



Standing Guard! We are under constant attack and must remain on guard! Since January 1, several bad bills have surfaced and just this week a bill that would eliminate the preemption of firearm regulations which would make Wisconsin a maze of restrictions of your rights. We need your help!

It's easy to support **Wisconsin FORCE** -- [Log In](#) -- Click on Donate -- Use Visa, MasterCard or Discover Card!

Protect your Rights -- How to be Effective -- Contact your Legislators

Your Membership

- Join/maintain your Wisconsin FORCE membership (\$20 annually, \$250 Life)
- Upgrade to an annual Patriot Member (\$250 annually)
- Donate to Wisconsin FORCE on a regular basis

Your Club

- Promote and support your club's membership (\$30 annually)
- Upgrade your club to Patriot Club level (\$250 annually)
- Propose that your club donate to Wisconsin FORCE
- Promote Wisconsin FORCE to fellow club members (contact jeff@wisconsinforce.org for promotional items)

Your Business

- Join/maintain a business membership -- \$30 annually or Patriot business level at \$250 annually
- Donate to Wisconsin FORCE
- Promote Wisconsin FORCE to your customers (contact jeff@wisconsinforce.org for promotional items)

Contact All Your Representatives

- Contact by phone, mail, or email, twice a year, once in January

and again in September. Always be polite to whoever you reach in their office. Let them know you are a Wisconsin FORCE member and you support our activities in Madison.

- When alerts are sent, contact your legislators by phone, mail, or email. Always be polite to whoever you reach in their office. Let them know you are a Wisconsin FORCE member and support our activities in Madison.
- When called on, show up at Committee hearings in Madison. Just by registering you have influence. If you would like to speak, keep it brief and to the point and try not to repeat information that has already been stated, but confirm your support of that testimony. Contact Jeff prior to the hearing by email and at the hearing.
- Remember to call **all** your representatives being sure to thank those that support your rights.

By doing some or all you can help support our freedom.

To find your legislators go to <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/> and put your address in the "Find my legislators" box. Make sure to include Governor Walker.

Attend The Wisconsin FORCE/NRA State Convention! Fliers on pages 5 & 6



NRA-ILA FrontLines™ Wisconsin
Register for the **Grassroots Workshop at the State Convention**
Sunday February 7, 9 -10:30 am – Free Continental Breakfast
http://www.nrailafrontlines.com/nraila_workshop_Wisconsin

You must register to attend!

Join our FREE NRA-ILA FrontLines™ Volunteer Program in Wisconsin

To join or for more information go to: <http://www.nrailafrontlines.com> Please feel free to reach out directly with any questions or suggestions along the way at Suzanne@nrailafrontlines.com Suzanne Anglewicz, NRA-ILA Midwest Field Rep/Staff Attorney



Your Hunter Marksman is on the way!

It was delayed due to technical issues. The Board of Directors asks that you please accept our apologies.

Wisconsin FORCE Gun Shows May 14 and Sept. 17, 2016—Seymour WI
See us at the Central Wisconsin Gun Collectors Fond du Lac Gun Shows

From the Executive Director

2016 will be a turning point in Wisconsin and the Nation. I attended the NRA meetings last week in Fairfax and, as always, I have brought back a wealth of contacts and information on what is in the works and how best to defend Wisconsin. The ability to discuss issues with leaders from across the country and NRA staff makes the work we do in Wisconsin more efficient and effective. I had a couple great conversations with David Kopel (Fact Check article in this issue), discussing a wide variety of issues. You will meet our new ILA Rep., Scott Rausch, in the Hunter Marksman. You should receive it in the next couple of days. While at the meetings, Scott and I had time to sit down and start to formulate a plan. It is a scary time, but with John Commerford moving up and Scott coming in we have great allies in the fight. Since the first of the year the attacks have stepped up and continue. Our work is cut out for us this year. I hope to see you at the State Convention. Governor Walker will make an appearance, and it will be a great weekend to learn what is going on and how to help. The website is working great and members that renew on-line have let us know how quick and easy it is. Our May gun show is looking good including NRA/ILA FrontLines, who will be at the show. As always, we will be at the Central Wisconsin Gun Collectors, Fond du Lac show, January 23 and 24, as will NRA/ILA FrontLines. Please stop in and see me. I have some promotional items, and you will be able to take a look at our new hats and shirts.



This month's picture is of my grandson Connor who just turned five months old. This picture reminds me why I have and will always fight. That smile will be even bigger his first day with me on the range exercising our freedoms. Whatever your motivation, we need your help. We are, just like everyone else, asking for your support. Money is always needed, and you know the good work we do. We work every day behind the scenes, but we don't make up problems to miraculously fix, take credit for others' hard work, or exaggerate what we do and have done. An investment in Wisconsin FORCE is an investment in the future of Wisconsin so that your children and grandchildren can shoot alongside Connor someday.

Teach Freedom – Jeff

NRA Field Rep. Scott Taetsch
STaetsch@nrahq.org
715-873-3360

Direct NRA Contact
Wisconsin FORCE
contact@wisconsinforce.org
920-687-0505

ILA Midwest Field Rep Suzanne Anglewicz
Suzanne@nraiafrontlines.com
703-346-7124



Have a great time while supporting our shooting heritage!

Special items available ONLY at your local Friends event!

Dates, locations and information, [CLICK HERE!](#)

Make sure to check the event flier for special deals!



Winnequah Gun Club host USPSA Area 5 - Shells On The Beach – Front Sight - Bob de Lambertsend Winnequah Gun Club in Lodi, Wisconsin had the honor of hosting the 2015 USPSA Area 5 Championship. Winnequah Gun Club is a beautiful and historical gun club that sits on 350+ acres of land between Lodi and Harmony Grove. The property owned by the Winnequah Gun Club has been used as a firing range for many, many years, dating back to a brief time when a Civil War unit camped and trained on the grounds. Organized civilian type shooting began back in 1919 with the installation of targets on the range and matches were had throughout the 1920's and 1930's, until the club disbanded with the onset of World War II. Except for that brief break during the war, pistol and rifle matches have been held on the wonderful property to this day. Winnequah is tucked away minutes off the interstate for easy access. The club consists of multiple ranges and structures, including a beautiful indoor range.
..... continued on page 13

2016 Wisconsin FORCE Annual CMP Garand Raffle includes GI ammo can with 280 rounds of surplus ammo on 35 USGI clips

All proceeds go to Wisconsin FORCE Junior Service Rifle Team!

