

The MUZZLEBLAST



Florida's Largest Gun Club, over 2300 Strong and Growing...

VOLUME 2008

Bi-Monthly publication of the Gateway Rifle and Pistol Club of Jacksonville, Florida

Sept.-Oct.

ANNUAL ELECTION AND MEETING IN NOVEMBER

On Saturday, November 8th, at 10:00AM the annual Club meeting and elections will be held at our Club office complex. Club officers are elected for one year terms. Elected officers will serve in the calendar year 2009. Members of the Board of Directors are elected to one, two or three year terms depending on the number of votes received by the candidate. The candidates receiving the highest number of votes get three year terms. Candidates with the second highest number of votes get two year terms and the so on. We have nine positions on the Board of Directors. In this year's election, we may have as many as eight openings on the Board of Directors. Requirements for Club officers are an announced willingness to serve and a minimum of one year's previous service on the Board of Directors. Requirements for election to the Board are the willingness to serve and one year's previous membership in the Club. Willingness to serve simply requires notification to me, the Club Secretary, Bill Craig. My home phone is 737-5252 and my email address is wacraig42@gmail.com. For those unable to attend the meeting, there will be absentee ballots available at the Club. There will also be a mail in ballot (requiring notary public signature verification) in the next issue of the Muzzleblast. If you are running for office, you may submit an article for publication in the next Muzzleblast. The cut off date for the next Muzzleblast is the 5th of October. That will also be the cut off date to get on the printed absentee ballot. As of this writing the following people have announced they are running for election:

	Incumbents	Challengers
President	Fred Gatlin	Lloyd Watkins
Vice President	Grit Preston	Sam Grimes
Secretary	Bill Craig	
Treasurer	Thomas Beattie	Randy Erickson
Public Relations Officer	Will Hux	Arvil Budd

For election to the Board of Directors in alphabetical order we have:

Dana Baygents	Ray Kerbs (incumbent)
Mike Bennett	Tom McElfree
Braley Carrol	Russ Misner
Sue Carter	Paul Overton
Mike Hicks	Ron Peart
Brian Honekman	Dave Porter

Bill Craig, Club Secretary

Mike Hicks for BOD

I am currently serving on the Members' Advisory Committee, and I will be running for office on the Board of Directors. I have been shooting at Gateway since 1970, except for the two years I was in Saudi, Arabia. I have shot Bullseye, Action, and Silhouette, but I do more plinking than anything. I am not any good at any of them, but fortunately, that does not seem to affect my enjoyment of these activities. I have the best interest of the club in mind, and I will not forget that it is the membership that I serve. I think we have the best gun club in the state, and I would like to see it remain that way. I would appreciate your vote in November.

Thanks, Mike Hicks

Sam Grimes would like you to: PLEASE CONSIDER FOR ELECTION

Lloyd Watkins	President
Sam Grimes	Vice President
Bill Craig	Secretary
Randy Erickson	Treasurer
Arvil Budd	Public Relations Officer

Dedicated To Service To The Membership

NRA Instructors Wanted

Wanted NRA Instructors willing to teach gun safety for a concealed carry class at Gateway Rifle & Pistol Club one (1) Saturday every other month. For more info call: 904-477-3110.

ID BADGES

All shooters (annual, life, and day members) must wear ID badges at all times when on club property.

OUR WILDLIFE IS PROTECTED

Please remember that it is against the law and club policy to shoot at wildlife on any of our ranges. Any person who shoots at wild life is subject to prosecution by the law, and faces penalties up to and including expulsion from the Club. If you see any animals (rabbits, deer, possums, turtles, etc.) on the range, cease fire immediately and notify the Range Officer. If you observe anyone shooting at wildlife, immediately inform the Range Officer. He will take the necessary steps to notify the proper law enforcement agency. Gateway Rifle and Pistol Club is committed to the protection of all wildlife on its property.

