



WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS DIVISION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

NEXT MEETING - January 21, 2009 - 7:00 PM

**Sara's Place Restaurant
3501 Channahon Rd. (Route 6)
Joliet, IL
(815) 741-3076**

This month, ISRA member **Charles Brown** will be showing his kit built M1919A4/A6 semi-auto version of a Browning Light Machine Gun and/or M1918A3 Browning Automatic Rifle and discussing them with us. As always, we invite you to bring a friend...it's sure to be an interesting and informative evening!

Will County ISRA member, Mike Jones, was the name drawn for the WCGR Gun Giveaway last month. Congratulations, Mike! A new "winner must be present" drawing will take place at January's meeting with a chance to win a TAURUS ULTRA-LITE MODEL 85 STAINLESS 38 SP.+P 5 SHOT REVOLVER. Remember, the winner must be present, have a valid FOID and comply with all local, state and federal firearm laws.

Show and Tell

Last month we had our annual 'Show and Tell'. We would like to thank everyone who brought in some of their prized possessions to share with us. It was interesting to see all of the firearms that people acquire throughout the years and fascinating to hear some of the stories behind them.

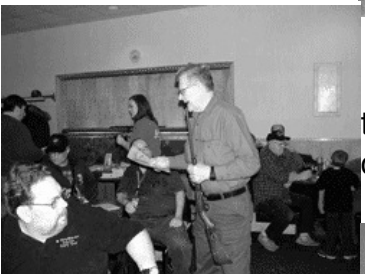


Some pieces are so unusual that they are not often seen...

Some pieces are so unusual that they are not often seen...



some are presented with the history of how they came to be...



and some have been purchased, ...just because I always wanted one...



WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS CONTACTS

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No matter the style, manufacturer or caliber or if it's a collectible, a competitor's tool or a means of self-defense, it is inspiring to see that so many of us enjoy the same passion for the shooting sports.

As one year draws to a close and another begins, we would like to take this time to thank our loyal members for their support and ideas. Your support will be needed that much more as we face an uncertain future in Illinois and across the nation. We look forward to working with you throughout the coming year.



Chairman's Comments by Doug Mayhall

2009 - This new year is going to be very interesting on several fronts. First, we have a severely injured (politically) Governor, who has appointed Roland Burris as the replacement for the Senate seat formerly occupied by President-elect, Barack Obama. As I write this, there remains a question as to if he will be accepted into the Senate. Originally, both Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Senator Dick Durbin of Illinois announced they would not accept Burris' appointment or any other that Governor Blagojevich appointed to that seat. Now, they are both doing some backpedaling, saying that they would welcome Burris into the Senate once his paperwork was in order.

We also have a new President who will take office in less than two weeks. Barack Obama. While campaigning for the presidency, Obama seemed to have the answer for everything. He claimed to know how to solve the problems confronting the nation, even though he rarely stated specifically how he would accomplish these tasks. He is now having countless press conferences, stating the economy is so much worse than it was then and it may now take years to stabilize. He claims that "only the government can do it" and it may even be too far gone to recover.

So how does all of this affect us as law-abiding citizens that own firearms? The politicians running for office, most importantly Barack Obama, have said repeatedly that they are NOT against gun ownership and that they respect the Second Amendment. Well, I believe that politicians LIE and many would do almost anything to get elected/re-elected. Already several draconian laws have been drafted and are waiting in the wings to be revealed. Industry reports that firearm sales are climbing as in no other time in history, as are sales of ammunition and reloading equipment and supplies. People all over the country are very fearful, and rightfully so, that their gun rights are in grave jeopardy. Many I have talked to say they are "stocking up".

Why is this taking place? More importantly, with millions of gun owners throughout the nation, how did the "most antigun person in Illinois politics," according to our own Richard Pearson, ever get elected to the Presidency? I have a couple of ideas why. One, Obama is a very good orator, he has charisma and sounds very convincing even when he tells us that he

believes in the Second Amendment and would never take away our guns. Second, many (way too many) gun owners are complacent and think 'it will never happen to me,' 'they will have to take my guns from my cold, dead hands' or 'they will never try to do that...there are too many gun owners.' Wake up everybody. Think what has happened in England, Australia and Canada.

