



# WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS DIVISION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

**NEXT MEETING - January 17, 2007 - 7:00 PM**

**Sara's Place Restaurant**

**Joliet, IL (815)741-3076**

This month, **Mike McIntyre**, President and Owner of **McIntyre Precision Rifles, Inc.**, will be our guest speaker. Mike specializes in building custom precision rifles and is not only the owner, but the lead riflemith. Mike will speak to us about gunsmithing, firearm accuracy and customizing. Be sure to bring your friends and family.

We will once again be having drawings for firearms at our monthly meetings. Winners must have a valid FOID card and must be present to win. Winners must comply with all local, state and federal firearm laws. For additional information, please contact Chairman, Doug Mayhall.

## Christmas 2006

The last meeting of 2006 turned out to be an interesting one. Everyone had smiles on their faces as Christmas was only a few days away and many brought something in the way of a special firearm to show. The front tables were loaded down with all sorts of goodies and, as the Secretary, I had the honor of sitting at the end of the table with most of the chocolate munchies. Need I say more!

After performing the preliminaries, such as reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, welcoming everyone in attendance and the giving of Officers' reports, we opened the floor to all who had that "special firearm" to show us.



Linda W. brought a High Standard .22 pistol that she hoped could be brought back to working condition in the future. It had belonged to her father and there are memories attached to it. Terry K. brought along a Smith & Wesson 2206. This pistol is unique as the barrel is positioned lower than one would find on a typical semi-automatic pistol. His other pistol was an Olympic Arms AO93. The best way to describe

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## ISRA CONTACTS

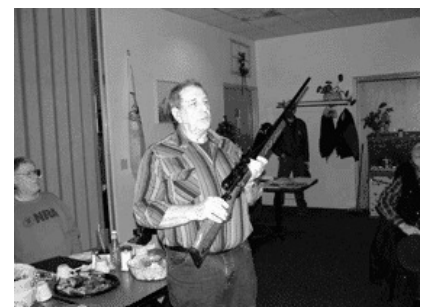
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it is to take an AR-15, remove the stock with its buffer group, shorten the barrel a few inches to give it that balanced look and what you wind up with is a semi-auto pistol that fires 5.56mm NATO. Neat!

Lee G. had a 30-40 Krag and gave a brief talk on its history. He also had a "Grease Gun" to show us. John H. brought along an 1873 Trapdoor Springfield in 45-70



and his good friend, Bill W., showed us his Mk.10 Mauser in 6mm. I am a fan of Dan Wesson revolvers and Lee N. had a beautiful "Pistol Pack" in .357 magnum that he has had for years. Mike D. showed us a .45acp Colt pistol and a Ruger in .45 Colt. Gerald S. brought along a Walther with a unique history and original packaging.

Gene S. showed us a beautiful commemorative Browning made in Belgium, in .22 short. A very unique rifle. I brought along a Browning side by side shotgun in 20 gauge. This gun is destined for the northern woods in search of grouse.



Doug M. had his mother's Marlin 22. It is a Model 100 "Tom Mix Special". His mother's name, "Claudia," is engraved into the stock in large letters. This is a true family heirloom.

Others brought their favorite rifles and pistols to show us but, regretfully, I didn't get all of the information on those items so I was unable to include them in this article. For this, I apologize.

The best part of these meetings is seeing our friends each month. The members of the Will County Grassroots Division is what makes the evening enjoyable. We get together once a month to talk, learn and more importantly to reinforce to each other that the Second Amendment is very much alive. We are all fully aware of the fact that our rights are not to be "infringed". These rights existed long before the Constitution and Amendments were written. We look upon each other not only as friends, but also as responsible and law-abiding members of the community.

We, the committee members of the Will County Grassroots Division of the ISRA, thank all of the members that have been part of this great organization. The ISRA is very fortunate to have members such as yourselves. This year will have its challenges, but I believe that our collective voice will again be heard throughout Illinois to let it be known that we won't back down.

Wishing all of you a Happy New Year!

## Chairman's Comments



'Exciting' is what I would call any time a group of Warbird enthusiasts get together and share their experiences...especially when the guys doing the talking are WW II veterans. Every November, there is such an event held at the Rockford Airport. It takes place in the hanger of the world's largest re-seller of used military aircraft. At any given time, you can see fighter planes from WW II, Korea, spotter aircraft, as well as two and four-engine bombers.