INSIDE

Schedule of Events page 3
Classifieds page 3
Match schedule page 4

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
PAID
Jacksonville, FL
Permit No. 2840

Gateway R&P Club
9301 Zambito Rd.
Jacksonville, FL, 32210

Visit the club web site
www.grpc-jax.com



Gateway Rifle & Pistol Club
9301 Zambito Road
Jacksonville, FL 32210
904-771-2937
Business Manager
 club-mgr@grpc-jax.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Fred Gatlin 779-1722
Charles Preston 545-9435
Bill Craig 737-5252
Thomas Beattie 387-9827
tbeattiesr@comcast.net
Lloyd Watkins 733-1513

Randy Erickson 448-3174
Marion Estes 641-7775
hipowerman@grpc-jax.com
Jodi Graves 904-284-8413
Ray Kerbs 904-284-5941
Will Hux 355-1777
Sam Grimes 207-3587
Arvil Budd 777-6932
John Graves 904-284-8413
Jerry Stahler 904-284-4572

Letter to the Publisher

I received a letter from Tom Franklin that I was sure I would not be allowed to print. It was about the membership turnout for the July BOD meeting and it encouraged the BOD to rescind it's vote on the latest changes that were to go into effect Jan. 1.

That change was rescinded at the Aug. BOD meeting but the minutes were not approved, so it won't be printed until later.

In the many years I have been involved in club activities, I never seen an issue that brought out the membership as this has. I recommend everyone attending the annual meeting in November.

ANNUAL ELECTION AND MEETING IN NOVEMBER

**On Saturday,
 November 8th, at
 10:00AM**

SUE CARTER

FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

My name is Sue Carter and I am running for the Gateway Rifle and Pistol Club Board of Directors. I am a Life Member of the NRA and have been a member at Gateway since moving to Jacksonville in 2004. My involvement in the shooting community began at age nine. I started as a small bore rifle shooter, and competed on the University of Illinois' rifle team. I have competed in high power rifle and instructed an Introduction to Pistol Shooting class for several summers with my father, the Marksmanship Coordinator, at Rock Island Arsenal, IL. I have been shooting both conventional (Bullseye) and international pistol for over 20 years, while balancing married life, raising two children, working and supporting my husband's career in the Navy. I spent many summers at the National Rifle and Pistol Championships, at Camp Perry, OH, where I worked in the statistics office, was a safety officer on the line, and even competed. I have assisted various shooting clubs as a club officer and in running successful, well-attended matches; most recently here at Gateway during the 2007 and 2008 Dixie Matches. I was selected as a member of the newly established Gateway Member Advisory Committee. I have a degree in accounting and work as the accountant for a local healthcare company.

If elected to the Gateway Board of Directors, I will bring a refreshing, yet experienced, viewpoint to the Board, without being biased by past rivalries or relationships. I applaud the current Board for their hard work and years of selfless dedication to the club. I look forward to using my experience and leadership in working together with the Board and with the Gateway members to address the many challenges facing the club. I will work hard to ensure Gateway is on a solid path to safe and fun shooting for our members and day shooters, successful business management for today and the future, and continued support for our community relations.

The Muzzleblast is published bi monthly by Dennis Glasscock under the direction of the Gateway Rifle & Pistol Club. All newsletter content to be approved by the GRPC. Technical and/or handloading data are for informational purposes only. No responsibility is accepted for results obtained by persons using such data, and all liability for any consequential injuries or damages is disclaimed. References herein to any specific commercial product, process or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer or otherwise, does not necessarily constitute or imply endorsement, recommendation or favoring by The Gateway Rifle & Pistol Club, Inc., its Board of Directors, its membership, the editor, nor the Publisher. Letters to the editor should be brief, to the point, of firearm-related interest and contain the signature, address and telephone number of the sender. Letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor, publisher or Gateway Rifle & Pistol Club. Submissions should be sent to: Dennis Glasscock (dbglasscock@comcast.net) or 3214 Lenox Ave. Jacksonville, FL 32254

Ron Peart for BOD

My name is Ron Peart and I am running for a position on the Club's Board of Directors this coming November. Some of you will recognize me as the Club member at the range who drives the large welding truck. Others may remember me as the person who spent so much time at the Club asking members to sign the recall petition.

