



WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS DIVISION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

NEXT MEETING - July 15, 2009 - 7:00 PM

**Ivo's Express Restaurant
23819 West Eames Street
(Southeast Corner of Route 6 and I-55)
Channahon, IL 60410
815-467-0940**

This month we are happy to welcome back ISRA member, **Charles Brown**, who will be showing and telling us all about his Browning Automatic Rifle. As always, we invite you to bring a friend...it's sure to be an interesting evening!

Will County ISRA member, *Robert Inabnet*, 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.

When the Police Come Knocking

We extend our thanks to retired Assistant Cook County States Attorney, Ed Ronkowski, for being our speaker last month. He enlightened us on what can/cannot be legally done during certain procedures (i.e. searching of a vehicle during a traffic stop) and, with the help of our own Terry Kreimeier, demonstrated possible ways to conduct oneself during various situations when approached by a police officer. We appreciate Ed taking time out of his busy schedule to share his knowledge and for giving us some very useful information!

7th Annual ISRA / NRA Range Open House

It appears that the Open House is becoming more popular as the years go on. This year, over 1800 Americans enjoyed Saturday, June 27th, 2009 at the ISRA range in Bonfield. Firearms manufacturers sent their factory representatives and products to the event in order to give all of those attending an opportunity to ask questions about the firearms and to even test them out on the firing line.

One of the purposes of this Open House is to give the public a chance to see the ISRA range and get

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a sense of what goes on at a range. One of our goals is to let all those attending understand that safe and responsible firearm procedures are paramount. Firearm safety is extremely important. Understanding common firearm safety practices translates into responsible firearm ownership. The media gives the perception that gun owners are careless with firearms and lack any sense of responsibility in the use of these arms and that gives the gun owner a bad name. Too many uninformed people do not have a true understanding about firearm safety and the

responsibility that firearm ownership entails. Many of our critics use criminal activities involving firearms as a reason to control the firearms owned by law-abiding citizens. The media also amplifies these negative messages in order to keep the average person from looking for the information that the ISRA and other organizations offer about proper firearm training and education. Too many people believe that what they see on their TV screens is what they think a gun safety class is all about.

Back to the Open House. After arriving at the range and filling out some paperwork, our guests sit in on a mandatory safety briefing. It is here where the safety rules and the importance of these rules are explained. The volunteers that perform this job are dedicated to insuring that everyone understands these rules. No firearm accidents occurred and that means that these volunteers did a great job and that our guests do understand why these briefings are so important!

The different ranges that are available for our guests is designed to give everyone a chance to find out what is involved in each discipline. Some are drawn to the various types of handguns; others want to test out the rifle and shotgun venues. Then, there is the archery buff that needs a more primitive weapon in hand. This year, our hope was to tear down some of the barriers that have been unfairly placed by our critics and to affirm that the shooting sports is an enjoyable pastime for the whole family.

Our guests also had the opportunity to witness re-enactors, one group portraying a WWII battle and another portraying a Viet Nam battle. Both of these battles were realistically done with the correct uniforms, battle gear and weaponry of the time period. Much of this equipment was also exhibited for our guests in an encampment that was set-aside for the re-enactors. They also had many other types of military equipment and vehicles on

display. It brought a sense of what our military goes through to defend our Constitution, nation and freedoms.

Next year, the Range Open House will be even bigger and better. It is hoped that many of the Will County Grassroots members can set aside time to help out next year. The date has not been set, but a future newsletter will keep each of you updated.

A video is now available and can be seen at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zH8ZSlyB-u4>

Al Tiscareno



Chairman's Comments

by Doug Mayhall

June has been quite an eventful month for both the ISRA and for me. Being in the pool business, I was quite busy (fortunately). But more importantly, I was able to make a short trip to Normandy to celebrate the 60th anniversary of "D-DAY". I went with my grandson and another close friend who both are very interested in WWII. We were only there for four days, but it was a fantastic trip. We all enjoyed seeing all the veterans and battlefields of that day, long ago that changed history.

Also in June, on Friday the 26th the ISRA had the rally in downtown Chicago on the first anniversary of the Heller decision. This decision, you recall, is when the United States Supreme Court reaffirmed our Second Amendment right, stating that it is indeed an individual right. There were about 600 attendees on a hot sunny day right by mayor Daley's office. I don't think he enjoyed it very much. I would ultimately like to see it grow to a couple of thousand people so that the media would give us some coverage.

On Saturday, June 27, we had our 7th Annual ISRA Range Open House. It was billed as NRA Day at the ISRA Range and was done along with support from the NRA. It was a great event with no rain, even

***** 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.

though it was in the forecast. 1668 guests registered and, along with all the volunteers, vendors, Boy Scouts etc., we had just under 1900 people in attendance. It was quite a great celebration of our Range and members. Many attendees joined both the ISRA and the Range. I was also really pleased to see so many young people there, shooting under the close supervision of the adult range instructors. At the end of the day, we were all bone tired, but we felt it was a very worthwhile day for everyone.

