February 2024 Safety Article

Riding or Driving while Carrying a Firearm

As more and more Counties are issuing Concealed Carry Permits, you may find yourself in a situation where you encounter Law Enforcement.

For those who already have a Concealed Carry Permit this may be a little redundant, but a reminder that may save you a lot of trouble.

For those of us who have a CCW Permit we understand that it involves a whole new level of firearm safety and responsibility. For those going through the process you will learn it also.

Here is a typical scenario that you may encounter. You are riding your bike or driving your car and for some reason you are pulled over for a traffic infraction. What do you do?

 Pull over in a safe place. Raise your face shield or lower your window. Put both hands on the grips or steering wheel as the Officer approaches. When the Officer asked for your license, registration, and insurance before reaching for your wallet inform the Officer “I am licensed to carry a concealed firearm and it is in my left vest pocket or wherever, what would you like me to do?” They will thank you for informing them and ask simply that you refrain from hands near that area or other commands. Repeat their command to them, so they know you understood This is a typical response. They will explain why they stopped you and either give you a warning or a citation.

The one thing that has happened and this has been verified, that people have said to Officers is “I have a gun” if you say something like that you may find out how bulletproof your vest and helmet or your favorite coat are.

If you are involved in an accident and an Officer takes custody of your firearm, make sure to get their name and badge number. If an ambulance of firefighter takes possession of it do the same.