



April 2015 Newsletter



BATFE Backs Off M855 Ban, Fight Goes On

In our March Newsletter we reported that the BATFE was proposing a ban on popular ammunition used in common AR-15 rifles and pistols. Known as M855 or "Green Tip" rounds, this cartridge is affordable and used by shooters for target practice and training. Citing "police officer safety" the agency opened a public comment period but assumed that this was nothing more than a formality. This was evidenced by their publishing the 2014 Regulation Guidebook showing the round to be banned for sale to the public. This would not be the case and gun owners mobilized a massive campaign to prevent this policy from being enacted.

Originally the BATFE reported receiving over 80,000 public comments but later revised that number to be 310,000 as of the March 13 deadline and more were still coming in.

BATFE Director B. Todd Jones resigned as a result of the overwhelming backlash and took a job with the notoriously anti-gun National Football League.

In the days that followed we saw lawmakers on both sides of the issue line up to present bills that would either ban the M855 round or protect common rifle ammunition. News media tossed out misinformation to the masses and we saw the typical grandstanding and jockeying for air time.

Yes, so called green tip ammo can penetrate the soft body armor that is commonly worn by police officers. Yes there are AR "pistols" on the market

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...that can fire these rounds. No these "pistols" are not concealable or popular with criminals. They are simply AR rifles with no buttstocks and barrels that range from 10 to 16 inches long. No the M855 isn't being used against law enforcement by criminals. In fact, searches of FBI records by different watchdog groups have failed to turn up any police officers killed by this round in the past 20 years.

As gun owners we can be proud that we stood up to this back door ban on your right to keep and bear arms and the ammunition to feed them. We have to continue to defend our rights. We have to be active and let our voice be heard. It is admirable that the BATFE received over 300,000 comments but the fact is there are millions of gun owners, many who own AR rifles. The BATFE should have received four times the number of comments it got. When we see threats to our rights like this we have to stand together and let our voices be heard.

With Friends Like These Who Needs Bloomberg?

Shortly after the BATFE announced that it was changing its regulations to ban the M855 AR rifle round the internet exploded with stories about the design of this ammunition and its use in AR-15 pistols.

As disturbing as the pending ban was it was more distressing to read some of the comments or opinions of fellow gun owners on popular internet forums and social media sites.

Those who we consider "on our side" were often the first to throw their brothers and sisters "under the bus".

"Maybe the ATF should ban the AR pistols instead of our ammo."

"I knew that those idiots with those AR pistols would lead to the Feds coming after our ammo."

These are just some of the types of comments being tossed around the internet and showed how fractured our "gun culture" really is. Instead of banding together and standing up against an obviously unconstitutional move by the government our fellow gun owners started turning on each other.

This isn't something new. We often encounter it when we face bans on so called "assault rifles". That is when you will see comments such as "Who needs a machine gun to hunt deer? My bolt action rifle is all I have ever needed." When bans on "high capacity" magazines loom we hear, "Well, my CHP instructor says most self-defense shootings only require 2 or 3 rounds so I don't see why anyone needs anything bigger than the 5 shot revolver I carry."

As advocates for open carry we hear "Open Carry is stupid and is just going to lead to more laws against people carrying in public."

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Gun shows:

- **Apr 11-12: Lake Charles** Civic Center, Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4, \$8.00, Children under 12 Free.
- **April 18 & 19: Lafayette**, La Gun Show, \$8, Free Parking, Lafayette Event Center. 4607 Johnston St. Next to Crystal Cottage and across from Courtesy GMC on SAT. 9-5 & SUN. 10-4.
- **Apr 25th - 26th: Houma** - Kiwanis Club of Thibodaux Gun & Knife Show at Evergreen Cajun Center on Saturday 9:00am – 5:00pm and Sunday 10:00am – 5:00pm. 12 & under: Free. 

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Frankly it's time for the infighting to stop. It doesn't matter if you hunt rabbits with a black powder flintlock rifle, you shoot clays with an over/under shotgun, you keep an old revolver in your nightstand for home protection or you spend your time kitted up like a member of Seal Team 6 preparing for the zombie apocalypse. If you own a gun and want to continue to have that right recognized then you need to stand up to efforts to restrict the rights of other gun owners.

