

It is a good day for Liberty.

Marc A. Stephens has sent out e-mail announcements that he has filed a Second Amendment case in the US Supreme Court. He had moved to New Jersey and found the licensing procedure to be arbitrary, capricious and incompatible with the history of the Second Amendment. This is not a new observation. Mr. Stephens has filed a petition with the Supreme Court, but it is a petition for Certiorari. This is a request for the court to consider the question presented after a full hearing. Mr. Stephens argues that the New Jersey licensing provision was racist in origin and thus contrary to the Constitution. Mr. Stephens seems to believe that this is the decisive point and that he is the first to notice it. This is not the case. Mr. Stephens has done a great deal of research but he is not a lawyer and it is rare for a "pro se" case to be accepted by the Court. There is always the possibility that other cases might be joined with this case.

Right now the Supreme Court is split 4-4 on the rights of gun owners. The Chief justice says that the Second Amendment does not recognize a right to keep a gun on the nightstand. To define a right in the negative, and a very negative definition, is a very bad sign.

A man in North Carolina has lost his license to carry. Mr. Brown saw two black men struggling with a white man. The white man begged for help saying that the other two were trying to kill him. Mr. Brown told his mother to call 911 and drew his gun ordering the participants to stop. One said that the white man was a client and to leave the situation alone. Mr. Brown fired a warning shot in order to get everyone's attention. That amped up the adrenaline of responding officers and Mr. Brown was arrested for misdemeanor assault and firing a gun in the city limits. The two black men were social workers trying to control a mentally handicapped resident of their group home. The article I read spoke of "racially charged" testimony from Mr. Brown; this is always bad. A warning shot is almost always a bad idea; even stupid. Up to that point Mr. Brown had acted under a reasonable assessment of the events. However at the point he drew a gun no one was being beaten. The supposed "victim" was outnumbered and claimed that he was being killed but the gun owner must take all elements into account. TV shows consistently portray African-American muggers attacking white victims. This had doubtless penetrated Mr. Brown's subconscious. The police were on the way and, in the absence of bloodshed, waiting for them to take charge would (obviously) be the better course of action. When encountering a struggle of this sort remaining aloof and calling the police is the wiser course. Intervene only when there is an immediate danger of kidnap, rape or human breakage endangering life or limb. Firing the gun is only justified in extreme circumstances.

Carl Smart, vice president of WMSA, has had an article published in the Kansas City Star. The article argues that the presence of a gun does not make your neighbor dangerous. It is encouraging that the Star asked WMSA for an article on this subject. It is encouraging that it was printed. Keep sending letters to newspapers and calls to radio shows. Mention your membership. Every little bit helps.

We have stopped the Social Security Administration rule making procedure to make 75,000 people prohibited gun possessors without individual hearings. We are in the process of repealing the VA practice of making veterans prohibited possessors without a hearing. We are in the process of making firearms suppressors legal at the federal level and to make a license to carry nationwide. We are making progress very quickly. Quick progress frightens some people but that cannot be helped. The usual suspects make the usual predictions of blood in the streets. We may take heart in the memory that they have made this prediction every time we have reformed the law and they have always been wrong. There will be an election in a year and a half. We may lose some or many of our friends in congress. We have to recover as many of our rights as possible while it is still possible.

Remington Arms has settled a class action lawsuit over the safety on its M 700, Seven, Sportsman 78, 673, 710, 715, 770, 600, 660, XP-100, 721, 722, and 725 rifles. It is alleged that the gun can fire unbidden due to the current trigger mechanism. Remington denies this and asserts that examples of accidents were due to lack of maintenance or kitchen table gunsmithing. I do not know the facts of the case. Remington is upgrading the trigger mechanism for free. Contact Remington for details.

The usual suspects claim that rape on college campuses went up after Utah legalized campus carry. What they fail to mention is that rapes at private colleges, which continue to ban carry, went up dramatically. Rapists went to colleges where they would not be shot.

As Alfred Lord Tennyson wrote:

*And the parson made it his text that week, and he said likewise,
That a lie which is half a truth is ever the blackest of lies,
That a lie which is all a lie may be met and fought with outright,
But a lie which is part a truth is a harder matter to fight.*

In St. Louis a twelve-year old boy was left alone in the house and shot himself to death while playing with a gun. His parents (in the biological sense) have been charged with involuntary manslaughter. The usual suspects claim this as another reason to restrict, ban or complicate the ownership of guns. There were drugs of various kinds all over the house which would seem to be relevant, at least to me. Charges of this sort are becoming more and more common in Missouri.

I've listened to audiobooks of "The Outpost" and "Red Platoon." They concern the same outpost in Afghanistan, the later the account of the Sergeant who earned the Medal of Honor defending the post. It would appear (in my cynical opinion) that higher headquarters wanted to re-enact the Battle of Dien Bien Phu and this was the ideal location. It was far out on a logistical tether, could only be supplied by air, was surrounded by mountains and the enemy could observe and shoot everything that they did. The enemy launched a massive effort to seize the outpost. The attack failed. Ironically the order had already been given to abandon the outpost. After beating off the attack and losing good men everyone got onto helicopters and flew away. This left the enemy with bragging rights to forcing them out. Sometimes I wonder. Other times I swear.

This country has many symbols; the bald eagle, the Statue of Liberty, Elvis. I believe that the Liberty Bell is the perfect symbol. Around the base of the bell is says "Proclaim Liberty Throughout the Land." It has a crack. Like all liberties there is a flaw. It is the nature of our country that the usual suspects focus on the flaw and ignore the liberty.

We need people to step up and fill positions on the Board of Directors. Some of these positions require a trivial investment of time. Some do not. Think of it as an investment in your Grandchildren's rights.

We shall overcome.