\$20 per ticket LIMITED TO 300 TICKETS! Garand raffle is sponsored by the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP). The winner will comply with CMP M1 rifle procedures.



Ammo only raffle!
12-20 Round Boxes Lake City
30-06 M2 Ball Ammo
in GI can!
\$5 per ticket 5/\$20
LIMITED TO 200 TICKETS!

Both raffles will be drawn February 6, 2016 at the NRA/WF State Convention. You need not be present to win. ALL FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS APPLY! Must be 18 years of age to win. Contact Dave 920-851-8625 holubdave@yahoo.com

The Sound of Freedom is heard here!

Education, Training, Safety, & Marksmanship

On the Range - Jeff Nass

Our range seminars take from four to six hours and include a substantial amount of information. We are working on having several one hour seminars based on the complete range seminar. The first one will be target placement, with additional seminars based on demand.

Good advice? When we give advice, we try to include multiple site-specific alternatives.

That doesn't mean all your members will like them. An example is using snow fence for hanging targets. Some people love the snow fence and others hate it. The same is true

for what type of surface is best on a range or firing line. Just a few suggestions are concrete, blacktop, gravel with the fines, pea gravel, grass, wood, nylon ground cover, and ??? Years ago I suggested using pea gravel at my home club in front of the 100 yard firing line.

Through the grapevine I learned that some really hated it and eventually it was changed to gravel with the fines. The complaints were legit.

When I give options, I give the positives and negatives. Like the snow fence, I also get reports on how great it works. When I give advice, I offer safe alternatives that may fit your needs and resources.

You have heard of Patriot Member Club Hudson Rod, Gun, and Archery in past articles and in the range seminar. There are great things happening on the west side of the state. The state statutes on range protection are part of our range seminar, and I frequently link people to them when requested. Now we have them on the website. Hudson had a great idea and put a link on their club website -- great idea!

Because of Wisconsin FORCE and the NRA we have great range protection. Providing information on your site can fend off attacks and help educate everyone on your rights. The link is <http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/895/II/527>

This month's picture is of the surface of the 25 yard range at the Chippewa County Public range. Concrete makes a great range surface. It reduces ricochets and allows for efficient snow removal and winter range use.. Our advice is used by the DNR, clubs, law enforcement, and businesses. We are the top resource in the state for range upgrades, improvements, and expansions. Start early on your plans for next year and include Wisconsin FORCE from the start of that process. Your time is valuable; we can help you from wasting time and resources. We can guide you on state laws and connect you directly with the great minds at NRA legal when needed.

For Range and Club issues contact Jeff at jeff@wisconsinforce.org / 920-687-0505 **Not for Profit, doesn't mean, Not Prepared!**

1. Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.

2. Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.

3. Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.

4. Always treat a firearm as if it were loaded.



How to Open a Master Lock with No Key or Special Tools – OutdoorHub 12/1/15

If you are using a Master Lock to secure your valuables right now, this video will probably make you think twice about your security. YouTuber [bosnianbill](#) uploaded this shocking video in which he opens a Master Lock by simply applying tension and gently tapping it with a hammer. This is a particularly worrisome exploit for two reasons. First, this type of lock is one of the most commonly used in the country. Second, this exploit requires no skill or specialized tools. In fact, you could probably replicate this hack by using a rock instead of a hammer. Who knew that picking a lock could be so easy?

[Click Here to view.](#)



A concealed carry checklist for personal protection - Multibrief.com - Ben Findley

12-7-15 *Editor: Each individual has their own needs and abilities. We always recommend that you look for as much information as possible. Articles in the Trigger are there for you to review and decide whether all or part has value. Many times you can learn what not to do by reading what others suggest. Always take what you read with a "grain of salt." We offer articles that we think may be of interest.*

Given the terrible terrorist activities recently, now is a critical time for us to be concerned about our personal protection. We as responsible concealed carry folks must recognize and reinforce the necessary things that must be done. There are many things for a conscientious person to be concerned about when legally carrying a concealed handgun for personal protection. It is sufficient to just possess a gun.

A concealed carry (CC) student recently asked me if I could summarize the key elements and considerations for carrying concealed and offer my personal protection guidelines. Seven or eight things immediately came to mind, but I quickly realized I had forgotten some important considerations. I took them for granted since they were ingrained in my muscle memory, and I automatically handled them. ...cont..on page 9



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Outdoor Report summary for 12-3-15 More than 612,000 hunters afield for nine-day deer hunt; muzzleloader season open through Dec. 9

Wisconsin's nine-day regular gun season ended Sunday, with more than 612,000 hunters out in the field. Preliminary registration totals indicate hunters brought in 201,812 deer during the nine-day season. A muzzleloader gun season is now open statewide and runs through December 9. This will be followed by an antlerless-only firearm hunt from December 10 through 13 in those parts of the state open to antlerless hunting. As a reminder, all hunters, except waterfowl hunters, are required to wear blaze orange clothing whenever a firearms deer season is open.

Parts of northern Wisconsin received 2 to 4 inches of snow earlier this week, but unseasonably warm temperatures are in the forecast and much of the snow is melting, as has the snow that fell last weekend in southern Wisconsin. Many lakes across the Northwoods became ice covered in the last week, but thickness is variable and only in the range of 1 to 3 inches. As such, ice conditions are extremely variable and generally unsafe for any kind of ice travel. With that said, there have been the first sightings of early season ice anglers venturing out, but they are staying in shallow water and close to shore. The first reports indicate minimal success with just a few smaller walleye caught. Lakes remain open through most of central and southern Wisconsin, allowing anglers to continue to fish from boats. Some skim ice has been forming along shorelines, but the very warm temperatures forecast for this weekend should make most of that melt away.

A few duck hunters are taking advantage of the last few days of the southern zone season, which closes Dec. 6. The freeze-up starting on northern lakes has moved some additional ducks down, but the unusually warmer temperatures have promoted a slow migration throughout the fall.

