



A Publication of  
Virginia Citizens  
Defense League,  
Inc.

# THE DEFENDER

DEFENDING YOUR RIGHT  
TO DEFEND YOURSELF.

♦ Fall 2016 ♦

## THANK YOU—AND CONGRATULATIONS!

This year, VCDL decided to ask you, our members and followers, for input on advertising Lobby Day. We held a contest asking for posters or memes telling people about the event. We were impressed with the entries and there were 11 finalists which were posted on our website. The winners were selected by popular vote.

Your entries have given us ideas on how best to share the event with others, and we appreciate your help.

The first place winner will receive a 3-year standard membership to VCDL, valued at \$25 per year, and a \$30 credit at the VCDL store. Second place receives a 2-year standard membership and \$20 credit at the VCDL store. Third place receives a 1-year standard membership and a \$10 credit at the VCDL store.

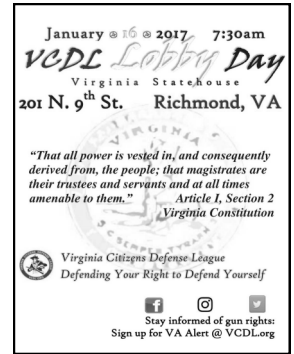
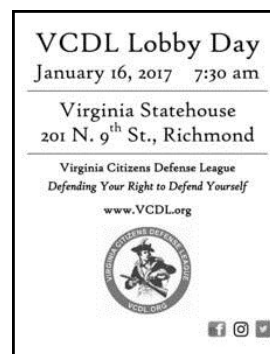
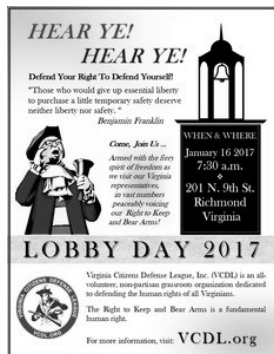
The winner is reproduced on a pull-out page in the center of this newsletter. Please post it in places where it will get attention — feel free to make as many copies as you need. If you have a color printer, consider downloading it from [vcdl.org](http://vcdl.org) in color.

And the winners are:

**1st Place: Emily Taylor**  
**2nd place: Jonathan Reed**  
**3rd place: Nancy Dyer**

But the real winners are the VCDL membership and Virginia gun owners. The input we received will help VCDL be more effective in spreading the word about Lobby Day, which helps us all defend our right to defend ourselves. The back of the flyer contains some logistical information about Lobby Day.

You can find all the posters at [www.vcdl.org/postercontest](http://www.vcdl.org/postercontest) if you want to print several and place them where they will get attention



"... to be honest ... [VCDL has] been really successful in preventing our legislators from passing any meaningful [gun-control] legislation on this issue [universal background checks]." **Stephanie Soechtig, Director "Under the Gun" – June 2016**

## VCDL Public Meeting Dates

Thursday, 8 December 2016, Annandale  
Thursday, 26 January, 2017 Annandale  
Thursday, February 23, 2017 Annandale  
Tuesday, March 21, 2017 Annandale  
Thursday, April 27, 2017 Annandale

Additional meetings held throughout the state are announced in VA-ALERT and posted on the calendar at [www.vcdl.org/calendar](http://www.vcdl.org/calendar)

Annandale meetings are held at the Mason Governmental Center,  
6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003  
Fellowship 7:30; Meeting 8:00 PM

## MEMBER RESOURCES

Please feel free to reproduce copies of flyers and documents on the VCDL web page.

The flyer explaining the dangers of Universal Background Checks can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/j9osd3r>

The Lobby Day flyer can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/j38hbbm>

The VCDL Legislative Platform will be on the VCDL web page immediately before Lobby Day, when it is finalized.

Your legislator's voting record, for use on Lobby Day, can be located in the last issue of The Defender and at <http://tinyurl.com/jv6kcx3>

VCDL is a non-partisan grassroots organization dedicated to defending the human rights of all Virginians. The membership considers the right to keep and bear arms an essential human right. Members are encouraged to participate actively in developing The Defender. Articles on Second Amendment and the Right to Keep and Bear Arms subjects may be published as space permits.

Articles should be brief and to the point. Materials will not be returned. All claims, facts, and quotes must be verifiable. Photos must be accompanied with names of the subjects, dates, location of events, and photographer's name. Articles must be factual, newsworthy, and of interest to the membership. VCDL will not endorse politicians or political candidates for office. Information submitted by the Political Action Committee (VCDL-PAC) appear inside the back page. Opinions expressed in The Defender are not necessarily those of the Virginia Citizens Defense League.

