



# Sept 2015 Newsletter



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### Meetings

The **Lake Charles** group will meet the Sept. 3 at 5:30 pm at Wendy's on LA-108 in **Sulphur, La.** The Sulphur Police Dept. has agreed to meet with us if at all possible.

The **Florida Parishes** group will meet Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm at the IHOP in **Covington.** 

### September Gun Shows

**Gonzales, Sept 5-6**, Lamar-Dixon Expo Ctr, Trade Mart Bldg 250T, SAT 9-5, SUN 10-4

**Mandeville, Sept 12-13**, Castine Center, SAT 9-5, SUN 10-5

**Chalmette, Sept 19-20**, Sigur Center, SAT 9-5, SUN 10-4:30

**Ruston, Sept 19-20**, Ruston Civic Center, SAT 9-5, SUN 10-5

**Alexandria, Sept 26-27**, Sai Convention Center, SAT 9-5, SUN 10-4

**Houma, Sept 26-27**, Evergreen Cajun Center, SAT 9-5, SUN 10-5 

### Where can't I Open Carry?

*Partial quote from an article by Owen Courrèges:*

Federal gun free school zone statute makes it a crime to unlawfully possess a firearm within 1,000 feet of every elementary and secondary school:

The federal Gun-Free School Zone Act, codified at 18 U.S.C. § 922(q)

The only exceptions made were: 1) for those on private property; 2) for those with a Louisiana-issued concealed-carry permit; and, 3) for on-duty law enforcement acting in an official capacity.

Louisiana does have its own "firearm free zone" law, La. Rev. Stat. § 14:95.6

However, the federal statute trumps all state laws, including state constitutional protections. And the federal law neither features an exception for firearms that are being otherwise carried or transported legally, nor does it exclude off-duty police officers.

***What all this means is that if you simply cross the sidewalk on your way to your car with a firearm – which is your constitutional right under state law – you can do five years in a federal prison. Likewise, if you simply drive within a few blocks of a school with a firearm, and it isn't unloaded and locked up, you're potentially staring down felony charges.***

See full article at: <http://uptownmessenger.com/2015/08/owen-courreges-the-far-reaching-net-of-federal-gun-free-zones/> 

### Prairieville Flea Market No Weapons Signs

Post by K111969 on LOCAL Forum at

<http://laopencarry.org/forum/viewtopic.php?f=15&t=232>

Hello All, I went to the Prairieville Flea market Saturday 8/8 just like I do every two weeks, and same as always, I had my weapon on my side. As I shopped in a booth a woman said very loud "he has a gun." I looked up to see where the criminal was and low and behold she meant me. She said are you a lawman and I said no ma'am. She said "well you know I've been robbed several times at gun point." I said I was sorry to hear that, but in 30 years like this, I've never been robbed. She laughed and said that's because you have a gun and I replied exactly right. She then went on to tell me the property is posted "No Weapons" I said in that case I'll take my business elsewhere. She said No since she spoke to me she wasn't afraid but that the police on duty would make me leave. I said ok but he hasn't the 3 dozen or so times I've passed him in the last few years.

As I passed the bathrooms I did see a sign saying No Weapons so I headed straight out and yep they have shiny new No Weapons signs out by the road.

I guess legal folks aren't welcome... 

### HTPS Course now approved for GI Bill funding

The High Threat Protection Specialist (HTPS) Course is a 19-day, protective specialist course that has been approved by the US Department of Veterans Affairs for GI Bill funding.

The HTPS course bridges the gap between conventional domestic protective operations and war-zone PSD work. The 19-day HTPS course will provide the training, knowledge, and skill sets, to be a proficient protective team leader/member in all threat areas by focusing on one of the most challenging protective environments, the High Threat-Low Profile area of operations.

**Prerequisites:** Clean Criminal and Psychological profile

**Location:** San Diego County, California USA

**Length of course:** 19 days (220 hours)

**Dates:** October 21 – November 8, 2012

**Cost:** \$4,950 (*GI Bill Approved*)

<http://forum.nolatac.com/showthread.php?1224-Spend-your-GI-Bill-on-Firearms-Training-Veterans-check-it-out> 

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## September Training

There are several classes coming up in September at the **St Bernard Indoor Shooting Center**.