I was glad I was able to attend the event again this year and just as I expected, it turned out to be another great experience. Four of us planned on flying up there, as the weather was beautiful. I was pleased to hear from Tom Buck, pilot and owner of a TBM Avenger based out of Joliet, that he was also going to fly his airplane to the event. As we flew over the Joliet airport on the way to the meeting, Tom was just firing up his engine. I made contact with him on the radio and he told me to circle around a bit until he was in the air and then we could fly in formation to the Rockford Airport. About ten minutes later, I was thrilled to be flying as wingman to a WW II airplane!! I was able to keep up enough speed to stay with him so we had a very enjoyable trip. My 12-year-old grandson was beyond excited and captured some great pictures. It's amazing to see how big that airplane actually is when you're flying alongside it.

And, to think how big and powerful (1900 hp) the engines were to allow it to cruise at a leisurely 185 mph. I wouldn't even want to know how much gas he used on the trip. We were also fortunate enough to get permission from the air traffic controller to land in formation.



After lunch, the WW II vets were asked to say a little something about what they remembered from their wartime experiences. Many of the stories were interesting, some were funny and some were quite distressing and sad. All of these aging veterans were able to remember the events that happened sixty

years ago, as if it were just yesterday. They were all proud of what they did, but none were boastful. Moreover, they all remembered and honored their friends who did not make it back.

One of the former pilots of a torpedo bomber recalled how he performed a torpedo run against an enemy ship. In order to ensure the torpedo ran straight, he was required to fly perfectly level and right in line with the ship (with all the guns from all the enemy boats in the convoy shooting at him) for ten seconds prior to releasing the torpedo. He was surprised that the enemy did not shoot down every pilot doing this.



Another told of how he was shot down in a B-17 while on a bombing raid to Frankfort. He was badly injured with two bullet wounds

and shrapnel, some which remain in him still today. Two “Gestapo” agents seized him from the hospital, never saying a word to him. They took him on a train, walked him into a building (to what he thought was going to be a torture interrogation or execution) and promptly left. Much later, a woman came to release him and brought him to a house for a couple of weeks, nursing his wounds. Then, one night, he and twelve others from “safe” houses were taken to the ocean shore where an English submarine took them back to England. The supposed “Gestapo” agents were actually two resistance fighters. They were among the hundreds who killed Germans and stole uniforms, etc. in order to help stranded pilots get back to Allied lines. These men would do anything they could to disrupt German control in occupied Europe.

Also in attendance that day, were veterans from Korea, Vietnam and Iraq, as well as just plain ol’ war bird enthusiasts. Everyone was excited to look at the old military planes, to talk with the vets and to hear them reminisce of days gone by. Frank McCarter, who flew with the Flying Tigers and who has previously spoken to our Grassroots

group, was in attendance. He was even lucky enough to fly there in the TBM Avenger.

By mid-afternoon, it was all over and we were on our way home. While driving home from the airport, I reflected on what freedoms we have today. The rights and privileges that we continue to enjoy are the results of the courage, pride and determination of some ordinary citizens of this country. It is because of them, beginning with those who fought for our independence from England, that we are free.

One common characteristic among all of these vets is their love of country and their willingness to risk their lives for this country and freedom of its citizens. A recurring comment that I have heard over the years is the fear that the younger generations are taking too much for granted and if we don’t start going back to cherishing our freedoms, we will lose them. I heard this for the first time at least twenty years ago at a fly-in at Oshkosh. Pappy Boyington, leader of the famous Black Sheep Fighter Squadron, was there, selling his books. I was thrilled to meet him and get him to autograph a book for me. There was no one after me in line, so we started talking. He told me he was very fearful that liberals were taking over the country and feared that all he held dear would down the toilet. He was afraid no one would be around that had the courage to join the fight to ensure freedom for future generations.

We are now seeing this happening, especially with our gun rights and our freedom of speech. We must carry on the tradition of fighting for freedom. It sure seems that the liberal-minded people, politicians and judges are actually changing the meaning of laws and are attacking all of our cherished freedoms listed specifically in the Bill of Rights. If we don’t continue the fight and continue to support our troops who are in harms way to protect our freedom, we are certain to lose.

Doug Mayhall

**\*\*\* Political Disclaimer \*\*\***

The ISRA and the Will County Division of the ISRA cannot and will not endorse any candidate or party. We feature speakers to allow us to learn about the positions a candidate holds on the Second Amendment and welcome all candidates to speak to us. Only the **ISRA Political Victory Fund (ISRA-PVF)** can endorse candidates or donate to political campaigns.



