



Tourniquet Time?

Perhaps nothing illustrates the growth of NFA ownership better than the steadily increasing wait times being encountered for Form 1 and Form 4 transfer approvals. Those of you who can claim that this is “not your first rodeo” likely remember a time when approvals could take upwards of a year. Those with a bit shorter memory can remember when the “Houchens Era,” with assistance from NFATCA, had driven approval turnarounds to as little as a month or two. Those days are long gone.

As of right now, the NFA Branch in Martinsburg, West Virginia is reporting an average turnaround time for

a Form 1 or 4 to be pushing seven months. This is mostly attributed to the surge in suppressor ownership, with suppressors now making up



almost 70% of all transfer requests. The tide does not seem to be diminishing, so NFA Branch has secured assistance.

The NFA Branch will be placing 10-12 “Examiner Assistants” as part of a contract employee program for an initial period of one year. This placement will begin immediately and it is expected that they will begin having an impact on the paperwork mountain as early as this summer. In addition, NFA Branch is seeking permission to create a posting announcement for fiscal year 2013 for the placement of 5 new Examiners. This will be difficult, considering that ATF is still facing a hiring freeze. Contact your representatives and express your support!

Hopefully, these measures will result in improved turnaround times.

NRA Annual Meeting, St. Louis

Once again, the NFATCA had a booth set up at the Annual Meeting of the NRA. This year saw yet another record attendance (73,740) and hardly any issues with parking. With that said, the confluence of the home opener weekend for the Cards, NHL playoffs for the Blues, the St. Louis Marathon and a host of high school proms did make getting around interesting at times.

So what did we learn?

Sadly, there are lot of “gun folks” that are still blissfully unaware that NFA weapons are perfectly legal for most folks to own and use. There are also quite a few that are

still barred at the state level from enjoying a right that some of us take for granted. One could have stood on top of the convention center and landed a good golf shot across the river into the state of Illinois. Citizens of that state are still barred from most of the essential firearms liberties that so many of us enjoy without thought. It was quite depressing to realize that so many of the folks visiting the exhibits from Illinois were legally

prevented from exercising the freedom that we have all been fighting so hard for.

There’s always hope. Missouri recently opened up the world of suppressors for their citizens and there were plenty

of folks that showed up with a Missouri “thanks!” Lot’s of folks talking about states like Texas, Georgia and Arizona making it legal to hunt game animals, not just vermin, with suppressors. The enthusiasm that was evidenced when folks recounted Parks & Wildlife votes that were *unanimously* in favor of the proposition was palpable.

Republican Presidential candidate Mitt Romney strolled the aisles and pressed the flesh as did many other political luminaries. Threatened pickets and clashes over regional issues never quite materialized. Instead, folks shared their passion, talked about the next big thing and generally “held forth in a most civilized manner.”

The NFATCA signed up some new members and was able to catch up with many existing members. It was a good show and we’d love to see you next year in Houston!



“Laws that forbid the carrying of arms... disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes... Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they serve rather to encourage than to prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than an armed man.”

~ Thomas Jefferson

NFATCA Upcoming Events

- ◆ Knob Creek Fall Shoot, October 12-14, 2012, West Point KY
- ◆ SAR West, November 30—December 2, 2012, Phoenix AZ



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info@nfatca.org for details



Associate Memberships

The NFATCA now has \$ 5 0 Associate Memberships available to provide an opportunity for even more folks to help keep NFA weapons available to all. Join now!

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Why Aren't You Doing Something?

This is a question that gets asked of the NFATCA on a near daily basis. Whether it is by phone, email or in person, it seems as though just about everyone has a "pet" issue that they believe just isn't getting a fair shake. The most common inquiry we get concerns §922(o), otherwise known as the Hughes Amendment. This is the tidy piece of legislation pushed through under the leadership of US Representative Charlie Rangel (D-NY) that created the various distinctions between transferable, pre-May and post-May dealer sample machine guns. Folks want to know why the NFATCA hasn't done something about it.