Turkeys have begun forming winter flocks, so late-season turkey hunters may see a change in the daily patterns they've been observing. Pheasant hunters are still having good success with many birds seen in recent days drying out alongside the road ditches and parking areas. Pheasant stocking has resumed and will continue to provide opportunities for pheasant hunters through the rest of the season, which runs through Dec. 31. Squirrel numbers in southwestern Wisconsin have been very strong this year and have been offering plenty of challenges for beginning and advanced hunters alike.

A reminder that next Thursday, Dec. 10, is the application deadline for 2016 spring turkey and bear permits.

A lot of eagle and crow sightings have been reported with all the gut piles left over from the nine-day season. Waterfowl viewing opportunities still abound along the Mississippi River, with bluebills, canvasbacks, goldeneyes, buffleheads, mallards, ringnecks, and tundra swans remaining in numerous areas along Highway 35, especially between Ferryville and Lynxville. Lake Michigan has good numbers of red-breasted mergansers along with some scoters, red-throated and common loons, and other regular species. Great horned owls are already ramping up courtship activities. Listen for dueting pairs on calm nights, with the male's deeper hoot standing out from the female's higher-pitched response.

After an atypically large influx in October, reports of snowy owls have dropped off precipitously. As of November 30, approximately 87 have been tallied in 40 counties statewide. However, only 22 new birds were reported in all of November and only a handful of owls have been detected in recent weeks. Get the latest update on the [snowy owl](#) page of the DNR website.

Fact check: Obama claim that 'I say this every time we've got one of these mass shootings; this just doesn't happen in other countries.' - Washington Post - [David Kopel](#) - 12-1-15

This morning in Paris (!), [President Obama said at a news conference](#), "I mean, I say this every time we've got one of these mass shootings; this just doesn't happen in other countries." Is his statement true?

In one sense, the answer would be "yes." President Obama's statement was in the form of: "Every time X happens, I say Y." As a historic self-description of Obama's own rhetoric, Obama's statement is mostly true, but only in recent years.

When President Obama was running for national office in 2007 through November 2012, he never used mass shootings to compare the United States unfavorably with other countries. Nor did he use mass murders as an occasion to make political demands for gun control. This was his rhetorical approach from the Virginia Tech murders in April 2007, through the Aurora theater murders in July 2012. However, as President Obama [explained](#) to Russian President Dmitry Medvedev in March 2012, "After my election I have more flexibility."

This was an accurate prediction, and not just about foreign relations. After winning reelection in November 2012, President Obama in December 2012 used the Newtown, Conn., murders as the basis to make gun control the primary focus of his political efforts through April 2013. He has promised that gun control will be his [top priority](#) during his final year in office. When commenting on mass murders in the United States, President Obama has repeatedly claimed that such crimes do not occur in other countries.

Thus, the President's Dec. 1 statement is mostly accurate as a self-description of what he frequently says, at least from December 2012 onward. Is the president's statement about "other countries" accurate? No. For example, on Nov. 20, 2015, mass shooters attacked a [hotel in Mali](#), murdering at least 19 people.

Although President Obama has relatives in Kenya, his statement suggests a lack of awareness of events there. On April 2, 2015, [criminals murdered 142 students](#) at the University College Campus of Garissa, in northeastern Kenya.continued on page 8



NRA/WISCONSIN FORCE STATE CONVENTION

2016

NOW MORE THAN EVER!

“The time is near at hand which must determine whether Americans are to be free men or slaves” ... General Washington, Aug 26, 1776

Join us and fellow PATRIOTS for the
10th Annual Wisconsin

NRA STATE CONVENTION **February 5, 6, & 7, 2016**

Mountain Bay Banquet & Conference Center
(Dale's Weston Lanes)

5902 Schofield Avenue, Weston, WI 54476

For discount on lodging, use Group Code: NRA
Phone 715-355-9955

FREE Seminars!

Space is limited, registration **REQUIRED**
Fill out Page 2 and mail or fax.

Invited Guests Include:

Scott Walker

Governor State of Wisconsin

Kayne Robinson

Past President NRA

Chad Franklin

NRA Central Region Director

Buster Bachhuber

NRA Board of Director

Suzanne Anglewicz

NRA-ILA Midwest Field Rep/Staff Attorney

...and many more



WISCONSIN **FORCE**

Wisconsin Firearm Owners, Ranges, Clubs, & Educators, Inc.

NRA-ILA

INSTITUTE for LEGISLATIVE ACTION

NRA

VOLUNTEER
FIELD SUPPORT TEAM

FRIENDS OF **NRA**

Questions/Comments:

- NRA Senior Field Representative Scott Taetsch
E-mail: staetsch@nrahq.org
- Wisconsin FORCE Executive Director Jeff Nass
Ph. 920-687-0505
E-mail: jeff@wisconsinforce.org

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Lowe Manufacturing Inc., Viola, WI

Central Wisconsin Gun Collectors Association

Due to overwhelming interest and limited space, register today!

NRA/Wisconsin FORCE STATE CONVENTION

Registration is required for all events! **DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY, FEB 3**

SPECIAL DISCOUNTED **NRA** and **Wisconsin FORCE** memberships will be available!

No video or audio recording allowed without expressed written permission.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

Name (if using creditcard, name on card)

Email Address

Address, City, State, Zip Code (if using credit card, address on card.)

Phone Number **REQUIRED** if using credit card

Registration is **REQUIRED** in order to have enough packets for all attendees.

Qty YES! I/we will be attending the following events:

	Friday	Feb. 5	4 pm	Meet and Greet!	FREE
			7 pm	State Fund Committee Meeting, RESTRICTED voting and team representatives ONLY	N/A
	Saturday	Feb. 6	8 am	Preserving Our RIGHTS – NRA Field Support Team and Friends of NRA workshop.	FREE
			10 am	Wisconsin FORCE Junior Board of Directors Mtg – Register www.wisconsinforce.org	FREE
			10:30 am	Wisconsin FORCE Junior Team Meeting – Register www.wisconsinforce.org	FREE
			1 pm	Wisconsin FORCE Annual Meeting: OPEN to ALL: Register www.wisconsinforce.org Members must register on-line or have their membership card to VOTE	FREE
↓	Registration Below		5-10 pm	Annual State Appreciation/Awards Banquet	BELOW
	Sunday	Feb. 7	9-10:30 am	Continental breakfast, NRA/ILA Grassroots Workshop: WINNING in 2016	FREE

	Saturday	Feb. 6	5-10 pm	Annual State Appreciation/Awards Banquet; *\$50.00 each, OPEN to all! LIMITED SEATING! You must pre-register, including payment, to reserve.	\$ -00
				Raffle Packets: \$200 worth for \$100 or \$700 worth for \$300 (Deadline Feb. 3, 2016)	\$ -00
				Total Due	\$ -00

***NRA Field Support Team/Friends of NRA Team Members ONLY!**

*Refund will be issued at the door or receive \$60 worth of Friends Raffle Tickets.