I am a small independent businessman. I have been a member of Gateway Rifle & Pistol Club (GPRC) for over three years and shoot primarily on the pistol ranges. To me, GRPC is a place where I can relax, have fun and shoot the bull and some targets. As such, I believe that I can represent a large part of our membership who like me is not a dedicated competition shooter but instead is just a Club member who is proud to be a member of GRPC and able to use its fine range facilities.

If elected to the Board, I have several goals or visions for the future. One is that we must have community support to survive in this age of ever increasing restrictive gun laws and groups opposed to ownership of certain firearms. We must have community involvement and this may be accomplished by inviting

Dana Baygents for BOD

My name is Dana Baygents. Many of you may know me for my work on the lines and in the background in opposition to the 2009 Plan. Thankfully, we have been successful in having the Plan rescinded. In an effort to replace those officers who stood for that plan, some of our other Board Members will be running for those officers' positions. Therefore, I would like to announce my intention to run for one of those vacancies created on the Board of Directors at GRPC.

I have been a regular member for the past few years. I like to participate in Smallbore, High Power and Bullseye. I also enjoy shooting the Garand Matches and helping out with the Ladies Field Day. I have also worked as the Chief Statistician for the annual Dixie Match.

As to my qualifications for the Board, I offer the fact that I have owned and operated my own business in Jacksonville for more than 30 years. I have been attending the Board meetings to understand the workings of that group. With your help, we can put Gateway back on the right track. We can get to work on range improvements that have been long neglected. We can begin to make Gateway the fine club our founders intended and attract new members. This will greatly enhance our standing in the community. I would appreciate

Open Bolt Indicators are required

Cut-Off Date for the Election Issue is Oct. 5

FOR SALE

Members may list firearm related articles for sale at no cost. Send your ad to dbglasscock@comcast.net

Springfield M1 Garand 30-06 Blue, New Wood in great shape with mostly springfield parts \$950.00

Llama 38 Super with adj sights - Blue like new in box \$450.00

S&W model 625 SS 45 ACP fluted cylinder NIB and I mean NIB never fired still in protective wrap \$875.00 with moon clips

Call Sam 771-4129 or cell 607-5046

Winchester Model 1400 Semi-Auto MKII 2 3/4-Vent Rib- Winchoke with three chokes-Walnut-as new-Purchased in 1972 as a spare and never used-Some collector will get a beautiful firearm. \$500.

Remington model 742 in 30-06 cal. Semi-Auto in perfect condition. BDL grade, 3x9 Lite site Bushnell Banner Scope. Must see, \$400.

Donald 904-269-9231 or Cell 904-616-1061

New box of Remington 150gr core-lokt 300 win mag. \$15.

Glock 22 .40 s&w with 7 Hi-cap Mags, 3 10rd mags, holster and double mag pouch. \$500.00 OBO

Edward ga_phatt@yahoo.com or (904) 248-1782

Beretta Centurion Model 92. 9mm with 5 magazines, 1 Comptac Holster and a storage/carrying case. \$495 Larry Taylor 699-3201

1903 Springfield military rifle. In good condition. \$800.00 OBO.

CZ model 452 American Classic. Point 22 cal. rifle with Simmons 6X-20X variable power scope. Rifle includes modifications by a pro gunsmith. \$475.00.

Sig/Hammerli Trailside 22 caliber pistol 6" barrel with adjustable sights. Includes Bushnell 2x-6x variable scope capable of 1/2 " groups or less at 25 yards. \$475.00. Call Bill at 733-6101.