We also welcome, subject to space limitations, book reviews and firearms/gear reviews. Opinion pieces are welcome and will be published, space permitting. Submissions are subject to editing for length, style, grammar, and conformity with the goals of VCDL. Authors of articles and letters should be identified, and city/town of residence is preferred. Contact the editor for additional details.

VCDL wants to include clippings from around the state. You can help by monitoring your local newspaper for articles, editorials, and letters to the editor dealing with the right to keep and bear arms. Clip the news pieces along with a masthead from the paper and send them in, or send a link. Check the guidelines of the publication you write to, however; some require you not to publish elsewhere, or not to publish elsewhere until after it runs in their paper.

Send submissions at any time via e-mail to **TheDefender@vcdl.org** or via snail-mail to: The Editor, c/o VCDL, The Defender, P.O. Box 513, Newington, VA 22122

We are investigating the possibility of electronic access to The Defender. Should that be viable, we will notify our members via The Defender and via the VA-ALERT.

## ELECTIONS ASIDE, THE FIGHT FOR OUR RIGHTS CONTINUES - AND WE NEED ANOTHER STRONG LOBBY DAY!

The elections are over and a huge threat to our right to keep and bear arms was avoided. We are hardly out of the woods and there is so much to do:

\* Senator Chuck Schumer from New York will be the minority leader for the Democrats. He hates guns and will be a leader to push gun control in the U.S. Senate. And he's a hypocrite, having a handgun and a New York City permit to carry it. The danger here is that he's just one election away from being the majority leader and could be in as soon as only two years. If he makes it to that position, expect the Senate to be pushing gun control hard

\* "Money bags" Michael Bloomberg successfully pushed through gun-control referendums in three states and was barely stopped in a fourth state. As a result, Nevada now has "Universal Background Checks," while Maine narrowly rejected it. Washington State will now allow a person to be disarmed without due process if a family member or others say he is dangerous to himself or others. California has ammunition background checks, a total ban on magazines that hold more than 10 rounds, and much more

\* We still have a governor for one more year who is horrible on gun rights. While we can get some things done with him in office, as we have done for the last three years, it is a much harder battle for us

\* With Trump in office, we need to start pushing for universal recognition of concealed handgun permits, which would allow permit holders to carry in all 50 states and DC. That push should start after the General Assembly session is over in March of 2017. Trump has stated that he is in favor of just such a law and we will have only two years until the Senate could potentially switch hands, allowing Chuck Schumer to block any such bill

\* In the General Assembly, we need to continue the fight for Constitutional Concealed Carry (makes a permit optional), eliminating K-12 and higher-education

"gun-free zones," reducing concealed handgun permit fees, having a concealed weapon permit instead of just a concealed handgun permit, and much more. We will also need to stop all gun-control legislation in its tracks

\* Our lawsuit against Katie Couric is in progress and we can always use any and all contributions for funding that fight

Last year we had 1,200 gun owners attend Lobby Day - that was nothing to sneeze at, but we can do better! If all gun owners would get active during the General Assembly, there wouldn't be much of anything we couldn't accomplish.

Plan on being there, being an active and visible part of the movement to protect gun rights for generations yet unborn. Plan on having a lot of fun doing it, too. As usual, we will also have a rally on Lobby Day at the Bell Tower at 11 AM.

*Philip An Cleave*

## NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

There are new VCDL membership applications available. The newer ones are a quad-fold (four-page); the old ones are tri-fold.

The newest brochures highlight VCDL's accomplishments over the years, helping recruiters (that's YOU!) remember the many successes you have had in creating Virginia's reasonably good gun laws. They also have a correct address (Fredericksburg, VA).

**Please**—if you have any remaining brochures that indicate mailing to somewhere other than Fredericksburg, please recycle them.



## UPCOMING GUN SHOWS AND EVENTS

To volunteer to help man the VCDL table at a gun show, contact the appropriate coordinator listed in the block to the right. For non-gun show events, contact the listed coordinator. **Verify all schedules**; list is correct as of press time. All dates are 2017 unless otherwise noted.