Dear Members of the ISRA,

Since 1941, in times of peace and war, the USO of Illinois has been there to support our troops. This year, as active duty, reservists, and National Guard continue to be deployed all over the world, the USO is as busy as we have ever been. Sometimes it is easy to forget about what these brave people and their families are going through:

- \* Our men and women in uniform face constant transition, frequent moves, and long separation from loved ones.
- \* Service members and their families need someplace to go that provides a welcoming environment and a place to feel at home.
- \* Due to the frequent moves, military personnel and families often don't have the opportunity to explore the city they temporarily call home.
- \* Military families also sacrifice so much in service to our nation and sometimes face loneliness, financial difficulty and low morale when their loved ones are away.

**The best way to help improve the lives of our troops is through USO programs, centers and support services.**

In 2006 the USO of Illinois:

- \* The USO of Illinois will have touched the lives of an estimated 163,000 military personnel and their families!!
- \* USO of Illinois will have welcomed over 80,000 traveling military personnel and their dependents in our airport centers at O'Hare & Midway.
- \* Over 13,000 tickets will have been distributed to morale-boosting cultural, educational, entertainment and sporting trips to venues throughout the Chicagoland area - totally free for military personnel and their families.
- \* Over 300 young military families having trouble making ends meet were provided car seats for their children, diaper packs, baby formula and furniture.
- \* USO of Illinois and our corps of volunteers supported 9 deployment and 10 homecoming ceremonies across Illinois to support over 10,000 deployed troops and their families.
- \* Entertained thousands of military at over 36 performances by The Spirit of the USO Troupe. These shows and appearances for active duty military, families, veterans and citizens increase morale and increase public support for our troops.
- \* Provided countless care packages and calling cards for deployed service personnel serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

And this is only a sampling of the important ways the USO works to improve the quality of life of service men and women every day. We need your help now more than ever! Our troops are relying on your support because you know how important the USO is to their lives. To learn more about the USO of Illinois, please visit [www.uso.org/illinois](http://www.uso.org/illinois) or call us at 312-923-7070.

For the troops,  
Lisa Moeller  
President

### **2007 NRA CONVENTION**

The Illinois State Rifle Association will be present at the NRA Convention in St. Louis, Missouri, April 12-15, 2007. Lots of work will be done to showcase our organization during that week, so there is a need for more help once our exhibit is set up for those four days. Volunteers are needed to assist the ISRA exhibitors. If you are planning to attend this convention and would like to help, please contact:

**Illinois State Rifle Association**  
**815 635-3198**

## No happy ending this year

reprinted from the Joliet Herald News, December 31, 2006

It is always good to end the year on a positive note. It's not going to happen this year. Not after you read this. I want to share an open letter with you, written by Richard Pearson, president of the Illinois State Rifle Association (ISRA). It deserves to be read by every Illinoisan who fishes, hunts, target shoots, collects firearms, runs dogs, rides horses or any other outdoors recreational activity.

When the antis targeted trappers, most other special interest groups enjoying the outdoors shrugged it off. Not many folks trap these days.

When antis targeted what they purposely misnamed "assault weapons," folks shrugged. Who needs "tommy guns," which have been outlawed since the gangster days of the 1930s?

When a politician proposes a "school safety zone" prohibiting the sale of firearms within a certain radius of a school, doesn't that make sense?

Divide and conquer. If you fish but do not hunt, what's the concern if field trailing is banned at Green River Conservation Area? Or, if the put-and-take pheasant programs at state areas are cancelled?

Why should hunters care if the Asian carp migrate into Lake Michigan?

Pearson's letter details the tip of the iceberg.

"As I predicted," Pearson began, "John Bolton, a fierce defender of the Second Amendment, was among the first casualties of the Democratic landslide victory in Congress. Bolton, who fought the United Nations' anti-gun movement to a standstill, is gone. As a result, the international anti-gun movement is energized -- and why shouldn't they be? With the change in power in Congress, not only have votes of individual congressmen shifted to the left, but so also has the control of the all important Congressional Committees. Anti-gun legislators Charles Schumer, Dick Durbin, Edward Kennedy, Diane Feinstein, Hillary Clinton and Barbara Boxer will soon be in leadership positions. That means every anti-gun bill ever conceived will have smooth sailing into the committee structure. We will see anti-gun proposals at the national, state and local levels. Anti-gun force will

probe for every weakness at every level.

"The following are the Brady Campaign's agenda for the 2007-2008 legislative session.

1. Re-enact assault weapons ban
2. Federalize private gunshow sales
3. Criminalize gunshow activity
4. Strengthen the Brady law
5. Curb illegal gun sales
6. Pass life-saving gun laws
7. Repeal the Lawful Commerce in Firearms Act (the frivolous lawsuit ban)
8. Limit the number of firearms a person can buy.