We have all heard the quote "First they came for the Jews and I said nothing because I was not a Jew." It's the same issue with gun ban zealots. They are constantly nibbling away at our rights and attempting to fracture our numbers. They manipulate the narrative and laugh as we turn against each other.

LOCAL has stated that we don't currently advocate for long gun carry. That said, we refuse to condemn those who choose to legally and responsibly keep and bear any type of arm. If you are legally able to own that rifle and are not acting in a manner that would be considered dangerous or irresponsible then we say Rock On, Brother.

We have billionaires funding gun control groups and backing elections and bills to ban your right to own firearms and ammunition. We have a mass media that is more than glad to report anything the Demanding Moms send them but refuse to air any statistics or positive stories sent in by pro-gun groups.

Gun owners can't afford to turn on each other. We need to lock arms, stand tall and refuse to be divided. It is as true today as ever. Either we stand together or we will hang separately. 

Norton - No Uzi Machine Guns for Kids.

In March House Bill 86 was proposed by State Representative Barbara Norton (D-Shreveport). This bill would ban the use of an Uzi sub-machine gun by a child younger than 12 years old. Anyone supplying a child with an Uzi sub-machine gun would face 2 years in prison and fines ranging from one to five thousand dollars.

Why specify a ban on the use of sub-machine guns built by Uzi and not other makes/models of machine guns?

This is Ms. Norton's response to the tragic shooting of a firearms instructor at a Nevada gun range when a 9 year old girl lost control of the rented Uzi she was firing. To Ms. Norton and many uninformed citizens, Uzi is a generic word for any machine gun. It's similar to how Bushmaster came to represent all AR style rifles a few months ago.

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LOCAL Updates:

April 2015 Meetings

There is a meeting for this coming **Thursday, April 2 at 530p** in the **Lake Charles area**. It will be at the burger king in Westlake, LA. This is located on Samson St., just as you enter Westlake from I-10. The Calcasieu parish sheriff & the Westlake police dept. Have both committed to providing a training officer for this meeting. Have your questions ready.

The **Florida parishes** April meeting will be back at our regular IHOP in Covington on 190 just north of I-12. Meeting time is 6:30pm on the third **Saturday on the 18th of April**.

**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 to our website.* 

LEGAL Disclaimer: Nothing in this Newsletter should be considered legal advice. Always research laws for yourself and consult a practicing attorney regarding any questions you have regarding legal matters. Louisiana Open Carry Awareness League (**LOCAL**) does not offer legal advice and is not responsible for the actions of persons who act on any of the information presented here. 

(continued from "Norton - No Uzi Machine Guns for Kids." column 1)

Of course the media response to HB 86 was to misinform the public and further the anti-gun narrative. The public wasn't told that the sale and ownership of submachine guns is strictly regulated by the government. Few ranges actually rent these guns to their customers and those that do often limit the age that they are willing to allow handling these firearms. Civilian ownership of these firearms is very rare and the owners aren't typically open to letting children shoot them.

This is a solution in search of a problem. That didn't stop Ms. Norton from making ignorant statements such as "Once you start shooting the Uzi, it's going to keep going and going and going and bullets could go anywhere" and "When you shoot a machine gun... whatever it is that you shoot... you're going to tear it completely up," and "the other unsafe thing about that is putting it in the minds of a 12-year old that they need to have access to a machine gun," Norton said. "I think that's dangerous."

KATC interviewed several residents of Lafayette and as expected got quotes from citizens who were not supplied with the facts. "It's ludicrous to have a kid have a weapon that young," Kenneth George said, "The bill should pass no questions asked. I mean it's self-explanatory."
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No it's not. What is ludicrous is the lack of knowledge concerning firearms that Rep Norton continues to display during every legislative session. The people of Shreveport have continued to put Ms. Norton in office where she constantly proposes bills that would be hilarious if they weren't such glaring infringements upon our constitutional rights.

