



THE DEFENDER



A publication of

Virginia Citizens Defense League

Defending Your Right To Defend Yourself

VCDL.ORG

SUMMER 2021

Be Prepared to “Lawyer Up”

After a self-defense shooting, innocence is not enough to keep you free

by Tim Lynch

Our criminal justice system is spiraling out of control. That means now, more than ever, it is important for all citizens to learn how to protect themselves—both physically and legally. In this article, I will briefly review three recent cases that ought to serve as your “wake-up call.”

To begin, we need to remember the concept of blind spots. We all have a few, but if you are fortunate, you have a relative or friend to gently alert you to yours. With the possible exceptions of a speeding violation or perhaps a defensive shooting, too many gun owners fool themselves into thinking they will never be targeted by the police, or were it to happen, it would be “no big deal.” Wrong! The odds of a serious house fire may be remote, but the stakes are enormous, which is why it is wise to keep a fire extinguisher handy. Similarly, it makes sense to learn how to handle yourself in a police encounter. At the very least, you should know the basics.

We are all vulnerable

We are all vulnerable to hostile police encounters. There are several reasons for this. First, people make mistakes—gun owners make mistakes; police make mistakes. And we also know from DNA testing that totally innocent people have been imprisoned because of the mistakes of eyewitnesses. You may have seen the popular Netflix series “Making a Murderer” about



the Steven Avery case. Whatever your opinion about the second case involving Teresa Halbach, everyone agrees Avery served 18 years in prison for a sexual assault because of mistaken testimony from the victim. Remember the Duke lacrosse players accused of rape? The Richard Jewell case? The Norfolk Four? Innocents are targeted more often than the government wants to admit.

Another reason we are all vulnerable is because there are now so many laws on the books that we may be “guilty” and not even realize it. In June, the Supreme Court considered a prosecution that involved a computer fraud law. The Court rejected the government’s extremely expansive interpretation of that law, noting that millions of otherwise law-abiding Americans would be considered “criminals” on the government’s reading of that law. Justice Amy Barrett explained that while employers may not want employees using company computers for personal activity, it was too much of a stretch to say an employee’s personal email message or using the computer to check sports scores were federal crimes. It’s a good thing the Court ruled the way it did, but I must emphasize that some of the elite lawyers at the Department of Justice urged the Court to accept their broad interpretation. And that’s just a single law among the thousands that are now on the books.

For the People or Versus the People?

In response to the January 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol building, federal lawyers are now stretching several laws to “get” as many people as possible. The *Washington Post* reported that some individuals are facing a very obscure weapons charge because

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VCDL Public Meeting Dates Planned

VCDL holds **live virtual monthly meetings on the third Thursday of each month**. These meetings are broadcast on [YouTube.com/c/VirginiaCitizensDefenseLeague](https://www.youtube.com/c/VirginiaCitizensDefenseLeague) at 8:00 PM Eastern Time.

In person meetings have also resumed, and we are working on a permanent location in Northern Virginia to hold monthly meetings. Watch the Events at vcdl.org/events/event_list.asp and the VA-ALERT for meeting notices.

If you want to schedule a meeting in your area, simply find a location that doesn’t prohibit guns and can accommodate at least 50 people, select three potential dates, and email president@vcdl.org to coordinate.



From the Editor

"Don't be a victim."

We hear that quite a bit from gun owners and self-defense advocates. In an era when victimhood seems to be a high virtue, it goes against the grain to simply refuse to play the victim at work, on the streets, and in your home.

But sometimes it's hard. You may detect a bit of heat in the President's column. I share his pique! That civic leaders have the temerity to blame lawful gun owners for violence clearly perpetrated by their own supporters—well, it is hard not to feel victimized by your own government.

That's when I remember one of the best balms against victimhood is a grateful and positive mindset. Read the story on page 8 about a VCDL-sponsored youth shooting team and just try not to smile (spoiler: you can't!) On page 9, Alan Talman reminds us gun rights are gaining new fans every day (ironically created by the very violence Mayor Stoney blames us for!). In fact, all the articles in this special 12-page *Defender* (especially Philip Van Cleave's) explore things we can all do to improve ourselves and our Commonwealth.

What better way to not be a victim?

Mark Ching
Editor

The President's Pen

Richmond's Mayor Plays the Blame Game

Richmond Mayor Stoney is blaming the surge in murder and other violent crimes in Richmond since 2020, on recently exploding gun sales. Unfortunately for Stoney the finger (and I won't say which one) is pointing right back at him.

Stoney favors defunding the police. Well, according to studies done by Dr. John Lott, Jr., the one thing that reduces crime the most is having an effective law enforcement presence. So if you weaken law enforcement by reducing their funding, then crime is going to increase as criminals feel emboldened that they won't get caught. It's pretty much a law of nature. But, hey, what could go wrong by defunding the police?

Stoney ordered the police to stand down during the violent 2020 protests and prohibited them from using even pepper spray to control the crowds, further emboldening criminals who knew they would not face consequences for their actions. But, hey, what could go wrong with police standing down? We saw how well it worked in Charlottesville a few years ago.

