



Elk Rapids Sportsman's Club

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NEWSLETTER

November 2005

on the web at: www.ersc.org

Gun Control: The Assault on Self-Defense

– By *Doug Hagin*

The debate over gun control is decades old, it is also going to continue to rage on for decades to come. For many who do not really take sides or think the debate is just another partisan political fight which does not effect them, there is a new shining example of how there is no escaping this debate.

The issue of gun control does indeed affect all of us. It does not matter if you own no guns or 100 guns. Whether or not you are a member of the National Rifle Association or the type of person who would never feel comfortable owning a gun matters not. The real essence of the battle between gun control advocates and gun rights advocates is not over guns.

In the end, it is all about the right for you and me to defend ourselves.

Now on the surface this might seem a stretch. Consider however the most important aspect of gun ownership. The ability to protect your property, loved ones. The ability to defend your very life. There is no more essential and basic human right than the right to self-defense. Without this right, your right to live freely, speak or write freely, or live as you choose are meaningless.

Seven years ago, I came face to face with a masked man in an alley as I left work. He had a gun and a desire to do me no good! What if the gun control advocates had their way? How would I have fared that night? Considering that, I was cornered and unable to flee, or face my assailant on equal terms I might not be writing this at all. I might very well be a statistic.

Fortunately, for me the laws in Texas DO allow its residents to be armed. I was able, although cornered to have an equal footing. Because I was armed, and prepared, my attacker decided that his intentions were not worth dealing with my Colt.45. One criminal running away and one innocent, law-abiding citizen safe seems like a pretty good end does it not.

Not according to gun control advocates. According to their desires, I should have been forced to run instead of facing down the miscreant criminal. –*con't. on page 5*

Elk Rapids Sportsman's Club Receives \$5000 from NRA Defense Fund Grant

– By *Brian Kroll and Carol Bambery*

The National Rifle Association has awarded Elk Rapids Sportsman's Club a grant of \$5000 to assist with legal fees arising out of the Club's use of the property devised in the Wilcox's will to the Township.

M. Carol Bambery, NRA Board member and a Trustee of the Fund said, "The NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund was established by the NRA Board of Directors in 1978 to become involved in court cases establishing legal precedents in favor of gun owners.

We feel the Elk Rapids Sportsman's Club is one of Michigan's oldest and finest recreational shooting clubs in the state. The Fund is pleased to be able to support the Club's efforts to retain their shooting range. Shooting ranges are important facilities in Michigan's hunting and firearm heritage. They provide safe places to sight in a firearm for upcoming hunting seasons, and

for law enforcement training, as well as fun for families that enjoy recreational shooting.

The Elk Rapids Sportsman's Club is to be commended for their vigilance in defending their Club."

The Fund provides legal and financial assistance to selected individuals and organizations defending their right to keep and bear arms. Additionally, the Fund sponsors legal research and education on a wide variety of gun-related issues, including the meaning of the Second Amendment and the nature of the right to keep and bear arms provision in state constitutions. Cases presenting compelling unsettled or new issues of law are of special interest to the Fund.

For more information on the Fund go to www.nradefense.fund.org

DNR DEER HUNTING FORECAST

Michigan Department of Natural Resources biologists estimate the fall whitetail population in the Upper Peninsula and northern Lower Peninsula is close to the DNR-established deer population goal, which indicates there are fewer deer than in recent years. Since the deer herd is near-goal, there will be no early antlerless seasons in 2005. Excellent hunting opportunities exist throughout the UP and northern Michigan, even though hunters may see fewer deer than in previous years.

In southern Lower Michigan biologists estimate the deer population to be about the same as it has been the last few years, still above the DNR's goal. Deer hunting opportunities exist in every county in southern Michigan.

"We encourage hunters to take antlerless deer to help reduce this deer herd," said Rod Clute, DNR big game specialist. "In southern Michigan, a smaller deer herd is in the best interest of both the deer and their habitats."

Biologists predict the statewide harvest for the 2005 deer hunting season will be

similar to or slightly below last year's season, when an estimated 450,000 deer were taken. The complete Michigan Deer Harvest Survey Report from the 2004 season is available on the DNR Web site, www.michigan.gov/dnr

"The DNR's goal is to maintain a quality deer herd that is in balance with its habitat and yields healthy fawns, does and bucks," said Bill Moritz, chief of the DNR Wildlife Division.