When we see Bills such as HB 86 we need to speak up and inform the public about the facts. The media is not going to do this for us. They aren't going to ask if this is a real problem which needs fixing. When Ms. Norton proposes such misguided legislation we must be willing to counter her statements with accurate information. A lie left unchallenged becomes the truth.

The Legislative Session begins in Baton Rouge on April 13. 

Riley Reports (Lake Charles Area Rep)

...Last month we had a nice meeting with Sgt. Wright of the LCPD. There were only 3 of us meeting with him, but we had a real good visit. I am amazed how much information, candid information, you can get from these officers while we all sat & ate pizza. Next month the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff has promised one of his Training Officers will meet with us. By meeting with the officers of these different departments, we will foster better relations & have a Go-To man in each department when & if the need arises, besides, what better way of showing our support than buying the officer his supper?

Riley 

Yes, Open Carry IS Legal BUT, One Person's Experience was VERY bad!

A new member of LOCAL has been in touch with us since 7/28/2013 concerning what happened to him resulting from a casual question to a Louisiana Sheriff's Deputy while he was LEGALLY Openly Carrying his gun which he also had a valid LA CHP for. It is a long and highly frustrating story of how the system and people who were supposed to have his back let him down. His ordeal STILL isn't over either!

We will post this on the LOCAL Forum pages soon so look for it there!

<http://laopencarry.org/forum/> 

Spring Time is Competition Time

The weather is getting warmer and for many this is the time to plan outdoor activities. What better way to spend time than with your friends down at the shooting range? There are plenty of ways to get some trigger time and have fun doing it. For example, there are weekly steel plate matches at the St Bernard Indoor Shooting Center. There are Action Pistol matches somewhere in the State nearly every weekend. There are long range rifle matches and even events where you dress as a cowboy.

How do you find all of this gun fun? There is a website which aggregates events from several ranges and gun groups, mostly located in South LA, and puts them in a handy interactive calendar. You can find it at <http://www.sevengun.net/calendar/>. If you know of any matches or competitions taking place which aren't listed on that website please let us know and we can pass it along. If you are a regular competitor and want to share your love of the game, feel free to write up a short article telling us about your experiences. We may include it in a future edition of the LOCAL Newsletter.

Get out and play a little "gun golf" and enjoy the nice weather. 

St Bernard Indoor Shooting Center Keeps Getting Better.

In mid-March LOCAL founding member Brannon LeBouef celebrated the one year anniversary of his new St Bernard Indoor Shooting Center. How did he celebrate? They did it By temporarily closing the range in Arabi for several days to make some improvements on this top notch firing range and gear store. What could he do to make this already great facility even better? How about constructing a VIP range and upgrading the rifle range? Then there are things like constructing a storage area for supplies used for matches such as the Steel Plate matches held the 1st and 3rd Friday of every month. There were also improvements to the plumbing and upgrades and "refreshments" to the current firing lanes.

The St Bernard Indoor Shooting Center is now reopened and better than ever. If you have spent the past 12 months wondering if it was worth visiting this exceptional gun range you should see it now. Stop by and see Brannon and his team of range professionals. You won't be disappointed.



The Gun Show Table That Wasn't

LOCAL President Steve Raacke had planned on having a table at the Gonzales Gun Show on March 21 and 22. Due to work commitments Steve was unable to man the table. With no other volunteers he had no choice but to cancel the table. The show organizers were very understanding and agreed to put our deposit on a table for the next show.

We need members to step up and volunteer for our gun show tables. Just a few hours out of your weekend is all that is necessary. We can't do it with just one or two members.

If you are a LOCAL member in the Baton Rouge area and want to help with manning the LOCAL display table at the Gonzales Gun Show coming up on May 16 and 17, Steve will welcome your assistance.

Please go to the following thread in the LOCAL forum to let us know when you are able to work:

<http://laopencarry.org/forum/viewtopic.php?f=7&t=203>.

Thanks. 

Do You Even Train, Bruh?