When I go to gun shows to sell raffle tickets or memberships to ISRA and NRA, I am constantly amazed that there are still so many people out there that are really not concerned or fearful about losing their rights...and their guns. This is what I mean when I say that far too many firearm owners are so dangerously complacent. I have heard so many complaints of how the NRA or ISRA didn't stop a bill from passing or didn't support their favorite candidate and, because of that, they will have nothing to do with the organization(s) ever again. Often, they say that this happened years ago! It is amazing how many firearm owners don't belong to either ISRA or NRA. For some, no amount of discussion will prove to them the very important benefits of joining both groups. These same people are the ones who, of course, usually won't donate to support our gun rights. Occasionally, we can get one of these folks to buy a raffle ticket in the hopes they can win either a gun or another prize. At least the gun shows are more crowded this year than last. I thought about what percentage of gun owners actively support our cause and I guessed it to be about 5%. I have no data to sustain this, but it is my guesstimate from how many people talk to us or support us at gun shows.

If you are reading this, odds are that you care about your civil rights and are in a small minority of firearm owners. Even with being the minority, we have managed to keep any really dreadful gun laws in Illinois at bay for the last several years. Just think what we could accomplish if we had even 30-40% of firearm owners actively supporting our rights.

How many of you have actively tried to recruit any new members? If not, why not? Now is the time to act. Become part of the solution, not part of the problem. Even if you can only get one new member and they get one (and so on and so on), eventually we will have enough members that politicians will be worried about not doing the right thing and will begin to protect our rights. I know things are very difficult for many of us financially right now, but this doesn't stop Obama and the rest of his ilk from aggressively trying to take away our rights. Without increased memberships and increased donations, they will win. I know I sound like a broken record, but to preserve our rights and to keep our guns, we must all do everything we can and keep up our vigil.

RESOLUTIONS

by Al Tiscareno

** The following are excerpts from the above-named article by Al Tiscareno. To view the complete article, please visit our website at: www.willcounty.isra.org **

Since the election of Barack Obama, much has been said as to what he might push through his administration to curtail our 2nd Amendment rights. His selections for Chief of Staff and Cabinet certainly indicate that we will be in for a tough fight. The NRA will have its hands full in Washington D.C. and the ISRA will again look forward to battling the Springfield legislators that just don't get it.

Some of these state officials have consistently placed legal barriers in the path of law-abiding Illinois citizens and stood to the side as blood spilled into Illinois streets. Some victims were in the wrong place at the wrong time, but many others chose to participate in some form of criminal activity and paid for it with their lives. As this happens, the powers that be point their official fingers at the guns used in these crimes and not the criminals. The blame always seems to be directed towards the inanimate objects used in these homicides and then they continue to point fingers at the law-abiding citizens of Illinois as scapegoats.

Thankfully, many Illinois legislators do get it and support the 2nd Amendment. These elected officials, from both sides of the aisle, have been supporting efforts from the many organizations that work towards conservation, our natural resources and the shooting sports. With these legislators, the ISRA has had an easier job of it.

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Illinois has many reasons to be proud of its people, its industries and its historical significance. At the beginning of the 20th century, Illinois was a major area for steel manufacturing, industrial complexes and food production. Chicago was the "City of Big Shoulders," known to provide its citizens with shelter, food and jobs. Public transportation was readily available, as automobiles were not in every driveway. Most of the neighborhoods had strong ethnic identities that are still referred to today, like Greektown and Little Italy. The local politicians were part of the community fabric and were called upon to listen to the concerns of their constituents. Our schools taught the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic. Most of all, these citizens were proud of being American.

* * * Please note * * *

Articles in the WCGR newsletter contain information gathered by and are of the specific viewpoint and beliefs of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the ISRA.

Today, manufacturing, industrial and food production have left for the labor markets in other parts of the world. Chicago's shoulders are slumping under the weight of taxes and crime. Public transportation is an expensive joke and the Illinois voters continue to elect future inmates of federal prisons.

