



WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS DIVISION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

NEXT MEETING - APRIL 20th - 7PM

**Sara's Place Restaurant
Joliet, IL (815)741-3076**

Ed Ronkowski, retired Cook County Assistant States Attorney, will discuss illegal searches and seizures relating to firearms. Ed is the author of "When The Police Come Knocking", an excellent article recently published in The Illinois Shooter. Be sure to bring a friend to this month's meeting, as this subject could affect all Illinois firearm owners.

"HALF-COCKED"

When the hammer of a Civil War-era soldier's rifle was half pulled back, locked – or on safety, it was half cocked: Not the best position for a rifleman trying to ward off his opponents' volleys of three shots every minute.

Civil War history buffs Steve Scherer, a former teacher of history and Paul Neimeyer, a Civil War re-enactor, shared this and other interesting facts about Civil War combat and weaponry with members during last month's meeting.

Today, "Going off half-cocked" usually means being to hasty in response to a verbal attack, but according to Scherer and Neimeyer, for a soldier in the 1860s, pulling the trigger too quickly could have been deadly.

According to Niemeier, Civil War soldiers were expected to fire three times every minute in battle. Getting those shots off was challenging. Each soldier had to complete a nine-step process in order to load his rifle.

Civil War battles were fought, Neimeyer and Scherer said with rifles, pistols and cannons. Among the Union's best guarded secrets was the manufacture of its canon fuses whose efficiency gave Federal troops an artillery edge over their Confederate counterparts. Faulty fuses, the pair said, often caused Confederate cannons to fail.

Confederate pistols, however may have been more reliable, assembled with brass parts. Collectors of Civil War-era firearms distinguish Confederate pistols from Union issue by that brass construction.

During their presentation, Scherer and Neimeyer displayed a collection of vintage and reproduction rifles, pistols, hats, bayonets and sabers. >>>

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Will County Grassroots newsletter is changing with the times. Starting with the June issue, it will only be available online, except for those who do not have internet access and request a paper copy. Please visit the new website at willcounty.isra.org and sign up to receive e-mail notification of future newsletters. Please contact Anita at (815)635-3198 if you wish to continue receiving the newsletter via USPS, or e-mail willcounty@isra.org if you have questions regarding the Will County website.

WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS CONTACTS

Chairman -Dan "Doc" Beck, M.D.
Work (815) 741-0070 docbeck@isra.org

Vice Chairman -Tom Kelly
Cell (815) 325-8288

Secretary -Doug Mayhall
Work (708) 349-2222 Home (708) 479-2506
doug@isra.org

Treasurer -Lynette Krohn
Home (815) 744-5215 lynette67@aol.com

Editor-Kim Beard willcounty@isra.org

ISRA CONTACTS

Kristi (General) - Lori (Membership) -
Anita (Range) at (815)635-3198
member@isra.org

Ultimately, more American combatants died during the Civil War, Scherer said, than in all other conflicts combined. Of those, three soldiers died of disease resulting from their wounds for every one felled on the battlefield.

Calendar of Events

- April 23, 24** Kankakee Gun Show - Kankakee Fairgrounds (815) 939-7572 www.kankakeefair.org
- April 24** Will County Gun Show - Balmoral Park, Crete (708) 474-0662 www.balmoralpark.com
- May 7, 8** Peoria Gun Show (Expo Gardens) (309) 274-2977
- May 7, 8** NRA Rifle Instructor Course - ISRA Range, Bonfield (815) 635-3198 www.isra.org
- May 8** Kane County Gun Show - Kane Cty Fairgrounds, St.Charles (815) 758-2773
www.kanecountyfair.com/calendar.cfm
- June 18** 3rd Annual ISRA Open House - ISRA Range, Bonfield (815) 635-3198 www.isra.org
- Spring 2005** trip to Rock Island Arsenal Museum - Quad Cities area (309) 794-5338
www.riawr.com/museum.htm

*Please contact Secretary Doug Mayhall or the ISRA office
if you would like to help out at any of these events.*

*Please Contact Secretary Doug Mayhall if you have any events
you would like included in next month's newsletter.*

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Political Disclaimer

The ISRA and the Will County Division of the ISRA CAN NOT and WILL NOT endorse any candidate or party. We Feature Speakers to allow us to learn about the positions a candidate holds about the Second Amendment, and welcome all candidates to speak to us. Only the ISRA Political Victory Fund can endorse candidates or donate to political campaigns.

Greg's Body Shop



2221 Oakleaf
Joliet, IL 60436

(815) 729-1299

Kurt A. Leinweber
Attorney At Law
63 W. Jefferson St.
Suite 101
Joliet, IL 60431
(815) 726-0303



Paid Political Ad

Office (815) 727-8895
FAX (815) 727-8918
Email pkaupas@willcosheriff.org



PAUL J. KAUPAS
SHERIFF

WILL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
14 W. JEFFERSON ST. JOLIET, IL 60431

Mr. Benny's Steak and Lobster House

19200 Everett Lane
191st and La Grange Road
Mokena, IL 60448
(708) 478-5800

STEPHEN P. WEBER

Certified Public Accountant

815/469-5290 Bus. 19200 SCHOOLHOUSE RD
815/469-5618 Res. MOKENA, ILLINOIS 60448