

THE DEFENDER



A publication of

Virginia Citizens Defense League

Defending Your Right To Defend Yourself

Fall 2018

LOBBY DAY KEYNOTE SPEAKER MARK ROBINSON #IAMTHEMAJORITY

Perhaps you saw it. Greensboro NC city officials were doing everything they could to cancel and permanently eliminate gun shows held in the city's coliseum. At a council meeting, Mark Robinson asked when his elected officials were going to do something for us—the majority—the people who have never committed a felony, who don't break laws, who are law-abiding citizens. Video of his comments went viral, sparking #IAMTHEMAJORITY. You can see the video at <https://tinyurl.com/ydx2hz54>

The follow-up to this meeting reveals that the City Council hasn't the authority to ban guns, so they chose to give the proceeds to a police-run program that will pay citizens to report neighbors.

Mark Robinson understands us. The majority of Americans. Mark Robinson got the attention of his city officials. Whether they were swayed or not, he got their attention. And he'll capture yours. On Lobby Day, January 21, Mark Robinson will address VCDL members at the rally on the Capitol Grounds.



VCDL Public Meeting Dates

Thursday, Dec 20 — Annandale
Monday, Jan 21 — LOBBY DAY, RICHMOND
Thursday, Jan 24 — Annandale

Additional meetings held throughout the state are announced in VA-ALERT and posted on the calendar at www.vcdl.org/calendar
Annandale meetings are held at the Mason Governmental Center, Annandale
Fellowship 7:30 PM; Meeting 8:00 PM

Other speakers will be announced in the VA-ALERT as they are confirmed.

As they did last year, Team Leaders will assemble their teams near the Bell Tower (9th and East Franklin Sts). Teams will then make their way to the corner of 10th and East Main Streets, and the main entrance to the Pocohontas Building. This is the temporary home of the legislature while the General Assembly Building is remodeled. Some will remember from last year that the hallways can get quite crowded.

More logistics details are found on pages xxxxxxx, but the general schedule is:

08:00—08:30 Teams form and enter the buiding

08:00—10:00 Teams meet with legislators and/or their legislative aides

10:00—11:00 Individuals are encouraged to meet one-on-one with their representatives.

11:00 — Rally at the Bell Tower

IN MEMORIAM



Long-time VCDL Executive member, volunteer registered lobbyist, and former Board of Directors Member **Dale Welch** passed away in October. Dale was a true force for gun rights, always soft-spoken but covering an iron will with a velvet—some would say gravelly—voice. The only thing that took priority over 2A rights for Dale was his family. We'll miss him.

EDITOR'S NOTE

We are always happy to accept input from our members. I want to thank Mrs. Bettie Skinner for thinking of us, but caution we will not print materials that do not refer to gun rights in Virginia, or at least to gun rights. One of your pieces, Mrs. Skinner, referred to gun rights in Virginia, but as applied to a candidate for the November 6 election and thus too late for our deadline.

We're pleased to include in this issue some logistical information for Lobby Day on January 21. Readers have said they found it helpful in the past; please let us know if you have Lobby Day "secrets" you're willing to share. Really good ones will be announced in VA-ALERT.

I like to run a "Food For Thought" section when I have room. Usually, these are snippets that are too brief to be a regular article, but that lend themselves well to worthwhile filler and help us to frame, or re-frame, arguments. I'm always welcoming links, memes, and snippets you find, both pro- and anti-gun.

All material for publication should be mailed to the address on the back of this newsletter, or emailed to TheDefender@vcdl.org.

As we near the end of the year, we wish a joyous season of the holidays you celebrate, and a bolstered sense of "Let's Get To Work" once the legislature is in session.

Hope to see you all on January 21.

Tess Ailshire
Editor



PRESIDENT'S PEN

First let me congratulate some pro-gun candidates on their November wins:

Congressman-elect Denver Riggleman handily beat his opponent to win Congressional House District 5! Leslie Cockburn, who was running on a strong gun-control platform, refused to return her VCDL Candidate Survey. Riggleman returned a "pro-gun" survey to VCDL.

Congressman-elect Ben Cline crushed his opponent, Jennifer Lynn Lewis, to win Congressional House District 6! Ben Cline headed the Militia, Police, and Public Safety committee this year and helped VCDL stop the plethora of gun-control bills that were introduced. He will be missed at the General Assembly next year.

Delegate-elect Joe McNamara demolished his opponent, E. Carter Turner, in the Virginia House of Delegates District 8. Joe McNamara returned a perfect VCDL survey, while Carter Turner refused to return his survey.

Congressman Rob Wittman trounced Vangie A. Williams to retain his seat.

Congressman Morgan Griffith effortlessly beat Anthony Flaccavento to retain his seat.

And we must say goodbye to some of our friends:

Congressman Dave Brat, who was my representative, lost a hard-fought battle as his opponent, Abigail Spanberger, squeaked out a win. Dave Bratt is a class act and great to work with. I really hope he runs for office again.

Congressman Scott Taylor lost in a very close race to Elaine Luria.

Corey Stewart lost to Senator Tim Kaine.

If Trump had to lose either the House or the Senate, which would I have chosen?

The House, hands down.

With a larger majority of Republicans in the Senate, Trump can continue the all-important task of filling federal judicial vacancies without a major fight over each one. I really hope the President can fill a lot of seats in the Federal 4th Circuit Court of Appeals as well. The Court has made some really bad rulings recently that rival California's 9th Circuit. There is a real need to get some better judges in place.

