



HARRODS CREEK FIELD & STREAM CLUB

P.O. Box 22592
Lyndon, Kentucky 40222



NOVEMBER MEETING WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1991
NORTH OLDHAM LION'S CLUB
7:30 PM

VOTE: This is the meeting at which you choose your officers and directors for the upcoming year. Enclosed with this newsletter is a ballot. It can be returned by mail or in person. We have mailed this letter early, so as to enable you to mail in your ballot if desired. Please vote. This is one of the most direct ways you can act to keep your club strong.

BASS TOURNEY: The first annual HCFS Fall bass tournament was a success. Twenty two brave souls faced cold, windy weather and lockjawed fish to have a good time. As always, someone finds the fish. Barry Sullivan and Jim Richardson brought the largest fish to bounty, a 1.5 lb largemouth. Bruce Goodman brought in the smallest fish, a 12.25" spotted. All 22 participants had a great time. Another resounding success! Thanks are in order to Barry Sullivan and Ray Frye who chaired this event. Lets' make it an annual, fellas.

THIS MEETING: In addition to the elections, this meeting will feature our annual duck and goose calling contest. Our judges will be Daryl Loafman and A. J. Vogelsberg. Dust em'off, boys, it's about that time of year again. This is your chance to warm up and earn fame and glory. As well as the contest, A. J. will be showing a video outlining some of the works that Ducks Unlimited has been doing to support the waterfowl population. A. J. is always interesting and informative. Come on out, hear A. J. speak and your friends quack and honk.

HOMETOWN DOG DOES GOOD: Moondawg Ulmer's pride and joy, Blue, received his UKB/HRC Championship designation in September. This is a tremendous achievement for Blue. Congratulations to this fine dog and his father, Moondawg.

THANK YOU: Thanks to Capt. Joe Bland, who gave us a nice presentation about the deer season and anything else we asked about. Joe is always informative and entertaining. You are always welcome at our place, Joe.



In Cooperation with League of Kentucky Sportsman (3rd District),
National Rifle Association, National Wildlife Federation



HOMETOWN BOY DOES GOOD: John Bethune, a professor at Bellarmine College recently had an article published in the American Rifleman. It is reprinted in its entirety in this newsletter. John is neither a hunter, gun owner or a member of the Harrod's Creek Field & Stream Club. In spite of these cultural disadvantages, he has written a very intelligent article. I recommend it to your attention. JJ, you are always welcome here.

DANCE WITH THEM WHO BRUNG YOU: John Scott, Stu's brother and a HCFS member has opened a Barbecue in Crestwood. It is at 6554 W. Highway 146. Stop out and have a bite at John's. Real barbecue would make a nice substitute for the venison that you did not get.

BIG BUCKS: HA! Caught you greedy types! I'm talking about deer, not cash. Bring the vital statistics of your trophy for inclusion into the big buck contest. We'll compile data and the big buck award will be presented, along with our other awards, at the Christmas party.

SPEAKING OF...: The Christmas party will be held at our December meeting. It is a family event, so bring out the family and enjoy. This is the last hurrah for 1991, so let's go out with a bang.

ON THE MEND: Gary Artman recently had back surgery. As of this writing, he is mending well, but missed the deer season. Get well soon, Gary. We miss you, and are pulling for your recovery. Keep us posted.

BALONEY: Well, not really baloney. Summer sausage, to be exact. We have made arrangements with a butcher to make venison summer sausage for the club. He makes it in 100 lb lots. We will need boned venison from you skilled hunters for this batch. We will then give it out at the Christmas party. This is a taste treat. Hugh Adamson will be spearheading this, so let him know if you want to turn some of your venison into a slice of heaven.

STRIPER FAX: Did you know that stripers had a spawn in the Ohio River in 1988? They're making it on their own in the "Big Muddy". They have been stocked each year since their inception in Cumberland, with the exception of three years. This fish is rapidly becoming the Salmon of the South.

