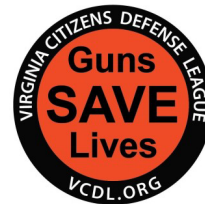




THE DEFENDER



A publication of

Virginia Citizens Defense League

Defending Your Right To Defend Yourself

VCDL.ORG

SUMMER 2024

Let There Be Light

by William Moore

Flashlights are wonderful things. They're a portable source of light whenever and wherever you need it. The CR123 battery revolutionized the pocket size flashlight by providing double the voltage of regular batteries. This made the small lights practical for daily carry and serious use.



The first gun mounted lasers/lights in the 1980s on the arms of counter terrorist teams for use in dynamic entries. Given the batteries available they were large and mounted on long guns and sometimes were bulkier than the guns they were mounted on. The invention of the CR123 battery allowed the light to be downsized and they started showing up on law enforcement shotguns as they allowed someone armed with a long gun to still have a usable flashlight. Now it's at that point where pretty much every new firearm design has a light mount. Let's take a serious look at this.

One problem you're going to have is that a holster that fits your gun with a light mounted generally doesn't work for the gun

without the light. You may find you need two holsters when you don't want to deal with the added bulk of the light. Also, the smaller the gun, the smaller the light that will fit. You may reach the point where a separate light is a better option.

If you're going to choose a light or lights (one is none and two may be one if your batteries die) there are some factors to consider. One is the various features modern LED lights offer, like multiple power settings, strobe features, and so on.

If you're buying a general purpose handheld light, the high/low power option seems like a good idea to stretch battery life, as is a momentary/constant on switch. However, you don't want to be clicking through various features during serious use. I once had a moment during a training exercise where I couldn't find the right function on my multifunction light. Turning the light OFF when you need to can be as important as turning it on. I'm happy with a simple momentary on/off system. Also, *read the manual*. I checked the manuals of a light series I've had for decades while writing this article and discovered they have a strobe feature. I could have accidentally enabled it without knowing—all because I wasn't aware it was there. I have since disabled the feature.



The first shotgun-mounted light—state of the art in the 1990s

Reflector design has a lot of influence on the light. You want a beam that throws a spot light—a very bright center beam with some light provided around it. If you're pointing it horizontally, you don't want to see any light on the ground within at least 6-8 feet of your toes.

My first "tactical light" (shotgun-mounted) didn't even have a brightness rating. Now there's an emphasis on lumens, with manufacturers in a race to produce brighter lights and more

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VCDL Public Meeting Dates

August 22, 6:00 PM, Chesterfield Library Community Room,
100 Millworks Crossing, Midlothian, Virginia 23114

September 19, 8:00 PM, XCAL Shooting Sports and Fitness,
44950 Russell Branch Pkwy, Ashburn, VA 20147

For future in-person meetings, visit vcdl.org/events.

VCDL holds **live virtual monthly meetings on the second Sunday of each month**. These meetings are simulcast on Facebook and YouTube at [VCDL.TUBE](https://vcdl.tube) 8:00 PM Eastern Time.

Watch the events at vcdl.org/events/event_list.asp
Check the website and VA-ALERT emails for meeting updates.



From the Editor

For all the agony and strife that Americans ascribe to Presidential elections, state and local elections have just as much or more impact on our daily lives. Cross one state line and you'll find Constitutional Carry in West Virginia. Meanwhile, just across another state line, a Marylander can't purchase a high-capacity military-style "assault weapon," thus denying him the ability to defend his home with a thing that goes up.

I have heard from many who are considering voting for neither Trump nor Harris, as never in recent memory have two nominees been so disliked. Regardless, I urge them—and I urge you—to cast votes in all the state and local elections. Your sheriff sets the CHP fees. Your county supervisors or city council can restrict guns in public places. Your pro-gun state senator or delegate can restore Virginia to a free commonwealth. And of course, sending the right Virginian to the U.S. Senate ensures the President, whomever he or she ends up being, is restrained the way our Founders intended.

Watch for VCDL Alerts as we examine all the candidates' records on gun rights.