The next day, we had the first Glock shoot of the year. There are two more Glock matches at our range, one in July and one in August. I was glad to see Lori (from the ISRA office) shooting again this year. It is great to see that the ladies in the office actually believe in what they do everyday in their work. I wasn't able to shoot that day, but was there and talked to some of the participants.

Back on Saturday June 20th, there was a military convoy going through Illinois that went from Washington, DC to San Francisco. It was a re-enactment of the first convoy that Eisenhower led in the 1920's that went from coast to coast to prove that it could be done. The military vehicle club I belong to was involved, so I decided it would be fun to do for a day. We met the convoy at the Indiana state line at 8:00am and followed along Route 30 (the original Lincoln Highway). With a police escort allowing us to not stop at any red lights, we went to the airport in Rochelle. There they had the Warbirds group with WWII airplanes. They also sponsored a Hanger Dance party. They had great food and a 1940's band. That was a lot of fun. The drive going up there took the whole day, but going back Sunday morning it only took an hour and forty-five minutes on the expressway. On the day we went, there were over 90 vehicles, trucks, jeeps and motorcycles. Most of the drivers were dressed in WWII uniforms and most of the vehicles were pristine restorations. Every city we went through had lots of people lining the streets

*** 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.

waving at us. It was a very patriotic and proud event to be involved with.

All of these events show that we strongly believe in and support our civil rights, specifically our Second Amendment right. Sixty-five years ago, that right, along with the courage and determination of the young men in our armed forces, is what allowed us to win the Second World War. It is truly something in which we can take great pride. Hopefully, we can learn to be as great Americans as they were then and still are today. If we believe in the statement below by Ronald Reagan, we will be successful in our efforts against the illegal actions of our current President and several heads of Congress.

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

The following are excerpts from an article by Doug Mayhall about his recent trip to Normandy, France. The article, in its entirety, can be found on our website, www.willcounty.isra.org

Normandy - 2009

June 6, 1944. A day that was very important in history for the whole world. It was the day the Allies started their invasion of occupied France to free all of Europe from Hitler's tyranny.

As some of you may already know, I am extremely interested in World War II and this date in particular. I am amazed that enough coordination was able to take place to make this invasion happen at all and especially to do it without the Germans knowing about it in advance. The Germans certainly knew the invasion would happen and prepared for it, but they didn't know where or when. It took over 5000 ships of all kinds and sizes, over 1000 airplanes and gliders, well over 100,000 men and all the supplies necessary to launch this landing on the shore of Normandy.

June 3rd: We left O'Hare about 8:30pm and, after changing planes in England following a 3-hour wait, we finally got to Paris on June 4th.

June 4th: 4:00pm We landed just in time for rush hour and Paris was up to its reputation as having one of the worst rush hours. Thirty-five minutes later (and still in Paris) a motorcycle zoomed by and sideswiped us. This added another hour delay to our commute. We finally got to our B&B in Bayeux about 9:45pm - dead tired, as we had gone over 30 hours with no sleep!

June 5th: Woke up early for the typical continental breakfast of croissants, bread, jelly, juice and coffee. We met a couple from Australia who actually had their WWII jeep shipped over for the event and as their mode of transportation. Then we were off to the beaches. With the GPS and our slight relocation of where things were, we did pretty well. We took all back roads and were able to avoid the traffic jams on the major streets.

The first place we hit was next to Omaha Beach. The place had a great museum. It was where huge portable docks and a portable harbor were built to supply the troops until the real ports were captured. About half of the 40-inch high, cement "barges" that were floated, tugged over and then sunk most of the way in order to make the harbor were still there, as were the cement pontoons that supported the bridges, even though they were only designed to last up to a year. The museum had a huge floating mock up of it that showed how the whole dock and bridge assembly - over a mile long - rose and sunk with the tide. There was a landing craft with its doors open for unloading tanks on the beach, as well as a man giving people rides around the beach in an amphibious truck.

* * *

Next, we went to Omaha Beach and to the very impressive American Cemetery. There are over 9,700 Americans buried there. It is an awesome sight. The grounds of the cemetery are superbly manicured and all of the crosses are perfectly aligned, no matter which way you look. It is an extremely emotional experience looking at the names and dates of death with many, of course, being June 6th. There are many

graves that have the Star of David and many that have written, "known but to God".

* * *



We then went to Pointe Du Hoc where the Rangers climbed the 300-foot sheer cliff and knocked

out the huge German guns that would have wiped out much of the American fleet. The rangers suffered extremely high casualties in attaining their goal, but they did it against impossible odds. Try to imagine climbing up a rope ladder while soaking wet, with full gear on - all while being shot at and having grenades dropped onto you.

* * *

June 6th: Up early again for breakfast outside where we met two veterans from the British Air Force, properly attired in their suits and ties for breakfast. One man, Ted Favle, flew a C47 that pulled two gliders on the eve of D-Day at 2:30am to capture key bridges for when D-Day began. His gliders dropped near the famous Pegasus Bridge. To this day, he still talks about his glider pilot friend, Timber Woods, and how

the co-pilot, Mr. Partridge, was killed upon landing.

