



# Arizona Citizens Defense League

*Protecting Your Freedom*

Volume 2013, Issue 2

AzCDL's Membership Newsletter

May 2013

## Board of Directors

Dave Kopp—President  
John Wentling—Vice President  
Fred Dahnke—Secty/Treasurer  
Charles Heller—Communications  
"Duke" Schechter—Recruiting

### Available on the web ([www.AzCDL.org](http://www.AzCDL.org))

- AzCDL Goals & Successes
  - Legislative Updates
  - Court Cases
  - Membership
  - Newsletters
  - Online Store
  - Important Links
- (and much more)

*Need help accessing the web site? Contact AzCDL at  
(623) 242-9086*

### Contacting AzCDL



P.O. Box 10325  
Glendale, AZ 85318



[Info@AzCDL.org](mailto:Info@AzCDL.org)



(623) 242-9086

### Inside this issue:

Legislative Review	1
Guest Editorial	2 & 3
Front Sight Class	3
Annual Meeting	4
Director Election Notice	4
AZ Rated #1 in RKBA	4



## 2013 Legislative Review



With the Obama Administration's all out assault on American freedoms following the Newtown tragedy in December 2012, anti-rights legislators were emboldened and energized this year. Sadly, more bills were filed this legislative session to restrict your right to bear arms than protect that right. And, when the bad bills failed to move, vigorous attempts were made to amend virtually all of the bad bills onto pro-rights bills in order to cause their demise.

Even though all the anti-rights firearms bills were defeated early in the session, and despite supposedly pro-rights majorities in both chambers of the Arizona Legislature, we also encountered unexpected resistance to pro-rights bills this session. At the assumed direction of legislative leadership, parliamentary maneuvers were used to bury pro-rights bills in committees and to run out the clock on deadlines. It was only with the help of thousands of our members contacting their legislators, committee members, and the Governor that we were successful in getting key bills signed into law. A list of all the bills we monitored this session can be found at AzCDL's Bill Tracking page: [http://www.azcdl.org/html/bill\\_tracking.html](http://www.azcdl.org/html/bill_tracking.html).

As this was being written the Legislature was still in session. However it is effectively over for non-budget (i.e., firearms) legislation. Bills signed by the Governor will become effective 90 days after the Legislature adjourns. The following is a summary of the pro-rights firearms bills that will become law later this year.

### Gun Owner Registration Blocked

**HB 2326** amends ARS 13-3108 to prohibit state agencies and local governments from maintaining "identifying information of a person who owns, possesses, purchases, sells or transfers a firearm," except in the course of a law enforcement investigation (e.g., locating a stolen firearm). In light of government maintained registries being used to confiscate firearms in California, New York and other states, HB 2326 is timely and important.

### Firearms Destruction Stopped

Last year, AzCDL-requested legislation was passed that forbade local municipalities from destroying firearms that had been "recovered, lost or abandoned." Using Clintonesque (depends on what "is" means) rationalization, the cities of Tucson and Phoenix reasoned that current law does not prohibit the destruction of firearms "surrendered" as a result of a "buy back" program. To counter this, **HB 2455**, which contained AzCDL-requested language, was passed and signed by the Governor that clarifies that firearms "surrendered" or "otherwise received" fall under the definition of property that must be sold and not destroyed.

### Support for the Second Amendment

The final "pro-rights" bill that passed the Legislature was **SCR 1015**, a resolution by the Legislature that they support "the right under the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution of individual citizens to keep and bear arms and reject the consideration of new legislation that would infringe on this constitutionally protected right." Despite all members of the Legislature swearing to uphold the U.S. and Arizona Constitutions, SCR 1015 passed by small majorities in the House and Senate. While SCR 1015 is a welcomed gesture, it has no legal effect. A real show of support for the right to bear arms would have been the passage of several other firearms related pro-rights bills introduced this session that were allowed to die.

# Crime Control vs. The Bill of Rights

by Arizona State Senator Russell Pearce

An invasion of epic proportion has been ignored, a news-media black hole from which little real information escaped.

The catalyst for the attention is my bill SB1070, which empowers our law enforcement agencies to deal with the invasion. We passed the bill because the federal government is aiding and abetting the invaders, instead of stopping them and defending the nation against a flood of biblical proportions.

In its frenzy the media missed a far more important development. SB1070 is a simple criminal statute, enacted to treat symptoms of the very harmful crime of sneaking into a nation without permission, and leaching off the nation's taxpayers.

A different law, SB1108, for which I am as responsible as I am for SB1070, is a critical restoration of our 2nd Amendment. SB1108 is no simple crime-control law. It repeals outrageous infringements to the Bill of Rights, reinstating wholesome fullness to the right to keep and bear arms.

