

Thursday Bulletin – December 21, 2023

Executive Director's Message

Richard Pearson

Status of the Illinois Gun Ban case. Right now, the ISRA, the ISRA 2nd Amendment Foundation (SAF) and the Firearms Policy Collation (FPC) are working diligently on our appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States. I will let you know something as soon as it is filled. I expect the filing to be done sometime in late January or early February. We are hoping to have this issue resolved by the last Monday in June.

Today, December 21, 2023, is the Winter Solstice – the official first day of winter. The winter solstice marks the shortest day of the year, but not the earliest sunset. It is the day with the shortest period of daylight and longest night of the year, when the sun is at its lowest daily maximum elevation in the sky.

Announcing ISRA YouTube channel

Please be sure you subscribe! Our channel will keep you current with important breaking news.

<https://www.youtube.com/@IllinoisStateRifleAssociation>.

I want to recognize two of our members, Joyce Lindelof, 95, and James Vinopal, 96, for their longtime membership and service to the ISRA.

WARNING! Concealed Carry Permits available online. If you happen to come across a website or receive an email from a company or organization stating that you can receive your concealed carry permit online – PLEASE DISREGARD. Although it may be legal in some states – **this is ILLEGAL in Illinois and will NOT be valid!**

If you want to get your Concealed Carry permit as an Illinois resident, you **MUST** take a state approved course. Check with us for Concealed Carry classes we offer at our Range. **For information email:** member@isra.org, **or call our office at 815-635-3198.**

Concealed Carry holder able to protect himself. At 1:17am on December 17, 2023, two armed criminals tried to attack an armed concealed carry holder. The permit holder was wounded, one of the perpetrators was shot dead, and the other was wounded. This takes one armed criminal off the streets permanently and hopefully puts the other attacker in jail for a while. As I often point out: 1. When you are attacked you are your own first responder. No one else is going to help you. 2. Attacks by two or more people now occur more than 50% of the time. Hand to hand combat is for the movies, not real life.

The FOID card battle. This time of year, a lot of us think back and recall events that happened over our lifetime. Some of those good and some of those bad. One event I recall is when the legislature passed the Firearm Owners Identification (FOID) card. It was 1968. My father and I had just come in from the farm and we were going to eat lunch in the local restaurant. The restaurant we were in had a radio. Everyone came in to listen to the noon news and the farm markets. The restaurant was filled with mostly farmers in those days.

On the news we heard about the Illinois State Legislature passing something called the FOID card. We had never heard of it and by the time we found out about it, it was too late anyway. Our state representative only lived 6 miles from us, and we knew him well. The next day we went to see him and asked about the FOID card. He was a conservative democrat and told us he didn't like the idea, but Mayor Richard J. Daley was forcing the bill through the state legislature and there was nothing anyone could do to stop it.

In those days, there were 600 or 700 Sportsman's Clubs in Illinois, and they were mostly affiliated with the Illinois Wildlife Federation (IWF). The IWF was about wildlife conservation, upland game hunting, and sometimes trap shooting. While they opposed the FOID card there was nothing they could do to stop it. They were not a political organization, and neither was the ISRA.

The ISRA was a target shooting and firearm training organization, and while opposed to the FOID card, there was nothing the ISRA could do to stop it. Originally the FOID card required the registration of individual firearms. The ISRA fought hard against that idea and was finally able to

change the legislation to register individual firearm owners, rather than individual firearms. While this outrages many people, one must remember this was 1968. No one was prepared or had seen this type of legislation before.

In 1968, the NRA was a marksmanship and training organization. It would not be till 1974, that the lobbying arm of the NRA, the Institute for Legislation Action, was formed. About the same time, the ISRA began formally lobbying the state legislature. Opposing Mayor Daley and his legislation was truly a "*David and Goliath*" contest. The problem was that "*David*" didn't have a slingshot or rock to put in it, so the law passed.

