



WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS DIVISION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

NEXT MEETING - May 21, 2008 - 7:00 PM

Sara's Place Restaurant

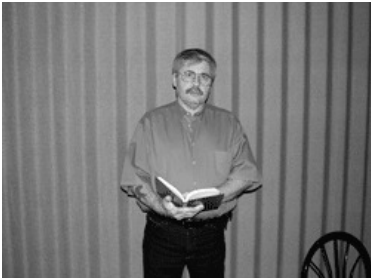
Joliet, IL (815) 741-3076

This month, we are pleased to welcome **Bruce Siddle**, founder of PPCT Management Systems, Inc. and Homeland Security Corporation, as our speaker. He is best known as an internationally recognized expert in the study of *combat human factors, use of force and counter-terrorism training*. This is sure to be an interesting and informative evening. As always, we hope to see you there and don't forget to bring a friend!

Will County ISRA member, Blaine D. Vorgang, was the name drawn for the WCGR Gun Giveaway last month. Unfortunately, Blaine 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.

The U.S. Constitution

The following is an abbreviated version of the article by Al Tiscareno. The complete version may be viewed on our website, www.willcounty.isra.org



Before the end of the Revolutionary War, the thirteen States agreed to a series of resolutions called the Articles of Confederation. This gave each state certain powers and also established a way to provide "a firm league of friendship with each other". Their intentions were to support each other and form a new nation. It was not going to be easy, though. Once England agreed to our independence, we quickly found out the importance of England's influence. No longer were we to have the ability to negotiate treaties, tariffs or protective agreements with other nations. The United States had neither influence nor status with the other world powers.

Our money credit with the rest of the world was non-existent and we owed money to France, the Dutch and a number of other countries that provided financial help for our war effort. The money situation in each state varied considerably.

Every so often, the states would send delegates to Confederation conventions to try to resolve these issues. There was nothing in the Articles to

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address these problems or, if there were language relating to some of the issues, nothing in the Articles would force any state to correct the problems. The central government did not really exist and the state legislatures did little to help the economic woes.

James Madison and Alexander Hamilton understood what was needed for this country's future. They felt that another form of government was needed and for that to happen, the state legislatures had to be convinced to send delegates to develop this idea. They called for a constitutional convention in

Annapolis in 1786, requesting the state legislatures to send delegates and see what the possibilities for a national constitution would be. Only five states sent delegates and it seemed the interest was not that strong for the idea of a new constitution.

This did not stop Madison or Hamilton. Early in 1787, Madison called for another Confederation convention to be held in Philadelphia, announcing that it was to correct some minor problems in the Articles. This was not the real reason for this convention. Madison and Hamilton came up with a scheme to get delegates together and begin work on a new constitution. To insure the state legislatures would send their delegates, Madison assured the states that the corrections would have to be ratified by each state. By mid-May, delegates began arriving in Philadelphia. All of the states, except Rhode Island, sent delegates. Most were businessmen and it didn't take them long to discover Madison's ruse. Because of the country's economic problems, it seemed to them that maybe Madison might have a good idea.

Edmund Randolph, the governor of Virginia, presented a set of resolutions to the delegates that established the basic groundwork for the convention. His initial idea was to have two branches of legislators. The House, elected by the people and the Senate, by the House. He also recommended that there should be three Presidents. The Randolph Plan had some interesting ideas, but the delegates decided to form committees to debate the many questions stemming from these resolutions. As the idea of committees were discussed, it seemed to all that the final document was too important to leave anyone out and it was decided to make the whole convention into a committee. When it was time to turn the debate over to the delegates, the committee would then become the convention.

This idea about a new government and its constitution created a great deal of deliberation among the delegates.

The issues of how the House and Senate would be determined also brought out some heated debate. The large states knew that if population determined the new congress, then the small states would lose their voting advantage. Other

deliberations also sprung from this question. What were the terms? How long? Eligibility? Then the most difficult question of all came up. How many members would make up the House and the Senate? It was then determined that the House would have proportional representation, but the Senate question divided the states. The large states insisted that it should be proportional and the small states wanted equal representation.

