

## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the influx of new members to our club. Speaking as a club officer, we are glad to have you. The interest in the club is just a reflection of the growth nationwide of the shooting community. Gun sales, ammunition sales, the demand for quality aftermarket products, and the quest for knowledgeable, hands-on instruction and training has never been higher.

The liberal media would have the general public believe that gun clubs such as ours are a haven for radical militias, wild-eyed fanatics, and general anti-social types. In the many years I have been associated with shooters, both recreational and competitive, my good experiences vastly outweigh the bad. Generally speaking, I have found the shooting community to be willing to share knowledge, equipment, and time on a scale I have never seen in any other activity. Certainly there has been the occasional bump in the road, but I have always done my best to ignore the childish displays of poor sportsmanship.

I guess what I am trying to say is this: the majority of the media does well enough in trying to give the shooting enthusiasts a bad image without us contributing to it. Remember always that your actions reflect not only on you but on an untold number of others. Never be afraid to defend your rights, just do it in a reasonable, well thought out manner. All too often the news cameras pick out the one guy in the crowd dressed head to toe in camo, shouting incoherently. Make your point in an effective manner.

A lot of young people will get their first sporting firearm this Christmas. Let's make sure it's a good experience for everyone involved. Young people are the lifeblood of the shooting sports; without young shooters there will not be old shooters. We owe them the time and patience it takes to guarantee a safe ride to our destination. Not just young folk, women are turning out in unanticipated numbers than ever before to participate in the shooting games. It is indeed a brave new world.

Colder weather will slow down organized activities for our club. The first bowling pin match of 2014 will be in April. Especially for our new members – if there is an organized shooting activity that you would like to see take place at your club, step up. All of our activities are organized and run by volunteers. If you want it, make it happen.

I'm sure everyone is aware that George Zimmerman (of Trayvon Martin infamy) has made the Liberal Left's Christmas wishes come true. I'm sure that there will be an enraptured "I told you so!" at every seasonal gathering of more than one. At the risk of over-thinking the situation – and even possibly indulging in a little amateur psychoanalysis – I'm not sure the situation is exactly as it appears at first read. Please remember that as a result of rightfully defending himself, this man lost everything. Even though investigators and law enforcement

said there was no case, no grounds for prosecution, a District Attorney with an agenda of her own pressed forward. Even though the justice process worked, the cost to Mr. Zimmerman was astronomical. He lost his job, his home, his wife, and had to live in fear for his life. He faced waking every day to the media calling him a cold-blooded killer; to calls from celebrities to hunt him down and kill him. Pundits like the Reverend Al Sharpton (whose hands are none too clean, either) called for a civil rights investigation.

At what point does it become too much? At what point does Mr. Zimmerman decide that if the whole country believes the persona that the liberal media has so tediously created is really him, then so shall it be. If they think I'm a gun totin', off my rocker, only one way to solve a problem guy, then that's what I will become. PTSD raises its' really ugly head once again.

That being said, hopefully I've stepped on enough toes to at least start the thought process. I wish each and every one of you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Do not forget the men, women, husbands and wives, sons and daughters that will not be with their families this year, but instead have chosen to place themselves in harms' way to protect our country.

As usual, any random thoughts, opinions, and mental meanderings are my own. I can't blame anyone else.

Tim Courtney

Secretary ACSC