My dad and I dutifully applied for our FOID cards and in the beginning, the law seemed to be innocuous and only a minor inconvenience. But like all government laws and regulations, they have become stricter and stricter over time and interfered more and more with the rights of law-abiding citizens.

From the beginning, I was insulted by the FOID card law and the way the state of Illinois was treating law-abiding gun owners. I was determined to fight back. That was over 55 years ago, and I've been fighting ever since. It seems that we may be coming to the end of this fight. *It is certainly in the realm of possibilities that the FOID card act could be struck down in the next two or three years*, due to rulings in recent court cases. This of course will all depend on how the 2024 election goes. After 55 plus years of fighting, I hope to see this egregious law destroyed.

Even if the FOID law is overturned, the fight will go on. Our 2nd Amendment rights will continue to be attacked in different ways. There are those in this country that hate the Constitution, the freedoms we enjoy and the keystone of those freedoms in the 2nd Amendment. We will have to fight on, and we will fight on. ***THIS FIGHT WILL NEVER BE OVER!! THIS IS WHY WE NEED PEOPLE TO JOIN THE ISRA.***

If you are not an ISRA member, please [join today](#)

Colt CZ Group SE acquires Czech ammunition manufacturer Sellier & Bellot. Colt CZ announces they are acquiring Sellier & Bellot, a traditional Czech ammunition manufacturer, welcoming one of the oldest and most

important producers of small caliber ammunition to the Colt CZ Group. The transaction is subject to regulatory approval in various countries and is expected to close in the first half of 2024.

Sellier & Bellot ranks among the oldest engineering companies in the Czech Republic and worldwide since 1825. The company's product line includes a wide range of hunting and sporting ammunition and components for pistols and revolvers, rifles, shotguns and rimfire cartridges. Sellier & Bellot is also a major supplier of small caliber ammunition to military and law enforcement customers worldwide.

Colt's subsidiary, Magtech Ammunition will serve as the dedicated sales entity for Sellier & Bellot products in the United States.

Need a last-minute holiday gift idea for your relatives or friends?

Every time you recruit a new member you will have a chance to win 1 of 30 fantastic prizes!

FIRST PRIZE:
Henry 2nd Amendment Tribute .22 rifle

Duplicate prizes will be awarded to BOTH new member AND recruiter!

ADDITIONAL PRIZES!

- 2nd PRIZE: Hard-side Pistol Case
- 3rd PRIZE: Streamlight Tactical Flashlight
- 4th PRIZE: Midway Range Bag
- 5th PRIZE: Bushnell Binoculars 7x50
- 6th PRIZE: Tactical Pistol Case
- 7th PRIZE: Buck Knife (made in USA)
- 8th PRIZE: Electronic Ear Muffs
- 9th PRIZE: Midway Rifle Bag
- 10th PRIZE: ISRA Flag
- 11th ~ 15th PRIZES: 2nd Amendment Flags
- 16th ~ 30th PRIZES: 2nd Amendment Metal Signs

All entries must be postmarked by Dec 31, 2023.

Winners need not be present to win. All local, state and federal regulations regarding firearm transfers will be observed. Membership dues, donations and purchases paid to the ISRA are not tax deductible.

Encourage your family members or friends to join the ISRA, and we'll all benefit. By doing so, you help us fight the battles before all gun owners. To carry on this fight, we need more and more new people to