The Commonwealth, thanks to the Democrat leadership, is letting criminals out of jail early. That puts more predators on the streets. But, hey, what could go wrong with more seasoned criminals walking the streets?

Stoney got City Council to put a gun ban in place for City buildings, parks, recreation and community centers, and on streets and adjoining streets to events that have a permit or should have a permit. Stoney went as far as to have certain streets with permanent signage saying "No guns," but in tiny print says the sign only applies if there is a permitted or permit-eligible event going on in the area. So keep peaceful people, including the most peaceful of all (CHP holders), but not criminals, from carrying guns in many places in the City—what could possibly go wrong?

A wave of concern is passing over Virginia and the nation. There are EIGHT MILLION new gun owners since early this year. Many of those are people who previously didn't think anyone needs a gun. That was until they realized that THEY needed one with the police being defunded.

Why would Stoney and the Democrat leadership in the Commonwealth do such treacherous things? **Democrats have been talking openly about the virtues of socialism and even communism. Both of those systems require unarmed and compliant citizens.**

But that unarmed part has not been working out so well for them. Gun sales have been soaring to new records for several years now. Prior to 2020 and the "what could go wrong?" items above, crime had been steadily falling since 1995. That was really bad news for gun-controllers. They want crime to soar so people, through fear, can be convinced that guns are the problem and that if only the government has guns, then everyone will be safe and live happily ever after. Gee, I know I'd love to be living in Venezuela right now! (Well, maybe not so much...)

All that Stoney and the Democrat leadership have done since 2020—with weakening the police, putting criminals on the streets, and restricting lawful gun owners—has been designed to push crime through the roof. And indeed, it has gone up. That intolerable drop in crime has been stopped.

So now, Stoney is blaming all the crime on the skyrocketing gun sales, when it is his own policies that have intentionally put everyone in danger and helped drive those gun sales! We need to get these clowns out of office while we still have a country and a state

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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 August 5, 2021.

CHANTILLY, Dulles Expo Center

Oct 1-3 | Nov 19-21 | Dec 31-Jan 2

CHESAPEAKE, Chesapeake Conference Center

Oct 30-31

DALE CITY, VFW Post 1503

None scheduled at this time

DOSWELL, Farm Bureau Center at Meadow Event Park

Nov 6-7

FISHERSVILLE, Augusta Expo

Sep 11-12 | Dec 4-5

FREDERICKSBURG, Fredericksburg Expo & Conference Ctr.

Oct 23-24 | Dec 11-12

HAMPTON, Hampton Roads Convention Center

Aug 14-15 | Sep 11-12 | Nov 27-28

HARRISONBURG, Rockingham County Fairgrounds

Oct 30-31

LYNCHBURG, Macy's at the River Ridge Mall

None scheduled at this time

RICHMOND, Richmond Raceway Complex

Aug 28-29 | Nov 13-14 | Jan 8-9

ROANOKE, Berglund Center

Aug 21-22 | Oct 23-24

SALEM, Salem Civic Center

Oct 9-10 | Dec 18-19

VIRGINIA BEACH, Convention Center

Oct 9-10

WEYERS CAVE, Weyers Cave Community Center

None scheduled at this time

WINCHESTER, Winchester Sportsplex

None scheduled at this time

WOODSTOCK, Woodstock Moose Lodge

None scheduled at this time

COORDINATORS

Chantilly—Danny Paulson and Debra Caey—

gunshows.chantilly@vcdl.org

Chesapeake—Frank Stanisz—gunshows.chesapeake@vcdl.org

Dale City—Team Eugene Brodetski and Damian Ljungquist—
gunshows.dalecity@vcdl.org

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

Fredericksburg — **Coordinator Needed**

Harrisonburg /Weyers Cave/Fishersville—Jim Kiser—

gunshows.shenandoah@vcdl.org

Peninsula—Bryan Dunn—gunshows.hamptonroads@vcdl.org

Richmond—John Gosney and Dave Eckert—

gunshows.centralva@vcdl.org

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

Seeking someone to take over as coordinator for SW VA

Virginia Beach—Mark Ashley and Andrea Porter—

gunshows.vb@vcdl.org

Woodstock/Winchester— Mark Lintz—

gunshows.woodstock@vcdl.org

State Gun Show Coordinator

Mike Wilburt—gunshowcoord@vcdl.org

Assistant State Coordinator—Andrea Porter

If you would like to become a coordinator or assistant coordinator contact Mike Wilburt at gunshowcoord@vcdl.org.

PROMOTERS

C&E Gun Shows www.cegunshows.com

SGK Gun Shows www.sgkshows.com

Showmasters www.showmastersgunshows.com

Sporting Shows Unlimited

gunshowtrader.com/promoter/virginia-gun-and-knife-shows/

THANK YOU

Salem May 5

Dave Smith, Dave Knight, Walter Drew, Sam Hollingsworth, Nathan Dunn, Mike Givens, Don Beheler, Ken Modica, Al Steed, Jr.. Special thanks to Sam for load-in and set-up on Friday. Also to Dave Smith for tear-down and load-out on Sunday.

