



*Open Carry is Legal
in Louisiana!*



Louisiana Open Carry Awareness League January 2015 Newsletter

Upcoming Meetings:

In the **Northwest** area meetings are by request. [Contact us](#) if you would like to meet.

The **Southeast (New Orleans)** area with the *Home Defense Foundation of New Orleans* will [meet](#) **Tuesday, Jan. the 6th at 7pm** at the Subway Shop at 2500 St. Claude Avenue in the Marigny neighborhood.

The **Lake Charles** Group will meet at CiCi's Pizza on Ryan St., Lake Charles **Tuesday, Jan. 13 at 5:30pm**

Florida Parishes will meet **Saturday, Jan. 17th at 6:30pm** at the IHOP on La-190 just North of I-12 in Covington

The **Baton Rouge** area is working the **Gonzales Gun Shows. Jan. 24 & 25 SAT. 9 - 5, SUN. 10 - 4** at 9039 St. Landry Rd.

**For the most up to date list of meetings dates and times please see our website at <http://laopencarry.org>*

NOTE: *When I hear from our area representatives I will post their meeting dates, times and locations.*

Gun shows:

Jan 3 - 4 **Lake Charles** - Lake Charles Civic Center - Sat. 9 - 5, Sun. 9 - 4

Jan 10 & 11 **Slidell** - Northshore Harbor Center (I-10, exit 261) - Sat. 9 - 5, Sun. 10- 4:30

Jan 10 & 11 **Shreveport** - Riverview Hall - 600 Clyde Fant Pkwy - Sat. 9 - 5, Sun. 10 - 4

Jan 17-18 **Kenner** - Pontchartrain Center - Sat. 9 - 5 Sun. 10 - 5

Jan 24 & 25 **Gonzales** - 9039 St. Landry Rd. - SAT. 9 - 5, SUN. 10 - 4

Looking Back At LOCAL in 2014

LOCAL was busy in its sixth year as a gun rights education organization. We saw members across the State step up and host meetings in their areas. We had members at gun shows handing out pamphlets by the hundreds. We bought table space at gun shows in Slidell, Ponchatoula and Gonzales. Hundreds of people learned of LOCAL and our activities during their visits to these gun shows.

We continued to meet and network with other pro-gun groups such as the [Home Defense Foundation of New Orleans](#). Our members met with local law enforcement and political leaders to introduce them to LOCAL and

explain our mission. We saw LOCAL member Brandon LeBlanc take his fight with the Abbeville City Council to the media and get an ordinance banning Open Carry stricken from the books. Our social media presence on sites such as Facebook and Twitter continue to inform the public and attract new members and supporters. LOCAL has accomplished a lot in 2014 and we go into the New Year ready to do even more.

From the trenches:

The **Baton Rouge** area is working the **Gonzales Gun Shows** instead of holding meetings. If you would like to meet the LOCAL guys, talk or even help out, President and BR Area Coordinator Steve Raacke says: "Drop by our table and help us fold pamphlets and we can discuss anything you like!"

The **Southeast (New Orleans)** Area has teamed up with the **Home Defense Foundation of New Orleans** whose [meetings](#) are held on the **first Tuesday of the month, at 7PM** and feature FREE Subway Sandwiches. They are held at the Subway Shop at 2500 St. Claude Avenue in the Marigny neighborhood. There is a gigantic parking lot so don't worry about parking. When you come also be sure to ask for your FREE pepper spray.

The **Lake Charles Group Coordinator**, Riley "Rifle" Belile says: "I realize I have scheduled this meeting & have been absent the last two month in a row. For this, I apologize once again. I have no valid excuse other than just getting old & forgetful. At our next meeting we will discuss various new laws in Louisiana, lawyer contacts, and proposed activities. I have scheduled a meet with the State Police here & will report on that meeting. The upcoming gun shows in Sulphur & Lake Charles will also be discussed."