* I am a Team Member. Committee Name & Number _____ Yes ___ I want the raffle tickets.

*Each Team Member MUST have their own registration form. Only one Team Member refund or raffle ticket pack per registration form.

___ Table of 8 in the name of: _____ **ALL 8 forms MUST be mailed in together!**

___ Enclosed is my check, payable to: Annual Awards Banquet for the Total Due.

___ Charge my Credit Card: ___ Visa ___ MasterCard ___ American Express ___ Discover

Charge Card Number

Exp. Date Month / Year

Security Code

SIGNATURE: _____

Event and raffle tickets ordered on this form will be available at the door the night of the event

Mail to:

NRA State Convention
PO Box 157
Gleason, WI 54435

or Fax: 715-873-3361 (Most secure for charge card purchases)

Questions/Comments:

NRA Senior Field Representative
Scott Taetsch email: staetsch@nrahq.org

Wisconsin FORCE Executive Director
Jeff Nass Ph. 920-687-0505
email: jeff@wisconsinforce.org

**WISCONSIN
FORCE**

Wisconsin Firearm Owners, Ranges,
Clubs, and Educators, Inc.
Incorporated 1963 – NRA Chartered State Association

GUN SHOWS

Saturday, May 14, & September 17, 2016

For more information and complete vendor information go to www.wisconsinforce.org

Outagamie County Fairgrounds Seymour Race Track

N627 Main St., Seymour, WI 54165

Public Show Hours: Sat., 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Adm. \$5
Food and Beverages on premises -- Firearm or firearm related items only!
All visible firearms must be brought onto the property unloaded and will be inspected and strapped before admittance. Concealed Carry Welcome – No Open Carry

Vendors – Over 100 Tables Available – firearm or firearm related items only! Exhibitors Only – Friday Night Set up 4 - 8 p.m.
6' Tables: Non-members \$30 each; Wisconsin FORCE or Central Wisconsin Gun Collectors Assoc. Members \$25 each
All visible table holder firearms must be brought onto the property unloaded and will be strapped (10/\$1) before 8 a.m.

All visible general public firearms will be brought onto the property unloaded and will be inspected and strapped before admittance. Concealed Carry Welcome – No Open Carry. All personal defense firearms must remain holstered with the safety on (if applicable to your model of handgun), single action revolvers must have the hammer resting on an empty chamber unless equipped with a transfer bar type integral safety mechanism, and may only be handled in lawful self-defense.

Wisconsin Firearm Owners, Ranges, Clubs, & Educators, Inc. reserves the right to refuse entrance or remove anyone with no refund.

For more information contact:

Chuck Stellmacher -- Ph. 920-833-6668 chuck@wisconsinforce.org or
Jeff Nass -- Ph. 920-687-0505 jeff@wisconsinforce.org

www.wisconsinforce.org

Wisconsin FORCE is not responsible for Fire or Theft -- Subject to change without notice.

All Federal and State Laws Apply



Giving the Trigger to your friends and Second Amendment supporters.

Forwarding or printing copies of the Trigger to promote Wisconsin FORCE is a great idea. It helps let non-members know what Wisconsin FORCE does for its members and gun owners across the state. Sadly, in one day alone, we received eight calls from individuals and clubs looking to upgrade their facility or wanting help with problems with only one being a member. Wisconsin FORCE is the lead association in the State. We provide an important service for Wisconsinites, benefiting clubs, ranges, businesses, gun owners, and freedom loving Americans each and every day. Please encourage all to join. Membership applications are on the website along with our "Why Join" booklet.

Factscontinued from page 4

Among the other mass shootings in Kenya in recent years are those as Lamu (29 murdered, July 5-6, 2014), Mpeketoni (53 murdered, June 15-17, 2014), Majembeni and Poromoko (15 murdered, two days after Mpeketoni) and the Westgate Mall in Nairobi (67 murdered, Sept. 21, 2013). Kenya, by the way, has extremely strict laws against the possession or carrying of firearms, as well as bows, as I detailed in a [Quinnipiac Law Review article](#) with Joanne Eisen and the late Paul Gallant.

On Saturday, [Boko Haram attackers](#) murdered four people in Nigeria, and four more in Niger. Last weekend, [four Egyptian policemen](#) were murdered in a drive-by shooting. [As reported by CBS News](#) the day before Thanksgiving, "Two massacres that killed 15 people in less than 12 hours rocked Honduras and left the country's top cop in tears on Wednesday."

Perhaps President Obama does not know about the above events or believes that for some reason that mass shootings in Africa, Asia or Latin America don't "count." This is a surprising perspective for someone who, in his autobiography, claims to have closely studied the works of radical anti-colonialist "Franz [sic] Fanon" and to have spent much time discussing "Eurocentrism" with his Columbia University friends. Suppose we accept the president's implicit premise that "other countries" includes only the most-developed countries of the West. With this limitation, what is the accuracy of his statement that "these mass shootings; this just doesn't happen in other countries"? Plainly false, especially considering that the president was speaking in Paris, the site of multiple mass shootings on Nov. 13 and of the Charlie Hebdo mass shootings in January.

More generally, an October article in the Wall Street Journal looked at mass shootings in 14 countries from 2000 through 2014. The [article](#) reported the research of professors Jaclyn Schildkraut (State University of New York Oswego) and H. JaymiElsass (Texas State University). They are co-authors of the forthcoming book "[Mass Shootings: Media, Myths, and Realities](#)," to be published in 2016 by Praeger. All of the countries had one or more mass shootings in this period, but the United States had by far the most. In terms of per capita fatalities, the United States was fourth, after Norway, Finland and Switzerland. [Another article](#), at the Independent Journal website, provides a "Rampage Shooting Index" for 10 countries, covering 2009-2013. Again, the United States is first in total number of incidents, and sixth in per capita fatalities. (Behind Israel and Slovakia, as well as the previously mentioned nations). Updating the index to account for 2015 would put France ahead of the United States. (French data are reported in the I.J. article, but not the Wall Street Journal article.)

