



WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS DIVISION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

NEXT MEETING - August 17th - 7:00 PM

**Sara's Place Restaurant
Joliet, IL (815)741-3076**

Joe Sarita, will be our guest speaker for August. Joe is a customer service representative for McIntyre Precision and MPI Rifles. He is a retired policeman, swat team member, police training instructor and has worked with Interpol. Joe is also active in the Single Action Shooting Society (Cowboy Action Shooting). Joe will speak to us on cowboy action shooting, as well as answer questions regarding firearm selection and gunsmithing. As always, family and friends are welcome. We hope to see you there.

Will Martin, Adventures in the Sky



Will Martin describes an adventure as an event that, "...while it's going on, you wish you were someplace else."

Will's life as an adventurer began when he answered an ad in Trade-A-Plane in the 1960's for P51's and P47's that were for sale in Nicaragua. The ad also stated that they were in need of T28 trainers and B26 bombers.

After a month of negotiations, Will worked out a deal. He was flown in a small Cessna, to a remote grass airstrip and then taken in a jeep down a bumpy road. Will was presented to General Somoza, then Dictator of Nicaragua, and the deal was made.

Will was now in the airplane business. He would bring the WW II fighter planes back to the US and sell them to war bird enthusiasts. He would also sell trainers and bombers to the Nicaraguan air military.

Conditions in Nicaragua were such that Will did not ever plan on returning to the country. Since he had no intention of flying the planes himself, he had hired a pilot. Will then returned to the States. As it turned out though, the first pilot he hired was very undependable...actually worthless. Much to his dismay, so were the next few pilots he hired. One decided he didn't want to fly the plane, one crashed upon take-off, another landed "gear-up", wrecking the plane, and yet another crashed a plane due to a fuel leak. In the end, Will decided just to fly the planes back himself.

WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS CONTACTS

Chairman - Dan "Doc" Beck, M.D.
Work (815) 741-0070 docbeck@isra.org
Vice Chairman - Tom Kelly
Cell (815) 325-8288
Secretary - Doug Mayhall
Work (708) 349-2222 Home (708) 479-2506
doug@isra.org
Treasurer - Lynnette Steven
Home (815) 744-5215 lynnette67@aol.com
Editor - Kim Beard willcounty@isra.org
Webmaster - Dave Beard willcounty@isra.org

ISRA CONTACTS

Kristi (General) - Lori (Membership) -
Anita (Range) at (815)635-3198
member@isra.org

Will had a pilot's license, but had only flown small planes with 200 HP engines. These fighter planes had 1700 HP engines! Since there were no military trainers from which to get instruction, Will was forced to read the manuals in order to learn how to fly these fighters. Thankfully, the authors of these manuals really did a great job at detailing the information. It took a series of unexpected take-offs and bumpy landings before he got the hang of it. With more and more practice, he actually got pretty good at flying them.

Will usually made a parachute part of his gear, as he would routinely fly over very hostile territory and he knew, in case of engine failure or some other catastrophe, there would be no safe place to land the plane. One day a soldier noticed that Will was wearing slip-on shoes. The soldier informed him that, if he ever had to eject, his shoes would be lost immediately upon pulling the ripcord. If that happened, Will would not be able to safely walk through the rough terrain that he was sure to encounter. Will took this point to heart and purchased a pair of work boots to wear on future flights.

As time went on, Will heard that the Costa Rican Air Force had planes for sale. He flew out there and ended up buying their entire air force...two P51's and a trailer full of parts! Getting these planes back to the US would prove to be yet another "adventure" for Will. On his ferry flight, he flew over the bay to save some time. His engine quit while he was flying over the water. Will's first thought was of the heavy boots he was now wearing and how, if he had to parachute into the bay, he would probably sink. He wouldn't be able to swim with his boots on. He would surely drown.

