



APPROXIMATELY 2800+ MEMBERS

# The RANGEFINDER

vol. XXVII no. 1, January 2018

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE OAK RIDGE SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Please remember that when using any of the ORSA Ranges, safety should be your number one concern. Everyone must be diligent in observing and correcting unsafe actions by anyone on the ranges. Also remember that you should always wear proper EYE and EAR protection regardless of whether you are shooting or just watching.

ORSA Website: [ORSAONLINE.ORG](http://ORSAONLINE.ORG)

ORSA Membership Info: [JOINORSA.ORG](http://JOINORSA.ORG)

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome back to the ORSA Shooting Clubs and Ranges for 2018! We hope all of you got whatever you were looking for under the Christmas tree and celebrated December's spiritual, cultural, and family events to your heart's content! We believe the New Year promises to be socially rewarding, as well as, both enlightening and entertaining at ORSA.

It can be expected that there will be many new members at ORSA using the facilities as this New Year unfolds. Remember that we regularly have 35 to 50 new members at Orientation *every month*, so there will be some individuals that are shooting on the ranges for what might be their first experience at ORSA. Be cordial and helpful if you see someone who seems unsure of safety procedures or is not strictly practicing our safety rules. Politely offered safety advice is usually welcomed by anyone.

**Remember that there is a reason that we expect new members to have sponsors.** Our hope is that if someone sponsors a new member that their willingness to do so indicates a confidence in that prospective new member's understanding (and practice) of firearms safety as well as their having a sense of personal responsibility toward our facilities and their use. We do review basic firearms safety in the Orientation session, in addition to giving new users a general introduction to ORSA operations, ranges, and policies. However, there is a limit to what we can accomplish in the one and a half hour Orientation session.

So, we are counting on sponsors to really know the people they are sponsoring. How long have you known them and in what manner? Through working together? Social settings? Are they a family member? Actually shooting together? We do not do background checks for a reason. Background checks would add significant cost to ORSA operations and would not tell us if a person is responsible and safe in their use of firearms. We are relying on you to have a clear knowledge of and personal familiarity with those you might sponsor. Have you ever actually been shooting with them? Think carefully about who you might sponsor.

For those of us who will be trying out a new bow or firearm on our ranges, remember that shooting is what might be called "serious fun." Safety is everyone's responsibility.

*John Phillips* – ORSA Membership Secretary  
[orsamembership@gmail.com](mailto:orsamembership@gmail.com)

## NEWS FROM SKEET & TRAP

- Polar Bear League starts January 7th at 2:00 pm.  
See article from Ron Raymond on how the next session will be done.
- Remember winter range hours are in effect two more months.  
Trap Tuesday 11-2, Skeet Friday 11-2, both Saturday 11-3 & Sunday 12-4.
- If you would like to be added to the S&T email list please send contact information to [ataorsa@gmail.com](mailto:ataorsa@gmail.com)

**Larry McNamee** – President of S&T



## SKEET POLAR BEAR FUN LEAGUE

The next Skeet Fun League season will begin on January 7th and last for 8 weeks as the weather permits. Shooting will be Sunday afternoons at 2:00. We shoot 2 rounds each week (total of 50 targets), and you can make up 2 missed weeks during the season for official scoring. There is a \$3/week entry fee, and instead of having a random door prize drawing each week in order to give everyone a chance of winning something, we have changed to a classification system. There will be 4 Classes, with the score ranges determined to spread the shooters out as evenly as possible. Your Classification will be determined by your average score of the previous season,

and NEW PARTICIPANTS will earn a Classification after just 4 weeks of shooting. At the end of the season, the Top 3 scores in each Class will receive a share of the total prize money. BEGINNERS: This is a great way to get involved in Skeet shooting and to improve! This is a fun and very casual competition, it gets you to the range on a regular schedule, and you get to shoot with some awesome folks who are willing to help you learn. Come on out and join the fun! If you have any questions, please contact Ron Raymond at [knoxvilleron@gmail.com](mailto:knoxvilleron@gmail.com).

**Kyle Kirschenmann**



## FOR PRIVATE SALE:

- Browning 12 gauge O/U with 28" Barrels choked skeet and skeet \$1300.
- Winchester 101 trap combo with 32" top single choked full and 30" O/U barrels choked modified and full. \$1750.
- Browning 12 gauge O/U with 32" barrels with choke tubes. Adjustable comb, adjustable length of pull, adjustable butt pad and Gracoil unit. Purchased new last August. Can be used for skeet, trap and sporting clays. \$2275.

**Contact: Larry McNamee 865-216-9864**



I ran across this piece in doing my normal preparation for this monthly column. It is written by Nelson Lund, Ph.D. from George Mason University. In it Dr. Lund explores the background of the Second Amendment. I'm going to cite it in pieces in the next several months. We, defenders of our Second Amendment rights and freedoms, must understand the history and philosophy behind this part of the Bill of Rights as well as the how critical this freedom plays in our current and future place in American history.