And don't forget there are two Supreme Court justices over the age of 80 who could need to be replaced in the next year or two as well. One of those is Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who is no friend of the Second Amendment.

One more observation on this. It is been the rule that the midterms after a newly elected president go badly for the president's party. Barack Obama lost sixty-three House seats and six Senate seats! Bill Clinton lost fifty-four House seats and nine Senate seats. And they had an adoring press.

Trump has been under unrelenting, vicious attacks by most of the press, yet he is going to gain at least 2 seats in the Senate and will lose only between thirty and forty seats in the House. That's pretty impressive.

Politics in America is a pendulum that swings slowly back-and-forth and that's

(Continued on page 9)

UPCOMING GUN SHOWS AND EVENTS

If you'd like to work a show, email the coordinator and ask to be put on the mailing list used for volunteers. Volunteers get free admission to the show, and some vendors offer discounts to other vendors, including our volunteers.

Verify all schedules; this list is correct as of press time.

CHANTILLY—Dulles Expo Center

Dec 28-30 Feb 8-10 Apr 12-13 Jun 7-9 Jul 26-28 Sep 27-29

DALE CITY—VFW Post 1503

Dec 1-2 Jan 19-20 Mar 2-3

DOSWELL—Farm Bureau Center at Meadow Event Park

Dec 15-16 Feb 23-24 Apr 6-7

FISHERSVILLE—Augusta Expo

Dec 8-9 Jan 26-27 Apr 6-7 Sep 7-8

FREDERICKSBURG—Fredericksburg Expo & Conference Center

Dec 8-9 Jan 26-27 Mar 9-10 May 4-5

HAMPTON—Hampton Roads Convention Center

Nov 24-25 Jan 12-13 Mar 16-17 Jul 13-14

HARRISONBURG—Rockingham County Fairgrounds

Feb 16-17 **NO VCDL PRESENCE; NEED COORDINATOR***

MANASSAS — PWC Fairgrounds

Jan 19-20 May 18-19 **NEED COORDINATOR***

NORFOLK—Norfolk Scope

None scheduled

RICHMOND—Richmond Raceway Complex

Jan 5-6 Mar 30-31 Aug 24-25

RICHMOND — Old Kmart on Midlothian

ROANOKE—Roanoke Civic Center

Feb 2-3 Mar 23-24 Aug 17-18 Oct 19-20

SALEM—Salem Civic Center

Dec 22-23 Jan 19-20 May 18-19 Jul 20-21

VIRGINIA BEACH — Convention Center

Feb 2-3 Apr 19-20

WINCHESTER — Body Renew Fitness and Family Sports Center

Mar 2-3

* If you might be willing to act as coordinator, let's talk—with no obligation at first—about responsibilities and possibilities. Contact gunshowcoord@vcdl.org.

COORDINATORS

Chantilly—**Danny Paulson**—gunshows.chantilly@vcdl.org

Dale City—**Richard Kroh**—gunshows.dalecity@vcdl.org

Doswell — **Rowley Molina** — gunshows.doswell@vcdl.org

Fishersville—**Ed Martin** — gunshows.fishersville@vcdl.org

Fredericksburg —**Mike Clark**—gunshows.fredericksburg@vcdl.org

Harrisonburg —**VACANT** — gunshows.shenandoah@vcdl.org

Manassas—**VACANT**—gunshows.manassas@vcdl.org

Norfolk SCOPE—**John Ward**—gunshows.norfolk@vcdl.org

Richmond—**Mike Wilburt**—gunshows.centralva@vcdl.org

Southwest Virginia—**Al Steed, Jr.**—gunshows.swva@vcdl.org

Tidewater/Peninsula—**Ron Lilly**—

gunshows.hamptonroads@vcdl.org

Tidewater/Virginia Beach—**Brendan Mooney**—

gunshows.vb@vcdl.org

Winchester — **Mark Lintz**—gunshows.winchester@vcdl.org

State Gun Show Coordinator—**Tess Ailshire**—

gunshowcoord@vcdl.org

THANK YOU

A special thanks to those members who used their time to help spread the VCDL word.

Richmond Aug 24-25

William Carr, David Crosby, Dave Eckhart, John Gosney, Craig Jones, Jack Jordan, Leyla Meyers, Alan Penn, Brian Risley, Jim Shelton, Bob Welch

Doswell Sep 8-9

Bob Charlton, Rowley Molina, Janine Woods

Hampton, Sep 23-24

John Fenter, Bob Gass, Brandon Gilbert, Bryan Gilbert, Clem Morse-Tuttle, Roberta Morse-Tuttle, Monte Oakes, Jessy Simmons, and Tim Waters

Chantilly Sep 28-30

Keith Bailey, Kevin Boland, Debra Casey, Dwin Craig, Skip Dobrin, Robert Eufemia, Glen Foster, Kelly Foster, Thomas Fuller, Paul Gwyther, Troy Hayes, John Kamin, Margaret Marcus, Michael Oakes, Danny Paulson, , Alexander Rogge, Craig Shelton, Russell Slater, Jim Snyder, David Warren, Sherry Warren, Keith Webster, Robert Wilson

Salem Oct 13-14

Don Beheler, Bryan Dyer, Missy Dyer, Dave Evans, Connie French, Ed French, Danny Holdren, Christian Horchler, Shellie Meikle, Stephen Meikle, Neil Motter, Ed Nell, Al Steed, Jr.

