



WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS DIVISION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

NEXT MEETING - December 21, 2011 - 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

Be sure to join us this month, as we will have our annual **Christmas "Show and Tell"**. Please bring any interesting firearms (unloaded, of course, and properly transported) or related 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 that would be appreciated. As always, we invite you to bring a friend...it will be an interesting and festive evening!

Will County ISRA member, *Richard Purler*, was the name drawn for the WCGR Gun Giveaway last month. Unfortunately, Richard was not present. Since we have not had a winner this year, a winner's name will be drawn from those ISRA members present at our December 21st meeting. Remember, the winner must be present, an ISRA member, have a valid FOID and comply with all local, state and federal laws.

Trap, Skeet and Sporting Clays

We were pleased to have one of our members, Fred Moffatt, as our speaker last month. Fred talked to us about shooting sports involving shotguns and clay targets. This includes trap, skeet and sporting clays.

Activities involving clay targets first started in 1793 and there is no record of anyone ever being killed while doing this type of sport shooting. Two nationally recognized groups associated with this sport are the National Skeet Shooting Association (NSSA) and the Amateur Trapshooting Association (ATA). Events are held both nationally and internationally. Top of the line equipment is not always necessary to be somewhat successful in the sport. In fact, a shooter can use a "good" gun, reasonably priced, and can win most events. Most events are won with medium-priced guns. International shoots are the exception; they are often won using expensive guns. The best shot in America, holding the title for eleven years, was from Illinois. He won tournaments using a Model 12 shotgun given to him as a birthday present when he was 16.

All types of the events use clay targets. They are no longer called clay pigeons because people were accused of being bird killers when using that nomenclature. Trap is the oldest of the events, first developing in 1793. Originally, real birds were used. Participants would shoot at the birds, once

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they were released. Later, glass bulbs were used with wings and finally, in the early 1900's, clay targets were invented. Trap has five posts and they shoot from 16 yards to out to 27 yards, shooting 25 shots per round.

Skeet is totally American and the name is Norwegian meaning shoot. It started in 1900. There are eight stations with seven in a semi-circle and one in the middle; the middle station being 20 yards from each house. Both single shots and doubles are shot in skeet. One house has the target coming from out

high and the other house has the target come from a low spot.

The third sport is Sporting Clays and that started in England. It has ten targets and is supposed to mimic all types of hunted animals. Sporting clays can be shot on three levels of difficulty and it does not take a fancy or expensive gun to be proficient in this sport.

Five Stand shooting is similar to sporting clays, but involves less walking and, thus, is better suited to handicapped shooters. In Europe, they take the events very seriously. For example, talking or joking around while on the positions will cost you "birds", even if you are not a shooting participant.

Thank you, Fred, for sharing your knowledge of everything that's involved with clay target shooting events.



Chairman's Comments

by Doug Mayhall



On a really cold and rainy Saturday night a couple of weeks ago, there were several motorcycles, many military vehicles and a lot of people standing and waiting...just waiting. Why, you ask? It was because a local soldier was coming home from Afghanistan. We were waiting to escort him to the VFW hall in Mokena for a long-awaited reunion with his wife at his coming home party. We were lined up on both sides of the street, many of us waving American flags, as the car he was riding in passed by. The car stopped, he got out and shook hands with everyone and hugged his many friends. After a while, it was time to go. The police led the "parade" in their squad cars, followed by the motorcyclists who braved the inclement weather, then all the military trucks and some fire engines, followed by cars with all the well-wishers. It was quite a procession to the VFW. At the VFW hall were his wife and kids, some other family members and more friends and well-wishers. The party was quite an affair, as the local grocery store donated lots of chicken, potato salad and other items. The local pizza joint supplied lots of pizzas and other things. We were all invited to

stay and we had a grand time. It was really terrific to see his expression and that of his family as reality sunk in that he had finally arrived safely home. His father is a big motorcycle rider and belongs to the veteran's motorcycle association that welcomes homes veterans (the group that welcomed this soldier home). And, as a coming home present, the father gave the son a new Harley and the vest with all the patches from the veteran group. All in all, it was quite a great coming home for him and he was very emotional and thankful for the way he was welcomed home.