### CHANTILLY—Dulles Expo Center

Dec 30, 2016—Jan 1, 2017    Feb 20-22    Apr 21-23    Jul 28-30

### DALE CITY — VFW Post 1503

Not available; see <https://www.cegungshows.com/show-dates.html> for updates

### DOSWELL—Farm Bureau Center at Meadow Event Park

Feb 25-26    May 6-7    Oct 21-22

### FISHERSVILLE—Augusta Expo

Jan 28-29    Apr 8-9    Sep 9-10

### FREDERICKSBURG — Fredericksburg Expo & Conference Center

Jan 28-29    Mar 11-12    Sep 16-17    Oct 28-29

### HAMPTON—Hampton Roads Convention Center

Jan 14-15    Mar 18-19    Jul 15-16    Sep 23-24

### HARRISONBURG—Rockingham County Fairgrounds

Feb 18-19    Oct 7-8

### MANASSAS — PWC Fairgrounds

Feb 11-12    Apr 29-30    Sep 9-10

### NORFOLK—Norfolk Scope

Jan 28-29    Apr 1-2    Sep 9-10

### RICHMOND—Richmond Raceway Complex

Jan 21-22    Mar 25-26    May 20-21    Jul 8-9

### ROANOKE—Roanoke Civic Center

Jan 7-8    Mar 18-19    Aug 19-20    Oct 21-22

### SALEM—Salem Civic Center

Dec 17-18, 2016    Oct 28-29

### VIRGINIA BEACH — Convention Center

Feb 4-5    Apr 1-2    Oct 14-15

### WINCHESTER — Body Renew Fitness and Family Sports Center

Jan 7-8    Apr 8-9



## GUN SHOW COORDINATORS

Fredericksburg

**Michael Kolodzinski**

[gunshows.fredericksburg@vcdl.org](mailto:gunshows.fredericksburg@vcdl.org)

Chantilly

**Danny Paulson**

[gunshows.chantilly@vcdl.org](mailto:gunshows.chantilly@vcdl.org)

Dale City

**Richard Kroh**

[gunshows.dalecity@vcdl.org](mailto:gunshows.dalecity@vcdl.org)

Southwest Virginia

**Al Steed, Jr.**

[gunshows.swva@vcdl.org](mailto:gunshows.swva@vcdl.org)

Tidewater/Norfolk

**John Ward**

[gunshows.norfolk@vcdl.org](mailto:gunshows.norfolk@vcdl.org)

Tidewater/Peninsula

**Ron Lilly**

[gunshows.hamptonroads@vcdl.org](mailto:gunshows.hamptonroads@vcdl.org)

Tidewater/Virginia Beach

**Gary Moeller**

[gunshows.vb@vcdl.org](mailto:gunshows.vb@vcdl.org)

Richmond

**Mike Wilburt**

[gunshows.centralva@vcdl.org](mailto:gunshows.centralva@vcdl.org)

Winchester

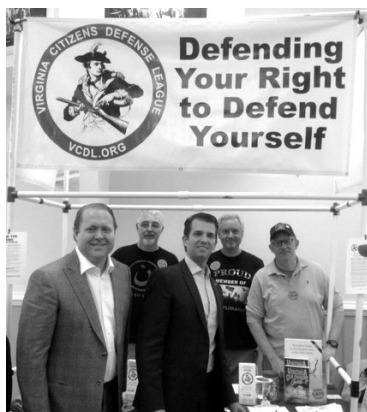
**Mark Lintz**

[gunshows.winchester@vcdl.org](mailto:gunshows.winchester@vcdl.org)

State Gun Show Coordinator

**Milan Sturgis**

[gunshowcoord@vcdl.org](mailto:gunshowcoord@vcdl.org)



## VOLUNTEER. YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN!

VCDL volunteers David Pacheco, Kenneth van Wyk, and Steve “Rusty” Hoerst were working at the Dale City gun show on November 6 when Donald Trump, Jr. came through and posed for photographs.

*Photo copyright S. Hoerst; Used by permission*



# Building Your Own AR-15 80% Lower

by EM Kenneth R. van Wyk

Yes, you can build your own AR-15 using an 80% lower, with just a bit of tools and expertise required. Don't believe what James Yeager says (link: <http://www.everydaynodaysoff.com/2016/07/15/james-yeager-says-quit-fantasizing-about-completing-an-80-lower/>). If you took "shop" class in high school and have a few tools available, it's entirely feasible.

But first, what is an 80% and why on earth would you care? Good questions. In a typical AR-15, the lower receiver is the one component that the ATF regards as a "firearm" because it contains the fire control components (the trigger and the hammer). It is the one component, then, that requires a serial number and a full background check to purchase. You can't lawfully just go out and buy one on the internet and have it shipped home. You must have it shipped to an FFL and then go through the background check there. Person-to-person transactions are different.

