



WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS DIVISION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

NEXT MEETING - October 18th, 2006 - 7:00 PM

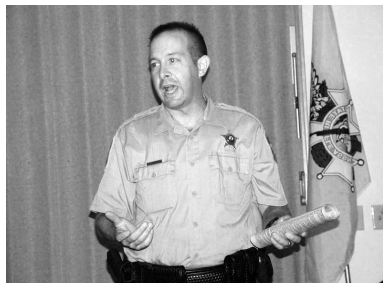
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Congressman Jerry Weller (R), State Representative Careen Gordon (D) and Will County Sheriff Paul Kaupus (R) will speak to our group this month concerning their positions on the 2nd Amendment and other issues of interest. With the elections less than a month away, be sure to take advantage of this opportunity to meet these candidates and hear about their positions on issues that affect all of us. Bring your friends and family.

The Game Warden

This month, Officer Joe Kaufman of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources stopped by to give us an insight as to what his job is all about.



Officer Kaufman started us off with a little history. In 1885, the State of Illinois appointed three Game Wardens from the Chicago, Peoria and Quincy areas in order to enforce the game laws in effect at that time. The wardens would travel throughout the state and were compensated by collecting a percentage of the fines that were levied. As years passed, more and more game wardens were needed, but it wasn't until 1899 that twenty-two more were hired.

In 1911, Fish Wardens were hired when the new fisheries' laws were created. These wardens were responsible for all of the lakes and waterways in the state. The two positions were later combined in 1917 and were then considered part of the Division of Fish and Game of the Illinois Department of Agriculture. The department changed names again in 1995 to the present, Department of Natural Resources.

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The title of "Game Warden" has evolved to today's "Conservation Police Officer (CPO)" and, as you may have guessed, the responsibilities have increased. CPO's enforce laws regarding hunting, fishing, boating, snowmobiling, forest and endangered species protection, taxidermists, fish markets, state parks and all IDNR administrative rules and regulations.

CPO's go through a 10-week police officer training course and a 12-week conservation law course.

They have complete police authority in the enforcement of Illinois Compiled Statutes. In addition to their responsibilities as Game Wardens, CPO's can give citations for traffic violations, enforce drug and criminal laws and assist other law enforcement agencies in emergency or rescue situations.

Officer Kaufman talked about the 2006-2007 Illinois Hunting and Trapping Regulations and focused on the changes made in this year's edition. The annual changes and new regulations in this booklet are highlighted, and Illinois hunters should know this regulation booklet and the information from it to lawfully hunt their intended quarry. These regulations help all of us in maintaining wildlife and the environment needed for them. The efforts of biologist, lawmakers and Conservation Police Officers insure that the hunting and fishing in this state will be there for us and our descendants.

Our appreciation to Officer Joe Kaufman for delivering this useful information to us and we look forward to having him back with us in the future.

Al Tiscareno

Additional information can be found at the IDNR website at www.dnr.state.il.us



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** (ISRA-PVF) can endorse candidates or donate to political campaigns.

Chairman's Notes



While returning home on a cramped flight (8 hours, 51 minutes) from Germany, I am reflecting on the differences and similarities of the two countries.

I am very interested in history, especially World War II. I have read many books and articles from soldiers who were in Europe in WW II. Many have stated that they actually liked and related to the common German people who were their "enemies," more than they liked or could relate to the French who were their "allies." Although we may often hear of Germans not liking Americans, I saw no such incidents, neither in the country nor the big cities.

I went to Berlin this trip and saw the one part of the Berlin wall that was left up as a monument. Ironically, and literally right underneath it, are the old secret Gestapo buildings that are now partially unearthed for public viewing. The wall was amazing. I had thought it was several feet thick, but it is only four or five-inches thick, reinforced concrete. I saw Checkpoint Charlie and the beautiful Brandenburg Gate that was just inside the East Zone by, perhaps, one hundred yards. Near it, there are pictures and a narrative about the people that were gunned down trying to escape over the wall from East Berlin or East Germany into the encircled, but free, West Berlin. The last person to try was badly wounded and in "no man's land." The West wouldn't go help him for fear of being shot as well and neither would the East Germans. Many hours later, he finally perished just a few feet from the freedom he so desperately sought. The wall came down soon after his death.