Michigan's deer herd is dynamic and not evenly distributed across the state, with most of the population residing on private land. In the last decade, the distribution of the statewide population has shifted with an increasing percentage found in southern Michigan. For the last three years, the estimated deer harvest in southern Michigan exceeded the estimated harvest for northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula combined.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Call to order and attendance October 5, 2005 at 7:00 PM by Chairman Brian Kroll.

Board members present: Brian Kroll, Tom Deasy, Russ DeBolt, Doug Fowler, Matt Lyons, Ray Pollister, Frank Sarasin.

Board members absent: Dave Handley, Randy Jorgensen.

Club members present: Rich Hoadley, Chuck MacPherson, Phil Pomber.

Motion to approve September minutes made by DeBolt, seconded by Lyons. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Reports: Chairman Brian Kroll commented on this fall's sight-in days and provided a new form to track the names and addresses of all non-members sighting in their rifles. This will be utilized to track people using club facilities and also as a database for potential new members.

Motion by Chairman Kroll to raise the sight-in fee for non-members to \$7.50 for the first gun, plus \$5.00 for each additional gun. Seconded by DeBolt. Kroll, Deasy, DeBolt, Lyons, Pollister and Sarasin voted Aye. Fowler abstained. Motion Passed.

Chairman Kroll reported Cedar Rod & Gun Club will be publishing their newsletter using our format and combined printing arrangements. The Cedar Club will combine their personal classified ads and some of their business ads with ERSC's newsletter, which will result in a combined distribution to approximately 1300 readers. This will result in increased ad revenue and more profit to both Clubs, as well as reduce costs compared to separate efforts by both clubs.

Chairman Kroll also reported that he has been advised by Ms. Carol Bamberry, Esq., Michigan resident and member of the NRA Board of Directors, that the NRA Legal Defense Fund voted to contribute \$5,000 to the ERSC Legal Fund.

It should be noted that while the NRA expends huge amounts of money every year in supporting and fighting for Second

Amendment rights and gun ownership legal issues on the national level, it is almost unprecedented for them to contribute funds at the grass root club level that relates to disputes over real estate.

Following a lengthy phone conversation with ERSC Chairman Kroll, Ms. Bambery personally carried our message directly to the Board of Directors overseeing the NRA legal defense fund, who then in turn supported our request for assistance with the grant.

Members should also know that Club member, and local attorney Jim Datsko initiated the application process for NRA legal defense monies back in January 2005. NRA members are asked to remember Ms. Bambery's assistance when the next NRA Director's election is held in 2007.

Chairman Kroll also reported that a five-stand extravaganza course (using eight computer controlled traps) would be available for member use on Saturday, October 8. The same set-up will also be utilized for a profit-making program at ERSC on Friday, October 14, 2005, for the Builders Exchange of Traverse City. Members of the Builders Exchange will be shooting sporting clays, trap and skeet followed by open shooting on the field of their individual choices.

Treasurer Tom Deasy supplied Board members with copies of financial reports and also commented on the successful Hunters Safety program recently held at ERSC.

Tom advised that the annual Cherry Blossom Open Skeet Tournament is scheduled for May 5, 6 and 7, 2006.

ERSC paid membership currently stands at 540 members.

Secretary: Doug Fowler read a letter of resignation from the Board of Directors from Randy Jorgensen effective September 12, 2005.

— continued on page 4

Your ERSC Newsletter welcomes your submissions. If you have information of timely interest to Club members, send it for review (by e-mail) to:

Brian Kroll: bsk1@torchlake.com
 or: Jack Fellows: jackfellows@core.com

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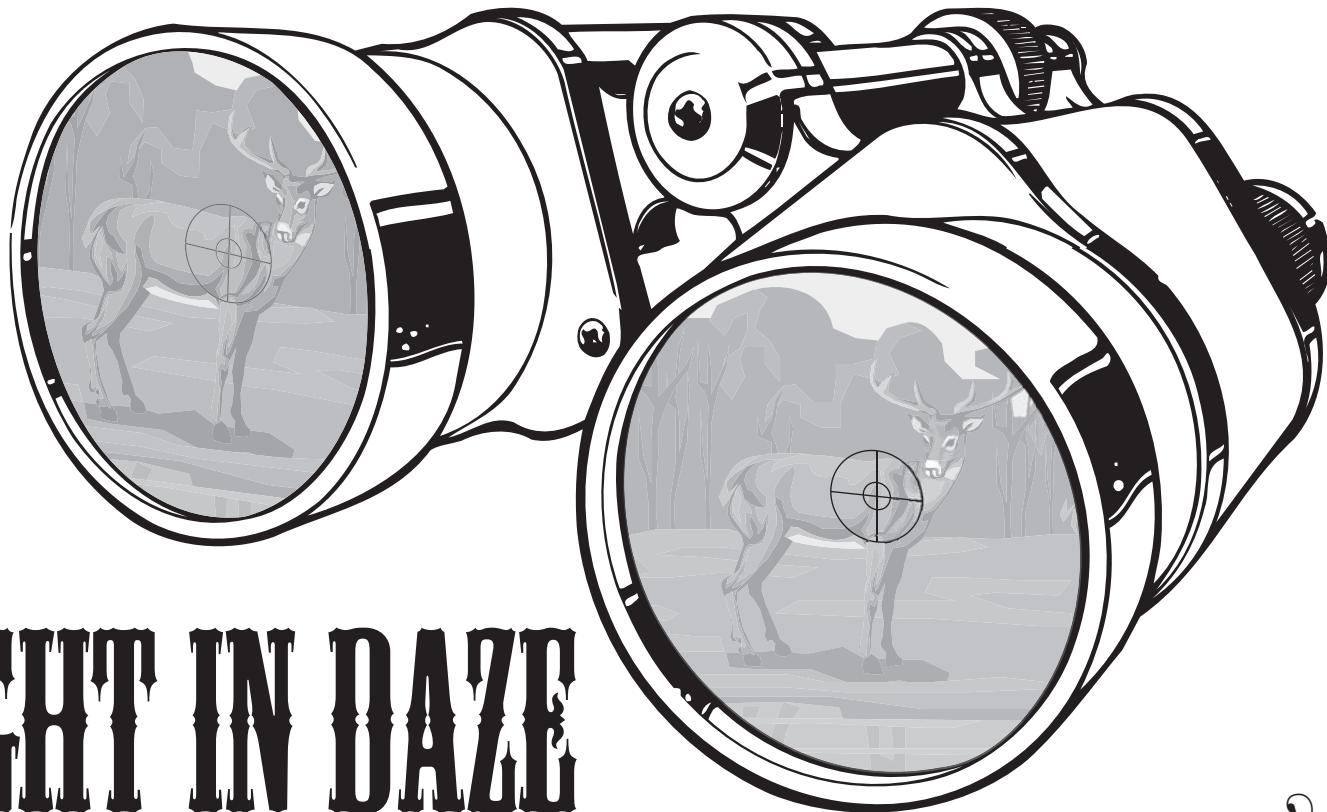
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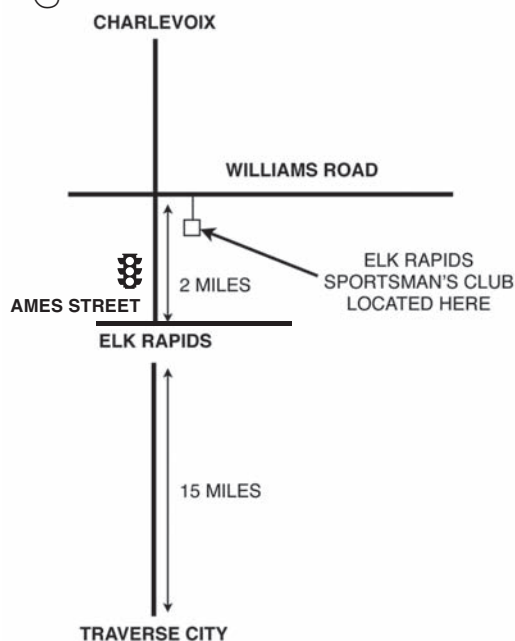
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

– continued from page 2

Randy's letter was accepted by the Board with a unanimous understanding to thank Randy for the many things he has done over the years, and continues to do, for the Club. Randy will continue to conduct his training programs of CPL classes, hunter safety, etc.

Doug made a motion that "Doc" Hoadley be nominated to fill the Board seat vacated by Randy Jorgensen. The motion was agreed to by Doc and seconded by Matt Lyons.

All members present voted Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Programs: Frank Sarasin has General Meeting programs already in place through the rest of 2005 and into January of 2006. There are as follows:

October: Sgt. Jim Gorno, DNR, on State Game Laws, changes and issues.

November: Swap meet. Bring anything

you don't need someone else will want it!

December: Annual Christmas Party Potluck. Bring a dish to pass and have a great repast with your fellow members.

January 06: Big Buck Night – let the truth be told and nothing but the truth!

