



# WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS DIVISION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

**NEXT MEETING - April 15, 2009 - 7:00 PM**

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

This month we will welcome **Paula Bratich** from the **Second Amendment Sisters** as our guest speaker. 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, *Robert Colombo*, was the name drawn for the WCGR Gun Giveaway last month. Unfortunately, Robert 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.

## The Krag-Jorgensen Rifle



Carl Kuhn brought to our March WCGR meeting more of his collection of firearms. He told us that he has been collecting for over seventy years and we always find that he has some great examples to

show us. One of these was a Krag Carbine with a saddle ring. After the meeting, Carl and I discussed what firearm to write about and we both agreed that the Krag-Jorgensen needed a bit more recognition. Carl is certainly right about that observation. The Krag received some undeserved criticism, mostly when it was compared to the Mauser during the Spanish-American War, but it still had attributes that allowed it to become our standard battle rifle for eleven years.

In 1890, the U.S. Military Board convened to search for a new rifle. The Springfield Trapdoor had seen almost a century of evolution from its beginnings as a smoothbore musket through the conversions as a breech-loading rifle utilizing the 45-70 Government cartridge. It was a powerful rifle, but it did not compare to the newer designs that were available at the time. The Board had requested numerous rifle designs that were to be compared for the military trials so many manufacturers sent their rifles for evaluation. Mauser, Lee, Mannlicher, Schmidt-Rubin, Krag-Jorgensen and

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about forty other companies provided the best they had for these tests.

Most of these rifles had magazines, with bolts to operate the action. This really sped up the ability of the soldier to send lead downrange. Tactically, this allowed more mobility on the field of battle, but concerns with field commanders as to slow supply lines made the necessity of a cutoff to a magazine necessary. The cutoff allowed only one shot to be fired and the soldier would then have to insert another cartridge into the chamber. The magazine would be used as a reserve. This was the thinking of our military leaders at the time. These military leaders did not

want to waste ammunition, as it was difficult to get our troops re-supplied. This controversy caused many innovative firearms to not be analyzed by our War Department in later years.

The ammunition used by the Krag, "U.S. Magazine Rifle, Model 1892," was another departure from the norm. This would be the first rifle to use smokeless powder. The black powder days were coming to an end, as far as the military was concerned. The advantages of using smokeless power had impressed the military leaders of the world and the Krag would be the first to use it in our country. Other U.S. cartridges were initially black powder and converted to smokeless, but it was the Krag to start its military career with the new "30-40 Government" smokeless cartridge.

The 30-40 Government was somewhat unique in its design. It pushed a 220-grain, round nose bullet at around 2000 fps and energy at 100 yards is over 1900 ft./lbs. The bullet itself was lead core with a steel jacket and a rimmed case. It was a potent round that compared favorably with what other countries were using.

The Krag's rate of fire was tested by the War Department and found that a skilled shooter could make forty-three aimed shots in two minutes. This was because of the Krag's very smooth bolt. One criticism of the Krag was the slowness of reloading the magazine. This did not concern the military leaders as they felt that aimed, single shots utilizing the magazine cut off switch was more important than wasting ammunition downrange, so the slower reloading process did not carry much weight during testing.

The Krag has been compared to the 7x57 Spanish Mauser during the Spanish- American War and much has been written about how the Spanish overwhelmed our troops with their Mausers. There is a lot of fiction and some fact as to what really happened. The regular Spanish military used the Mausers, but they were not the predominant soldiers in the field. The majority of the troops were the local militias and they were armed with Remington Rolling Block single shot rifles in 11.15x58R or 11.15x75R. These fired bullets that were just under 400 grains and were quite lethal, but with much slower velocities. The Rough Riders usually carried their own personal arms into battle, though they were all issued a Krag. Whether they used the Krag or not is not clearly known. There are some issues with the Krag that were not a factor in this war. The most important was the fact that the bolt only had one

locking lug. This was not a problem as long as the cartridges were properly loaded. The government did try to increase the powder charge, but noted that cracks would develop on the bolt lug. The normal cartridge was around 40,000 pounds of pressure, which seemed to be the upper safety level. I think that the normal loading of this cartridge was quite potent and certainly capable as a military round.

The Krag-Jorgensen served our country faithfully during the Spanish-American War (1898), the Philippine Insurrection (1898-1904), Samoa (1899) and the Boxer Rebellion (1900) and it was also used during WWI and WWII for guard duty work. Though it is not as popular as some of the other historic battle rifles used by the U.S., the Krag was used to defend this great country of ours and it served us well.

The WCGR thanks Carl for sharing more of his collection and re-introducing the Krag rifle.