Madison sensed the fear driving the delegates. The fear was that a federal government would be established which was like the type of government now controlling the country. A government controlled by state legislators. Madison proposed that instead of a federal government, a national government should be created. A government that would draw its power from the people. One where the people would be protected against their rulers, while the government was to protect them.

This idea from Madison was what the delegates needed to think about. It was a concept that was not ever considered by anyone. It was Ben Franklin that saw through the problems and found a way to a resolution. The states were concerned about money issues and Franklin came up with the idea that the House would be responsible for the money bills and the Senate would only approve or disapprove those bills. The House would be elected by the people and the Senate, by the state legislators. This was the turning point for the convention.

The Supreme Court was next on the agenda. There were few problems in defining the powers of the Supreme Court. The Constitution also established inferior courts to insure the state courts would obey the decisions of the Supreme Court. It is interesting to note that the Constitution does not indicate how many would sit on the highest court of the land.

The last few weeks of this convention were counting down and all of the delegates were anxious to return home. They resolved issues such as coining money, copyrights and patents and establishing post offices and roads. The procedures to impeach or check the powers of government officials were also established. The checks and balances of the three branches of the new government were in place. There was just one final question. Find a way to elect a President. Many thoughts about this procedure had been tossed around during the convention, but this was the final

piece of the puzzle. Checks and balances were always a consideration. The President was the one person that might be influenced by those who put him in office.

Many times during the convention, it was stated that the delegates did not trust the idea of leaving decisions to the people. It was thought that, generally, the people did not have the sophistication or wisdom to choose wisely.

James Wilson of Pennsylvania brought up the idea of electors. It was a scheme to satisfy the large and small states and to give the election to neither the Congress nor the people, directly. It was not a perfect plan, but it was as fair as one could make it.

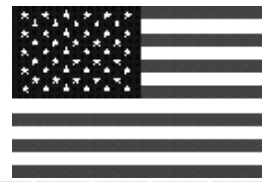
Madison is regarded as the "Father of the Constitution". His leadership and wisdom gave the delegates a direction to seek the balance required to define this country and the creation of the most important document the world has ever seen. Many others provided input and ideas into these debates and without their wisdom, the Constitution would not be what it is today. There is speculation that, if Thomas Jefferson were present, the Constitution would have been much different than it is today. He was in France at the time, as our minister. His persistence of including the "rights endowed by our creator" would have been a part of the Constitution from the beginning. These rights would have to be added later and that, too, is another story.

There is much more to the history of our Constitution. The articles written by those both for and against the ratification of the Constitution, are well documented. Whether the amendments should be added and for what rights are we to be assured of made up the bulk of the daily news. The ratification of the Constitution in itself was a difficult process and that will be the subject of a future article.

Before they began deliberations, all took an oath to maintain secrecy and to not record information about the convention. However, James Madison

did record much of the proceedings. The other delegates did not mind, as he was trusted and had a reputation for accuracy. His notes on the Constitutional Convention were found after his death and were not researched until the 1930's when Fred Rodell, an associate professor at Yale, received permission to study Madison's notes. His book, "55 Men," is considered by many to be the best account of the struggles in the creation of our Constitution. Much of the information here is from Professor Rodell's research and I am grateful to him for providing us with James Madison's account of how our Constitution came to be.

Al Tiscareno



Chairman's Comments



As the time approached for my third trip to Front Sight (a firearms training facility just outside of Las Vegas), the thought of shooting an M16 for four solid days was top on my mind. I was looking forward to another great opportunity to gain even more instruction on how to shoot quickly and accurately. I had been to Front Sight twice before and had taken the four-day defensive handgun course, along with the one-day course that allowed me to get a concealed carry permit that is recognized in most states (except, of course, Illinois).

