



WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS DIVISION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

NEXT MEETING - March 18, 2009 - 7:00 PM

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

This month, we will welcome ISRA member **Carl Kuhn** as our speaker. Carl will be sharing some unusual firearms from his personal collection. 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, *Jason R. Weseloh*, was the name drawn for the WCGR Gun Giveaway last month. Unfortunately, Jason 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.

Gunsmith 101

If I could restart some part of my life and go back thirty years, I believe that I would enjoy being a gunsmith. It fascinates me. To correct or refine a mechanical device so it works perfectly seems to have a certain quality that is very satisfying. It also represents one of the oldest forms of skilled craftsmanship. Firearms have been around for a very long time and the need for firearm repair will always be in demand.



This past month, Mike Harmon of Great Lakes Gunsmithing stopped in to field questions about firearms and their care. He trained at the Colorado School of Trade and, from there, began his career as a gunsmith.

Mike could have talked about most anything that evening, but decided that the audience might be able to generate enough questions to make for an interesting night. Topics ranged from trigger jobs and stocks, to accurizing and bedding actions. He also took the time to address problems that a

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change in stock dimensions would correct. Our members also asked a number of questions on reloading, barrel life and head spacing issues in certain calibers. Mike briefly brought up combining some of these techniques to get the best out of a firearm.

He also took some time to give advice on the care of firearms. Mechanical devices do not like to be ignored especially if lives are at stake or it will be the only shot made available to the hunter. Too often, not enough thought is given to the tools and instruments

required to do the job properly and that will deny some when the moment of truth arrives.

The Will County Grassroots thanks Mike Harmon for educating us a little more on our firearms.

Mike Harmon can be reached at:

Great Lakes Gunsmithing

714 E. Grand Avenue
Fox Lake IL 60020
630-740-4201

Al Tiscareno

*** 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.



**Chairman's Comments
by Doug Mayhall**

By the time you read this, IGOLD (Illinois Gun Owners' Lobby Day) 2009 will have already happened. Hopefully, I will be able to report that participation this year surpassed that of years past. As

you know, IGOLD is when Second Amendment supporters of IL convene in Springfield, march down the streets to the Capitol building and then meet with our legislators. This is our day to lobby them to do the right and legal thing to preserve and strengthen our Second Amendment rights as is written in the Illinois and US constitutions, including the right to "carry" for self-defense. There are currently three concealed carry bills that have made it out of committee. We will be politely requesting our local legislators to vote in favor of them and all other pro-Second Amendment rights' bills and asking them to vote down any anti-gun legislation that comes up for a vote.

IGOLD is an extremely important event to attend. Last year alone, over 2000 people attended and had a huge impact on the legislators, "pro" and "anti" alike. We showed them that we are a large group, growing in numbers every day, of well dressed, well informed and well behaved individuals. Males and females, young and old,

"blue collar" workers and professionals, all calling for the acknowledgement of our Constitutional rights that were recently re-affirmed by the US Supreme Court. Wherever you went, in or around the Capitol, there were droves of people wearing either yellow shirts or yellow buttons proclaiming IGOLD. It was a really impressive sea of yellow and the legislators really took notice. Most legislators' number one priority is to get re-elected, either to help change the state to become a better place or for their own personal gain. Either way, we overwhelmed them with huge numbers of civil rights' (specifically, firearms rights') supporters. I can't help but think that all but the diehard anti-gun zealots will vote our way when we overwhelm them with voters demanding their Constitutional rights.

The news media was there and highlights from the event were aired in most of the southern portion of the state. However, in Chicagoland, it was almost completely ignored. I believe this was because it was a very large group of people promoting firearm rights, not anti-gun legislation. I can only imagine that if even fifty anti-gun protestors appeared and marched on the Capitol, it would have been broadcast all over the Chicago news.

This year, there are fifteen busses reserved, leaving from various parts of the state, to bring people to the event. This allows the attendees the option of being driven down to Springfield along with many other liked-minded individuals or driving down themselves with some friends and/or relatives.