Glen Allen Day 20 Oct

Chuck Batteau, Bob Charlton, Kiefer Clay, Dave Eckart, John Flynn, Leonard Harris, Scott Hood, Bruce Jenkins, Alan Penn, David Schroen

Roanoke, Oct 20-21

Don Beheler, Brien Dyer, Missy Dyer, Dave Evans, Connie French, Ed French, Danny Holdren, Sam Hollingsworth, Dan Johnson, Heather Meikle (age 11), Lilly Meikle (age 2-½), Stephen Meikle, Ty Meikle, Ken Modica, Dave Ninaltowski, Kathy Smith, Al Steed, Jr.,

Virginia Beach, Oct 20-21

Carl Bruno, Mike Ferris, John Greene, Brent Hodgins, Dave Hodgson, Richard Johnson, Dana Larkin, Steele McGonegal, Joh Miller, Gary Moeller, Brendan Mooney, Bill Rearick, Lisa Rearick

Fredericksburg, Oct 27-28

Mike Clark, John Dittamo, Dave Eckart, Mickey Feeley, Theron Keller, Wayne Robinson, Alexander Strugatsky

RANGE TIME

By Executive Member Kenneth R. Van Wyk

Does this sound familiar to you? You head to the range a couple times a year with a couple boxes of ammunition and proceed to blast a bunch of holes into your paper targets. That's okay, you say, as your groups are improving and you're shooting at longer distances than when you started out. Familiar?

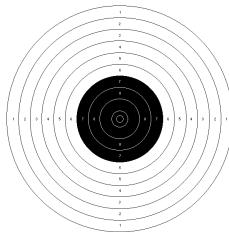
Now, how many of you think that sort of practice, in and of itself, adequately prepares you for protecting your and your family's safety when you're out in public? After all, you're able to hit a target, right?

No, I'd like to think most of us in VCDL know that scenario simply doesn't cut it. We seek training. We know real targets don't stand still. We know it's even quite possible our "target" will one day be shooting back at us if we're ever placed into the unfortunate situation of having to defend ourselves.

On the other hand, training is expensive. Ammunition is expensive. Our time is valuable to us. That means we're probably not out there shooting moving targets on a weekly basis, right?

Perhaps some of you are, but that's not been my own experience.

So, the question becomes this: How do we get the most actual value out of our range time? What if our only option is an indoor or outdoor range with shooter lanes laid out and little or no room for us to move around much, engage moving targets, and so on?



Well, together, we'll step through some practical guidance on how to maximize the effectiveness of our practice sessions. I intend to publish here a series of columns, starting with this one, that will explore different techniques for practicing under a range of different circumstances.

I'll lay out a plan of action below, and I want to invite you all to chime in with ideas, suggestions, and so on, if you're so inclined.

My roadmap, as of today, includes the following topics:

Distance shooting
Precision shooting
Draw from OWB holster
Draw from IWB concealed holster
Defensive shooting from behind cover or concealment
Weak side shooting
Rapid multiple target acquisition
New firearm break-in and testing
Speed shooting
Shooting games for multiple people

Dry-fire drills at home
Elevated stress shooting
Competition shooting.
Malfunction drills
Reloading drills
Shooting while wounded.
Low light drills



That's a pretty formidable list, and I'll plan on hitting one or two of these topics per column here in the VCDL Defender. What important practice drills have I missed? Please reach out to me and chime in. I can be reached by email at ken.vanwyk@vcdl.org, and I'd love to hear from you.

I'll also address practice frequency. How often are you able to get to the range? If you go once a month, your drill options are different than for someone who can get out once a week (or more).

The bottom line is that we all owe it to ourselves to be as proficient as we can in handling our firearms. We need to be safe, of course, but we also want to stack the odds in our favor as much as we can. Should we ever really need our firearms, we need to be prepared to use them swiftly and confidently.

To get there, I'm a huge believer in practicing and drilling that pushes our abilities to their limits and beyond. I believe training should be difficult, not easy. I work hard in my own training to push myself every time I go to the range, and with every shot I fire. Shooting a bunch of holes in a piece of paper just isn't enough.

So please come join me. Send me your ideas. Try the drills we'll cover here, and let me know how well they work for you. Share with us your own tips to improve even further. I'll share the best tips and ideas here, with full credit to the contributors, of course.

I look forward to our journey. I hope you do too.

YES, VOTING IS IMPORTANT

"Based on House voting records tracked by the National Rifle Association, more than two dozen gun rights proponents won't be returning to Congress. "

"At least 17 newly elected House Democrats back stricter gun laws, including Jennifer Wexton, Abigail Spanberger and Elaine Luria in Virginia, who defeated incumbents "

Source: CNBC Nov 9, 2018

DOES IT REALLY MATTER?

By Patricia Webb, VCDL Board of Directors Member

Every year I hear reasons why people can't...or don't...attend Lobby Day. Now is the time to look at reasons why you should **make** time to attend! (NB: This is written *before* Election Day.)

Obviously, you care about your right to keep and bear arms. If you didn't, you wouldn't be a member of VCDL. And while being a member is an important step in defending that right, it is just the first step.

Strength in numbers makes an impact, especially on Lobby Day. In some years we've had such high attendance that you simply couldn't go anywhere in the General Assembly (GA) building without seeing scores of blaze orange Guns Save Lives stickers in every direction. Sadly, there have also been years when the attendance was anemic. Every single person counts. So don't let the weather keep you away (we spend most of the day inside!). Don't let the fact that you have to get up early on what would otherwise be a holiday keep you from coming either.