In a later update Riley reported: "Today I had a conversation with the Troop 'D' LA. State Police. I explained our mission, our attitude & our practices. I made sure to stress our group were not the 'You-Tube boys' currently giving Open Carry a bad name. I also left several tri-folds for them to read. At no time were we in disagreement & the Trooper explained he was in full support of 'good guys with guns.' Just everyone be careful, not all with guns are the good guys. That concludes my visits to the area Police Departments for the year. Later in 2015 I will revisit every Police headquarters to make sure they all understand our mission. No one objection in all my visits."

Stepping Up The States Rights Fight in 2015

As LOCAL enters its seventh year we need to look at the battles that are being fought across the nation and be prepared to do our part to protect our rights here in the Bayou State. The gun banners realize that they can't get gun control passed at the Federal level so they have taken the fight to the State and local levels.

We saw the Bloomberg backed I-594 pass in Washington State. Within hours we saw the plan to move similar bills through several other states be put into high gear. State pro-gun groups such as [Nevadans For State Gun Rights](#) are working to raise money and volunteers to fight against the bills being filed and put on upcoming ballots. They have filed lawsuits and petitions to stop the gun haters from running roughshod over their rights. It's an uphill battle.

Here in Louisiana we are not safe from the anti-rights zealots either. We need to step up our efforts to recruit members and grow our network of supporters. What we have seen in other states will come here and we must be ready as a gun rights and educational organization to fight back. We will need friends. We will need money. We will need motivated and dedicated members who are willing to stand up to the billionaire gun ban machine. We need to continue to align ourselves with other pro-gun groups and share information and resources whenever possible. LOCAL is going to have to step up to the plate and be more responsive and productive than we have in the past. Make 2015 the year you become more involved in the fight for your rights to bear arms.

Your New Year Resolution, Get More Training!



LOCAL educates the public about the right to bear arms in Louisiana. We strongly encourage everyone to educate themselves by attending training in gun safety and defensive use of their firearms. If you have never taken any formal training, or it's been several years since your last class, make 2015 the year you step up your skills.

Recently we received an email from an 18 year old who stated that while not old enough to apply for a CHP, she was registered in a gun safety class and was asking for advice on carrying a pistol she was recently given. This is another example of a responsible person acting responsibly.

The fact is, we have lots of misinformation from movies, TV shows and even well-meaning friends and family when it comes to handling firearms. Getting training has never been easier and LOCAL is always happy to point people toward reputable trainers and classes when we can. You don't want some dude who's just there to make a easy buck. Look for guys like Eric Kuyper of [Kuyper Consulting](#). Eric teaches CHP, First Aid and CPR/AED classes in Texas and the Lake Charles area. Recognizing that members of our military have been targeted for attacks and need this sort of training Eric recently arranged for members of Army South in San Antonio to take his Texas CHP class FOR FREE. He had just over 90 soldiers attend his class which is shown in the photo above. Kudos to Eric for stepping up and helping defend our nation's defenders.

Even if you are not 21 years old or not intending on getting a permit, taking a 9 hour CHP class is still a good idea. The CHP class takes everyone from the level of "I've never seen or touched a real gun" to "I can safely load, unload and fire my handgun" in an organized and structured format. Things like learning the universal rules of gun safety and how to safely store your firearm to keep it out of the hands of others are covered in the basic CHP class. It's a great stepping stone toward more advanced training.

This is why LOCAL has been working to build a list of instructors that our members have trained with and recommend. You can see this list in our [discussion forum](#). It's a good listing of instructors but we would like more. We need trainers we can feel comfortable sending people to. That includes trainers like Barret Kendrick who has been called by master trainer Rob Pincus "one of the best instructors I know on armed defense inside the home". Barret runs [Bearco Training](#) and offers classes such as "Intro To Defensive Pistols", one and two day "Dynamic Focus Shooting" and even "Home Defense 360" where students fire non-lethal ammo in realistic self-defense scenarios. (Steve here: I have personally trained with Barret and highly recommend his Dynamic Focus Shooting class)

Maybe you have had training and want to brush up on your skills some. Most of our recommended instructors offer one on one classes. For example, our friend Pablo Estrada of [Estrada Tactical](#) will work with you in a 3 hour basic skills clinic for only \$75. Pablo is not only a highly respected CHP instructor but teaches a variety of classes. Of course, he is constantly taking classes himself and upgrading his skills and knowledge. Three hours on a range with him giving you the tips and tricks he's learned over the years for less than \$100 is a bargain. (Steve again: I've not only taken training from Pablo but have sat in classes alongside of him. He is an awesome instructor.)