East Berlin is getting pretty modernized and cleaned up after forty years of severe neglect. It's now been seventeen years of adjustment to freedom and democracy.

Dresden and other cities in the East Zone are also getting cleaned up and modernized, but much more slowly because of a lack of money. And, the East Germans were used to communism where everyone

For additional articles and information, visit willcounty.isra.org

worked as little as necessary, all got the same pay and the government did all for them. The East German people still expect the government to do everything for them as the East German government did for two generations. And, they expect the rest of the German people to pay for it through higher taxes. There is still a lot of resentment from the West Germans toward the East Germans' lack of willingness to work hard to make a living. There is often heard said, "...they should have made the wall higher, not torn it down." Seeing many of the East German cities is somewhat depressing. Even the downtown areas look more like slums.

In talking to my two (West) German friends while we were driving and exploring East German sites, our talk turned to the rights of German people.



While they are a very free people who enjoy more privileges than many countries, compared to the United States, they are still severely

restricted in what they can do. For instance, they cannot go out and start a business, even a little storefront, without first going to school, getting a degree, passing a test and getting a license. To go fishing, the same rigid rules apply. Therefore, very few people make the huge effort of time and money to go fishing in Germany! One reply I got when I asked about going fishing is, "I think I would like fishing, but it is too much work and costs too much money for me to find out."

Gun ownership is even more involved and no one I talked to was even sure of all the hoops that must be jumped through. Still more shocking, not many knew of anyone who even owned a gun!

Some just knew people who have rifles that they could take hunting for deer. Anyone I asked, said you had to go to school, get a degree and take a test, all before you could even get permission to buy a gun. Then, you had to get checked out before you could actually buy it and must be stored in a locked safe. You needed another type of license to go and actually shoot it. If you wanted to shoot deer and wild boar you needed another type of (hunting) license. They all said it was an activity only for the very rich.

I was, however, able to go to the Sand Gun Club where they are extremely proud of their club. It is a 10-meter range for air rifles only. They have an indoor



range that is run very professionally with electric motors to bring the targets back and forth. There are a lot of young people shooting there, including many girls. They all have expensive rifles and leather shooting jackets and pants to help keep their bodies rigid. They take a lot of pride in their sport and there are several great shooters there. No one has shot anything other than an air rifle.

Knowing all of this makes me happy to be flying home to the greatest country in the world! I just hope we gun owners have more fire in our bellies to keep fighting for our rights, than does the opposition. Otherwise, we will be in the same predicament as Germany...shooting air rifles at ten meters and being happy about it. Think about what happened to both England and Australia within the last ten years. I bet most people over there thought that, "it will never happen here."

We must never let our guard down. Freedom is not free, but it is definitely worth the fight!

Doug Mayhall

?? ? 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.

Be sure
to visit the ISRA-PVF website

<http://www.isra-pvf.com>

for a list of ISRA-PVF endorsements and
candidate preferences.



ISRA SIGHTING IN DAY OCTOBER 29TH



Deer season is right around the corner so it's time to get your shotgun, hand gun and/or muzzleloaders tuned up and sighted in for the season. There's no better place to sight-in your firearm than at the ISRA's 2006 Sight-In Day.

This year's event will take place on Sunday, October 29th. The range is conveniently located on Warner Bridge Road between Routes 113 & 17, near Bonfield, IL. Activities will begin at 9:00am and end at 3:30pm.

You must provide you own firearms and ammunition for this event. Please bring at least 25 rounds of ammunition with you. There will **not** be ammunition for sale on the grounds. Food, expert advice and safe equipment will be available on site.

Fees are \$10.00 per firearm. Parking is FREE. Public is invited.
For more information, call the ISRA office at (815) 635-3198

Calendar of Events

- October 29** Sight-In Day - ISRA Range - Bonfield - ISRA office (815) 635-3198
- November 4 & 5** Kankakee Gun Show - Kankakee County Fairgrounds - (815) 939-7572
- November 4 & 5** Peoria Gun Show - East Peoria Convention Center (The Oaks) - (309) 274-2977
- November 5** Wheaton Gun Show - Dupage County Fairgrounds - (773) 237-8844
- November 11** Bloomington Gun Show - Bloomington Sale Barn - (618) 495-2572

** 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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