This is our Superbowl. While VCDL is busy all year working with the GA and with local governments, this is the one time each year when YOU, the individual faces of VCDL, can be seen and heard. And you don't have to be a member to participate, so bring your friends, neighbors, coworkers and family. I've had children in my group every year I've been a Team Lead, and it is an excellent learning experience for them.

On a previous Lobby Day I asked one of the Delegates just how many contacts it takes to get one's attention? The answer was staggering. If they get 10 or so emails on a specific topic, they take notice. If they get 5 or more phone calls it gets attention. If they get ONE or TWO visits, they put more weight on this than any phone call or email. When VCDL holds Lobby Day and they see hundreds of Guns Save Lives sticker-wearing people swarming the corridors, they can't help but take notice.

What really gets their attention is when their constituents are in those groups. In fact, you can make an appointment with your Delegate and Senator to guarantee you'll get some face time. But even if you don't do this, go by their office and sign their guest book. Write in the comments that you are a constituent and a VCDL member.

We choose Martin Luther King Day for a reason. Many people have the day off but the GA is in session. Street parking is free, so you don't have to feed the meter. We start forming groups early, but the Team Leaders will be entering the building as the people arrive. And if everyone has gone in already, you can find a group and join it. The important thing is, show up! Then join us at the Bell Tower for some exciting speakers. You won't be sorry! Your participation is what makes this such a powerful and successful event. So don't just phone it in, step it up! Come on out and join us!

DON'T BE "THAT GUY"

By EM Tess Ailshire

The Greater Alexandria Patch newspaper reported recently on an Alexandria man who forgot to check his carry-on bags and attempted to fly through Baltimore-Washington Thurgood Marshall International Airport (BWI).

The newspaper reports "The Transportation Security Administration said an officer found the 9 mm gun when the man's carry-on luggage passed through an x-ray machine at the security checkpoint. The gun was loaded with 13 bullets, including one in the chamber. TSA also found two magazines with another 12 bullets in the luggage.

The man told TSA officials he forgot about putting the loaded gun in the carry-on. Maryland Transportation Authority Police confiscated the loaded gun and ammunition and arrested the man on weapons charges.

This was the 18th gun caught at BWI this year. Last year, TSA reported a record 26 arrests for guns found at BWI checkpoints in 2017.

TSA reminds residents that a gun found at a checkpoint could not only delay checkpoint lines but result in possible criminal charges. TSA can assess fines up to \$13,000 for weapons violations with a first time offense for carrying a handgun into a checkpoint typically being \$3,900.'

It could be worse, of course. In New York, "possession of a loaded firearm is an extremely serious charge. It is a Class C Violent Felony with a maximum sentence of 15 years and, more importantly, a minimum sentence of three and one-half years." Further, "New York has its own unique way of defining a loaded handgun. Our highest court, in its wisdom, holds that a handgun is loaded when "the ammunition is in close proximity." That's right — if the handgun and the ammunition are near each other, that's a loaded firearm. (Source: *Law office of Martin D. Kane*)

We've run several articles in The Defender over the years about how to travel safely with your firearm. The subject has been discussed and debated, with different people describing their various experiences.

What all have in common, though, is that they were also very careful to check their carry-on bags **before** arriving at the airport.

FLYING WITH FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION

TSA CHECKLIST

When traveling, comply with the laws concerning possession of firearms as they vary by local, state and international governments



Declare each firearm each time you present it for transport as checked baggage. Ask your airline about limitations or fees that may apply



Firearms must be unloaded and locked in a hard-sided container and transported as checked baggage only



Firearm parts, including magazines, clips, bolts and firing pins, are prohibited in carry-on baggage, but may be transported in checked baggage



Ammunition is prohibited in carry-on baggage, but may be transported in checked baggage



Firearm magazines and ammunition clips, whether loaded or empty, must be securely boxed or included within a hard-sided case containing an unloaded firearm



WWW.SAFEGO.US

LOBBY DAY LOGISTICS

Getting There

Driving. The Bell Tower—for team formation and for the rally, is located at 9th and Franklin Streets in Richmond, Virginia. The entrance to the Pocahontas Building is at 10th and Main.

Buses. Buses will be leaving from Fairfax, Fredericksburg, Roanoke, Lynchburg, Hampton, and Virginia Beach. Specific times are listed in the VA-ALERT of 27 November, which can be found in the VA-ALERT archives at vcdl.org. To reserve a spot on the bus, send an email to bus@vcdl.org with the names of riders in your party, and a cell phone number where they can be reached for last-minute information. We request a \$30 contribution to help offset the cost of the buses (about \$1,500 each). However, it is more important that we have plenty of people at Lobby Day, so if you can't make a full contribution or can't contribute at all, that is not a problem. Anyone wishing to contribute more, we'll gratefully accept that, too. Proof of a contribution is **not** required to get on the bus.

Parking There

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

Additionally, **Public Parking:** 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.”

Staying There

You may want staying over night in Richmond, 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), the Omni Richmond (100 S 12th St.), a Marriott Courtyard (1320 E Cary St), and a Marriott Residence Inn (14 S 14th St). For a five-star experience, check out The Jefferson Hotel (101 W Franklin St). Popular search sites like TripAdvisor and others offer up their lists, as does <http://visitrichmondva.com> and other locally run sites.