According to the Wall Street Journal article, Schildkraut and Elsass identified only two mass shootings in Mexico in 2000 through 2014. This seems inconsistent with the facts on the ground, such as the Nov. 10 Associated Press article "[Third mass shooting in 3 days kills 6 people in southern Mexico](#)." I doubt that Professors Schildkraut and Elsass are unaware of the situation in Mexico; their database may exclude killings perpetrated by gangsters. They have [stated](#) that their database excludes terrorist attacks, but this exclusion causes problems of its own. According to the U.S. Code, "terrorism" means violent criminal acts which "Appear intended (i) to intimidate or coerce a civilian population; (ii) to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or (iii) to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination or kidnapping." 18 U.S.C. § 2331. By this definition, the Columbine High School murders were certainly terrorism, and the recent attack on Planned Parenthood may be as well. So are many other notorious mass shootings in the United States and elsewhere. Regardless of definitional boundaries, the broader point of the Schildkraut and Elsass research is consistent with all the other data: The United States has more mass shootings than other most-developed nations, and a lower per capita fatality rate than at least several of them. It would be interesting if the data were expanded to fully account for mass shootings in nations such as Mexico, Brazil, South Africa and Nigeria, where the homicide rate is far higher than in the United States. If we say that having an economy as "developed" as a member of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development is what constitutes a "developed" country, then the U.S. gun homicide rate is [about in the middle](#) for "developed" countries.

As President Obama pointed out today, he has repeatedly made the same claim about "other countries" and mass shootings. When he did so last June, Politifact [examined the issue](#), including the research of Professors Schildkraut and Elsass. Politifact rated the Obama claim "Mostly False." Yet he continues to make the claim, speaking in a city with repressive gun control and which only 18 days ago suffered a horrific series of mass shootings. President Obama's second book touted his "[audacity](#)," and the president's remarks today demonstrated *chutzpah*.

David Kopel is Research Director, Independence Institute, Denver; Associate Policy Analyst, Cato Institute, D.C.; and Adjunct professor, Denver University, Sturm College of Law. He is author of 17 books and 100 scholarly journal articles. Kopel is an NRA-certified safety instructor. The Independence Institute has received NRA contributions.

Carrycontinued from page 3

So I developed the thorough and detailed checklist of concealed carry guidelines below. I hope these guidelines serve as a basic, practical checklist to help you recognize and practice the critical things necessary for success in CC for your personal protection.

Sometimes things become so routine, obvious and acceptable to us that we neglect them or don't focus on them because they are so familiar. So here is my basic but essential checklist to quickly go through every now and then to remind you (and me) to reinforce some of these key things they we my overlook. Hope it helps with your CC, personal protection and safety.



1. Have a proper mindset and motivation

Carrying a firearm brings a lot of responsibility before and accountability after a lethal shooting, so adapting the proper CC mindset is extremely important.

Other than emphasizing overall safety, those who carry must go out of their way to initially avoid conflict and confrontations. We must be disciplined with a controlled and mellow easy-going attitude.

We know we have the gun skills and are motivated to protect ourselves and our families just in case trouble arises, rather than trying to show how good our gun skills are or to aggressively solve the world's problems. We are not carrying a gun to protect the community and all citizens, nor to be "cool."

Accept personal responsibility for yourself and loved ones. If possible to do so safely, leave the area to avoid a deadly confrontation. This is not a sign of weakness, cowardice or lack of skills, but rather recognition of the many varying factors that must be considered and our priority to protect our lives and those of our loved ones. The best way to "win" a gunfight is to avoid it all together.

Just because we can legally carry a concealed weapon does not make us police officers nor vigilantes. We should not have a macho, emotional, impulsive or revenge-kill instinctive reaction, but rather avoid trouble, use nonemotional and rational judgment, and de-escalate confrontations.

We should make every effort to not get into fists fights when we are carrying and recognize that any time a gun is introduced into a situation, it escalates it and nothing good will result. The use of lethal force is always the last option.

Being armed and prepared is more than just the possession of the firearm. The gun is only a tool. The mind is the true weapon. You must understand the reality of the situation.

2. Have current and complete handgun training

Your training should be comprehensive and include certain key topics, fundamentals, contemporary techniques and safety basics. Many times new shooters, those with informal guidance from Uncle Si, or those who have not had formal handgun training for several years may not know what they don't know.

They may be "out of touch" and not current with acceptable standards and practices for handling and effectively using a handgun. They may behave in a way that makes off-the-cuff firearms sense to themselves, but it is not soundly based on current, proven methodologies and accepted firearms knowledge.

They may follow information offered by someone with limited experiences, no formal training and incomplete information. There are quite a few unqualified "good ol' boy" instructors out there offering unprofessional, superficial, partial and careless information. Trainers should be prepared with current and complete knowledge with experiences related to realistic CC situations that might be actually encountered. Continued education and training in and beyond the basic fundamentals are important. If the training you receive and the drills and repetitions you do in your practice are incorrect, outdated and/or incomplete, you will not be properly prepared and will train with poor technique or incorrect fundamentals into your subconscious memory and then rely on it in an encounter.

Avoid an abbreviated, one-round-fired-into-the-barrel-at-a-gun-show, 45-minute or "quickie" course. You are harming yourself (and others) by getting minimal training that often overlooks several fundamentals and techniques necessary to protect your life and your loved ones.

Frequently, there is minimal range hands-on firing without personal guidance nor private, customized instruction to improve your current skill set.

Also, don't think you're set just because five years ago or so you received a solid basics course. Techniques and methods improve and change, so you can learn something by attending a new fundamentals course as a refresher. Recognize that even though you have had training in rifles and shotguns, there are key differences between those long guns and handguns.

