



July 2015 Newsletter




Meetings for July 2015

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

The Florida Parishes meeting will be on the 18th of July at the IHOP in Covington at 6:30pm


*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. 

Gun Shows

Jul 11-12, Slidell, La, Northshore Harbor Center, 100 Harbor Center Blvd.
Sat. 9am to 5pm, Sun. 10am to 4pm

Jul 18 – 19, Ponchatoula Guns and Goods, Ponchatoula Lions Club
Sat. 9am – 5pm, Sun. 10am – 4pm

Jul 25 – 26, Ponchatoula Gun Show, Ponchatoula Area Recreation
Sat. 9am – 5pm, Sun. 10am – 5pm 

The Legislative Session is Over


Thursday, June 11, marked the end of what was primarily a budget session for the Louisiana Legislature.

State lawmakers could file up to five non-fiscal related measures each. Several gun related bills made it through to the Governor's desk.

House Bill 446, sponsored by state Representative Blake Miguez (R-New Iberia), authorizes firearm accident prevention and safety instruction based on NRA's Eddie Eagle GunSafe® Program for elementary school students. The program's lifesaving message "If you see a gun: Stop! Don't Touch. Run away. Tell a grown up" will now reach even more Louisiana children thanks to passage of this important legislation. Upon the governor's signature, the measure will take effect on August 1, in time for the upcoming school year.

Current Louisiana law allows parishes to use their zoning authority to regulate hunting and shooting in "heavily populated areas." Senate Bill 133, sponsored by state Senator Barrow Peacock (R-Shreveport), specifically excludes from the definition of "heavily populated area" any tract of land that is greater than 5 acres and which includes no more than one single-family residence on the parcel or tract. Lack of available land on which to hunt is a serious challenge that sportsmen are facing in Louisiana and across the country. SB 133 addresses this challenge while balancing concerns about safety in the affected areas. This bill will take effect on August 1, once signed into law.

Existing statutes permit bow hunters to carry pistols no larger than .22 caliber with snake shot or rat shot ammunition while in the field. Senate Bill 212, sponsored by state Senator Rick Ward (R-Port Allen), would allow bow hunters to carry any caliber firearm with them for protection. The new law will become effective upon the governor's signature.

Also, Louisiana's Second Amendment sales tax holiday was ultimately spared from a one-year suspension as lawmakers grappled with a \$1.6 billion budget shortfall. The annual exemption from state and local sales taxes on individual purchases of firearms, ammunition and hunting supplies will take place Friday, September 4, through Sunday, September 6. 

St Tammany tries and fails to ban firearms on Parish Property

In April the St Tammany Parish Council had on its agenda an ordinance which would ban the possession, use, and/or discharge of weapons and/or firearms on Parish owned property and buildings. The Council punted debating this until June by which time many opponents had rallied against it. Discussion forums and social media sites alerted gun owners on the North Shore to this ordinance and the citizens showed up to shout it down. The Council was faced with several angry citizens who were quite vocal about protecting their rights. The council decided to pull the ordinance from the agenda but citizens were still allowed to speak on the subject. A video the citizens speaking out against the ordinance can be seen at: <https://vimeo.com/129853047#t=13850>

This is not over. The Council spoke about reworking the ordinance and

In This Issue

Pg. 1: Meetings for July 2015

Pg. 1: Gun Shows

Pg. 1: The Legislative Session is Over

Pg. 1: St Tammany

Pg. 2: Abbeville

Pg. 2: Excuses, Excuses


Pg. 3: OC'er wins case against Houma PD! by Justin Boquet

Pg. 4: A note from your Editor

Pg. 4: LEGAL Disclaimer

Pg. 4: Please Join LOCAL Today

Pg. 5: Membership Application Form


possibly reintroducing it at a later date. Congratulations to the citizens of St Tammany for standing up for their fundamental rights but don't relax. 

Abbeville succeeds at banning firearms on Parish Property

With little publicity the Town of Abbeville City Council unanimously passed an ordinance to ban the possession of a weapon or firearm in public buildings, including any structure that is owned, leased, or used by a government agency for public business. This applies to City Hall, public recreation buildings and all city-owned real estate. The Council also created a firearm-free zone extending 1000 feet from any school. There are no plans to install any new security measures in these locations.