### **The Right to Arms and the American Philosophy of Freedom**

*A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.*

— Constitution of the United States, Amendment II

The right to keep and bear arms is a vital element of the liberal order that our Founders handed down to us. They understood that those who hold political power will almost always strive to reduce the freedom of those they rule and that many of the ruled will always be tempted to trade their liberty for empty promises of security. The causes of these political phenomena are sown in the nature of man.

The U.S. Constitution, including the Second Amendment, is a device designed to frustrate the domineering tendencies of the politically ambitious. The Second Amendment also plays an important role in fostering the kind of civic virtue that resists the cowardly urge to trade liberty for an illusion of safety. Armed citizens take responsibility for their own secu-

urity, thereby exhibiting and cultivating the self-reliance and vigorous spirit that are ultimately indispensable for genuine self-government.

While much has changed since the 18th century, for better and for worse, human nature has not changed. The fundamental principles of our regime and the understanding of human nature on which those principles are based can still be grasped today. Once grasped, they can be defended. Such a defense, however, demands an appreciation of the right to arms that goes beyond the legalistic and narrowly political considerations that drive contemporary gun-control debates.

Regrettably, too many American opinion leaders, forgetting or rejecting the reasons that justify this right, have been extremely uncomfortable with the Second Amendment. The progressive left, for example, has largely been united in promoting restrictions on civilian access to firearms. Lawyers as well, who Tocqueville famously thought could serve America as a kind of democratic aristocracy have largely been hostile to gun rights. Until 2008, federal judges—our most elite corps

*(continued on page 4)*

of attorneys—had never once sustained a Second Amendment challenge to a government regulation; state courts, for their part, had generally upheld gun regulations under legal tests that practically gave legislatures a blank check and the organized bar has lobbied for decades in favor of more restrictive controls on firearms.

Conservative intellectuals have offered little resistance to conventional elite opinion. Two prominent and able pundits, for example, have attacked the Constitution itself. Appalled by what he calls toleration of the carnage resulting from the uncontrolled private ownership of guns, George Will wants to see the “embarrassing” Second Amendment repealed:

*The Bill of Rights should be modified only with extreme reluctance, but America has an extreme crisis of gunfire.... Gun control advocates who want to square their policy preferences with the Constitution should squarely face the need to deconstitutionalize the subject by repealing the embarrassing amendment.*

Similarly, Charles Krauthammer laments that “[u]nless you are prepared to confiscate all existing firearms, disarm the citizenry and repeal the Second Amendment, it’s almost impossible to craft a law that will be effective.” Which is exactly what he thinks should be done: “Ultimately, a civilized society must disarm its citizenry if it is to have a modicum of domestic tranquility of the kind enjoyed in sister democracies like Canada and Britain.” For that reason, he supports ineffective gun regulations because they will “desensitize the public to the regulation of weapons in preparation for their ultimate confiscation.”

The Second Amendment will not be repealed through a constitutional amendment any time soon. Most of the credit for preserving the liberty to keep and bear arms belongs to the obstinate resistance of ordinary people who have re-

mained defiantly stubborn in the face of elites—progressive and conservative alike—who fear and distrust an armed citizenry. The National Rifle Association is probably the largest genuinely grassroots organization in the nation, and its members vote their beliefs.

Despite persistent elite enthusiasm for disarmament schemes, both the law and public policy have moved in the opposite direction during recent decades. Two developments stand out.

- In the 1980s, a tiny group of lawyers began to publish scholarly analyses debunking the dismissive interpretation of the Second Amendment that dominated courts in the 20th century. Notably, almost none of this pioneering scholarship was carried out by professional academics in the law schools.
- In 1987, Florida became the first jurisdiction with large urban population centers to enact a statute permitting almost all law-abiding adults to obtain a concealed-carry license. Notwithstanding near-hysterical prophecies from many police chiefs and other putative experts, violent crime went down instead of up, and license holders almost never misused their weapons. [9] Florida’s successful experiment soon spread to other states, and social scientists have yet to find evidence of adverse effects on public safety. It is now harder than it once was to stampe legislatures into enacting feel-good gun-control measures that do nothing to reduce crime.

Progressive elites have not surrendered in the face of observable facts and reasoned analysis, as we can see from their reflexive demands for new gun regulations in response to almost every well-publicized shooting. Although the right to arms has not been under much political pressure recently, that could change, especially as an increasingly white-collar

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population loses touch with our cultural traditions of hunting and self-reliance. The vagaries of partisan elections could also restore the Democratic Party to the dominance it once enjoyed, and gun control is an important agenda item for the leadership of that party.

