



# WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS DIVISION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

**NEXT MEETING - February 21, 2007 - 7:00 PM**

**Sara's Place Restaurant**

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

This month, **Lisa Moeller, President, USO of Illinois**, will be our guest speaker. Lisa will talk to us about our troops overseas and the assistance that the USO provides to them. Be sure to bring your friends and family.

Will County ISRA member, Warren Stepanek, was the first name drawn in the WCGR "Gun Giveaway". Unfortunately for Warren, he was not present. Another name will be drawn at our February meeting. Remember, the winner must be present, have a valid FOID and comply with all local, state and federal firearm laws.

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## **Mike McIntyre and his "Passion for Precision"**

If someone really felt that it was about time to treat themselves to something special, what would it be? There are about as many answers to that question as there are stars. To some, it would be as simple as enjoying an ice cream cone. Others may have a need to satisfy a more materialistic desire. Choices in what one wants can sometimes be broken down into "off the shelf" or "custom made" to one's own specifications.

Mike McIntyre dropped by as our guest speaker at Will County's Grassroots



January meeting. He is the president, owner and lead riflesmith for McIntyre Precision Rifles Inc. in Steger, Illinois. The company that Mike founded is dedicated to producing some of the finest firearms available. His "Mission Statement" is to "provide the highest quality firearms' workmanship through the employment of cutting edge technology and exacting standards to obtain the highest level of

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(815) 635-3198

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customer satisfaction and retention." What this says is he will create for the customer, a rifle that is unique, accurate and reliable. Above all, it is a rifle "custom made" to the needs of the customer.

The receivers are the heart of Mike's rifles. Depending on the rifle's purpose, Mike will assist in deciding what action will best suit the customer's needs. The bolt-action receiver was what Mike focused on and this was the essence of his talk that evening. Examples of the various receivers available to the customer were passed around for all to

examine. The Remington 700 receiver is one that would fit the needs of most custom-built rifles, as the parts needed for completing the action are readily available. These actions are solid performers and need just a bit of tweaking by Mike and his crew to bring it up to a level acceptable to MPI's standards. The Czechoslovakian firm CZ also manufactures an excellent receiver. Depending on the use of the rifle, CZ has receivers and actions that are, for the money, extremely well engineered and machined. MPI also offers receivers and barrels from Lawton Machine LLC. These assemblies will create a rifle with exceptional qualities and accuracy. One of MPI's beliefs is that " a rifle should be more accurate than the shooter could ever be."

Mike also brought with him examples of what his shop has done with other types of firearms.



Revolvers and semi-automatic pistols can be repaired, enhanced, modified or even custom made to the customer's wishes.

McIntyre Precision Rifles is all about quality, workmanship and technology. The use of high-tech tooling with constant attention to detail gives Mike and his highly qualified gunsmiths the edge in giving to his customers the very best in accuracy.

Thanks, again, Mike for a great presentation.

Mike McIntyre can be contacted at:

**McIntyre Precision, Inc**  
**3447 Sally Drive**  
**Steger, IL 60475-1543**

**708-755-5977**  
**[www.mpirifles.com](http://www.mpirifles.com)**

## Chairman's Comments



The SHOT Show. The very name of it congers up the thought of everything related to shooting and it is so true. All the big name gun manufacturers were there, as well as some smaller manufacturers. There were also manufacturers of various products related to guns, hunting, fishing, off-road traveling, police, military, surveillance tracking, etc. There was over 656,000 square feet of booth space sold and over 42,000 buyers in attendance.

I was there because it is a fascinating place to be to check out the new guns and accessories. I even got to see Perazzi shotguns for the spectacular price of just \$22,000 to the most expensive \$481,000 for an over/under!!! Think I will buy a pair.

Actually, I was there representing the ISRA along with Richard Pearson, ISRA's Executive Director. We wanted to personally thank the many companies and give recognition to those that, in the past, have supported the ISRA and our gun rights. We were also asking for donations and their continued support for this coming year. Support is always welcome to help with things such as recruiting new members, youth and women's programs, lobbying efforts, etc. Many of these manufacturers are planning to come to the ISRA Range Open House this summer. Glock has again promised a lot of support, including the Glock league, with 3 matches. Last year's Glock events at the ISRA range were experimental, this being the first time they did this in conjunction with a state organization. The people at Glock were very pleased with last year's success and expect it to grow much larger this year.