HUNTERS FOR THE HUNGRY: This is a short reminder to give a little venison to this worthy organization. When you do so, you are helping the less fortunate, giving the sport the best possible image and making yourself feel like a million. Contact Mike Olhman at Custom Taxidermy or a participating processor.

BULLY PULPIT: This month, I would like to talk about money. Yours and mine. As most of you probably know, Fish and Wildlife is self sustaining. All of the receipts from license sales, fines, Breaux-Wallop revenue sharing and such are set aside for the Department of Fish and Wildlife's operation. We pay our own way. The Commonwealth of Kentucky has recently said that it will have a revenue shortfall of 150 Million dollars. You can be sure that the Frankfort whores will be eyeing the Fish and Wildlife trust fund to cover the shortage. They have already raised income taxes into the stratosphere. They have raised the sales tax. Now they will certainly look to our nest egg to feed their greed. With this in mind, I would like to make a modest proposal. I suggest that each of us take our hunting and/or fishing license when it expires, draw a big V across it and mail it to the speaker of the State House of Representatives. I would challenge all of the clubs affiliated with the League of Kentucky Voters to initiate this program in their clubs and work to get all license holders to do so. Think of the impact of it. One day the Speaker of the House goes to his mail box to pick up the usual mail. Along with Newsweek, the electric bill and a pizza coupon, he also receives five or ten thousand of these old licenses with the V across it. He will get curious about why 10,000 people sent in old licenses with a V on them. After he snoops around for a while, he will realize that that V stands for VOTER and these 10,000 hunters/fishers/voters are very interested in how the State House treats our money. He and all of his colleagues will get the message. For them to get the message, we have to send it. In subsequent newsletters, I will provide the names and addresses necessary. I'll also remind you about it in future months. I am also available to discuss this with any other club or League representative. Call me at (502) 566-6884. I realize that I am probably overstepping my bounds by spouting off programs and challenges to other clubs in this Bully Pulpit. Forgive me. I am tired to death of bitching and whining in this column. This time we can beat the problem to the punch. We can let them know what we, as sportsmen, want before they take actions that might hurt us. A raid on our money coming. Let's head it off at the pass.

ENVIRONMENTALIST WACKO JOKE: A man in California kills and eats a rare California Condor. He is caught. Because this is a serious offense, he hires a lawyer. The lawyer tells him to keep his mouth shut, and he'll take it to a jury. When the lawyer gets before a jury he describes in great detail how this unfortunate was lost in the mountains and had to eat this bird to survive until he was rescued. The jury is impressed and acquits him. The judge reads the verdict, and then asks the defendant how the Condor tasted. The defendant thinks it over for a moment and tells the judge "well, sir, it's not like anything else you have ever eaten. I guess that it's a cross between bald eagle and spotted owl."

PRODUCT WARNING AND RECALL NOTICE

Browning Model 81 BLR Long Action Rifles

(270 Win., 30-06 Sprg., and 7mm Rem. Mag.)

Browning is recalling all Model 81 BLR Long Action rifles. BLR Short Action models are *not* included in this recall.

During our continual and extensive shooting tests under laboratory conditions, we found a situation where the hammer can be manipulated to fall from the half-cock position to the dropped position. In some circumstances, this could cause the rifle to fire.

WARNING

DO NOT LOAD OR SHOOT YOUR BLR LONG ACTION RIFLE

until it has been sent to us and the problem corrected. Failure to follow these instructions could result in injury or death to yourself or others.

If your rifle has the following inscription on the right side of the barrel, your rifle is included in this recall:

MODEL 81L BLR

(followed by one of these calibers)
**CALIBER 270 WIN., 30-06,
OR 7MM REM. MAG.**

In all cases, *the entire gun must be returned to Browning* to make the correction.

Please call our BLR Long Action Recall Department at:

1-800-727-4312.

When we receive your call we will verify that you own one of the recalled rifles (have your rifle's serial number ready), and you will be sent a special BLR Long Action Recall Kit to expedite the return and repair of your rifle.

