



WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS DIVISION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

NEXT MEETING - September 19, 2007 - 7:00 PM

Sara's Place Restaurant

Joliet, IL (815) 741-3076

MSgt. Chris Miller will speak to our group about his career in the United States Air Force and, in particular, his experiences in the Middle East. As always, we hope to see you there and don't forget to bring a friend!

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

Putting It All Together

Terry Kreimeier has had fun over the years working with firearms. Since I have known him, he has involved himself in many gun-smithing courses across the country to enable him to repair or maintain many types of firearms. One of his other passions is in the pursuit of prairie dogs and from there, one can conclude that Terry would have a definite idea on the best type of firearm to use on them and how to put one together.

Terry's first choice of a "dog" gun would definitely be one of those far-reaching varmint guns, pushing a .22 caliber bullet out of the barrel at around 4,000 feet per second. This is a potent way of re-districting a prairie dog town. But, Terry sometimes feels that experimenting with other combinations of rifles and calibers would add more of a challenge and give a sense of fairness towards the prairie dog.

In the past, I have written about the .17 HMR and MACH II rim fire cartridges that are very popular now. I will admit that this may not be the first choice for a prairie dog rifle, but it will extract the maximum skills from a dedicated "dog hunter". It certainly has the potential to take on prairie dogs, provided the hunter understands its range limitations, as this cartridge's practical limit is

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around 175 yards and is very sensitive to crosswinds.

Since their inception, the .17 rim fire has presented a popular cartridge for the major firearms' manufacturers on which to build. Most of the .17 firearms are based on the .22 rim fire family with the .17 HMR based on the .22 WMR and the .17 MACH II springing off of the .22 LR high velocity cartridges. These new firearms are made utilizing the basic engineering of the parent .22 designs with the biggest

design change involving chamber and bore dimensions.

Firearms are fairly complex and if tinkered with, could become a potential hazard if not properly modified. With that advice in mind, Terry stated that the firearms modified the most and with the largest aftermarket of parts are the 1911 pistol, the AR15 and the Ruger 10/22.

Terry's presentation was on how to bring the common Ruger 10/22 up to a .17 HMR or a MACH II. There are many sources for the parts needed to make the changeover and they can be found through gun part suppliers or the Internet. The first consideration will be the barrel. This is the easiest part to change, as it requires removing the "V" block that secures the barrel to the receiver and swapping the barrels. The next part that has to be changed out is the bolt. The original bolt from the 10/22 is engineered for the .22 LR. To control the energy from the .17 HMR requires more built-in mass to balance out the increased bolt velocity. A larger bolt handle usually creates this increased mass. The final modification is to install a synthetic buffer at the rear of the receiver to snub the bolts remaining energy.

After his presentation, Terry reminded everyone that these, as with any other modifications, should be made ONLY by those that have the skills necessary to properly do the modifications. Also, everyone should be aware of the fact that these are not factory engineered parts, which could create an unsafe condition which is out of the original manufacturer's control and that warranties may be affected by modifying firearms.

Thanks again, Terry, for spending time with us and giving us another talk on tools for a "dog" hunt.

Al Tiscareno

***** Please remember to consult a firearm professional when considering the modification of any firearm to ensure proper, safety and legal requirements are met. *****

*** 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.

2007

Northern Illinois Hunting & Fishing Days Silver Springs State Park September 22nd and 23rd

Those are the dates set aside for this year's N.I.H.F.D. at Silver Springs State Park near Yorkville, Illinois. The ISRA will be there to say "hello" to everyone that stops by the table. Our primary goal is to sell ISRA memberships, but we will also have something to raffle off that weekend.

The important thing is to mark your calendars and come out to enjoy this national event. Even better, why not show your ISRA pride and help out at the ISRA booth? We can never have too many volunteers, so please contact the ISRA office at (815) 635-3198 if you'd like to volunteer.

As always, thank you for your support!

NRA/ISRA Youth Shooting Sports Camp

Last month, the ISRA sponsored another Youth Camp for the NRA. As always, the camp reservations filled up quickly and on August 18, these young men and women were met at the ISRA range by the staff and volunteers.

Safety is paramount at the range and everyone listened to a detailed "Gun Safety" talk. Divided up into age groups, the participants were sent off towards the five disciplines: rifle, pistol, shotgun, archery and black powder rifle. At each of these locations, another instructor would explain what each student would experience and the safety rules at that specific range. Students were then assigned a personal instructor and allowed to familiarize themselves with the firearm or bow. The firing phase was then worked into the class and under the complete control of the instructors, these young students learned the responsible and safe way to use firearms and have fun doing it.