With or without such political shifts, the legal landscape could change dramatically and perhaps very quickly. Two recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions are at best a small step toward a jurisprudence that could durably protect the right to arms against hostile political spasms. Progress toward a settled body of case law protecting this constitutional right could easily be arrested and quite possibly reversed with just one new appointment to the Court.

Many Americans, and not just those on the left, misunderstand the liberal principles on which the right to keep and bear arms rests. As we have seen, even well-educated political conservatives can vigorously deny the value of the Second Amendment, and the silence of many other conservative intellectuals suggests a widespread ignorance about its continuing importance. Merely acknowledging that this right is part of America's tradition will not keep the tradition alive. Scholarship proving that a robust right to arms is enshrined in the original meaning of the Constitution will not stop the courts from interpreting the Second Amendment into oblivion. Showing that restricting the rights of law-abiding citizens has yet to contribute to public safety will not prevent politicians from claiming that new and even more restrictive laws are all we need.

People who do not understand why they should defend the right to arms are not likely to be its most effective defenders. For too long, conservative intellectuals have given insufficient attention to a principled defense of this right. Alexis de Tocqueville, a favorite among conservative thinkers, warned

against democracy's drift toward new and softer forms of despotism. The left wants us to believe that resistance is futile, and conservatives need to overcome the effete sensibility that abhors "America's frontier infatuation with guns." The Founders of our republic did not think an armed citizenry was the product of a childish infatuation or a response to life on the frontier, and the philosophers who guided them can help us to see why the right to arms continues to deserve its place in our fundamental law.

*Nelson Lund, JD, PhD, is University Professor at George Mason University's Antonin Scalia Law School*

### **Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017**

This bill amends the federal criminal code to allow a qualified individual to carry a concealed handgun into or possess a concealed handgun in another state that allows individuals to carry concealed firearms.

A qualified individual must: (1) be eligible to possess, transport, or receive a firearm under federal law; (2) carry a valid photo identification document; and (3) carry a valid concealed carry permit issued by, or be eligible to carry a concealed firearm in, his or her state of residence.

Additionally, the bill specifies that a qualified individual who lawfully carries or possesses a concealed handgun in another state: (1) is not subject to the federal prohibition on possessing a firearm in a school zone, and (2) may carry or possess the concealed handgun in federally owned lands that are open to the public. (This bill is to be voted on in December 2017)

### **Are Fix NICS Concerns Much Ado About Nothing?**

*Posted at 2:00 pm on December 6, 2017 by Tom Knighton*  
The Fix NICS bill is surprisingly controversial. While no one

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is surprised that gun rights advocates are less than enthused about new gun laws, it seemed entirely probable many would go along with reforming the NICS database following Sutherland Springs. After all, didn't the shooter get his gun from a gun store despite being a prohibited person?

But it is. The GOA has issued a strong statement against the bill, for example.

The bill, known as the "Fix NICS" bill, is an Obama style regulation that, according to Massie, would require government entities to submit thousands of names into the NICS database for denial of the purchase of a firearm. The legislation is being quietly added in a Trojan Horse style by Democratic Senators Chuck Schumer and Diane Feinstein.

Rep. Thomas Massie sounded the alarm through a post on Facebook, writing on how "the Senate version of this bill is cosponsored by Senator Dianne Feinstein and Senator Chuck Schumer."

*"The bill encourages administrative agencies, not the courts, to submit more names to a national database that will determine whether you can or can't obtain a firearm. When*

*President Obama couldn't get Congress to pass gun control, he implemented a strategy of compelling, through administrative rules, the Veterans Administration and the Social Security Administration to submit lists of veterans and seniors, many of whom never had a day in court, to be included in the NICS database of people prohibited from owning a firearm. Only a state court, a federal (article III) court, or a military court, should ever be able to suspend your rights for any significant period of time.*

*The bill itself is troubling, but as Massie points out, the bill was sent through committee at breakneck speed, breaking records for fast tracked legislation by entering and exiting committee, with approval, in a matter of hours. The speed at which the bill was passed meant that the bill wasn't viewable by the public until after it had been approved."*

So the issue is that administrative agencies will be adding this new data, not the courts.

<https://bearingarms.com/tom-k/2017/12/06/fix-nics-concerns-much-ado-nothing/>

**Richard Stouder** - Oakridger48@msn.com



## **THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS**

The Right to Keep and Bear Arms (RKBA) column is now available each month on the ORSAONLINE web site at ([www.orsaonline.org/rkba.asp](http://www.orsaonline.org/rkba.asp)). From time to time, the RKBA column will be included in the printed version which is mailed to members' homes when space permits.

Please remember that each edition of the Rangefinder is also available online at ORSAONLINE ([www.orsaonline.org/newsletters.asp](http://www.orsaonline.org/newsletters.asp)) and is normally available before the edition arrives by mail.

