

OpenCarry.org

For Immediate Release – June 8, 2008

Web site founded by 2 law students sparks “open carry movement” across the United States.

According to a recent Los Angeles Times article, the open carry “movement has attracted grandparents, graduate students and lifelong gun enthusiasts.” This nation-wide open carry movement is being sparked and is fueled by the web site OpenCarry.org, which to gun owners, is a treasure trove of interactive map-linked information regarding laws of open carry in the United States. It also serves as an immense discussion board and networking hub for this enthusiastic movement which is spreading like wildfire.

OpenCarry.org was founded by 2 law students only a few years ago. John Pierce is an incoming first year student at Hamline University Law School, and Mike Stollenwerk is a third year student at Georgetown University Law Center where he is President of the pro-gun law student group called the Georgetown Law-Militia.

The idea for OpenCarry.org arose in 2004 out of controversy surrounding the Virginia law requiring open carry of handguns at restaurants serving alcohol even if the gun owner holds a concealed handgun permit. Many web sites existed documenting the law of "concealed carry," but none covered the "law of open carry," so John Pierce broached the idea with Mike Stollenwerk, and the rest has been history.

Most people are unaware that many states in the US allows anyone over 18 years of age (who is not otherwise prohibited from owning firearms) to lawfully obtain a handgun in a non-dealer transfer without any background check, and open carry that loaded handgun in public without the need to register the gun, or obtain a license to carry the gun. Under United States Constitutional law, the police cannot lawfully detain open carriers for obeying the law anymore than they can lawfully detain a newspaper or television reporter openly carrying cell phones or cameras.

Over the last 4 years, the open carry of handguns has become more common and less controversial. And the police and people in most states are getting used to it - in fact a recent FBI report essentially concludes that criminals don't open carry handguns.

OpenCarry.org believes that "a right unexercised, is a right lost," and increasingly gun owners are agreeing - it's time gun carry comes out of the closet in America.

Media Contact : Mike Stollenwerk
John Pierce