OK, you have training and know how to shoot and what to do when the bad guy attacks. What about after you pull the trigger? Have you prepared for what is often called The Second Fight? Brannon LeBouef, owner of [NOLATAC Firearms Training](#) and the New [Saint Bernard Indoor Shooting Center](#) is again hosting the "Godfather of Use Of Force" Massad Ayoob. Mr. Ayoob literally wrote the book on what happens after you are forced to pull the trigger. Called "the Bible" by some, his book "In the Gravest Extreme" should be on every gun owners required reading list. NOLATAC will have Mr. Ayoob at the SBISC classroom for 2 days, March 13 and 14 teaching his [Mas20 class](#). This is a full 2 days of classroom instruction on the use of force and the aftermath. This is one of the most popular classes offered in the gun community and you should not be surprised to find yourself sitting next to judges, lawyers and experienced law enforcement professionals when attending this 20 hour seminar.

Now you have taken several classes and practice regularly and you are thinking that you can pass some of this on to others? Maybe you should consider becoming an instructor. Some ranges such as the Honey Island Swamp range will put range volunteers through several courses starting with the [Louisiana Safety Instructor course](#). NOLATAC offers the [2 day NRA Basic Pistol Instructor course](#) which will get you on the way to getting started in teaching others. Look around and see what classes you can find to start a second career or just educate your family and friends.

Yet another bad CHP class pops up!

A good friend and her husband took the CHP class at [Clark's](#) in Princeton, LA taught by Jim Clark Jr. where they were taught OC was illegal once you got a CHP! Wrong but not a major deal, however, their course of fire consisted of 3 volleys of 9 rounds at a single distance estimated to be 13 feet or so. The problem with this is LRS 40:1379.3, §1311. Handgun Training Requirements, B6a states:

"live range fire shall include at a minimum 12 rounds each at 6 feet, 10 feet and 15 feet for a total of 36 rounds." THIS is a biggie as now the class fails to meet the minimum required training/testing as specified in LRS 40:1379.3, §1311! At least their class only ran from 8am to 1pm... wait a minute... §1311, A1 says "shall include at least a minimum of nine hours of instruction".

Let's summarize: They pay for a professionally taught CHP class but are given bad information, are short 2 positions and 9 rounds on the shooting portion and are shorted 4 hours training time making their CHPs, along with their entire class and who knows how many classes before, invalid! Even worse, I will bet there was more wrong in this class but I have yet to stumble across it because the people who took the class have no way of knowing how much bovine feces this instructor fed them! As you can see, all training is NOT the same! While training is great, proper, accurate training that follows the rule of law is what you really need!

Know Your Rights To Bear Bladed Arms



Recently LOCAL received a rather interesting question asking about the legality of carrying swords and even spears. Prefacing with the usual "Anything we say should not be considered legal advice" we answered as best we could.

It should be pointed out that in December the Connecticut Supreme Court ruled that knives are considered "arms" and are protected under the Second Amendment. From [Knife Rights](#) we have the following:

"December 16, 2014: Since its inception, Knife Rights has had as a foundational position that knives are arms protected by the Second Amendment. Our logo claims these are "Essential Rights." However, actual court rulings on this issue are always appreciated. Recently the Connecticut Supreme Court has affirmed that knives are arms protected by the Second Amendment in a case with potential wider implications. In its decision overturning a prior conviction, the Court held that "the second amendment protects the defendant's right to possess the dirk knife ... in his home and, second, that the statute's complete ban on transporting those items between residences unduly burdens that right." The Court further said, "[t]hus, the safe transportation of weapons protected by the second amendment is an essential corollary of the right to possess them in the home for self-defense when such transportation is necessary to effectuate that right." The case revolved around the transportation of the defendant's weapons collection including knives between a former residence in Connecticut to his new residence in Massachusetts. The defendant was originally convicted for having a weapon in a motor vehicle, a violation of Connecticut's harsh anti-weapons laws. "

This is a great ruling and can be used as precedence to spread pro-knife protections across the nation. That said, there are laws and rules that you need to know before you carry a bladed weapon here in Louisiana.

What the Law Says

La. R.S. 14:95 (2013)

§ 14:95. Illegal carrying of weapons

A. Illegal carrying of weapons is:

- (1) The intentional concealment of any firearm, or other instrumentality customarily used or intended for probable use as a dangerous weapon, on one's person; or
- (2) The ownership, possession, custody or use of any firearm, or other instrumentality customarily used as a dangerous weapon, at any time by an enemy alien; or
- (3) The ownership, possession, custody or use of any tools, or dynamite, or nitroglycerine, or explosives, or other instrumentality customarily used by thieves or burglars at any time by any person with the intent to commit a crime; or
- (4) (a) The manufacture, ownership, possession, custody or use of any switchblade knife, spring knife or other knife or similar instrument having a blade which may be automatically unfolded or extended from a handle by the manipulation of a button, switch, latch or similar contrivance located on the handle.
- (b) The provisions of this Paragraph shall not apply to the following:
 - (i) Any knife that may be opened with one hand by manual pressure applied to the blade or any projection of the blade.
 - (ii) Any knife that may be opened by means of inertia produced by the hand, wrist, or other movement, provided the knife has either a detent or other structure that provides resistance that shall be overcome in opening or initiating the opening movement of the blade or a bias or spring load toward the closed position.

[...]

J. The provisions of this Section shall not prohibit the ownership of rescue knives by commissioned full-time law enforcement officers. The provisions of this Section shall not prohibit the carrying of rescue knives by commissioned full-time law enforcement officers who are in the actual discharge of their official duties. The

provisions of this Section shall not prohibit the sale of rescue knives to commissioned full-time law enforcement officers. The provisions of this Section shall not prohibit the ownership or possession of rescue knives by merchants who own or possess the knives solely as inventory to be offered for sale to commissioned full-time law enforcement officers. As used in this Subsection, a "rescue knife" is a folding knife, which can be readily and easily opened with one hand and which has at least one blade which is designed to be used to free individuals who are trapped by automobile seat belts, or at least one blade which is designed for a similar purpose. No blade of a rescue knife shall exceed five inches in length.

What this means is that it is illegal for you to conceal carry a switchblade or automatic knife. This law also states that it is legal for any officer to carry a "rescue knife." What is a rescue knife and what counts as a switchblade in Louisiana? The law remains unclear but some other documents can clear the matter for us. Balisong knives, also called butterfly knives, do not fall under this switchblade ban. The Attorney General of Louisiana in La. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 1999-332 stated that a Balisong knife is not a switchblade and is legal to own in Louisiana. He cites the case of State v. Robinson in 1990 where the court did not find that a balisong knife counts as a switchblade. The AG also stated that a rescue knife is a tool that is able to fold, can be opened one handed, and is designed to cut seat belts. It goes on to say that, if a knife has a button, but pressing the button does not automatically open the knife (for example, you still need to flick it open), it does not count as a switchblade and won't be banned.

From this, we can conclude that the only banned knives in Louisiana are any knives that are automatically opened. The only individuals who can own automatic opening knives are police officers who use them as rescue knives. Conclusion on Louisiana Knife Law It is legal to own any knife in Louisiana except for a switchblade or any other automatic knife. You can open and conceal any knife except a switchblade or automatic knife.

Note that this is not legal advice and there is no client-attorney relationship. There are also local and municipal laws that come into play so you much check those out as well. Consult with an attorney if you need more guidance.