Apparently the Council feels the ordinance and its threat of a \$1,000 fine is enough to prevent people from bringing weapons into those areas. You can see the full KATC story at

<http://www.katc.com/story/29224142/abbeville-council-passes-new-gun-ordinance>

Unlike the ordinance in St Tammany Parish, the first that we heard of this was when LOCAL member Nolan Melancon gave us a heads up on the LOCAL Facebook page to the story KATC did. Pro-gun citizens of the community were not alerted to this ordinance being on the agenda and apparently no efforts were made to organize resistance to it. This should remind all of us that we must constantly be watching our elected representatives, even at the city level, for attempts to infringe upon our civil rights. As soon as we are aware of something like this we need to get it out as fast as possible to as many people as possible to oppose it. Pro-gun citizens need to network and have plans to fight against ordinances similar to this in the future. 

Excuses, Excuses

I am an advocate for training. Every month I try to have a list of classes that our readers can choose from by various trainers across the state. You may have noticed that the May issue of the newsletter didn't include any training announcements. That is because I dropped the ball and missed the newsletter deadline. My only excuse is that I procrastinated because I was busy getting ready for and attending an Appleseed Project 2 day rifle class. So the reason the newsletter didn't have a training column was because of... training. I apologize to our readers and to LOCAL Treasurer/Secretary Speedy Mercer who edits and publishes the newsletter every month and who never gives me too much grief over the number of typos he has to correct every time I submit stuff for the newsletter.

Steve Raacke,

LOCAL President 

Training Here, There and Everywhere - S Raacke

Medical training is near and dear to my heart. As a teenager I volunteered in a hospital. In the Army I was Combat Lifesaver certified. Later I became a Medical First Responder and then a Emergency Medical Technician. I carry a Basic Life Support bag in the trunk of my car and a trauma kit in my pocket. You can see a short video of my pocket kit on my YouTube channel at:

<https://youtu.be/7stwy4hpLWl>

The fact is, while most of us understand the importance of being armed to protect ourselves and our loved ones, having medical training and gear is equally important. As one firearm trainer often says, I carry two trauma kits with me everywhere I go, one for inflicting trauma and one for treating

trauma.

If you ever have to pull your firearm in self defense there is a chance that you or someone you care for could be injured. Your training in how to treat that injury and the equipment you have on hand could be the matter of life and death while you wait for the ambulance to get there. So important is medical training that recently I learned of a firearms trainer who is making a CPR/First Aid/Trauma class a prerequisite to any of his firearms classes beyond a basic Conceal Carry class. LOCAL has been lucky to have among its members a few very progressive firearms instructors who routinely teach medical classes.

Two of these trainers, Brannon LeBouef and Eric Kuyper will be teaming up on Sunday, July 16 for a one day Trauma Medicine Course hosted by NOLATAC at the St Bernard Indoor Shooting Center in Arabi. Eric is a very experienced instructor and anyone looking for a one day trauma class can be assured learn a lot in this class. This is a prerequisite for the 3-Day Instructor Certification Course that they are hosting July 17-19. Cost for the CPR/FA class is \$80 and you can sign up at:

<http://www.kuyperconsulting.com/class-registration.html>

Also, if you are interested in the Instructor Certification course you can learn more about it at:

<http://www.saftd.org/instructor-courses/instructor-firearms-courses/saftd-instructor-courses>

If this looks like something you want to put on your training resume you can sign up at:

<https://stbisc.mybigcommerce.com/3-day-instructor-certification-course-july-17-19-2015-second-amendment-foundation-training-division/>

Speaking of instructor training... There was a NRA RSO/Chief Range Safety Officer (RSO Instructor) class being hosted by William A Long of Gulf Coast Shooters on June 27 and 28 at 603 S Clark St, New Orleans. Did any of our readers attend this class? I don't know anything about the instructor and am not familiar with the company but thought I'd pass this along to our readers who are interested. While it's too late to enroll in this class they seem to offer these classes regularly along with several others. You can find more information about this class and others they teach by visiting his website at <http://www.gulfcoastshooters.com/> or you can call 504-729-0255. If anyone has any feedback about the classes offered by Gulf Coast please pass it along.

