



WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS DIVISION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

NEXT MEETING - August 15, 2007 - 7:00 PM

Sara's Place Restaurant

Joliet, IL (815) 741-3076

This month, **Senator Christine Radogno** (R) 41st District is scheduled to speak to our group regarding the current affairs in Springfield. If the legislators are still in session and Christine is unable to attend, ISRA member Terry Kreimeier will speak on converting .22 caliber firearms to .17 caliber. We hope to see you there. Bring a friend!

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

Archery

The ISRA is the "leading advocate of safe, lawful and responsible firearms ownership" in Illinois. Our many battles in Springfield have focused on proposed restraints, by some lawmakers, to control firearm ownership or the types of firearms itself. There were other times when the uses or purposes of firearms were criticized with an attempt to control or eliminate pistol or rifle ranges, hunting areas, or even the act of hunting itself. Many times, the ISRA has been able to recognize the constraints these bills would have on us and sent out an "alert" for the membership to respond to. Many ISRA members are hunters and, if an anti-hunting bill were to be passed, it would affect their hunting privileges. Not all hunters use firearms; many hunt with bow and arrows. Bow-hunters are also affected by what happens in Springfield and the ISRA recognizes that fact and will fight for them, too.

Hunting with a bow is a skill that is developed passionately. I know some hunters that use the bow exclusively and wouldn't want to do it any other way. The history of archery goes way back and has roots in all cultures. All continents have evidence of archery whether for hunting or combat. And, archery has been a deciding factor in the

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advancement of civilizations.

Mike Drackley is a bow hunter and also competes with a bow. His knowledge of this sport has been a valuable asset as an instructor at the ISRA Range Open House and ISRA/NRA Youth Camp. With those credentials, Mike presented a brief introduction to archery at the July meeting.

Mike started the evening with equipment presentation. His focus was toward the competitive



bow and the basic elements necessary to start shooting competitively. The bow is the most crucial. Mike brought along a compound bow and a longbow. The longbow is the classic style of what we think a bow should be. It's not much different than what Robin Hood would have used, except for the materials and the technological advancements in designs. Longbows are still popular and there are classic competitive events designed specifically for them. The next bow design is the recurve. These are similar to longbows, but the limbs of the bow are curved back near the top of the limbs. This adds more power and velocity to the arrows. Mike then talked about the compound bow. These are the bows that utilize cams, pulleys and cables to maximize the power of the arrow. The technology of this design is still developing and it may be quite some time before something better comes along.

The competitive archer depends on the quality of the arrows to get to the target accurately. The types of arrow shafts vary, as do materials and construction. Metal, fiberglass, and carbon fiber make up the composition of these shafts and there are many philosophies as to why certain materials are used for each application. The fletching is another consideration as to material or design. In competition, the business end of an arrow has a field point. Like rifle and pistol shooters, archers have had many debates on the best way to achieve success in competitions or in the field.

Mike showed us some of the accessories he uses on the bow. Sighting a bow to get the arrow on its mark can be done by using the arrow itself or by using various aftermarket sighting devices. There are even optical scopes for bows. To maintain steadiness and vertical alignment, Mike's

compound bow had stabilizer rods, made of carbon fiber and metal, extending from the front of the bow. Depending on the rules for a given competition, bows can use some or all of these devices. He also had a trigger device to "squeeze" off a shot, much like one would do with a rifle trigger. Like firearms, a silencer can be installed on a bowstring to quiet the noise the string makes. This is another common feature between firearms and bows, quieting a "bang" or a "twang". Other accessories include the protective clothing, gloves and wristbands needed to prevent injury from the arrow or bow's string.

Enjoying archery to its fullest requires practice. To develop the proper form and technique, time must be spent at a range or field. Archery uses muscle groups not ordinarily used on a daily basis, so practicing develops skills and maintains the muscle tone required to become an effective archer.

Mike promised to come back at a later date to talk to us about hunting with a bow. Hopefully, it will be soon, as hunting season is just around the corner.

Thanks, Mike, for sharing your time and knowledge.

Al Tiscareno

GLOCK
SPORT SHOOTING FOUNDATION
ILLINOIS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION LEAGUE

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
or call the ISRA office at:
815-635-3198

Chairman's Comments



Washington, D.C. What does it make you think of? Politics, history, the White House, the Senate and House of Representatives, intrigue and foreign embassies.

I recently had occasion to go to Washington, D.C. While there, I met up with a good friend of mine who, I found out, was born and raised in Washington. His parents, originally from Lebanon, met each other in the States where they married and raised their family in Washington. We had a long talk about Washington and international cultures, more specifically the Middle Eastern culture and how they all mix together in Washington, D.C. He also gave me tips on what to see and what not to see in town.