On the other hand, an 80% lower is administratively treated as a harmless block of aluminum. It is not complete, so it is incapable of connecting to an AR-15 and functioning. To make it functional, you must finish the last 20% of the manufacturing process. When that is done, it becomes a 100% AR lower and will work just fine. This is lawful in most states. In the eyes of the law, you are building your own firearm. And, since you built it yourself, it contains no serial number, and there's no background check that needs to be completed. If you want to sell or transfer it, you must engrave it with a serial number, your name (as manufacturer), city, and state. **NOTE: This article is NOT to be considered as legal guidance. If you are serious about building an 80%, consult first with competent legal counsel.**

I should point out that I am in no way recommending anyone do this to circumvent the background check process. Building an 80% is fun, fascinating, and you end up with a deep understanding of how your firearm works. That is worth the effort, in and of itself, and I highly recommend it to any curiosity-inclined individuals.

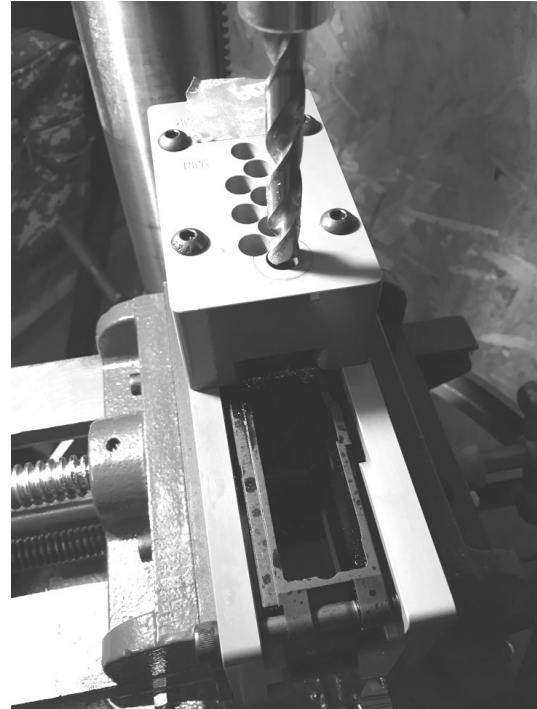


The image above shows my 80% as it arrived from my provider, [80percentarms.com](http://80percentarms.com). Note, in particular, the area where the trigger and hammer normally reside is solid aluminum. On the other hand, that first 80% of the work is pretty significant. Note too that there is no serial number or manufacturer markings (other than "SAFE" and "FIRE") on the lower.

I should note that [80percentarms.com](http://80percentarms.com) sells several versions of these lowers, including some for AR-10 form factors (that take 308 ammunition). They are available in various colors and options, and range in price from roughly \$80-130. The "Easy Jig" for AR-15s is another \$150-170, depending on your options chosen. Clearly, building an

80% lower isn't something you would do to save money; a basic, generic AR lower can often be found for roughly \$50. I should also note here that I have absolutely no affiliation with [80percentarms.com](http://80percentarms.com). I'm simply a happy customer and found their products to be superb quality.

Moving on, to finish out the lower, you have some work to do. That work has to be done with precision, of course. Doing that by hand would be nigh on impossible, as Yeager alludes. However, there are a few companies, including [80percentarms.com](http://80percentarms.com) that sell jigs to make the process easier. You put your 80% into the jig and then into a vice, drill press, etc., and all the measurements and such are there for you, in the form of the jig channels.



In the above photo, the jig I used is in a vice mount of a drill press. Using the jig, I drilled out several holes to remove much of the metal in the trigger channel. Obviously, even the depth of the drilling here must be very carefully measured. Again, the jig and its instructions provide clear guidance.

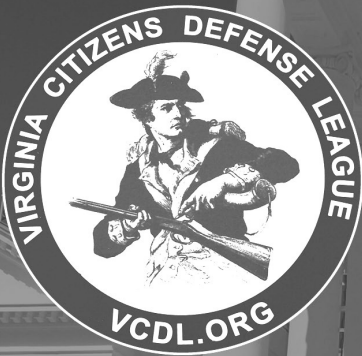
Obviously, we're still not done. The next step is to clear out the rest of the metal from the trigger channel. That is done using the same jig mounted in a sturdy vice, and a hand router with the appropriate bit. The instructions with the jig explain clearly what drill and router bits to use, or you can purchase those from [80percentarms.com](http://80percentarms.com) separately, which is what I chose to do.