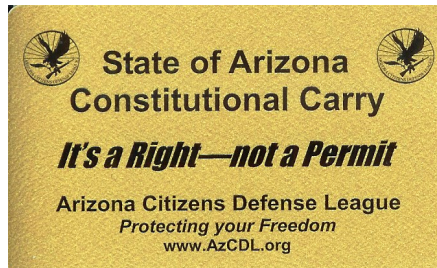
The media inaccurately conflated the *racial* (not racist) nature of our invasion, with the powers in the immigration bill, which are pure law enforcement. That's because the invaders are overwhelmingly Hispanic -- though the Border Patrol says 20% are OTMs -- "Other Than Mexicans."

Civil rights were reborn here on the same day the anti-invasion bill took effect, but the media ignored that. While they cried racism, "Constitutional Carry" restored fundamental civil rights to *anyone on the planet* who enters the state of Arizona legally. This bill extends rights to all people.

The God-given right to protect your family, your property and yourself from immediate physical harm has been accepted since the dawn of civilization. It was ensconced in the Constitution when the Founding Fathers put the Second Amendment in our Bill of Rights. There was little controversy over this well understood, deeply rooted basic human right until recently, when forces of dark-

ness began attacking many of the truths we hold to be self evident.

Arizona now has the most robust protection for the right to keep arms, and the right to bear arms, anywhere on Earth. How could media pundits miss that?



Are they so blinded by imagined racism they find where there is none, that they can't see what was put in front of them at a packed news conference the day before either law took effect?

In times just recently past, enactment of a law that frees every decent adult in the world to carry a gun with no prior permission would have led to a national uproar.

Could it be that a law crafted to prevent illegal activity is more important than the historic renewal of a cherished human right?

Maybe the media is just tired of crying wolf? They screamed about imminent blood-in-the-streets when Arizona's gun-permit law passed in 1994, but nothing ever happened (and they never apologized).

They convulsed recently about anticipated wild-west mayhem when a 30-year-old ban on gun possession was repealed for National Parks, but nothing happened (and they showed no remorse for the fear mongering).

When Arizona's restaurant gun ban was lifted a year-and-a-half ago, we heard insane screeching about impending homicidal frenzy from "shotguns in nightclubs," but it turned out that breakfast at Denny's or lunch at Applebee's is really a mild-mannered affair. No correction has been issued or is expected.

So why should the media pay any attention to a law that merely restores the

Second Amendment, not just for citizens but for any law-abiding adult who legally visits?

Who really cares that amassed infringements on 10% of the Bill of Rights have finally been overturned, without bloodshed?

Why even bother covering a law that one other state, Alaska, passed in 2003?

Does it really matter that states all over the union are now seeking Constitutional Carry for themselves?

Could people care less if a place like Arizona frees its women to put handguns in their handbags, go about their business, and return home without fear of arrest? How could feminists or NOW complain about that?

Would it bore people if you told them Senator Pearce's bill and its chief advocates, the *Arizona Citizens Defense League* (azcdl.org), worked for the past five years to make statute conform to the state's Constitution?

No one wants to hear that all these crazies are carrying guns and no one is getting shot. How could that possibly be newsworthy?

And perhaps most of all, people don't want to hear that government's exit from the enforced-training game is a *business-stimulus plan*.

Private enterprise within the state has launched the TrainMeAZ.com campaign to promote a culture of marksmanship and gun safety to every person in the state. This is Arizona -- learn to shoot straight. Marksmanship matters. Teach your children well. Why would the news media ever cover that, even if it is going up on billboards statewide?

The Constitutional Carry law and TrainMeAZ campaign have ignited a firestorm of entrepreneurship, and rekindled a burning desire to restore the nation of marksmen our Founder envisioned. An entire state trained to arms, what a concept.

I personally urge the nation to look at

(Continued on page 3)



## Another Successful “Team AzCDL” Front Sight Class



For the fourth straight year, “Team AZCDL” took on Front Sight’s four-day defensive handgun course, and bested it, and once again an AZCDL member, Marshall Witzel, took top honors in the “one-on-one shoot-off.”

Braving ninety-plus degree temperatures, single-digit humidity and, just for variety, a brief dust storm, our hardy band sent thousands of rounds down-range, decimating dozens of elusive paper silhouettes, learning or reinforcing everything from Col. Cooper’s “color code of mental awareness” to firearm safety, proper stance and technique, and the benefits of a good gun safe and hearing protection, not to mention having four times as much fun as a single day of “ballistic therapy” can be.

The four day course covers the fundamentals of properly presenting a handgun worn under a concealment garment (shirt or vest), balancing speed and accuracy, where to place your rounds to expediently stop an attacker, diagnosing and quickly clearing malfunctions, and performing tactical and emergency reloads. These are important skills to have when you choose to go armed.

During class, you also get to experience a home invasion scenario and a house clearing exercise.

For fun, the class is paired off for a steel plate competition that starts with neutralizing a hostage taker. Included in the class are a series of classroom lectures covering several topics from mental awareness and levels of competence to the use of deadly force.

The last day of class ends with a timed (and graded) skills test covering the fundamentals practiced in class. It’s a great environment to experience shooting under stress in a safe setting, and the test is great for gauging your personal progress over the course of the class.



