



WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS DIVISION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

NEXT MEETING - August 16th, 2006 - 7:00 PM

Sara's Place Restaurant

Joliet, IL (815)741-3076

Our guest speaker for August will be **Mike Jones**. Mike will speak on hunter safety, focusing on ethics and responsibilities. Please bring your friends and family for a very informative evening.

Guns and Art

The firearm was invented for two reasons. Putting food on the table or defending life and property. It became a tool for survival. At first, only the very wealthy could afford the price of these weapons and, as the firearm-making trade flourished, new ideas to attract these potential buyers were developed. It was not enough to engineer and produce a firearm that was better than all others. It also had to make a statement about the owner.

Engraving has been around for a long time. It is an art form that developed a way to get words and images out to society in general. Artists would carve into wood or metal blocks and then ink these onto animal skins, paper or silk. Skilled metal engravers cut delicate designs into jewelry, tableware, swords or any other metal object. These artists began to engrave firearms as well. Their talents could turn a gun into something much more than a weapon. Thus, art found its way into the firearm world.



Beverly Decman is an engraver and came to our July meeting to demonstrate and explain what firearm engraving is all about. She teaches an engraving course at

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Joliet Junior College and is skilled in this art. Starting with an explanation of the various rests and tools needed for accurate cutting of the metals, Beverly pointed out to us that most of the tools were made by her to accomplish specific cuts in the material. Artists like Beverly follow the traditional way of tool making for these 'gravers', as the cutting tools are called. Maintaining them is a skill that is developed over time. Tools can be purchased from manufacturers but are expensive and may not accomplish the specific needs of the engraver. Making tools is essential to the engraver's craft.

Beverly also spoke of the need to understand metallurgy. Cutting into the various metals that make up a firearm can be a difficult undertaking if certain knowledge is lacking. To cut into the metal, Beverly uses various sized hammers that provide the energy for the metal cutting. These are not your average household hammers. They are sized much smaller and changing the hammer weight up or down will give more or less energy to the engraver's tool. A very small hammer will transfer less energy to the cut than a slightly heavier hammer, providing the energy by the users hand is the same for each hammer blow.

Beverly explained to us the numerous resources for design ideas that engravers use. These may be photographs or drawings that have been selected to give the engraver a basic idea to start. Many engravers are artists in their own right and will lay out unique designs. A customer may have ideas of their own to use and the artistic abilities and creativeness of the engraver will be the guide for the finished product.

There are numerous ways in which to transfer these designs. Tracing onto paper and then using acetone to transfer the drawing to the metal is one way. Other methods may include the use of wax, smoke or acetate for the transfer. The only difficulty is that, once the transfer is made, careless handling will smear or erase the design. Beverly has been working on making her own muzzle-loading rifle and pistol. The rifle is in .62 caliber and she has been working on it for three years now. The pistol is still being worked on and has a way to go. Given the talent of Beverly, I am sure they will be a beautiful pair of firearms to be proud of. The metal engraving, checkering and wood fit is excellent.

Beverly is a very creative and talented artist. We thank her for the informative presentation and demonstration.

Al Tiscareno, Secretary

Chairman's Notes



I received a legislative report from Christine Radogno in the mail a couple of days ago. She is my State Senator and is running for State Treasurer. Christine is quite a friend of gun owners. I was quite concerned and alarmed by the results of her annual survey for 2006. She uses the results to "better serve you in Springfield."

Question #7 was, "Do you support Mayor Daley's attempts to limit gun rights statewide?" The results were 66% said YES, only 33% said no and 1%?.

We need to be more vocal in our support of the 2nd Amendment. We must write letters to the editor, as Linda Ward does constantly, and we must write letters to state and federal congressmen. We must talk our "rights" to all who will listen, including our congressmen. They have to listen to our calls, even if they may disagree with our viewpoint.

We must put ISRA and NRA stickers on our vehicles. We should wear gun rights' shirts, hats, coats, etc. whenever possible, not just to gun-related events. Just as motorcyclists wave to each other as they go by, motorists who are our friends can wave or give a thumbs up. If they see enough stickers, others will realize that we are a large group with whom to be reckoned. I often get involved in a conversation, even if just for a minute or so, when I see another supporting our rights. Most importantly, politicians live and die by votes. If they see a ratio of 2:1 supporting gun bans, all but the most die hard "believer" of our rights will change their views.

So...be constantly VOCAL in supporting our sacred right to keep and bear arms or we will not have them anymore.

Come and participate in our monthly Grassroots meetings...we would love to see you there.

Doug Mayhall, Chairman

.....
??? 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? Who would you like to see as our next speaker? Contact us at willcounty@isra.org or let us know at the next meeting.

YOUTH SHOOTING - OUR FUTURE

I just walked in the door after returning from Camp Perry, OH and the National Shooting Championships, where a group of shooters from Illinois won the prestigious National Trophy Infantry Team Match's Junior Division. These six young shooters fired AR-15's from 600, 500, 300 and 200 yards, distances at which the anti-gunners would say it is impossible to hit anything, let alone a target. The antis claim these to be spray and pray type firearms that are hopelessly inaccurate and not suitable for any type of competition other than fighting over gang turf.