Camp Perry 2008

by Matt Baygents

The NRA National Pistol Championship was held at Camp Perry this year from July 5th thru 12th. A number of Gateway RPC members attended to compete with some of the nations best shooters. The US Army Reserves band played the National Anthem while a group of 4 paratroopers brought in the American flag. The Ohio Air National Guard also participated with a high-speed fly-over with two of their F-16 Falcons!

Monday and Tuesday before the actual matches started, range 1 was hot with Small Arms Firing School students. Jacksonville's Wesley Curtis on his first trip to Perry (as a pistol shooter) participated in the SAFS and scored well enough to earn his first 4 points towards a distinguished pistol badge!

Tuesday's competition began with the Harry Reeves Memorial Revolver match. The first relay had the benefit of decent weather, but 2nd relay didn't fare too well. The weather turned foul fast! The rain drenched shooter, equipment and everything else to the core. I have never had the opportunity to shoot in a nearly blinding rainstorm until then. The good news was the rain made the score cards illegible, so all 2nd relay was able to shoot again early Wednesday morning. Bad news was that I shot better in the rain! Tuesdays rain set in and got worse. Sirens sounded and range evacuation orders were given. I thought Florida had some good storms, but this one ranked right up there with the best Florida has to offer.

Wednesday started the preliminary matches. Basically everyone shoots a national match course with the .22, CF and .45. This is more like a warm-up session to get your equipment dialed in, but it pays to do good here as even the preliminary match qualifies for award points. Wednesday afternoon, Larry's Guns hosted their annual cookout to benefit the junior shooters. The food was great, and many door prizes were passed out. A Caspian 1911 with Marvel conversion with tons of extras was auctioned off, with 100% of proceeds going to the junior shooting program.

Thursday began the individual and team competitions. Gateway RPC members fielded 2 expert teams this year shooting for the Florida Sport Shooting Association. Gold Team members were Ted Carter, Sue Carter, Wesley Curtis and George Starkweather. Green Team members were Dana Baygents, Ben Valdez, Randy Erickson and Matt Baygents. At the end of (continued on page 4)

IR 50/50 22 Benchrest
Bill Smith 904-276-1008,
work 904-542-2157.

Smallbore Rifle Silhouette
Chuck Deason 282-9366

IDPA
Ed Sevetz 272-8484
(office callback)

Club 1800 Bullseye
Randy Erickson 448-3174

High Power Rifle
Marion Estes
highpowerman@grpc-jax.com

Black Powder Muzzle
Loading
Barry Wheeler 730-3415

Black Powder Cartridge
Rifle Silhouette
Roger Bump 723-2677

NRA/1800 Bullseye
Randy Erickson 448-3174

NRA/2700 Bullseye
Randy Erickson 448-3174

Cowboy Action/SASS
Jerry Stahler
904-284-4572

Oct 5th, Last Chance for the Election Issue

Please send your articles early as we want the last issue of the year to get to the membership with the latest information on the election and meeting.

Join the NRA
<http://nra.org/>

**Ready for the
Printer on
Aug 25**

Schedule of Events

CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS

The club will be closed on Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas days each year.

REMINDER

Club annual memberships expire on 31 December, 2007. You will not be able to use Club facilities in 2008 until your membership is renewed. If you have not renewed for this year, please do so or risk repaying Club initiation fees in 2008. This is your official notice as we do not mail out renewal notices by letter due to the high cost of mailing. Thanks! GRPC

**Please Limit
Parking in
front of the
OFFICE to
10 minutes**
and wipe your feet

**Cut off date for the
Next Issue will be
Oct. 5. Please get
your info to me by
then**

Concealed Carry Permit Classes

Classes have a revised pricing schedule:

Club Members	\$35.00
Non-members	\$40.00

For information or reservations, call the office at 771-2937

*Required Maintenance WILL
be performed according to this
schedule*

Monday 8 AM.-11 AM 100 yard Rifle Range

Tuesday 8A.M.- 11A.M. All Pistol Ranges.