Newport News Republican Convention May 8

Chet Szymecski, Rodney Patton, Bryan Dunn, Monty Oakes, Daniel Huber

Not Your Mama's Yard Sale May 8

Fred Deady, Hildi Deady, Rowley Molina, Jen Stover

Virginia Pickers Antiques & Collectibles Show May 14-15

Susan Brush, Fred Deady, Hildi Deady, John Gosney, Greg Hairston, Leonard Harris, Dan Liberty, Rowley Molina, Steve Rockkind, John Schuler

This is the third week in a row the Deadys volunteered!

Louisa Pin Shoot May 15

Brandy & Todd Polanowski

(Continued on page 5)

Lawyer Up (continued from page 1)

they were armed during a civil disturbance. One catch is the government gets to decide what constitutes a “disturbance.” This is frightening stuff. Imagine a crowded VCDL rally in Richmond. Three hundred yards from where you are standing, there is an incident, perhaps even a “disturbance,” about which you know nothing. Now imagine yourself getting arrested and having to spend your savings on legal bills and later being advised to plead guilty to avoid a lengthy prison term.

The *New York Post* ran an article about a man named Joseph Bolanos. FBI agents raided his home twice, even though witnesses confirmed he was in the J.W. Marriott Hotel when the Capitol building was breached on January 6. His life has been upended and he has suffered several strokes from the stress of the “investigation.”

What to Do if You are Questioned

Enough said about the legal minefield that is now all around our lives. What should you do if confronted by police officers? Let's start with what you shouldn't do. First, do not overreact, resist physically, or engage in any verbal abuse such as profanity or threats of how you plan to sue the government. Second, do not under-react by sheepishly apologizing for everything you have ever done in your life and offering to let agents search your home or monitor your cell phone for as long as they want.

***The Duke Lacrosse Team. Richard Jewell.
The Norfolk Four. Innocents are targeted more often
than the government wants to admit.***

The best approach is the middle course. That is, calmly and respectfully assert your rights. But even here there are different schools of thought on how much one should say. The difference isn't so much about correct vs. incorrect. It's rather about how good your memory is in a stressful situation. For those who want the basics boiled down into something that they can easily remember, memorize these two lines: “I know you are just doing your job, but I have nothing else to say. I want a lawyer.” Repeat those lines as many times as you need to. Not “I'm taking the Fifth.” Not “I have the right to remain silent.” Those lines are not wrong. They're just not the optimal response for beginners.

Let me explain why you should memorize those lines. A Virginia court recently heard a case in which a man in police custody said, “Hey, can you call my wife to tell her to call my lawyer for me?” The court ruled that his statement was not a clear enough invocation of his rights, so the police interrogation was allowed to continue! Do you see a pattern here? The government takes a very generous, expansive view of its own powers, but it takes an extremely narrow view of our rights. This is what we are up against.

There is not enough space here for me to review all the lies and tricks law enforcement can use to get people to “waive” their rights. In general, the only information you should give to the police is your name, date of birth, and—very briefly—what you were doing just before the police stop. For example, you are



responsible for opening or closing a business, so that's why you're around that building at a late hour. Or you're in that empty parking lot at night because you wanted to get off the main road to make a phone call. Be very brief, then stop talking!

There are a few exceptions to this general rule. Under Virginia law, if you are carrying a concealed firearm, you should produce your permit if a law-enforcement officers asks you for it. During a traffic stop, drivers are required to produce license, registration, and insurance. And if you're traveling by plane, crossing an international border, or entering some governmental buildings, you must produce identification.

After the Shoot, Shut Up

Invoking your right to an attorney may or may not stop the police from peppering you with questions. There are no magic words that will create an invisible force field around you to stop police from throwing seemingly reasonable questions, tricks, or lies your way. But asking for an attorney is your best bet to avoid a worst-case scenario. Of course, you would rather minimize a police hassle than drag it out. An agent might use that desire to trick you: “You can answer my questions now, or you'll be going to the jail for a few hours to be grilled by the detectives. What's it gonna be?” Keep your perspective on avoiding the worst-case scenario. It's better to be detained for an hour than to get arrested. And it's better to get arrested than to be prosecuted and convicted. Clearly invoking your right to an attorney is your best play when you are up against the FBI, ATF, local deputies, or others.

Through the legal grapevine, I've heard the story of a very expensive criminal defense lawyer that likes to show his clients a large trophy fish that adorns a wall in his office. Beneath the fish is the following inscription: “If I just kept my mouth shut, I wouldn't be here on this wall.” Note, however, that his clients get the tip after it is too late. You have been forewarned. Now go warn your own family (especially teenagers) and friends.

As noted earlier, it is possible to learn some “advanced” moves in response to police questioning, but be wary of going to a more advanced level without having put the necessary work in. A person who has just learned to swim in a pool is not yet ready to swim across a river at night. Do not venture beyond what you know.