I was so excited about all the positive input from everyone and I felt that our second amendment rights are appreciated by everyone, but then reality hit home. Even though most Americans believe in the

### ??? 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.

right to keep and bear arms, not all have the same view of exactly what that means and not all have the same passion to defend that right. For many, the "right" only extends to the military and the police.

To others, it applies only to hunters and some believe there is no right to hunt but self-defense is a legal right. Still others say there is no need for anything other than long guns or that there is no need for any semi-autos. And then there are those who believe we have the right to own all kinds of guns. On and on it goes.

After the elections, we lost a little ground by losing some pro-gun legislators. This means a few of things to us. We must make our voice heard louder and more frequently; we must join all gun rights' activists in one united front; and we must increase the number of active dues-paying gun owners to both the ISRA and NRA. By increasing our numbers, we will be heard louder. By uniting, we will be much louder and stronger. Standing alone, we will be picked off one by one. As a group, we will be too big and too strong to be picked off.

To that end, the ISRA has "Lobby Day" down in Springfield every year. This year's event will take place on Wednesday, March 14th. In the past, we have gone it alone and have had a fair showing. This year, we have formed a coalition with several other pro-gun groups and we expect to make quite a showing in Springfield. Hopefully, this will prove to the legislators that we have the strength in numbers to demand fair and just laws be passed or we will elect them out of office.

There will be buses leaving from several areas of the state to bring enthusiasts to Springfield so you can travel with like-minded people. After meeting with the legislators, we will have a reception with

them. This was very popular last year.

We NEED every person to make it to Lobby Day this year. Take a day off work...your gun rights demand it. If we make a huge showing, it will slow the aggressiveness of the anti-gunners. If we do not make much a mark on the radar screen, the antis will be emboldened.

Our gun rights are directly in our hands now. If we all get our friends, family and fellow enthusiasts to join ISRA, NRA, etc., we can make a difference. If we donate our time, communicate with our legislators (regardless if they are pro or anti-gun), if we donate money to those who fight for our cause, then we will be able to strengthen our rights. If we do nothing, we will surely lose our rights one by one and will have nobody to blame but ourselves.

Don't delay. Go to the ISRA website at [www.isra.org](http://www.isra.org) and click on "IGOLD" (Illinois Gun Owners Lobby Day). Whether you sign up for the bus ride to Springfield or you choose another way to get there...just get there!

Doug Mayhall

### 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**

### \*\*\* 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.

**WWW.IGOLD.ISRA.ORG**



This last Sunday was a special day. Yes, February 4th was Super Bowl Sunday and depending on which team you are a fan of, it was a day to celebrate or a day of heartbreak. But the other reason that Sunday was special is that the USO turned 65 years old. Since 1941, the USO has been home away from home for the men and women serving our country, far from their own homes.

I, too, just had a birthday in January and a friend of mine asked what having a birthday ultimately meant to me. My response was probably as most, a time to be with friends and family and celebrate. His response was that he views birthdays as a milestone to look back on the past year and determine if he is a better person since the last birthday. Has he made a difference in himself, his relationships and his community? This very much touched my heart and was a concept that we can apply as well to the USO as we reflect on 65 years of service.

The USO's enduring style of support of those in uniform has always been a manifestation of the hearts and minds of Americans coming together to show those serving they are appreciated. Over the years, the types of centers, at first located in train stations, church basements, YMCA's, etc., and services (dance halls, letter writing rooms) have evolved, but the heart and soul has endured. Now USO's provide family programs as over 45% of military personnel are married and have children. USO's now provide free computer, email and phone card access in addition to paper and pen to write home. In addition to playing cards, chess and checker boards, Play Station 3 and X-Boxes are provided in the centers. The new ranks of celebrities entertaining following in the footsteps of Bob Hope and Raquel Welch are people like Robin Williams, Gary Sinise and Jennifer Lopez.

All of this and more is not possible, though, with out the support of each one of you. Here in Illinois, you can take part in the daily care and comfort of those serving through countless programs, services, four USO centers and a brand new state of the art mobile canteen. Every single day, the USO volunteers and staff welcomes a Soldier home, helps a family say goodbye to their Marine, reaches out to the mother of a Sailor who misses her son so intensely and wants to volunteer on the weekend, assists a family who can't pay the electric bills, helps a family experience a great event together such as going to a Bears game, going to see Wicked or Disney on Ice, sends a "Sweet Home Chicago" care package to a Corpsman in Iraq and so much more.

