



WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS DIVISION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

NEXT MEETING - December 16, 2009 - 7:00 PM

Ivo's Express Restaurant

23819 West Eames Street

(Southeast Corner of Route 6 and I-55)

Channahon, IL 60410

815-467-0940

This month, the Will County Grassroots is holding its annual Christmas party "Show and Tell". If you have any interesting firearms or paraphernalia to share with the group, please bring them along, keeping in mind you must always transport your firearms legally. Also, if you can, bring some cookies and/or treats to share. As always, we invite you to bring a friend.

Will County ISRA member, *Leonard J. Lynch*, was the name drawn for the WCGR Gun Giveaway last month. Unfortunately, Leonard was not present. As no one has won the Gun Giveaway this year, a drawing will be held between those present at the December meeting and someone WILL win! Remember, the winner must have a valid FOID and comply with all local, state and federal laws.

Survival

One of our members of the Will County Grassroots, Mike Jones, gave a brief introduction to survival techniques and tips in the event some of us find ourselves in dire straits.

Many of our members enjoy the outdoors in some fashion and are attuned to a very basic premise. Mother Nature can be very disagreeable and nasty! With that in mind, it is essential that we prepare for the worst when we venture out. Surviving outside of our normal environment, in some unknown arena, requires some fundamental ideas and tools.

The most important and probably the most essential are to remain calm and assess what you have and what you need. Of course if you are faced with a medical or other emergency, you need to address that first. Otherwise, if you are lost or unsure of how to get through a night or possibly many days and nights in the outdoors, do not panic; it is not your friend. Also, knowing what the weather may be like in the area you are in will give you a heads up in knowing what you are possibly up against. Paying attention to the sky and knowing how to read the clouds is a tool that can help you.

After assessing your situation, finding shelter is going to become a priority. In colder climates, trees and the woods in general will provide you with shelter. In warmer areas, trying to stay out of the sun is important, so seek areas that will provide relief from the sun. Use

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your imagination and try to use what you have around you. Finding shelter and building a fire will initially occupy your time and are two of the most important skills to learn before you get into trouble.

Water will become the next priority and may seem like an easy task to accomplish. To survive any long-term disaster, water is essential. You may be able to survive weeks without food, but water is necessary to life. Once a source of water is found, you need to determine if the water is safe to drink. Water can be boiled or chemically treated to make it safe to drink. Again, knowledge about doing this is essential.

Finding and acquiring food will be next on your survival list. What is it that you are willing to capture and then prepare for consumption? Do you know what is safe to eat? These are more questions to be answered.

Mike spoke to us on these basic rules and added what he thinks are additional rules to know. Mike stressed that, before going out on a hunting or fishing trip, you should share information about where you are going and when you plan to return either by telling someone or leaving a note. Knowing the area you will travel in is very important. Learning how to read maps and knowing how to use a compass can add to one's confidence level in the wild. It may not help you stay warm, but you will know where you are.

These techniques and tips are just a few of the things that Mike Jones talked about at the Will County Grassroots meeting. He based much of his talk as if we were involved in a temporary situation where a return to normalcy seemed to be possible or expected. These survival tips may also be necessary in a more long-term situation.

Survival by utilizing our skills and wits cannot be taught in an article or read in a manual. It needs to be practiced through experience. I remember that movie about the young man traveling across the nation looking for that great adventure. He made a trip to Alaska to seek new adventures, only to die because of his ignorance. This movie was based on a true story. Even today, people go to his campsite to pay honor to his memory. Why? The truth is that he did not have the skills to survive in this environment. He was learning from books that he brought along. He also was not prepared for this final adventure. One could say that others before him survived the rigors of nature and he was just as prepared as they were. Not true! A fifteen year old of the 1800's probably knew more about survival than this twenty-something year old adventurer. We can read volumes about this subject, but we really need to practice these woodsman skills to develop them. How many times has the electricity gone out in your home? No lights, T.V., cell phone or internet. We have become dependent on these. So much so, that I know that some folks out there may think it is the end of civilization as they know it if these were to disappear entirely. Survival means that one adapts to the environment that exists around them and to make the most of it. If our country were to suffer some calamity where much of our infrastructure disappeared or became unusable, what would we do for the necessities of life? Where would we go for groceries?

