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Volume 2006, Issue 1

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2006 Legislation

Because of your efforts, AzCDL was very successful with the 2006 Legislative Session in restoring or improving our rights. The following are some of the significant bills that were passed. All but SB 1145 will become effective on September 21, 2006.

SB 1145 – Restores "innocent until proven guilty" in self-defense situations that was taken away in 1997. Also strengthens "Castle Doctrine" (stand your ground) rights. Because the bill contained an emergency provision and passed with at least a 2/3 majority in each chamber, it became effective upon the signature of the governor.

HB 2074 – Eliminates the training requirement for Concealed Weapons (CCW) permit renewal. Also establishes near universal recognition of permits held by residents of other states. You can find more information on the impact of HB 2074 at the DPS website.

HB 2076 – Requires uniform compliance with the Firearms Preemption Law passed in 2000 when operators of public (i.e., state and local government) establishments or events decide to prohibit firearms. Under the new law, the operator is required to provide temporary and secure storage that is readily accessible on entry and permits immediate retrieval upon exit if they choose to prohibit the lawful carrying of firearms. After September 21, 2006, be on the lookout for any state or local government buildings or events that are not complying with the provisions of HB 2076. Please report any non-compliance to AzCDL.

HB 2076 also contains a provision allowing firearms to be carried in "map pockets" in vehicles. Since the 1994 State v. Adams appellate court decision, carrying a weapon anywhere in a vehicle that is hidden from view to a casual observer outside the vehicle, can be considered illegal without a CCW permit. We anticipate that the "map pocket" provision of HB 2076 will improve on where you can legally carry a weapon in a vehicle.

SB 1339 – Only juveniles convicted of felony offenses may have their right to possess or bear arms suspended. Current law has no limit on the type of juvenile crime that automatically suspends their right to carry or possess a gun or firearm.

HB 2127 – Limits nonresident Big Game permits to 10% or fewer of the total hunt permits.

HB 2129 – Greater authority is given to Fish and Game enforcement. Juvenile game related crime “set aside” are eliminated. New definitions for “trophy” animals are added to statute and new penalties and fines are defined for unlawful takings and other game related crimes.

HB 2130 – Expands the definitions of Hunter Harassment.

Caveat!

We encourage you to read the actual texts of the bills rather than rely on the brief synopses presented here.

Effective Date

Except for SB 1145, these bills become effective September 21, 2006.
Independence Day Rifle Match

On July 4th, 2006, the first AzCDL Independence Day Action Rifle Match was held at the Rio Salado Sportsman’s Club. Organized by Russell Phagan from Cavalry Arms, this event was a rifle-only action shooting match to benefit AzCDL.

As a benefit match, all the money collected (less range and target expenses) was donated to AzCDL. The total amount earned was about $1,100 after expenses.

Forty-Seven people showed up early July 4th and, after the Pledge of Allegiance, folks broke up into their 4 squads. There were 4 stages in this match, two CQB (close quarters battle) stages where shooting was done at 25-30 yards or less, and two longer range stages, which were a combination of CBQ targets and steel targets set from 100 - 300 yards.

While AR-15 variants were predominant at the match, there were a few .308 Winchester battle rifles present, including an FAL and a .762x51 AR-variant. Class categories were Iron (no scopes or optics), Tactical Scope (any scope allowed) and open, where the sky was the limit on what could be attached to the rifle. There was also a "manual" class to allow owners of bolt, pump or lever action rifles to compete, but nobody entered in that class.

The match was won by a shooter in Tactical Scope class (Mr. Kelly Neal).

This writer came in 41st place, while shooting iron sights. I had a serious malfunction during the last part of the last stage, which prevented me from finishing the match. Thus, my time on that last stage really dropped me in the rankings. The moral of that story is to use quality ammo, and to have your broken shell extractor WITH you, not at home in your cleaning kit.

Thanks again to everyone who came out, and to Russell Phagan from Cavalry Arms (www.cavalryarms.com) for his generosity in setting up this benefit match.

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AzCDL Rifle Raffle

AzCDL is raffling off a Cavalry Arms CAV-15 Scout Rifle in .223 Remington, with a 16”, 1 in 9 twist barrel with compensator, A3 flat-top upper, polymer lower, and two 30 round, standard capacity magazines. The lower is serialized “AZCDL1”, and will be engraved with our logo at the winner’s request. Tickets are $5 each or 5 tickets for $20.

The drawing will be held on February 17, 2007, and the winner need not be present at the drawing to win.

However, the winner must comply with all federal, state, and local laws, and must pick up the firearm from the dealer.

Ticket sales are limited to 1,000.

For further information on how to purchase tickets, please email info@azcdl.org or call 623-594-8521.

Gun Show Volunteers Needed!

Like it says in our brochure, AzCDL is an “all volunteer” grassroots organization.

Unlike the anti-rights organizations, AzCDL does not receive any grants or have any paid staff. We pay our expenses from individual donations.

Also, unlike the anti-rights organizations, AzCDL has a growing membership. The greater our membership, the more credibility we have with the legislature.

Our best method of educating gun owners about AzCDL and recruiting new members is at gun shows. Many of you joined AzCDL at a gun show.

