



# WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS DIVISION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

**NEXT MEETING - February 18, 2009 - 7:00 PM**

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

This month we will welcome **Mike Harmon** as our speaker. Mike owns **Great Lakes Gunsmithing** and, when asked about a specialty, says he enjoys working on a variety of firearms. Once again, we invite you to bring along a friend, family member or just someone you know. It should prove to be an interesting and informative evening!

Will County ISRA member, Sarah Power, was the name drawn for the WCGR Gun Giveaway last month. Unfortunately, Sarah was not present so another name will be drawn at the next meeting. Remember, the winner must be present, have a valid FOID and comply with all local, state and federal laws.

## Another John M. Browning Achievement

This past month, we had the pleasure of admiring a M1919A6 gun, owned by our guest speaker, Charlie Brown. In its original configuration, it was designed as a machine gun by John Moses Browning to replace the water-cooled M1917 machine gun. Charlie built this gun with the parts necessary to keep it as authentic as possible, while maintaining it as a semi-automatic firearm. It fires belt fed .30-06 cartridges, either cloth or linked belts and, since it is semi-automatic, it fires one cartridge at a time.

Charlie spoke a little of the history of the M1919. John Browning needed a lighter machine gun that



our infantry could move around in the heat of battle. The M1917 was a great gun but, because of the weight of the water-jacketed gun and the four-man crew needed to keep the gun going, it was not the best gun with which to move around. Browning decided to keep the basic receiver group and utilize an air-cooled barrel that would reduce the weight. Because the

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barrel would overheat in a short period of time, it was designed to be replaced in the field. This was not a difficult procedure but, in the thick of battle, it was one of those jobs that were not too popular with the gun crew.

The barrel itself would move back towards the receiver when the gun fired, as the recoil of the fired round was utilized to provide the needed power to continue the firing cycle. This rearward barrel movement is the key to start the process of moving the bolt backwards, extracting the spent cartridge,

removing the cartridge from the belt, while readying this cartridge for the next firing cycle. This all happens 500 times a minute.

This gun has had many types of configurations. Our infantry used most of these guns; others were mounted on vehicles or armor units. Many aircraft had .30 cal. machine guns and it was this basic design that was utilized. These aircraft guns had a much higher firing rate, up to 1200 rounds per minute. One design had two guns mounted together and had a 2400 round rate of fire. As aircraft evolved during WWII, it was apparent that .30 cal was not enough to bring down aircraft. Thankfully, John Browning already had the .50 cal. gun out in the battlefield.

We were not the only country to use this gun. England had it chambered for its .303 cartridge; the French, in 7.5mm; the Swedish forces had the 6.5x55mm and 8x63mm and there were some in 8mm Mauser. Later, the M1919 was chambered for the NATO 7.62x51mm that extended the life of this great machine gun. It was in use during the Vietnam War and Israel used it extensively during their wars with Egypt in the "Six Day War".

Today, our country has newer guns in our arsenals. The .30 cal. Browning may not be as popular here as it once was. Other countries are still using this gun and it will be a long time before they change over to something better.

It is a testament to the great inventor, John Moses Browning that, although his Browning M1919 is not used much, it is still the M2 machine gun that speaks for him today. And perhaps in the near future, his .45 cal. Semi Automatic Pistol cartridge will come back, too.

The Will County Grassroots committee would like to thank Charlie Brown for his wonderful example of a M1919 gun. We also are indebted to John Moses Browning for some of the greatest firearm designs in the world. He was fortunate to live in a country that gives all of us the freedom to express ourselves. Without those freedoms we would all still be in the dark.

**Al Tiscareno**

## ILLINOIS GUN OWNERS LOBBY DAY

Come out and join the ISRA in Springfield on Wednesday, March 11, 2009 for **IGOLD**. This is the annual event where you have the opportunity to directly lobby your representatives in the IL House and Senate. Each year the number of participants increases and we are looking forward to, once again, make a lasting impression on our legislature.

For more information, visit [www.isra.org](http://www.isra.org) or call the ISRA office at 815-635-3198.



### Chairman's Comments by Doug Mayhall

Lately, it seems that all we hear about on the news is the ranting of our ex-governor who appears to have completely lost his sense of reality. But, at least he is gone from the office where he spent the last few years trying to ruin our Second Amendment rights. One down, hundreds more to go. From all reports I have, the new governor is not on our side, but seems honest and tries to be fair. At this point, I feel we can at least try to work with him and then, of course, try to get a pro-gun governor elected in the next election cycle.

