



WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS DIVISION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

NEXT MEETING - December 20th, 2006 - 7:00 PM

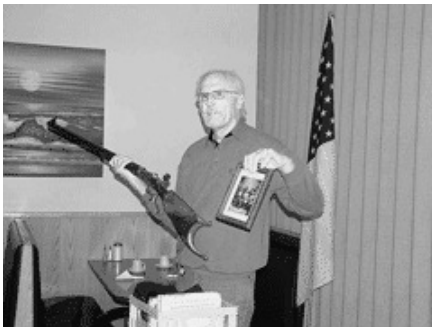
Sara's Place Restaurant

Joliet, IL (815)741-3076

This month will be our annual "**Show and Tell**" and Christmas Party. Everyone is encouraged to bring an interesting firearm or piece of related paraphernalia from your collection to share with our members. Please remember to bring your firearms unloaded and in a case. If you have any holiday goodies (ie...candy, cookies, cake) that you would like to bring, we will make sure that it is thoroughly enjoyed. Be sure to bring your friends and family.

Before There Was Baseball...

This past meeting our guest speaker was Dennis Hrusosky. He is a past Director of the American Single Shot Association and gave an interesting presentation on the history of single shot breech loading target rifles, in particular, the "Schuetzen" rifle.



Around 1866, six target shooting clubs started up across the country. The club in Joliet, then known as the Central Sharp Shooters Union, was one of the first. At first, it comprised of only twenty-one "Charter Members," but eventually grew up to seventy-five members throughout its existence.

As these shooting clubs became more popular, it seemed logical to establish tournaments in order to determine the best shooters. In 1897, Joliet was one of seventeen cities across the country to host a national tournament. That year, over 1,700 shooters participated in the event that offered a prize of \$3,000. Spectators from near and far traveled to Joliet to witness this tournament. They

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came by riverboat, train, horse and even by foot to see who would eventually be awarded the title of best in the nation. Back then, shooting tournaments were considered a national pastime and even Chicago had seven Schuetzen clubs!

The Schuetzen rifle was a type of target rifle that was developed by German gun makers. They were very popular and some were even manufactured in the Joliet area. Dennis brought along some examples of these guns made by the Beuttemullers' of Joliet, made between 1882 and 1884.

What is different about these rifles is how they were loaded. These target rifles were single shot, black powder, breech loaded rifles. The bullet is inserted into the breech first. Then, a mechanical device, called a "bullet seater," would be used to precisely position the bullet in the chamber. Next, a metallic case that was preloaded with powder was inserted. The case may already have a percussion cap or primer installed or, if it is an older style, it would have a flash hole to set off the main charge.

Schuetzen rifles were very accurate and capable of 4-inch groups at 200 yards. The best rifles were



made by master gunsmiths specializing in these types, but Remington, Winchester and Stevens manufactured Schuetzen rifles that were very competitive.

Schuetzen clubs lost appeal during World War I. Prejudice against Germany forced many of the Schuetzen clubs to close or re-invent themselves. There are still Schuetzen events held around the country today and it seems there is a great interest in the rifles and equipment associated with this style of target shooting.

More information can be found by contacting the American Single Shot Association at www.assra.com or by contacting Keith Foster, Membership Administrator, 15770 Road 1037, Oakwood, Ohio 45873.

Our thanks to Dennis for an informative presentation and the fine examples of Schuetzen rifles he brought along.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

FROM THE
WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS
COMMITTEE

Chairman's Comments



With the elections behind us, many of us are now concentrating on the seemingly negative consequences that may become reality for the freedom-loving citizens in the state as well as the entire country. Promised, but yet to be unveiled, are new nation-wide restrictive firearm laws. Such are championed in the House by the shrill, outspoken, anti-gun, ultra-liberal, Nancy Pelosi, who is assured the job of Majority Speaker of the House. This leaves her only two heartbeats from the Presidency...truly a scary thought! To add fuel to the fire, the Senate has Kennedy, Schumer, Durbin, Feinstein and Hillary Clinton, all that will soon be in very powerful positions and working diligently to try and derail all of our Second Amendment rights.

