



WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS DIVISION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

NEXT MEETING - November 16th - 7:00 PM

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



Viv Lock will be our guest speaker for November. During WWII, Lock flew 14 B-24 combat bombing missions in the Aleutian Islands against Japanese infantry with the 21st Bomb Squad, 11th AF. Later, in the Asiatic Pacific Theater, he flew 27 missions in B-29s with the 330th Bomb Group, 20th AF from Guam against the Japanese home islands.

On V-J Day while flying in a Air Power demonstration, Viv made a low level pass over the BB Missouri below the ship's mast while the peace treaty ceremony was taking place that was recorded on Armed Forces Radio. Lock was piloting a Superfortress dubbed "The City of Kankakee" for this operation.

His awards include Distinguish Flying Cross, Air Medal with 5 OLCs, Asiatic Pacific Theater with 2 Bronze Service Stars, American Defense Medal, and American Campaign Medal, National Defense Medal, WWII Victory Medal, Good Conduct Ribbon, and the Presidential Unit Citation with 1 OLC.

Prairie Dogs Beware

...there's a new sheriff in town. Terry Kreimeier, a recent retiree from the Will County Sheriff's Department and our own ISRA Will County Grassroots member, was our speaker last month. Terry first heard about 'prairie dogging' in 1985 and built his first prairie dog rifle in 1988. It wasn't until seven years later, in 1995 that he went on his first hunt. It didn't take long for Terry to learn that there are certain 'essentials' for a successful



prairie dog hunting experience.

First of all, one must have a precision rifle. Terry built an AR-15 style rifle, making the necessary modifications to meet his needs for prairie dog hunting. For instance, he removed the carrying handle and the standard front site, replacing it with a Tasco. It turned out to be a very accurate rifle that shoots half-inch groups at 100 yards, also known as one half Minute of Angle (M.O.A.). These rifles need to be that accurate considering the target is so small. In fact, the average prairie dog is only about 2 1/4" wide and 8-12" tall. Terry explained that he has shot a prairie dog as close as ten

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yards and as far away as 502 yards. It is this 502-yard shot that gained him recognition in The Varmint Hunter magazine, a publication issued by the Varmint Hunters Association (www.varminthunter.org). They even presented him with a certificate "suitable for framing".

Terry shared with us a list of other items that have proven to be essential for going on a prairie dog hunt. Some of these items included a table and bench to shoot from, a bipod, a bench rest, sandbags, a wind meter, rangefinder, binoculars and two-way radios. He actually purchased a table and modified it to fit his personal shooting needs. He has a bench rest that he can set the gun on but also uses sand bags on the table for added

stability. He has also purchased a high-quality bench with a built-in stool that pivots and is adjustable for angle and height. These items can cost as much as \$800.

When he goes on these hunts, Terry usually takes five rifles and five hundred rounds of ammunition. When he first started out, he used various .223-cartridged rifles including bolt actions and AR-15's. For them, he loaded his own ammunition and used 55-grain bullets. Now, he uses a .243 as it performs better in windy conditions and at greater distances. For this, he uses 80-grain bullets and his barrel has

a 1-8 twist. Even when there is no wind, there is usually mirage, so a good quality scope is another important piece of equipment.

Terry desperately wants to "take out" a prairie dog at 1,000 yards and has been on nine different hunts to date. According to his calculations, he shot 909 rounds last year and 303 of them were hits. He used to hunt on Indian reservations, especially in South Dakota, but licenses are now required and many reservations require guides as well. So, Terry now travels to other regions of South Dakota and Nebraska that are less restrictive to hunters. Although federal law states no license is necessary, Nebraska does require a license and a NB stamp. Terry plans his prairie dog trips for May, as he believes that is the best time of year for this activity. The conditions are dry enough to adequately get around and temperatures are not yet too hot.

Terry has made prairie dog hunting not only a past time, but a passion. Thank you, Terry, for sharing your experiences



Chris McNeil



We were pleased to have Candidate for State Representative, Chris "Mac" McNeil, in attendance at our October meeting. Chris is the Republican running against Renee

Kosel in the 81st District, which includes Frankfort, Mokena, New Lenox and Homer Township.

A recent member of both the ISRA and NRA, Chris told us he has been a gun owner for 3-4 years now and says he enjoys spending time at the Palos Gun Club. When asked to substantiate his support of the Second Amendment, Chris stated he is "a very strong supporter of the Second Amendment" and likens it to the right of Eminent Domain. At age 31, he explained that he has only recently become a part of the political community, but feels that is a selling point of his campaign.

Chris explained that he is concentrating on issues such as economic improvement, transportation and helping to begin reform the Republican Party.

Thank you, Chris, for sharing your views with us.



November 11th, 2005

Let's Hear From You

Does the newsletter look a little thin this month? Wondering, "Where are all the articles"? Well, so are we. If you are a member of the ISRA and a resident of Will County, then this is YOUR newsletter and we need your help. We need contributors. Whether it be information for the calendar, or a brief article about a firearms related issue, we want you to send it to the Will County Grassroots editor for inclusion in next months' issue. Do you have an opinion on the latest events in Springfield? Send it to us. Have you been on an interesting hunting trip? We'd like to share it with our members. We want to hear from YOU! Please take a few minutes and contact us with your complaints, compliments or suggestions.

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.

Calendar of Events

- November 11** Dedication of the City of Chicago's Vietnam Veteran's Memorial - Chicago
Lisa Moeller (312) 923-7070 www.uso.org/illinois
- November 12 & 13** Kankakee Gun Show - Kankakee County Fairgrounds (815) 939-7572
- November 26 & 27** Springfield Gun Show - Crowne Plaza Hotel (618) 495-2572
- November 26 & 27** Princeton Gun Show - Bureau County Fairgrounds (309) 689-1934
- December 4** Wheaton Gun Show - Dupage County Fairgrounds (773) 237-8844
- December 10 & 11** Kankakee Gun Show - Kankakee County Fairgrounds (815) 939-7572
- December 10 & 11** CADA Gun Show - St.Charles, IL - Dupage Expo Center (815) 259-5445
- December 11** Kane County Gun Show - Kane County Fairgrounds (815) 758-2773

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.

Dedication of the City of Chicago's Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Friday, November 11, 2005

- 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon:** Dedication Ceremony at River Level between State & Wabash
Immediately Following the Ceremony Please Join us for the AT&T Vietnam Veterans' Memorial
Reception at the
National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum
- 12:00** Free Trolley Service every 15 minutes from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on State and Wabash to the NVVAM.
- 12:00-3:00** Art Reception and Open House
Spirit of the USO Troupe Performance led by Alison Ruble Free Food and beverages
- 1:30** Photographer Nina Berman will discuss the Purple Hearts Exhibition
- 3:00** Veterans' Day Commemoration Ceremony Begins lead by Alderman James Balcer
- 5:00** Memorial Shuttle service concludes
- 5:00-7:00** Wine and Cheese reception with solo cellist Leon Hoffman

*Chicago Remembers (TM) Souvenirs provided by NVVAM and the USO will be handed out to veterans and/or families of the fallen attending the reception

This event is open to the public free of charge

For more information, please contact:

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