But, Will made it to the beach. He learned that a P51 cruises nicely at 325mph, but it will also glide at 175mph for 14 miles for every mile of elevation it has. Upon landing, a man came over a sand dune and helped Will return to the "real world" by leading him to a nearby village.

On another flight, Will was cruising at 10,000 feet and was out over the water about 30 miles when his engine quit. He landed ½ mile from shore, in water about four feet deep. He was "rescued" by someone in a dug out canoe with a little outboard motor. Unfortunately, Will had left his revolver on the plane and suddenly felt he had little means in which to protect himself. The pilot of the canoe then stopped to pick up someone that was carrying a rifle. Will did not know Spanish, so he was unable to understand what they were saying. He became even more worried, thinking this was the end. Eventually, they arrived at a cotton plantation where the owners were on one of their occasional visits. Will feels that their presence saved him from a terrible fate.

All in all, Will lost seven of the planes that he attempted to bring back to the States. He lost none of the planes that he took to Nicaragua. He never dreamed that all of these things would happen to him when he began this journey. On an interesting note, he mentioned that it was allowed, at that time, to carry a concealed firearm in Nicaragua while in the cities. 'Open carry' was allowed in the rural sections of the country. Fancy that...you couldn't be caught dead with a Playboy magazine, yet carrying a gun was ok.

The adventures that Will lived through left him with a lifetime of stories to tell. We thank him for sharing his experiences with us.

ISRA Open House

Did you make it to the Kankakee Range Open House in June? If you did, I'm sure you had as good a time as I did. If you weren't there, let me tell you about some of what you missed.

There was plenty of nearby parking, and everything was under tents in case the weather didn't cooperate, but it did, beautifully. There were lots of volunteers there to make everything smooth and enjoyable. I didn't get there until noon so my first stop was lunch. There was a nice selection of food cooked fresh on the grill. Soft drinks were available. Prices were reasonable. Then I walked around to see what guns were available and then bought enough ammo tickets to try them out. I shot several AR15's. That was fun. The fact that the anti's are so terrified and hostile towards military weapons just shows how uneducated they are on the subject.

There was also the .50 cal. S&W, but they didn't have any ammo by the time I got there. I've been wanting to take up trap for some time but my 12 gauge is a bit much for me to handle. The instructor at the shotgun range paired me up with a 20 gauge, and he used good judgment for it was a perfect and comfortable match. It was the first time I had ever shot one, and I got six clays out of ten. Feeling pretty full of myself, I commented to a friend that if those clays were pheasants I would have a freezer full. The truth is, only if pheasants fly up right in front of you when you say "Pull". But it was enough to convince me to someday buy a 20 gauge and join the range.

Finally, what really topped off the day for me was the demonstration by sharp shooter, Bill Oglesby. Amazing shooting! One thing he did he called precision shot-gunning. He drew a dot on a golf ball and shot it, with one of the pellets directly hitting to dot! Sounds impossible, as was everything he did. The audience was in awe.

I hope the few things I've mentioned will inspire you out there who missed this event to come out next year. When we left, the volunteers asked us to fill out a questionnaire for our opinions and suggestions, so I know they plan to make it even better in '06. Hope to see you then.

Linda Ward

2nd Annual ISRA/NRA Youth Shooting Sports Camp

On Saturday, August 20, 2005, the ISRA will be hosting the 2nd Annual ISRA/NRA Youth Shooting Sports Camp. It will be held at the ISRA range in Bonfield, IL. Children ages 10-14 are invited to attend. The cost will be \$25 per child, which includes lunch, use of firearms and ammunition, and a T-shirt to the first 40 applicants. Included in this year's camp will be a drawing for a shotgun to one lucky youth.

