



WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS DIVISION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

NEXT MEETING - January 16, 2008 - 7:00 PM

Sara's Place Restaurant

Joliet, IL (815) 741-3076

This month our guest speaker will be Dr. Steve Sauerberg, Republican candidate for the U.S. Senate. Dr. Sauerberg will be running against incumbent Senator Dick Durbin. As always, we hope to see you there and don't forget to bring a friend!

Will County ISRA member, *Dave Blaskey*, was the winner of the WCGR "Gun Giveaway". He is now the proud owner of the Browning Buck Mark Camper. Congratulations, Dave! The "Gun Giveaway" for 2008 will be a Mossberg 500 shotgun in 20 gauge. Stay tuned for your chance to win! Remember, the winner must be present, have a valid FOID card and comply with all local, state and federal firearm laws.

2007 Show and Tell

This past month, the Will County Grassroots held its annual firearms "Show and Tell". This event showcased the various types of firearms owned by members and gave the owner a chance to tell about the firearm on display.

This year's meeting brought more firearms and the stories about them, seeming to indicate that this event could be the start of something big in the future. There were many examples of military firearms. The 1911's, 1903's, Grease guns, M1 Garands and M1 carbines were well represented. The AR-15's also showed up, representing the



current state of military type arms. Italian Carcano's, CZ's and a Swiss Martini represented the European arms. There were some interesting surprises, too. One member brought a FP-45, commonly known as the "Liberator". This was a very inexpensive firearm made for the resistance movement during WWII. Chambered for the .45 ACP, this firearm was air-dropped behind the Axis lines in France and other enemy held areas to

WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS CONTACTS

Chairman - Doug Mayhall

W (708) 349-2222 H (708) 479-2506 doug@isra.org

Vice Chairman - Terry Kreimeier

TerryK@isra.org

Secretary - Al Tiscareno

willcounty@isra.org

Treasurer - Lynnette Steven

H (815) 744-5215 lynnette67@aol.com

Webmaster - Dave Beard willcounty@isra.org

Editor - Kim Beard willcounty@isra.org

ISRA CONTACTS

Anita (Range) - Kristi (General) - Lori (Membership)

(815) 635-3198

member@isra.org

provide a means for resistance fighters to have a weapon to neutralize an enemy soldier and then obtain the enemy's weapon. Over one million were made. Sadly, this OSS program did not work out as expected and the majority of these single shot pistols wound up at the bottom of the ocean. However, the pistols that remain are commanding high prices and are sought by military collectors. Another member brought in his .50 BMG rifle. It was very clear that this was not the type of firearm that is easily

transported. The owner of this firearm definitely expended some effort to move this 40-pound rifle around.

Hunting and defensive firearms were also shown.



Some of these were from the past and others were from more modern times. One of our members had a Remington 24. This was an original Browning patent

that Remington purchased the rights to manufacture. It was a takedown .22 rifle that is still functional today. Another member brought his Mossberg 142A, an older firearm that is not often seen. A unique feature of this .22 rifle is the fold-down front grip that allows a steadier hold on the target. An original Colt SAA was also brought in. This was a gun that prompted many questions from the attendees. A Smith and Wesson Mountain Revolver in .44 magnum was also shown. This model packs a lot of punch in a short-barreled frame. This is exactly what a hiker or camper needs in a backpack, when in bear country.

Will County Grassroots meetings have had some interesting speakers and demonstrations over the years. But the "Show and Tell" meeting seems to be the one that draws the most members. I hope to see this grow over the years and become one of the most "fun" nights this organization can have.



Thanks to all of the "Patriots" of Will County for stopping in and sharing with us something of your own personal collections.