Eating There

The cafeteria formerly on the 6th floor of the General Assembly Building will be in a new location in the SunTrust Building (919 East Main Street, 3rdFloor – across the street from the Pocahontas Building). The Capitol Café in the Capitol Extension will be open each weekday between 8:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. for breakfast and lunch.

Additionally, within a five-block radius of the Capitol are: Cafe Ole, Citizen JoJo's, Famous Pizza, Pop's Market on Grace, Richmond on Broad Café, SunTrust Cafeteria, Cafe Rustica, Mama J's Kitchen, Pasture, Rappahannock, Sam Miller's, Capital Ale House, Penny Lane Pub, Sine Irish Pub, and others. We encourage you to seek out your favorites prior to arriving, but you may just strike up a friendship with someone who already has a favorite, and enjoy some fellowship as well!

Finding a Team

Team Leaders will start forming their teams around 8 AM. They will be wearing neck signs identifying them as Team Leaders, and will probably each be carrying an armload of information packets to hand to their assigned legislators. You can ask the Team Leader if s/he is visiting one of your legislators or you can simply join a group, talk to the assigned individuals, and then seek out your own legislators as well.

If you are willing to **lead** a team, assembling and leading a team to visit about 10 legislators, contact ken.vanwyk@vcdl.org. Leadership skills are helpful, but willingness is more helpful.

Inside the Building

Individuals and groups visiting the Pocahontas Building may enter through the doors marked public entrance on the south side of the building. **Visitors with special needs may use the wheelchair accessible entrance on Main St.**

All non-credentialed visitors must pass through a security screening and have their personal items screened by an x-ray machine prior to entry. All packages and bags are subject to physical search.

In some previous years, there has been a separate door for CHP-holders who are carrying firearms. It will be clearly marked. If you carry into the building, have your CHP and your photo ID readily available.

Scheduling Individual Visits

To schedule a visit with your representatives, find contact info on the General Assembly web site. Scheduling in advance is best, but there are telephone and room-assignment lists at the information desk in the building. Individual visits with legislators tell the representative that it is their own constituents who expect them to vote freedom, and it allows you to speak about other issues not necessarily related to firearms ownership.

News to Use

By Executive Member Tess Ailshire

Many of our members have a difficult time talking to others about VCDL because they don't really know the organization. Sure, we all know that VCDL is a force in Richmond, that legislators listen to us, that we are a group of committed gun owners who are determined that no legislator will take away natural rights guaranteed by our Constitution. But is that enough to make you knowledgeable to talk to others?

The following information was put together to help volunteers who man our tables at gun shows and community events. It may help you, by answering your questions but, more importantly, by providing you with the information you need to explain our organization to others.

Who are we

We are a grassroots organization of Virginia gun owners who recognize that an organized effort to let legislators at all levels of the state's bureaucracy know our position and our expectation.

What differentiates us from NRA, JPFO, GOA, SAF, CCRKBA, NAGR, etc. is that we are strictly state and below. Those other organizations cannot afford the time or the manpower to focus on the issues of all states, or to concern themselves with county or city issues. We do that effectively, though we focus on statewide issues during the legislative session (usually Jan-Mar)

We are primarily a volunteer organization. During the legislative session, we have someone at every session, committee meeting, and subcommittee meeting where bills are discussed that could affect a gun-owner's rights. We have two registered lobbyists, and thousands of grassroots supporters.

We stand for the gun owner's rights. While our legislative priorities vary from year to year and with practical considerations, we believe that each individual has a right to carry a firearm for self-defense. In general, we support:

- Campus carry – any person who is not prohibited from carrying a firearm off campus should not be prohibited from carrying one on campus
- Statewide preemption – no state locality or organization should be able to ban guns arbitrarily (right now, localities are fully preempted, but organizations and agencies are not)
- Constitutional carry – a person who is not a prohibited person should not need a permission slip to carry a firearm either openly or concealed.
- Elimination of gun-free zones--a person does not become violent by virtue of stepping over a line into, say, a church, park, school, building, or vehicle.
- Nationwide reciprocity

In general, we oppose:

- Universal transaction (background) checks. They cannot work without registration, and the government need not register our constitutionally guaranteed private property.

- Special exemptions – whether for judges, off-duty police, Commonwealth's Attorneys, or any other. No citizen should be exempt from firearms laws (except law enforcement while on duty)
- Bans on firearms, particularly bans based solely on cosmetic features
- One-gun-a-month laws
- Efforts to restrict firearms ownership from law-abiding citizens in a misguided attempt to regulate criminal behavior. Criminals do not obey current laws' additional restrictions make a difference to the law-abiding.

What is Lobby Day

Lobby Day, traditionally held on the Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday, is a time when Virginia citizens visit their legislators to impress upon them the importance of citizen feeling on issues to be debated and legislated.

We encourage every gun owner to attend.

We will break into teams, each of which has a volunteer leader, and thus we can visit every legislator in the building. We present a list of the bills we are watching, and indicate whether we support or oppose the legislation, and why.

We also sponsor a one-hour rally at the Bell Tower on the Capitol grounds. This rally will provide guest speakers and inspirational moments in a show of solidarity.

Lobbying efforts begin at 8:00 AM. We encourage attendees to arrive around 7:30 and find a team. There will be people handing out stickers, directing people to teams, and answering questions.

