

Guns, Guns, Guns

I can hear the wheels turning already out there for some of you ... "Here comes that prissy damn libtard gonna lecture us from her high-and-mighty throne in her ivory tower about gun control." Hold that thought ... you might want to retract it later.

We live on a hundred-acres-plus of mixed woodland next to a perennial stream. It's twenty miles to the closest 7-11 and thirty to the closest Costco. As I've stated before ... it's the boonies on steroids. We're on a long feeder from the power company ... we refer to it as being at the end of a twenty-five mile extension cord. When (not if) the power goes off, it's usually off for hours, if not days. That's when the generator runs for a few hours a day, and keeps the freezers and fridges usable. Wood heat keeps the house warm during the winter.

Being where we are, there's critters. On a regular basis, we have raccoon, possum, and bobcat visible out the side window. We have bats under the house, keeping company with the wood rats and multitudes of mice. Coyotes and wolves are heard but rarely seen. The other night, a cougar tripped the trail cam on our walkbridge across the creek and a bear was into the garbage can because we forgot to put a slosh of ammonia in with the trash. The bear also knocked out our phone line for three days because it used the phone pole for a claw-sharpening vehicle and the terminal box was in the middle of the effort.

Out here there's a need for protection/self-defense. It's not just wanting to collect firearms (although many do), it's a necessity to maintain some firepower. In our house alone, we have a couple of 9mm pistols, a shotgun, a 30.06 hunting rifle, an AK-style semi-automatic, and a couple of long distance target rifles. Oh, and the omnipresent .22 plinker.

In case you're wondering here's the rationale for each variety:

9mm's - personal protection and preservation against large critters (both two and four legged kind). If I'm out on the property, I'm usually carrying, ever since I came face-to-face with a bear ten feet away some years back.

Pump shotgun - loaded with #2 buckshot. Deterrent value is great, the sound of a shell being chambered will scare the hell out of you in the dark. Damage if actually used is high.

Hunting rifle - self-explanatory.

AK-style semi-auto - There is a strong survivalist sentiment out here that pervades even us logical folks as to being able to fend off a

crowd of intruders. The probability that it'll ever be used for anything other than target proficiency is almost non-existent, but it's here anyway.

Long distance target rifles - somewhat useless for everyday stuff, but you can shoot a 2" group of 10 shots at six football fields away with 'em. Think of it as a sniper rifle that is non-combat ready.

.22 is the varmint rifle for plinking. One of the most destructive pests out here are ground squirrels that undermine driveways, foundations, and highways. We try to keep the population down, but never succeed very well.

OK, so we've got guns and LOTS of ammo. Some of our neighbors would say "That's a good starter kit."

Why am I telling you this?

Because there's a liberal mantra of "gun control" that has to be addressed, and not in the way you think.

Out here in the boonies, we regard guns as tools. They're part of the landscape as much as post-hole diggers, tractors, backhoes, plows and four-wheel-drive vehicles. You don't think twice about carrying a pistol on your hip out on the property, or having the .22 rifle strapped across the front of the ATV. It's just a "what's so". Just part of life. Add to that the fact that the ambulance is at least 45 minutes away and the sheriff about the same if they show up at all. The local volunteer fire department is understaffed and mutual aid is an hour. We're pretty much on our own in the countryside.

Now I realize and understand the sentiments of city dwellers in Chicago and elsewhere, where guns are prevalent and bullets kill tens of citizens on any given weekend. That's no good. There are guns everywhere in cities as well as out here. The difference is in which kind of critters you're dealing with ... two-legged or four-legged.

We have city-dwelling relatives that always ask "arent you afraid of all the bears and cougars and wolves that you run into out there?" Our response is always, "I'd rather deal with our kind of critters than the ones that surround you." I can see a definite need for having small arms for self-defense in urban areas ... but in your home or on your property, not on the streets. Personally, in the city, the need for an AK-47 for defending your property is a little much, but some people would feel safer if they had 'em.

And so long as you keep them away from the kids (both your own and visitors) and educate the young'uns about gun safety as soon as they can comprehend it, putting the guns in a vault that takes valuable

time when you need them most doesn't make sense to me.

The NRA always has said that 'guns don't kill people, people kill people.' Technically, it's true. Someone has to load the clip or the revolver, and pull the trigger. Very rarely do they go off by themselves.

Given that, how do we find the line between 'tool' and 'offensive weapon'?

One answer could be that you make the penalty for using a gun in the commission of a felony a thirty-year sentence without possibility of parole. Possession inside a city limit outside the home without provable necessity would get you twenty.

Within crowded areas like cities, there have to be restrictions and regulations. I, for one, would require anyone who has a gun within a city limit or urban growth boundary to have taken a mandatory gun safety class which defines where and when a gun can be used for personal protection. I would vote for keeping guns out of the hands of convicted domestic violence abusers, violent felons, and people adjudged to be mentally incompetent and the mentally ill that require medication for violent behavior. There are probably other reasons to keep guns out of certain individuals possession, but this is a start.

Outside those crowded areas, the only restriction should be that the owners of firearms should have taken the gun safety course with the emphasis on the where, when and the penalties of firearm use. Beyond that, don't restrict the use of our tools.

See there? This libtard has descended from her ivory tower and condescended to mingle with you conservative folks. It wasn't so bad, was it? Get this discussion going and find a solution.