



WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS DIVISION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

NEXT MEETING - December 17, 2008 - 7:00 PM

**Sara's Place Restaurant
3501 Channahon Rd. (Route 6)
Joliet, IL
(815) 741-3076**

This month we will have the **Christmas "Show and Tell"**. Please bring any interesting firearms or paraphernalia that you would like to share with our members. If you would like to bring cookies or candy to pass around, I'm sure they will be appreciated. As always, we invite you to bring a friend...it's sure to be an interesting and informative evening!

Will County ISRA member, *William T. Detten Jr.*, was the name drawn for the WCGR Gun Giveaway last month. Unfortunately, William was not present and missed out on the Mossberg 500 shotgun. Since we have not had a winner this year, a winner's name will be drawn from those ISRA members present at our December 17th meeting. Remember, the winner must have a valid FOID and comply with all local, state and federal firearm laws.

Glock Disassembly and Maintenance

Our thanks to Terry Kreimeier for his presentation last month on Glock pistols. Terry was very informative as he demonstrated how to safely and efficiently disassemble a firearm and gave us tips on proper maintenance of a Glock.



Terry currently serves on the ISRA Board of Directors and is a dedicated member of not only the ISRA, but of many groups that support the Second Amendment, such as the NRA, Three Rivers FNRA and the local Ducks Unlimited, just to name a few. For those of you who may not already know it, Terry is instrumental in the organization and operation of the Glock Shooting Sport Foundation (GSSF) matches at the ISRA Range. These matches are traditionally held in June, July and August. We hope that 2009 will bring more participants to the events and hope that the program continues to be a success.

As always, we appreciate Terry sharing his knowledge and expertise with us and will look forward to other demonstrations in the future. Thank you, Terry.

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*** * * HAPPY HOLIDAYS * * ***

The Will County Grassroots Committee would like to wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

We are grateful for the hard work and dedication our members have shown throughout the past year and we look forward to serving you in 2009. We welcome your suggestions and your input.

Happy Holidays!



Chairman's Comments

Thanksgiving has just come and gone. As in years past, I spent it down in Kentucky with one of my best friends, Barry Bucciarelli. Many of you may remember that Barry was the first Chairman of the Will County ISRA Grassroots Committee after we reorganized it, about nine years ago. He had a grand vision of how it should be run and made the wise decision to have a special guest speaker every month to help sustain the interest of our members. Securing an appropriate and interesting speaker every month has, at times, proven to be a challenge. Throughout the years, however, the challenge has netted us roughly one hundred different speakers. The list includes various local, state and federal politicians; gunsmiths and gun collectors; hunters and re-enactors; veterans from WWII to the present conflicts; a Band of Brothers member from Joliet, a fighter pilot with the Flying Tigers, a bronze medal winner from Desert Storm and numerous soldiers who just did their jobs and got no particular credit for that. Unfortunately, the WWII veterans are passing away at an alarming rate so we will not be able to learn of their experiences first-hand, for much longer. I hope to have one or two more WWII vets speak to us in 2009.

While in Kentucky, we also met up with Earl Clark, another long time Will County Grassroots member who now lives about ten miles away from Barry. Earl was always warning us about the U.N. and how he believed that they would try to take away our guns and how the citizens of the United States would lose their individual rights. With Barack Obama being our President-elect, with his desire to work more closely with the U.N. and its one-world ideals, Earl is now concerned more than ever.

The last time I was visiting in Kentucky, we were discussing how dreadful the Illinois gun laws were in comparison to Kentucky's. This time, we discussed the potentially damaging federal laws, which are probably going to be enacted. Everyone always thinks, "...it can never happen here." Well, the "it" can happen anywhere and anytime people let their vigil down.

Back in the mid 1980's, I had an older customer with whom I became friends. He was from Austria and when I asked him why he came to America, he sat me down and told me something I will never forget and it changed my whole attitude. He said he was from a well-to-do family growing up and lived an idyllic life, complete with parties and dancing all the time (sounds like the beginning of "The Sound of Music"). Then came a change. This change was the Nazi party, with its charismatic leader who was beginning to really take control of the party by promising change and taking care of everybody. As the Nazi party grew in power, it began to seize more and more control of peoples' lives, many times dictating what an individual could and could not do. Then, they started to register firearms...just to keep track, of course. Then, amazingly, they started to confiscate the guns. And that is when Europe started down the slippery slope. Czechoslovakia was given to Germany in hopes to stop Hitler's expansion ideals. In the Munich Agreement, Neville Chamberlain, England's Prime Minister, stated on September 30, 1938, "...there will be peace in our time..." and "...the new Czechoslovakia will find a greater security than she has ever enjoyed in the past." Less than a year later, Poland was invaded and overtaken by Germany in their first Blitzkrieg attack. Jews were not allowed to have shops anymore and they were rounded up into fenced-in cities, actually ghettos, and then transferred to concentration camps. Slave labor, starvation and extermination followed. My friend fled for his life with only the clothes on his back. He finished his story to me by saying that, in the early 1930's, if someone had told him this could happen to him and to Austria, he would have said **it could never happen**. He then said, "Doug, don't ever be so naïve to think it can never happen in America. It can and will if people don't stand up and fight for their rights."