LOCAL strongly encourages our members to seek out training from qualified and competent instructors when deciding on carrying a firearm. If you are looking for a class we recommend the following:

Master Trainer **Tom Givens** of *Range Master in Memphis* is teaching a one day Intensive Pistol Skills class at the **St Bernard Indoor Shooting Center** on April 11.

<https://www.facebook.com/StBISC/photos/pcb.1520163438238550/746211005461036/?type=1&theater>

On April 12 **Tom Givens** will teach a Defensive Shotgun class at the **St Bernard Indoor Shooting Center**.

<https://www.facebook.com/StBISC/photos/pcb.1520163438238550/746211008794369/?type=1&theater>

If you are looking for a gift for your mother you may want to consider a Conceal Handgun Permit Class. Register in April for these classes being held in May. Special Mother's Day class rates are available from **NOLATAC** <https://www.facebook.com/events/750941878331199/> at the **St Bernard Indoor Shooting Center** and in South West LA in Kinder LA with our friends from **Kuyper Consulting**

<https://www.facebook.com/KuyperConsulting/photos/gm.1563529087248605/1094483010577329/?type=1&theater>

That covers the South East and South West parts of the State but what about Central LA? Give our friends at **Hard Corps Tactical** in Alexandria a try. They are hosting a CHP class on April 4. If you want something a little more high speed you may want to know that Hard Corps will be hosting **Dom Raso of Dynamis Alliance** for a 3 day Simmunition based Combative Pistol course on May 1 to 3. Are you Operator enough for this class? If so check it out at <https://www.dynamisalliance.com/gear/alexandria-la-05-01-03-2015-dynamis-combative-pistol-i>.

Our friends at **Phobus Solutions** in Metairie will also have several classes you may be interested in during the month of April including Low Light Pistol on April 11, Low Light Carbine on April 12, Tactical Reactive Movement on both April 25 and again with a different scenario on April 26. See their calendar of classes at <http://www.phobossolutions.com/calender.html>.

LOCAL supporter **Mike Danna of LA Concealed Carry**, <http://www.laconcealedcarry.com>, has CHP classes scheduled on Sunday, April 12 and also on Sunday, April 19. Mike is located in Harahan and makes sure that each of his students receives a LOCAL pamphlet as part of their class packet. If you sign up for one of his classes be sure to tell him that LOCAL sent you and thank him for his support.

If you want to get some rifle training check out **Project Appleseed**. There are two Appleseed shoots scheduled for April. Both are set for the weekend of April 18 and 19. One will be in Shreveport and the other in Amite. See <http://appleseedinfo.org/search-states-display.php?qstate=LA&statename=Louisiana> for more information.



CONCEALED HANDGUN PERMIT COURSE

May 2nd Kinder, LA 8AM – 6PM

Class fee: \$100

\$40 handgun rental w/ammo (if needed)

Mother's Day Special:

Bring mom and she gets

\$20 off class fee

\$10 off rental



Local Violent Crimes

Oct 15, 2014	Stabbing Jennings, LA	Feb 12, 2015	Shooting Sulphur, LA
Nov 11, 2014	Armed Robbery Leesville, LA	March 13, 2015	Armed Robbery Lake Charles, LA
Jan 17, 2015	Armed Robbery Lake Charles, LA	March 20, 2015	Robbery Welch, LA
Feb 7, 2015	Armed Robbery Eunice, LA	March 21, 2015	Murder Iowa, LA

Register At:

WWW.KUYPERCONSULTING.COM



337-424-6451



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.



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P.O. Box 4092
LaPlace, LA 70069-4092
<http://laopencarry.org>

Membership Application Form

Mark one option from the 3 selections below

New Membership - \$10 PER YEAR

Renewal - \$10 PER YEAR

Update Information for Current Member

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: () - CELL: () - _____

EMAIL: _____

LOCAL FORUM MEMBER? YES _____ NO _____

YOUR SCREEN NAME: _____

Dues can be submitted in person at our monthly club meeting and events or mailed to the above address.

Please make your checks or money orders payable to: **LA Open Carry Awareness League**