



# WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS DIVISION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

**NEXT MEETING - February 20, 2008 - 7:00 PM**

**Sara's Place Restaurant**

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

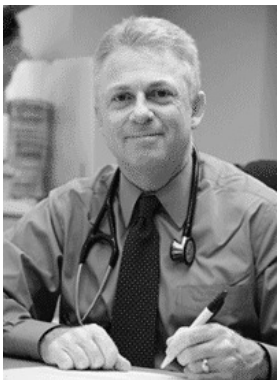
This month our guest speaker will be Will County Sheriff, Paul Kaupas. Sheriff Kaupas will speak on the attitude and opinions of local officers on the 2nd Amendment and firearm ownership. As always, we hope to see you there and don't forget to bring a friend!

Will County ISRA member, Brian S. Anderson, was the name drawn for the WCGR Gun Giveaway last month. Unfortunately, Brian was not present, so he missed out on taking home the Mossberg 500 shotgun. Remember, the winner must be present, have a valid FOID card and comply with all local, state and federal firearm laws.

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## 2008 Candidates

The last Will County Grassroots meeting brought us together with some of the candidates running for elected offices in Illinois. Steve Sauerberg, MD was our first speaker. He is running for U.S. Senator on the Republican ticket and, since winning the primary, will be going against Senator Dick Durbin in November. Dr. Sauerberg's first



statement to us reflected his stance on the Second Amendment, "that the right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed". He then explained to us his views on some of the issues that have been focal points in today's society, such as the war in Iraq, healthcare and

immigration. He seemed very concerned about the conditions in Washington and in Springfield. While taking questions from the Will County members, Doctor Sauerberg's views seemed to be favorable to those present and reflected Republican values and ideals.

Tim Balderman also stopped by that evening. Mr. Balderman, a Republican, is running for the position being vacated by retiring Jerry Weller in

## WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS CONTACTS

*Chairman* - Doug Mayhall

W (708) 349-2222 H (708) 479-2506 [doug@isra.org](mailto:doug@isra.org)

*Vice Chairman* - Terry Kreimeier

[TerryK@isra.org](mailto:TerryK@isra.org)

*Secretary* - Al Tiscareno

[willcounty@isra.org](mailto:willcounty@isra.org)

*Treasurer* - Lynnette Steven

H (815) 744-5215 [lynnette67@aol.com](mailto:lynnette67@aol.com)

*Webmaster* - Dave Beard [willcounty@isra.org](mailto:willcounty@isra.org)

*Editor* - Kim Beard [willcounty@isra.org](mailto:willcounty@isra.org)

## ISRA CONTACTS

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

(815) 635-3198

[member@isra.org](mailto:member@isra.org)

the 11th Congressional District. Tim is Mayor of New Lenox, Police Chief of Chicago Ridge, former village trustee and school board president. Our members had the opportunity to meet him this past November when he introduced himself to our group and reassured us that he is for the Second Amendment. Tim spoke about his background and his desire for a better county and state government. He felt that his experiences in local government would make him a quality choice for Congress. Tim answered many

questions from the members and he also showed that there is a need to make some changes in Washington.

We also had the chance to meet Dan Kennison. He is running for a Will County Executive position and is running on the Republican ticket. Mr. Kennison explained to us his business background and how it would help Will County. Dan stated that the expansion of the county has created a need for someone with business experience and states that he knows how to lead.

These candidates have all expressed a strong belief in the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. This is good to hear but, as we all know, there are many other issues that need to be addressed. Dr. Sauerberg and Mr. Balderman's missions in Washington, if elected, will be to serve all Illinois citizens. The rest of this country will also feel the effects of any policies or votes that may come from them in Washington. The same is true of the rest of the Illinois contingent and, conversely, the decisions made by the rest of the U.S. Senators and Congressmen will certainly affect us here in Illinois.

We have a responsibility to vote. You may think it is more of a privilege or a right, but it is the reason this country is so great. It is what gives you and I power. We are the U.S. Government. The President may be our leader, but we are the ones that chose him and if he does well we may vote him in for one more term. U.S. Senators also depend on us for their livelihood but if we wisely put some thought into it, we could re-elect them for another six-year term. We also have the power to choose the Congressmen in Washington and to decide if it is in our best interest to continue their employment. Imagine that. We are the employers of the President of the United States, the U.S. Senate and the U.S. Congress! Have you ever considered this concept? We are their

Bosses! The same is true of every elected official on the county and state levels.