Talking to the police in these times is risky behavior. For those who still think this is an exaggeration, let me close with a final point. What if you found out that prosecutors and police officers convey the ideas I've outlined here to their children in the event of a police encounter? Since they do, ask yourself a simple question: Why in the world should I do any different?

Tim Lynch is a constitutional attorney residing in Fairfax County. This article is an opinion piece and does not constitute legal advice.

President's Pen (continued from page 2)

left. We have got to give to future generations what was given to us. **We can do it, and we can do it this year, on November 2, when the entire House of Delegates, Governor, Lt. Governor, and Attorney General positions are up for grabs.** It will be a low turnout year, but if gun owners turn out and vote their gun rights first, we've got this! The ship sending us toward the cliffs will begin turning around.

Get involved in politics, support pro-freedom candidates. NOTE: Unlike the last statewide election in 2019, every Democrat running for the House of Delegates, Governor, Lt. Governor, and Attorney General will have a Republican opponent! Even those of you in Northern Virginia, Richmond, and Tidewater will have real choices this year! **Ignore the naysayers who want you to give up by telling you that your vote doesn't count.** Get yourself, your family, and your friends to the polls to make those critical choices to save our future.

Let's roll!



From the Secretary's Desk

Many people have asked for family memberships, and VCDL has listened! We are pleased to be able to offer family memberships as follows.

Family memberships consist of a "head of household" member who pays dues for the entire family. The rates are the normal \$25.00 membership fee for this person, plus \$15.00 for each additional family member. The person signing up as head of household will pay for all memberships at once when he/she joins or renews. All family members must reside at the same address, and there is a limit of six members per family.

There are a few other requirements and stipulations. There will only be one paper copy of The Defender sent to the address, but the other family members will have full access to the members only side of the VCDL.org website and will be able to download the digital copy of the current issue. Also, only the head of household is eligible for the "join/renew and get in free" deal at gun shows. In addition, all memberships are based on the head of household's renewal date, since they are the ones billed for the memberships.

All family members will receive membership cards and have full access to the website once the head of household sets up their accounts. Instructions can be found at vcdl.org/page/adding-family-members.

Thank you all for supporting VCDL and working to defend our right to defend ourselves. Your membership dues and donations are what allows VCDL to file lawsuits on your behalf and continue to the fight for your rights!

Pat Webb
Secretary/Treasurer

Thank You (continued from page 3)

Richmond May 21-23

Ron Carter, Arthur Carver, David Cline, Merrill "Sandy" Davis, Richard Davis, Cullen Doane, Kent Doane, Mark Guzzi, Thomas Hall, Alisha Hammer, Robert Hofrichter, Dave Morgerson, Patrick O'Connor, Stephen Rockkind, Jeff Sisak, Billy Stafford Jr, Kim Taylor, Dave Troxel, Bob Welch

Beaverdam Wine Festival Jun 5

Ed Marshall, Rowley Molina, Dave Morgerson, Bob Williams
Glen Allen Tractor and Car Show Jun 5-6
Jamie Brannan, Fred Deady, Hildi Deady, Dave Eckart, Rowley Molina, Dave Morgerson, Steve Rockkind, Bob Williams

Antique Tractor Show June 5

Steve Rockkind, Fred Deady, Hildi Deady, Jamie Brannan, Bob Williams, Dave Morgerson, Dave Eckart and Rowley Molina (coordinators)

Salem June 5-6

Don Beheler, Walter Drew, Nathan Dunn, Mike Givens, Sam Hollingsworth, Dave Knight, Ken Modica, Dave Smith, Al Steed, Jr.

Roanoke Rifle and Pistol Club (RRPC) Pistol Shoot Jun 12

Sam Hollingsworth, Ken Modica, Al Steed, Sherrill Smith

Chantilly Jun 18-20

Daniel Alonso, Roxanne Alonso, Twyman Andes, Tim Angers, Michael W. Baumstark, Debra Casey, Dwin Craig, Mitch Darling, Pat Daly, Glen Foster, Kelly Foster, Mickey Freely, Tylor Gregory, Chris Karanski, Payton Kilcarr, Jon Lareau, Andrew Larson, Vitaliy Mikhailiv, Ed Marcum, Charlie Mosely, Danny Paulson, Rick Richardson, Jeff Rickard, Wallace Rumbarger, Carl Simchick, Merlin Smith, Gus Speirs, Mike Stinnette, Rev. Bob Wilson, Brian Wrenn

Bedford County Militia Muster Jun 26

Walter Drew, Richard McNamara, Ed Shefflett, Linda Shefflett

Richmond June 26-27

Deverina Atkins, Joel Barron, David Crosby, Sandy Davis, Selden Denton, Dave Eckart, Phil Freda, Mark Fulcher, Tony Glinke, John Gosney, Dawn Heyse, Robert Hofrichter, Samuel Penn, Rick Walker, Jonathan Ward, Bob Welch, Robert Williams