Annually scheduling update refreshers and key topics training will better prepare you to respond automatically with the proper muscle memory. Do not neglect such topics as:

- recognizing and solving gun malfunctions and stoppages
- proper draw and presentation technique
- trigger control for accuracy and speed
- legal update for your state's laws
- proper use of cover and concealment
- shooting on the move and standing still
- shooting with weak hand and strong hand only
- shooting multiple threats/targets
- low- or no-light threat engagement
- use of tactical flashlight
- gunshot wound/trauma first aid
- reloading under fire/stress
- scan and access reinforcement

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Carry *continued from page 9*

3. Understand laws and requirements in your state and jurisdiction

You must know for your state or jurisdiction legally (and morally) when you can shoot, when you can use deadly force and where you can carry concealed. You also need to know if brandishing and printing are permissible and/or appropriate, if you are required to show your CC license/permit when stopped routinely by a police officer, how to recognize disparate force factors, what are the details of your area's Stand Your Ground and Castle Doctrine laws, what are your state's reciprocity states, how to relate to the police if there is a shooting, and what to do after a shooting, etc.

A lot to know, so regularly seek out current handgun laws and requirements for your state and jurisdiction from a competent source.

4. Carry regularly, not occasionally

We should carry all the time, if we are legally licensed to do so. Why then do some only carry sporadically after he taking the time, effort and expense to get a concealed carry license/permit? There are many reasons.

Some don't carry because there is a chance of legal problems when they transport their guns to certain places or when they travel in several states. Some live where they can carry, but work in another state where they can't.

But by far the reason for not carrying daily for some is to carry only when they are exposed to a high threat level or feel endangered, even though we should avoid dangerous places, people and situations. Today, any place and any situation has the potential to escalate and be dangerous, including (as we know from recent tragic events) schools, malls, churches, birthday parties, etc.

Another reason I hear frequently is that it is uncomfortable to carry the gun. The holster is rubbing my side; the gun doesn't fit right in the holster; the gun won't fit and conceal properly under my T-shirt or with shorts; the belt won't support it well enough; my tummy roll is a problem; etc.

Duh! If the gun is too heavy, too long, too wide, has too much recoil, doesn't fit right, or if your holster, belt or carry method is not correct or cumbersome, then change them. Any gun with you is better than the gun left at home, in the safe or in the car. Find the best gun, holster, belt, carry rig combination that works best for yourself and carry it always.

Carry with a round in the chamber with safety engaged and be disciplined with the proper training to not put your finger on the trigger until you have your eyes and sights on the target and you are ready to shoot. You will never know when that fateful encounter might occur. Be prepared just in case.

5. Do not frequently check and adjust your carry handgun

When I started carrying concealed, I was conscious about where my gun was riding, if my shirt was properly covering it, if my pants were too tight to reveal the gun's outline, if my fat paunch accented my gun, etc. I frequently kept adjusting, touching and checking it. I would touch it through my shirt to see if it was properly positioned and still there. I would often move it around out of habit.

After some time, I realized that I was actually drawing more attention to myself and my concealed gun. I looked suspicious when I constantly tugged and adjusted my shirt. So, I calmed down, relaxed, did not touch and adjust my gun, and truly realized the value of a good holster, belt, cover garment and proper clothing.

With my horizontally challenged build, I could no longer wear tight clothes and form-fitting, light-colored smaller T-shirts, pants and sweaters. I had to buy my pants a size larger for in-the-waistband carry, accept a somewhat baggy appearance, and wear dark clothes.

I got used to it and accepted that most would not even see my concealed gun and were not even looking for it. So what if they do accidentally see it. It could just be my smartphone or medical device.

6. Practice with your self-defense ammo and carry gun

Naturally, it is important to train and practice with the gun and ammo you will carry. The techniques and fundamental actions you routinely and unconsciously perform in training and practice do influence your performance in actual self-defense and combat encounters.

If you are not closely familiar with your gun, holster, ammo and other accessories, how will you be able to operate and handle them successfully, smoothly, efficiently and accurately in an emergency encounter? So you should drill and practice regularly with your carry gun, ammo, carry garment and equipment, so their deployment becomes a second-nature, comfortable habit.

While practicing, some shooters fail to use their hollow point (HP) or self-defense ammo they actually carry. Usually they cite the higher cost of the HP ammo. To better acquaint yourself with the performance and characteristics of your self-defense ammo, practice with it occasionally, perhaps once a month or so. You can mostly practice with your full-metal jacket ammo for cost savings, but still practice sometimes with your HP ammo.

The gun you carry is going to be a compromise. You probably will realize the gun you want to carry and the gun you will have to carry may be different. Larger guns in calibers that are generally considered to be more capable may also be more difficult to conceal and may require more practice for optimal accuracy.

However, you also need to understand that concealment is usually more a matter of holster design and cover garments than gun size. It is your responsibility to weigh the several personal considerations and decide and select the "best" gun and ammo for yourself. [Try before you buy](#) and before an actual violent encounter.

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Carry continued from page 10

7. Use a proper holster

It is important to use a quality-made holster from a reputable manufacturer that is designed specifically for your carry gun, if you carry with a holster. Yes, you can keep your gun in a nylon holster when it's in the range bag, but use a quality, custom-fit holster for your carry gun. This also applies to carry by fanny pack, day planner, etc.

A holster or carry device made for your gun model will usually allow you to draw and secure your gun better, as well as help to make it more concealable and accessible. A customized holster for your specific gun model will completely cover and protect the trigger from contact with outside objects, including your trigger finger. A properly-designed holster made specifically for your gun will retain the gun until you intentionally draw it.

Do not expect a \$10 holster on sale for \$5 to provide a reliable and comfortable carry solution for your \$700 carry handgun. A rough rule of thumb is to expect to spend about 10-15 percent of the cost of your handgun to purchase a reliable, safe, comfortable and effective holster. Proper inside-the-waistband (IWB) holsters are usually more concealable, but may be less comfortable. They may also require a trouser and belt-size adjustment to compensate for the added bulk. An outside-the-waistband (OWB) holster is usually more comfortable, but also usually more difficult to conceal.

You can make your carry gun concealable, but sometimes at the cost of a much slower access and draw. Or you can have a faster access and draw, but with less concealability, giving up a major tactical advantage. A personal decision.

8. Use a proper gun belt

Needless to say, a gun belt is extremely important to support your handgun — some believe even more so than a holster. In any event, a gun belt is a must-have accessory for your handgun rig. You need the support for your gun and accessibility that you can count on.

A rigid, high-quality, full-grain, bull-hide leather gun belt will help minimize movement of your gun, be strong and resilient for long-lasting durability, help distribute weight, and add to comfort. A leather belt that has been reinforced with an inner layer of Kydex will be rigid and help it from deforming, rolling up and sagging.