Sept 6 is a Women's Only Self Defense Course

Sept 12 and again on Sept 20 NOLATAC will host LA CHP courses

Sept 26 and 27 will be the dates for the NRA Basic Pistol Instructor Course

To sign up go to <https://stbisc.mybigcommerce.com/training/>

**Bearco Training in St Tammany Parish** is teaching the following classes,

Sept 11-Intro to Conceal Carry and Permit Certification

Sept 18-Intro to Defensive Handguns

Sept 19-Home Defense 360

Sept 20-Dynamic Focus Handgun (1 day)

To learn more and sign up go to <http://bearcotraining.com/>

**Phobos Solutions** has these classes scheduled in September,

Sept 12-Defensive Handgun 201

Sept 13-Carbine 201

Sept 26 and 27- Precision Rifle 101

Sept 26-Shotgun 101 followed on Sept 27 by Course 201

The rifle class will be on their range in **Covington** and the others are at the Plaquemine Parish Sheriffs range.

More info is available at <http://www.phobossolutions.com/calendar.html>

**VATA Training in Slidell** has these classes scheduled for September

Sept 12- Intro to Tactical Carbine

Sept 13- Tactical Carbine Level 1

Sept 26 and 27- Intro Force on Force Pistol (with Simunitions)

Everything you need is at <http://www.vatatrainingcenter.com/>

**La Conceal Carry** is hosting La CHP classes on Sept 5 and Sept 12.

They are located in **Metairie** and are proud LOCAL supporters.

Their website is at <http://www.laconcealedcarry.com/>

Our friends at **Agoge** are located in the **Baton Rouge** area and have these classes on the calendar for September.

Sept 12 and 13- Rifle Gun Fighting 1

Sept 19-Conceal Handgun

Sept 26 and 27- Pistol Gun Fighting 1

Check them out at <http://agogeusa.com/index.html>

**Kuyper Consulting** is having a class Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am - 6:00 pm at 205 1st Ave, **Kinder**, LA 70648. Full price attendees may bring a veteran in for FREE (with a DD214 or Military/DAV ID). See their page at: <http://www.kuyperconsulting.com/louisiana-chp.html>

I'm a fan of **Project Appleseed** and consider it some of the best rifle training you can get for the money.

They have a two day "split" class in Sept. Day one is on Saturday Sept 5. Day two is Monday Sept 7(Labor Day).

The class will be at the **Camp Villere National Guard Post in Slidell**. Cost is \$60 of both days. 18 years old and under can take the class for \$20. Active military, LEOs, disabled, reenactors in period dress and elected officials take the training for free.

I've taken a Project Appleseed course and highly recommend it. <http://www.appleseedinfo.org/search-states-display.php?qstate=LA&statername=Louisiana>

**Complete Tactical Solutions** is hosting a LA CHP class in **St Francisville** on Saturday Sept 19

Cost is \$115. Call (906) 202-0744 or email [shootglock34@yahoo.com](mailto:shootglock34@yahoo.com) to register.

Visit their Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/CompleteTacticalSolutions?fref=fb> 

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## Competition

After taking some classes you may be interested in some friendly competition to test your new found skills. Here are some Rifle and Pistol matches in September:

Sept 12 - Holmwood **NRA Outdoor Pistol 27000 Match**

<http://www.louisianashooting.com/cgi-bin/calendar/event.cgi?submit=show&eventid=473>

Sept 19- Donaldsonville High Power Rifle (200, 300 and 600 yards)

<http://www.louisianashooting.com/cgi-bin/calendar/event.cgi?submit=show&eventid=484>

Sept 26- Donaldsonville **NRA Outdoor Pistol 1800 Match**

<http://www.louisianashooting.com/cgi-bin/calendar/event.cgi?submit=show&eventid=491>

If you are interested in "action" shooting such as **USPSA, Steel, ICORE or IDPA** we recommend you visit <http://www.lagator.org/> to learn where matches are being held in your area. There are monthly matches held in **Thibodaux, Gonzales and Amite**.

The **St Bernard Indoor Shooting Range** hosts steel plate matches every other Friday evening. Give them a call at (504) 982-5433 to find out when the next plate match is scheduled and what you need to bring. 

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## Stand Your Ground

*Partial quote from an article by Owen Courrèges:*

One of the chief headaches one gets from monitoring the news cycle relates to the fact that it isn't self-correcting. A tiny seed of disinformation grows to become a sturdy tree of conventional wisdom.

First, it would be prudent to deliver a primer on what SYG really means. You see, 49 out of 50 states use what is called "common law," which is just a fancy way of saying that judges came up with governing legal precepts over time. This system was brought to us from Great Britain.

The bottom line: if the jury believed that the victim could have reasonably retreated, they could not claim self-defense even though they were being violently attacked.

