



CHRONICLE

The Kentucky Coalition to Carry Concealed
Spring/Summer 2002 Volume 9, Issue 1

An Invitation From Your President, Shelby Riggs

As our annual meeting is coming up on Jun 8, 2002, I would very much like to see a record turn out to show support for KC3. If you have never attended before, it would be nice for me to meet each of you and for you to meet our other members also. This is the annual meeting of the membership of KC3 at which we will elect officers and directors for the coming year.

The meeting will be held at the Salato Center and the Kentucky Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Game Farm in Frankfort, KY. The Game Farm is on U.S. 60 just east of town. The meeting will begin at 11:00 A.M.

Bring your family too. There are many interesting things to see at the Game Farm – bear, wildcats, eagles, elk, bison, deer turkeys, many fish and three beautiful snakes, not to forget also the many geese and ducks that will literally take your food out of your hand. I know your children will enjoy every minute of the day.

Don't worry about food as we will have an ample supply to feed everyone.

Hope to see many of you there and may God bless one and all.



**HUMAN BEINGS UNDERSTAND
REASON, COMPASSION, DIGNITY**

PREDATORS UNDERSTAND STRENGTH

Ohio Senate Hearing HB 274 on Two-Week Anniversary of Unlicensed Concealed Carry in Hamilton County

The Senate will begin testimony on HB 274 to reform Ohio's concealed carry ban schemes on Wednesday, April 24th. This date is appropriate as it marks the two-week anniversary for unlicensed concealed carry in Hamilton County, Ohio.

"We are pleased that the Senate is addressing this issue in a timely manner," stated Dave LaCourse, SAF Public Affairs Director. "Not since 1995 has carry reform been this close, and now is a good time to act before more counties overturn Ohio's unconstitutional statutes."

The Ohio Supreme Court has refused to issue an emergency stay in the Hamilton County case, so it has been legal to carry a variety of concealed weapons, including firearms, without any license or training in that County. Many now doubt that any stay will be granted since the last two weeks have been uneventful, thus refuting many of the Governments' appeal claims. The lack of a stay also puts more pressure on the Governor and the Legislature to fix this constitutional crisis.

On April 10th, a unanimous court of appeals resoundingly

(continued on page 2)

(Ohio, continued from page 1) rejected the governments' arguments, and ruled that several Ohio statutes banning the concealed carry of firearms were unconstitutional.

"This was a total vindication of the trial court's decision and another great victory for the Second Amendment Foundation and the citizens of Ohio," stated SAF Founder Alan Gottlieb. "All three judges were of the same opinion, these carry ban laws are offensive to common sense and need to be stricken from the books, and I couldn't agree more."

SAF's lawsuit exposed the current scheme as a violation of the Ohio Constitution (Article 1, Section 1 [inalienable right to defend life, liberty and property], Article 1, Section 4 [bear arms for defense and security], Article 1, Section 2 [equal protection] and Article 1, Section 16 [due process]). In addition, as all four judges found, the current law treats people as if guilty until proven innocent!

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The Ohio laws in question,

R.C. 2923.12, bans all concealed carry of firearms with felony penalties for any violations while R.C. 2923.16 bans loaded guns in a motor vehicle. Only after a person is caught violating either of these provisions, and the person incurs the costs and stresses of a criminal

trial, does the current law allow the possibility of an "affirmative defense" to be made. It was for this reason, and others, that the laws were struck down.

"Laws that are incomprehensible to the average citizen must be struck down as unconstitutionally vague," reminded LaCourse. "The carry ban laws entrapped innocent people into thinking that they could exercise their rights when

they couldn't, and that is wrong, and I am pleased the courts saw this."

Plaintiffs include Pat Feely, who was previously arrested and tried under the gun carry ban scheme. Both the prosecutor and the judge in that case stated that the law should be changed or repealed. While Feely was acquitted at trial, he risked the same charges again if found carrying a concealed firearm in the future. The threat and costs of repeated prosecutions was only one of many reasons the current law was declared unconstitutional.

Mr. Feely carries large sums of cash as part of his employment. Mr. Feely and others sought to have their right of self-defense restored

with several pro-gun rights groups like Ohioans for Concealed Carry, Peoples Rights Organization and the Second Amendment Foundation.