Wednesday 8A.M.- 11A.M. Silhouette Range

Thursday 8A.M.-11 200 yd. Rifle Range

Friday 8A.M.-11 Multi-purpose Ranges

Friday 8:AM - 11:00 New 100 yd.Rifle range

Visit our web site
<http://www.grpc-jax.com>

**OBI's Required on ALL
Ranges**

Just So You Know... Laser or not Laser

Laser sights (particularly the one integrated in grips) do actually fit certain applications, but they do not do what they seem to be advertised for. Laser sights—and please read this as the laser sights integrated into pistol grips for handgun—seem to imply in their advertisement that they will make a sure and fast shot for you. They simply don't do that, but what they can do in fact is to secure a special-conditions shot.

To keep it simple: the speed at which one can shoot by developing good body mechanics, muscle memory and with serious practice, is a speed that a laser sight will never catch up with. It takes more time to look for your red dot, find it and make the adjustment than it does to draw smooth and fast, and drive your front sight to your target.

Plus practicing with your laser sights trains you to look at the target instead of your front sight, which is opposite of what one should do to develop speed and accuracy.

Laser sights, however, can serve a couple of very good purposes: one for teaching/training, and the second for special-conditions shots.

Training: If you calibrate your red dot to show low on the target, so that when you aim correctly using your iron sights the red dot is not visible to the shooter, you can 1) see if the trainee is aligning his/her sights correctly, and 2) if he/she jerks the trigger when squeezing it (the red dot will reflect that by bouncing up and down on the target). That allows teaching and practicing the Ball & Dummy exercise without firing a shot.

Special Conditions Shots: There are many shots that do not give the shooter a chance to align sights: Shooting at a target from an odd position such as the seat of a car through your immediate side window towards the back; shooting from a ground position and simulating handicapped positions, such as weak hand shooting (action shooting sports often present competitors with such a scenario, although they do not allow laser sights); shooting in poor light conditions where your sights are barely visible but the target is; shooting from a seated position while keeping the gun hidden, etc.

So, although a laser sight will not make a deficient shooter a good shot, or faster shot, it can be quite useful and efficient if used appropriately.

Comments? Questions? E-mail me at OIC@DrOpZOne360.com
God bless.

Remember Pre Ban ans Post Ban?

by Morris Kiser

No one knows what will come from the election. The future may not favor gun owners.

The ugly word "assault weapon" may again ban the AR-15, AK-47, FAL and H&K weapons. The ban on magazines or even handguns that held over 10 rounds was stupid. The law made it ok to own pre ban guns or magazines for the ones already made. You could build a pre ban gun or a pre ban receiver, but not on a post ban receiver. We also have guns built between bans.

Right now the market is open for pre ban type wepons. Will it last? Before the next ban and prices go up, buy yourself an AR-15 receiver or two along with a few magazines; think of it as insurance for the future. History may repeat itself.

Camp Perry from page 3

day one, a quick check of the scored revealed that Green and Gold were nowhere to be found. We later found out that our team captain didn't file all the required paperwork. Once we had all the particulars straight, scores went up and both teams were in the top 10 of 23 in the expert class. The weather held out good for team matches all three days. What did not hold out too well was range 3. There was a mechanical failure of some sort, so the range was closed. All shooters on range 3 had to move to range 2 for the remainder of the week. The good part was that range 2 was high and dry compared to all the others. No mud or water from the monsoon on Tuesday to stand in. What a blessing! After 3 days of team matches, both teams were able to hold their scores up and finish in the top 12 overall. Good job!

The overall winner this year was Brian Zins with a 2643-131x. Brian is now retired from the Marines and is a civilian member of Team Springfield. Second place went to SSG James Henderson, and third was Capt. Phillip Hemphill. The level of competition was good this year, and all of the FSSA members scored well in their respective individual classes - congratulations to each of you! I look forward to competing with you in the future!