I have voted in my county for over twenty years. I have never missed a primary, general or local election. I look to see how many people show up and I try to detect if the general sense is boredom or excitement. Most of the time, there are not many voters around and I usually get through the process quickly. This past Super Tuesday, I was pleasantly surprised. I was not the first or second in line like usual. I was 17<sup>th</sup> in line! In a Primary! By the time I started the voting process, about ten more voters added themselves to the line. It seemed like a good sign to me. Americans are paying attention to what is going on in this political arena and making their voices heard in the polling booth.

I try to stay in touch with as many of the political facts that I can. Major media outlets are incomplete at best, but it is possible to fill in some of the gaps through the use of the Internet. Talk radio has its place but that, too, has limits. However you decide which candidates will win your support, please choose wisely and get out there and vote.

Al Tiscareno

### Annual Members Meeting

I would like to thank all of you that attended the ISRA Annual Meeting on January 26, 2008. It was especially impressive to see how many members from Cook County came to show their support for the ISRA and to learn more about what they, as law-abiding firearm owners and citizens, can do to help preserve their Second Amendment Rights.

I would also like to welcome the two newest members of the ISRA Board of Directors: Sheldon Latz and Mike James. It looks like it's going to be another long year in Springfield, gentlemen. We will call upon your knowledge, dedication and talents to fight the battles ahead.

I look forward to working with you & welcome aboard.

Kim Beard

### \*\*\* 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

**IGOLD** (Illinois Gun Owners Lobby Day) is coming up again next month, specifically, Tuesday March 11<sup>th</sup>, in Springfield, IL. **IGOLD** is an annual event that the Illinois State Rifle Association has sponsored for quite a few years now.

Last year, we organized with several other firearm rights groups to make it bigger and better than in previous years and were happy to see that over 1100 people were able to attend. We had seven buses transporting people from all over the state and many others drove themselves or carpooled. A couple hundred attendees wore yellow **IGOLD** tee shirts and others wore **IGOLD** badges. Everywhere you looked, the Capitol was covered with Second Amendment supporters and we made quite an impression.

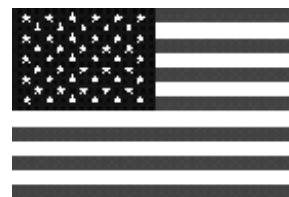
This year, we are gearing up even more with Champaign County Rifle Association, Illinois Carry, Sangamon County Rifle Association and will have at least eleven buses. Most bus rides will cost \$20 per person, but we are getting donations from CCRA/GSL, PK Firearms, Springfield Armory, Armalite, Rock River Arms and DS Arms to help offset the cost of the busses and other associated costs.

This is a **must attend** event to really bowl over our legislators this year. We made some of them nervous last year by our strength and we anticipate having over 2000 in attendance this year. It will make all but the most-staunch anti-gunner to decide it is in their best interest to vote with us if they value their job in Springfield.

So please request this day off or, if you've already retired, make this a "work" day for you. Talk to your friends, let them know how important their participation is and encourage them to join us for **IGOLD**. Make sure to reserve your seat on the bus soon or arrange to car pool with others. Visit and

click on **IGOLD**, or call the ISRA office at 815-635-3198 for more information. I hope to see you there!

Doug Mayhall



## 2008 Shot Show

Shot Show. Las Vegas. Those are two names that are sure to gain the interest of many people. Having the Shot Show in Las Vegas is a guarantee to get a tremendous turnout.

The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Shot Show recently ended and, by all measurements, did just that. It was, by far, the largest and best ever. Over 715,000 square feet of exhibit space (an increase of over 60,000sq.ft. from last year), almost 2000 vendors and well over 58,000 attendees, made it a 40% increase. The entire convention center was filled, as were three gigantic tents for the overflow of exhibitors.

The Shot Show has something for everyone, whether it sport shooting, collecting, hunting, law enforcement or military interests. All of the major firearm manufacturers were there, as were many of the smaller companies and custom firearm manufacturers. There was a variety of firearms to look at, including Derringers and antiques. And, you could find just about any accessory imaginable from reloading equipment to hunting supplies, optics, clothing, camouflage, room décor, food products, boots, blinds, hand warmers, knives, lights, laser lights, specialty items for police and military and information about shooting ranges and firearm instruction.

I attended this year's Shot Show, along with Richard Pearson, the Executive Director of the ISRA, to meet with manufacturers and invite them

\* \* \* Please note \* \* \*

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

to participate at our annual ISRA Range Open House, which will take place on Saturday, June 21, 2008. We also worked to get donations for various fundraisers and events and to see the new products that will help improve our range and training sessions. We spent three full days of non-stop work, but managed to enjoy every minute. A frequent comment we heard was, "...you guys really have a fight on your hands," in regard to the Governor, Mayor Daley and Cook County Board. People from every part of the country are watching what happens in Illinois. We ran into several people from Illinois who were enjoying the show as well. It seems just about everyone knows Richard Pearson and they respect his efforts on behalf of firearm owners.

