



# WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS DIVISION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

**NEXT MEETING - July 18, 2007 - 7:00 PM**

**Sara's Place Restaurant**

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

This month, **Senator Christine Radogno** (R) from the 41st Legislative District is scheduled to address our group regarding pending gun legislation, the state budget fight and the special session that finds our senators and representatives spending their summer vacations in Springfield. We hope to see you there.

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

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## **The President's Report**

Don Moran has been the ISRA President for some time now and he continues to be involved with many of the issues that have been and are now facing the ISRA. He stopped by our June meeting to tell us more about what is happening.

One of the major concerns facing the ISRA is the battle going on in Springfield. Mr. Moran explained that, in order to make our Springfield team more effective at the capitol, we secured additional personnel that could benefit the ISRA when the votes in the House and Senate were counted. The efforts by the members of our ISRA lobbying team, Richard Pearson and Jim Vinopal, have been reinforced by the addition of contract lobbyist, Coy Pugh. A former legislator, Mr. Pugh brings a new dynamic to the gun control debate. Additionally, the ISRA team has been strengthened with the help of the former director of the Illinois DNR, Joel Brunsvold. Mr. Brunsvold is an advocate of the Second Amendment and his political savvy, knowledge and wisdom are an asset to the ISRA. Another major facet in this team is NRA lobbyist, Todd Vandermyde. He is the NRA's lobbyist working hard alongside Richard and Jim. Together, with the help of ISRA Board members and the

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## **ISRA CONTACTS**

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

(815) 635-3198

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

ISRA staff, they bring a formidable front to those that want to suppress our Second Amendment rights.

Mr. Moran then explained to us that the most powerful force in the ISRA is the voice of its membership. When the alerts go out, it is our members that drive home to their legislators the importance of our rights and reaffirm to the legislators that ISRA members are paying close attention to what is going on in Springfield.



Don then took some time to briefly explain what was happening with the Assault Weapons Ban (AWB) of Cook County. The three plaintiffs, Cook County residents, are now contesting the AWB. Don was not at liberty to discuss what was happening in the case, but assured us that the ISRA is closely monitoring the proceedings and will let the membership know as soon as events happen.

Another recent development is a lawsuit by some of our neighbors near the ISRA range. It seems that some of them feel that the range has been modified or improved. This has created, in their minds, an expansion that encroaches on them. This lawsuit also names Kankakee County as a defendant, as they approved the improvements. At this time the only progress being made is in the selection of the judge that will preside.

Don finished up the evening by telling us that those present are the ones that are making a difference. All too often, it is only a few members that put the time in for the needs of an organization and a few more that will take the time to attend meetings or voice opinions. This is true of the ISRA. There are many law-abiding gun owners in IL. There are many ISRA members, but so few to volunteer their time to keep this organization moving towards its goals. One thing that we all can do is to let everyone know about how we feel about our Second Amendment rights and sign up as many ISRA members that we can.

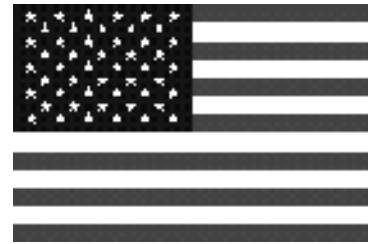
Finally, Don reminded everyone that the laws that come out of Springfield are determined by what happens on Election Day. Voting is an essential

duty for all citizens. To not care about what happens on that day is going to come back as a bad or unpopular bill and, all too often, it is they who did not vote that complain the most about their government.

Don has worked hard as the President of the ISRA. The Second Amendment struggles in Illinois are worthy ones and with Richard, Don, the ISRA Board and all those mentioned above working toward a restoration of these rights, there will come a time for all of us to rejoice.

Thanks, Don.

Al Tiscareno



**GLOCK  
SPORT SHOOTING FOUNDATION  
ILLINOIS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION LEAGUE**

June 24, July 29 and August 26, 2007  
at the ISRA Range in Bonfield

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](http://www.isra.org)

or call the ISRA office at:

815-635-3198

## Chairman's Comments



Front Site Firearms Training Institute is located in the middle of nowhere, in the high desert about forty miles southwest of Las Vegas and fifteen miles east of Pahrump, a town well known for its brothels and gentlemen's clubs. The entrance to Front Sight is a four-mile long private road with a chain link fence at the end where you enter the 550-acre compound.

I went there to attend a four-day defensive handgun course, followed by a one day concealed carry course, which would allow me to 'carry' in thirty-eight states...Illinois not being one of them.

It was completely professional right from the time we were met at the gate. Two men in smart looking uniforms checked me in and told me where to go. Since I was renting a firearm (a Glock 17 9MM) and all the accessories, I was directed to the Pro Shop. There, I got the firearm and a tackle-type box with ear and eye protection, three magazines, a utility belt with holster and two magazine holders. The cost for this rental was \$100 for five days and included daily cleaning of the firearm. They took my driver's license in trade for the firearm each day.