# January 2018

| MONDAY   | TUESDAY                             | WEDNESDAY      | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY                              | SATURDAY                                   | SUNDAY   |
|--|-------------------------------------|----------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| 1 Long Range Practice<br>Smallbore Class<br>7-9 PM ID  | 2 HP Practice<br>Skeet & Trap 11-2  | 3 HP Practice  | 4 HP Practice<br>Competitive Archery                                    | 5 HP Practice<br>Skeet & Trap 11-2  | 6<br>IDPA<br>Skeet & Trap 11-3             | 7<br>Skeet & Trap 12-4<br>Skeet League 2 PM                              |
| 8 Long Range Practice<br>Smallbore Class<br>7-9 PM ID  | 9 HP Practice<br>Skeet & Trap 11-2  | 10 HP Practice | 11 HP Practice<br>Competitive Archery                                   | 12 HP Practice<br>Skeet & Trap 11-2 | 13<br>Cowboys<br>Skeet & Trap 11-3         | 14<br>Skeet & Trap 12-4<br>Skeet League 2 PM                             |
| 15 Long Range Practice<br>Smallbore Class<br>7-9 PM ID | 16 HP Practice<br>Skeet & Trap 11-2 | 17 HP Practice | 18 HP Practice<br>Competitive Archery<br>R&P Club Meeting CH<br>6:30 PM | 19 HP Practice<br>Skeet & Trap 11-2 | 20<br>USPSA<br>Skeet & Trap 11-3           | 21<br>Skeet & Trap 12-4<br>Skeet League 2 PM                             |
| 22 Long Range Practice<br>Smallbore Class<br>7-9 PM ID | 23<br>Skeet & Trap 11-2             | 24 HP Practice | 25 HP Practice<br>Competitive Archery                                   | 26 HP Practice<br>Skeet & Trap 11-2 | 27<br>Steel Challenge<br>Skeet & Trap 11-3 | 28<br>3-gun<br>Steel Challenge<br>Skeet & Trap 12-4<br>Skeet League 2 PM |
| 29 Long Range Practice<br>Smallbore Class<br>7-9 PM ID | 30 HP Practice<br>Skeet & Trap 11-2 | 31 HP Practice |   |                                     |  |  |
|  |                                     |                |   |                                     |  |  |

# February 2018

| MONDAY   | TUESDAY                             | WEDNESDAY      | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY                              | SATURDAY                                   | SUNDAY  |
|--|-------------------------------------|----------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|
|  |                                     |                | 1 HP Practice<br>Competitive Archery                                    | 2 HP Practice<br>Skeet & Trap 11-2  | 3<br>IDPA<br>Skeet & Trap 11-3             | 4<br>Skeet & Trap 12-4<br>Skeet League 2 PM         |
| 5 Long Range Practice<br>Smallbore Class<br>7-9 PM ID  | 6 HP Practice<br>Skeet & Trap 11-2  | 7 HP Practice  | 8 HP Practice<br>Competitive Archery                                    | 9 HP Practice<br>Skeet & Trap 11-2  | 10<br>Cowboys<br>Skeet & Trap 11-3         | 11<br>Skeet & Trap 12-4<br>Skeet League 2 PM        |
| 12 Long Range Practice<br>Smallbore Class<br>7-9 PM ID | 13 HP Practice<br>Skeet & Trap 11-2 | 14 HP Practice | 15 HP Practice<br>Competitive Archery<br>R&P Club Meeting CH<br>6:30 PM | 16 HP Practice<br>Skeet & Trap 11-2 | 17<br>USPSA<br>Skeet & Trap 11-3           | 18<br>Skeet & Trap 12-4<br>Skeet League 2 PM        |
| 19 Long Range Practice<br>Smallbore Class<br>7-9 PM ID | 20 HP Practice<br>Skeet & Trap 11-2 | 21 HP Practice | 22 HP Practice<br>Competitive Archery                                   | 23 HP Practice<br>Skeet & Trap 11-2 | 24<br>Steel Challenge<br>Skeet & Trap 11-3 | 25<br>3-gun<br>Steel Challenge<br>Skeet & Trap 12-4 |
| 26 Long Range Practice<br>Smallbore Class<br>7-9 PM ID | 27 HP Practice<br>Skeet & Trap 11-2 | 28 HP Practice |   |                                     |  |   |
|  |                                     |                |   |                                     |  |   |



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### SEND MEMBERSHIP STATUS & CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGES TO:

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**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT JOINORSA.ORG**

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Send email correspondence (but NOT address changes) regarding this publication to:  
**orsasec@gmail.com** with a Subject Line: ORSA Rangefinder

If you wish to submit an article for publication, you must first submit it to the ORSA Secretary via email. The article will then be distributed via email to the ORSA board for approval. When the board approves the article, the author will be notified.