Our friends at VATA in Slidell are hosting their Intro and Level 1 Tactical Pistol class on July 11 and 12. If you have recently received your La Conceal Handgun Permit you can attend the Intro class for only \$50. Here's what they had to say.

"For those of you who haven't attended a VATA course yet, but are interested, our Intro and Level I Tactical Pistol classes are up next on the schedule, July 11th and 12th. We recommend all new VATA students start out with that weekend to get familiarized with our training methods. Shooters of any experience level welcome, and even if you're a seasoned shooter, we promise you'll still be challenged and engaged. And if you have friends that may want to attend with you, you can earn a discounted rate on your registration fee through our referral discount program (for each new student who signs up and lists your name in the "how did you hear about us" field of their registration form, you receive 20% off a single day of training). We are offering a hugely discounted rate of just \$50 for our Intro to Tactical Pistol course (on the calendar July 11 and October 3) for anyone who has received their concealed carry permit in the last year in an effort to encourage people to get additional training beyond the basic permit class. The course regularly costs \$200. If you also sign up for the Tactical Pistol Level 1 course, which is always offered the following day, you will also get a discounted rate of \$175

for that class, for a total of \$225 for a full weekend of tactical training. Questions? Contact Casey@vatatrainingcenter.com. To download course outlines or register for a class, visit: <http://www.vatatrainingcenter.com>

Long time LOCAL supporter Barrett Kendrick of Bearco Training in Covington has a couple of classes you may be interested in. On July 19 he will be hosting a 1 day Dynamic Focus Handgun class. Based on the Combat Focus Shooting curriculum taught by Master Trainer Rob Pincus, this class is described as "an Intuitive shooting program designed to help the student be more efficient with a defensive firearm in the context of a Dynamic Critical Incident." and "The Dynamic Focus® Shooting Course is not designed to make you the best shooter you can be on the range, rather its goal is to help you quickly develop fundamental skills that you can apply in a worst case scenario defensive shooting situation. DFS is based on years of constantly evolving information about how the body works and what really happens during Dynamic Critical Incidents and has been heavily influenced by the diverse group of instructors that are certified to teach it and the thousands of students who have been through courses all around the world. The program features a variety of specialty drills and training methods that the student will be able to utilize in their own practice after the course in order to continue to develop their abilities. Students will fire between 500-600 rounds. Cost: \$250".

Also, on July 29 Bearco will host their Intro to Concealed Carry & Permit Certification class. Both of these classes along with additional information can be found at:

http://bearcotraining.com/calendar/action-agenda/cat_ids-7,5,10,9,6,11,15,16,14,19,20,21/

On July 27 the crew at Agoge USA in West Feliciana is teaching a Personal Protection for Women class. As they say, "The first half of the day will include the fundamentals of the handgun and we'll progress to more advanced techniques. We will train hand-to-hand combat and develop fighting skills; employ real-world, tactical applications, firing on the move, pistol retention and non-sport, martial arts techniques. This class is for any woman at any level, even if you've never held a pistol!

We teach you how to safely handle and tactically employ a firearm in a self-defense situation. After the pistol session we will then cover hand-to-hand techniques. You will learn to incorporate your body weight into attacks. We will also work from the ground. We will teach you to deliver devastating attacks. You will partner up with your female classmates and drill techniques that you may call upon to save your life."