There are many military personnel that will be celebrating their birthdays in a place we can only imagine and they are there on our behalf. The USO helps to bring them a touch of home too with the Happy Birthday to my Deployed Hero program, working directly with the families to create a custom birthday package. You can help with this and sponsor a birthday package and include a message as well. To learn more, please visit our website at [www.uso.org/illinois](http://www.uso.org/illinois) or call me directly at the USO of Illinois at 312-923-7070.

We know any military member who asks the question on his or her birthday, "did I make a difference this last year?" can courageously say yes.

For the troops and their families,  
~Lisa Moeller, President, USO of Illinois

## Suspects

Some of you reading this know about the "Assault Weapons Ban" that passed the Cook County Board this past November 14, 2006. For others this is the first you have heard of it. It criminalizes the possession of many lawfully owned firearms and large capacity magazines in Cook County. The Ordinance itself has listed over 60 firearms and also states that "copies or duplicates thereof" are included in this AWB. Within this Ordinance are various attributes that have been added to make other firearms that are not listed, also subject to the AWB. This bill is specifically targeted to affect thousands of law-abiding citizens of Cook County. The Cook County Board is making sure the good citizens of Cook County will not have their "Second Amendment" Constitutional Rights to own a firearm. It does not interest this Board one bit whether or not you enjoy target shooting, hunting, collecting firearms, or just knowing that if someone is intent on harming you or a loved one, that you have at hand a "defensive weapon".

This term, "assault weapon" is a phrase that the anti-gun organizations use to add an evil dimension to firearms. It is not a common military term for weapons. I am a U.S. Marine and Vietnam veteran and the only time Marines use the word "assault" is in describing the final stage of an attack on an enemy position. This term does not describe the equipment to be used, but rather, the physical movements the infantry uses to overcome the obstacle. All Marines receive a manual, "The Marines Guide", that contains everything that a Marine basically needs to know about almost everything he will encounter as a Marine. Tactics, weapons, basic survival skills, close order drill, etc. Not much is left out. The term "assault weapon" is not to be found.

The real use of the term "assault" is in law books and in court transcripts. To find how this term "assault" is applied, all one needs to do is research the many forms of criminal "assaults" that exist. There is "assault with intent to kill". How about "assault with a deadly weapon", and

one of the most notorious, "sexual assault". These are all about criminal acts of violence. The real problem to us is that we are swept up into this "assault" category. We are labeled as owners of firearms that have an "assault" potential. We are suspect of some criminal intent because of the type of firearm that was legally purchased. It is quite possible that there are times a law-abiding citizen crosses a legal boundary and is arrested. This may also cause this citizen to lose the FOID card and its consequential loss of firearms. The gun owner has no choice but to relinquish the firearms while this legal problem is addressed. The reason this happens is due to the fact that the law-abiding citizen purchases the firearms legally and knows that a paper trail exists. It is not possible to hide the fact about lawful gun ownership in Illinois. Criminals do not worry about these "paper trails", because none exist. There are times that a legally owned firearm winds up in the hands of a criminal and used in a crime. It is not the intent of the vast majority of law-abiding citizens to voluntarily hand their firearms over to the criminal. The criminals will find a way to relieve a firearm from an unsuspecting citizen.

I have been researching another area where criminals have obtained firearms. It is said that guns are in the hands of the criminals and the police, and the citizen is at the mercy of both, at least in Chicago and Cook County. The law-abiding folks in Chicago cannot have handguns, and with the passage of this new Cook County Ordinance, many other firearms are outlawed. This is the reason the Mayor and the Cook County Board are excited about passage of this Ordinance. No firearms in the hands of residents. Less chance for a criminal to obtain it. There is a problem with this. Another source of firearms is available, and it involves a few men and women wearing a badge.

It would be difficult to understand why someone would do such a thing, but it happens. The majority of those in law enforcement are honorable and conscientious in preserving law and order, but a few are tempted by the money and power that unfolds before them in the dark world of drugs and vice.

