



WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS DIVISION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

NEXT MEETING - May 16, 2007 - 7:00 PM

Sara's Place Restaurant

Joliet, IL (815) 741-3076

This month, the WCGR is celebrating Memorial Day with a tribute to our veterans. We invite all veterans and their families to attend and to share an experience or two from their service days. We hope to see you there.

Will County ISRA member, Joe Gallagher, was the name drawn at the March meeting in the WCGR "Gun Giveaway". Unfortunately for Joe, he was not present. Another name will be drawn at our May meeting. Remember, the winner must be present, have a valid FOID card and comply with all local, state and federal firearm laws.

Brownings' Japanese Connection

Browning Firearms has had the legacy of John Browning's genius behind it. Very few manufacturers can claim to have as many innovative firearm designs created by one brilliant mind. To own a Browning is to have a piece of American ingenuity that has been tested by Americans in the heat of battle and treasured by all those that own them.



In the beginning, John Browning did not have an easy time getting his designs accepted. His partnership with Fabrique Nationale in Belgium gave John Browning a well-earned start and since that time, the Brownings made in Belgium are the most desired. However, because of global economics and the labor costs involved in making quality firearms within the financial reach of most Americans, Browning arranged with Miroku

WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS CONTACTS

Chairman - Doug Mayhall

W (708) 349-2222 H (708) 479-2506 dougm@isra.org

Vice Chairman - Terry Kreimeier

TerryK@isra.org

Secretary - Al Tiscareno

willcounty@isra.org

Treasurer - Lynnette Steven

H (815) 744-5215 lynnette67@aol.com

Webmaster - Dave Beard willcounty@isra.org

Editor - Kim Beard willcounty@isra.org

ISRA CONTACTS

Anita (Range) - Kristi (General) - Lori (Membership)

(815) 635-3198

member@isra.org

Corporation to manufacture many of the company's long arms.

Miroku has been manufacturing firearms for many years. In addition to Browning, it has made firearms for other well-known firearm companies and also sells firearms under its own name in Europe. Make no mistake about the quality of these rifles and shotguns. They are made with the utmost precision and workmanship. What is interesting about this company is that it makes over 90,000 firearms a year for the

world market, but none of these firearms can be sold to the Japanese people! Japan's laws prohibit its citizens from owning firearms.

Gene Sowa brought along some very fine examples of Browning rifles made by Miroku. All of them were Browning's "A- Bolts," one of them was a .22 WMR and the rest were of the standard .22 LR.

Gene stated that Miroku made this line of "A-Bolts" for Browning from 1986 to 1996. They are of very high quality and have increased in value quite a bit. Anyone owning a Browning made by Miroku should not consider it as a lesser-valued firearm because of its origin.

It can be surprising what the collectors' market on these firearms is bringing.

Thanks to Gene Sowa for enlightening us on the Browning legend and heritage. Most of all, we thank him for sharing with us such beautiful examples of Browning firearms.

Al Tiscareno

possible, even though they may be unethical or illegal, as long as they win in the end.

It is interesting to note that whenever something tragic happens, the "antis" use their media friends in the newspaper and television industries to build up a frenzy of anti-gun talk. To the average person who isn't involved and completely informed of the facts, if they hear a lie often enough, it becomes fact. As when the appeals court declared the Washington D.C. gun ban illegal. Sarah Brady went on a huge rant on TV, radio and print media, stating the Appeals Court decision was made by "extreme right wing activist Judges" who were re-inventing the Constitution.

It seems that whenever a conservative makes a statement about preserving rights he is labeled an extremist and whenever a liberal makes a statement it is labeled as common sense by the media. They are extremely clever and methodical in getting themselves thought of as common and mainstream. Anybody who disagrees with them is considered an extremist and perception is reality.

An example of this can be seen with movie reviewers. Roger Ebert is never listed as the "liberal" reviewer, but whenever a conservative reviews a movie, he is ALWAYS listed as the "conservative reviewer," implying that he is not a mainstream person.

We, as gun rights' activists, need to do a marketing pitch to everyone we talk to, labeling ourselves as common sense, mainstream and law-abiding Americans. In turn, anyone who disagrees with us should be considered "anti-civil rights extremists." We need to be on the offense and get the anti's on the defense, them being thought of as "extremists" who are trying to change the Constitution and take away everyone's rights.

As to the shootings at Virginia Tech, more and more articles and commentaries are being released regarding the aversion or minimization of such tragedies when guns are available to common folk.