Mark Ching
Editor

The President's Pen

Turning to the Courts with a new Foundation

Currently in Virginia, gun rights and gun control bills are both stalled. Gun-grabbing Democrats control the House and Senate, but we have a pro-gun governor. VCDL can't get anything out of the General Assembly and the civilian disarmament groups cannot get anything past the Governor's veto pen.

So, VCDL has turned more and more to the courts to roll back gun-control. The 2022 *New York State Rifle and Pistol Association v. Bruen* decision by the U.S. Supreme Court has massively changed the landscape on protecting gun rights. VCDL and many other gun-rights organizations are taking advantage of that decision. In fact, the number of lawsuits seeking to overturn gun-control laws has exploded across the country!

Thanks to a lawsuit against the BATFE filed by VCDL, GOA, and several states (but not Virginia), if you are a VCDL member you are protected against a new BATFE regulation that says you could be designated an unlicensed firearms dealer—for the mere sale of a single gun that you made a profit on, even if sold to an FFL! If you are charged and found guilty, you could go to prison for ten years!

By the way, Gun Owners of America has been partnering with VCDL and footing half the legal costs as we jointly overturn gun-control laws in the commonwealth.

A VCDL/GOA lawsuit against the City of Winchester caused the City to drop its gun ban in parks and permitted events. A second VCDL/GOA lawsuit against the City has resulted in the City parking garage gun ban being lifted for now. That case will be heard at some point later in the year, providing a final disposition.

VCDL and GOA have sued the City of Roanoke over their park and permitted event gun bans. Roanoke has dropped its permitted event gun ban (for now), but is fighting to keep the park gun ban while claiming it can reinstate the permitted event ban at some point in the future. Large gun control organizations are getting into this fight to try and stop the losses that gun control laws are racking up in court.

VCDL and GOA should be getting a decision soon by a state circuit court on overturning Virginia's Universal Background Check law, as the case was heard back in late February. That lawsuit has already produced some fruit: 18 to 20-year-olds can purchase a handgun from a third party and they are exempt from doing a Universal Background Check.

VCDL and GOA also have a lawsuit still in the courts to overturn Virginia's One Handgun a Month law. Shortly two more important lawsuits will be announced by VCDL/GOA in Virginia. Stay tuned!

The trouble with lawsuits is that they take time, sometimes years, to get a resolution and they are expensive. Basic lawsuits can run \$30,000 to \$40,000 each—and that goes up if there are appeals!

VCDL now has a new way you can contribute money to help with the cost of these legal battles: the brand-new **Virginia Citizens Defense Foundation**, which is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. The main advantage of contributing to the VCDF to fund legal action is that your contribution is tax deductible! The VCDF will also fund VCDL Academy educational programs.

More information on VCDF can be found here: <https://vcdl.org/page/VCDF>.

Philip An Cleave

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. It's an excellent way to easily recruit members. Verify all schedules; this list is correct as of August 15, 2024.

CHANTILLY, Dulles Expo Center
Sep 27–29 | Nov 22–24

FISHERSVILLE, Augusta Expo
Sep 7–8 | Nov 16–17

FREDERICKSBURG, Fredericksburg Fairgrounds
Oct 12–13

HAMPTON, Hampton Roads Convention Center
Sep 14–15 | Nov 30–Dec 1

HARRISONBURG, Rockingham County Fairgrounds
Oct 26–27 | Nov 2–3

RICHMOND, Richmond Raceway Complex
Aug 24–25 | Nov 9–10

SALEM, Salem Civic Center
Oct 19–20

STAFFORD, Fraternal Order of Eagles
Dec 7–8

VIRGINIA BEACH, Convention Center
Oct 19–20

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

WYTHEVILLE, Apex Expo Center
None scheduled at this time

Limited Edition Veto Coins still available

Each coin is \$50.00 plus \$10.00 shipping, or you can pick up your coins at Gadsden Guns or at select VCDL meetings.

Order at vcdl.org/store.

