



MEMBER'S MEETING

Along with the conceal and carry class we will still have our monthly member's meeting, some come out and enjoy some great fellowship with your fellow members!

Conceal & Carry

Who: The first 20 MVDHA Members and their spouses/ significant others

What: Utah Conceal Carry Class which allows you to carry legally in Missouri and more than 25 other states

When: Wednesday, July 9th from 6:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m.

Where: Goff Moll American Legion Hall-

Why: The best of-fense is a good de-fense

Bruce normally charges \$125 per person for this course, but will prorate his fee for this special evening to \$100 per person.

Spouses and girlfriends are welcome, and will also receive the reduced rate. To enroll in the course or for more information, you may contact Bruce

at (636) 208-7856 or bpiffel@swbell.net.

Please make checks payable to:

MVDHA

112 Log Hill Lane

Ballwin, MO 63011

Blind Drawing

Mark your calendars for July 12th: Blind drawing for the upper Mississippi will be held at the St. Charles Convention Center with registration running from 9 until 10:30 a.m. Draw will be held at 11 a.m., and you should bring your 2008 small game license, migratory bird permit, and your signed Federal duck stamp. For more info. call the MDC at (636) 441-4554.

Frank Schultz

Long time member of over fifty years, Frank Schultz, recently passed away and was buried on June 17. He will be deeply missed. Please keep his family in your prayers during this passing.

GUN RIGHTS

Gentlemen, we have much to rejoice today. Read on, please. Pay careful attention to the

quotes given by our likely presidential nominees. As our constitutional rights go, so goes the nation.

WASHINGTON - The Supreme Court ruled Thursday that Americans have a right to own guns for self-defense and hunting, the justices' first major pronouncement on gun rights in U.S. history.

The court's 5-4 ruling struck down the District of Columbia's 32-year-old ban on handguns as incompatible with gun rights under the Second Amendment. The decision went further than even the Bush administration wanted, but probably leaves most firearms laws intact.

The court had not conclusively interpreted the Second Amendment since its ratification in 1791. The amendment reads: "A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."

The basic issue for the justices was whether the amendment pro-

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fects an individual's right to own guns no matter what, or whether that right is somehow tied to service in a state militia.

Writing for the majority, Justice Antonin Scalia said that an individual right to bear arms is supported by "the historical narrative" both before and after the Second Amendment was adopted.

The Constitution does not permit "the absolute prohibition of handguns held and used for self-defense in the home," Scalia said.

The court also struck down Washington's requirement that firearms be equipped with trigger locks or kept disassembled, but left intact the licensing of guns.

In a dissent he summarized from the bench, Justice John Paul Stevens wrote that the majority "would have us believe that over 200 years ago, the Framers made a choice to limit the tools available to elected officials wishing to regulate civilian uses of weapons."

He said such evidence "is nowhere to be found."

'Landmark victory'

The ruling quickly became fodder for the presidential race. Sen. John McCain lauded the decision in a written statement, calling it a "landmark victory for Second Amendment freedom in the United States."

The Republican presidential hopeful criticized his rival Barack Obama's stance on the issue, saying the Democrat had refused to sign a statement calling for Thursday's ruling.

"Unlike the elitist view that believes Americans cling to guns out of bitterness, today's ruling recognizes that gun ownership is a fundamental right — sacred, just as the right

to free speech and assembly," McCain said.

Senator Obama said the decision "will provide much-needed guidance to local jurisdictions across the country."

"As president, I will uphold the constitutional rights of law-abiding gun-owners, hunters and sportsmen ... We can work together to enact common-sense laws, like closing the gun show loophole and improving our background check system, so that guns do not fall into the hands of terrorists or criminals," Obama stated.

The White House praised the ruling.

"We are pleased by the Court's decision upholding Americans right to bear arms. We look forward to reading the ruling in detail," White House spokesman Tony Fratto said.

The issue had caused a split within the Bush administration. Vice President Dick Cheney supported the appeals court ruling, but others in the administration feared it could lead to the undoing of other gun regulations, including a federal law restricting sales of machine guns. Other laws keep felons from buying guns and provide for an instant background check.

"I am profoundly disappointed in Justice Roberts and Justice Alito, both of whom assured us of their respect for precedent. With this decision, 70 years of precedent has gone out the window. And I believe the people of this great country will be less safe because of it."
- Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif.

"This ruling does not mark the end of our struggle against those who seek to limit the rights of law-abiding citizens. We must always remain vigilant in defense of our

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freedoms."

- Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25390404>

To me, the question that I have is that the ruling was a 5 to 4 ruling!!! That is way to close of a vote that could of gone the other way. I read an article this morning in the paper, that stated in the next four years some of these judges are going to retire, your upcoming vote in the general election will be putting the man in office who will recommend those replacements. 5 to 4, incredible!

CONTRIBUTION

A while back, Gene Tichacek, cousin to Jerry Tichacek made a huge donation to the Missouri Department of Conservation that is being earmarked for building of TWO blinds at the Columbia Bottoms Conservation Area. This money is going to be used to build one handicapped blind for hunting and one handicapped blind for viewing of wildfowl. This is a GREAT contribution by any family. Thanks Jerry for sharing this with us. We should all consider this in our wills or personal contributions for the future of our great sport.