Al Tiscareno

ISRA ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, January 26, 2008

Diplomat West Banquets

Elmhurst, IL

Luncheon Keynote Speaker

The Honorable Joel Brunsvold

Retired State Representative and Former Director of the IL
Department of Resources

Annual Meeting Schedule

7:30AM - Registration

9:00-11:30AM - Members' Meeting (FREE)

11:30AM -12:00 Noon - Social Mixer

12:00 Noon - Members' Luncheon (ticket required)

Includes luncheon, award ceremony and raffle drawings

2:00PM - Gun Freedom Rally

Come Show Your Support

Concealed Carry

Pre-Emption

Eliminate Gun Bans

End CAGE Unit Harrassment

Lodging Accomodations

The ISRA has arranged for a block of rooms to be reserved at the nearby Courtyard by Marriot Hotel at a special ISRA rate. Call the Marriot to make your reservations today:

(630) 941-9555

***** 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.

Chairman's Comments



It is hard for me to imagine that, as I write this, it is actually the first day of January 2008. It is very cold and the snow is falling and blowing like crazy. It seems it was only yesterday that we were all waiting anxiously to see if our computers would fail on the first day of January 2000. Back then, we had President Bill Clinton in the White House and we are now facing the very real prospect of having another Clinton in the White House. I believe that if Senator Hillary Clinton is not the next President of the United States, it will likely be another very anti-gun Democrat or, at the very best, a Republican who is luke-warm about the Second Amendment.

It is amazing how time flies. We went from a very anti-gun President (Bill Clinton), to a rather pro-gun President George W. Bush. Remember that while he was the Governor of Texas, Bush signed a bill that allowed concealed carry in that state. And, in spite of numerous predictions of the "Wild West" happening all over again and with tales of road rage and shootings involving innocent people, it just didn't happen. As in Florida (1987) and every other state in which concealed carry laws have been passed since, crime rates have actually gone down.

In that same timeframe, we went from a very realistic fear of losing all our firearm rights (i.e. the federal assault gun ban under Clinton) to actually gaining some firearm rights with President Bush. The past several years, and especially 2007, were very busy and shall we say interesting when it came to Second Amendment issues. This has made me think of why people have become so complacent. Many firearm owners and Second Amendment supporters, thinking there were no real threats on the horizon, have let their memberships to ISRA, NRA and other related organizations lapse.

The citizens of Illinois, once again, began to be fearful of not so much the federal restrictions of firearm rights, but the very realistic prospect of losing some or even all of our rights in Illinois. This fear intensifies every day, knowing that all citizens of Illinois live under the aggressive anti-gun leadership of Mayor Daley and Governor Rod Blagojevich, along with the involvement of Rev. Jessie Jackson and Fr. Michael Phleger.

Fortunately, due to the tireless lobbying efforts of ISRA's Richard Pearson and Jim Vinopal along with the NRA's lobbyist, Todd Vandermyde, we were able to stop some unfavorable bills from proceeding and were able to get some pro-gun legislation through the legislature... and even override one of the Governor's vetoes. As many of you know, the ISRA obtained another lobbyist in 2007 in hopes to make an even bigger impact in Springfield. With the three lobbyists from ISRA, one from the NRA and one from the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) all working toward the same goal, we hope to gain enough "clout" to counter the anti-gun bills that are sure to come along.

In 2007, both Rev. Jackson and Fr. Phleger became even more forceful in pushing their anti-gun agenda. They chose to concentrate particularly heavy on Chuck's Gun Shop, arranging and participating in multiple protests there as well as traveling to Barrington to protest DS Arms.

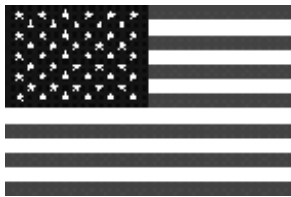
Cook County then passed an assault gun ban in the "middle of the night"; it was not even on the agenda. It was the perfect sneak attack, something at which the antis are so good. Even after it passed, it was kept a secret. When rumors of its existence started circulating, many were doubtful that it had actually been voted on and passed. This reminded me of when Mayor Daley had Meigs Field closed and the runways torn up,

* * * Please note * * *

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literally in the middle of the night. When the assault weapons ban took effect in mid-February, only few were informed of its existence. Even several Cook County police officers I spoke with were certain I was incorrect. They insisted that no ban could have been passed without their knowledge of its existence. I asked them how it felt to be a “felon”. Cook County is now proposing even more exceedingly damaging anti-gun legislation.