Louisiana is different. We are a "civil law" state, meaning that the legislature creates the legal precepts. Accordingly, Louisiana never had a duty to retreat. For us, SYG is not something special that was imposed, but rather something that has always been.

Don't take my word for it, though. In the case of *State v. Simon*, 131 La. 520, 532 (La. 1912), the Louisiana Supreme Court approved of a jury charge that said "[i]f a man who is not at fault is suddenly assaulted by another, who intends to kill him or to inflict on him great bodily harm, he is not bound to retreat at all, but he may stand his ground and kill his assailant if there is reasonable, apparent necessity for so doing to save his life or to protect his person."

Similar language is included today in La. Rev. Stat. § 14:20(C), which states that "[a] person who is not engaged in unlawful activity and who is in a place where he or she has a right to be shall have no duty to retreat before using deadly force as provided for in this Section, and may stand his or her ground and meet force with force."

The threshold issue in applying SYG is that the person is actually defending themselves against an active attack. The secondary issue is whether retreat is actually a possibility. If the answer to either question is "no," SYG isn't decisive.

Louisiana's self-defense laws are sane and rational, just as they were a century ago. It's the rest of the country that's been playing catch up. That's the firm reality that needs to be reported.

*Owen Courrèges, a New Orleans attorney and resident of the Garden District, offers his opinions for UptownMessenger.com on Mondays. He has previously written for the Reason Public Policy Foundation.*

See full article here: <http://uptownmessenger.com/2015/06/owen-courreges-stand-your-ground-is-no-license-to-kill/>

*Editor's Note:* The new version of Law 14:19 says that if someone is trying to break into your house or is attempting a carjacking, and you wound the invader, you get the benefit of the doubt that you acted reasonably. 

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## CHP Instructor 2<sup>nd</sup> Meet & Greet

On Saturday, August 22, I drove out to Bergeron's Restaurant in Port Allen. I had been invited to attend the Second Annual CHP Instructors Meet and Greet hosted by Brannon LeBeouf of NOLATAC and the St Bernard Indoor Shooting Center.

The night before the meeting I assembled 20 "info packets" to hand out. These were made up of back issues of the LOCAL Newsletter, a LOCAL tri-fold pamphlet, a couple of the Guns Save Lives stickers and the "What Every Gun Owner Should Know about Self Defense Law" booklet.

Upon arriving at Bergeron's I saw faces I recognized from training classes I have attended including pistol classes and even the Project Appleseed rifle class I recently took. There were firearms instructors from across the state. Some drove from as far away as Monroe.

As Brannon started things off others filed in, late due to wrecks on the Interstates. I handed out all 20 of the LOCAL packets I had and realized that I could have used a few more. I had underestimated the size of the audience.

Brannon began with some introductions and explaining that, while most of us agree that requiring a permit to conceal carry may be an infringement on the right to bear arms, if we are stuck with this requirement then it is only right that instructors be able to provide the best, most factual information possible.

The next 7 hours were some of the most uplifting and encouraging that I had spent in quite a while.

I was in a pro-gun restaurant with more than 20 firearms instructors who were there to network and learn how to excel at teaching their students. The audience was a mix of instructors who had been teaching for years and were very knowledgeable and others who were new to instructing and were still learning things. I was surprised when an instructor at my table asked me, as Brannon was discussing various gun rights groups, "What's the GOA?". Here was a guy who teaches CHP classes who was not familiar with Gun Owners of America, one of the top gun rights groups in the nation. Clearly he had much to learn.

Brannon went over marketing and branding of your company and classes. Using social media, fliers and even handouts like ink pens with your logo. People have to know who you are and what you are doing.

Brannon covered lots of other topics including some of the "myths" of gun laws and how the different statutes and rules are interpreted. There was much discussion on what some instructors were teaching and if it was legally correct. The rules requiring certain things like child safety and cleaning of firearms and the time to teach those topics got lots of coverage. Several instructors taught CHP classes using the NRA Basic Pistol curriculum. As Brannon pointed out, the NRA course does not cover everything required by law. Brannon also went over renewals and how he had been guilty of doing as some instructors and only teaching 4 hour renewal classes. He pointed out how the rules state that the same topic covered in the initial training must also be covered during renewal training. If it took you 9 hours to cover the same items in the initial class how are you able to do them in less than half the time in a renewal? This was followed by the advice to invite fellow instructors to attend each other's classes and then provide feedback.

Things got very interesting when it got to the subject of CHP classes being taught by instructors who were clearly putting out misinformation or who were not teaching the required subjects.

