault weapons," meaning that millions of "these deadly weapons" will remain in circulation even if compliance is perfect.

That grandfather clause makes no sense if Feinstein really believes what she says. Her bill "exempts by name more than 2,200 guns for hunting, household defense or recreational purposes"—a completely gratuitous list that is supposed to show us how moderate and generous she is. But according to Feinstein, the guns she wants to ban are good for nothing but mass murder. The millions of Americans who own them for lawful purposes probably will disagree.



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[Instagram.com/ksra\\_pac](https://Instagram.com/ksra_pac)



### Twitter

**KSRifleAssn**

[Twitter.com/KSRifleAssn](https://Twitter.com/KSRifleAssn)

**KSRAPAC**

[Twitter.com/KSRAPAC](https://Twitter.com/KSRAPAC)

**Train Me Kansas**

[Twitter.com/TrainMeKs](https://Twitter.com/TrainMeKs)



### Facebook

**Kansas State Rifle Association**

[fb.me/KansasStateRifleAssociation](https://fb.me/KansasStateRifleAssociation)

**Kansas State Rifle Association PAC**

[fb.me/KSRAPAC](https://fb.me/KSRAPAC)

**Kansas Gun Laws and Legislation**

[facebook.com/groups/KSGunLaw](https://facebook.com/groups/KSGunLaw)

**Train Me Kansas**

[fb.me/TrainMeKs](https://fb.me/TrainMeKs)

### Websites

[www.kansasrifle.org](https://www.kansasrifle.org)

[www.trainmeks.com](https://www.trainmeks.com)



[www.KansasRifle.org](http://www.KansasRifle.org)  
[info@KansasRifle.org](mailto:info@KansasRifle.org)  
913.608.1910

**Kansas State Rifle Association**  
PO Box 219  
Bonner Springs, KS 66012

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U.S. Postage  
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Wichita, KS  
Permit No. 923

### **Changing Your Address? Let Us Know!**

The KSRA relies on membership dues and generous donations from our supporters to continue our fight. We spend a large portion of our budget on postage. Every incorrect address costs the organization at least \$1 per mailing. Please contact us using the information listed above if your address will be changing.

### **Since 1928, the KSRA has been dedicated to:**

- Protecting the Right to Keep and Bear Arms.
- Preserving the Shooting Sports.
- Conserving Natural Resources and Wildlife.
- Maintaining a Lawful and Orderly Society.

## **Believe in our Vision? Become a Member!**

[kansasrifle.org/membership.html](http://kansasrifle.org/membership.html)



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