If interested in registering or for additional information, please contact Camp Director, Kimberly Beard at: 815-467-8721

You may also contact Camp Registrar, Lynnette Steven at 815-744-5215

Calendar of Events

- August 12-21** Illinois State Fair - www.agr.state.il.us/isf/index.php
- August 20** 2nd Annual ISRA/NRA Youth Shooting Sports Camp - ISRA Range, Bonfield
- August 24-28** Will County Fair - Peotone Rd, 1 mile East of I-57 willcountyyfair.org
- Sept. 17-18** Kankakee Gun Show - (815) 939-7572
- Sept. 24-25** National Hunting and Fishing Days - Silver Springs, Yorkville www.huntingandfishingdays.org
- Oct. 22** USO Illinois Fundraiser at Nave Pier - Lisa Moeller - (312) 923-7070 www.uso.org/Illinois

Please use the above contact information to confirm events as dates may change without notice

Please contact Secretary, 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.

A Breach Of Trust

At what point did our government decide that the average citizen could no longer be trusted? Was there a specific incident, ...a point in time when someone in power decided, "Okay, that's it. These people are no longer trustworthy enough to be allowed to protect themselves." Why is it that in most cases, the only apparent criteria for achieving the trust of government appears to be our chosen occupation?

Case in point, the Moline Fire Department. Last week, Moline's City Council voted to begin training some of the Fire Department's firefighters and paramedics in the use of firearms. These paramedics will become the first members of the Illinois Quad-Cities Tactical Emergency Medical Service (TEMS). These medics will be expected to attend to injured officers and civilians in dangerous hostage or stand-off situations.

While I have no quarrel with the idea of allowing paramedics to carry a firearm to protect themselves and their patients, my question is this. What is it about the profession of paramedic that makes that person more qualified to carry a weapon for protection than, say a schoolteacher, office worker or bus driver? Yes, these paramedics may on occasion be required to enter into areas of danger, but then, so are many ordinary citizens. Some people are forced to live in areas where many paramedics might hesitate to go after dark. Aren't these citizens in as much need of self-protection as Moline's paramedics?

Paramedics seem to be only the latest addition to a growing list of "professions" that the government has seen fit to trust with the right to carry a concealed weapon. Beyond the obvious, (law enforcement, FBI, CIA) we have professions in the Environmental Protection Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of Veterans Affairs, Atomic Energy Commission, Government Printing Office, NASA, Department of Energy, and many other agencies that are trusted with the

"right" to carry a firearm for protection. Employees of state and local government, such as Chicago Aldermen, are afforded the ability to carry a concealed firearm for their own protection. Not only does the government trust these professions to carry a weapon, but many of them are allowed to carry that weapon anywhere in the US, regardless of local or state laws.

I can understand the need of some professions to have immediate access to a firearm, but seriously, how many EPA agents or employees of the Government Printing Office need to be armed to carry out their jobs? I want to know what makes an EPA employee more trustworthy than a schoolteacher? Why does the government trust an employee of the Atomic Energy Commission more than it does a bank manager? Is there something more intrinsically valuable about the life of a Chicago Alderman than say an employee of the local newspaper?

At some point, we seem to have lost the trust of those that we have elected to govern us. They trust us to pay our taxes. They trust us to vote for them on election day. They trust most of us to drive an automobile. However, they do not trust us with our most important of all rights, the right to self-protection. Perhaps it is those in government that have come to these conclusions that should be looking for a new profession. Perhaps, until we are all afforded the rights of those in the "trusted professions", we should make it our primary goal to see these officials are removed from office. Until these elected officials realize that all life is of equal value, and all citizens should have the right to protect themselves and their loved ones from harm, they are the ones not to be trusted.

Dave Beard

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.

Revolver vs Semi-Auto

By Mike McIntyre

McIntyre Precision, Inc.

This debate has gone on for many years with advocates for both types of hand guns claiming that their preferred weapon was the ultimate performer. There is currently no universal answer to the question "Which is better, a revolver or a semi-automatic pistol?" If there were, there would be only one kind of repeating handgun in production.