Joseph Miedzianowski was a member of the

Chicago gang crimes unit. He led a double life. While leading this unit, he and four other officers operated a Miami to Chicago drug ring. The FBI stated in court that Miedzianowski distributed powder and crack cocaine from 1995 to 1998. While all of this is going on, Miedzianowski misdirected investigations into a murder, armed gang members with firearms and ammunition, and betrayed fellow officers while they were undercover, and this is only some of his nefarious exploits. He and eleven co-defendants were indicted in April 1999 and in January of 2003, Joseph Miedzianowski received a Life sentence plus five years for betraying his duties as an officer of the Chicago Police Department. I remember reading about this in the press, and it was not always front-page news. This is not the only example. There are court proceedings going on right now stemming from the original Miedzianowski case. Other police officers and employees are under indictment or investigation. What is important to note here is the fact that many weapons and ammunition were redistributed to gang members. How can this happen? According to press reports, many of these weapons were taken from police evidence rooms. Is this an example of the kind of accountability that the Chicago Police will have after the residents of Chicago turn in their guns? What about the rest of Cook County? As of the other week, one of Harvey Illinois's finest was questioned about a firearm that was found on a known felon after a crime. If this were true, why would a police officer give a gun to a felon? Who else is involved and why? This made the papers after the Illinois States Attorneys Office removed records from the Harvey village offices.

There are problems to work on in this State and we have not been fortunate to be able to choose

from candidates that can lead us from this dismal tailspin. The primary reasons for this is that so many of the States' residents do not vote. The most important responsibility we have is to voice our choices in how this State is run. We are the government. We have the duty to place the right leaders in the key positions of the State. A large turnout on Election Day will show the winner that enough people care about their government and will not tolerate any shenanigans. But here in Illinois, there are those in the northeast corner of the State that maintains an iron fist on the way their perceived government should be run and find ways to insure that apathy permeates the voting public. Those in power now question the validity of our rights and seem intent on dissolving what rights we have. Their purpose is to establish power, maintain this power, and not relinquish this power to anyone. Not even to those who are the true power of this State. You and I, and the rest of the voting public.

On March 14, 2007 the Illinois State Rifle Association will be co-sponsoring "IGOLD". The Illinois Gun Owners Lobby Day. This is not just for members of the ISRA; it is for all organizations, clubs, associations, civic groups and individuals. With the Cook County Assault Weapon Ban being the focal point, all sportsmen and women, those who hunt, fish, or the general public that is fed up with being forced to accept these arbitrary decisions should plan on making the trip to Springfield Illinois. The plan is to transport, via chartered buses, all those interested to the Capitol. There is a minimal charge, however it will be one of those trips that will get like minded people together and, while enroute, allow everyone to put together ideas on what really should be said to our elected officials. Once there, information on how to communicate effectively with your State Representative or Senator will be provided and then, with the help of the staff provided, send as many informed citizens on a mission to politely inform those officials that "we are in charge" and there is something "wrong" here.

This day will be important for all Illinois citizens. Information about the buses, registration, or how to contact any of the organizations involved with IGOLD should call 815-635-3198, or go online: [IGOLD.ISRA.ORG](http://IGOLD.ISRA.ORG).

**To get the latest info,  
visit:**

**[www.isra.org](http://www.isra.org)  
[www.isra-pvf.org](http://www.isra-pvf.org)  
[www.nra.org](http://www.nra.org)  
[www.nraila.org](http://www.nraila.org)**

## 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)

### Calendar of Events

- 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
- February 24 & 25** G.A.T. Guns Factory Shoot - G.A.T. Guns - Dundee, IL - (847) 428-4867
- March 3** NRA First Steps Pistol Orientation - Mega Sports - Plainfield - contact Kent at (815) 545-4872 or visit [www.firearmsafetytraining.com](http://www.firearmsafetytraining.com)
- March 4** Wheaton Gun Show - Dupage County Fairgrounds - (773) 237-8844
- March 10 & 11** Kankakee Gun Show - Kankakee County Fairgrounds - (815) 939-7572
- March 10** NRA First Steps Rifle Orientation - Mega Sports - Plainfield - contact Kent at (815) 545-4872 or visit [www.firearmsafetytraining.com](http://www.firearmsafetytraining.com)
- March 14** **IGOLD (Illinois Gun Owner Lobby Day)** - Springfield - ISRA (815) 635-3198 or visit [WWW.IGOLD.ISRA.ORG](http://WWW.IGOLD.ISRA.ORG)
- March 17** Midwest Sporting Goods Open House - Lyons - (708) 447-4848
- March 18** Kane County Gun Show - Kane County Fairgrounds - (815) 758-2773
- 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*

*E-mail [willcounty@isra.org](mailto:willcounty@isra.org) if you have any events you would like included in next month's newsletter*

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