If this sounds like something you are interested in go to:

<http://www.agogeusa.com/personal-protection-for-women.html> 

OC'er wins case against Houma PD! by Justin Boquet

My wife and I were shopping in Wal-Mart (where I've open carried countless times). We made our way to sporting goods where I was checking on ammo availability and cost. I asked the associate behind the desk to see if a box of ammo was a box of 9mm. She opened the case and handed me the bullets to look at. I noticed they were for .40 caliber and handed them back to her. I then noticed a single shot .22 caliber youth model Cricket that was on sale so I asked the associate to look at the .22. I was looking at the weapon and talking to my wife about getting it as a present for my son then gave the rifle back to the associate. Shortly after, while standing at the counter, Deputy Daniel Belanger bum-rushed me from behind and told me "put your hands on counter and do not move" without identifying himself. He then disarmed me, gave my handgun to the manager, and proceeded to cuff my right hand. I quickly reached my left hand in my pocket and handed my wife my phone

instructing her to call my dad and get in touch with my lawyer! Daniel then cuffed my left hand and began to march me to the front exit of the store. I kept telling the officer that he was violating my constitutional rights to keep and bear arms and what he was doing was illegal because I had the right to Open Carry in the state of Louisiana.

I felt very humiliated and embarrassed because of all the public saw Mr. Belenger treating me as if I were a shoplifter or a criminal while the manager tagged alongside of us carrying my still loaded pistol. Once he got me to his unit, he forced me to lean against the hood of his Suburban. The manager gave him my firearm still loaded and when I looked back he was fumbling with my still loaded pistol with the magazine removed and he then asked me why he couldn't "clear the tube" (obviously he did not know you can't pull the upper slide back to empty the chamber without taking the safety off). At this time I kept telling him what he was doing was illegal. He then asks me if I was a "sovereign citizen." I told him that I was a law abiding citizen and that I was open carrying as state law permits and what did a "sovereign citizen" have to do with what I was doing? He kept dodging the subject when I tried to ask him why I was being detained he then told me you can't just go in Wal-Mart packing a pistol and get away with it!

At this point I was highly upset because he could not tell me what I was being charged with and with his smart attitude towards me. I said "I can't believe this bullshit is happening to me in the USA" and by the time this was over, I wanted every one who was involved badge numbers, the police report and I stated that I was pressing civil charges against the Houma city police department. I was then placed in the squad car of a different deputy and transported to the Ashland annex (AT NO TIME DID HE IDENTIFY HIMSELF BEFORE ARRESTING ME AND AT NO TIME WAS I ASKED TO LEAVE THE STORE BY HIM OR THE MANAGER).

While they were booking me, I then again asked what I was being charged with and illegally detained because I never was read my Miranda rights. The two female officers in the booking room looked at each other with an "Oh my god type of look" and the officer that was booking me said that Daniel would be out in a minute. As soon as the officer told me that, Daniel came walking out with an index card telling me he was going to read me my rights and he did so in the booking area of the jail and then he told me that I was being charged with:

Entry/remaining after forbidden RS14:63.3 (\$25,000 bond)

Public intimidation RS14:122

Disturbing the peace assembly RS14:103.A5

Disturbing the peace cursing RS14:103.A2

After he left I then sat down on the bench answering questions about my tattoos and other information. I was then brought a dinner plate and I ate my food. After that, they took me to a holding tank where I spent the rest of the night and the following morning waiting for my bail to be posted freezing my tail off with only a blanket that was full of holes to keep me warm. I tried getting the officers attention that was walking in the hall they kept walking by looking at me then ignoring me. I wanted a fresh cup of water because I was thirsty and I couldn't drink from the sink in the holding tank because it was covered in feces! Finally there was a crew change and (God bless the woman that did this) and there was another officer that was walking by and I asked her for a glass of water that didn't taste like poison. I gave her my cup and she filled the cup from the fountain in the hall. A few hours later around lunch time my father came to bail me out. It cost \$3,500 bucks! That's when we got in touch with Mr. Raacke. He recommended that we see an attorney and suggested a local lawyer, Morgan Allison. We were now headed to court on my court date but, needless to say, Mr. Allison (seems to be) "in bed with HPD!" He was going to let me go back to jail on the felony charge for public intimidation! I had my case continued to seek further counsel. So there I was sitting at home after my court date wondering if I would be facing two years in prison for telling this officer I was going to file suit against him and knowing I've done nothing illegal and that I'd been bamboozled out of \$3,500 for bail

and \$3,000 for a lawyer that was going to let me hang so now I'm \$6,500 in the hole. TALK ABOUT A MESS!