Here are some municipal laws you need to know about.

Baton Rouge/E Baton Rouge Parish, LA 13.95

"to have in his possession a firearm, or other instrumentality customarily used or intended for probable use as a dangerous weapon, in any premises where alcoholic beverages are sold and/or consumed on the premises":

Speedy says: Translation - No weapons where alcohol is sold/consumed!

Bossier City, LA 38-277.

"Rescue knives by full-time LEO only. Rescue knife is a folding knife, readily and easily opened with one hand."

Speedy says: This is VERY poorly defined and contradicts state law La. R.S. 14:95 § 14:95 A4b and J and, as written, makes 90% of the pocket knives sold and used today illegal in Bossier! I WILL be looking into this!

Lake Charles, LA 13-28. & 13-28.1 13-28.2.

"or any knife with a blade in excess of four inches, in an establishment where alcoholic beverages are sold. or any instrument with a blade in excess of two inches," ***Speedy says: Huh?***

New Orleans, LA 54-342. 54-410. 106-296.

"Weapons any knife, Possessing or to have in any vehicle while participating or attending a demonstration In those publicly owned, operated, or leased buildings or places where the administrators Introduce any weapon"

Speedy says: Anyone here speak "Lawyer?" This makes no sense to me!

LA Nature and Science Center: "No Knives"

St. Landry Parish. LA 2-18.

"Dangerous weapon" includes any firearm, knife, or other bladed instrument, in court rooms

Sulphur, LA 95

"rescue knives by full-time LEO only. rescue knife" is a folding knife, readily and easily opened with one

hand" **Speedy says: This is VERY poorly defined and contradicts state law La. R.S. 14:95 § 14:95 A4b and J and, as written, makes 90% of the pocket knives sold and used today illegal in Sulphur! I WILL be looking into this!**

Terrebonne Parish, LA Sec. 19-6

Weapons prohibited in all facilities of the 32nd Judicial Dist Ct & other court facilities in the Parish including pocket knives.

West Monroe, LA Nov-11

Display a pocket knife with a blade more than three (3) inches long,

The knife law of Louisiana is sort of confusing and wordy.

What is Legal/Illegal to Own *in general*?

- * It is **legal** to own Balisong knives, also called butterfly knives.
- * It is **legal** to own dirks, daggers, stilettos, and other slim knives.
- * It is **legal** to own disguised knives like belt knives.
- * It is **legal** to own undetectable knives-knives that will not set off metal detectors.
- * It is **legal** to own throwing stars and throwing knives.
- * It is **legal** to own Bowie knives and other large knives.

- * It is **illegal** to own switchblades and other automatic knives as well as the poorly defined "rescue knives."

The only banned knife in Louisiana are switchblades. However, if you are a law enforcement officer, you might be able to get an automatic opening knife because there is an exemption for "rescue knives" in the law.

Please Join LOCAL Today

Since 2009 LOCAL has been informing the public about the right to Open Carry in Louisiana as well as advocating for more gun rights. We have done this with the generous help of our members and supporters. Their donations allow us to keep our website up. The gun show tables and pamphlets we pass out are paid for from the dues our members send in as well as additional donations. We are a small group but we want to be able to do more. We need members who can help us. If you are reading this newsletter and have not yet joined LOCAL please take a minute to go to: <http://www.laopencarry.org/> and click on the Join/Donate tab on the top line just under the State Flag. You can join online or print out a copy of the membership application and mail it in. Annual LOCAL memberships cost only \$10. Are you an NRA member yet? If not we have a better deal. Click the **Join Here** button on the NRA box on our webpage and sign up for a 1 year NRA membership for only \$25 and we will throw in a 1 year membership to LOCAL for free. Joining LOCAL won't put you on any unwanted mailing lists. You will only receive monthly newsletter announcements or other important email alerts from us as they become necessary.

Thank you to our President Steve Raacke for getting most of the data for this month's newsletter together!

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