This decision does NOT mean that criminals, juveniles and other prohibited persons can carry firearms since many other gun laws remain enforceable. If there are any questions about this fact, please call the numbers above or visit our website at <http://www.saf.org/Ohio.htm>

"This lawsuit has always been about restoring the right to bear arms to law-abiding adults under the Ohio Constitution, and does not benefit criminals in any way, shape or form," said Gottlieb. "The hysterical gloom-and-doom rhetoric from the other side highlights that they have not studied the successes in the vast majority of states that now allow concealed carry."

Nationally, 42 states specifically allow the carrying of concealed weapons or firearms with a license or permit. This could rise to 43 states if New Mexico's new concealed carry law is upheld. Vermont allows the carrying of concealed firearms without any license/permit because of a court decision, *State v. Rosenthal* (1903). Of the remaining 6 or 7 states, Ohio is unique with its affirmative defense and on whom the burden of proof is placed.

WARNING: The Ohio Supreme Court has issued a stay. For the time being, it is a FELONY to carry a concealed weapon in all of Ohio, including Hamilton County! Possible reasons for the stay include lack of Senate Action, repeated calls to Supreme Court staff asking about the case status, and anti-reform diatribes against concealed carry in various newspapers. The good news is that we got another two weeks to prove that concealed carry doesn't increase crime!



States that Recognize Kentucky CDWL's:

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Florida
Idaho
Indiana
Georgia
Louisiana
Michigan
Mississippi
Montana
New Hampshire
North Dakota
Pennsylvania
Tennessee
Texas
Utah
West Virginia
Wyoming

Please remember that when you carry a firearm in any other state that you must abide by their rules and not Kentucky's, so before you go to a state where you don't know the laws, look them up.

People who travel and take a gun along should have a copy of **The Traveler's Guide to the Firearms Laws of the 50 States** written by Scott Kappas available from Scott's web site at <http://www.gunlawguide.com>. Additional info can be obtained by checking out the excellent resource page on the web at <http://www.packing.org>.



THOUGHTS ON ERFURT By Syd Weedon, Director

It has become a tragically predictable pattern: a mass shooting takes place in a "gun free zone" and everyone acts surprised. Blame the guns; blame the media; blame gun-crazy America; blame toxins in the water; blame everyone except the shooter and the dysfunctional politics which creates a free crime zone. Gun control doesn't work. It didn't work at Tombstone, Columbine, or Erfurt. It doesn't work in England, Australia, Chicago or Baltimore. Gun control is the friend of the criminal and the tyrant. Gun control destroys liberty and creates victims.

If even once, gun control had shown itself to be an effective means of making our world safer, rational and reasonable people would be obligated to consider it. The historical record speaks chapters and verses to the contrary. When the siren call of gun control is heeded, violent crime, including gun crime, increases and gets worse. Free people are enslaved and law-abiding citizens are left defenseless to thugs. Germany already has rigid gun control laws. All of the school shootings in the United States took place after the ill-conceived "Gun Free School" bill of 1994. England has suffered a meteoric rise in violent crime since its draconian gun prohibition was put in place. Gun control doesn't work. It never will.

Murder is not a piece of metal or a chemical compound. It is a choice made by a human being capable of moral discernment and spiritual insight. But what can a secular society which has ruled all its values relative expect? When human life is reduced to an evolu-

tionary fluke and our decisions are nothing more than biochemical reactions in our nerve tissue, can we expect our children to act like angels?

My prayers go out to the people of Erfurt tonight. It may be that we all need more prayers, and less ineffective gun laws.



Renew Your Membership

Attention KC3 Members! If you're receiving this newsletter via the mail, then you may find enclosed with it a slip of paper that tells you that we have determined that your membership with KC3 has already expired, or is about to expire, and that this is the LAST newsletter that you'll receive from us. Of course, it's possible that we've made a mistake, but we've been working hard this last year to update and upgrade our memberships rolls, and with the new computer now in service and Bob Jaynes hard at work on keeping our data current, we anticipate that this won't happen again. So if you got one of these notices, PLEASE take the time to sit down and send in your KC3 membership renewal today. We look forward to having you with us in future as we press on to protect and expand our rights!