What do my dues get me

Power. It's all well and good for a lobbyist to visit a legislator and state he represents xx thousand gun owners of Virginia. It's even more impressive when he can say he represents xx **members** who pay dues, who pay attention, who contact legislators with persuasive arguments, and who VOTE.

A paper newsletter, The Defender, published quarterly. While members may opt out of receipt, it contains articles and information that are not published by VCDL elsewhere.

Dues, as in most organizations, are used to pay for legal advice, to cover administrative costs including membership processing and treasurer services, for printing costs, and for an occasional event such as a potluck dinner or picnic.

How many members does VCDL have

About 6500 paid members, and over 28,000 on the VA-ALERT.

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REVIEW: SIG SAUER P365 PISTOL RAISES THE BAR IN MANY WAYS

By VCDL President Philip Van Cleave

The more training I have, the more I appreciate having a higher-capacity handgun. I don't believe anyone has ever said, "Darn. I had way too much ammunition!" after a life-and-death defense situation!

I've been a fan of Sig Sauer's P320 series of handguns for years. The P320 subcompact is indeed easy to conceal, but it is not a pocket pistol by any means. So when Sig announced the P365 with a capacity of 10 + 1 9x19mm +P (or 12 + 1 with an extended magazine), it got my attention.

A student let me shoot his P365 while I was teaching an Illinois concealed carry class. I really liked it, put it on my short list, and bought one and headed to the range with 300 rounds of ammunition.

While my normal carry cartridge is .40 S&W, this isn't the first time I've purchased a particular pistol in 9mm simply because it was not offered in anything but 9mm (my tack-driving Sig P320 RX, with its red dot sight, is another recent example). In reality, all the major carry calibers (9mm, .40 S&W, and .45 ACP) are not far apart in stopping power, thanks to improvements in ammunition over the last 20 years or so.

SIZE AND WEIGHT (LOADED)

Before the P365, I had two choices in my gun collection for pocket carry: the Kahr Arms PM40 and the Kahr Arms P380. The P380 is ridiculously small and light, but is only chambered in .380 ACP and holds a mere 6 + 1 rounds. If discretion is an absolute priority, the P380 is hard to beat and I carry it on the rare occasion, often forgetting I even have it on me.

The PM40, which holds 5 + 1 rounds of .40 S&W, or the PM9, which holds 6 + 1 rounds of 9mm, is slightly smaller and lighter than the P365. The loaded PM40 weighs around 22 ounces and the loaded P365 comes in right at 24 ounces. (I don't care what a gun's empty weight is, as I never carry it empty!) Both have 3.1" barrels.

The PM40's dimensions are (L, H, W): 5.47" x 4.0" x .94"

The P365's dimensions are (L, H, W): 5.8" x 4.3" x 1.0"

TRIGGER

The PM40's trigger reminds me of a tuned revolver: a little long, but smooth and consistent.

The P365 is very much like Sig's P320: around 5 pounds, smooth with a small amount of slack, a little stacking, and then a nice, crisp break with just a touch of over travel and a distinct and short reset. The P365's trigger, being similar to

my P320's trigger, was a plus for me, especially when carrying the P365 as a backup gun.

SLIDE SERRATIONS, SIGHTS, AND TAKE DOWN

The slide has serrations on both ends for those who like to do a press check. The P365 comes with front and rear night sights, with the front sight (called an XRay3) having a larger dot. While the sights are lower profile to prevent snagging, they are easy to acquire.

To take down the P365, unload the gun, remove the magazine, lock the slide back, turn the take-down lever to the down position, and pull the slide off the gun (no need to pull the trigger during take down).

Putting the gun back together has one oddity. You must push up on the slide lock lever to allow the take down lever to move back into the downward position. Assembly then is simply placing the slide back on the gun, locking the slide back, and then returning the take-down lever to its horizontal position.

The trigger group comes out of the frame (a la the P320) with the removal of a single pin. I'm betting that Sig will either offer replacement or alternative frames at some point.

RANGE RESULTS

I headed to the range with my universal sight pusher and some paper plates, each having a single line drawn on it using a straight edge.

To adjust a gun's windage, I put the paper plate on the target backer with the line on the plate in a vertical orientation. I then place that line in the middle of the front sight, with the front and rear sights properly aligned, and slowly pull the trigger. Since I am not worried about sight elevation, this arrangement keeps me focused on the windage.

My first shot cut that line in half! Additional shots showed that the factory sights were already dead-on. No need for a sight pusher!

I proceeded to see how the gun did at 25 and 50 yards, which are real tests of sight alignment! I had no problem hitting a 6" round steel plate at 25 yards or a 9" round steel plate at 50 yards. Not bad for a pocket gun!

The magazines were initially a little tight getting in the last round, but putting the fully loaded magazine in the gun for an hour or so fixed that problem. I found the slide easy to rack. I was also impressed with how mild the felt recoil was on that gun. Shooting 300 rounds through it in a single shooting session did not lead to the slightest discomfort.

The gun (made on September 5, 2018) had a few hiccups during the first 100 rounds. Mostly a hesitation to go into battery and one failure to extract (which could have been the

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

ammunition). After 100 rounds, the sluggishness was gone and I've had no failures of any kind since, with an additional 500 rounds or so through it.

Having decided that the P365 was going to be added to my "stable" of carry guns, a couple of weeks later I bought a second gun (made on October 4, 2018). I'm very picky about getting my guns sighted dead on and this gun required that I push the font sight over to the left ever so slightly (most people, I'm sure, would have said it was dead on as it was). For the first hundred rounds there was an issue with the gun not quite going into battery about one-third of the time. This ironed itself out and with another 600 rounds through the gun, no other failures have occurred.