We had a productive meeting with Bill Poole from the NRA. We discussed working together on the Range Open House and other educational projects to help promote firearm awareness, safety, training and to get more young people involved in the shooting sports. And, just as important, we discussed ideas on how to get more firearm owners and enthusiasts to join both the ISRA and the NRA.

I found exceptional interest in the exhibit of International Military Antiques. Several years ago, in a castle in Nepal, there was discovered a horde of over 55,000 guns. This find included muskets, rifles, pistols, cannons, bayonets, swords and knives from the 1700's through the 1800's. After years of negotiations, the entire inventory was purchased and shipped to America. They had books and CD's for sale, documenting this very interesting find. It was stunning to see stacks of literally priceless muskets like the British Brown Bess from the Revolutionary War and the Enfield rifle from the movie, *Zulu*, in which the British fought the Zulu warriors in Africa. There was quite a collection on display for sale including rifles that lay untouched for one or two hundred years. Dirt and grime remained on some and those were priced at \$250 to purchase as is. Guns that were already cleaned up went from \$400 to \$2,000.

Another exhibit had realistic-looking (non-firing) replicas of many popular pistols and machine guns. The workmanship was superb, the actions worked, the weight was convincing and the price was

extremely reasonable. I happen to like memorabilia from WW II, so I bought a WW II Tommy gun for \$149 for my collection.

Actor R. Lee Emery was, as usual, at the Glock booth signing autographs and getting his picture taken with attendees. He is so friendly and takes his time with virtually everyone. He presented the Glock Heroes' awards at the Glock Dinner on Monday night. One award was presented to a Marine who twice earned purple hearts by doing gallant deeds to protect his squad members. He stated how well things are going in Iraq, acknowledging that this is something you will never hear in the mainstream media.

Everyone we talked to at the Shot Show was very pleased with both the increased attendance and the mood of the buyers. It looks like the shooting industry is alive and well. All in all, despite the nasty weather conditions traveling to and from Las Vegas, Richard and I made it back to Illinois safe and sound and we are ready to continue fighting the battle to preserve the shooting sports.

Doug Mayhall

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

Make your reservations today to join us  
in Springfield  
**Tuesday, March 11, 2008**  
for the opportunity to lobby your state  
legislators and to voice your support for  
the Second Amendment.

And, you won't want to miss the  
reception at the Illinois State Library  
Auditorium, beginning at 4:30pm.  
State legislators have been invited, too.  
Chartered buses are available for your  
convenience or why not carpool with  
friends and family?

Check out the website for details

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

or call the ISRA office at 815-635-3198  
for more information.

## **Calendar of Events**

- February 23** Allied Illinois Markswomen Handgun Clinic - Oak Park Sportsmen's Club - Plainfield  
Jan (815) 744-4110 or Kathy (630) 377-1758
- February 23 & 24** G.A.T. Guns Factory Shoot - G.A.T.Guns - Dundee - (847) 428-4867
- March 1** Safer USA NRA Refuse to be a Victim Course - Howell Shooting Club - Yorkville  
David Lombardo - (815) 744-5487 - Early registration is necessary!
- March 1** Firearm Safety Training, Inc.-First Steps Pistol Orientation - Mega Sports - Plainfield  
Kent (815) 545-4872 - Early registration is necessary!
- March 2** Wheaton Gun Show - Dupage County Fairgrounds - Mike Holan - (630) 365-2808
- March 8 & 9** Kankakee Gun Show - Kankakee County Fairgrounds - Terry Keller (815) 930-4422
- March 11** **IGOLD** - IL Gun Owners Lobby Day - Springfield - contact ISRA (815) 635-3198
- March 14 & 15** Firearm Safety Training, Inc.- NRA Personal Protection in the Home - Mega Sports -  
Plainfield - Kent - (815) 545-4872 - Early registration is necessary!
- March 15** Safer USA Home Firearm Safety Course - Howell Shooting Club - Yorkville  
David Lombardo - (815) 744-5487 - Early registration is necessary!
- March 15 & 16** Midwest Sporting Goods Open House - Midwest Sporting Goods - Lyons  
(708) 447-4848
- 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](http://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](mailto:willcounty@isra.org) if you have any events you would like included in next month's newsletter*

**Join the ISRA**

**Join the NRA**



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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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**TC-ACCESSORIES**

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