The 'anti-gunners' will be very emboldened with their new-found powers and positions to promote their anti-gun legislation and block all pro-gun legislation. The President can certainly veto any anti-gun legislation, but with how poorly the Republicans did in the elections, the President may try to "get along" with the Democrats and not act boldly. When it comes to defending all of the freedoms that Americans value, I hope he keeps the courage of his convictions to "do the right thing," even when it does not seem "politically correct." He did so with the war in Iraq, doing what HE felt was right for the Country, even though it was a political disaster for him and the Republicans in this election.

Nationally, I feel we must do three things. We need to communicate with our two senators tirelessly, even though they both are avowed anti-gun people. They need to know that not all of their constituents are behind them in their views. Ideally, they can be shown that there are actually more people who believe in their individual rights, specifically firearm rights, than believe in restricting those rights. I am not naïve enough to think that either Senators Durbin or Obama will ever change their view, however, if they at least give pause to some anti-gun legislation, it will help our cause somewhat. Every politician knows they must get re-elected in order to stay in power and, therefore, they can't afford to alienate too big a block of voters.

Second, we must write the President, telling him not to forget to defend our rights against those who would take them away. The buck stops here with him and all legislation passed by Congress. He is our last line of defense for the next two years.

Thirdly, we must be in contact with our Congressional representatives. The most anti-gun legislation will start right here in Illinois and I suspect there will they churn out many bills. We must get our Representatives to oppose them and vote against them as they come up. Your Representative is much easier to talk to either on the phone or in person. Perhaps the more 'pro-rights' people that contact them, the more purposefully they will align with us. Remember, they must get re-elected every two years.

Nationally, in the Senate, as I understand it, when the smoke clears, we are only down one pro-gun Senator, even though the power has shifted to people who will do all they can to push out anti-gun legislation and try to squash pro-gun legislation in Committee. We should still have 53 to 54 pro-gun votes for anything that actually comes to the floor.

Now the elections kept Republications out of all high positions in the State. We have many Democrats in Illinois, especially in the southern part of the state, who firmly believe in our rights. We must again barrage our legislators in both the State Senate and the State House with letters and calls, reminding them to defend our rights.

There is a chance that our Governor will be indicted, which would put a more reasonable person in the Governor's mansion. You know, the place that our present Governor finds he is too good to use and that he would rather live in Chicago. But, we can't count on that. In the meantime, we must do all that we can to preserve our rights.

In the Senate, it seems to be about 50/50 anti/pro-gun. We can look at the pitiful election results as a real problem, cry in our beer and sit around doing nothing. Then our enemies will surely win because they will certainly do everything they can to push their agenda forward. Or, we can look at it as a real opportunity. And a huge opportunity it is

for us to circle the wagons and really show what we are made of. Remember that the last couple of years, even with Daley and Blagojevich in power, we went on the offensive and no anti-gun laws were passed. As a matter of fact, several pro-gun laws got passed...one even over-rode the Governor's veto!

We need to talk tirelessly to our friends, neighbors and anybody willing to discuss the importance of defending our rights. We must proudly wear clothes affirming our rights. Not just at meetings with other like-minded individuals, but more importantly in very public places so others can see our commitment to the cause. We should display bumper stickers for ISRA and NRA on all of our vehicles.

We must write and call our elected officials in both the federal and state government and I don't mean just once or twice a year. Most of us are guilty of being too lazy or too busy to get on the phone or write a letter. We must actively recruit others to join ISRA, NRA and any other pro-rights group you believe in. How many people have you enlisted to join the ISRA and/or NRA this year? We must support the people and groups that support our rights with whatever contributions, time and efforts that we can afford. The pro-gun groups won't exist without money and without these groups fighting for us, we are sure to lose our rights as quickly as did England, Canada and Australia.

