



# WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS DIVISION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

**NEXT MEETING - July 19th, 2006 - 7:00 PM**

**Sara's Place Restaurant**

**Joliet, IL (815)741-3076**

Our guest speaker for July will be **Beverly Decman**. Beverly does hand engraving of firearms. All work is created using traditional chasing hammers, chisels, and hand engravers. She works on contemporary flintlocks, percussion and modern firearms. Please bring your friends and family for a very informative evening.

## **The Illinois State Rifle Association and What It Means to Us**

In today's world, getting a sense of what is happening out there requires one to look at a newspaper, turn on the radio, T.V. or search cyberspace. It is sometimes difficult to see the real truth from all that is reported. It's not that lies are told but it is that the whole truth is not told. If enough is left out, one could fill in the blanks mentally and the facts can then become blurred in one's own mind.



Many in our society will accept these "facts" and will go about their lives not really caring about what is happening around them.

The Illinois State Rifle Association cares about what is happening in Illinois, especially with the Second Amendment rights of its citizens. The June meeting of the Will County Grassroots Division had as its guest speaker, Richard Pearson. Richard is the Executive Director of the ISRA and is at the forefront of the battle to maintain our Second Amendment rights.

For his presentation, Richard brought up some of the

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*Vice Chairman* - Terry Kreimeier

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*Secretary* - Al Tiscareno

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## **ISRA CONTACTS**

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

(815) 635-3198

[member@isra.org](mailto:member@isra.org)

key matters in which the ISRA is currently involved. Most of its members are familiar with the lobbying efforts that are made by the ISRA in Springfield. Compared to what the opposition has in terms of budget and number of lobbyists, the ISRA has fought back many bad gun bills and has been quite successful in introducing bills that benefit law-abiding gun owners and hunters. Although the current Governor has not signed all of our bills, the ISRA has been able to stop various anti-gun bills from becoming law. Much of this can be attributed to the members.

The alerts sent out by the ISRA have been very effective in allowing the legislators to hear from their constituents. When the ISRA hears of a "bad" bill in Springfield and an

alert is sent out, the response from members is incredible. So much so, that the switchboard in the Capital has been overloaded to the point that normal phone use is impossible. Calls by the members along with the actual presence of the ISRA lobbyists in Springfield help to insure that all of the facts are presented to our legislators. This is an essential function of the ISRA, especially with the current political force in power.

Besides maintaining the lines of communication between legislators and its members, the ISRA provides press releases to the media with complete and accurate information to the press. This is yet another way of providing accurate information to the general public as to what is going on. Too often the public does not realize what is really happening until it is too late. It gives the people who are not yet members of the ISRA a chance to be informed and decide how they can be of assistance. Richard added that the ISRA has over 800 independent media outlets that publish articles from the ISRA.

Another area in which the ISRA excels in is "THE ILLINOIS SHOOTER". This quarterly newspaper is published to inform ISRA members about what is happening in Illinois as well as other parts of the country. This publication is considered by many to be the best state association paper in the country. The ISRA began in 1903 to promote shooting. This is also true today. ISRA members have many opportunities to learn about and enjoy the shooting sports.

As for the future of hunting and the shooting sports, the ISRA can help start our children off right by teaching them responsible and safe firearm usage and ownership. Many children continue to benefit from programs that the ISRA sponsors. Block grants from the NRA also help to give these youngsters a good start with programs, equipment and training. Just a few years ago, only two or three trap shooting clubs with fifteen kids existed. Now, over 400 kids shoot trap. There are about seventy youth shooting teams in the state and the ISRA is behind these programs also.

Adult shooting enthusiasts can also have fun. An ISRA member can join the ISRA Range in Bonfield, near

Kankakee, where there are opportunities to join various leagues, such as Highpower Rifle, Pistol or Benchrest. Various clinics are conducted by the ISRA to help bring out the best in Illinois shooters. Many ISRA shooters make the trip to Camp Perry, Ohio to compete in the National Championships. One of the reasons Illinois does so well at Camp Perry is because the ISRA is behind them.

The ISRA has been involved with the development of programs in competitive shooting and because of that, the ISRA has been recognized by other organizations. Glock, for the first time, has allowed a State Association to conduct the Glock Shooting Sports Foundation Competition. Guess what association has been given that honor? The ISRA.

Beginning this year, the Amateur Trapshooting Association will host the Grand American Competition in Sparta, Illinois. This is the largest shooting event in the country. What is remarkable about this is the fact that our current Governor, who is known to be very anti-gun, was the one to approve this project. Guess who helped persuade the Governor. The ISRA.