BTW, I bought the first P365 at Green Top in Richmond for \$519, which included a box of 50 rounds of Sig 9mm ball ammo. I also bought a pocket holster at Green Top which I really like a lot. It is made by Blue Force Gear, is actually made for the Glock 43, but fits like a glove, and is super thin (part number M-HOLSTER-G43-01-BK): <https://www.blueforcegear.com/gear/pocket-holster>

The second gun I bought through Osage County Guns for \$499 with free shipping (but no free box of ammo). We are lucky in Virginia to have a plethora of excellent gun stores/shooting ranges across the state. This time I did the FFL transfer through the Smoking Gun in Colonial Heights. It is a family run gun store and shooting range, run by a long time VCDL supporter, Jeff Picchi.

(President's Pen: Continued from page 2)

why all of us must remain engaged. Nothing ever remains the same and nothing can be taken for granted.

How do we stand legislatively at the Federal level?

The Republicans losing the House will probably mean not much headway on National Reciprocity or the Hearing Protection Act. Sadly, the Republicans characteristically didn't take full advantage of the control of both bodies and the presidency to do something good for gun owners. Their leadership squandered some key opportunities.

That said, gun controllers are not in a great position either. Any gun control bill from the House would require all the Democrats and probably at least 3 Republicans in the Senate to join them. And even if that happened, the bill would face a likely veto from President Trump.

That does not mean we shouldn't worry about gun-control bills. Any gun-control bills that look like a serious threat will require that we contact our federal legislators. VCDL will keep you apprised of such a situation.

How do we stand legislatively at the State level?

There will be special elections to fill seats vacated by Ben Cline in the Virginia House and Jennifer Wexton in the Virginia Senate. It's unlikely that either seat will change parties, so the Republicans should maintain their razor-thin margins in both the House and Senate. That said, those of you in either district should definitely show up to cast your vote when the time comes. We will advise as things move forward.

Was the election a referendum on gun control, as Michael Bloomberg claims?

I was asked that very question by a reporter. I told him that guns didn't seem to be much of an issue in the mid-terms. Nationally, with a few exceptions, the Democrats focused on healthcare. In Virginia, gun-rights candidates did well overall, most winning by decent margins.

I also pointed out that Justice Kavanaugh was feared by the Democrats because he understood and appreciated the Second Amendment. Every Democrat Senator who voted against Kavanaugh in a red-leaning state lost their reelection. West Virginia Democrat Senator Joe Manchin held his seat because, in the end, he broke with his party and voted to confirm Kavanaugh.

THE FIGHT CONTINUES. LOBBY DAY IS MONDAY, JANUARY 21



(Continued from page 7)

What is the VA-ALERT

It's an electronic newsletter published roughly once a week – except during the legislative session, when it may arrive as much as 3-5 times per week – that keeps you informed of what's going on in Virginia regarding your gun rights.

It's a way to let people know what's going on at the local level. Is a locality trying to ban guns in libraries, parks, etc? We'll let you know (and we'll try to find a member to start the ball rolling, to contact the locality or assist the member in doing so, to clarify the issue, cite the law, and ask for correction). If necessary, we'll announce the need for a presence at a council meeting or other locality meeting to demonstrate commitment.

It's a schedule of upcoming gun shows.

It's a wealth of interesting stories, and a way to learn from others' successes and mistakes.

MEMBERS REPLY

RESPONSE TO PUBLISHED ARTICLE

In a recent article (What is a 2A-lover Supposed to do Online) Kenneth R. van Wyk stated, with regard to Silicon Valley Companies, “....but let’s not forget these are mostly private corporations. They are free to set and enforce policies as they see fit.” Mr. van Wyk is correct to an extent. That extent ends when those companies become monopolies and suppress freedom of speech that has been shown to blatantly and consistently favor one side more than another. At that point they run afoul of the Sherman Antitrust Act which was put in place in 1890 to deal with....wait for it....monopolies and their actions, by then President Benjamin Harrison.

Recently Congress has held hearings and has let it be known that they are well aware that the algorithms used by Google, Twitter etc. do not match anyone’s definition of letting all voices be heard. Further, they have expressed concern that suppression of Conservative voices and views is something Congress is not only aware of but is watching closely.

As gun owners we don’t meekly have to go into that dark night, heads hung low, with a “guess there’s nothing we can do but look somewhere else” attitude. We can raise our voices loudly and demand that ALL views be given equal venue or, in the alternative, that Congress and the President ask the Department of Justice to open an investigation into possible violations of Sherman, which, by the way, if a conviction is found, could result in a three year prison term and hundreds of thousands of dollars in fines. This is not some hail-Mary pass. Silicon Valley is deathly afraid that this will escalate which is why they are denying on one day and promising to deal with it the next. Our job is to light that fire under Congress and stoke it every single day with phone calls and emails.

*VCDL Member Dave Vann
Falls Church, VA*

OBTAINING A PENNSYLVANIA NONRESIDENT CHP

I recently obtained a nonresident, Pennsylvania License to Carry a Firearm because of the Pennsylvania Attorney General’s action to not recognize Virginia CHLs.