Richmond July 10-11

Charles Batteau, Stephen Chock, David Crosby, Selden Denton, Brant Dunn, Dave Eckart, Mark Fulcher, John Gosney, Robert Hofrichter, Paul Klingensmith, Dan Liberty, Zakareia Mughisi, Angela Olinick, Jack Olinick, Michael Tomillon, Dave Troxel, Michael Wade, Bob Welch, Robert Williams

RRPC Jul 17

John Gosney

Chantilly, Jul 23-25

Twyman Andes, Kipling Brumm, Tom Callahan, Debra Casey, Dwin Craig, Mitch Darling, Glen Foster, Kelly Foster, Tyler Gregory, Chris Krasinski, Andrew Larson, Vitaliy Mikhailiv, Ed Marcum, Jack Marinaro, Max Padon, Danny Paulson, Manny Perez, Rick Richardson, Jeff Rickard, Wayne Robinson, Alexander Rogge, Bob Ryan, Carl Simchick, Merlin Smith, Gus Spier, Rev. Bob Wilson, Warner Workman, Brian Wrenn

RANGE TIME By EM Kenneth van Wyk

This series began in the Fall 2018 issue. Back issues are found at VCDL.org/page/defender-newsletter

PART IX

Welcome back to our series on getting the most out of our range time. In this edition, we're going to focus exclusively on training aids you can use at home and at the range to get more value from your training time and dollars.

I should start with a big caveat. This is in absolutely no way intended to be a comprehensive list of all the tools on the market, and it's also not meant to be an in-depth review of the tools I am covering. Rather, I'm trying to give you some ideas and cite a few pertinent examples. It's also important to point out that neither I nor VCDL received any commission or payment of any kind for any of the tools mentioned here.

As of this writing, ammunition prices are still quite high, but (unscientifically speaking) availability seems to be improving a bit. After a period where even obscure brands were unavailable, many ammo sellers are advertising factory ammunition from mainstream manufacturers, sometimes at "sale" prices (which are still higher than pre-panic).

Even if you could get ammo at 2019 prices, training at home is still a great use of time and will most certainly improve your proficiency when done right.

We've previously discussed dry fire safety—please refer to Part III of this series to ensure your practice session is as safe as can be. For now, suffice to say you should have no ammunition in your training room/area, your firearm should be cleared, and you should have a designated safe direction in which to aim and dry fire your training firearm. Yes, you need to point your firearm in a safe direction even though it is clear and there's no ammunition within reach. It's a belt and suspenders sort of thing that should help keep you out of jail (or worse).

Snap Caps

Let's start with the venerable "snap cap". They're inexpensive, readily available, and can be oh-so-useful for a myriad of training purposes. I heartily recommend buying a few for every caliber firearm you own.

You can start using snap caps the day you buy your gun to learn its controls, functioning, and so on. Load the gun's magazine (or cylinder) and cycle the gun by hand, firing the trigger for each snap cap as you go through.

Next, you can use snap caps for practicing drawing from holster and firing at a specific target point. (Again, refer to Part III.)

You can also practice clearing your firearm after common malfunctions such as "stovepipes" (failure to eject), failure to go

into battery, failure to feed, and so on. It takes a bit of staging to do this, such as manually putting a snap cap into the ejection port to emulate a stovepipe. Practice firing, realizing the malfunction, rapidly clearing the malfunction, reloading (if necessary), and firing again. You should practice doing this quickly and smoothly. (I cover these drills in more detail in Part V of this series.)



Another great use for snap caps is to practice rapid reloading. Assuming you carry a spare magazine or speed loader, practice dropping the empty magazine onto the ground, inserting a fresh magazine, and firing again. Here, too, practice so your movements are precise, smooth and efficient. Speed will come with practice. These drills are immensely practical and very inexpensive to get going. You can find snap caps in many places, including Midway USA (midwayusa.com)—search for "snap caps".

Specialty Targets

In Part II of this series, I discussed speed and precision games you can play using fancy targets like "battleship" targets. They tend to not be very expensive, and you can use them both at the range and at home for dry fire. And do not underestimate the value of a DIY (do it yourself) approach. Take a piece of printer paper and draw a few large (or small) dots on it.

You can also use paper targets to line up with for dry fire drills at home, of course. One of my favorite dry fire drills is a muscle memory drill of sorts. It goes like this. Set up a target on a wall in your safe direction. Step back to your firing position. Draw, aim, and fire several times.

Now, do it again with your eyes closed, and then stop. Open your eyes and see where you're aiming. You might be surprised. Repeat this over and over, and your aiming memory will improve.

Here too, many merchants carry targets of all shapes and sizes. You can find a variety of printable game targets at www.targets.ws/game-targets.htm

Now, let's move slowly up the price scale a bit and see what we can accomplish with some additional training aids.

Laser Training Cartridges

A laser training cartridge such as the Pink Rhino typically costs \$25-50 and can be a tremendous visual aid for any of the above drills. You insert the device into your gun's chamber. It has no extraction flange, so the bullet never ejects. With single action and striker fired guns, you have to cycle the slide before each round. With double action guns, you can keep pulling the trigger, albeit in double action only mode.