Sponsorship Program

KC3 is now offering a Sponsors Program for businesses which would like to advertise to our members and allies, and show their support for our efforts. Persons buying a year's sponsorship will receive a quarter-page ad in the newsletter, appearing quarterly, and a graphic ad on our web site as well as a link to their website. The sponsorships will be sold on a 3-month/quarterly basis, starting with the new year each January, or may be purchased by the quarter as well for anyone coming in later than that each year.

This is a great chance for your business to reach thousands of people in and around Kentucky who're looking for merchants who will welcome, rather than rebuff, those of us who choose to be armed. Our website at <http://www.kc3.com> is one of the best on the net, and our newsletter goes out to folks all over Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana.

Cost of a membership is \$100 per year, or \$25 per quarter. We can also put a link to your business on our web page at a much more modest cost, but this won't get you the graphics and great look that you get with an ad. Sponsors are encouraged to provide us with clip art for the graphics in their ad.

We've donated free ads to some of our supporters, such as Kenny Woods, Scott Kappas, and others so be sure to start looking for those on our site and in the newsletter, starting next issue.

For an application and more information, contact us by email, fax at (502) 451-4439, or by mail to: KC3, FO box 1269, Frankfort, Ky. 40602-1269. No telephone applications, please, although we'll be glad to talk to you about it if you want to call us at (502) 451-4439 and ask for Syd Weedon.



THE SIGHT



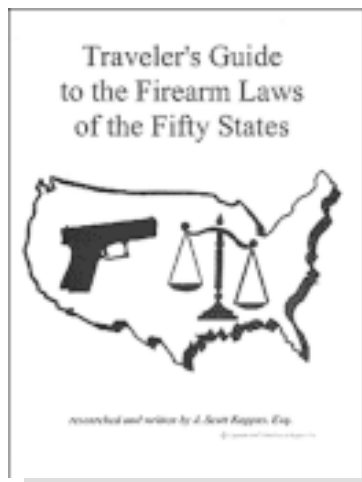
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Attorney J. Scott Kappas uses case law and statutory authority to render plain English advice as to how a traveler should carry firearms while visiting states other than the traveler's own.

*To order send check, money order,
or credit card number to:*

Traveler's Guide

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Membership Drive

KC3 would like to build up our membership in order to make ours a more forceful voice in Kentucky's political arena, and toward this end we're announcing a new Membership Drive and Initiative for our members, and for the CCDW instructors in the Commonwealth Now, each time that 6ve (5) people join KC3 for the 6rst time and list YOU as the person who recruited them, YOU get another full year added to your membership! Thus, if you're a CCDW instructor and conducting classes, all you have to do is hand out our applications and make sure the student lists you as the point of contact when he sends it in, and you can add to the term of your membership with each class. Note that this doesn't apply to renewals, only to new memberships, and we're NOT asking that anyone send in the apps themselves or take any money from the new member, only that they make sure that we know who encouraged that person to join up.

So start NOW to get your friends, family and associates signed up with KC3 (see our sponsorship program info in this issue for businesses which want to support and advertise with KC3), and see if you'll be the one we honor at next year's Annual Meeting as the "Membership Drive Member of the Year"!

Help Us Spread This Around

If you'd like to have copies of the KC3 newsletter to place in your local doctor's offices, barber shops and beauty shops, restaurants, gun stores, sportsman's clubs or other places where the public can find and read them, please contact us to arrange for those, or feel free to make as many copies as you like to pass along to other's who might enjoy reading them.

Kentucky Coalition to
Carry Concealed
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Unseen stories: When Guns are Used in Self-Defense

By Robert A. Waters

On September 11, after two jets crashed into the Twin Towers in New York, the major television networks were faced with a crucial decision. Should they show the frightful scenes of victims jumping to their deaths from upwards of eighty stories? NBC, CNN, ABC, and CBS chose not to. Whether or not you agree with the networks, there is little doubt that their refusal to show all the news affected our attitudes about the attacks.

Had those scenes been shown, American resolve to crush the terrorists might have dug even deeper.