This event has always brought the best out of

everyone. It is gratifying to know how attentive these young men and women are with the instructors. They know what the meaning of responsibility is and are willing to fully follow the instructions given to them.

There are many factors in the success of this event. First, it is the youth that makes this day worthwhile. They are the future of the shooting sports. Second, are their parents. Without their understanding of the importance of the shooting sports, there would be uncertainty in the future of our Second Amendment rights. Our freedoms will be in the hands of our youth and parents need to nurture and teach them these important ideals. Let's not forget about the committee, staff and volunteers that worked so hard to make this an enjoyable day. The efforts made by everyone makes possible another successful youth camp. Finally, the sponsors that contributed to the NRA/ISRA Youth Shooting Sports Camp: Bass Pro in Bolingbrook and Midwest Sports in Lyons. Thanks to everyone that made this event a success.

Al Tiscareno

Chairman's Comments



Dove season is almost upon us as I write this. And soon after that begins, seasons will start to open for other game animals, giving hunters several months of hunting pleasure. Eagerly awaited hunting trips are planned sometimes months in advance and are discussed all year long. Hunting is a tradition that has been around as long as man has inhabited the earth. Of course it started out as a necessity to eat in order to live but in many countries, it has slowly evolved to more of a sport and tradition than a necessity.

Hunting and (target) shooting were so common among United States' citizens during both WWI and WWII, that many of our soldiers were "natural" shots. Skills that were taught and developed when the soldiers were children assisted them with stalking, sniping and evasion tactics needed in war. They didn't need much instruction in

shooting and, as a rule, out shot the Japanese and Axis soldiers, which gave us a definite advantage in both theaters of war. The "citizen" soldiers also were very independent. Many of them were from very rural areas and brought with them not only their hunting/shooting skills, but also the ability to think on their feet. This made it easier for them to make their own decisions in the ever-changing situations of battle. Both the Nazis and Japanese armies were highly structured and individual soldiers were neither able, nor allowed to make their own decisions. Many Allied leaders allowed their troops much more independence to make their own decisions, allowing success in battles where it may not have otherwise happened.

Hunting allows men, women and children to get at one with nature. No super skills or abilities are needed and even those with certain disabilities are able and encouraged to hunt. Hunters enjoy bonding with friends and family while on hunting trips, whether it is for a few hours or a few days. Hunting encourages independence and tests and hones your skills with nature and the game you are hunting. It promotes self-reliance and confidence that you are able to sustain yourself in the field or in the wild.

Hunting is a tradition that has been passed down from generation to generation for thousands of years, yet is now facing huge obstacles in the form of anti-hunting and anti-firearm groups. They are trying to force the public to be against hunting, trying to get laws enacted against hunting, fielding lawsuits to stop hunting certain species of animals and to cease hunting in certain areas. They will try and do anything to eliminate hunting from our heritage. When one tactic doesn't work, another is tried. When an anti-hunting idea is successful in one region, it is then promoted in another.

Hunters and non-hunters alike must unite to stop this erosion of our firearm rights. We must stand together for ALL our firearm rights, be it for the enjoyment or necessity of hunting, target shooting or for the obvious reasons of self-defense. If we don't, our rights will surely be picked off one at a time. All firearm and civil rights' enthusiasts must unite to protect every aspect of firearm rights.

Doug Mayhall

Calendar of Events

- 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
- September 16** Step Outside - Naperville Sportsman's Club 70th Anniversary - Open House - Admission is FREE - (630) 848-2124
- September 22** NRA First Steps Shotgun Orientation - Erienna Hunt Club - Morris - contact Kent at (815) 545-4872 or visit www.firearmsafetytraining.com
- September 22 & 23** Northern IL Hunting and Fishing Days - Silver Springs State Park - Yorkville, IL
- October 6** NRA First Steps Rifle Orientation - Mega Sports - Plainfield - contact Kent at (815) 545-4872 or visit www.firearmsafetytraining.com
- October 7** Wheaton Gun Show - Dupage County Fairgrounds - Jim McAra (773) 237-8844
- October 13** NRA First Steps Pistol Orientation - Mega Sports - Plainfield - contact Kent at (815) 545-4872 or visit www.firearmsafetytraining.com
- October 14** Kane County Gun Show - Kane County Fairgrounds - Kathy Carlson - (815) 758-2773
- October 20** NRA First Steps Shotgun Orientation - Erienna Hunt Club - Morris - contact Kent at (815) 545-4872 or visit www.firearmsafetytraining.com
- October 27** 3rd Annual ISRA Sighting-In Day - ISRA Range - Bonfield, IL - ISRA (815) 635-3198

*** 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 volunteer 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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