We apologize for this inconvenience. There will be no charge for the repair of your rifle and *all shipping costs will be prepaid or quickly reimbursed.*



Thoughts On Guns And Taxes

BY JOHN J. BETHUNE

In its support for the individual's right to own weapons—and therefore, in its opposition to gun control proposals being made nationwide—the National Rifle Association takes what many view as extreme or radical positions. On closer examination, however, its approach does not strike me as unreasonable, but rather as a rational response to a serious threat against liberty.

I am neither a member of the NRA nor a gun owner, yet I am quite sympathetic to its cause. As I understand it, the NRA is terribly concerned by what might be termed a "foot-in-the door" attack on the U.S. Constitution. Briefly put, it is concerned that if our constitutional right to bear arms is curtailed—by legislative limits on the ownership of handguns, manufacture of armor-piercing bullets, or purchase of assault rifles, for example—then the fundamental constitutional right itself is in danger. In the end, no private citizen will be allowed to possess a weapon of any kind.

The NRA's concern is well founded. This country's 76-year experience with a tax on personal income offers a telling case in point.

In 1893, the U.S. Congress first legislated a modest income tax—2%, applicable only to a very small number of very wealthy Americans. Political posturing on behalf of the tax was intense; nevertheless, the Supreme Court ruled that it violated the Constitution's requirement that all taxes be imposed in direct proportion to state population. This ruling settled the matter of taxing incomes until 1909, when President Taft began looking for new revenue sources. Proposals for a constitutional amendment to permit income taxation were thus born.

The 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution passed in 1913. Arguments based on the notion of equity carried the day. The newly authorized income tax would allow for the reduction of tariffs on imported goods, which were viewed to be regressive. The income tax would also affect only the wealthiest Americans. Ample deductions were permitted, and the value of the personal exemption for a family of four, in 1987 dollars, was \$45,977. Only 2% of the population paid any income tax at all; the highest marginal rate in 1913 was 7%.

The limited reach of the income tax was soon extended, however. A federal inheritance tax was established in 1916. The maximum marginal rate on income taxation increased from 15% in 1916 to 77% by 1918—an increase of over

400% in just two years! What had appeared to be a reasonable tax in 1913 had turned into a nightmarish tool of confiscation.

As personal incomes rose, everyone's tax burden grew. State and local governments enacted income taxes, and the federal government tapped incomes for a Social Security tax, adding to the already-heavy tax burden Americans had to bear. Even after the 1986 tax reform, the National Tax Foundation estimates that the average American works over five months a year just to pay his or her taxes.

What lesson for gun owners can be learned from this history of income taxation? Today, public sentiment appears to favor a ban on certain types of weapons, considering some form of limited ban to be "reasonable." Similar sympathies no doubt surrounded proposals for the taxation of income in 1913. It is likely, however, that gun control partisans see limited bans as only a first step . . . those who sought to maximize government revenues viewed the income tax in much the same way.

Our very negative experience with the taxation of income suggests that defenders of the right to bear arms have a legitimate reason for concern.

The Second Amendment to the Constitution guarantees U.S. citizens the right to keep and bear arms. The significance of this right, however, is not merely in the fact that it appears in the Constitution: The right to keep and bear arms is essential to the preservation of liberty. Mikhail Gorbachev understood this lesson when he ordered the Lithuanians to disarm; the Chinese students on Tiananmen Square learned it the hard way. So when the contemporary voices of "reason" take aim at assault rifles or some other "weapon of the day," please do not view the NRA and its members as spokespersons for irrationality. They are expressing a concern that is historically justified and confirmed by the brutality of weapons-deprived seekers of freedom. NRA members pay income taxes just like you and I do—and they watch the nightly news, too. ■

John J. Bethune is currently an assistant professor of economics at Bellarmine College in Louisville, Ky. His article appeared in the June 5, 1991, issue of The Township Times of Saginaw, Mich. It is reprinted here through the kind permission of Township Times publisher Ronald J. Eby.