On the first day, there were a lot of lectures and videos. They broke that up by having us go out to the range and doing basic exercises in firearm handling. At this point, the firearms were not loaded, as the instructors were assessing the capabilities of the participants to follow instructions and handle weapons safely. We then proceeded to dry firing, which we did every day, several times a day, to stop us from doing things like "mashing the trigger." Although there were many lectures throughout the day, time was always allotted for some quality range time. The temperature was 100+ every day so we all looked forward to the lectures, held in an air-conditioned room. They say it is a dry heat, but it was HOT. Even though we were repeatedly reminded to drink plenty of water and

Gatorade, a couple of people felt sick and one felt bad enough to leave for the rest of the day.

Since this was a defensive course and many were working toward getting a CCW license, the instructors had us spend most of our time shooting two shots to the thoracic cavity, and/or one shot to the cranial cavity. Initially, we were not given time limits to complete the shots. As we improved our marksmanship skills, some time on day two, the targets were turned sideways until the command to fire was given, then targets simultaneously turned front view. Over the next couple of days, we were gradually given less and less time to accomplish the shots. They demonstrated the exercise to us in the time that we would be given during the final test. At that point, most of us agreed it would be impossible for us to do and doubted we would never attain the required skill and speed. The goal was for us to draw from a concealed holster and fire two accurate shots in 1.5 seconds!! We got better though, day by day, going through peaks and valleys with our skills, as the instructors said we would.

There were over two hundred people that week participating in a variety of courses including handgun, shotgun, rifle and rappelling. Talking to one another during breaks, we found that we represented a very wide group of people. We had thirty-eight students in our class and that seemed to work out well. There were two mother/daughter "teams" and two father/son "teams," as well as several friends taking the course together. I was surprised to see several police officers there as well. In talking to them, I discovered they had to pay their own way and these courses were not cheap. Each heard from officers in their departments that the courses at Front Site were far better than any offered by their



departments. In the end, they agreed that this class was more intense and dedicated to them perfecting the genuine skills that are necessary in real life conflict

Our class size was perfect under the direction of range master, Craig Bishop. Besides him, there were usually four very talented, competent and very patient instructors on the line. Half of us would be shooting while the other half would be reloading or hydrating. Whenever someone was having trouble with a procedure, if it couldn't quickly be overcome, an instructor would work one on one with that person until the skill was developed. They would make things light-hearted and easy going when it was appropriate, but were always extremely safety conscious, that being their first priority.

The lectures were pretty interesting and always stressed the importance of understanding the tremendous responsibility that carrying a firearm presents. A proper response can save lives and an improper response can land you in jail. You have to think about both the ethical and legal responsibilities and be able to make an instant decision as how to handle a situation. They showed several actual surveillance videotapes of situations occurring in businesses and police footage of officers doing their jobs. It was amazing to watch a situation go so quickly from controlled to chaos. It was extremely sobering and made you think how you would have handled the situation.

Something we also practiced daily was clearing the three types of malfunctions. Their philosophy was that a malfunction in a confrontation, if not cleared in a couple of seconds, could mean the difference between who survives. On the third day we did a night shoot, which was very interesting. We had to practice clearing malfunctions in the dark and learned how to properly shoot with a light. We also learned how to first clear a door and then clear a house. It was nothing at all like you see in the movies.



By the conclusion of the course, we had all gained the knowledge and confidence that most of us thought we would never have. We left there with some new friends and knowing that it time and money well spent. Several stayed to take the concealed carry course. This meant more classroom time, filling out the necessary forms, getting fingerprinted and then it was off to the range to qualify. Ironically, I did far and away better that day. I was actually proud of my shooting for the first time ever.

Front Sight has several courses including handgun, rifle, shotgun, edged weapons, rope, rappelling, climbing, machine gun, youth safety, instructor and armorer courses and empty-hand defense courses. They offer several levels of memberships starting from taking one course to elite memberships where you can purchase a lot and build a house in the "safest" community in America. Check them out at [www.frontsight.com](http://www.frontsight.com).

Doug Mayhall

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

## Calendar of Events

- July 7** NRA First Steps Pistol Orientation - Mega Sports - Plainfield - contact Kent at (815) 545-4872 or visit [www.firearmsafetytraining.com](http://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](http://www.firearmsafetytraining.com)
- August 11 & 12** CADA Gun Show - Dupage Expo Center - St.Charles, IL - (760) 202-4489
- August 11 & 12** NRA Basic Rifle Marksmanship Course - Lions Club/ISRA Range - Bonfield, IL ISRA (815) 635-3198
- August 18** NRA/ISRA Youth Shooting Camp - ISRA Range - Bonfield, IL - (815)635-3198
- August 18** NRA First Steps Shotgun Orientation - Erienna Hunt Club - Morris - contact Kent at (815) 545-4872 or visit [www.firearmsafetytraining.com](http://www.firearmsafetytraining.com)
- August 18, 19** Morris Gun Show - Grundy County Fairgrounds - Jim McAra 773-237-8844
- August 26** Glock Sport Shooting Foundation (GSSF) ISRA League Match - ISRA Range - Bonfield - (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](mailto:willcounty@isra.org) if you have any events you would like included in next month's newsletter*

### **\*\*\* 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.

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