Christmas is right around the corner and Thanksgiving was just a couple weeks ago. This time of year is typically when people are into thinking about what they are thankful for and about what gifts they are going to give to loved ones and friends. I am very thankful that we live in such a great country where we are free to do pretty much as we please, work where we want and especially to talk freely and even criticize the government or the president and not get thrown in jail...or shot! Most other countries are not so free and there is no country that has laws that allow any law-abiding citizen to own guns and to keep them at their own house, as we are able to do almost anywhere in the USA. That is something we can be very proud of and it is a Right we need to hold on to as very dear. As good as all of this seems, there are still cities and some states where the liberal bureaucrats seem to think they can trump the Constitution and force in place their own misguided ideas and agendas. There is also one state in particular (I'm certain that you can guess to which one I am referring) that has a governor and too many senators and representatives who feel they know better than the other forty-nine states in that having the right to carry a firearm and protect yourself with a gun is not smart and that the police will always be there to protect you. As the saying goes, "When seconds count, the police are only minutes away". There are a couple of other states that are nearly as bad, those states being California and New Jersey. We really are in a great country with lots of individual freedoms. But these freedoms are very fragile and can all be lost very quickly with a president and Congress who think they can bypass the nation's Constitution and pass restrictive laws against guns or any other freedom they want to trump. Just look at how quickly both the English and Australians lost almost all of their gun rights. They were both enjoying pretty free rights to own guns in their houses. Then, seemingly almost overnight, almost all of

*** Please note ***

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their gun rights were taken away. It happened so quickly that the people in these countries didn't even have a chance to come up with a defense tactic before the laws were passed and their guns were declared illegal to own. The guns had to be turned in and were then destroyed or else the owner was by default a felon.

So besides being grateful for our great country and freedoms that few other countries can even come close to having, give something to your friends for Christmas. Spend your money wisely, though. There is a movement to buy American and to support our country's economy instead of buying things made overseas (especially items that are made in China or Taiwan, thus helping their economy). We, with our present buying habits, are some of the reasons for our country's ailing economy. It is like buying gasoline from Arab countries that do not like us for anything other than our money. I don't believe there is any sense to be made from that line of reasoning. So, please help support America. Buy American products. And, what a better way is there to support America and the

preservation of our Constitutional rights than to give to our friends and family members a membership to the ISRA. The way I see it, you are buying something from this country and keeping the money here in the USA. You are supporting the ISRA who arguably is doing more for gun rights than most other gun rights organizations. And, an ISRA membership will be remembered much longer than some gift made in China that will be soon put on a shelf and forgotten. Support America and support those who help to preserve your gun rights.



Rest In Peace, Jack

On December 11, 2011, the ISRA was saddened by the loss one of its most dedicated volunteers, John "Jack" Cantillion. Jack was an integral part of daily operations at the ISRA Range and he will be missed by all.

Jack was a loving husband, father, a proud grandfather and a friend to so many of us. Please keep his family in your thoughts as they grieve during this time of great sorrow. Thank you for your service; we'll miss you, Jack. Sempere Fi!

Calendar of Events

December 11 Kane County Gun Show - Kane County Fairgrounds - Kathy Carlson - (815) 758-2773

December 17 & 18 Kankakee Gun Show - Kankakee County Fairgrounds - Terry Keller - 866-930-4422

December 25 **We wish you a Merry Christmas...**

January 1, 2012 **...and a Happy New Year!**

January 15 Polar Bear Shoot - **ISRA Range** - Bonfield - Jeff Battaglia - (708) 614-1628 BEFORE 9PM

January 18 **Will County Grassroots Meeting - Ivo's Restaurant - 7:00PM**

January 21 **ISRA Annual High Power Winter Wars Shoot - ISRA Range** - Bonfield - Kevin Baxter - (847) 683-1913

** * Please use the above contact information for detailed information (i.e. fees, registration) and to confirm events as dates and other details are subject to change without notice * **

*Contact our 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 political campaigns.

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