It's NOT a Weapon (or, at least it's not the only one)

by Tom Eichling

Okay, so what is that 'thing' you have at home, carry in your car, or have in a holster on your belt? Is it a weapon or a tool? What is a weapon?

A weapon is merely a tool that becomes useful for offense or defense, depending on the situation. Hopefully, no one here will ever use one for offense except in the line of police or military duty. Thus, for the average civilian, guns are self defense tools and we should think of them in that way. Firearms are also the tools and equipment used for marksmanship training and competition.

Firearms can be weapons, yes. So can car keys, automobiles, fire extinguishers, baseball bats, toothpicks, and screwdrivers. Yet, you don't tell your spouse that 'you are going to the garage to get your weapon so you can tighten the screws on the front door hinge'. Or, do you? Somehow I doubt it. So, if you don't call your screwdriver a weapon on a daily basis then why call your firearm a weapon on a daily basis? Sure, you could use your screwdriver as a weapon. But it's not commonly used or referred to in that way. It's a tool.

Go into a hardware store and ask the employees where their weapons are located and you'll probably get some strange looks, to say the least. There are all kinds of weapons in the store, such as screwdrivers, nail guns (yep, guns), saws, drills, and more. Some of these same types of things are even used in (orthopedic) surgery, but they're called surgical tools (yep, tools).

The term weapon is regularly used by some politicians and the media to define guns as bad things. As shooters, hunters, NRA members, instructors, and Second Amendment backers, we should be trying to turn that around.

The State of Florida has already helped to get this started, but many haven't noticed. Part of that is the fault of the curriculum of some of the short two hour concealed carry classes held throughout the state since those instructors haven't noticed or don't care. Chapter 790 of the Florida statutes is entitled Weapons or Firearms. The state separates firearms from other weapons. If you read your carry license, it's entitled a Concealed Weapon or Firearm License (CWFL). So, it's not a Concealed Weapons Permit (CWP) as so many insist on calling it.

FS 790.06 (2) (h) (7) provides details on what the Florida legislature wants license applicants to learn as well as the instructor's duties and record keeping requirements. Florida does not require any training in Florida law or statute in order to apply for a carry license. The only thing they require is training in firearm safety and marksmanship. Yet, much of what is taught in short courses is about the Florida statutes, while the safety and marksmanship issues are glossed over. In some courses, the instructor even loads and unloads the pistol for the student! The rest of the class covers law and statute rather than more extensive firearm training. This can be risky. I've heard of at least one class being shut down for this.

continued on Page 5 also see note from publisher

Tournament Schedule

The following is a list of the matches that have been scheduled as requested by Match Directors. Clip it and Save for future reference. There is additional information on Club activities list on the calendar that is posted at the Club and on the website @ grpc-jax.com

All matches are to be coordinated with the Club Business Manager. All outside organizations who wish to use the club's ranges or facility are to contact the Public Relations Officer, Will Hux

Match	Range	When
Club 1800 Bullseye	1	1st Sunday, 9:00 - 1200
Smallbore, Silhouette	4	1st Sunday, 10:00 - 1400
22 Rimfire Benchrest	4	1st Saturday 08 -1300
Highpower Rifle Silhouette	3	1st Saturday 900
IDPA	5	1st Saturday
High Power Rifle / conventional	3	2nd Sunday 0800-1100
Black Powder Muz.	4	2nd Saturday
High Power 3x20 prone	3	3rd Saturday 0800-1100
N.R.A. 1800 Bullseye	1	3rd Sunday 0900 -1200
SAAA (Cowboy)	5	4th Sunday 0900
Black Powder Car. Silhouette	3	4th Saturday

Call the Match Directors for additional information

It's Not a Weapon from page 4

The National Rifle Association requires that an attorney or other person qualified by the State of Florida to teach law and statute conduct lesson III in each of the personal protection courses. Most NRA instructors and many K license instructors do not meet the requirement to teach it. The topic varies slightly between the two courses but it is about the legal aspects of using deadly force, self defense, and carrying concealed firearms. Perhaps Florida should adopt the NRA standard regarding teaching this topic in the short courses. Unqualified instructors who teach this topic might be exposing themselves to some liability issues. NRA's requirement helps to shield NRA and the instructors from most, and perhaps all, of these liability issues.