COORDINATORS

Chantilly— Sean Kennedy, Gus Spier, Terrell Prude—
gunshows.chantilly@vcdl.org

Doswell—**Main coordinator vacant**, Twyman Andes,
Rick Walker—gunshows.doswell3@vcdl.org

Fishersville/Harrisonburg/Weyer's Cave—**Main coordinator and assistant coordinator vacant**—gunshows.vawest@vcdl.org

Fredericksburg —Stephen Rochkind, Bob Williams—
gunshows.fredericksburg@vcdl.org

Hampton— Randy Braddock, Bryan Dunn, Michael Mumford
Lee Affholter—gunshows.hampton@vcdl.org

Louisa— Brandy Polanowski—events.louisa@vcdl.org

Richmond— John Gosney, Dave Eckart, Dave Troxel,
Patrick Schrek—gunshows.centralva@vcdl.org

Roanoke/Salem—Nat Weigle (**need assistant coordinator**)—
gunshows.swva@vcdl.org

Stafford—Stephen Rochkind—
gunshows.fredericksburg@vcdl.org

Virginia Beach—Phil Terrazas, Vic Nicholls—
gunshows.vb@vcdl.org

Winchester/Woodstock—Mark Lintz (**need assistant coordinator**)—gunshows.winchester@vcdl.org

State Gun Show Coordinators

Bryan Dunn, Brendan Mooney—gunshowcoord@vcdl.org

PROMOTERS

C&E Gun Shows www.cegungunshows.com

SGK Gun Shows www.sgkshows.com

Showmasters www.showmastersgunshows.com

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS

Richmond, May 18–19

Dave Eckert, Bob Williams, Ken Vann, Seldon Denton, Tony Grebas, Susan Brush, Srinu Raj, David Crosby, Markus Kahn, Kyle Remppies, Patrick O'Conner, Eric Davenport, Keifer Clay, John Gosney, Dave Troxel, John Gosney

Roanoke, VCDL Benefit IDPA match, Jun 8

Robbin Weigle, Ken Modica, Bob Lutjen, Mike Poff, James O'Steed, Nat Weigle

Louisa, Bowling Pin Shoot, July 6

Brandy Polanowski

Chantilly, Jun 14–16

Brian Wrenn, Corey Sinay, Sean Kennedy, Terrell Prude, and others. Thank you to all volunteers.

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Richmond, Jul 13–14

Rowley Molina, Richard Roberts, Steve Rochkind, Kenn Vann, Dave Eckart, Vincent Ikley, Sam Penn, Bob Welch, Susan Brush, Dave Troxel, Dave Morgerson, Lee Hurlock, Markus Kahn, Michael Wagner-Diggs, David Crosby, Rick Walker, Brian Melde, John Gosney

Chantilly, Jul 19–21

Charles Buettner, Michell Cox, Anthony Darr, Mitch Darling, Michael Gross, David Khol, Ian McNeil, Paul Morgan, Gary Mountjoy, David Shang Lee, Manny Perez, Dave Platte, Shaon Rahman, Rushil Rane, Rick Richardson, Corey Sinay, Robert Wilson, Glen White, Sean Kennedy, Terrell Purdue, Robert Eufemia

Salem, Jul 20-21

Larry Lewis, Sam Hollingsworth, Bob Schaller, George Bobbouine*, Wade Weigle*, Lexi Wiggins*, Maury Sharp, Dave Knight, Jeff Miller, Jim O'Steen, Evelyn Mann, Mike Poff, Robbin Weigle, Al Steed, Nat Weigle

Hampton, Jul 27–28

Douglas Kelsey, Woody Brooks, Kristjan Justesen, Ciara Stanis * , Dave McCain, Bryan Dunn, Todd Morgan, Billy Taylor, Matthew Taylor, Dennis Endres, Joe Hemphill, Ricko Matayoshi *, Ken Harper, Randy Braddock, Monty Oakes, Steve Toth, Tajiman Old, Lanny Moore

Doswell, Virginia Outdoor Sportsman Show, Aug 2–4

Rowley Molina, Alexander Rogge, David Lee, Kenn Vann, John Gosney, David Cooper, Robert Hofrichter, Stephen Rochkind

*Indicates a first time volunteer

From the Secretary's Desk

Your vote matters. Hold the line in Virginia!

by Patricia Webb, Secretary/Treasurer

Another quarter has come and gone! We're in the midst of a summer heat wave, and politics are heating up as well.