No definitions of what these goals mean. They also plan to continue their successful operations that include:

9. Block national concealed carry
10. Maintain the Washington D.C. gun ban
11. Continue gun-lock sales requirements
12. Fight anything the "sleezy" (their word) NRA proposes
13. Limit the available "military-style firearms"
14. Restrict "fast firing, bigger clips" guns.

"On November 14, 2006, a week after the election, the Cook County Board recalled a proposed "assault weapons ban" from the table and passed it. This ban, which was not on the agenda because it was a tabled motion, bans even pump and semi-automatic shotguns. It is easy to see where the anti-gunners are heading with this. In the past, some hunters have thought these proposed bans would never apply to them -- well, here is your answer. Hunters are directly in the line of fire.

"Can gun owners stop these attacks?"

"Yes, but only if we get organized and stay organized. I urge all of you to join the Illinois State Rifle Association (ISRA) today. You can join by going to our web site at [www.isra.org](http://www.isra.org) or by calling our office at 815/635-3198.

On March 14th, 2007 the ISRA will host a gun owner's lobby day and rally in Springfield. Lobby Day activities will begin at 12:30 p.m. in the Howlett Building Auditorium. At 1, there will be a legislative briefing and lobby day materials will be distributed. At approximately 2, we will begin lobbying legislators. The legislative reception and rally will take place between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. This is open to all gun owners."

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### ?? ? Suggestions Anyone ? ? ?

We are always searching for interesting topics and speakers for future meetings. What would you like to learn more about? Legislative issues? Personal protection? Competitive shooting? Who would you like to see as our next speaker? Contact us at [willcounty@isra.org](mailto:willcounty@isra.org) or let us know at the next meeting.

## 11th Annual Three Rivers Friends of NRA Dinner Sunday, March 18, 2007

The Three Rivers Friends of the NRA will be hosting their 11th annual fundraising banquet on Sunday, March 18th, 2007 at the Renaissance Center located in downtown Joliet.

Silent and live auctions, various games, drawings and raffles will be held throughout the event, including a special raffle for our younger guests. Sponsorship packages will be available soon.

Dinner tickets are \$35.00 each and there are also a variety of packages available this year. You may purchase tickets and inquire about Sponsor packages by calling Dolores at 630-935-6470 or on the website, [threeriversfnra.com](http://threeriversfnra.com)

Doug Mayhall, Chairman

### Calendar of Events

- January 13, 2007** ISRA Winter Wars Match III - Claude Heale - 815-553-0591  
Fire your old mil-surp rifles in January! Freeze with friends! Warm-up fire, hot beverages and chili provided. Entry fee: \$25 early signup, \$30 late or day-of.
- January 13 & 14** Kankakee Gun Show - Kankakee County Fairgrounds - (815) 939-7572
- January 14** Kane County Gun Show - Kane County Fairgrounds - (815) 758-2773
- January 27 & 28** Princeton Gun Show - Bureau County Fairgrounds - (309) 689-1934
- February 4** Wheaton Gun Show - Dupage County Fairgrounds - (773) 237-8844
- February 11** Kane County Gun Show - Kane County Fairgrounds - (815) 758-2773
- February 17** ISRA & ASO Women's Introductory Pistol Class - Chillicothe - ISRA (815) 635-3198
- February 24 & 25** Bloomington Gun Show - Bloomington Sale Barn - (618) 495-2572
- February 24 & 25** Peoria Gun Show - East Peoria Convention Center (The Oaks) - (309) 274-2977
- March 14** ISRA Lobby Day - Springfield - ISRA (815) 635-3198
- March 18** Three Rivers Friends of NRA Dinner - Renaissance Center, Joliet - contact Doug Mayhall (708) 514-4591 or Dolores (630) 935-6470 for more information.
- March 23 & 24** ISRA Annual Meeting - Holiday Inn Select, Naperville - ISRA (815) 635-3198

*\* Please use the above contact information to confirm events as dates may change without notice \**

*Please contact Chairman, Doug Mayhall, or the ISRA office if you would like to help out at any of the ISRA events*

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**Join the NRA**



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***104th Annual ISRA Meeting***

***March 23-24, 2007***

Holiday Inn Select

Naperville, IL

Join fellow members and the Officers and Directors of the ISRA at our  
104th annual meeting and banquet

*Free admission* to ISRA Annual Meeting and Educational Seminars

"Meet & Greet" Reception

Friday Evening, March 23

Educational Sessions

and

Annual Meeting of Members

Saturday, March 24

Banquet and Speaker,

Drawing and Raffles

Saturday Evening, March 24

Banquet tickets will be available in early 2007

Look for the latest details in the Winter 2006-2007 copy of

The Illinois Shooter

and at

[www.isra.org](http://www.isra.org)