Currently gun show duty is performed by the directors/officers attempting to cover the major Phoenix and Tucson shows. Our goal is to have a presence at most gun shows through Arizona. But we can only do it with your help.

We are looking for interested individuals to serve as gun show coordinators and to staff the AzCDL tables. A few of you have already offered your time. We would like to get enough volunteers so that we can staff a table during a weekend gun show with 1-2 people at a time for 1/2 day shifts.

We are also looking for at least one Coordinator to manage AzCDL gun show operations. Our preference is to have a coordinator in each major population area, starting with Phoenix and Tucson.

If you can spare some time to support AzCDL recruiting efforts at gun shows and would be interested in volunteering, please drop us a note at info@azcdl.org or call 623-594-8521.
Annual Members Meeting

AzCDL held its first annual meeting of members on July 8, 2006 at the Thank-Q Banquet Hall in Phoenix.

Here’s how it was reported by Alan Korwin, author of “The Arizona Gun Owner’s Guide” (http://www.gunlaws.com):

More than 100 heavily armed people packed the Thank Q Banquet Hall managed by Rep. Doug Quelland in north Phoenix on Saturday for the first annual meeting of the Arizona Citizens Defense League (AZCDL), a successful new civil-rights lobbying group.

Mike Harris and Barry Hess, candidates for Governor, and representatives for gubernatorial hopefuls Don Goldwater and Len Munsil attended, plus at least a dozen other candidates and elected officials.

Many respected the group’s invitation which encouraged, “Tasteful open carry of firearms appreciated.”

A visual survey revealed that nearly all attendees were armed, most favoring high-capacity black-polymer semiautomatic handguns, though some carried older army-style .45s and a few preferred cowboy-style revolvers. Despite all the fully loaded accessible firepower, and an intense lack of adequate air conditioning, no shootings or hostilities of any kind occurred in the three-hour session.

The members-only raffle, for a four-day firearms-training program at world-renowned Front Sight Firearms Training Institute outside of Las Vegas, went to Rep. Russell Pearce (R-Mesa), who could not attend the meeting due to a prior commitment.

The entire press corps in the state was invited to attend, but none did.

More photos of the Annual Meeting can be found at the AzCDL website.

President’s Message

The Other Side of the Coin

“The condition upon which God hath given liberty to man is eternal vigilance.”

John Philpot Curran

As responsible owners of firearms, each of us knows that with the right to bear arms comes the responsibility to bear them safely. But how many of us truly understand that the right to participate in our citizen government comes with the responsibility to participate fully in that government?

Too many of us assume that our participation in government consists wholly of going to a polling place once or maybe twice a year and voting for the people who are then supposed to represent us at various levels of government. And too many others don’t even bother to do that much. But a government of the people cannot function properly if those people are not involved in its function. Is it any wonder that so many people consistently remark that “The system is broken …”?

When bills move through the legislature, hearings are held in various committees. Public comment is welcomed, and public testimony is invited. How many of us take advantage of this fact, and give our legislators our input?

At all stages of the legislative process, AzCDL sends email Alerts to subscribers, sometimes asking them to contact key legislators and inform them of their feelings on a bill. How many of us are subscribed to these Alerts? How many make those contacts?

Before we complain that our representatives are not doing their jobs, before we shout about the system needing repair, we must first ask ourselves a very serious question. Are we really doing our part? Or are we kidding ourselves?

Dave Kopp, President
The Arizona Citizens Defense League

AzCDL was founded by a group of local activists who recognized that a sustained, coordinated, statewide effort was critical to protecting and expanding the rights of law-abiding gun owners. AzCDL has been instrumental in the successful passage of the first major improvements to Arizona’s CCW (concealed carry) laws since they were instituted in 1994, and has been at the forefront of the fight to restore justice to our self-defense laws.

AzCDL is a non-profit, all volunteer, non-partisan grassroots organization dedicated to the principles contained in Article II, Section 2 of the Arizona Constitution that:

“All political power is inherent in the people, and the governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, and are established to protect and maintain individual rights.”

AzCDL believes that the rights of self-defense and bearing arms are the foundation for all other rights. Our freedom of speech, our freedom from unreasonable searches, our right against self-incrimination, our right to bear arms, all of our fundamental rights only exist because we stand firmly resolved to preserve them. The AzCDL exists to strengthen that resolve.

AzCDL believes that the emphasis of gun laws should be on criminal misuse and that law-abiding citizens should be able to own and carry firearms unaffected by unnecessary laws or regulations. Towards that end, we are pursuing the following legislative improvements:

- “Constitutional Carry” – The right of law-abiding citizens to carry a firearm openly or concealed.
- Continued strengthening and preservation of the right of presumed innocence in self-defense situations.
- Stronger State Preemption – Firearms laws should be consistent throughout the State.
- Fewer restrictions on the lawful carrying of firearms on Public property (buildings, parks, etc.).
- Explicit 3rd Party Storage Requirements when entering a posted “No Guns” facility.
- Liability responsibility for property owners who ban firearms.
- Improvements to CCW laws.
- “Restaurant Carry” – The ability of law-abiding citizens to dine out while carrying a firearm.

Our volunteer lobbyists are at the capitol regularly, fighting for your rights!

Join or Renew today!