DUCK CLUB

Looking for membership. Duck Club membership in St. Charles county, St. Peters area off of 79 and Firma Rd. The club consists of a 19 acre field with three above ground blinds. We normally have about 15 acres of corn with two open slots of mowed moist soil. Corn has not yet been planted this year due to flooding. At this time, we have 8 members with half having guest memberships. Each blind can hunt 5 comfortably and there is no reservation process,

first come first serve. All three blinds harvest birds with two blinds being about equally the best over the third. Over the last 13 years we have averages around 500 birds a year. We offer a job trailer with heat and electric for changing and we have a pumping system that allows for open water all year. A single membership is \$2500 and guest memberships are available at \$4000. The guest membership allows you to bring a guest each day and there is no limit on the number of times a guest can be your partner, but member must be present with guest. Contact Gary Miers for more info at duckseliminator@gmail.com

Tips and Tricks

As I get older in life I try to find different ways to haul all of the equipment that I need out into the field with little effort. When you take into consideration of trying to haul out three dozen decoys, shells, survival gear, lunch, thermos, mojos etc out in a wade and shoot area, the task is quite daunting if not back breaking. If you are relatively new to duck hunting, then this might be some good advice to you so you can save your back.

I went hunting last year with Chris Wymer and friends and he pulled out a sled to haul his decoys and equipment in. His was a basic sled, nothing too fancy, very similar to the ones you see your kids slide down the hill side in the snow but it was black in color and tough thick plastic which could take abuse. It can carry at least three dozen decoys and all of the equipment that you can balance on it until it starts to sink or begins to tip over. The one I have is one that I got from Cabela's. It is touted to carry three dozen de-

coys, it has a high side and back and what I like about it, it is covered in camo material so when you have your spread out, it does not stick out like a sore thumb. I tried to carry three dozen decoys in it, and it almost sank. I added some additional flotation to the bottom of it and that thing works real slick going out in a wade and shoot area. It can carry three dozen decoys, three mojos with four six volt batteries, a thermos and my swamp seat! All I do is drag it to the water and float it behind me. No weight on my shoulders, no more stumbling when your feet get stuck in the mud, very enjoyable, and I can haul even more gear now than before! So consider a sled the next time you go out in a wade and shoot area, you might appreciate the ease of hauling your equipment out.

If you have any tips or tricks you would like to share with your fellow members you can email them to me at mvdha@mvdha.com.

SPORTING CLAYS

If you recall at last month's member's meeting Gary Miers mentioned about an up and coming sporting clays event. The below information is what he forwarded to me. If interested follow the directions and enjoy! I am sure it will be a great time!

Date: July 26, 2008

Location: Ka-Tonka Clay Sports and Hunting: located in Northeast Missouri

57290 Cumberland Tr.

New London, MO 63459

The cost will be \$35.00 per person which includes 1 round of sporting clays (10 station, 10 targets each for 100 targets) and BBQ lunch.

We will also have additional games available; chip and break, Annie Oakley, rabbit game, etc. Cost for additional games are as follows...

Chip and Break \$3.00

Annie Oakley \$2.00

Rabbit game \$6.00

Skeet \$5.00

Start Time about 10:00am Reservations/Confirmation will help in the planning of the BBQ. please post your interest in participating on HuntingHole.com by July 22nd. or send an email to: Gary Miers 'duckseliminator@gmail.com' or you can contact me at 636-464-4791.

SHIRTS

If you would like to have one of the new MVDHA official shirts that you saw at a recent members meeting they cost \$20.00 a piece, paid up front. You have till the members meeting in Sept to place your order. See Jerry Mercurio Sr to place your order.

MONTAUK TROUT

Mark your calendars now for the 26th-28th of September for the first annual Montauk trout fishing outing! That's right, we're blazing new territory and trying to make more opportunities for our members and families to get out and enjoy the great outdoors. Montauk is a short two hour drive from St. Louis and is a regular destination for several of our members. This should be a fun, relaxing trip. So far there are eight people signed up for sure.

There are currently 12 motel rooms with double beds with satellite TV available for \$64 a night for two people or \$32 a night for one. To reserve a room call 1-573-548-2434 now before they are spoken for. We may cook and or eat at the lodge but it will be a good time!

A Little Gun History

Uganda established gun control in 1970. From 1971 to 1979, 300,00 Christians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

Membership

NOTICE: On your mailing label is your expiration date. If the date is in the past, please consider rejoining us on the mailing. Family memberships are only \$25.00

Phone Numbers

Your phone number that you provided during membership will only be given out to those members who request them. If you do not wish to have your phone number given out, please contact Bob Richards or email mvdha@mvdha.com of your concern. We will make arrangements so that if a member does not want their phone number passed out then a member of the board will contact you that another member is trying to communicate with you.

eScripts

EScripts is proven to be a fantastic resource for fundraising where participating business partners contribute a percentage of your grocery loyalty cards, credit card, and debit/ATM card purchases to the school, group or organization of your choice.
Here's How it Works

- You register any one or all of your existing grocery loyalty, debit and credit cards for use in the program.

