

Life Clock

Macintosh Version 1.0, 2/7/94

Presented as a public service by Democrats for the Second Amendment (D2A)

Software developed by Inspired Technologies, Inc.

Free distribution of Life Clock is allowed (heck, encouraged!) as long as the module is distributed together with this text file, and no alterations are made either to the screen-saver module or this documentation. Charging money for this software is not allowed, unless the charge is to cover reasonable reproduction and distribution costs. Copyright is retained by Democrats for the Second Amendment.

What is Life Clock, and where can I use it?

Life Clock is a screen-saver module meant for use with **After Dark**TM on the MacintoshTM personal computer. As such, it will also work with some freeware / shareware screen savers that are intended to work with any **After Dark** modules. Life Clock will work on any Macintosh -- with either color, gray-scale, or monochrome (black and white) displays.

Why this screen-saver?

Life Clock was written in response to the erection of the "Death Clock" billboard in New York City. A number of people felt that board only presents part of the story (and not even very accurately at that). As we can't afford to buy a billboard of our own, we'll just have to rely on pro-gun-rights people to lend us some free real-estate in the form of their idle computer screens.

The statistics used in Life Clock were computed as follows. The homicide rate figure is taken from the latest available FBI Uniform Crime Report (for 1992, published Oct., 1993). Suicides with guns are intentionally not counted as the availability of guns has no bearing on suicide rates. For instance, Japan -- which has outlawed private ownership of firearms, yet has twice the suicide rate of the U.S.

The self-defense figure is taken from the work of Dr. Gary Kleck (anyone interested in gun use in crime is well-advised to pick up a copy of his book, [Point Blank](#)). Dr. Kleck estimates 650,000 - 2 million cases of self-defense with firearms every year. For our purposes, we'll use a relatively-conservative number of 1 million per year.

What's what in the screen-saver

When Life Clock is running, your screen will look something like this:

The Life Clock

1/25/94 9:47:12 pm

Homicides via guns, to date **1048** **68195** Criminal attacks defeated by defensive use of guns, to date

A few words from our founders...

"As civil rulers, not having their duty to the people duly before them, may attempt to tyrannize, and as the military forces which must be occasionally raised to defend our country, might pervert their power to the injury of their fellow citizens, the people are confirmed by the article in their right to keep and bear their private arms." -- Tench Cox in "Remarks on the First Part of the Amendments to the Federal Constitution." Under the pseudonym "A Pennsylvanian" in the Philadelphia Federal Gazette, June 18, 1789 at 2 col. 1

Armed Citizens

Awakened early one morning by his security system, Charles Tanner of Phoenix expected a cat to be the culprit, but took his .45 Colt just in case. Tanner opened his front door and found a man in his driveway. The man charged the homeowner and slammed through the screen door, prompting Tanner to fire four times, killing the intruder. "We had lots of firearms training. It all came back to me," said the former reserve county sheriff's deputy. (The Arizona Republic, Phoenix, AZ, 11/06/93)

Presented in the interests of balance by Democrats for the Second Amendment

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At the top of the screen are the date and time ("gosh, it's politically-incorrect, and useful too!").

In the middle of the screen are year-to-date figures comparing number of homicides via gun to self-defense using gun. Mind you, about 98% of cases of self-defense with guns do not involve actually shooting the gun (usually just display of the weapon is sufficient to make the villain turn tail).

At the bottom of the screen are some educational and inspirational quotes. On the left, quotes (primarily) from the founding fathers -- with one additional (particularly juicy) quote from Gandhi. The purpose of these quotes is to show the frame of mind of the people that actually wrote the 2nd amendment (i.e., militia = every adult without a criminal record; private guns exist for [1] a last line of defense against tyranny, [2] self-defense, [3] hunting). On the right, selections from the American Rifleman column "Armed Citizen" are displayed.

What this software can do

When you select Life Clock in **After Dark**, you can adjust a number of Life Clock's behaviours. The top "slider" lets you adjust the speed at which the text "drifts" around the screen. Note that for most folks, slower is better. The second slider allows you to adjust the time for which each quote will be displayed (default = 40 seconds). The setting you prefer really depends on just how fast a reader you are. Last, a pop-up menu allows you to change the color that the text will be displayed in (yellow seems to work best for most people). If you are working on a monochrome screen, the color choice will be overridden so that the text displays in white on a black background.

What is "Democrats for the Second Amendment"?

Democrats for the Second Amendment (D2A, for short) consists of people, largely (but not limited to) registered Democrats, who disagree with the Democratic party's stance on the American people's second amendment rights. As individuals, our feelings on other issues might reasonably be opposed to the opinions of others fighting for Gun Rights. As an organization, though, D2A will concentrate its efforts on Gun Rights and not take official positions on other issues that do not directly affect the second amendment. For example, we may take an interest in Civil Forfeiture laws but are unlikely to state an official position on censorship in the arts. However, we value the First Amendment and all articles in the Bill of Rights equally and consider it to be a single garment of interconnected threads, not a jigsaw puzzle from which pieces can be subtracted to suit political whims.

Membership in Democrats for the Second Amendment is open to people of all political persuasions. We will, however, limit eligibility for elected offices in D2A to registered Democrats. We will not endorse non-Democrats OR anti-gun Democrats running for public office. We will provide negative endorsements for anti-gun Democrats with GREAT relish. We may publish ratings for other candidates, including GOP party members and Third Party members.

If you would like to join, or just get more information, we can be reached at:

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If you're on the internet, you can get on our mailing list by sending email (blank body of the letter) to pro-rkba-democrats-request@netcom.com, with a Subject line of "Subscribe".