Finally I receive a call from Bradley Pierson, a civil rights attorney, saying that he could represent me and get me out of the mess so I was all for it! He had decided to come down from Baton Rouge to take my case so finally fighting it out in the court system would happen. I have managed to get my belongings back from the police evidence locker but they would not give me back my 13 rounds of 9mm Black Talons "because of Department policy" and "because of the nature of the rounds" they could not give back my ammo. They then used the excuse that the ammo was destroyed while doing ballistics testing of my firearm. (yeah, right)

I filed suit against HPD and the manager of Wal-Mart. You can Google Boquet v. Belenger or read it at this website:

http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/granule/USCOURTS-laed-2_14-cv-02228/USCOURTS-laed-2_14-cv-02228-0

We took them to court and after extensive negotiation we came to the agreement that I would take the amount that was offered. I did not have to sign a non-disclosure agreement but I choose not to post how much I won but it's enough to put a nice down payment on a house I'm looking to buy around March. All in all I hope this police department has learned a valuable lesson and can better train their officers not to violate a law abiding citizens rights.

In 2008, the department had been plagued with internal rifts, sexual harassment allegations and lawsuits among employees and against local government. Former Police Chief Pat Boudreaux had also been placed on a forced leave of absence amid misconduct allegations.

<http://www.houmatoday.com/article/20150605/hurblog/150609795>

More people should stand with me and take this fight to our government and police departments. We live in scary times in which our freedoms are under attack we must stand united and take back our country and take back the freedoms that we hold so dearly onto. And I quote one of my favorite Patriots, Patrick Henry:

"They tell us sir that we are weak; unable to cope with so formidable an adversary. But when shall we be stronger? Will it be the next week, or the next year? Will it be when we are totally disarmed, and when a British guard shall be stationed in every house? Shall we gather strength by irresolution and inaction? Shall we acquire the means of effectual resistance by lying supinely on our backs and hugging the delusive phantom of hope, until our enemies shall have bound us hand and foot? Sir, we are not weak if we make a proper use of those means which the God of nature hath placed in our power."

Patrick Henry was a very wise man and had seen all of this coming and now it is creeping back and we **Must** rise up and educate the people of Louisiana. There is a time for Civil disobedience and the time is now more than ever.

I am a Patriot
I Love my God
I Love my Family
I Love my Country


I consider this winning a battle but we still have to win the war.

Justin Boquet

(printed with permission. SM)

Editor's notes:


In MY opinion there are a few things I might have done differently:

- It might have been better not to have pointed out their failure to Mirandize him.
- Telling them he would sue probably didn't help him either but I can understand his frustration.
- Carrying Black Talons, while perfectly legal, is opening you up to lawsuit city if you actually have to use your gun these days 


A note from your Editor: I'M SORRY! IT WAS WINDOWS FAULT!

I am SO sorry that this newsletter is so late this month but I suffered a series of Windows infamous "Blue Screens of Death" that rendered my notebook useless. I managed to back up all my data (which took FOREVER) and grabbed my Windows 7 DVD to format the drive and reinstall the OS. Too bad there is a bad sector in a critical file rendering my only way of recover DOA! Many attempts to get around this issue later, I give up, and see if I can get the recovery DVD's from HP. Well, HP wanted **\$60 PER CALL JUST TO TALK TO THEM! FOAD HP!** (it's Ok, I'm calm now) I found an HP "partner" that would supply the set for a free call and \$27 for the media plus \$5 shipping so I went that route. Now to wait for the media to arrive. (killed time playing with Windows 10 RC. Not that bad. Better than 8.1 by a MILE!) When they arrived, I installed Windows 7, applied my upgrade to 7 Pro and applied 12,638 patches, rebooted 87 times, reinstalled all my needed software, rebooted 87 more times, configured it all and spent **forever** restoring my data and THAT'S why the newsletter was late!



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. 

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 (and there are very few) from us as they become necessary. 



Louisiana Open Carry Awareness League
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LaPlace, LA 70069-4092

<http://laopencarry.org>

Membership Application Form

Mark one option 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 or mailed to the above address.
Please make your checks or money orders payable to: **LA Open Carry Awareness League**