Each time you fire the gun, the firing pin or striker hits where a real cartridge's primer would sit and the laser dot "fires" momentarily. The laser lights up long enough for you to see the dot on your target.

Of course, all this assumes your gun is sighted in and the laser bullet is firing precisely straight. Even if your gun's sights aren't zeroed, the laser hit should be pretty close.

The laser makes dry fire drills, battleship games, and other training a lot more effective and fun. You can find it at shop.armed2defend.com/Laser-Training-Cartridge-Pink-Rhino-p218750680

Laser Academy and iTarget

If you have an iPhone or Android phone, you might also consider a target drilling tool like Laser Academy from Mantis or the iTarget system.

Laser Academy uses a smart phone app store coupled with specific targets you can either download and print or buy from Mantis. You'll also need a laser bullet such as the Pink Rhino I mentioned above. (Purchase the app at your app store.)

To run your drills, you'll use the Laser Academy app with your phone's camera pointed at your target. The app will recognize the target you're using, as it has special digital codes (similar to QR codes) printed in the target corners. When you fire, the app will detect where the laser hits the target so you get scoring information and tips for improving your shooting.

The Laser Academy app has a series of different drills you can step through. Some are free to try while others require a purchased subscription. Each drill requires a specific target to be used as well.

To purchase Laser Academy, check out mantisx.com/pages/laser-academy

The iTarget system seems fundamentally very similar to Laser Academy, but I have not tested it myself. From the vendor's web site, it seems a worthy tool to consider. iTarget can be found at www.itargetpro.com

MantisX

The last tool I'm going to cover here is the MantisX from Mantis. It is the most expensive tool covered in this article, ranging from \$99 for the dry-fire only model to \$249 for their "Elite" model. Most of the MantisX models work well for at-home training, as well as at the range with live ammunition.

The MantisX device attaches to your firearm either on its Picatinny rail or at the bottom of a magazine using one of their magazine adapters (available for many different gun models). I like the magazine mounts because it means I don't need to buy special holsters to accommodate the MantisX while training.

The device contains a high-precision accelerometer to sense your motion, trigger squeeze, and firing. Coupled with a smart phone app over a Bluetooth wireless connection, the device can sense how you are drawing, aiming, and firing your gun. If, for example, you tend to pull the gun's aim low and left while pulling the trigger—a common problem—the MantisX will sense that and let you know.



As with Mantis's Laser Academy, the MantisX app has a series of drills included. Some of them time your draw and fire process, providing you with useful inputs on your speed. Others focus on your aim and fire process more.

The MantisX family of tools can be found at mantisx.com.

We've looked at a spectrum of different tools here. Used properly, any or all of them can help you improve your speed, precision, and overall firearm proficiency. The tools I've described here are but a few of the ones available on the market. Hopefully, this article has given you some ideas for how you can work to get better and safer at shooting your firearm.

If you missed any of our earlier articles in this series, you can get them from VCDL by visiting vcdl.org/page/defender-newsletter.

Lastly, I'd like to call out to those of you who have followed this series. I invite your feedback and would like to hear from you about topics we still have not covered and would like to see us cover. Please contact me by email and let me know. My email address is ken.vanwyk@vcdl.org.

VCDL-sponsored Young Shooters Win Prizes and Enjoy the Shooting Sports

VCDL is proud to sponsor the Northern Virginia Gun Club's 4H/AIM Youth Shotgun Shooting Team and the King George 4H Shotgun Club. As an organization, it is vital for VCDL to encourage and support young shooters. Competitions like the Virginia Youth Trap League and the AIM Championship pushed these athletes to be their best in friendly competition. These young people carry on the legacy of safe, effective, and (most of all) fun sport shooting in Virginia.

Recently, the King George 4H Shotgun Club (KG4HSC) participated in the 2021 Virginia Youth Trap League (VYTL) and 2021 Virginia AIM Championship.

2021 Virginia Youth Trap League (VYTL)

The VYTL was a 7-week 50 round per week league shooting 16 yard Trap singles conducted at and sponsored by ATA Registered Clubs across Virginia. Approximately ninety Virginia youth participated in the 2021 VYTL. Twelve KG4HSC members shot in the VYTL at Northern Virginia Gun Club (NVGC) during April and May. The VYTL awards were presented June 6 as a part of the awards of the 2021 VA AIM Championship.

KG4HSC 2021 VYTL Awards

Kendall Rhodes won the 2021 Overall Virginia VYTL Championship with a top score of 246/250.

John Parker won the 2021 Virginia VYTL Junior Gold Class Championship with a top score of 238/250.

2021 Virginia ATA/AIM Championship

The Virginia Trapshooting Association (VTA) conducted the Virginia AIM Championship June 6 as part of the 33rd Annual Virginia Hall of Fame Trapshooting Tournament at the Winchester Gun Club.

KG4HSC 2021 AIM Championship Awards

John Parker was the 2021 AIM Junior Gold Class Champion with a score of 196/200.

