



WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS DIVISION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

NEXT MEETING - March 19, 2008 - 7:00 PM

Sara's Place Restaurant

Joliet, IL (815) 741-3076

Retired Cook County States Attorney, Ed Ronkowski, will be our speaker for March. Ed is going to talk about the Cook County lawsuit and the US Supreme Court hearing the Washington DC case. As always, we hope to see you there and don't forget to bring a friend!

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

Will County 2008

This past month, Sheriff Paul Kaupas took the time to fill us in on what was going on in the Will County Office. His first topic was the expansion of the Will County Adult Detention Center. With the rapid growth in population of the county, there is



also a great need to accommodate those that find themselves on the wrong side of the law. The size of the old facility was not able to handle much more in the way of

inmates and Sheriff Kaupas has made it one of his goals to make the expansion a possibility. Another concern with the growing population of inmates at the facility is the need to provide increased safety for the staff at the detention center. Managing prisoners is not an easy task. The use of technology to control and monitor inmates can reduce stress levels, thus creating a better environment for all. Video and other monitoring equipment is also used in the visitor's area to provide a safer environment for those that need to see or visit an inmate. There are dorms for the non-violent inmates, too. Separating them from the rest of the prisoners is in their best interest and limits the exposure to more hardened inmates.

WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS CONTACTS

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The Sheriff then brought up the recent homicides in Tinley Park. As this case is still being investigated, Sheriff Kaupas was not able to say any more than what has been in the media. His focus, however, was centered on why any of the six women were unable to find some way to break away from their assailant and try to get help. Kaupas understands the fundamental right to life and liberty and the right to defend your life and loved ones. He supports the right to keep and bear arms and even, legal carry. If just one of those women had access to a firearm at the height of the

madness, it could have meant that more might have survived.

The Sheriff introduced Laurie McPhillips, the Will County Recorder and her assistant, Cheryl Littlefield. Laurie explained that her job is to maintain and update the land records of properties located in the county.



Her office had just completed the installation of these records into a computer database that will allow county residents to access these records via the Internet. These land records can be accessed at the Will County's Recorders site: www.willcountyrecorder.com.

The Will County Grassroots thanks Sheriff Kaupas and County Recorder Laurie McPhillips for dropping by.

Al Tiscareno



Three Rivers Friends of NRA Dinner

Sunday, March 30, 2008

Renaissance Center, Joliet

Silent and live auctions, various games, drawings and raffles will be held throughout the event, including a special raffle for our younger guests. Dinner tickets are \$40.00 each and there are a variety of packages and sponsorships available.

To order tickets or for more information:

Call: Dolores 708-935-6470

E-mail: threeriversfnra@gmail.com

Visit: www.FriendsofNRA.org

***** 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



Rabid, anti-gun Mayor Daley has a gun collection. It is so very fine that it even rivals the gun collection of anti-gun Governor Rod Blagojevich. Ironic, isn't it? Well it's true and all Illinois citizens are forced to pay for it and we continue to pay. The Mayor and Governor are both so obsessed with their collections, that they take them absolutely everywhere they go...they're more commonly known as 'armed bodyguards'. In addition, they have guards, armed with the best of weapons, for the protection of their families.

I would like to know what makes these two individuals so significant that they need armed police to guard them twenty-four hours a day, every day of the year. Furthermore, what makes everyone else so insignificant that they are not allowed to arm themselves for personal protection? I seem to remember the Constitution saying that all men are created equal. This is obviously not so in Illinois. It seems that, in both the Governor and Chicago Mayor's views, they are better and more important than anyone else in the state. In forty-eight other states, law-abiding citizens are allowed to personally protect themselves. Personally, I have never heard of a single case of an attempted robbery, sexual assault or home invasion against either of these men. I do, however, continue to hear of hundreds of attacks against the unarmed citizens of Illinois. Gee, isn't this proof that criminals usually avoid people that are armed?

Spring is just around the corner and firearm enthusiasts will soon be going out in force to do some shooting where it is allowed and safe. They will go to ranges to plink, target shoot, attend club meetings and other events. This is a great way to spend time alone or with friends and family, unwinding and practicing mental and physical control and honing one's marksmanship skills. And, it is a great way to keep the pastime alive by introducing new people...especially today's youth...to the shooting sports. They will attend educational classes ranging from introduction and safe handling of firearms to basic pistol/rifle/shotgun classes to Range Safety Officer seminars.