Though arriving at my motel late at night and being tired from a long day of work and traveling, I was still eager to start the course early the next day. Upon arriving at the facility, I was greeted by a professionally dressed employee, as is always the case at Front Sight. While checking in, I ran into someone that I met during the November course. We have kept in contact since then and have become friends. Interestingly enough, there were three others from my November class there as well. It seems like

* * * 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.

people just can't get enough of the shooting classes there.

The program officially began with all 400+ attendees in a classroom to hear a short lecture and receive a handout explaining how each class would be conducted. We then went to our designated ranges. Safety was stressed above everything, followed by introduction of the firearm and its proper usage. Our instructor explained that we would be taught to shoot on both semi-automatic and fully automatic modes, switching often depending on the distance from the target, in order to familiarize us with using the firearm to its full advantage.

We started out at three meters, which seemed close, but there was "a method to their madness," as the saying goes. We shot two shots in semi-auto and then were told to try for a single shot in full-auto, being told it is almost impossible to do. Everyone did at least a two shot burst and several did a burst of three or more shots. Even at that short distance, the third and fourth shot went...well...not exactly where they were supposed to go. The point they were trying to make was that, just because this firearm shoots automatically, it doesn't always shoot accurately after the second shot. The more shots fired on full-auto, the more the tendency for the rounds to just rise up higher and usually to the right, thus decreasing the firearm's accuracy. We did most of our full-auto shooting from 25m or less, doing two-shot bursts, and occasionally being instructed to do two rapid shots from semi-auto. All of the shots from greater than 25m, were done on semi-auto. The reason for this is that, at the greater distances, automatic fire is too inaccurate. Instead, two quick shots on semi-auto were shown to be much more accurate at the greater distances.

That first day, we were allowed reasonable time to take our shots, but on the second and third days, the times were decreased. This was in preparation for us being ready for our timed test on the last day of the course. After receiving proper instruction, we practiced clearing the three types of malfunctions and were given the incredibly short time of 1.8 seconds to clear them.

As with the pistol courses, it seemed (and was) impossible to do at first, but by the time we were tested on day four, it was a much easier task to complete. Day three, we had a night shoot, which was a lot of fun. We also had to practice clearing malfunctions at night, with no light at all to help us. It is amazing to learn what a person is capable of doing without any light available, just relying on touch. And, it was neat to see the flames coming out of all the guns.

On the morning of the fourth day, we carried out our routines from 3m out to 100m in preparation for the test that afternoon. We then practiced full-auto shooting, starting with three-round bursts at 3m and increasing one shot at a time as long as the bullets stayed in the "body" of the target. At 3m, nearly everyone kept the bullets on target. At further distances, however, less and less bullets were kept on target. At 15m, nobody could keep more than three bullets on target, again showing that more than a two-shot burst can be just a waste of ammo. The instructor then had us do 6 two-shot bursts as quickly as we could. Amazing to us, these would always be on target and, again, confirmed his point.

It is unlikely that I ever will have a chance to shoot an M16 again, unless I take another course, but it was a very fulfilling and knowledgeable experience and will definitely help me in any other shooting I do.

While talking to a person in the class, I noticed he had a slight accent, so I asked him about it. He surprised me by saying he was from Berlin and explained that he had lived in Texas as a child for a few years, so he can pronounce almost all words in English without any noticeable accent. We got along very well and went to dinner each night, along with my other friend. "Marko" said his work as a business consultant takes him to the U.S. a couple of times a year. He had always wanted to try shooting, so he did a Google search and decided that Front Sight was the best facility to try. He took a handgun course and liked it so much that he now plans his trips around taking courses at Front Sight. He said that the lifestyle we lead with firearms is so completely different from that of people living in Germany. There, experiencing this type of training is impossible and even owning any type of firearm is extremely difficult for an ordinary citizen.

My time with him made me realize that, even with all the problems we seem to have in the United States, it is the greatest country in the world. Let's do our part to keep it that way and give complete support to people and legislators that want to keep it that way.