NRA instructors and lesson III guest speakers are precluded from using the term 'weapon' in NRA approved courses. Yet, in all of the short courses that I've seen that are NOT NRA approved courses, the term is used in almost every other sentence. Thus, the term becomes ingrained in the mind of the student who then goes out and uses it all day in public venues. The sad thing is that many NRA instructors, who should know better, are the ones who are consistently doing this in their courses because they are conducting courses that are NOT NRA approved so they don't necessarily have to follow NRA policy.

When applying for a course called a CWP course, ask the staff if they are going to teach you about edged weapons, or numchuks, or throwing stars, or ballistic knives, or stun guns, or pepper spray, etc. They'll tell you no. They are going to teach you about firearms. Yet they call it, incorrectly, a CWP class or a concealed weapons class. This is also part of the terminology issue since each of these items could also be theoretically used as a tool (numchuks as a pry bar, throwing stars as fancy letter openers for instance).

FS 790.001 (13) defines weapons (note the firearm exemption): "Weapon means any dirk, knife, metallic knuckles, slungshot, billie, tear gas gun, chemical weapon or device, or other deadly weapon except a firearm or a common pocketknife, plastic knife, or blunt-bladed table knife.

So, are firearms 'weapons' when used for conventional pistol or rifle marksmanship competition? Certainly not. They are tools. Equipment. For defense purposes, they are tools to help prevent imminent death or great bodily harm to you or another person. Unfortunately, those few civilians who use firearms as offensive weapons to disrupt public safety are what the media and some politicians focus on and are what gives them reason to brand firearms as weapons rather than tools. I grant you that sporting equipment such as firearms and baseball bats, or tools like firearms and screwdrivers, can become weapons but only after they're used in that way, not before.

It's this terminology issue that needs to be addressed. CWFL holders and law-abiding gun owners use firearms as tools. But, since the media and many politicians try to paint our tools and equipment in the blackest way possible (as weapons that are bad for public safety), we need to counter them in our own way to help protect our Second Amendment rights and our freedom to compete and to defend ourselves. So, call your gun a gun, firearm, rifle, pistol, shotgun, air gun, black powder rifle, wheel gun, or even a bullet launcher... but not a weapon.

It's your choice, your decision whether this is an important issue. NRA seems to think so. The Florida legislature seems to think so. Maybe we should, too. We need to use proper terminology and properly educate the public, because the media and the anti-gun politicians certainly won't do it for us. We need to stop promoting their agenda for them.

Note from Publisher

I discovered when I received the below email I had left out a portion of Tom Eichling's article from this issue. There is not much I can do at this time except place it here. Page 5 contains the remainder of the article. Below is the email I received from Tom explaining my error. Only one more issue.

Tom Eichling's Email from Aug. 29

Dennis .. thank you .. sort of.. for only running one half of my article. For those of you info'd on this.. here is the entire article. It appears that Gateway is as bad at the major networks regarding taking part of a story and turning it against gun owners... and this is happening here in our own gun club. What a sad state of affairs. It's no wonder there is a recall vote coming up on the directors on our current board. That recall vote is well deserved and I'm beginning to hope Dennis is part of it after seeing the current issue of Muzzleblast.

Everyone, please forward my COMPLETE ARTICLE to everyone you know. Thanks. The abbreviated article that appears to be an anti-gun article that appeared in Muzzleblast is totally incomplete and gives a jaded point of view to the comment that was intended.

Thanks, Dennis, for twisting my comments around.

Tom