Can you imagine if we get 4000 or 5000 people there? The liberal media would have to put this on Chicago TV, newspapers and radio. You are the ones that will make this happen by coming with your friends, your children, your relatives and co-workers. Offer to drive, carpool or whatever works to get every possible person there. I think this event is so extremely important that I am bringing my grandsons, taking them out of school for the day. This year, participation is more important than ever before, with the dramatically changed environment in Washington DC and in Illinois. We are finally rid of a rabid anti-gun Governor and this past election we announced that several counties passed resolutions for concealed carry. And, the Illinois Sheriff's Association has given

their written support for concealed carry in Illinois. So far, 88 counties (out of 102) have passed pro-Second Amendment resolutions. The media cannot continue to ignore the presence of thousands of IL citizens in Springfield, supporting their firearm rights. A battle is always won by "having superior forces at the point of impact." An important impact point is Springfield on March 11, 2009.

The 2009 ISRA Annual Meeting

The ISRA held its Annual Meeting in Springfield this year. It seemed to be a good location as winter threw a bit of snow north of us. As it turned out, by the time the end of the weekend came around, the somewhat milder temperatures melted that last vestige of snow and I did not have to shovel. Not that I miss that chore.

The members that showed up asked the usual questions on their minds at the Legislative and PVF Update session. With all that is going on in Illinois and the big change in the Governor's office, it gave the members a bit more thought as to what could happen. The Personal Protection workshop was also informative and the discussions were beneficial to all present. The concealed carry issue was also a subject of interest and the ISRA panel reassured all of us present that it is a top priority.

At the banquet, our guest speaker, Alan Gura, was the one person that everyone wanted to hear. He is the lawyer that brought up the initial "Parker vs. D.C." through the lower courts and then, when it became the "Heller vs. D.C." case, he lead that into the Supreme Court to argue this issue before the Justices...and we all know that it was in the Supreme Court that our 2nd Amendment rights took a right turn toward corrective action.

We also had the pleasure of having some of the plaintiffs present at the banquet. It was great to see Dave and Colleen Lawson there, along with Adam Orlov. They and all the others present made for a great weekend.

The ISRA welcomes the addition of John Webb of

THREE RIVERS FNRA DINNER AND AUCTION

Sunday, March 22, 2009

Renaissance Center - Joliet

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Tremont and Ted Mazurski of Naperville to the Board of Directors. This Board also wishes the best for the two outgoing members, Jon Casillas and Lyman Twing. Jon is in our military and has much going on. Lyman moved to Oregon and seems to like having Elk in the back yard.

On an interesting side note: there were some issues with the hotel and it wasn't until the following Monday did I find out about one of the problem areas. It seems that of the three elevators, only two were operating. I did not realize that the week previous, the President of the U.S., stayed at the very same place the ISRA had its event. For security reasons, one of the elevator shafts was commandeered and the elevator car disabled so security cabling could be sent up through the inactive shaft to the 12th floor, where the President and his staff stayed. Not only did this slow down the elevator traffic, it also messed up the computer system controlling the elevators. This certainly did not stimulate anyone, in fact, most folks were not happy.

I hope that I will see you next year...wherever the next Annual Meeting is held.

Al Tiscareno

*** 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.

Calendar of Events

- 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 - Call Delores at 708-935-6470 to order your tickets today!
- March 29** Kane County Gun Show - Kane County Fairgrounds - Kathy Carlson (815) 758-2773
- April 5** ISRA CMP Qualifying & Vintage Military Rifle Match - ISRA Range - Jess Brandt - (815) 697-2205 or John Newman (815) 485-0351
- April 15** ISRA Will County Grassroots Meeting - Sara's Restaurant - Joliet
- April 18 & 19** Kankakee Gun Show - Kankakee County Fairgrounds - Terry Keller (815) 930-4422
- April 25** ISRA New Shooter Service Rifle Clinic - ISRA Range - Konrad Powers - (630) 289-2098
- April 26** Wheaton Gun Show - Dupage County Fairgrounds - Mike Holan (630) 365-2808
- May 2 & 3** CADA Gun Show - Dupage Expo Center - St.Charles - P&K Enterprises - (951) 970-9669
- May 10** Kane County Gun Show - Kane County Fairgrounds - Kathy Carlson (815) 758-2773
- May 14-18** NRA 2009 Annual Meeting & Exhibits - Phoenix Convention Center - Phoenix, AZ - visit www.nraam.org for details
- June 27** **ISRA Range Open House** - ISRA Range - Bonfield - Call the ISRA office at (815) 635- 3198 if you'd like to volunteer for this event or see any of the WCGR committee for more 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*

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www.isra.org

Join the NRA

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OPEN 24 HOURS

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Artist/Owner

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