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The Illinois governor has his own share of shenanigans to fess up to. Our governor has reduced funds that were allocated for our state recreation areas. Parks, conservation, fishing and hunting areas have been jeopardized by actions from our governor. Federal funds that were returned to Illinois for use in conservation are being swept away to satisfy the governor's financial needs. Hopefully, this action will be halted entirely, but damage has been done and more money has been wasted. This action did not go unnoticed, though. Many have called their legislators to complain of this misappropriation.

* * * * *

Two years from now, elections for governor, all of our U.S. Representatives, a U.S. Senator, state representatives and a number of local officials will be placed before us. Each of us will have something that candidates want more than anything. A vote. Your vote. This vote belongs to you. You should not throw it away, waste it or consider it as something unimportant. It is valuable to you, your family, your community and your country. It establishes that you have the power to delegate to someone your authority to be your representative.

* * * * *

This last election, it was the economy that fueled the voting public. Financial instability stole the limelight from the 2nd Amendment issues that many Americans felt was threatened in the past. I hope that this instability will not cause us to forget about our rights.

* * * * *

Over the years, I have contacted my senators and representatives to let them know of my concerns. Most of the time, it was about the 2nd Amendment. But with all of the additional government-created problems, I will add my opinion to those issues as well. Because of this situation, I will add to my phone list the leadership of both Houses in Washington. These leaders need to know that they are subject to the country's opinion, not just from their state.

I usually don't make resolutions, but this is an exception. I resolve to not only call my U.S. Senators and Representative, but to also call their leaders. They are:

Nancy Pelosi(D), the Speaker of the House: 202-225-4965
Harry Reid (D), the Senate Leader: 202-224-3542

I believe that this is a resolution to which all of us should commit.

Calendar of Events

- January 17** ISRA Winter Wars Match V - ISRA Range - Bonfield - Claude Heale (815) 553-0591
- February 1** Wheaton Gun Show - Dupage County Fairgrounds - Mike Holan (630) 365-2808
- February 1** Safer USA & Howell Shooting Club, Inc. - NRA Home Firearm Safety Course - Howell Shooting Club - Yorkville - David Lombardo (815) 744-5487
EARLY REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- February 7** ISRA Women's Introductory Pistol Class - Chillicothe Sportmen's Club - ISRA (815) 635-3198 EARLY REGISTRATION REQUIRED
(additional class scheduled on February 28)
- February 7 & 8** Tinley Park Fishing & Outdoor Show - Tinley Park High School (708) 532-1900
- February 8** Kane County Gun Show - Kane County Fairgrounds - Kathy Carlson (815) 758-2773
- February 14** Safer USA & Howell Shooting Club, Inc. - Tactical Emergency First Aid - Howell Shooting Club - Yorkville - David Lombardo (815) 744-5487
EARLY REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- February 20 & 21** **ISRA Annual Meeting** - Crowne Plaza - Springfield - ISRA (815) 635-3198
visit www.isra.org for online dinner & raffle tickets
- Feb 27-Mar 1** IL Deer & Turkey Classic - Interstate Center - Bloomington - (800) 324-3337
- February 28** Safer USA & Howell Shooting Club, Inc. - NRA Shotgun Shell Reloading Course - Gander Mountain - Joliet - David Lombardo (815) 744-5487
EARLY REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- March 1** Wheaton Gun Show - Dupage County Fairgrounds - Mike Holan (630) 365-2808
- March 7 & 8** G.A.T. Guns Factory Shoot - G.A.T.Guns - Dundee - (847) 428-4867
- March 8** Kane County Gun Show - Kane County Fairgrounds - Kathy Carlson (815) 758-2773
- March 11** **IGOLD - IL Gun Owners' Lobby Day** - State Capitol - Springfield - ISRA (815) 635-3198
- March 14 & 15** Kankakee Gun Show - Kankakee County Fairgrounds - Terry Keller (815) 930-4422
- March 22** Three Rivers FNRA Dinner & Auction - Renaissance Center - Joliet - see Doug, Terry or Al at the next WCGR meeting for details

*** Please use the above contact information for detailed information (i.e. fees, registration) and to confirm events as dates are subject to 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 the monthly newsletter*

*** **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.

Join the ISRA

www.isra.org

Join the NRA

www.nra.org

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Tom Cunningham
NRA Life Member & Recruiter
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