*Continued on page 7*



# JOIN US FOR LOBBY DAY

## WHERE GUN OWNERS MEET THE VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

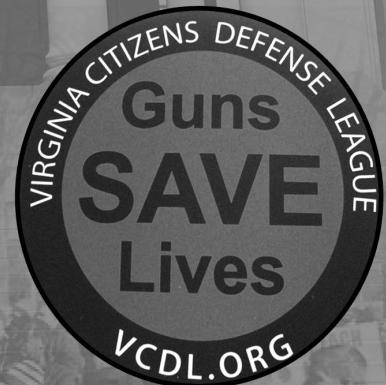


**JAN. 16, 2017**

**7:30 AM**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
201 N. 9<sup>TH</sup> ST., RICHMOND**

- Family friendly, children welcome
- Visit legislators and staff members
- Attend committee hearings
- Discuss gun civil rights & VCDL agenda
- Connect with other gun owners
- Open carry permitted on the grounds  
however only concealed handgun  
permit holders admitted to GA building
- Clock tower rally with gun rights speakers
- "Guns Save Lives" stickers provided



**LAST YEAR WE  
HAD OVER 1,200  
GUN OWNERS!**



VCDL is a non-profit, non-partisan, grassroots organization dedicated to advancing the fundamental human right of all Virginians to keep and bear arms as guaranteed by the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article I Section 13 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

I have been a Team Leader at Lobby Day for several years. Each year I get questions on what to expect. The answer is pretty simple, but very important. Here is an outline of the day.

Arrive early. We start forming groups at 8:00 a.m. The best parking is gone early, so plan to arrive around 7:30 or expect to walk a few blocks

Groups will form in the courtyard between the Bell Tower and the General Assembly (GA) building. You will find Team Leaders there; each will have a list of representatives to visit. You do not need to be in a group that is seeing your representatives.

Groups will enter the building and visit their assigned offices. They will leave a preprinted packet with each Delegate or Senator outlining firearm related bills, whether VCDL supports or opposes and (most importantly) why they are good or bad bills.

After visiting the assigned offices, consider visiting your representatives. You can make appointments in advance if you like, to assure you get “face time” but either way, please remember to sign their guest book. It lets them know you were there. You can also write “VCDL Member” in the guest book if you like!

There will be a **rally at the Bell Tower**. The time and speakers will be announced closer to the actual event, but your Team Leader will remind you of the exact time so you can attend.

Wear business casual (or nicer) clothes and be ready for walking. The elevators get crowded, so I always try to start with the assigned offices on the highest floor and take the steps down as we go.

You can carry in the General Assembly building IF YOU HAVE A CHP. You may open or concealed carry, but you must have a Concealed Handgun Permit to take a firearm into the building. There is usually a special door for people who are carrying. Last year the line at the CHP entrance was much longer than the regular entrance!

Well behaved children are very welcome! In fact, it is a highly educational event for school-aged children. I have almost always had youngsters in my group and have never had an issue with them...other than they tend to “steal the show!”

If you have questions you would like to ask, write them down. I don’t know about you, but I can get distracted and later wish I had remembered to ask about a specific subject.

There will be updates on the VCDL web page, the Lobby Day 2017 Facebook page and in the VA-ALERT. If you are not receiving the VA-ALERT you can sign up at [www.vcdl.org](http://www.vcdl.org). Just click the link.

You do not need to be a VCDL member to receive these alerts...but...BUT...it is only \$25.00 per year to join and it will do a lot to further the preservation of your rights in Virginia. So remind your friends there is strength in numbers and VCDL needs everyone!

## LOGISTICS

### Parking

Lobby Day falls on a national holiday, so **on-street parking** is free.

Additionally, “**Public Parking**: There are four free general public spaces (1 hour) on the north side of Bank Street, between 9th and 10th Streets. A limited number of metered public parking spaces (2 hours) are located on the west side of 10th Street, between Main and Bank Streets, on Bank Street, between Governor and 14th Streets, on the south side of Main Street, between 9th and 12th Streets and on 12th Street between Main and Bank Streets. On the holiday, fees are not charged at metered spaces.

According to the GAB web site, “**Handicap Parking**: Private vehicles with handicap plates are able to unload passengers on Bank Street near the new public entrance at 10th Street. Four parking spaces zoned for handicapped drivers are located on the north side of Bank Street, between 9th and 10th Streets.”

**Pay parking lots** and decks are nearby on 8th and Grace Streets and 7th and Marshall Streets.”

### Lodging

Virginia is a pretty big state, and especially if you’re coming to Richmond from one of the far corners, you may want to consider staying over night, at least the evening before Lobby Day. The activities get launched pretty early in the morning.