If you are one of these people that treasure being able to exercise this Constitutional Right by firearm collecting, plinking, competitive shooting or hunting, you have to thank several gun rights organizations. The NRA, ISRA, Second Amendment Foundation and Gun Owners of America are probably the best known, however there are hundreds of other less known organizations all around the country that contribute to the daily fight for protecting our Rights. There are 70-90 million firearm owners in the United States, yet only about 4,000,000 of them belong to the NRA. In Illinois, there are over a million FOID cardholders yet, sadly, only a small percentage belongs to the NRA and an even smaller percentage belongs to the ISRA. In Illinois, the ISRA has three lobbyists, the NRA has one and the National Shooting Sports Foundation has one lobbyist working in Springfield to protect our firearm rights. That means that there are five lobbyists carrying the weight for well over one million gun owners. The ISRA has only a few paid employees. This allows us to run "lean" and, therefore, make the most efficient use of membership dues and donations to the ISRA. With the current state of affairs and with so many anti-gun bills being presented in Springfield, we need all the money to be spent wisely. Volunteers do the rest of the work for the ISRA. We are fortunate to have volunteers working at the range, selling memberships at gun shows and other appropriate venues, attending town hall meetings, arranging events such as IGOLD, running county grass roots organizations, ISRA range events and so many more things in which the Association is involved. The Board of Directors has monthly meetings and many of its members are involved in several other projects necessary to make the ISRA successful.

BUT...we cannot do it alone. In order to ensure our firearm rights, we require assistance from all the ISRA members, the NRA members and especially from the firearm owners that do not belong to either group. First, we all must make a

strong plea to every firearm owner we know to join BOTH the ISRA and NRA. The saying, "There is strength in numbers," is so very true. Next, we must encourage firearm owners to donate what they can to these organizations. We cannot operate without money. Next, and probably most important, we all must volunteer to help out wherever and however we are able. This can be as easy as calling or writing your legislator, writing letters to the editor, buying raffle tickets to fund our activities or getting more involved by working at gun shows to sell merchandise, raffle tickets and memberships or helping out at the range. No matter what your level of skill or area of expertise, be it with computers, marketing, legal knowledge, fundraising, etc., we need your help. As I have written before, we have too few people doing way too much. So please step up to the plate and volunteer to help the ISRA help keep your Rights intact. Your firearm rights do, indeed, hang in the balance.

Doug Mayhall



6th Annual ISRA Range Open House Saturday, June 21, 2008

ISRA Range - Bonfield, IL

All law-abiding citizens are invited...even those who do not own a firearm or have never shot before. Factory representatives from all the major manufacturers will be on hand to answer your questions.

* Test-fire the firearms of your choice *

* Try your hand at archery *

A small fee for ammunition will be required.

A BB gun and air rifle range will be set up for our younger guests—a great opportunity to get the whole family involved! Food and beverages will be available.

FREE Admission! FREE Parking!

Phone: ISRA 815-635-3198 Visit: www.isra.org



Saturday, May 24, 2008

Sponsored by the ISRA Location: ISRA Range
8:30am-3:30pm

No experience necessary - no FOID required - Ages 16 & older
Cost: \$35.00

Class Size is Limited - Call for more info. or to register
ISRA Office: 815-635-3198

www.isra.org

*** 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.

Calendar of Events

- March 15 & 16** Midwest Sporting Goods Open House - Midwest Sporting Goods - Lyons
(708) 447-4848
- March 29** Firearm Safety Training, Inc.-NRA First Steps Pistol Orientation-Mega Sports-Plainfield
Kent (815) 545-4872 - Early registration is necessary!
- March 30** Three Rivers FNRA Dinner - Renaissance Center - Joliet - for tickets, please
call Dolores (708) 935-6470 or [visit www.FriendsofNRA.org](http://www.FriendsofNRA.org)
- April 6** Wheaton Gun Show - Dupage County Fairgrounds - Mike Holan - (630) 365-2808
- April 12** Firearm Safety Training, Inc.-NRA First Steps Rifle Orientation-Mega Sports-Plainfield
Kent (815) 545-4872 - Early registration is necessary!
- April 13** Kane County Gun Show - Kane County Fairgrounds - Kathy Carlson - (815) 758-2773
- April 19 & 20** Kankakee Gun Show - Kankakee County Fairgrounds - Terry Keller (815) 930-4422
- April 26** NRA First Steps Shotgun Orientation - Erienna Hunt Club - Morris - contact Kent at
(815) 545-4872 or visit www.firearmsafetytraining.com
- April 26 & 27** Midwest Antique Arms Show - DuPage Expo Center - St.Charles - (760) 202-4489
Admission fee applicable
- May 16 - May 20** NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits - Louisville, Kentucky - www.nraam.org
- June 21** ISRA Range Open House - ISRA Range - Bonfield - ISRA office (815) 635-3198

*** 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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NRA Life Member & Recruiter
EVC 11th Congressional District
ISRA Life Member

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