Price is usually an indicator of quality, so spend the money to get a good gun belt, rather than \$15 for the discount store flimsy belt.

9. Wear proper clothing and cover garments

The climate, your job, lifestyle, daily activities and where you live have a significant affect on your carry clothing. In some areas, you may carry the same way all year long, while in other locations, you may wear shorts and T-shirts in the summer and heavy coats and gloves in the winter.

These differences can be frustrating and challenging, but you must adapt.

For example, a plain white dress shirt is usually plenty of concealment if you've got an IWB holster. A loose, untucked casual shirt, like a guayabera, Hawaiian or camp shirt can easily hide the grip of a handgun from the casual observer. A sweatshirt or hoodie adds bulk around the waist that probably can hide most large handguns.

It just depends on your gun, its size and dimensions, and your body build. I find as a horizontally-challenged geezer in warm Florida weather that wearing loose and baggy clothing and oversized, untucked casual shirts make CC easier, but not so stylish. I live with it.

Sometimes, I switch from OWB carry to IWB carry, and it seems to conceal some of my smaller guns better. Another option (so at least you will carry something) is to consider carrying one of the smaller firearms recently released, be it one of the new .380s or 9mms. Now there are many lightweight, ergonomically-rounded, reduced-slug polymer-framed pistols and revolvers made especially for carry.

Of course, if you live in one of the 42 open-carry states (not Florida), you should carry with adequate retention to prevent a gun grab. With CC being legal now in all 50 states, open carry may not be your personal choice because of the negative reactions and possible problems with other folks (and maybe the police) seeing a gun openly displayed and the disadvantage of not having your gun hidden. Of course, this is a personal choice depending on your preferences, comfort level and clothing choices, etc.

Whether you change your method of carry for one day or the entire season, remember the importance of being familiar with your carry method. Some CC methods require you to access and get past clothing used as cover, which makes drawing more difficult and time consuming. Practice is key for you to be able to deal with your clothing as cover, draw properly, etc., in stressful encounters.

10. Always be aware of your situation and its variables

Whether you know and practice Cooper's Color Codes of Awareness, Boyd's OODA Loop or the NRA's Unaware-Aware-Alert-Alarm cycle, situational awareness (SA) is of critical importance for everyone at all times. We should be cautious, practice observation, scan and assess our particular environment, and know the variables at play in each situation we encounter, even though it is difficult to do so.

Briefly, SA is simply knowing what's going on around you and knowing your surroundings. It sounds easy in principle, but in reality requires much practice and keen observation skills and focus. This is challenging in a stressful encounter or even in a nonthreatening environment.

We tend to "behave in a way that makes sense to ourselves" and unwittingly neglect certain things. Our reality is based on our limited set of experiences and relative knowledge. It makes "sense" to us because of particular unique experiences, controllable and uncontrollable factors — some of which we may not be aware. Maybe it is because we "don't know what we don't know."

Research shows that when we get nervous or stressed, our attention and focus narrows, causing us to concentrate on just a few things at a time. A narrow focus can therefore cause us to miss important threats and details in our environment.continued on page 12

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While SA is taught to military personnel, law enforcement officers and others, it is an important skill for everyone to learn as well. It takes focus and concentration with a big-picture, total-system perspective. In a dangerous situation, being aware of a threat even seconds before everyone else can keep you and your loved ones safe.

11. Know how to operate, handle and maintain your handgun

Knowing where your external safety, magazine release, slide-lock lever and controls are located and how to operate them efficiently as if they are an appendage to your hand might save your life because of your immediate muscle-memory reaction in a crisis.

Some say it takes approximately 3,000 to 5,000 repetitions of the same action or behavior to develop and instill an automatic muscle-memory response, as a subconscious reaction to an external stimuli. Others say 8,000 to 10,000 repetitions. Either way, practice is certainly key, like riding a bike, typing on a keyboard or playing a saxophone.

But practice proper techniques and fundamentals. If a specific shooting skill or technique is at first performed wrong and subsequently allowed to continue to repeat with the mistakes intact, then unfortunately the muscle memories created for how you complete the task will also be flawed, on a subconscious level.

So when beginning to learn a new shooting skill or technique, it is best to take it slow and pay close attention to what and how you are performing the actions. This ensures the actions being repeated represent those that are correct as opposed to incorrect.

Know how to operate and use your handgun without taking time to think about it. Develop the muscle memory.

I know in certain strict training environments, some range safety officers (RSOs) will not let students clear their own malfunctions and stoppages and require them to raise their hand so the RSO can safely resolve the problem. Sadly, I know of a case where an officer experienced a stoppage problem in the field because he had to think whether he should go ahead and clear the jam himself. That precious use of time was his downfall.

Also, some law enforcement officers have been killed in the line of duty because of their lack of familiarity with their handguns. In one case (in the unincorporated area of Los Angeles — the Newhall Massacre of 1970), four California officers had practiced almost solely with lesser-caliber and lesser-recoil ammo, so they were not as accurate when they used the duty magnum rounds. Sadly, they were killed in less than 5 minutes.

It is an understatement to simply say "Thoroughly know your CC gun and ammo." Take time to regularly practice with your CC gun and use your personal-protection (e.g. hollow point) ammo to practice with occasionally.

Also, regularly maintain and clean your CC gun. Honestly, I clean my gun after every use, even if only shooting a box of 50 rounds. This may be an overkill for some, but I have the peace of mind of knowing my CC gun is always in a top state of readiness and will not let me down because of a cleaning or maintenance issue.

At the least, you should inspect, function check, clean and maintain your concealed carry gun monthly.

12. Regularly practice, practice, practice

Begin your CC training by analyzing your present skills and where you need improvement. It is imperative to build positive and useful training and practice habits early. Shooters should review their training process and topics on an annual basis and constantly, then design your practice plan with specific drills to help improve certain identified skills or areas needing improvement. There is always something to learn or improve upon.

Shooting fundamentals and skills are perishable, and they deteriorate if not practiced. You must practice on a regular basis. Every year I try to complete at least one course for improvement.

While practice is critical, so is how you practice. Do not just shoot holes in paper, but have a planned course of fire and specific drills to focus on key fundamentals and areas where you need improvement.