.....
Chairman's Comments



"Take away all guns," a headline ran and another headline read, "Ban all automatic and assault rifles." Then, Mayor Daley was almost screaming when he made an impassioned demand on the news about how we need to ban guns. What caused all this turmoil? The Virginia Tech shootings. All of these things happened within 24 hours by anti-gun (read anti-civil rights) activists. They used this as an excuse to start their rantings. Any responsible person would be courteous enough to the victims' families and friends to be careful what they say in the immediate aftermath of any tragedy until all of the facts come out. But, most anti-gunners are not caring of other people's feelings or their rights...even those rights that are guaranteed by the Constitution. They are extremists who have an agenda they wish to impose on everyone. They will use any means

This type of crime most often occurs in “gun free zones”. Besides Virginia Tech, there was Columbine, Luby’s Cafeteria, the Amish school in Pennsylvania, the New York Pizza shop and the McDonalds in California. All of these tragedies occurred in “gun free” zones. It is also interesting to note that the regions in which the most crimes are committed are the ones where private ownership of guns is illegal or almost impossible to obtain, such as Washington D.C., Chicago, New York and San Francisco. In the last few years, average citizens have stopped an attempted mass murder several times. And look at Israel, where it is documented that schoolteachers are armed and have successfully stopped several terrorists’ attacks. Then look at England, where crime has skyrocketed since their gun ban went into effect. The assault rate in England is now twice that in the United States and crimes using guns has also skyrocketed since the criminals know their prey will be unarmed. Also, rampages have occurred in Australia, France and Germany, all where gun control is very stringent.

In a recent Fox poll, 71% of the people felt that tougher gun laws would not have stopped the shooting at Virginia Tech and only 19% felt tougher gun laws would have prevented the shootings. Another interesting statistic is that Democrats are three times as likely to support gun control than Republications.

Instead of using these tragedies as fodder for their extreme rantings, logical people are realizing that citizens with guns save lives. Even a few editorials in normally liberal, anti-gun newspapers are calling for the legal carrying of firearms. The anti-gun extremists are trying to gain political points out of these tragedies, when it was their successes in getting “gun free zones” that actually encouraged and allowed these types of things to happen. Armed police cannot be everywhere. Who, in their right mind, would have the audacity

to want helpless, un-armed victims to be murdered with no way to defend themselves? These anti-gun extremists are so radical with their views that they cannot or will not accept logic to enter their minds.

Good intentions sure do not stop maniac killers...only people with guns can do that. The government cannot protect us and, no matter how many police or federal agents are out there, a determined individual can easily cause a tragedy. We must realize that we are responsible for our own safety and protection.

Our freedom is being able to live without government interference and the ability to realize that there are risks from which only we can protect ourselves. We must have that ability to protect ourselves. Anything other than that is unrealistic folly.

Doug Mayhall

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June 24, July 29 and August 26, 2007
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Open to any qualified person using a Glock for the first match. After the first match, only members of the Glock Sport Shooting Foundation are eligible.

Registration fees: \$20.00 for the first model of Glock; \$15.00 for each model of Glock thereafter.

Current GSSF and ISRA Range rules will apply.

For more information, visit the ISRA website at:
www.isra.org
or call the ISRA office at:
815-635-3198

***** 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.

NRA Convention 2007

The NRA convention in St. Louis, Missouri was definitely the place to be in mid-April. Every firearm manufacturer from coast to coast and the best from the rest of the world were there. Everything from accessories, places to hunt, ammunition and clothing had a place at the convention center. The best part about this convention is that it is for the NRA members. All one needs to gain admittance is to show an NRA membership card or purchase a membership at the door and entry to the exhibit hall is free. Along with browsing the exhibits, the NRA provides workshops, seminars and other informative programs to give members a better understanding of the issues that pertain to our Second Amendment rights. Most of these programs are available to all NRA members. However, there were some seminars that were restricted to the legal or law enforcement professions and, thus, admittance was restricted to those professions.

This was the third NRA convention that I attended.



The crowds were just as big as Milwaukee or Pittsburgh and there seemed to be no pushing or shoving. The folks walking around were as pleasant as could be. As always, it showed that gun owners are a friendly group. If there could only be a way to get shoppers at the local malls to act this way! I would imagine that the majority of those walking around the convention were probably carrying too. Which may shock some people here in Northern Illinois!

The events for the convention were many. On the first day, Friday, the Exhibit Hall opened. Later, the Sportsman Luncheon and Auction had wonderful items to be auctioned off while a great

steak luncheon was served. On Saturday, the Prayer Breakfast started the day and the 136th Members Banquet ended that day. The speaker for the evening was John Bolton, former U. S. Ambassador to the UN. Listening to him that evening was a treat. His take on global affairs and what is going on in North Korea, Iran and some of the other hot spots was quite interesting. He definitely knows how to spell things out. No wonder the liberal Democrats did not want him around!



Next year, the ISRA will set up our membership booth in Louisville, Kentucky for the 137th NRA convention. Hope to see you there!