On the positive side, the Washington, D.C. gun ban was challenged in court and declared unconstitutional by the Appellate Court. The ruling was challenged and it was brought before the Supreme Court, which agreed to hear the case. When the Supreme Court rules, possibly as early as this summer, we shall know once and for all the future of our firearm rights in this country. This will ultimately be a landmark ruling regarding the Second Amendment. If the Court rules in our favor, and it seems somewhat likely that it may, we hope to find all of the other anti-gun laws will go down in smoke. On the other hand, if they rule against preserving our Second Amendment rights, the antis will work quickly to pass any and all anti-gun legislation, therefore stripping us of our rights. I fear for our country’s longevity if that happens, as I feel the Second Amendment is what keeps our country free and strong.



So, in the mean time, write and call your legislators to let them know where you, their constituent, stand on the Second Amendment. Remember to always be polite. Do all that you can to support those candidates who support our Constitutional right to own and protect ourselves and our families with firearms. I urge you to encourage all fellow law-abiding firearm owners you know to join the ISRA and the NRA and to be mindful of and support their fundraising needs. Most importantly, please do your part to support the cause. Too few carry too much of the load to keep this country free!

Doug Mayhall

It Only Takes a Moment

**It only takes a Moment to do the right thing.
It only takes a Moment for an accident to happen.
It only takes a Moment to become distracted.**

I have been a shooter for over thirty years. I was a police officer for a time and have seen the results of, “the gun was empty” accidents that ended very badly. I’m sharing this experience in the hopes that it will make everyone who reads it a safer shooter.

On a fall day, my wife and I took our nieces and their parents shooting. It was the first time for these kids to shoot. We had six adults and four children, under the age of sixteen. I made it a point to explain all of the safety rules and I showed each individual how to use the guns that we had with us that day. I explained the correct way to load each of them and then worked with the kids, one at a time. Of the parents, each of the fathers was a shooter and familiar with gun safety, as was my wife.

We started the kids out with .22 rim-fire guns (pistols and single shot rifle). All of the adults worked with the kids and made sure they were safe and learned the correct technique for safe shooting. As the day progressed, the kids and adults worked their way up to a 9mm Glock and a 1911 Colt .45acp. The shooting went well and everyone was careful. Also, everyone had a lot of fun and learned some important things about guns, gun safety and themselves. When we were finished shooting, everyone picked up their brass, cleaned up the area and removed the targets. The kids wanted to save their “first targets ever.” The guns were put back into their cases and we all went home.

A couple of days later, I got the chance to clean all of the guns. I chose not to clean them on the day that we went to the range because I didn’t want to do the cleaning with so many people around to distract me. Anyway, I set down on a Monday evening and started cleaning all of the guns that we had fired. I had cleaned all of the long guns and the rim-fire handguns. I then started to clean the Glock. For those of you who aren’t familiar with Glock pistols, you have to drop the internal hammer in order to take the slide off to

clean the gun. "Drop the hammer" is the nice way of saying, "pull the trigger". Everyone who shoots knows that the first rule is to treat every gun as if it is loaded until you know different.

On this particular night, I was sitting and watching TV while cleaning the guns. I picked up the Glock...the same Glock that I had put into the case at the range. I was about ready to pull the trigger when I stopped and pulled back the slide. I cannot describe the feeling that came over me when I felt a round fall into my hand. I just sat there and thought about that particular Moment in time and about how bad it could have been.

It only took a Moment to check the chamber. It would have only taken a Moment to squeeze the trigger. In that Moment, something catastrophic could have happened.

Take the Moment to always remember Gun Safety.

Take the Moment to verify the firearm is Empty.

Make sure you take the time...take the Moment...to be Careful.

Take the Moment to do the Right thing.

Take the Moment.

Craig O'Brien

**Illinois Gun Owners Lobby Day
(IGOLD)**

Start making plans to join us
in Springfield

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

for the opportunity to lobby your state
legislators and to show your support for
the Second Amendment.