My mother is originally from England. In speaking with our relatives there, they all have admitted that they thought firearms would never be confiscated there again, as they were before WWII. Turns out, it happened so fast they couldn't get an organized opposition together until it was too late. I have spoken with several people from Australia and have heard similar statements. I have several friends from Canada and guess what...same story. Just last week, one person told me, "Be careful. Your next President will do the same thing to you...mark my words."

A government strong enough to give you everything is also strong enough to take everything away. Power does corrupt. We have seen this too many times before, especially in the political arena. Some think they can get away with doing things for which they would incarcerate the average citizen. They often spew their hatred for guns, only for us to find out later that they personally carry a gun for protection.

As in no other time in my lifetime, I am fearful of losing our firearm rights if we are not extremely vigilant. If we all rise to this call for action, we can and will maintain our civil (firearm) rights. If we don't, we will certainly lose. We must call and write our legislators and strongly encourage our friends and family members to join the ISRA and the NRA.

Doug Mayhall

P.S. Both Barry and Earl said to say "hello" to everyone and they do think about us often.

In Memoriam...

We regret to report the passing of a long-time friend and dedicated member of the ISRA and NRA, Fr. Richard Pistole. In addition to being a loving family man and a leader in his own community, Richard dutifully served as a member of both the Fox Valley FNRA & Three Rivers FNRA committees. Our thoughts are with his family during this difficult time.

** As we celebrate the holidays with our family & friends, please remember those servicemen and women who are defending our freedoms and keeping this country free! **

Merry Christmas, My Friend

by Corporal James M. Schmidt, former U.S. Marine

'Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,
In a one-bedroom house made of plaster and stone.
I had come down the chimney, with presents to give
and to see just who in this home did live.

As I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,
no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.
No stocking by the fire, just boots filled with sand.
On the wall hung pictures of a far distant land.

With medals and badges, awards of all kind,
a sobering thought soon came to my mind.
For this house was different, unlike any I'd seen.
This was the home of a U.S. Marine.

I'd heard stories about them, I had to see more,
so I walked down the hall and pushed open the door.
And there he lay sleeping, silent, alone,
Curled up on the floor in his one-bedroom home. ,

He seemed so gentle, his face so serene,
Not how I pictured a U.S. Marine.
Was this the hero, of whom I'd just read?
Curled up in his poncho, a floor for his bed?

His head was clean-shaven, his weathered face tan.
I soon understood, this was more than a man.
For I realized the families that I saw that night,
owed their lives to these men, who were willing to fight.

Soon around the Nation, the children would play,
And grown-ups would celebrate on a bright Christmas day.
They all enjoyed freedom, each month and all year,
because of Marines like this one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,
on a cold Christmas Eve, in a land far from home.
Just the very thought brought a tear to my eye.
I dropped to my knees and I started to cry.

He must have awoken, for I heard a rough voice,
"Santa, don't cry, this life is my choice
I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more.
My life is my God, my country, my Corps."

With that he rolled over, drifted off into sleep,
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.

I watched him for hours, so silent and still.
I noticed he shivered from the cold night's chill.
So I took off my jacket, the one made of red,
and covered this Marine from his toes to his head.
Then I put on his T-shirt of scarlet and gold,
with an eagle, globe and anchor emblazoned so bold.
And although it barely fit me, I began to swell with pride,
and for one shining moment, I was Marine Corps deep inside.

I didn't want to leave him so quiet in the night,
this guardian of honor so willing to fight.
But half asleep he rolled over, and in a voice clean and pure,
said "Carry on, Santa, it's Christmas Day, all secure."
One look at my watch and I knew he was right,
Merry Christmas my friend, Semper Fi and goodnight.



Calendar of Events

- December 13&14** Kankakee Gun Show - Kankakee County Fairgrounds - Terry Keller (815) 930-4422
- December 14** Kane County Gun Show - Kane County Fairgrounds - Kathy Carlson - (815) 758-2773

H A P P Y N E W Y E A R ! ! ! ! !

2009

- January 11** Kane County Gun Show - Kane County Fairgrounds - Kathy Carlson - (815) 758-2773
- January 17** ISRA Winter Wars Match V - ISRA Range - Bonfield - Claude Heale (815) 553-0591
- February 8** Kane County Gun Show - Kane County Fairgrounds - Kathy Carlson - (815) 758-2773
- February 20 & 21** **ISRA Annual Meeting** - Crowne Plaza - Springfield - look for more information to follow in future newsletters
- March 11** **IGOLD - IL Gun Owners' Lobby Day** - State Capitol - Springfield - ISRA (815) 635-3198

** * Please use the above contact information for detailed information (i.e. fees, registration) and to confirm events as dates are subject to 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 us at willcounty@isra.org if you have any events you would like included in the monthly newsletter

*** Please note ***

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

*** **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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www.isra.org

Join the NRA

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