The simple truth is that it is going to take an enormous amount of resources and effort to mount either the legislative and/or legal challenges to attempt to roll back the Hughes Amendment. Enormous, as in millions upon millions of dollars. Knowing that the true indication of what is really important is the financial support of those who care about the issue, it is worth noting that almost without exception, the folks that ask about our "lack of effort" are not members of the NFATCA. And when asked if they would financially support such an endeavor, they quietly decline or suggest that

we go get "money from the big boys." The fact is that those who want us to do the most work on their behalf are almost always the ones least likely to support the effort with even an Associate Membership.

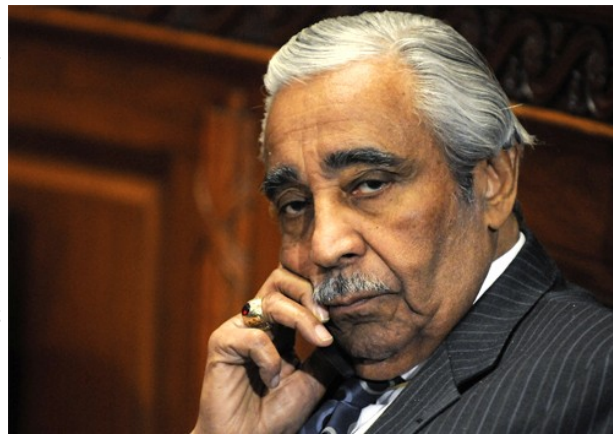
The NFATCA Board of Directors has constantly struggled with appropriately funding our efforts and intimately understands the fact that we simply cannot take on every NFA

those that folks are willing to help support with their own resources. Someone who asks us to help fight the CLEO signature requirement issue and then writes out a check for \$250 to get the job done sends a much different signal than someone who berates us for doing nothing to overturn the Gun Control Act and refuses to even join our ranks with a membership that costs less than

what is spent on a dozen cups of Starbucks over the course of a year. What we do tends to benefit the entire community, even if the majority of those that benefit never contribute to their own well being.

But let's get back to the Hughes Amendment thing. On April 10, 1986, Rep. Charlie Rangel was presiding over House deliberations on the Firearm Owners Protection Act and ignored a plea to take a recorded vote on an amendment that would greatly

restrict the ownership of machine guns and moved through complicated proceedings to ramrod the amendment through. Reagan signed the whole mess on May 19, 1986 and it became law. In order to make this go away, it will either need to be challenged in the courts (likely winding up in the Supreme Court) or reversed with new legislation. Either route will cost millions. We're going to need a LOT more \$50 Associate Members to make that happen...



issue. Included in this dynamic is the reality that membership dues have rarely, if ever, covered the costs of these efforts. Our Board has often funded efforts out of their own pockets when there was a budget shortfall and those shortfalls are ongoing. Our Board continues its personal support, even in this stressed economy.

None of this is meant to say "if you don't pay, we won't listen." Quite the contrary! What it does mean is that we take our queues as to what is most important by recognizing that the most important issues tend to be

Teach Your Children Well

Having access to NFA weapons means that we have even more opportunities to teach the next generation about shooting and shooting safely. We all already know that a suppressor can dramatically reduce muzzle blast, report and recoil. This makes firearms less intimidating, especially for kids. That doesn't give us the latitude to ignore any of the basic safety rules of firearms use. It's also all too easy to forget your eyes and ears when shooting. Don't!

And even though you've likely heard them a million times, the four

foundations of firearms safety are designed to provide you with layers



of protection that can save your life: treat every gun as if it is loaded,

don't point your weapon at anything you don't intend to shoot, keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot and know your target and what's behind it.

And even though you are using a can and it's just a .22... you only get two eyes and two ears. Let's make sure you get to keep both sets for a very long time. Make sure that safety is a requirement and not an option. And take your kids (or the neighbor's kids) to the range today.