Kendall was the 2021 AIM Junior Gold Lady Champion with a score of 188/200.

The KG4HSC Junior Gold Team was runner-up in the Junior Gold Team Championship with a score of 869/1000. The championship winning team had a score of 898/1000.



AIM “Shoot-Off” Awards

Kendall won the “Shoot-Off” for a Leather engraved shooting bag. Eight youth shooters competed in the event. Kendall won her 5-person team event with a 25/25. She then went head-to-head with the winner of the second team. She won that match and the leather engraved shooting bag with a 24/25.

A five-member team was selected in a “shoot-off” for shotgun shells. Jessica won a case (10 boxes) of shells. Her score was 15/25. Members/coaches that did not receive shooting vests last year were provided Vests this year. Vests were supplied by the Virginia Citizens Defense League (VCDL).

Other prizes included T-shirts, personalized baseball caps and shell bags, and gun cases. Great job, shooters!

See the Summer 2019 issue of The Defender for more information on this stellar team. All photos courtesy of Lecia Rhodes.



The Racist History of Gun Control

Black attorneys file Amicus brief decrying New York law

by Alan Talman

In the last newsletter, a brief discussion of gun control and racism was presented. A very timely addition to that discussion, one that should not be overlooked, is an Amicus brief just filed with the Supreme Court of the United States.

A coalition of Black attorneys that represent legal aide and other pro-bono criminal defense leagues filed this simply amazing brief supporting the dismantling of New York’s handgun licensing scheme based on the significant facts proving their racist intent and outcomes.

The brief outlines many reasons Blacks are severely detached from their 2A rights by the racist intent of New York’s law.

A much more interesting read from the historical perspective is another Amicus brief filed a few days earlier by a group representing Italian-American lawyers. This brief discusses the racist origins of New York City’s first license scheme, which was a direct result of Italian immigration into New York beginning in the late 19th century—a time when City Hall was run by much lighter-skinned Irishmen. The swarthy-looking Italians were “racially undesirable” and New York City’s gun control was born (the infamous Sullivan Act of 1911).

Both briefs are fascinating reading with fresh perspectives for pro 2A guys like ourselves and the VCDL members.

https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/20/20-843/184718/20210723101034102_20-843%20Amici%20Brief%20revised%20cover.pdf

https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/20/20-843/184048/20210715164037596_Brief.pdf

How to Use LIS

The Virginia Legislative Information System helps citizens track a bill's status.

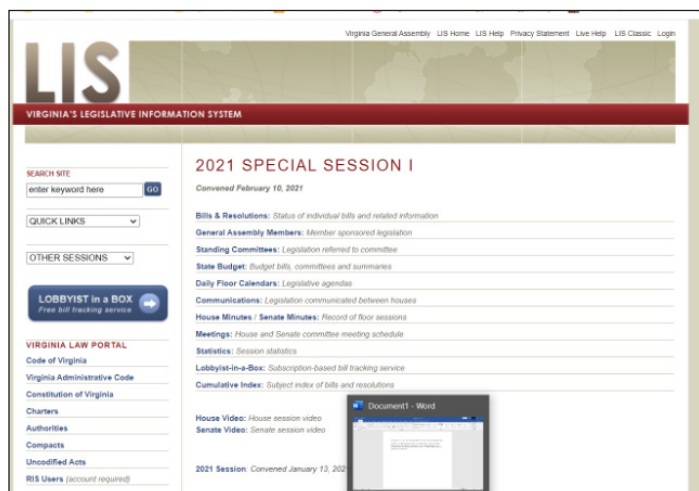
by EM Tess Ailshire

Sometimes, we see on VCDL social media pages questions like “What is the status on a particular bill?”

Our lobbyists—Pat Webb and Philip Van Cleave—do an excellent job and keep us well informed during legislative sessions. But we needn't rely on them alone. Some of these questions can easily be answered if you have a reasonable familiarity with one web site the Virginia Legislative Information System (lis.virginia.gov).

Typing lis.virginia.gov at your web browser brings up a page that allows you to search all kinds of information, from legislator addresses to the up-to-date status of bills, including those that are pre-filed. When I accessed the page for this article, the most recent session available was 2021 Special Session 1.

On this page, you can search for legislation by date, by number, by keyword, by session (going back to 1994).



If you know the bill number of the legislation you're following, the easiest way to find it is to click on Bills and Resolutions, then search by number. Or by status. Or member.

Want to know every bill your representative has sponsored or co-sponsored? It's easy peasy! Be careful; it's very easy to find yourself following hyperlinks down rabbit holes.

For illustration, let's look at Delegate Marcus Simon's HB2276 from the regular 2021 session. This was the bill that would ban “manufacture, import, sale, transfer, or possession of plastic firearms and unfinished frames or receivers and unserialized firearms”—a bill VCDL followed very closely. I got there initially by typing “firearm” in the Keyword search block at the upper left, then scanning. I chose this example because once I clicked on the title, I was able to get the entire history of this bill by clicking on “history” under the bill title.