Richard spoke of what the ISRA will be looking to do in the future. Concealed carry is on the agenda right now. Before that happens, though, the ISRA will have to get preemption established in Illinois. This means that municipalities will not be able to make or enforce laws that exceed state law. Following that, the concealed carry issue will be the main focus of the ISRA. After that, it will be necessary to establish a training program to give instructions in state mandated classes for concealed carry applicants. The ISRA will be very involved with this as well. There is so much to do!

Throughout his presentation, Richard stated that the ISRA is not just the lobbyists, rifle instructors or trap shooters. It is the members that make up this organization. Without the support of its members, the ISRA could not give this much back to the citizens of Illinois. Membership is the foundation of the ISRA.

Thank you, Richard Pearson, for providing us with a closer look into the ISRA. We appreciate all that you do for the ISRA and the citizens of IL. Keep up the good work.

**Al Tiscareno**

**\* \* \* \* \* 3rd ANNUAL YOUTH SHOOTING SPORTS CAMP \* \* \* \* \***

The Illinois State Rifle Association will be hosting it's 3rd Annual ISRA/NRA Youth Shooting Sports Camp on Saturday, August 19th, 2006. The camp will be held at the ISRA Range in Bonfield, IL.

Girls and boys ages 10-14 are invited to attend. The cost is \$25 per applicant. This fee covers lunch, the use of firearms, ammunition and targets. The first 40 applicants will receive a NRA camp T-shirt. In addition, there will be a drawing for a shotgun to one lucky girl or boy.

NRA certified instructors will be teaching the girls and boys firearm safety, basic firearm components and allow them hands-on experience with a variety of firearms which include .22 pistol, .22 rifle, shotgun and archery.

We are looking for "NRA certified instructors" to assist with this year's camp. NRA instructors are needed for the following disciplines: pistol, rifle, shotgun and archery. Lunch will be provided.

We are looking for "volunteers" in the following areas: range set-up/clean-up, registration, Range Safety Officers, food service, security and medical personnel. Lunch will be provided.

If you are interested in assisting with this youth shooting sports camp, or know of a boy or girl that would like to attend the camp, please contact one of us for more information.

Thank you in advance for your assistance and support!

**Jeff Battaglia, Director**

(708) 614-1628

[jeffb@isra.org](mailto:jeffb@isra.org)

**Rita Siwinski**

(708) 479-5134

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## **Calendar of Events**

**August 19** ISRA/NRA Youth Shooting Sports Camp - ISRA Range, Bonfield, IL - Jeff Battaglia, Director  
(708) 614-1628 [jeffb@isra.org](mailto:jeffb@isra.org) - or - Rita Siwinski (708) 479-5134

**August 20** Glock Shooting Sports Foundation League Match - ISRA Range, Bonfield, IL - ISRA (815) 635-3198  
(GSSF League Matches will also be held on July 16 and August 20, 2006)

**August 20** Women's Firearm Safety Clinic - Aurora Sportsmen's Club - Sugar Grove, IL - 630-466-9711 xt. 40

*\* 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](mailto:willcounty@isra.org) if you have any events you would like included in next month's newsletter*

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## **Suggestions Anyone?**

We are always searching for interesting topics and speakers for future meetings. What would you like to learn more about? Legislative issues? Personal protection? Competitive shooting? Contact us at [willcounty@isra.org](mailto:willcounty@isra.org) or let us know at the next meeting.

## **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.

**\* \* \* WOMEN'S FIREARM SAFETY CLINIC \* \* \***

*CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR CHILDREN AND GUNS?  
CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR SAFETY?  
CONCERNED ABOUT HAVING A GUN IN THE HOUSE?  
WHAT DO YOU TELL A CHILD IF THEY FIND A GUN?*

Learn the answers to these questions along with firearm safety at the  
**Aurora Sportsmen's Club**

**SEMI-ANNUAL WOMEN ONLY FIREARMS SAFETY CLINIC**

Participants will receive hands on classroom instruction in the basics of firearm safety, including safe handling and storage, proper techniques to load and unload a variety of firearms, and the opportunity to participate in live fire exercises in an enjoyable and relaxing atmosphere.

As usual, space is limited, so please call to reserve your space in the class of your choice.

**May 21st or August 20th**

Experience the camaraderie and support of the other ladies. Come learn, enjoy and become proficient in SAFETY all at the same time.

For more information, registration and directions, please call the Aurora Sportsmen's Club at 630-466-9711, ext 40

**Women's Firearm Safety Clinic  
Aurora Sportsmen's Club  
Sugar Grove, Illinois**

Class #1 May 21, 2006    Class #2 August 20, 2006    12:30PM to 6:00PM

All classes taught by experienced NRA and Illinois certified instructors.

YES, we also have "FEMALE INSTRUCTORS"

The Aurora Sportsmen's Club sponsors the clinic as a PUBLIC SERVICE

There is no fee to the participant! FOID cards are not required.

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