Check the ISRA website for details.

www.isra.org

Included with this newsletter (& last month's as well), is a sample copy of the Pro Second Amendment Resolution that you've been hearing so much about. Our members are being encouraged to contact their County Board members and voice their support of this proposed Resolution.

For more information, you may visit:

www.pro2aresolution.com

Will County Board contact information and a list of County Board members is as follows:

Will County Board
302 N. Chicago Street
Joliet, IL 60432

Phone: (815) 740-4602

E-mail: CountyBoard@willcountyillinois.com

District 1

John Anderson
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Kathleen Konicki
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Frank Stewart
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Margie Woods

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Walter Adamic
Joseph M. Babich
Steve Wilhelmi

Resolution

WHEREAS, the Right of the People to Keep and Bear Arms is guaranteed as an Individual Right under the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution and under the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and;

WHEREAS, the Right of the People to Keep and Bear Arms for defense of Life, Liberty, and Property is regarded as an Inalienable Right by the People of Will County, Illinois, and:

WHEREAS, the People of Will County, Illinois, derive economic benefit from all safe forms of firearms recreation, hunting, and shooting conducted within Will County using all types of firearms allowable under the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and;

WHEREAS, Will County Board, being elected to represent the People of Will County and being duly sworn by their Oath of Office to uphold the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and;

WHEREAS, the Illinois House of Representatives and the Illinois Senate, being elected by the People of the State of Illinois and being duly sworn by their Oath of Office to uphold the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and;

WHEREAS, proposed legislation under consideration by the Illinois State Legislature would infringe the Right to Keep and Bear Arms and would ban the possession and use of firearms now employed by individual citizens of Will County, Illinois, for defense of Life, Liberty and Property and would ban the possession and use of firearms now employed for safe forms of firearms recreation, hunting and shooting conducted within Will County, Illinois;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT BE AND IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the People of Will County, Illinois, do hereby oppose the enactment of any legislation that would infringe upon the Right of the People to keep and bear arms and consider such laws to be unconstitutional and beyond lawful Legislative Authority!

, Chairman

Attest:

, County Clerk

Calendar of Events

- January 12** Midwest Guns/NSSF First Shots Class - Midwest Sporting Goods - Lyons - (708) 447-4848
- January 12, 13** Kankakee Gun Show - Kankakee County Fairgrounds - Terry Keller (815) 930-4422
- January 13** Kane County Gun Show - Kane County Fairgrounds - Kathy Carlson - (815) 758-2773
- January 19** ISRA Winter Wars Match IV - ISRA Range - Bonfield - Claude Heale (815) 553-0591
- January 26** ISRA Annual Meeting - Diplomat West - Elmhurst - contact ISRA (815) 635-3198
- February 3** Wheaton Gun Show - Dupage County Fairgrounds - Mike Holan - (630) 365-2808
- February 10** Kane County Gun Show - Kane County Fairgrounds - Kathy Carlson - (815) 758-2773
- February 10** M1 Garand Rifle Cleaning & Maintenance Party - Aurora Sportsmen's Club - Sugar Grove - (630) 466-9711 ext.27
- February 23 & 24** G.A.T. Guns Factory Shoot - G.A.T. Guns - Dundee - (847) 428-4867
- March 11** IGOLD - IL Gun Owners Lobby Day - Springfield - contact ISRA (815) 635-3198
- March 30** Three Rivers FNRA Dinner - Renaissance Center - Joliet - for tickets, please call Dolores (708) 935-6470
- May 16 - May 20** NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits - Louisville, Kentucky - www.nraam.org

*** Please use the above contact information for registration information (where applicable) and to confirm events as dates may change without notice ***

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

E-mail us at willcounty@isra.org if you have any events you would like included in next month's newsletter

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**PAUL J. KAUPAS
SHERIFF**

WILL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
14 W. JEFFERSON ST. JOLIET, IL 60431

**Kurt A. Leinweber
Attorney At Law
63 W. Jefferson St.
Suite 101
Joliet, IL 60431
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815/469-5618 Res.

19200 SCHOOLHOUSE RD
MOKENA, ILLINOIS 60448



TC-ACCESSORIES

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