VCDL has been busy all summer. We've been holding meetings around the state, working on new and exciting content for you on social media, and positioning for the upcoming legislative session.

While we're burdened with virtually the same Virginia Legislature as last year, we are looking at the 2025 election as a turning point. Whether that is for better or worse depends on you.

We'll need to work hard between now and November 2025 to educate voters and encourage those who are not registered to vote to take that step. We can't let 2019 repeat itself! The danger is real, and the stakes are high.

VCDL is still waging war in the courts from the aftermath of the 2019 election and 2020 legislative session. This is the costliest way to fight, but it is our only option at the moment.

There is an old saying that there are four boxes to be used in the defense of liberty: the soap box, the ballot box, the jury box, and the cartridge box. They should be used in that order. Indeed, the only way to avoid the necessity of using the last two boxes is liberal use of the first two!

We are geographically close to Maryland and Washington, DC. We want to avoid being politically close to them as well! Virginia has a long history of standing up for freedom and individual rights. Let's keep it that way, and let's do it now while we can still accomplish our goals using only the first two boxes.

Beware of Summer Heat

by Patricia Webb, Secretary/Treasurer

Summers in Virginia can be a challenge. This year, we're experiencing an extended heat wave with the accompanying humidity Virginia is known for.

This type of weather presents unique challenges for those who work or play outside. Do you know the signs of impending heat-related illness? Do you know what to do if you or someone you are with are struggling in the heat?

Part of staying safe is situational awareness. Another part is educating yourself for the possibilities. VCDL is there to help! We've put together some pointers for avoiding heat-related illnesses (the best choice, by far!) and what steps to take should the emergency arise.

You can view the short video on YouTube at this link: https://youtu.be/XKdoG3v-i_E

Let There Be Light *(continued from page 1)*

lumens. You can now buy some lights I expect can be seen from orbit! This can be too much of a good thing. When indoors, reflected light from walls and ceilings can obscure your vision. Outdoors, you'll discover how dust, pollen and water vapor in the air can limit the range of the light and draw a line back to where you are. If you've moved past the threat, you're now a silhouette target. A 300 lumen light will show you things about 100 yards/meters away. That can be way more light than you need for general illumination. The 775 lumen Streamlight (see picture below) works well for checking pastures. It's overly bright up for indoor or close-in work.



From left: early Surefire, later 300 lumen Surefire LED with ring mount for gun, early Streamlight 80 lumen, replaced by a 300 lumen, Streamlight long gun light, 775 lumens. Note O ring on early Surefire to keep switch momentary.

A few basic principles on use of lights: if you're searching lighted areas, having your light continually on is OK. If you're in the dark, do a quick flash on an area of interest and then immediately move. Use a separate hand held light with a lanyard (so you can still use your hand when needed) for searching. Having the light out to the side and forward of your body is a good idea if space allows. If close quarters limit you to using a gun mounted light, it can be used by bouncing the light beam off walls and the ceiling. That way, you won't muzzle someone without justification. Floors/carpet generally doesn't reflect light well but can be used also.



One of the best techniques for using a hand held light to shoot a handgun is the Harries technique. The light is held in the support hand with the reflector end at the bottom of the hand.



The Harries Technique was a favorite of Col. Jeff Cooper.

The hand comes up under the gun and the backs of the gun and support hands press against each other to create isometric tension. You can actually search with this position the gun being pointed in a safe direction until needed. Your arms will be flexed both for the search and while shooting. If you're searching your house, it's a whole lot easier to just turn the lights on.

The gun-mounted lights of the counter terrorist teams were intended for use by dynamic entry assault teams. They allow threat verification and engagement while still allowing both hands to be on their firearms.