Nationally, we have big problems ahead. The Brady bunch is constantly beating their drums louder and louder in hopes that they will one day, silence us once and for all. Something else that is very disturbing to me is the nomination of Eric Holder for Attorney General. Holder is radically against the Second Amendment and everything it represents. I don't think we could have a worse enemy...unless it would be President Obama himself who, after all, has surrounded himself with a staff that is extremely anti-Second Amendment. I don't believe there is even one of his picks that is even neutral on Second Amendment. It appears to me that, in order to be on his list of advisors, one must first and foremost pledge an anti-gun agenda.

Now we can just cave, as did England, Canada and Australia or we can fight. If we are still the America that has been one of the most fiercely steadfast nations to cherish individual rights, we will ultimately prevail against the tyranny being put upon us. Since

the days of the Mayflower coming over in 1620 leading to the Revolutionary War in 1775, Americans have been fighting for the freedoms in which they believe. Others, though, think the first rule is to take away the guns and then stripping away the right to freedom of speech is not far behind. As we did after Pearl Harbor, we unified, fought and ultimately triumphed over the enemies of freedom. No one could match our ingenuity and determination to achieve victory over our enemies. We triumphed over the Cold War because the Russians could not match our resources and desire for freedom forever. They finally folded when President Reagan defined them as the "evil empire" and garnered unity to defeat them politically and economically. We did it again in 1991 with the first Gulf War, when President Bush got near-universal support regarding the invasion of Iraq. After years of partisan politics during the Clinton years, we united again after "9-11" and went after the enemy. Unfortunately, I believe the liberal press never reported the results of the war fairly and thus, public sentiment largely turned against it and all of President George W. Bush's policies. This led to an unknown, untested and inexperienced individual becoming the 44th President of the United States. When, and I do believe it is when and not if, he starts his anti-gun crusade, I am confident we will finally gather together and demand that the Rights provided to us by the Constitution and our God-given right to protect ourselves will be preserved and protected. We can and we must grow larger than the tyrants who think they can bully their way and force their illegal changes on the American people.

How can we band together, you ask? One fun way to help protect our Rights is by participating in one of the thirty Friends of the NRA dinners across Illinois throughout the coming year. At these events, there are silent auctions, raffles, live auctions, games and good food. All of the money goes to the NRA Foundation that distributes the

\*\*\* 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.

money throughout the state for such things as range development and improvements, youth programs, women's programs, training and education, hunter safety and civic organizations like the Boy Scouts. In fact, there is one of these dinners coming up on March 22nd right here in Joliet. It is now more important than ever to attend one of these events.

Another exciting way to show support for Illinois gun owners' rights is to attend IGOLD (Illinois Gun Owners' Lobby Day) on Wednesday, March 11th, down in Springfield. This is a great opportunity to meet with thousands of other like-minded individuals and make the march down to the Capital where you will have the opportunity to meet with your state senators and representatives and express your views on legal firearm ownership. We made a HUGE impression on them last year. Our yellow shirts and pins literally were everywhere you looked in the Capital building, which was quite an impressive sight for friend and foe alike.

Another way to show your support of the Second Amendment is to attend the ISRA Annual Meeting in Springfield on Saturday, February 21st. The meeting will be followed by a banquet with the guest speaker being Alan Gura, who is the attorney that won the Heller case before the Supreme Court last year. If you are not able to attend, please enter one of the raffles offered by the ISRA to help fund our fight against the extremist anti-gunners trying to force their will onto us law abiding citizens. It takes money to fight for your Rights and, with your help, we will fight for them and we will prevail!

### **THREE RIVERS FNRA DINNER AND AUCTION**

**Sunday, March 22, 2009**

Renaissance Center - Joliet

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**For more information, visit [www.friendsofnra.org](http://www.friendsofnra.org)**

**Order your tickets today! Call Delores @ 708-935-6470**

## Calendar of Events

- 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](http://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 - [www.isra.org](http://www.isra.org) - ISRA (815) 635-3198
- March 14 & 15** Kankakee Gun Show - Kankakee County Fairgrounds - Terry Keller (815) 930-4422
- March 15** Safer USA & Howell Shooting Club, Inc. - Advanced Metallic Cartridge Reloading Course - Howell Shooting Club - Yorkville - David Lombardo (815) 744-5487  
EARLY REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- March 21** Safer USA & Howell Shooting Club, Inc. - Basic Practical Ballistics - Howell Shooting Club - Yorkville - David Lombardo (815) 744-5487  
EARLY REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- March 21 & 22** Midwest Sporting Goods Open House - Midwest Sporting Goods - Lyons - 708-447-4848
- March 22** Three Rivers FNRA Dinner & Auction - Renaissance Center - Joliet - see Doug, Terry or Al at the next WCGR meeting for details
- March 29** Kane County Gun Show - Kane County Fairgrounds - Kathy Carlson (815) 758-2773

*\*\* 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](mailto: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

OPEN 24 HOURS

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