Building & Grounds: Russ DeBolt reminds everyone that Saturday, October 29th is our fall clean up day! The more people that show up and support your club, the sooner it is over. Bring a rake! All ranges closed until clean up is complete. Russ also wants the membership to know that members Andy Michalski and Ray Kujawa have taken good care of the lawns and fields for the club this summer. As buildings and grounds board member, we are all grateful and appreciate the number of hours they have put in, for the benefit of all members.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

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ASSAULT ON SELF-DEFENSE

– continued from page 1

Got that? If you are minding your own business and are assaulted or threatened by a violent criminal the gun control crowd wants the onus to be on you to flee, or retreat, or do anything EXCEPT stand your ground with a firearm.

How morally and intellectually backwards can these folks be to adopt such an indefensible position? The duty and perfect right of a law-abiding citizen is to defend themselves with deadly force if need be against criminals. That is the essence of the disagreement between the opposing sides on gun control.

Forget the gun control advocates impassioned pleas for a “safer” nation. Guns in the hands of law-abiding Americans have proven to decrease violent crime time and again. It is not violent crime the gun control advocates have issue with. It is, instead, the right for us to defend ourselves.

For some definitive evidence of this con-

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sider a recently passed law in Florida that allows citizens to stand their ground and use deadly force when assaulted on the street or any other location other than their home. Gun control advocates were incensed that such a law could pass. In their ideology you, the law-abiding must run, even if it puts you at greater risk, rather

than use your gun to stop the criminal who is trying to rob, rape, or kill you or your family.

Now the state of Michigan is following Florida's lead. They are trying to pass a law, which closely mirrors the Florida statute. Want to take a guess who is trying to prevent the passage of this law...?

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NRA STOPS GUN GRAB IN NEW ORLEANS

The United States District Court for the Eastern District in Louisiana sided with the National Rifle Association (NRA) and issued a restraining order to bar further gun confiscations from peaceable and law-abiding victims of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans.

"This is a significant victory for freedom and for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. The court's ruling is instant relief for the victims who now have an effective means of defending themselves from the robbers and rapists that seek to further exploit the remnants of their shattered lives," said NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre.

Joining LaPierre in hailing the U.S. District Court decision was NRA chief lobbyist Chris W. Cox. "This is an important victory. But the battle is not over. The NRA will remedy state emergency statutes in all 50 states, if needed, to ensure that this injustice does not happen again."

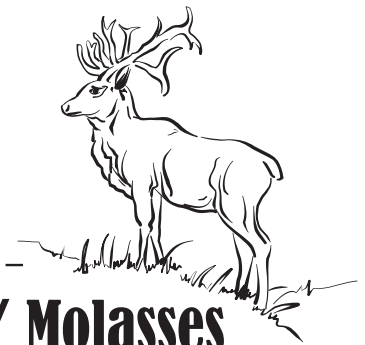
The controversy erupted when The New York Times reported, the New Orleans superintendent of police directed that no civilians in New Orleans will be allowed to have guns and that "only law enforcement are allowed to have weapons." ABC News quoted New Orleans' deputy police chief, saying, "No one will be able to be armed. We are going to take all the weapons."

The NRA also pledged that it will continue its work to ensure that every single firearm arbitrarily and unlawfully seized under this directive is returned to the rightful law-abiding owner.

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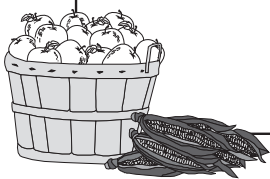
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Elk Rapids, MI 49629

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ERSC CALENDAR November 2005

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 trap-skeet 1 - 4 board meeting 7 PM	3 BLACKPOWDER 5:30 PM	4	5 SIGHT IN DAZE 10-4
6 trap-skeet 10 - 4 SIGHT IN DAZE 10-4	7 SIGHT IN DAZE 10-4	8 SIGHT IN DAZE 10-4	9 trap-skeet 1-4 membership meeting 7 PM SIGHT IN DAZE 10-4	10 BLACKPOWDER 5:30 PM SIGHT IN DAZE 10-4	11 SIGHT IN DAZE 10-4	12 SIGHT IN DAZE 10-4
13 trap-skeet 10 - 4 SIGHT IN DAZE 10-4	14 SIGHT IN DAZE 10-4	15 OPENING DAY Firearms Deer Season	16 trap-skeet 1-4	17 BLACKPOWDER 5:30 PM	18	19
20 trap-skeet 10 - 4	21	22	23 trap-skeet 1 - 4	24 BLACKPOWDER 5:30 PM	25	26
27 trap-skeet 10 - 4	28	29	30 trap-skeet 1 - 4			