Dynamic assault entry isn't a situation a private citizen is likely to experience. If you feel you need to check your house for the source of whatever noise woke you up or got the dog barking, again, here's a hot tip: **turn the lights on!** Reduced light tactics are something that really has to be learned hands on, not from an article. That said, here's a link to an article on searching structures delivered by a career drug enforcement officer: <https://d74722.p3cdn1.secureserver.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2022-03-RFTS-Newsletter.pdf>.



Hot tip: if you need to search your house at night, turn your lights on!

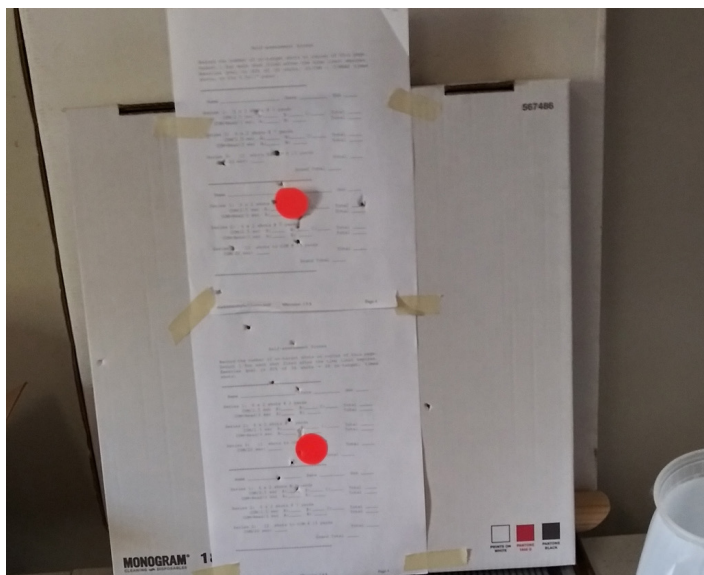
If you and a family member or friend do a bit of "tactical hide and seek," you'll quickly realize that the person who has to move is at a great disadvantage. Having participated in many force-on-force tactical simulations, I found they can be real learning tools if they are simulation of real-world life-and-death scenarios. You get do-overs in simulations—you don't in the real world. Role-playing the bad guy gives you insight on what *not to do* while searching. You also have to realize that in the real world, there are no-win situations. There's great wisdom in knowing when to get the pros involved.

Sights or No Sights: Practice!

by Dave Knight

Expanding on William Moore's article, "Are Sights Really Necessary" (Spring 2024), I cannot overstate the necessity of practice! The bottom line for most is the cost and convenience of same. Unless you are fortunate enough to have easy access to a practice range and an ample supply of ammunition, the expense and inconvenience of live-fire practice can be excessive, often resulting in insufficient practice time to develop and maintain adequate handgun safe-handling and marksmanship skills. Such is my situation here in the City of Radford.

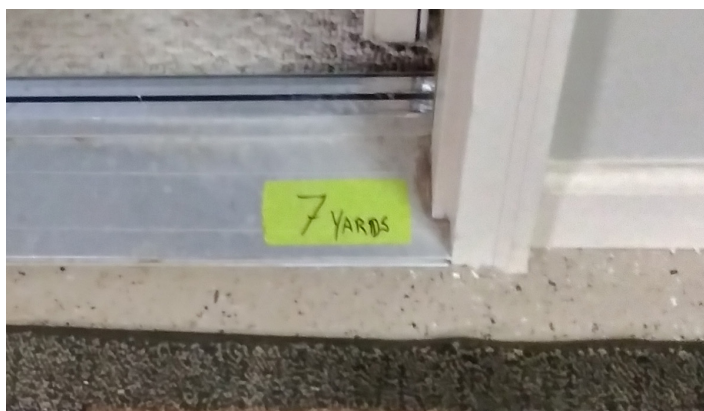
To meet this need (at least partially) I devised a safe, simple and inexpensive practice range for gas-operated Airsoft pistols using cardboard pizza boxes to hold paper targets and collect the reusable plastic pellets.:



Importantly, this setup allows safe presentation practice (draw from holster/concealment and fire) that is prohibited at most public ranges.

Remember, in a "situation," your actions will generally default to what you practice!

The layout of my basement allowed me to mark the 3 yard, 7 yard, and 15 yard positions with brightly colored duct tape...