In the 2021 session, the bill was left in the Senate Judiciary Committee for carryover to the 2021 Special Session 1.

I was then able to go back to the main page, select Special Session 1, enter the bill number in the keyword search, and follow its continued progress to find that it failed to pass during that session.



This is just one quick example. While I use the LIS to find the up-to-date status of gun bills, I also use it to keep tabs on my own Senator's and Delegate's priorities. As I have very anti-gun representatives, I can sometimes find bills on which I agree with them. I could then communicate my support to show that I'm not opposing them because of who they are, but very specifically on bills that would erode my innate firearms rights.

LIS is a valuable tool to have at your fingertips. If you're interested in how sausage is made, sometimes it is interesting to drill down deep enough to find the revisions, amendments, changes, or sneaky tricks that often get slipped in to a bill during compromise negotiations. The oddest things can get a bill passed—or killed.

Make friends with LIS and you'll be one step ahead of those who have to ask someone else “What's the status of that bill?”

“A strong body makes the mind strong. As to the species of exercises, I advise the gun. While this gives moderate exercise to the body, it gives boldness, enterprise and independence to the mind. Games played with the ball and others of that nature are too violent for the body and stamp no character on the mind. Let your gun therefore be your constant companion of your walks.”

—Thomas Jefferson

VCDL Membership Application

<p>RECRUITER MEMBER # _____</p> <p>____ New ____ Renewal (Member # _____)</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____</p> <p>State _____ ZIP _____</p> <p>Phone (____) _____</p> <p>Email _____</p> <p>____ 1 VCDL membership: \$ 25.00</p> <p>____ Family members @\$15/each: \$ _____</p> <p>____ Donation to VCDL: \$ _____</p> <p>____ Donation to PAC: \$ _____</p> <p>VCDL-PAC donations require the following information: Occupation: _____ Employer: _____ Employer's principle city/state: _____ <i>This information is not made public unless your annual contributions total more than \$100.00.</i></p> <p>Total Enclosed: \$ _____</p> <p><i>(Note: Membership processing can take 4-6 weeks)</i></p>	<p>Method of payment</p> <p>____ Cash (Do not send cash through the mail.)</p> <p>____ Check (Make checks payable to VCDL)</p> <p>____ Charge</p> <p>Credit Card Number: _____</p> <p>Expiration Date: _____ CVV _____</p> <p>_____ Name as it appears on the card</p> <p>_____ Signature of Card Holder Billing Zip Code</p> <p>Mail to: VCDL Membership Processing Center P.O. Box 5752 Fredericksburg VA 22403</p> <p>Save time and postage by using a credit card or eCheck at vcdl.org/join</p> <p>NOTE: For family memberships list primary member on application and family members on separate sheet. We need the full info for all family members. Full details on VCDL.org.</p>
VCDL and VCDL PAC contributions, gifts, or membership dues are not deductible for Federal income tax purposes.	

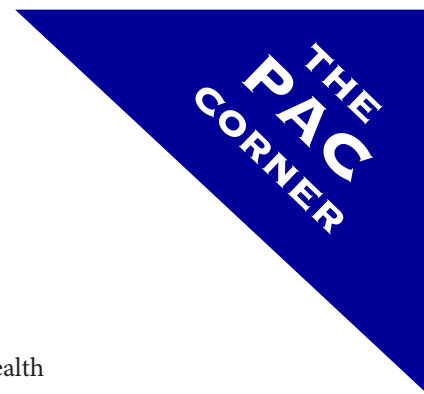
The PAC will be announcing endorsements in the 2021 elections within the next couple weeks. Stay tuned!

Save the Date

VCDL-PAC Fundraiser

Powhatan, Virginia

Saturday, September 18 | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.



- Join VCDL Members, 2A supporters and gun owners from across the Commonwealth
- All proceeds will be used to support our endorsed Candidates
- Dueling Tree and Skeet Competitions
- BBQ and fellowship with fellow Patriots
- Details will be posted on the website and sent to VCDL memberships first!!

As always, please consider the VCDL-PAC when you are making donations: vcdl.org/page/vcdl-pac

Thank you for your consideration,

Cathy McNickle
VCDL-PAC Chair





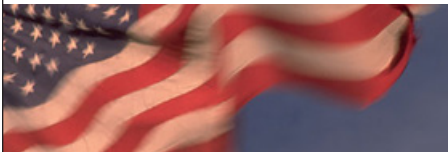
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Find us on social media
[Linktree.com/VCDL](https://linktree.com/VCDL)



Our moderators keep that
document updated to show
changing circumstances.

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Vice President	Jim Snyder vp@vcdl.org
Secretary	Pat Webb secretary@vcdl.org
Treasurer	Pat Webb treasurer@vcdl.org

**Virginia Citizens Defense League
Board of Directors
As of August 2021**

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Philip Van Cleave	Philip@vcdl.org
Patricia Webb	Pat.Webb@vcdl.org
All Directors and Officers	leadership@vcdl.org

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
August	March–May
September	April–June
October	May–July
November	June–August
December	July–September