The good news is that, from simple bed-and-breakfast inns through five-star stately hotels, Richmond has much to offer.

Among the nearest options to the GAB are the Commonwealth Park Suites (901 Bank St., <http://www.commonwealthparksuites.com>) (totally booked as of this writing), the Omni Richmond (100 S 12th St., <http://omnihotels.com>), a Marriott Courtyard (1320 E Cary St., <http://marriott.com>), and a Marriott Residence Inn (14 S 14th St., <http://marriott.com>). For a five-star experience, check out The Jefferson Hotel (101 W Franklin St, Richmond, VA 23220, <http://jeffersonhotel.com>).

Popular search sites like TripAdvisor ([http://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotels-g60893-Richmond\\_Virginia-Hotels.html](http://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotels-g60893-Richmond_Virginia-Hotels.html)) and others offer up their lists, as does <http://visitrichmondva.com> and other locally run sites.

### Food

If you’re looking for a quick bite to eat before or after the Lobby Day activities, there are several choices within a few blocks. If you walk down East Franklin Street, for example, you’ll find a **Subway** and **Spice of India**. Right around the corner is also a **Sefton Coffee Company** and a **Quiznos**. South and east of the GAB, in the area of South 12th Street and East Cary Street are a multitude of dining options as well.

While it can be extremely crowded, there is a **cafeteria** on the 6th floor of the General Assembly building, open until 2PM.

If you’re looking for fancier dining choices, say the evening before or after the event, try TripAdvisor’s or Yelp’s top 10 rated restaurants.



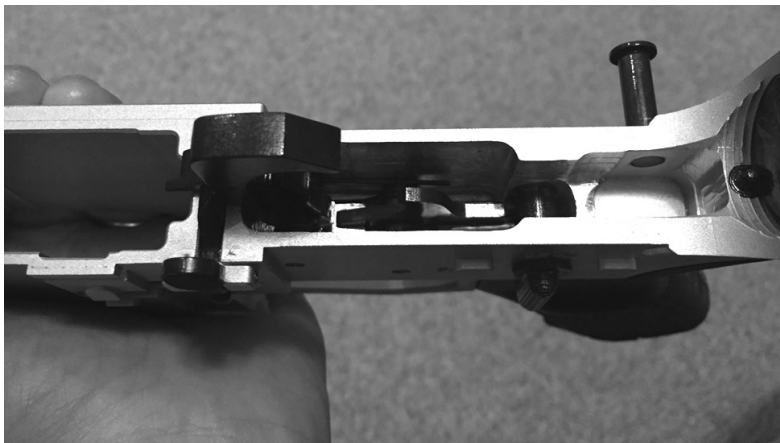
In the preceding photo, the trigger channel is now complete. This milling process takes a couple hours, and you have to be patient to succeed. Follow the instructions (and the instruction video) carefully. You will mill down just a fraction of an inch with each pass, but eventually, you will be finished.

There are still a couple holes to be drilled, but they too are clearly marked on the jig. Again, take your time, go one step at a time, and verify each and every step in the instructions and on the video.

Another useful tip here is to use good quality machining lubricant. It keeps the metal from getting over heated and the bits from wearing unnecessarily.

When all the machining and drilling is done, give your 100% a thorough cleaning. You can then have the lower anodized, painted, ceracoated, or whatever you choose. I chose to keep mine in its native sand-blasted aluminum finish.

The last step is to install all the trigger, hammer, and other components of the lower, as shown in this photo.



If you're at all unsure of your work at this point, I'd recommend taking your new lower to a gunsmith and asking him or her to double check your work. It'll cost you a few dollars more, but could well be worth the effort.

Just a couple more caveats: I said this article is not to be construed as legal advice, and I meant it. However, from my own layman's understanding of the law, I do know that for an 80% lower to be lawful, it must be made by its owner. No helping others out. Build it yourself, or you may well run afoul of the law. I should note, however, that it's quite OK to share your tools among some friends. You just each have to do the work yourselves. I did exactly that with a friend, and we ended up building a few lowers over the course of one afternoon.

Also, since it contains no serial number, it is unlawful to sell a completed 80%. In theory, you could go to a lawful manufacturer and have a serial number etched on to your firearm, and then you could sell it, but I don't honestly know how that would work out. I have no intention of selling mine, anyway.

I finished my 80% a few months ago, and already have well over 500 rounds through my new AR-15. I've had zero failures with the "new" gun.