Sheltering ourselves from the elements? I hope that there are enough folks in the community with the skills to show others how to survive such an event. Then again, they may have all moved to some other state to escape the problems here in Illinois.

We extend our thanks to Mike Jones for sharing his thoughts at the Will County Grassroots meeting.

Al Tiscareno



Chairman's Comments

by Doug Mayhall

Thursday I got up much earlier than my usual 5:00 AM for work. I had a lot to do and had to get it done quickly, as I had a plane to catch for my second trip this year to Front Sight. We planned this trip a couple of months ago and I was excited to know the day to leave had finally arrived. Surprisingly, I was able to get all the important things done a little early at the shop. I then left for what I thought would be a quick stop at a customer's house. I should have known better. The problem I had to fix took longer than I anticipated. I got home right at the time I was to be picked up. We left about five minutes later than planned, so we were nearly on schedule, but I was still mentally rushed on the drive to the airport, hoping all eight of us would all be on time for the flight. Somehow, it all worked out and everyone got there with time to spare. We checked the firearms and ammunition in with security and even that worked out smoothly. We were then on our way to Front Sight for more firearms training.

There were originally twelve of us scheduled to go but as is typical with any group outing, things came up. My great friend from California who took the handgun course with me in February had an unexpected medical problem right before the class was to start and two business associates from Pennsylvania had a scheduling conflict arise just a week before the class. So, it turned out to be just the nine of us that attended; eight of us from Illinois and one from another firearm-unfriendly state, New Jersey. Five took the four-day defensive handgun course, three took the tactical shotgun course and one took the two-day defensive handgun course. The cast of characters for this trip included Richard Pearson, who is well known as the Executive Director of the Illinois State Rifle Association (ISRA) and his wife; Steve, a friend of mine; Bob, my neighbor; Bruce, a longtime friend and business associate from "Jersey"; my coworker (and cousin) Lee and my grandson, Tyler. After arriving at our Hotel in Pahrump,

Nevada, we all met for dinner and everyone got acquainted.

We got up very early on Friday to meet for breakfast, which included the famous \$1.99 streak and eggs, then it was off for the twenty-minute ride to the training site. Upon arriving, I saw the largest crowd I had ever seen at Front Sight. I wondered how we would all get checked in and be assigned to our firearms and ranges in time for the always-prompt start. Well, it happened. At exactly 8:00AM, the class, with all 600+ students, started in a complete and well-organized manner. After some classroom time explaining Front Sight and their method of teaching etc., we went to our assigned ranges.

The shotgun range was at the second-furthest range in the 550-acre tract that comprises Front Sight. It is a good 8-9 minute walk or a 2-minute drive from the classroom. So, with all the firearms, ammo and equipment, everyone drove to the range. Mornings there were brisk (upper 30's), but within a couple of hours, it got into the upper 50's every day. The shotgun course had a lot of similarities with the handgun course and the M-16 courses I had taken previously, but also had its differences. We started out patterning the guns with "7½" birdshot to see how the gun would shoot and how the birdshot would spread out at various distances. We shot some "00" buckshot to see how it would pattern at different distances and also shot some slugs. Once we were done for the day, (due to the precise and detailed timing of the curriculum for all the classes) we drove back to the hotel tired, but happy. We all met for the all-you-can-eat seafood buffet, of which we took full advantage and we began comparing notes on the different classes. It was inspiring to see the Front Sight "first timers" so excited about the class.

