



Pennsylvania Gun Collectors Association

NEWSLETTER

PGCA Returning to Clearview

March 5 & 6

We are proud to announce that after a hiatus of almost two years, we will once again be holding events in 2022. Starting on March 5-6, we will conduct our shows at the Clearview Mall.

Originally, planned for the north end of the mall, it will be held in the south end in the former Sears site. Just before signing a contract for the former T.J. Maxx space in the north end, we were informed that the building was being sold. Fortunately, the paint ball arena (Battle Zone) had closed and the space was available to us.

The Board of Directors has spent the past several months searching for alternative sites for our shows. We were hoping that the current business atmosphere would produce a number of open building that would provide an adequate site. To our surprise, this was not the case. To date, all these possibilities proved unavailable for one reason or another. However, we continue searching for that one site that can provide a good long term home for our events.

Rather than delay our reopening any further, PGCA will be holding four show at Clearview Mall during the remainder of 2022. Please see below for the future dates. These shows will be conducted under the same procedures we have used in the past. Times and rules will remain the same and are listed on our Table Application.

Hopefully, the COVID threat will continue to wane and will not threaten the event. Masks will be optional. We do encourage any unvaccinated individuals or those with existing health problems to utilize them.

Member's Dues

To keep the association viable during the height of the virus, the Board decided to suspend events given the uncertainty of the times. Fearing the spur of the moment regulations then being handed down by the government every week, we believed that we could not absorb the financial losses we would incur if a scheduled show was suddenly shut down or limited to a small number of attendees.

We did not feel it was fair to collect dues when we were not conducting any operations. The Board voted to suspend membership dues for 2020 and then 2021. Our Bylaws call for the following procedure: If your dues were paid through 2019, you will have till the second show of this year to renew. If paid through 2020, your dues will be good through the second show of 2023. These two years will still count towards the five years required to apply for a life membership.

Responsible Firearms Sales

With the current explosion of violence due to some of the political decisions made by both local, state and federal governments; some are again pointing the finger at firearms in our society. Although based on emotions and with no basis in fact, these statements will find traction with a segment of the

population. It is therefore important that all involved in the firearms field continue to exercise the highest standards when transferring/selling any firearm. Not only is it required by our rules, it is also a moral obligation for each citizen. Adhering to these standards is also the best way we can blunt the attacks of those opposed to the second amendment.

We remind all our members that all handgun sales in the State of Pennsylvania are required to go through a background check by a licensed dealer. The penalty for failing to do so falls on the seller. Although long guns do not require this check for private sales, it is still the responsibility of the seller to reasonably judge for themselves if the prospective purchaser may be precluded from acquiring firearms. Even an inadvertent sale to a prohibited buyer can expose a seller to criminal or civil penalties.

Those legally prohibited from purchasing any firearm include those with a criminal conviction for certain crimes, as defined by both state and federal laws. Individuals who have been involuntarily committed for a mental disease are also not allowed to possess a gun of any type. In addition, residents of a state other than Pennsylvania are not permitted to acquire any handgun within the state.

The best way for any private seller (of a long gun only) to protect themselves is to exchange proper identification during any such sale or exchange. This can also offer the seller protection if the weapon is later determined to be stolen. A refusal by any party to provide identification would be a major “red flag”.

“Straw Sales”

One major problem seeming to arise at some local show is the “straw sale”. This is defined as a sale made to an individual who is acquiring the weapon for another person who is not legally allowed to possess a firearm. Warning signs of this are a buyer not at all familiar with the type of gun they seek to purchase, trying to purchase a firearm out of character for the buyer, a buyer being advised by other individuals on what to purchase as well as an individual trying to secure multiple firearms of the same type. Any of these indicators should give pause to any seller and spur them to inquire further as to who is actually to receive the gun. The law allows a seller, including licensed dealers, to refuse a sale to any individual totally on their own discretion for any reason.

2022 Show Dates:

May 21-22
October 1-2
December 10-11

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