

ALEXANDER CITY SHOOTING CLUB

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to February in Alabama! Less than a week ago the state was in the grip of a winter ice and snow storm that spread further and faster than our weather wizards had projected. Lots of people, not only in our state, but in neighboring states, were caught unprepared and faced multi-faceted dilemmas. Many were left stranded on the side of a highway, having traveled as far as icy conditions allowed. Families were separated by the inability to depend on reliable transportation. It turned into a full blown nature driven catastrophe.

What does this have to do with our gun club? In my opinion, quite a bit. For the most, the greatest number of these people were put in precarious – even dangerous – situations because they waited on someone else to tell them that things, in this case the weather, had turned bad. In most cases people waited on their employers to tell them that it was okay for them to leave; that staying at work could only make a bad situation worse. In our own state, in our capitol city, the Department of Transportation was closing parts of the interstate system (the I65 – I85 interchange was the first closure) before multiple businesses – including the state – considered releasing employees.

My point? For years the anti-gunners have called themselves “the voices of reason.” Their point of view was that NO situation was bad enough, drastic enough, that the police could not protect you or the government forewarn you. These voices of reason are the same ones that were sitting in their cars and SUV’s on the side of I20 outside Atlanta (or on Highway 280 outside Birmingham), cursing the government for not warning them and the police for not rescuing them. Did any of them look out the window before they left for work that morning – or give a thought how they would get home? Easier to blame someone else.

The Second Amendment was put in place for a single reason. Our forefathers had come from countries that were ruled by oppressive governments of one description or another. They wanted a guarantee that the free peoples of the soon to be United States would never fall victim to an all-powerful governing body. By ensuring their right to keep and bear personal firearms, they left in place a means of resistance. What they also left in place were people who, through conscious legal ownership of weapons, were willing and able to make decisions on their own, of their own, affecting their livelihood. These people are well aware that decisions that are made by government, by managers, by people who do not have their best interests first, are not necessarily the best for them on an individual basis. Our history is rife with people that made the choice to do what was best for them and their families. As a law abiding gun owner, you join these Americans in the annals of history.

In a different vein, 2013 marked the first year that recreational shooters contributed as much in terms of dollars spent and tax dollars generated as hunters. The agencies that track such lump many things together into recreational shooting – all the forms of shotgun sports (trap, skeet, sporting clays, etc.), target shooting (bullseye, benchrest, rimfire, etc.) all the action shooting sports, like 3-gun or practical pistol. Even simple plinking, which I'm sure is vastly underrated, was included. This is a grossly oversimplified list, but the point is that the ranks of shooters for recreational reasons is growing by leaps and bounds – at rates unprecedented at any prior period. By the way, the single fastest growing segment of this ownership explosion is the female contingent. The ladies are no longer onlookers or helpless. Good for them!

We are trying to nail down a convenient date for a work day at the range. No major earth moving, just general clean-up and small projects. We have also asked for a bid to re-route the existing road through our property. If and when that happens, our gate will be moved to our property line.

As usual, all opinions and wayward thoughts expressed in this column are mine and mine alone.

Tim Courtney

Secretary, ACSC