- Participating merchants will make contributions to your chosen group, based on purchases made by you, just by using the cards you have registered.

- Your purchases are tracked and available to you online, allowing you to see just how much you are earning.

Bottom line, it costs you nothing. All you have to do is do your normal shopping at listed stores like, Schnucks, Macy's, Orvis, Office-Max, Pepboys or even American Airlines. This is a no brainer in helping to raise money for your MVDHA with no effort at all, except to hand your eScript card to the check out person. Chris has over 200 cards just waiting for you to call at 636-333-2251 or you can email him at

cryptologist3@yahoo.com

Up Coming Events

July 9th : Bruce Piffel conceal and carry class/movie night.

July 12th: Blind drawing for the upper Mississippi will be held at the St. Charles Convention Center .

Aug 13 : TBD

Sept 10 : Mike Morris Boating Safety International Association of Firefighters Local 757

Sept 26th-28th First annual Montauk trout fishing outing.

Oct 8 : Annual Duck hunting forecast presented by the MDC.

Nov 12 : TBD

Dec 10 : Our annual Christmas Party

The President's Corner

Gentlemen and Lady:

Well, I know we have at least one lady member now, so there you go. I hate to say it, but the upcoming duck season isn't shaping up to be a whiz bang. I don't have to tell you that all this water coming down isn't a good thing. Check out www.deltawaterfowl.org to get reports on the nesting season and other pertinent information. So with that, we'll just have to find the silver lining in the cloud of waterfowling.

It's not like any of us haven't ever experienced adversity while hunting over the years. Hell, that's what makes what we do so interesting and richly rewarding. A scratch golfer may risk a little poison ivy to find his errant ball or take his shoes and socks off and roll up his pant legs to get in the water, but that pales in comparison to the mosquito infested swamps during a hot summer day. Ah, yes, wading in the muck and mire with a stack of 2 by 4's on your shoulder, pushing a john boat in water barely deep enough to keep it afloat, cutting willows and dragging them through the woods, and so the story goes. It defines us and sets us apart from those who choose other endeavors.

Some would argue that due to 'social progress' what we do has become obsolete. That's funny, but coffee shops on every corner, nail studios run by foreigners, and tofu this and soy that isn't progress to me. Denying my rights under the constitution because some view that document as a 'living document' and changes with the time (aka 'social progress') is a crock of you-know-what.

Alright, I digress. Trying to remain cautiously optimistic, don't forget to come out and support your fellow members during the blind draw on Saturday, July 12th. See the newsletter for more information. For those of you who have no intention of hunting the Alton/Dresser pool, we still need you there. It is often stated that no one can do everything, but everyone can do something. If you show up and are drawn, your fellow members will happily build the blind(s) and take it from there. All you have to do is spend a little time and energy to drive out to St. Charles for the morning. Bring your licenses and signed stamp and visit for a bit. How hard is that? It's even air-conditioned this year!

Just a reminder that there is still time to sign up for the conceal and carry class on Wednesday, July 9th, with Bruce Piffel. We currently have over 13 people registered for this training, which will begin at Goff Moll at 6 p.m. and run until 10 or so. You can pay at the door if you decide at the last minute. Please note, there WILL BE a regular business meeting which will start at 7:30 p.m. for those not taking part in the conceal carry class.

Lastly, I would like to dedicate this month's column to Frank Schultz. Frank recently passed on June 14th. He was a long-time MVDHA member and will be greatly missed. Many of you know his son, Tom, and we pray that God will strengthen his family and him in the days and months to come. We hope to see Tom at a meeting real soon. Frank, think of us every now and then, and send some favorable winds every chance you get.

Until next time.....

Tony

General Information

This newsletter is distributed to our active members. For members, check your mailing label for when your membership expires. For non-active members check the website for the current newsletter. We have our general meeting the second Wednesday of every month and our Board of Directors' Meeting every fourth Monday. All meetings begin at 7:30 at the American Legion Post Goff – Moll Post 101, at 2721 Collier, Brentwood, Mo. 63144. In case of bad weather call the Post at 314-961-3263 or Tony Wolf at 636-441-3793 or Jerry Mercurio at 636-296-4799.

Visit YOUR web site at <http://www.mvdha.com/> to get the most recent news, events and updates. There you will find this newsletter and other helpful information concerning conservation and the great outdoors that we love. If you would like to be added to the email listing of important news and updates you can do that through the web site through the contact us link, fill out the form and make sure you add your email address.

Any comments or suggestions concerning the newsletter or the website can be sent to mvdha@mvdha.com. I am always looking forwards to suggestions concerning content and what you would like to see or be presented in these publications.

Next members meeting: **July 9, 2008**

Next Board Meeting: **July 28, 2008**

Members are invited to the Board Meeting

All meetings start at 7:30

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DUCK HUNTERS ASSN. INC.

"A Nonprofit Association of, by, and for the Duck Hunters"

"ST. LOUIS' NONPROFIT ASSOCIATION"

P.O. BOX 6, VALLEY PARK, MO 63088