Our range master, Paul Beneaux, ably assisted by Rena Tucker, Day Park and Matt Jeng, provided the highest quality instruction, corrected (where necessary) rather than criticized, and did their utmost to bring out the best in all of our shooters.

We had our share of Distinguished

Graduates and Graduates, but everyone earned at least a “Certificate of Achievement,” and mastering your handgun beyond the training that comes in the box with it, is an achievement, one to be proud of, whether you never do anything more than serve as a role model at the range or are called on to defend your life or another’s with it.

It was also gratifying to see Team AZCDL t-shirts from previous years on many of this year’s shooters, returning to better their skills, and we missed those of you who wanted to be there but for whatever reason couldn’t. With enough interest, we may arrange a fall expedition. This is your organization, this is just another area where we need to hear from you.

The course is four long, full, ten hour days, covering skills and knowledge that could easily take a “normal” week to learn, and some of what you do learn may not sink in until the next time you take your handgun to the range. You may get back to the hotel too tired and sore to do much more than fall into bed, but you’ll close your eyes with a feeling of accomplishment, knowing you’re that much better than you were that morning. Certificates for the course are available from many of our members, as are full memberships, at bargain-basement prices. If you can, join us for our next group excursion. You’ll be glad you did.

Duke Schechter  
Membership &  
Recruitment Director



## Crime Control vs. The Bill of Rights

(Continued from page 2)

what we’ve done with Defensive Display, Castle Doctrine inside and outside the home, Burden of Proof, Specious Civil Suit immunity, Firearms Freedom Act, Preemption and more. Make your legislatures emulate the freedom of spirit that thrives in the Grand Canyon State. Come visit and feel what it’s like to be a free adult instead of a ward of the state. You may not want to leave.



And if you do leave, you’ll take the spirit for freedom back home with you.

*Russell Pearce, former President of the Arizona State Senate and Republican State Senator from Arizona legislative district 18 and author of the anti-illegal immigration bill SB1070, and the Constitutional Carry law for firearms, SB1108, neither of which are controversial in point.*



## Join us at AzCDL's 2013 Annual Meeting in Tucson!

Mark your calendars!

You are invited to attend AzCDL's annual meeting of members on:

**Saturday, October 5, 2013**

This year's annual meeting will be held at the Marriott, University Park, 880 E. 2nd St., Tucson.



**We are expecting a huge turnout.**

As more information becomes available we will notify our membership along with posting it on our website at:

[http://www.azcdl.org/html/annual\\_meeting.html](http://www.azcdl.org/html/annual_meeting.html)

See you there!



## AzCDL's 2013 Director Election



To promote continuity in leadership, the terms of office for AzCDL's directors are staggered. This year, the director positions held by John Wentling, AzCDL's Vice-President, and Charles Heller, AzCDL's Communications Director are due to expire.

While both are seeking reelection, the nomination process is open to all members. All nominations will appear on the ballot. If there is only one nominee for a vacancy there will not be a balloting process.

If you are a Life member interested in running for either of these positions on the AzCDL Board of Directors, you may nominate yourself or be nominated by

any other member.

If you are going to nominate someone else, you must provide a personal verification from the nominee, including the nominee's signature and membership number, indicating they want to be on the ballot. Candidate biographies and/or statements are welcomed. Send all nomination requests to:

AzCDL Membership  
P.O. Box 86256  
Tucson, AZ 85754-6256

You may also email nominations to: [treasurer@AzCDL.org](mailto:treasurer@AzCDL.org). A readable, scanned image of the nominee's personal verification document attached to an

email may be considered acceptable if, in the sole judgment of AzCDL's Board of Directors, it can be verified as authentic.

All nominations must be received by AzCDL by June 30, 2013. Any nomination received after June 30, 2013 will not be placed on the ballot.

If you include a candidate biography and/or a statement of why they/you should be elected, it must be limited to a single 8.5" x 11" page using standard margins and line spacing, and a font size equivalent to Arial 10. Any legitimate candidate statement timely received will be made available to members during the balloting process.



## Arizona Rated Best State For Gun Owners



### GUNS&AMMO

Guns & Ammo magazine recently rated all the states on how they treat the right to bear arms.

**Arizona was rated #1**

States were measured on "gun rights" and friendliness to gun owners using the following criteria:

- CCW/Open Carry laws.
- Treatment of "sporting" rifles (ARs, AKs, etc.).

- Treatment of Class 3/NFA firearms.
- Castle Doctrine/Stand Your Ground.
- Miscellaneous issues like restrictions on gun or ammo purchases, magazine capacity, CCW reciprocity, etc.

All you need to do is look at AzCDL's [accomplishments](#) to see why we are rated #1 (available at our website).

We are proud that AzCDL's efforts, with our members support, have garnered this high rating for Arizona from such a prestigious publication. However, from

our perspective, there is a lot more that needs to be done to make Arizona truly a free state when it comes to honoring your constitutionally protected right to bear arms. With your continued support we can achieve that goal.