Snap caps and dry firing can be helpful. Snap caps have a spring-damped false primer or one of plastic that cushions and protects the firing pin for many repeated strikes and protects your gun's components. Dry firing is practicing at home with snap caps and an unloaded gun.

If you cannot get to the range regularly, then use (inert) snap caps to practice in the comfort of your home. You can practice aiming, sight alignment, stance, grip, trigger control, loading and unloading, clearing malfunctions, and drawing to build muscle memory.

Recognize that while dry-fire practice drills with snap caps are useful, there is no substitute for live fire. If you cannot devote some time on a regular basis to shooting practice, your shooting skills and performance under the stress of a deadly-force encounter will suffer.

Try to plan for a monthly range shooting session, but go at least every 7 to 8 weeks as a minimum. You can practice dry firing as a supplement in your home once a week. Be prepared, since violent encounters occur at what seems like the speed of light.

Continued success!



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Area 5continued from page 2

In addition to the 12 bay indoor range Winnequah has an outdoor range with firing areas from 100 yards to 1200 yards, a metallic silhouette rifle range, 11 pistol bays, bullseye pistol range an all purpose practice range, steel range, bench rest and hunter sight-in facilities. It is a wonderful property for a myriad of varied types of firearms matches and training.

My son and I often shoot with some of the USPSA shooters from Winnequah and they are some of the nicest, enthusiastic, and knowledgeable competitors we have encountered. It seems like ever competitor that my son and I shoot with that hails from the Winnequah club is a CRO. They really have a great bunch of knowledgeable members that support their club and their various avenues of shooting activities.

My family resides a few hours from Winnequah in the La Crosse, Wisconsin area. When we heard that Winnequah was hosting their first Area 5 Championship, we were very excited to attend. Our initial plan was for my son and I to work as range officers and to compete as well. However, personal family matters and my bad back changed our plans, albeit slightly. My son James competed and I took photos and volunteered to write an article about the event.

In past matches USPSA matches I've competed in at Winnequah, I was always impressed by the level of preparation, and really appreciate the size and layout of the property. Winnequah has hosted the Wisconsin Sectional in years past and it was always run very well. I appreciate that they utilize their indoor range and throw in a low light stage for a great change of pace.

Hosting the Area 5 Championship is another step up the ladder and Winnequah did not disappoint. Many months before the match, meetings began and the heavy equipment came out. Winnequah decided to create 6 new bays and a road to them. Additionally, they reconfigured an existing bay. That allowed the club to be able host a 14 stage area match, plus chrono stage, and still keep the walking to a minimum.

When we arrived at the club, it was nice to see familiar faces and those faces of friends we hadn't seen for some time. Larger matches, such as an area match bring out a lot more competitive bodies, so there is a lot of activity going on. Depending on the day you compete, there are people checking in and getting their goodies and instructions, other people are shooting, others are working the match, and others are trying to get a good look at the various stages before they compete. We even saw our friend and Area 5 Match Director Dan Pawlak limp on by with a boot cast on. Apparently, Dan dropped a steel target on his foot, and the steel won.

Area 5's Match Director is Dan Pawlak. Dan is a go-getter and one that will work and work, until the work is done. He and the rest of volunteers put together a quality venue and a fun match. The match consisted of 14 stages of fire, and a chrono stage. The newly dug sand bays, and the other existing bays make for a sea of sandy shooting bays. They stages were aptly named as follows: Coral Reef, Suntan Oil Company, Treasure Chest, Sink or Swim, Red Herring, Sand Bar, Starfish Lagoon, Clam Digging, Hand in Hand Thru the Sand, Shipwreck, Snapping Turtles, Sunburn, Dirty Tricks, and Lighthouse. Well, they certainly had plenty of sand for all the beach and sea references.....all they needed was a little water. Friday afternoon provided that....lots and lots of water. The shooters competing Friday afternoon were treated to a terrenal downpour of rain, which slowed things up considerably.

To make matters worse, our own match director Mr Dan Pawlak was running his 4 wheeler up a ramp and onto his enclosed trailer at the Red Herring stage, and apparently forgot to duck. Dan nearly scalped himself when his forehead went toe to toe with the door frame. As hard-headed as Dan is, he was no match for the metal door frame. Dan was knocked off the bike, and into the trailer. For a brief moment Dan had some peace and quiet, until he awoke to find his head pouring blood. Red Herring may have become Red Lagoon had Dan not dialed 911. The range briefly went cold, while medical personnel removed Pirate Dan and his bloody forehead from the scene. After something like 14 stitches, some internal and some external, Dan was back to the range first thing Saturday morning, because the Sink or Swim stage had sunk. Mother Nature saw fit to add a small lagoon to the setting. So, in the dawn hours of Saturday, workers got out a Bobcat and frantically began moving sand and filling in gravel, so the show could go on.....so that Saturday shooters would not Really have to Sink or Swim.

Area 5 was a quality show. The stages were fun and challenging. For instance, the infamous Sink or Swim stage consisted of 2 non-disappearing Max Traps, a swinger, 3 disappearing drop turners, and window blind that had to be pulled open to shoot targets. Good stuff. Nearly 300 shooters competed and the great staff of volunteers kept the squads moving. When the dust settled, there were some big names at the top of the leaderboard. Congratulations to Open Division Winner Max Michel Jr, Limited Division Winner Travis Tomasie, Production Division Winner Ben Stoeger, and Single Stack winner Mike Foley....yup, same guy you've seen on your ballot. Congratulations to all of you who competed!

Winnequah will be hosting the Area 5 Championship next year and I predict it will be even better, and I predict that Match Director Dan Pawlak will be healed up from the physical drubbing he took this year. So, if you are considering trying a larger, more competitive match than your current local match. Or, you just want to see some great scenery and take in a match, then next year you should come to Lodi, Wisconsin and take a little vacation. Enjoy the beautiful surrounding areas like the Wisconsin Dells, shoot a first class Area Championship and perhaps you'll have a chance to sign Dan's cast, or bandage, or boot...depending on what he gets himself in to.

Once again, a great big thanks to all who volunteered to help make Area 5 the match that it was. I especially want to thank Range Master Tim Palmer-you were invaluable throughout the Championship. All who volunteered their time should be proud of the event you were instrumental in putting on. Also, Area 5 would like to thank the following great sponsors:continued on page 14

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