Is this the right choice for you? I certainly can't answer that for anyone but myself. I found the process fun and interesting. I now know my AR inside and out better than most people do, I should think. It's also a

source of great pride for me to know that I built my own rifle, and not just by bolting together a bunch of parts. How long did the work take? My best guess is that it took roughly 4-5 hours from beginning to end. I should point out that I'm not entirely without experience at working with power tools. I took shop in high school many years ago, and spent years working on bicycles, motorcycles, etc. I've always enjoyed working with my hands, so this this project seemed a good fit for me. If you're not so mechanically inclined, then perhaps you'll have more problems than I did.

## VCDL REPRESENTED AT GUN RIGHTS POLICY CONFERENCE

VCDL President Philip Van Cleave was one of the featured panel members at the Gun Rights Policy Conference held in Tampa in September 2016.

The Gun Rights Policy Conference is an annual event sponsored by the 2nd Amendment Foundation and is a wealth of information for the gun-rights enthusiast.

Philip represented VCDL well, as usual, speaking on the State Legislative Affairs panel. As reported by Guns.com, Philip said "it's been a busy year for Virginians as residents pushed back against a reciprocity bill that ended agreements with 25 states. Citizens created such an uproar at the capitol that the state eventually reversed its decision to limit reciprocity.

Van Cleave pointed to this as an illustration of what can be done when the collective "wakes up."

He added that though his organization has had some successes on the House and Senate floor, they still need voters to push and advocate for gun rights.



*Photo from VCDL Facebook page*

# SHAPING THE FUTURE OF OUR STATE AND OUR NATION

By VCDL Board Member Patricia Webb

Much attention has been given to the presidential elections, and rightfully so. As responsible Americans, we cherish the ability to take an active part in the electoral process. But there is more to our political system than the office of the President, and there are more influential ways to play an active role in our government.

Participation shouldn't stop when the election is over. In fact, voting is a very small part of the process. The Founding Fathers realized that individuals have very little influence on government at the national level. Therefore, they structured our federal government to have very limited, specific powers. Instead, the majority of regulation and administration was delegated to state and local jurisdictions.

Here is where you, the members of VCDL, have an effective voice. We have seen evidence of your success in many ways. This is just a partial list of YOUR accomplishments. The list is vast and there is not enough paper in this publication to list them.

- Shall-Issue Concealed Handgun Permits (CHP)
- Repeal of One-Handgun-A-Month
- Concealed carry in a K-12 pickup lane
- Increased reciprocity with other states and recognition of all other state permits
- Preemption laws preventing localities from passing stricter statutes than state regulations
- Repeal of the extra ID requirement when purchasing guns from VA dealers,

How does VCDL achieve all of this? The answer is multifaceted, but the single, most important thing is Lobby Day. Every year, on Martin Luther King Day, VCDL members converge on the General Assembly building in Richmond, VA. We form groups and visit assigned offices, armed with a list of proposed bills. We leave a copy of this list at each and every legislator's office, telling them whether we support or oppose the bills and why.

Lobby Day is incredibly effective because YOU take the time to make your opinions known. YOU sacrifice your holiday or take a day off of work just to get some face time with your representatives. Just the fact that hundreds of people care enough to show up for Lobby Day leaves a lasting impression on the state legislature. Some years have approached or even exceeded 1,000 participants.

But there is one more secret to this. Your state government is a key to your power over the federal government. The General Assembly can and does ask the Congress to support or oppose legislation, just like your local governments lobby the GA.

Some people have said that a particular year is not worth attending because we don't have the support needed...or because we have great support and they will vote our way anyway. Well both of these are lame excuses. The truth is, when you have a GA that is favorable, showing up gives them the support they need to get bills passed. When you have a predominately unsympathetic legislature, showing up in force puts pressure on them to do the right thing.

These people depend on votes to keep their seats. They pay attention to the groups that put out extra effort to support their

causes. Those groups will likely also actively support or oppose candidates in a given election.

So attend those City Council and School Board meetings. Stay in touch with your County Supervisors. Contact your Congressman and Senators. And make plans now to attend Lobby Day.