Doug Mayhall

For more information about Front Sight and the offer now available to ISRA members, visit:
www.frontsight.com/free-gunISRA.asp



ATTENTION

The Women On Target event on May 24, 2008 has been CANCELLED. Please look for information regarding a new date for this event in future Will County Grassroots' newsletters or via:

www.willcounty.isra.org

www.isra.org

Kim Beard, kbeard@isra.org

ISRA/NRA YOUTH SHOOTING SPORTS CAMP

August 16, 2008

8am - 6pm

ISRA Range, Bonfield

Children ages 10-14 are invited to attend the 5th Annual ISRA/NRA Youth Shooting Sports Camp.

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 and shotgun. The cost will be \$25 per child, which includes lunch, use of firearms, ammunition and a T-shirt to the first 40 applicants.

Volunteers needed! Call ISRA 815-635-3198

6th Annual ISRA Range Open House

Saturday, June 21, 2008

ISRA Range - Bonfield, IL

10:00am - 4:00pm

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.

* Free safety orientation *

* Test-fire the firearms of your choice *

* Try your hand at archery *

A small fee for ammunition will be required.

* Covered firing points & picnic pavillion *

* Indoor & outdoor bathroom facilities *

* Food and beverages will be available *

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

FREE Admission! FREE Parking!

Phone: ISRA 815-635-3198

Visit: www.isra.org

Glock Shooting Sport Foundation
Illinois State Rifle Association League

June 29, July 27, August 31, 2008

ISRA Range, Bonfield, IL

Registration: 8:30am - 2:30pm

Registration fees applicable

For each different model of Glock pistol registered, you will be entered in a drawing for a new Glock pistol to be given away after the August 31, 2008 match.

For additional information or to register, contact:

ISRA (815) 635-3198

www.isra.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.

Calendar of Events

- May 16-17** Firearm Safety Training, Inc.-NRA Personal Protection in the Home - Mega Sports-Plainfield - Kent (815) 545-4872 - Early registration is necessary!
- May 16-17** SAFER USA Basic Pistol - Howell Shooting Club - Yorkville - David Lombardo - (815) 744-5487 - Early registration & fees applicable
- May 16 - May 20** NRA Annual Meetings, Exhibits & NRA BOD Meeting - Louisville, Kentucky
www.nraam.org
- May 24** NRA Women On Target event at the ISRA Range has been postponed. Information, including a new date for the event, will be provided in the future.
- June 6-7** SAFER USA Basic Rifle - Howell Shooting Club - Yorkville - David Lombardo - (815) 744-5487 - Early registration & fees applicable
- June 7** Firearm Safety Training, Inc.-NRA First Steps Pistol Orientation-Mega Sports-Plainfield Kent (815) 545-4872 - Early registration is necessary!
- June 20-21** SAFER USA Basic Pistol - Howell Shooting Club - Yorkville - David Lombardo - (815) 744-5487 - Early registration & fees applicable
- June 21** **ISRA Range Open House** - ISRA Range - Bonfield - *volunteers also needed* - ISRA office (815) 635-3198
- June 28** NRA First Steps Shotgun Orientation - Erienna Hunt Club - Morris - contact Kent at (815) 545-4872 or visit www.firearmsafetytraining.com
- June 29** GSSF/ISRA Glock League - ISRA Range - Bonfield - Terry Kreimeier - (815) 635-3198
Note: Additional GSSF Matches will be held on July 27 & August 31, 2008
- July 11-12** SAFER USA Basic Shotgun - Howell Shooting Club - Yorkville - David Lombardo - (815) 744-5487 - Early registration & fees applicable
- July 12** Firearm Safety Training, Inc.-NRA First Steps Pistol Orientation-Mega Sports-Plainfield Kent (815) 545-4872 - Early registration is necessary!
- August 16** ISRA/NRA Youth Shooting Camp - ISRA Range - Bonfield - *volunteers also needed* - 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