



ACSC JULY NEWSLETTER

July and summertime in Alabama are here! Heat, humidity, and mosquitos will be a fact of life for at least the next three months. I hope all our members had a safe and happy 4th of July. I hope that each of you took the time as well to remember our forefathers, the wisdom they showed and the sacrifices they made so that we could celebrate the birthday of the greatest country in the world. I hope you took the time to thank those in uniform who were not at home to celebrate with their families.

Our June Golf Ball Shoot was a success. We tried a new format to allow more shooting per individual and it is more fun – both to watch and participate. If you are interested in .22 rifles at distance (200 yards) this is the match for you. I will be the first to say that a golf ball at 200 yards is a tough target indeed. Our next shoot is July 26 at 2 PM. Our next Bowling Pin match is scheduled for July 19 at 2 PM.

The examination of our club by the approved National Shooting Sports Foundation approved entity will go forward as planned. We await the results and recommendations from this survey to make any and all improvements.

I would like to remind everyone that the Alabama Gun Collectors Association (AGCA) Summer Show is July 11 and 12 at the Birmingham Jefferson Civic Center Exhibition Hall. This is the largest show of its' kind in the southeast and generally runs around 750 tables. The theme of this show is The Cowboy Years. If you like gun shows, this is a great opportunity.

I have deliberately delayed writing the newsletter this month for a couple of reasons. One, I took a much overdue time out to visit my younger (and much prettier) sister at her home in Mississippi. We do not see each other often enough and this was an excellent opportunity. Secondly, I generally inject some of my own pithy observations on current events or political fumbles. I was unsure of exactly how to word my feelings...but I'm going to try.

After the idiot in Charlotte, North Carolina, killed nine innocent people in a church, it failed to produce the mob scene – rioting, looting – that the mass media all but begged for. In an attempt to stir up as much trouble as possible, the media then turned their attention to the Confederate Battle Flag.

I know that this flag has been adopted – stolen is a better choice of words – by some unsavory groups. Biker gangs, white supremacists, and the KKK have all chosen the flag, not as a tie to the Confederacy, I think, but more as a public representation of themselves as rebels in society. To the sons of the south, this flag represents other things entirely. It represents the willingness of the men (and, yes, women) of the Confederacy to stand up against a divisive, oppressive Federal government. To stand in the face of overwhelming odds because they felt the *duty*, the *honor*, and were willing to answer the call to arms. But – to defend slavery? No, I don't think so. Far and away, the vast majority of these soldiers were dirt poor farmers who fought only to avoid a central government infringing on decisions that should be made at the state level. This flag represents the blood spilled *in honor* by every Confederate soldier.

When someone points to the battle flag as a symbol of slavery, there is one thing to consider. The Confederate States existed and their flags existed but a tad over FOUR years. Slavery, as an institution, existed under the Stars and Stripes for EIGHTY FIVE years prior to the secession. Once all signs of the Confederacy are removed from sight – and probably from the history books – to which flag does the finger of righteous indignation point then?

As usual, these opinions, right, wrong or indifferent, are mine and mine alone. See you at the range!

Facts are stubborn things. Samuel Adams

Tim Courtney