* * *

June 7th: It was bread for breakfast again, outside in the courtyard with the old British soldiers, again dressed in their suits. We were starting to get tired of that bread routine every morning. It was threatening to rain, so we planned inside activities for the morning. We went to the great WWII Museum in Bayeux. It is really quite large and has everything imaginable about the War. It cleared up and about ten minutes later, they had a ceremony honoring the Sherwood Rangers from, where else, but the Sherwood Forest area of England. There were a lot of old members there who gave toasts and placed wreaths, as their cemetery was right next to the museum. A bagpipe player played a couple of tunes. That instrument has the most unusual sound, but it is actually a very appropriate sound for this type of thing. I was happy to be in the right spot at the right time.

We took the 45-minute drive out to the Pegasus Bridge. It is very historic, as it was the first place the Allies captured and liberated during the invasion.

* * *

June 8th: We went back to Omaha Beach as we were told there was a new fantastic museum that had all kinds of movies and pictures that we would never see anywhere else.

* * *

We then visited the German cemetery, which is also immaculately groomed and is supported by the German government. The crosses are dark-colored and are rough-cut, as opposed to the precision-cut pure white crosses at the American Cemetery. Also unlike the American Cemetery, there are two names per monument and the date of birth is listed along with the date of death. It was shocking to see how many eighteen and even seventeen-year-old boys were killed there. This was very sobering to see.

* * *

Our trip was winding down rapidly with only one more museum to see in Caen. It was by far the largest and, on my first trip, the finest. Unfortunately, it changed. It had a lot of Cold War effects and seemed to be more "politically correct" now. It was certainly not worth the high admission price. I guess we should have known because as we were walking in, there was a huge bronze statue of a pistol with the barrel tied into a knot. This was the only disappointment of the entire trip.

* * *

June 9th: Up at 4:30am for a 5:00 o'clock departure in order to get to the airport by 8:00.

All in all, it was a fantastic trip and one my grandson will never forget. He will especially remember getting to see, meet and talk to the veterans who were there in 1944 and again in 2009.



Calendar of Events

- July 11** SAFER USA & Howell Shooting Club, Inc. - NRA Basic Pistol Course
Howell Shooting Club - Yorkville - David Lombardo - (815) 744-5487
- July 12** SAFER USA & Howell Shooting Club, Inc. -NRA Home Firearm Safety Course
Gander Mountain - Joliet - David Lombardo - (815) 744-5487
- ***** Best of luck to all competitors that will be traveling to Camp Perry for the Nationals! *******
- July 15** **ISRA Will County Grassroots Meeting - Ivo's Express Restaurant -**
23819 West Eames St. (Southeast Corner of Route 6 and I-55) - Channahon
- July 18** **ISRA M1A "Warm Up" Match - ISRA Range -** Bonfield - Claude Heale (815) 553-0591
- July 18** SAFER USA & Howell Shooting Club, Inc. - NRA Basic Tactical Pistol
Howell Shooting Club - Yorkville - David Lombardo - (815) 744-5487
- July 25** SAFER USA & Howell Shooting Club, Inc. - NRA Refuse To Be A Victim
Gander Mountain - Joliet - David Lombardo - (815) 744-5487
- July 26** Glock Shooting Sports Foundation (GSSF) Glock League - **ISRA Range** - Bonfield -
Terry Kreimeier (815) 635-3198
- July 31-Aug 2** SAFER USA & Howell Shooting Club, Inc. - NRA Basic Instructor - Rifle
Howell Shooting Club - Yorkville - David Lombardo - (815) 744-5487
- August 15** SAFER USA & Howell Shooting Club, Inc. - NRA Basic Pistol Course
Howell Shooting Club - Yorkville - David Lombardo - (815) 744-5487
- August 16** **ISRA AR15 Carbine Match - ISRA Range -** Bonfield - Claude Heale (815) 553-0591
- August 22** **ISRA Battle Rifle Belly Match - ISRA Range -** Bonfield - Claude Heale (815) 553-0591
- August 22** **ISRA Women's Introductory Pistol Class - ISRA Range -** Bonfield- (815) 635-3198
- August 29** **ISRA Annual Sighting-In Day - ISRA Range -** Bonfield- (815) 635-3198
- August 29** SAFER USA & Howell Shooting Club, Inc. - NRA Instructor-Personal Protection in the
Home - Howell Shooting Club - Yorkville - David Lombardo - (815) 744-5487
- August 30** **ISRA Doughboy Match - ISRA Range -** Bonfield- (815) 635-3198
- August 30** Glock Shooting Sports Foundation (GSSF) Glock League - **ISRA Range** - Bonfield -
Terry Kreimeier (815) 635-3198
- August 30** SAFER USA & Howell Shooting Club, Inc. - Beginner's Guide to Hunting
Gander Mountain - Joliet - David Lombardo - (815) 744-5487

*** 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 if you have any events you would like included in this monthly newsletter*

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ISRA Life Member

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