First step was to download an application from the Somerset county website:

http://www.co.somerset.pa.us/files/sheriff_files/Firearms%20Application%20-%20Somerset%20County.pdf

I chose Somerset since it is along the route I use when traveling to Pennsylvania, and the courthouse is just off exit 110 of the PA turnpike. Somerset was rated favorably and had positive comments on the Pennsylvania Firearms Owners Association website (<http://www.pafoa.org/counties/>). Some counties will not issue nonresident licenses.

Pennsylvania requires a copy of one’s Virginia permit and a \$20 check. I also included a letter to the Sheriff explaining when I would be visiting the courthouse to pick up the license. I mailed these items a month before my trip.

About a week prior to visiting the courthouse, I called the sheriff’s office and spoke to Janie Gnagley who is the clerk in charge of firearms permits. She confirmed my application had been received and all was in order. During my next trip to PA, I stopped at the courthouse. Note: They use TSA style security so leave any weapons in your vehicle. Ms. Gnagley pulled my application, prepared the license, and took my photograph. All told, the process took about 10 minutes. Bottom line: It was a smooth, trouble-free event.

Please feel free to share this experience with the members.

*VCDL Member Frank Coyle
Virginia Beach*

IN VIRGINIA, THE DEFINITION OF “MILITIA” IS CRYSTAL CLEAR

While debate rages among the friends and foes of the 2nd Amendment as to just what a “well regulated militia” is, in the Commonwealth of Virginia the answer is simple enough for even the most rabid anti-gunners to grasp (and perhaps gasp).

The “militia” in Virginia is clearly defined by law in Section 44-1 of the Code of Virginia:

The militia of the Commonwealth of Virginia shall consist of all able-bodied residents of the Commonwealth who are citizens of the United States and all other able-bodied persons resident in the Commonwealth who have declared their intention to become citizens of the United States, who are at least 16 years of age and, except as hereinafter provided, not more than 55 years of age. The militia shall be divided into three classes: the National Guard, which includes the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard; the Virginia Defense Force; and the unorganized militia.

Accordingly, most everyone from teens to pre-geezers is subject by law to be called into militia service by the Commonwealth in event of an emergency.

One might even suggest that due diligence compels us to be prepared to bring along a personally-owned AR15 (civilian-legal counterpart to current US military M16 and M4 rifles) and be suitably skilled in its use.

Now, it is further suggested that VCDL make available for purchase a business card sized handout with this reference. Handy in lots of situations.

*VCDL member Robert “Sarge” Bruce
King William*

**Send your replies, rebuttals, thoughts, or experiences to
TheDefender@vcdl.org**

VCDL Membership Application

RECRUITER MEMBER # _____

New Renewal (Member # _____)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (_____) _____

Email _____

1 VCDL membership: \$ 25.00

Donation to VCDL: \$ _____

Donation to PAC: \$ _____

VCDL-PAC donations of over \$100 per year require additional information needed by the State Board of Elections. If you are in this category, VCDL's PayPal system is better for donations; it compiles the required information.

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

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

Method of payment

Cash (Do not send cash through the mail.)

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

Charge: American Express

MasterCard Visa

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Name as it appears on the card _____

Signature of Card Holder _____

Mail to:

VCDL Membership Processing Center

P.O. Box 5752
Fredericksburg VA 22403

Or save postage and use credit card or PayPal at vcdl.org/join

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

Food For Thought

If society is honest and historically accurate, the only question that has any relevance to the gun control debate is, "Do you trust those in government, now and in the future, to not take your life, liberty, or property through the force of government?" If the answer to that question is "no," the gun control debate is over.

KrisAnne Hall, JD www.KrisAnneHall.com

"Rifles. They're more powerful and cause more carnage when used with a pistol-grip [sic]. See @ScottPelley @60Minutes piece. To reduce semi-auto pistol deaths I'd have universal background checks and mandatory reporting on mental health."

Rep Eric Swalwell (D-CA)

"That's why we need to ban civilian firearms and make illegal possession a capital crime. Publicly execute a few hundred thousand illegal gun owners and the rest will get the message." —Twitter user @AlvaradoMitchell for "Vote Blue November 6"

The problem with any magazine capacity ban is that the average person who knows nothing about firearms, believes this to be a reasonable solution to a perceived problem. Many

times I've tried to answer that question by giving logical and technical explanations. But it would never sink in past their lack of knowledge, prejudice and fear of firearms. Then one day at work during a lunchtime discussion about golf, it suddenly struck me how to best answer the question; frame the answer in terms THEY understand.

One of my friends at the table was an anti-gun liberal who loved to play golf. He also was one of the people who had asked me the question. When I had the opportunity to jump into the golf conversation I asked him: "Do you ever go to a driving range to practice your swing?" He said that he did; and that he would spend at least a couple hours every weekend during the summer at the driving range. I then asked "So you must go through several buckets of balls every outing?" He confirmed that. I continued "How many balls do you get in a bucket?" When he said "about 100" I knew I had him. That's when I asked "So, what you're telling me is that you get several loaded 100 ball magazines (buckets) so you can concentrate on your shots, and not reloading (buying) magazines (buckets)?". He gave me a blank stare. That's when I asked "What if you were restricted and could only buy a 10 ball bucket? Wouldn't you have to go back to the clubhouse and buy another bucket each time you emptied one?" That's when he and everyone else at the lunch table had an epiphany on THE QUESTION, and the stupidity of magazine capacity bans...

Bigshooterist - Military Firearms T&E

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Please feel free to contact any of the Officers or Directors should you have any questions or if you 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 |
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