Since he has many relatives and his wife is actually from Lebanon, my friend goes there every few years to visit. According to him, Lebanon is an extremely beautiful place that is, once again, in very bad shape politically and economically. The government is very pro-American, but is not very strong. The terrorist group, Hazbala, is supported and funded by Iran and is very anti-American and very active throughout the country. So, the people of Lebanon are very fearful for their future and for their lives. My friend enjoys going to visit, but is not optimistic about the long-term future of Lebanon.

While visiting some of the attractions in Washington, I was reminded of the extreme insightfulness of our forefathers. Seeing the Jefferson Memorial and reading some of his very profound statements; seeing the Lincoln Memorial reading some of his speeches had a profound effect on me. Then, to see the memorial to Sen. Robert A. Taft, son of President William H. Taft and the only senator ever to have a monument dedicated in Washington, D.C., and reading about his great accomplishments and thoughts...WOW.

The founders of our country had great faith in fellow mankind and little faith in government. They wanted the new government to be as small as possible and not at all intrusive. They felt people needed to be self-reliant. They took great pains in

writing both the Constitution and the Bill of Rights to guarantee our individual rights and to not allow any of the branches of government to get too powerful. They were trying to ensure that the government would not be able to run the country without any checks and balances. They were extremely brilliant people.



In reading the speeches on the walls of the monuments, the framers of the Constitution were very firm in their belief that the people needed to abide strictly to the Constitution in order for the nation to succeed and prosper. Thomas Jefferson once said, "...we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honour." Senator Taft said, "...if we wish to make democracy permanent in this country, let us abide by the fundamental principles laid down in the constitution. Let us see that the state is servant of the people and the people are not the servants of the state." He also stated that, "Liberty has been the key to our progress in the past, and it is the key to our progress in the future" and, "If we can preserve liberty in all its essentials, there is no limit to the future of the American people." I believe that if the liberals in Congress would pay attention to what these scholars said so many years ago, they wouldn't be trying to control our lives and make us "servants of the state". We wouldn't be arguing about things like firearm rights or freedom of speech as we are now.

I went to the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Wall one evening where there were many visitors. On it, I found the names of two of my high school friends, one of which was one of my best friends. It was very difficult, emotionally, for me to even touch his name on the Wall. At the time of his death, he was just two days past his twentieth birthday and had gotten married while on leave in Hawaii about six weeks prior. It made me realize that he gave his life so I, and all Americans, could have the freedom to fight for the rights in which they believe. At that moment, I resolved to do just that, even more so than before.



I visited the World War II Memorial that was just constructed a few years ago. In my opinion, it should have been constructed decades ago. It was magnificent to see and honor all the veterans from the 'greatest generation' who gave of their youth and, too often, their lives for our freedom.

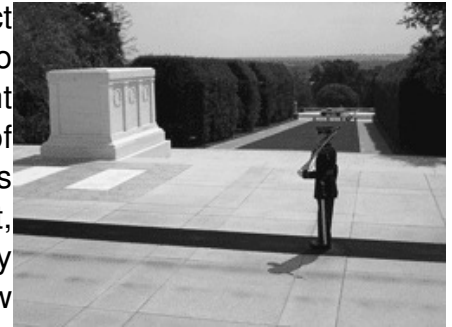
I had often heard about the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and had seen a few pictures, but didn't know the details. It is actually an amazing sight to see. Originally, it was the final resting place for four Unknown Soldiers, one each from WW I, WW II, Korean and Vietnam wars. The Tomb was placed above the grave of the Unknown Soldier of World War I. To the west of the WW I Unknown were the graves of the three Unknown Soldiers from WW II, Korea and Vietnam. Those three graves are marked with white marble slabs. In 1998, the remains of the Vietnam soldier were exhumed. Through DNA testing, it was established that the remains were those of Air Force 1st Lt. Michael Joseph Blassie. It was decided at that time to have the tomb of the Unknown Soldier from Vietnam remain vacant. A member of the Honor Guard, donned in standard issue Army Dress Blue woolen uniform, patrols the Tomb twenty-four hours a day. The Guard takes 21 steps, turns to face the Tomb and pauses for 21 seconds. Then, he retraces his steps, taking very detailed actions to keep his rifle on his outside shoulder as he reverses direction. This action is repeated until the Guard is relieved at the "Changing of the Guards."

Every half hour during the summer and every hour during the winter, there is the changing of the Guard. This is an elaborate ceremony in which the new Guard comes out and has his uniform and firearm carefully inspected by another Guard. After completing inspection, he then takes over guarding the Tomb. At night, this change takes place every hour. The Tomb is guarded twenty-four hours a day, regardless of the weather conditions; rain,

snow, sleet, extreme heat and even hurricanes. No Guard has ever left his/her post and it is considered a great honor to get chosen for this duty.