Probably the last thing on the minds of the competitive shooters who founded the ISRA in 1903 was having a Legislature that would continuously try to ban the firearms with which they were competing. Unfortunately, today we have become all too familiar with the anti-gunner's rant about the uselessness of what they perceive to be assault weapons. The performance of our Juniors at Camp Perry and the other thousands of competitors that regularly compete in this sport proves otherwise.

My opinion is that youth firearms' education and Junior shooting competitions of all types build character and teach responsibility. Youth firearms' education and our Junior Highpower Program in particular have fostered a lot of leaders over the years. Many of these young people have enlisted in the military serving and, if necessary, fighting for our country. They serve to protect all of our rights and we must not let them down by being complacent in the fight here at home. If you or someone you know is not registered to vote, register. Nothing is more important in our society today than an educated vote.

The Army Marksmanship Unit has always been anxious to snatch up our Juniors and several of our kids have made careers in the military. Grant Singley and Norm Anderson both left us after the Junior Program's Championship wins in the early '90s and they are both still serving in this prestigious unit. AMU member Spec.Eliot Farro,

another one of our former Junior shooters, was the coach of the above-mentioned winning team. The Captain of the team was Army Reserve Major Jon Casillas, a member of your ISRA Board. Other successful kids come to mind. For instance, Jon's daughter, Lt. Virginia Casillas, is now an Air Force Academy graduate. Jen Brostek grew up in Chicago and now lives in Maryland while working for our Government. Jen is working on her PHD and, if she continues down her chosen path, would someday make a great Director of our Department of Natural Resources.

Please take a youth shooting, put them through a hunter education program, get them involved in an airgun league or smallbore club. If you need help finding a course or program in your area, contact our office and we'll help. Kids, especially, need to be educated and versed in the use of firearms and the importance of this right if we expect our grandkids to enjoy these same rights. Kids are not just the future of the shooting sports, they are the future voters and our future Legislators.

If we don't teach them, they will definitely learn from the antis. Which would you prefer?

Congratulations and many thanks to Ted Mazurski, our Junior Highpower Coordinator, his many adult volunteers and especially the firing members: Grant James, Ross James, Keatin Martin, Paul Mazurski, Dillon Sloneker and Tyler Smith.

Thanks for listening,
Don Moran
President - ISRA

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.

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

Rita Siwinski

(708) 479-5134

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.

WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW CAN HURT YOU

Posted 7/12/2006 7:17 PM ET USA Today
By Nat Hentoff

One day years ago, interviewing the usually cheerful Justice William Brennan in his Supreme Court chambers, I found him troubled. "Liberty," he said, "is a fragile thing. The Framers knew that. How can we bring the words of the Bill of Rights off the page into the lives of students?"

Were he still here, that paladin of individual liberties would have been even more troubled reading the words of retired justice Sandra Day O'Connor on this page: "Public schools have pretty much stopped teaching government, civics and American history. ... I truly don't know how long we can survive as a strong nation if our younger citizens don't understand the nature of our government. ... That is something you have to learn. It just isn't handed down in the genetic pool."

Add Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., who is trying to get his American History Achievement Act — to test the degree of knowledge in schools — through Congress. He points out that half the states don't require a course in U.S. government.

A few years ago, I supported the City University of New York's decision mandating the teaching of American history on all its campuses. I was denounced by several department heads for "jingoism." They insisted "world history" be taught instead.

What students believe

Not surprisingly, a Knight Foundation national survey last year of more than 100,000 high school students on "The Future of the First Amendment" found that 73% either had no opinion or said they took the First Amendment for granted, whatever that meant. Moreover, 36% believed that before publishing, newspapers must first get government approval.

As for this nation's adults, in an American Bar

Association poll last summer, a little more than half of those surveyed were able to name the three branches of our government. Fewer than half had any idea what "the separation of powers" means.

Since congressional oversight of this president's powers has been lame — and more of our federal courts are yielding to the administration's invoking of "state secrets" to dismiss cases critical of expanding presidential powers — even fewer Americans will know that the Framers insisted on the separation of powers.

In April, Michael Greco, president of the American Bar Association, warned — without hyperbole — that "many Americans do not even know the basics of how their government works, and that is a long-term threat to our democracy. ... When people do not understand their rights, it's easy for others to take those rights away." And those who would take those rights away are not just our external enemies.

But the Constitution still lives — as an increasing number of organizations are educating school boards and principals across the country in effectively teaching the roots of Americanism:

- The Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago, for example, provides programs and curriculums for elementary and secondary school students — and their teachers — in Chicago and across the USA. This foundation participates in the annual Youth for Justice National Teach-In, a program in which middle and high school students learn about our American democracy. Its associate director, Nisan Chavkin, said a lively discussion took place during a Chicago teach-in on the Second Amendment and gun control. Special education students led a debate with their peers from regular classes — a useful example of creative teaching.