The major networks affect opinion by what they don't show as much as by what does appear on our television screens. Nothing illustrates this more clearly than the unseen side of the gun issue.

For instance, when was the last time the networks interviewed someone who used a gun in self-defense? Since these cases are almost never shown in the national media, millions of viewers assume that they never happen. School shootings, stories of employees going postal and gunning down co-workers, and even gang-related shootings are regular fare on television news. But because stories

of armed self-defense are unseen, the implication is that guns are only used for harmful or criminal purposes.

Here are a few examples of stories you never saw.

On March 14, in a case that seemed a natural for national news, a football star was gunned down while trying to hold up a liquor store. Derrick Breedlove, a talented tight end, had recently signed a scholarship to play for Hampton University in Virginia. Scouts were already touting him for an NFL career. But when he entered the liquor store wearing a ski-mask and brandishing a sawed-off shotgun, Breedlove was shot and killed by a clerk.

On April 2, Virginia "Sue" Devoe was attacked in her Clintonville, Ohio home. Her former boyfriend, James Ryan McVey, kicked in the front door, dragged her through the house by her hair, and repeatedly kicked her. Then he attempted to kidnap her. That's when Devoe's 91-year-old neighbor came to her aid. Shirley Becraft drew his handgun and shot the intruder. McVey's death ended years of violent assaults on Devoe. A local investigator praised Becraft, saying, "It's hard to know where she would be now if he hadn't [shot McVey]."

On March 18, in Orange City, Florida, Robert Shockey waited inside Blockbuster Video for his son, who worked there, to close the store. The store had been the scene of a violent armed robbery a month

before. Shockey, who has a permit to carry a concealed weapon, saw two ski-masked robbers burst through the doors. One carried a hunting rifle and threatened an employee. Shockey pulled his handgun and shot the gun-wielding assailant. When the second robber reached for the rifle that his accomplice had dropped, Shockey shot him. Police not only ruled the shooting self-defense, they stated that they planned to give Shockey a "good citizenship award."

And so it goes. On March 5, Bethan Scutchfield, a 71-year-old invalid from Colville, Washington fatally wounded a stranger who broke into her house and knocked her to the floor. On March 6, an 83-year-old San Antonio woman shot a teenager as he tried to break into her home. On March 3, in Pembroke Pines, Florida, two robbers pointed semiautomatic weapons at businessman Corey Dacres but the victim pulled his own gun and shot both of them. Dacres, who has a permit to carry a concealed weapon, was not injured.

Cases of armed self-defense occur thousands of times each year. What is the price we pay for the black-out of such stories by the networks? Like a shadow war, viewers who aren't shown both sides of the issue remain uninformed.

Robert A. Waters is the author of *"The Best Defense: True Stories of Intended Victims Who Defended Themselves with a Firearm."* His second book, "Guns Save Lives: True Stories of American Defending Themselves with Firearms," will be published in May.



Kentucky Coalition to Carry Concealed (KC3) Membership Application

(Please print clearly - all information confidential and for KC3 use only)

Is this a RENEWAL? If so, what is your current membership number? _____

Name _____ Male/Female _____

Address _____

Apt. # _____ City _____ County _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Date of Birth _____ In which Congressional district do you live? _____

Are you a CDWL Instructor? _____ If so, do you wish to be listed on our web page? _____

Do you want to be on our email broadcast list for timely information and alerts Y/N? _____

Are you a member of the Kentucky State Rifle and Pistol Association? Y/N? _____

Name of the person who referred you to us? _____

Single membership dues, \$10 one year _____ or \$25 three years _____ (Check one)

Household Dues, (2 voting members per household) \$15 per year _____ or \$40 three years _____ (Check one)

List additional member's name for Household _____

Can you help us at gun shows or in other ways? Please describe: _____

Signature _____ Date _____

(The following information is optional and is not required for membership)

What is your party affiliation? _____

Occupation _____

Do you have a current CDWL Permit from another state? Y/N _____ If so, which state(s) _____

Send application with check or money order to:

KC3 Membership

P.O. Box 1269, Frankfort, KY 40602

Phone: (502) 451-4439 Fax (502) 451-4439



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