It made me feel very proud to see the extreme devotion these Guards have for their duty. The Guards believe that those buried in the Tomb deserve the very best of what they have to give. They way I see it, if everyone had this kind of dedication to duty for this country, we would never need to fear anyone attacking our country...from within or outside its borders.

This trip to our Capitol made me think just how important, strong and yet very fragile our freedom is. Thousands have given of their lives and thousands more have committed their lives so we can have the freedoms we enjoy now. We must do all that we are able to see that these ever-so-important freedoms are not lost by our apathy or by actions taken too little or too late to protect them. The people who think the government can best take care of us, making us servants of the government, must be stopped by the people who know what is indeed best for us...that which is spelled out for us in the Bill of Rights.



Freedom certainly isn't free, but it is worth whatever price we must pay. Let's never forget that.

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



How do you measure success?

Last week, Mayor Daley and the local media outlets touted the “major success” of Chicago’s latest gun “buy-back”. The most recent version of this program offered a \$100 pre-paid gift card, supplied by Chase Bank and Fifth Third Bank, for each gun turned in for destruction. As with past programs, people who turned in weapons were asked no questions.

Each of the major media outlets proclaimed the program a major success, as a total of 6,705 guns were turned in at a cost of \$670,500 in gift cards alone. Participation was higher than expected and, in some cases, those receiving the weapons ran out of gift cards, having to give rain checks instead. Over 20 churches and “faith based organizations” participated as drop-off points.

A full 10% of the weapons turned in were not guns, but were instead airsoft guns and BB guns. Some of the guns were homemade and many appeared to be in various stages of disrepair. Daley stated that many of the guns would be test fired and the forensics department would try to determine if they had been used in a crime. However, having promised not to question those who turned in the weapons, exactly what action could be taken by police if a weapon is found to have been used in a crime is a mystery.

Since Mayor Daley and the local news media have already declared the gun buy-back program a great success, one must question the goal of Mayor Daley’s program. Was the goal of this program to reduce inner-city crime? Was this program an attempt to stop the senseless gang violence that is plaguing Chicago, a city with some of the strictest gun control laws in the United States? A city where the average citizen cannot legally own a handgun, but must instead rely on a police department currently fighting accusations of corruption and mismanagement?

If this were the goal, would it not take time to

judge the effectiveness of this program? Should we not wait and see if the killing stops? No, the Mayor has already declared victory. He has taken more “evil guns” off the streets. Apparently Mayor Daley’s fight is not against the gang members who shoot not only each other, but also innocent bystanders. Apparently Mayor Daley’s fight is not against the repeat offenders who all too often find themselves back on the streets before their arresting officers have finished filling out their arrest reports. Obviously, Mayor Daley’s fight is not against the corrupt Chicago judicial system. A system where an innocent, if uninformed visitor from Tennessee is threatened with felony prosecution for not being aware that Illinois is one of only two states that do not allow it’s citizens the right of self-protection, while at the same time allowing gang members with multiple offenses for drugs and weapons to walk with only a minimum sentence.

Mayor Daley’s gun “buy-back” program is not about reducing crime. If the Mayor were really serious about reducing the violence, he would allow the citizens the means to take back the streets from the gangs and criminals that currently run unchecked. However, we all know this will never happen while Daley retains the position of Mayor. Richard Daley has a political agenda, an agenda to disarm every citizen in Illinois. It does not matter that in practically every other state in America, citizens are not only exercising their right to carry a firearm, but in each of these states, violent crime rates are dropping dramatically because of this.

By declaring the gun buy-back program a victory only days after it’s completion, Daley has demonstrated it’s true intent. He has also demonstrated his true intentions. Mayor Richard Daley’s anti-gun agenda has nothing to do with protecting the citizens of Chicago, but instead rendering them helpless against the crime that pervades their streets.

*** Please note ***

Articles in the WCGR newsletter contain information gathered and are of the specific viewpoint and beliefs of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the ISRA.

Calendar of Events

- 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
- 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
- September 8** NRA First Steps Rifle Orientation - Mega Sports - Plainfield - contact Kent at
(815) 545-4872 or visit www.firearmsafetytraining.com
- September 8 & 9** NRA Rifle Instructor Course - Lions Club/ISRA Range - Bonfield, IL
ISRA (815) 635-3198
- September 15** NRA First Steps Pistol Orientation - Mega Sports - Plainfield - contact Kent at
(815) 545-4872 or visit www.firearmsafetytraining.com
- September 15 & 16** Kankakee Gun Show - Kankakee County Fairgrounds - (815) 939-7572

*** Please use the above contact information for registration information (where applicable)
and 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

***** 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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