- The Bill of Rights Institute, in Arlington, Va., has reached teachers across the country with constitutional seminars — I've spoken at one; week-long summer institutes for teachers; and instructional materials and lesson plans, including original sources, posters and the like, that make American history come alive.

•The Illinois First Amendment Center, based in Springfield, has an active national reach and provides curriculum guides from kindergarten to college. The chairman is John Foreman, who, in his day job, is publisher of The News-Gazette in Champaign, Ill. He tells me: "Our materials have been requested by schools in all 50 states, something we never expected."

A call for 'renewal'

When I speak at schools, telling stories of how this country got the Bill of Rights and what it has taken to keep those individual liberties, I quote Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy: "The Constitution needs renewal and understanding each generation, or it's not going to last."

And then I tell the students one of the consequences if it doesn't last, invoking George Orwell: "If large numbers of people are interested in freedom of speech, there will be freedom of speech, even if the law forbids it; if public opinion is sluggish, inconvenient minorities will be persecuted, even if laws exist to protect them."

I also suggest the students get a paperback copy of Mr. Orwell's chilling, increasingly contemporary novel, 1984.

Nat Hentoff is an authority on education, free speech issues and the Bill of Rights.

Contributed by Doug Mayhall

WHY ARE OUR CHILDREN KILLING?

From "Legally Speaking"

written by contributing editor Karen Macnutt

No problem has been more disturbing to all Americans than the indiscriminate attacks in schools by people intent on mass murder, particularly when the aggressor has been a young person. Public attention has focused on the tools of the attack but has given inadequate attention to a more important question. What caused the desire to kill?

Historically, most mass murderers who were not politically motivated killed their victims clandestinely. People like the Boston Strangler tried to hide their identity so they could continue to kill. However, over the last eleven years many prominent mass murder attempts have been different. The aggressors have carried out their attacks in suicidal fashion with no real attempt to escape punishment.

If our string of mass killings were indeed a form of suicide attempt no degree of security or restrictions could have stopped them. If guns were not available, explosives or arson would have been used.

If we look at these killings as mental health problems rather than as crime in the conventional sense, we may have a better chance of identifying problems and dealing with them before they reach a lethal conclusion. Many of the killers were reported as having been under psychiatric care. In the case of the Columbine killers, Eric Harris was taking the prescription drug Luvox. The first of the current string of mass killings of school children was by Patrick Purdy in 1989 that touched off the assault weapon ban arguments. Purdy was on Prozac. That same year, Joseph Wesbecker killed seven and injured thirteen before killing himself. He was also on Prozac.

Many of the suicides and attacks have been incredibly violent. Fifteen year old Kip Kinkle murdered his parents and then his classmates, he was on Prozac.. So was fifteen year old Shaun Cooper, Mark Barton, Bryann Hartman, Buford O'Neal Furrow, Kristine Cushing, Freda Howard, all murderers.

As medical records are not public information, there may well be other killers who were on these drugs that we do not know about.

Why has there been a rash of suicidal killings over the past several years? Such killings were almost unheard of prior to that. Gun ownership cannot be a factor as, if anything, gun ownership is much more restricted now than it was when the first schoolyard killing took place in California.

A common thread in many of these killings is that the murderers were on one of two classes of prescription drugs. The two best known names for these drugs are Prozac and Ritalin. These drugs can cause suicidal thoughts in some people. Prozac has been prescribed by general practitioners without a specialty in psychology for minor complaints. Because the reporting of such incidents are not mandated by the FDA, the reported cases could be only the tip of the iceberg. Doctors mention patients who experienced feelings of rage, of wanting to hurt someone, especially someone they were close to, while on these drugs.

Most of the 30 million people taking these drugs do not experience problems leading to violence. However, if only a small percentage of the people using the drugs had suicidal or homicidal thoughts, it is time we re-examine the way we track the adverse affects of medications on the people who take them.

Contributed by Linda Ward



To honor our soldiers across the country and increase community morale, Xerox Corporation has created Let's Say Thanks, a national program designed to deliver thousands of cards to soldiers overseas with messages of support from home. Go to WWW.LETSSAYTHANKS.COM to send a postcard to our troops today.

Postcards sent through LetsSayThanks.com will be delivered to men and women from all military branches deployed on active duty. If you would like to mail a postcard to a relative or personal friend, downloadable files are available for each design once a card is selected off the homepage of this Web site.

This is a great idea to show your support for our troops. We applaud Xerox for providing this free service for our troops.

Calendar of Events

- August 19 ISRA/NRA Youth Shooting Sports Camp** - ISRA Range, Bonfield, IL
Jeff Battaglia (708) 614-1628, jeffb@isra.org Rita Siwinski (708) 479-5134
- August 20 Glock Shooting Sports Foundation League Match** - ISRA Range, Bonfield, IL
ISRA (815) 635-3198
- August 20 Women's Firearm Safety Clinic** - Aurora Sportsmen's Club - Sugar Grove, IL
(630) 466-9711 xt. 40
- Sept. 9 & 10 Kankakee Gun Show** - Kankakee County Fairgrounds
R. W. Rodgers (815) 939-7572

** 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 if you have any events you would like included in next month's newsletter*

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