## A PERSPECTIVE ON LAW ENFORCEMENT FROM A GUN-OWNER

*We'll state right up front that this is one person's perspective. There is no duty to inform a police officer in Virginia that one is armed; each person must make that determination for himself. The sentiments below were shared by a Virginia gun owner and by the Fairfax County Police Department, all on Facebook.*

So let me share last night's experience with y'all. Was out in Springfield and got pulled by a Fairfax County deputy. Note, I'm a black man with a Glock 26 on my side in an illegally modified car. I kept both of my hands on the steering wheel after he pulled me over. He walks up to the window, introduces himself, asks how I'm doing, and explains his reasoning for pulling me over. He then asks for license and registration. Before I even lifted a finger, I said "Sure thing sir. However I am armed. The gun is on my right hip and my wallet is in my right back pocket. How would you like me to get my wallet?". He said "That's fine, just keep your left hand where I can see it and reach for your wallet slowly, okay?". I said "No problem sir". I slowly reached for my wallet and got it out of my pocket, got my license out, and handed it to him. He told me to sit tight for a few moments and went back and ran my information. A few moments later, he returned and said "Your exhaust is illegal, you have aftermarket suspension, your tag lights are illegal, and your inspection is past due. However, I'm not going to write you any tickets. I will issue you a written warning. Thank you for your simple cooperation and notifying me that you were armed before reaching for your wallet. You have a nice night sir. Thank you again". No guns were drawn, no being removed from my vehicle, no getting beat down or tased. Not even a ticket. Now, please, tell me more about how all of these cops are out to get us....

## AND THE FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE RESPONSE

Your Facebook post about a recent traffic stop has made its way to the Fairfax County Police Department.

All we can say is thank you. Thank you for being understanding toward the officer's task and duty. Thank you for telling the officer you were armed and the proximity of the pistol to your wallet. Thank you for verbalizing each of your actions, so the officer knew what to expect. And most of all, thank you for sharing your positive experience about this traffic stop and police interaction publicly on social media.

Your post is a significant reflection of this department's goal to provide the highest level of public safety services to this county and the professionalism and respect we expect every officer to possess.



# VCDL Membership Application

Mail to: VCDL Membership Processing Center, P.O. Box 5752, Fredericksburg, VA 22403

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ 1 VCDL membership:      \$ 25.00  
 \_\_\_\_ Donation to VCDL:      \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_ Donation to PAC:                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total Enclosed:**      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: Membership processing can take 4-6 weeks)

**NOTE: If you contribute to the PAC**, we must ask for your occupation, employer, and City/State of employment.

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Employer: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_

## Method of payment

\_\_\_\_ Cash (Do not send cash through the mail.)

\_\_\_\_ Check (Make checks payable to **VCDL**)

\_\_\_\_ Charge:      \_\_\_\_ AmEx      \_\_\_\_ MasterCard      \_\_\_\_ Visa

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Name as it appears on the card

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Card Holder

Contributions, gifts, or membership dues are not deductible for Federal income tax purposes.

## "NO GUNS" SIGNS AND RESTRICTIONS

In the Spring 2016 edition of this newsletter, VCDL Executive Member Ed Levine took the opportunity to explain the steps he takes to work with businesses who post "NO GUNS" signs. Now he can highlight the results of those steps!

Soon after the Tilted Kilt Pub & Eatery opened in March 2016 in the Dulles Town Center, Sterling, the dreaded sign appeared. Over the past several months, Ed and a group of like-minded individuals worked with management and corporate offices. On the 3rd of November, Ed reports the final word came down and, as he captured visually, the sign was removed from the door.

Member Alan W. Rose was reviewing some information on Windsor Castle Park and noticed some deceptive wording on the "Park User Guide and Regulations," stating, "Weapons: Illegal weapons are not permitted in the public park and recreation facilities. Further no hunting is allowed."

Illegal weapons? What exactly does that mean?

Alan contacted the Town of Smithfield, pointed out that they have no authority for such wording under 15.2-915 and, to their credit, Smithfield replied promptly and stated the wording about the illegal weapons had been removed, leaving on the part about hunting (which is within their authority).

Does one of your favorite (or formerly favorite) places think such a sign will keep someone safe? You are not helpless. Follow the steps in the Spring 2016 issue (see <http://tinyurl.com/j6yd794> or contact [TheDefender@vcdl.org](mailto:TheDefender@vcdl.org) for a .pdf copy.)



Photo by Ed Levine. Used by permission.

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DEFENSE LEAGUE, INC.**  
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Please feel free to contact any of the Officers or Directors should you have any questions or would like to volunteer your services in VCDL.

**CHP RENEWALS**

Virginia law provides that you can get the full five years of your Concealed Handgun Permit if you apply for renewal at least 90, but no more than 180, days prior to expiration of your current permit. (Section 18.2-308.010)

EXPIRES	RENEW IN
January	August-October
February	September-November
March	October-December
April	November-January
May	December-February
June	January-March
July	February-April
August	March-May
September	April-June
October	May-July
November	June-August
December	July-September

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