### 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

Yellow...everywhere you looked! Yellow hats, yellow shirts and yellow pins. Starting at the Prairie Capital Convention Center, thousands of dedicated civil rights activists gathered to celebrate the right to keep and bear arms and to be able to have the freedom to protect ourselves by carrying a firearm if we so desire. We heard speeches from several gun rights activists, then braved the cold weather and marched down the streets to the Capital. It was a moving sea of yellow, led by the hundreds of female advocates. We then entered the Capital where we completely encompassed the building's rotunda and hallways with yellow...over 5,000 strong.

We visited our legislators' offices and either got to talk to them or at least drop off our signed cards, requesting our legislators to vote properly on upcoming bills. All in all, it was a very successful day. I was told they have never had that many people at

the Capital from one particular group, so I believe we really made their heads turn. Thanks to all of you who were able to show up and lets make next year even bigger and better!

Now let's move forward a couple of weeks. We had a couple of very bad bills come up for a vote. In the last two years, we have been able to get the bad bills voted down, but only by a couple of votes. This week, however, we had enough votes to win by eight or nine. That is a small, but significant difference. Fortunately, this is a good move in our direction. Unfortunately, this is still too fragile a lead. This can be nullified by one single incident done by an act of stupidity or the 'antis' really putting on a press to the fence sitters. We must not let our guard down one bit and, in fact, we must push even harder to gain more pro-gun rights converts in the state legislature.

We have, on the national level, a whole new rash of highly coordinated attacks against our gun rights. It's Mexico. The Mexican gun lords, Hillary Clinton, Barbara Boxer, Dianne Feinstein, Barack Obama and the liberal news media all talking of how the Mexican drug cartels are earning somewhere between 20 and 30 billion dollars a year. They say they are using that money to purchase weapons and 90% are from the USA. Those in power in our government state they are buying automatic guns, single shot rifles, hand grenades, rockets, 50-caliber rifles and more. It is also stated that we must do anything in our power to stop this horrendous flow of arms from the US to Mexico.

Let's look at some facts. From 2007-2008, 11,000 guns were submitted to ATF for tracing. Of those, 5,114 did indeed come from the US. But in that same time, 29,000 guns were recovered; meaning 68% were never even submitted for tracing! So, over 80% could not be traced back to the US.

Have you tried to buy a hand grenade, rocket or automatic weapon lately? I'll bet you can't...because they are illegal!!! Simply put, an ordinary citizen cannot purchase these weapons. Only the government can buy or sell these types of weapons and they do sell them to the Mexican government and military. And, the Mexican military

is known to be very corrupt. Why don't they give us all the guns to check out? I believe it's because they would be traced back to their military from where they were stolen and purchased illegally. And, why would they buy single shot rifles when they can buy fully automatic rifles? The US Border Patrol displayed a supply of assault weapons recovered from Mexico and many of these are not even available to anyone in the US. They were traced back to Russia, China, South Africa and Guatemala. With their money, the drug lords can afford to buy boatloads of weapons and smuggle them into Mexico. Why in the world would they bother with straw purchases and buy one or a just few guns at a time...guns that are not even fully automatic?

We can't seem to stop the flow of drugs into our country. How can we stop the drug cartels from buying guns from other countries and from their own military? I believe this is yet another feeble excuse to try and eradicate gun rights from our law-abiding citizens.

*"An unarmed man can only flee from evil, and evil is not overcome by fleeing from it." --Col. Jeff Cooper*

*"No arsenal or no weapon in the arsenals of the world is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women." – Ronald Reagan*

\*\*\* 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.



## WANTED



### Firearm Instructors & Volunteers 7th Annual ISRA Range Open House June 27, 2009

We are looking for your help to provide assistance to men, woman & children in learning the fundamentals of the shooting sports. A variety of volunteer positions are available. Please contact the ISRA office at (815) 635-3198 if you would like to volunteer.

## A LAW-ABIDING FELON?

### (430 ILCS 65/) Firearm+Owners+Identification+Card+Act

(430 ILCS 65/5) (from Ch. 38, par. 83 5)

*Sec. 5. The Department of State Police shall either approve or deny all applications within 30 days from the date they are received, and every applicant found qualified pursuant to Section 8 of this Act by the Department shall be entitled to a Firearm Owner's Identification Card upon the payment of a \$10 fee.*

I have recently found myself in a situation that many of you may be encountering. I am now in danger of being considered a felon by the Illinois State Police (ISP). What horrendous crime did I commit, you ask? What heinous act did I perpetrate that would change my legal status from life long, law-abiding citizen to criminal overnight? I'm afraid that I am guilty of sending in my Firearm Owners Identification (FOID) Card renewal over 5 weeks in advance of the expiration of my current FOID. (gasp)