Statistically more people in the U.S. carry semi-auto pistols (approximately 84%) than revolvers (14%), according to a survey of respondents on www.packing.org. I don't have readily available statistics about law enforcement semi-auto vs revolver carry, but I'm sure that the scales are tipped even more dramatically towards semi-autos due to the fact that most law enforcement agencies since the mid 1980's are now either issuing or specifying semi-autos for their officers. Semi-autos have been carried by European law enforcement officers since before WW2. Revolvers have always been popular in the Americas, but never really gained much footing with the rest of the world. The wide popularity of revolvers in the Americas, and the large number of civilian gun owners in the U.S. are responsible for this country being the world's center for revolver R&D and production.

What is very enlightening are the FBI statistics regarding officer involved shootings, which is about the only available data base for this particular statistic. They show that officers are expending many more rounds in a gun fight than they did when they carried revolvers. That should be no surprise, but what was very surprising to a lot of folks is that they hit their targets very few times (less than 1% of all rounds fired in a gun fight). The statistics on the subject force you to conclude that much more ammunition is being expended with almost no effect. Conversely, revolver statistics on the same subject show that officers hit their targets approximately 2 times out of 6. The inescapable conclusion that I draw from these statistics is that the average person/police officer has a much greater chance of putting their attacker down using a revolver than they do with a semi-auto. The majority of people who find themselves in a close encounter of the worst kind don't have weeks or months of formalized training, and generally spend very little, if any time at the range shooting their combat sidearm. Unfortunately this includes most law enforcement officers. Revolvers are inherently more point-able than semi-autos which make them a better choice, especially for those of you that don't shoot as much as you would like to.

What follows is a comparison of the relevant characteristics of both handguns.

----- Revolver -----	----- Semi-Auto -----
<u>Malfunction:</u> Pull trigger again.	<u>Malfunction:</u> Slap & Rack Drill, if still not operational, field strip & clear malfunction. Not fun to do in the middle of a fight!
<u>Reliability:</u> Simple design is very reliable. Will function under a variety of adverse conditions.	<u>Reliability:</u> Poor in the past. Much better in recent years.
<u>Maintenance:</u> Simple, no disassembly is needed to keep functional	<u>Maintenance:</u> Complex design, must be disassembled to properly clean to insure reliable function.
<u>Training:</u> The simplicity of the design makes it easier & safer for beginners. Professionals like them for the same reason.	<u>Training:</u> More complex due to the number of designs that aren't as reliable as advertised. Complex immediate action drills must be learned to perfection by all semi-auto shooters so that under stress these actions can still be performed.
<u>Manual Safety:</u> Not needed. All modern designs are equipped with a transfer bar allowing a live round to be carried under the hammer.	<u>Manual Safety:</u> Many designs have more than one safety so that the weapon may be carried with a live round in the chamber.
<u>Compactness:</u> The semi-auto has the advantage.	<u>Compactness:</u> Advantage.
<u>Capacity:</u> The semi-auto has the advantage.	<u>Capacity:</u> Advantage.
<u>Accuracy:</u> Slight advantage for the revolver.	<u>Accuracy:</u> Design features limits accuracy.
<u>Firepower:</u> The semi-auto has the advantage.	<u>Firepower:</u> Advantage.

An autoloader can hold a lot more rounds than a revolver and it is easier to carry extra ammo for and to reload. It has less recoil than a revolver. It can have a longer barrel for the same overall gun length. An auto is flatter and easier to carry concealed. However, autos require a lot of training to use effectively and safely, and have almost no point-ability.

A revolver takes much less training, just aim and pull the trigger. No safety system is needed. Always keep a revolver holstered, as this is the safety for the weapon. No training on clearing a malfunction is needed (unlike an auto), just pull the trigger again.

For the record, I carry a 4 inch barreled Smith & Wesson Model 66, .357 Magnum revolver, and prior to that I carried a 3.5 inch barreled Smith & Wesson Model 13, .357 Magnum revolver.

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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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