We must now show that we are more powerful and more determined than are our enemies. Remember, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going." We ALL are capable of being much tougher than we have been in the past and are capable of doing more. So follow me in showing others, pro and anti-gunners alike, how resilient and determined we are...especially under pressure.

Doug Mayhall

*** * * 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.

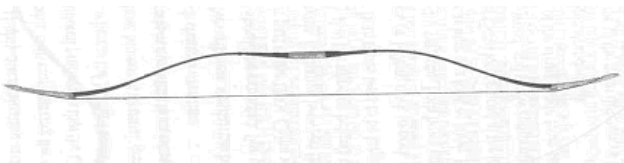


A History of Archery

(Part 1)

Now we can all agree that Archery has been around for along time, but they have found evidence that date's back some 10,000years or more. Every group and race of people around the world from the Nubians of Africa, the Anglo-Saxons ,Egyptians, Japanese and the native North and South Americans all used some type of handcrafted self-bow made from a single piece of wood, some with very elaborate décor painted or carved on them. Even in the prehistoric eras, well-made bows and arrows were used very effectively to take game for food, they have found artifacts in caves, bogs and tar bits to indicate that or forbears were very inventive people. The shape of a strung bow is like a piece of art that has a dynamic shape which can store energy and release it effectively.

In Japan the martial art of Kyudo uses archery as a way to self-development that teaches discipline, fitness and patience of the mind, body and spirit to reach the goal of perfection in this form. Here is a photo of a Mongolian bamboo horn bow known for its shape of bull Horns, these bows were shorter then most at 45 to 48 inches but still had plenty of energy.



The Inuit Indians added colored strands to there bow string, the Persians added gilded lettering to there



bows and the Choctaw Indians painted a pattern of circles and dots to decorate there bows. The Cherokee Indians made bows that were flat in shape (no handle) and flexed throughout the whole bow.

While the Wampanoag Indians made bows with a handle and more of a taper out to the ends, these bows were longer in the order of 65 to 70 inches.

We have come a long way from that time period with archery but people still enjoy the Primitive type bows.

Mike Drackley

2007 NRA CONVENTION

The Illinois State Rifle Association will be present at the NRA Convention in St. Louis, Missouri, April 12-15, 2007. Lots of work will be done to showcase our organization during that week, so there is a need for more help once our exhibit is set up for those four days. Volunteers are needed to assist the ISRA exhibitors. If you are planning to attend this convention and would like to help, please contact:

Illinois State Rifle Association
815 635-3198

??? 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.

Calendar of Events

January 13, 2007 ISRA Winter Wars Match III - Claude Heale - 815-553-0591

Fire your old mil-surp rifles in January! Freeze with friends! Warm-up fire, hot beverages and chili provided. Entry fee: \$25 early signup, \$30 late or day-of.

** 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

11th Annual Three Rivers Friends of NRA Dinner Sunday, March 18, 2007 Renaissance Center Joliet, IL

The Three Rivers Friends of the NRA will be hosting their 11th annual fundraising banquet on Sunday, March 18th, 2007 at the Renaissance Center located in downtown Joliet.

Silent and live auctions, various games, drawings and raffles will be held throughout the event, including a special raffle for our younger guests. Sponsorship packages will be available soon.

Be sure to mark your calendars and join us in preserving the shooting sports, while enjoying a scrumptious dinner and a memorable evening. All net proceeds benefit The NRA Foundation, with half allocated to fund projects within the state. The NRA Foundation has funded more than 3,400 state fund grants including but not limited to: youth firearms safety and education programs; hunter education; range development and improvement; support materials for training classes; women's safety classes; and wildlife conservation efforts. Bring your friends. Bring your family.

Dinner tickets are \$35.00 each and there are also a variety of packages available this year. You may purchase tickets and inquire about Sponsor packages by calling Dolores at 630-935-6470 or on the website, threeriversfnra.com

Doug Mayhall, Chairman
Three Rivers FNRA Committee

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