"But wait", you say! I thought that it was Illinois State Law that the ISP must either approve or deny my FOID application within 30 days! There's the rub. That is in fact THE LAW. As you have read above, according to the Illinois Firearm Owner's Identification Card Act, The Department of the State Police shall renew or deny my application within 30 days of it's receipt. Nowhere in the numerous pages of this act does it state that the ISP need only comply if it's convenient for them to do so. Nowhere does it state that the ISP can extend this period if they are running short of manpower or funds. However, at this point in time, the ISP claims that due to a lack of funding, they are unable to process FOID applications in the allotted time. The Illinois State Police are BREAKING THE LAW!!! Yes, read that again, the ISP is thumbing their nose at both Illinois State Law and law-abiding, honest Illinois gun owners. And who, you may ask, is paying the penalty for this crime? Well, unfortunately, I am paying for it and I'm sure many of you are as well.

I recently called the State Police to inquire about my overdue FOID. I spoke to a less than sympathetic lady who claimed that she did not normally work in that department. She was "helping out" due to the large influx of FOID applications that had recently been received. She stated that they had received approximately 60,000 applications over the past few months and that the department did not have the manpower or the funds to process them. I kindly reminded her that according to State Law, they were required to process my FOID renewal within 30 days of receiving my

application, and that in fact, the ISP was breaking state law. This bit of information did not seem to have much of an effect on this ISP worker, as she simply stated that there was currently a 45-day backlog. When I inquired as to when I might expect to receive my FOID, she told me that I could call back in two weeks if it had not arrived in the mail. After gently reminding her again that according to the FOID act, the ISP was required, BY LAW, to process my application within 30 days, I was told that she was "sorry" but there was nothing that she could do. She, at one point, told me that I could "pay more taxes" in order to help expedite the ISP processing of FOID cards. I politely informed her that I don't believe paying higher taxes is the solution to every problem that arises. Before I hung up, she reminded me that I could call back in THREE WEEKS (funny how that time frame grew in the duration of one phone conversation) if I had not received my FOID.

Over two months have now passed since the ISP cashed my check and I have yet to receive my FOID. Under the law of the State of Illinois, I could now be considered a felon. I own firearms, yet I do not have a current FOID. I am lucky that I have another member of my household who has a current FOID. In fact, my husband has joked that thanks to the State Police, his gun collection has nearly doubled. In the meantime, I cannot go to the range to shoot, I cannot purchase firearms or ammunition or exercise my Second Amendment rights in any way due to the criminal disregard of the law by the Illinois State Police Department.

I know that there are many other gun owners out there that have experienced, or are experiencing the same problem in renewing their FOID. This is not the first time that the ISP has "gotten backed up" and broken the law. I wonder if they would be so cavalier about their approach to me if I were to be caught driving with an expired driver's license and told the officer that I was backed up at home and just hadn't gotten around to renewing it. I wonder if he would smile, let me go and say, "That's alright ma'am, just take care of it when you get the time"? I guess this is just another example of the law not being applicable to the police. Really makes you wonder what other laws they would be willing to break if it were expedient for them to do so.

In the meantime...I watch the mailbox. To kill the time, I've been shopping for orange jumpsuits in my size. I find orange so difficult to accessorize, though, I sure hope that my FOID gets here soon!

To read the FOID Act in its entirety, please click [here](#)

\*\*\* All opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the ISRA, Will County Grassroots or any of it's members or officers.\*\*\*

## Calendar of Events

- 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](http://www.nraam.org) for details
- May 20**             **ISRA Will County Grassroots Meeting** - Sara's Restaurant - Joliet
- June 6 & 7**         **Appleseed Event** - ISRA Range - Bonfield - [www.appleseedinfo.org](http://www.appleseedinfo.org)
- June 26**            **Second Amendment Freedom Rally** - Chicago - look more more information in  
future Will County Grassroots newsletters or visit [www.isra.org](http://www.isra.org)
- 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
- June 28**            **Glock Shooting Sports Foundation (GSSF) Glock League** - ISRA Range -  
Bonfield - Terry Kreimeier (815) 635-3198  
Note: Additional GSSF Matches will be held on July 26 & August 30, 2009
- July 18**             **ISRA M1A "Warm Up" Match** - ISRA Range - Bonfield -  
Claude Heale (815) 553-0591
- July 26**             **Glock Shooting Sports Foundation (GSSF) Glock League** - ISRA Range -  
Bonfield - Terry Kreimeier (815) 635-3198  
Note: Additional (final) GSSF Match will be held on August 30, 2009

*\* \* 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 this monthly newsletter*

## Join the ISRA

www.isra.org

## Join the NRA

www.nra.org

OPEN 24 HOURS

## SARA'S PLACE

3501 Channahon Road, Route 6, Joliet, Illinois  
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Fax (815) 741-3019

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## Greg's Body Shop



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PAUL J. KAUPAS  
SHERIFF

WILL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
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