Day two started out at the range. We did a lot more shooting using birdshot from various distances and using different stances. We also sighted in the slugs from 50 yards. We began shooting at targets and were being timed, bringing the gun up and getting the shot off accurately. We were shown the three different malfunctions and how to clear them within a given time. We practiced doing empty chamber and tactical reloads which with a shotgun, they preached, was to be done almost anytime you were not shooting.

Sunday is the long day, starting at 7:30AM and going through to the night shoot. Once again, we practiced

clearing malfunctions and shooting targets within the allotted time and shooting buckshot at metal targets, trying to get enough buckshot within the six-inch center to make the center flop out on its hinge. We also practiced more precision shooting with buckshot. Later in the day, the instructors took us to the "house" where they would take one student at a time, go through the house and "clear" it of the "bad guys", while not shooting any of the "good guys." Of course, there was a hostage situation we had to deal with in this exercise. Fortunately I performed quite well at this exercise. A few other students were not so lucky. Entering and clearing a house is nothing like you see on TV. After I was done, the instructor went through the whole scenario with me explaining what I did correctly and what I did wrong. All of the students said this was a very sobering experience. After a forty-five minute break for dinner and warm up it was time for the night shoot. We went through shooting the targets and clearing malfunctions. It is actually not so hard to do, as we practiced it so many times already, it was almost second nature. Performing these tasks in the dark was only a little harder than when you can see what you're doing. The actual shooting was done using a surefire light or equivalent extremely bright light. The important thing about using the light (and we had it constantly stressed upon us) was to use it only momentarily to see the target, aim, take the shot and quickly clear the surrounding area for no more than two seconds. Then, move so the "bad guys" would shoot where they had seen the light and you wouldn't be there anymore.

Monday morning was a little warmer than the previous days. While at the range, we did more shooting, practiced clearing malfunctions and shooting under "hostage" situations, all under the timed conditions that would be done on our testing later that afternoon. Most of us did OK during the test phase, with a couple doing extremely well. In the pistol-shooting group, Richard Pearson finished "distinctive," an award that is rarely obtained. We were all very proud of him.

Everyone agreed it was a grand time and we are all planning on going back and taking more courses at Front Sight. It is definitely worth the trip!

For more information about Front Sight, visit:

www.frontsight.com

* * * 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.



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

On behalf of the Will County Grassroots Committee, I would like to extend my sincere wishes to all of you for a happy holiday season. I look forward to the coming year and may it bring all of you good health and good shooting. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Kim Beard

Calendar of Events

- December 12 & 13** Kankakee Gun Show - Kankakee County Fairgrounds - Terry Keller (866) 930-4422
 - December 13** Kane County Gun Show - Kane County Fairgrounds - Kathy Carlson (815) 758-2773
 - December 16** **ISRA** Will County Grassroots Meeting & Annual Christmas Party at Ivo's Express Restaurant
- Merry Christmas and Happy New Year !!!!!**
- January 3, 2010** Wheaton Gun Show - Dupage County Fairgrounds - Mike Holan (630) 365-2808
 - January 16** **ISRA** Winter Wars Match VI - **ISRA Range** - Bonfield - Claude Heale (815) 553-0591
 - January 30** **ISRA** Women on Target - Chillicothe Sportsmen's Club - Chillicothe - ISRA (815) 635-3198
 - February 7** Wheaton Gun Show - Dupage County Fairgrounds - Mike Holan (630) 365-2808
 - February 27** **ISRA** Women on Target - Chillicothe Sportsmen's Club - Chillicothe - ISRA (815) 635-3198
 - March 7** Wheaton Gun Show - Dupage County Fairgrounds - Mike Holan (630) 365-2808
 - March 10** **IGOLD** (Illinois Gun Owners Lobby Day) - Springfield - ISRA (815) 635-3198
 - March 21** Three Rivers FNRA Annual Dinner and Auction - Renaissance Center - Joliet
Save the date & look for more information in future newsletters

*** 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 this monthly 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:

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