As we have all heard, some instructors are pretty good at teaching and some are fantastic. Then there are those who stick a video tape in a machine or show YouTube videos for the majority of their class. Some will tell war stories for 4 hours and then sign off on a student's certificate. And some will just take your money and give you a certificate.

None of this set well with the CHP instructors gathered in Port Allen. I learned that for quite some time they have been working among themselves

to find these bad instructors and report them to the LSP CHP office. At least instructor had paid for family members to attend these subpar classes and record and report on what was taught. Like the list we have on the LOCAL forum with recommended firearms instructors, these guys were talking about putting together something like Angie's List for firearms instructors. We joked that we could call it Brannon's List.

Quick, someone purchase that domain name.

As we were being served our lunches another instructor who works in television news spoke about speaking to the media, or more importantly, not speaking to the media, any media, including a YouTube commando with a cell phone. What you can say or what you have said in the past can hurt you.

We also heard from a retired lawyer who told us just how little is taught in law school regarding gun rights and firearms laws. We learned that while case law can give you an idea how a law is interpreted, every case is different and yours could easily be the case that is decided differently than all of the others. It's important to have a plan for contacting and paying a lawyer before you ever get in trouble.

Just after lunch our special guest, Sgt Shavers from the La State Police CHP unit, spoke to the audience. With him was Ms Hardin who works in the LSP records department. Sgt Shavers and Ms Hardin explained how they review CHP applications and work to ensure that everything is done to get the permits out quickly to as many applicants as possible. Instead of looking for ways to reject every application they get for any reason they can come up with, Ms Hardin talked about calling applicants on the phone to walk them correcting problems with their packets. As she said, "It would be easy to just reject every packet we get which has errors. We don't refund the fee so we would have a very nice sized Christmas party fund. But that's not right. We want to help as many people as we can get their permits so they can defend themselves." WOW!! Talk about 180 degrees from what we hear from government employees in states like New Jersey or California.

Sgt Shavers answered several questions about various rules and laws covering how and where citizens can carry and questions about the requirements for the CHP classes. He spoke on the fact that there are approx 1200 CHP instructors registered with LSP. Somewhere around 700 to 800 are actively teaching classes at least once a year. While there is nothing wrong with an instructor not teaching a lot of classes, he was glad to see that there was an effort by those attending this meeting to raise the standards and hold each other accountable.

After Sgt Shavers and Ms Hardin spoke the meeting broke up. Many of the instructors had a long drive home and most had gotten much of their questions answered from Brannon's presentations and from Sgt Shavers. I spoke with Ms Hardin and presented her with one of our info packs and asked her to look through it and learn about us. She assured me that she would and then told Sgt Shavers that as soon as she was done reading our newsletters she was going to pass them on to him.

After some packing up, around a dozen of us remained. Brannon spent some time discussing trauma medical supplies and putting together an Individual First Aid Kit or IFAK. I have a pocket IFAK I carry every day in my back pocket as well as an IFAK for my range bag and another in my car, so this was something I was familiar with. Not everyone was though. There were

instructors there who had never taken a medical class and had never seen many of the items lying in front of us. There were different types of gauze, haemostatic agents like Quick Clot, several models of tourniquets and pouches to attach to your belt or plate carrier at the range. After going over the importance of trauma medical training for instructors working with firearms, Brannon recommended that everyone always have a medical kit available during their classes.

With this we thanked the manager of the restaurant for taking such good care of everything. The meet up was over and we headed home.

As I drove back across the Mississippi River Bridge I was upbeat and energized. I called LOCAL Sec/Treasurer Speedy Mercer and told him about the meeting. It was such a positive and rewarding experience for me that I told him that I felt as though I had just been at an old style church revival. I had been so caught up reading about attacks on our rights by people like Shannon Watts and Michael Bloomberg that I had gone to this meeting feeling exhausted. I hear so many reports of CHP instructors who are putting out myths, misinformation and outright lies. It was starting to burn me out. Sitting in a room full of instructors who were focused on doing their best to fix that problem was encouraging. I was there representing LOCAL but didn't have a single person try to argue about open carry being a disadvantage. I was welcomed even though I was not a CHP instructor. I was surrounded by professionals who only want to be the best that they can be so they can pass on their knowledge to their students, knowledge that may help save the lives of those students.

I am grateful to Brannon for inviting me to his event. I am glad to have met so many new people and told them about our gun rights group. I look forward to taking classes from some of them. Most of all, I look forward to attending the 3rd annual CHP Instructor Meet and Greet in a year from now.

Steve Raacke

LOCAL President 



**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  
P.O. Box 4092  
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**