...with a straight shot from 15 yards to the target boxes.

Alternately, additional target boxes in different locations would suffice.



The Airsoft handguns I chose are gas-operated analogs to my daily carry pistol (Glock 23), plus a Beretta 92 and a Colt 1911 to offer students in my VA CHP classes.

These are not "toys" (costing \$100-\$200 each)! They reflect the heft, feel & operation of their real analogs without the recoil and noise. As such, actual live-fire practice is an additional and necessary component of skills maintenance, but I find the Airsoft practice adequate to maintain sight alignment, hold control and trigger control skills.

I make very low cost targets with used printer paper and 1/2" red-dot stickers (\$6 for 2340 @ Amazon). If you are feeling flush, professional qualification targets of various sizes and designs can be purchased from various online vendors like targets.net.



To formalize this effort a bit, I developed a Handgun Marksmanship Self-Evaluation "script" and score-card that can be used for Airsoft or live-fire practice. Ideally, a digital shot timer provides a record of shots fired and their times, but an inexpensive stop watch will do. Read the full script with a printable sample score-card visit at <http://haveguns-willtravel.com/files/marksmanshipSelfAssess.pdf>.

Keeping a permanent log of your Airsoft and live-fire practice documents the development and maintenance of your marksmanship skills, should such records ever be needed.

Dave Knight
NRA-certified instructor since 1992
VCDL member since 2004

VCDL Membership Application

Recruiter last name/member # _____

____ **New** ____ **Renewal** (Member # _____)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (____) _____

Email _____

____ 1 **VCDL** membership: \$ **25.00**

____ Family members @\$15/each:* \$ _____

____ Donation to **VCDL**: \$ _____

____ Donation to **VCDL-PAC** \$ _____

VCDL-PAC donations also require the following information:

Occupation: _____

Employer: _____

Employer's principle city/state: _____

This information is not made public unless your annual contributions total more than \$100.00.

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

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ CVV _____

Name as it appears on the card

Signature of Card Holder Billing Zip Code

Mail to:

VCDL Membership Processing Center

P.O. Box 77

Willis, VA 24380

Save time and postage! Use a credit card or eCheck at vcdl.org/join.

***For family memberships, the primary member is \$25 annually and each additional member \$15 annually.** 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.

VCDL and VCDL-PAC contributions, gifts, or membership dues are not deductible for Federal income tax purposes.

Thank you to all who have been making contributions to the VCDL-PAC. We realize that this year there are no state-level elections. However, now is not the time to sit back and relax!

Billionaire donors, like Soros and Bloomberg, have been funneling money into Virginia. They know that they are very close to turning freedom-loving Virginia into a copy of New York, California, Washington State and the likes. **WE CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN!**

We know you're focused on the Presidential election and other national races right now, and that's great. But we must be working to position ourselves for the 2025 state elections.

In 2025, the ENTIRE House of Delegates is up for reelection. The Governor, Lt. Governor, and Attorney General seats are up as well. This is a pivotal moment for Virginia. A positive outcome can mean restoration of statewide preemption, repeal of gun bans in state offices, and even Constitutional Carry! On the other hand, if the wrong people gain control of all these offices, it could make 2020 tame in comparison!

You saw all the bad bills that the General Assembly passed in the last session. Fortunately, we had Gov. Youngkin as a firewall. What will happen once he's gone? That is **UP TO YOU!** In 2021 the VCDL-PAC had a major impact. Together, we can do it again! Please consider making whatever contributions you can afford. We must stand firm, and not let the American Dream be bought and destroyed by power hungry billionaires!

Yours in Liberty,
Cathy McNickle
VCDL-PAC Chair





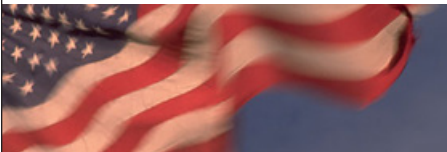
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Our moderators keep that
document updated to show
changing circumstances.

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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). Members can add their permit expiration date to their member profile for email reminders during the 90–180 day window.

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