Al Tiscareno

FOURTH ANNUAL NRA/ISRA YOUTH CAMP

Saturday, August 18, 2007

Children ages 10-14 are invited to attend

Cost: \$25.00 per child

(includes lunch, use of firearms, ammo & targets)

T-shirts given to the first 40 applicants

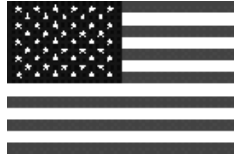
NRA Certified Instructors will be teaching firearm safety, basic firearm components and allow the kids hands-on experience with a

variety of firearms including .22 pistol,

.22 rifle, shotgun and archery

Call the ISRA for more info or to register:

815-635-3198



The Will County Grassroots Committee would like you to join them in paying special tribute to our veterans at our meeting in May 2007. As part of this memorial tribute, we will be delivering a variety of desired items to a local Veteran's Home located in Manteno, IL. Below is a list of some of the desired items that the veterans have requested. We are asking that anyone who would like to contribute to this endeavor bring their donated items to the **May Will County Grassroots meeting**. **For hygienic reasons, please provide new (not used) and non-expired items. Due to infection control policies, we request all personal care items be new.**

(New) Greeting Cards, Phone Cards
White Railroad Socks – No Elastic, Postage Stamps
Batteries AAA, AA, 9 Volt, C, D, Magnifying Glasses

Personal Care Items:

Hair Cream/Dressing for Men, After-shave and Pre-shave
Deodorant (Stick only), Cologne for Men & Women
Body Lotion/Cream, Efferdent Tablets for dentures
Fixodent – denture cream, Kleenex (large & small boxes)
Electric Razors – New

Diabetics / Sugar Free:

Candy, Gum, Cookies, Vanilla Wafers

Snacks:

Fresh Fruit, Bananas, Candy Bars – no nuts/caramel
Small boxes of Raisins, Cookies
Individual Packages – Chips, Gum
Soft Granola/Cereal Bars
Individually Wrapped Candy (soft)
Individual Packages – Crackers/Cheese, Fruit Punch
Individual Packages – Crackers/Peanut Butter, Individual Juice Boxes
Individually Sealed Fruit Cups (i.e. DelMonte or Dole)

Smoking Material:

Cigarettes, Cigars
Disposable Lighters, Tobacco (chewing)

Other:

Coffee, Paper Plates (varied sizes)
Six-ounce Foam Cups, Napkins
Paper Towels, Forks, Spoons, Knives – PLASTIC
Fabric Softener Sheets, Bath Towels (for making bibs)
Sweat Pants (M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL), Charcoal and Lighter Fluid
DVD Movies

*** Please contact Doug Mayhall or Kim Beard if you have any questions.
As always, we appreciate your support and generosity! ***

Calendar of Events

- May 13** NRA First Steps Pistol Orientation - Mega Sports - Plainfield - contact Kent at (815) 545-4872 or visit www.firearmsafetytraining.com
- May 13** Kane County Gun Show - Kane County Fairgrounds - (815) 758-2773
- May 19** NRA First Steps Shotgun Orientation - Erienna Hunt Club - Morris - contact Kent at (815) 545-4872 or visit www.firearmsafetytraining.com
- June 9** **ISRA Range Open House - ISRA Range - Bonfield - (815) 635-3198**
- June 9** NRA First Steps Pistol Orientation - Mega Sports - Plainfield - contact Kent at (815) 545-4872 or visit www.firearmsafetytraining.com
- June 23** NRA First Steps Shotgun Orientation - Erienna Hunt Club - Morris - contact Kent at (815) 545-4872 or visit www.firearmsafetytraining.com
- June 24** **Glock Sport Shooting Foundation (GSSF) ISRA League Match - ISRA Range - Bonfield - (815) 635-3198**
- July 7** NRA First Steps Pistol Orientation - Mega Sports - Plainfield - contact Kent at (815) 545-4872 or visit www.firearmsafetytraining.com
- July 29** **Glock Sport Shooting Foundation (GSSF) ISRA League Match - ISRA Range - Bonfield - (815) 635-3198**
- August 4** NRA First Steps Pistol Orientation - Mega Sports - Plainfield - contact Kent at (815) 545-4872 or visit www.firearmsafetytraining.com
- August 11&12** CADA Gun Show - Dupage Expo Center - St.Charles, IL - (760) 202-4489
- August 18** **NRA/ISRA Youth Shooting Camp - ISRA Range - Bonfield, IL - (815)635-3198**

**** Please use the above contact information to confirm events as dates may change without notice ***
Please contact Chairman, Doug Mayhall, or the ISRA office if you would like to help out
at any of the **ISRA** events*

E-mail willcounty@isra.org if you have any events you would like included in next month's newsletter

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**PAUL J. KAUPAS
SHERIFF**

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

**Kurt A. Leinweber
Attorney At Law
63 W. Jefferson St.
Suite 101
Joliet, IL 60431
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