New Member Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____		Illinois State Rifle Association's 2023 Year-End Membership Drive <div style="border: 2px solid red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; color: white; text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;"> Please fill out & return this form. Postmark by Dec 31, 2023. </div> Drawing held Jan. 9, 2024 <small>All federal, state, and local gun laws apply. ISRA dues and donations are not tax deductible.</small>
Address: _____		
City: _____	County: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____	
Phone: _____	Occupation: _____	
E-mail: _____		
Recruiter Name: _____ ID# _____		
Address: _____		
City: _____	State: _____ Zip: _____	
Phone: _____	Occupation: _____	
E-mail: _____		
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP (check one):		
Junior (under 19) \$20.00 _____	Life \$700.00 _____ *	Endowment \$1400.00 _____ *
1 Year \$35.00 _____	Senior Life (age 65 & over) \$400.00 _____ *	Patron \$2100.00 _____ *
Am. Hero 1 Year \$30 _____	American Hero Life \$550.00 _____ *	Benefactor \$2800.00 _____ *
2 Year \$65.00 _____	<small>(Includes: Active/Retired law enforcement, firefighter, first responder, military, veteran)</small>	Silver \$5000.00 _____ *
Am. Hero 2 Year \$55 _____	*Easy-Pay \$50 (\$50 down, then \$50 every other month until paid in full.)	Gold \$10,000.00 _____ *
3 Year \$90.00 _____		Platinum 15,000.00 _____ *
Am. Hero 3 Year \$80.00 _____		
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP (check one): <small>(List family information on back of this form.)</small>		
1 Year \$45.00 _____	2 Year \$81.00 _____	3 Year \$110.00 _____
Payment Type (check one) Cash _____ Check/MO _____ MC _____ Visa _____ Amex _____ Disc _____ Card#: _____ CVV _____ Exp. Date: _____ Name on Card: <small>(please print)</small> _____ Signature: _____		
Return completed form to:  ISRA Membership Drive PO Box 637 Chatsworth IL 60921 Or call the office at: Ph: 815.635.3198 Fax: 815.635.3723 www.isra.org		

become members of the ISRA. **You AND your new member will be entered into the drawing, for every new member you sign up!**

Please print off this form, fill it out and have it postmarked by Dec. 31, 2023. Or call the office at 815-635-3198, and we will mail the form to you. If you can recruit more than one member, please feel free to make copies of this form. ***Your help is needed and very much appreciated!***

Tidbits

December 21, 1945 – General George Patton dies. General Patton died after being in a minor car accident. Even though the accident was minor he suffered a broken neck. There have always been questions about Patton's death. He was distrustful of Joseph Stalin and the Soviet Union. Winston Churchill was trying to make deals with the Soviet Union. In the end, General Patton was correct in his suspicions.

December 21, 1988 – Pam Am Flight 103 explodes over Lockerbie, Scotland killing 270 people. Eventually, Libya accepted responsibility for

the bombing. The United States and the United Nations lifted sanctions against Libya. Only after that, did Libya agree to pay each victim's family approximately 8 million dollars. Pan American Airways went bankrupt three years later.

December 22, 1864 – General William T. Sherman gives President Abraham Lincoln a Christmas gift, “the city of Savannah, Georgia”. Savannah was one of the last major ports that remained open to the confederacy to receive supplies. The capture of Savannah was another death knell for the Confederacy.

December 23, 1620 – Construction begins on the Plymouth settlement. The Pilgrims were facing a hard winter after the 66-day voyage to the New World. The winters of 1620 and 1621 were extremely harsh. By the 1640's, Plymouth had grown from its original colonists of 102 to over 3,000 people.

December 24, 1814 – The War of 1812 ends. The most significant part of this war actually occurred, after the war was over. The Peace Treaty was signed on December 24, 1814, between the United States and Great Britain, but the word of the peace treaty did not reach the United States for several weeks. The most significant battle of the war occurred on January 8, 1815, when the British Army attacked New Orleans. The war was technically over by that time.

The inferior American forces, under the command of General Andrew Jackson decimated the attacking British Army. The victory was so lopsided, that it sent a message to European powers to stay out of the New World. The victory eventually led to the Monroe Doctrine of 1823.

December 25, 0006 – Christ is born. Merry Christmas to everyone!

December 25, 1776 – George Washington wins the Battle of Trenton. George Washington, in a brilliant tactical move, slipped across the Delaware River and defeats Hessian Mercenaries, giving a much-needed victory to the American cause. The Hessian commander received a note from a spy telling him that Washington and his troops were on their way. The Hessian commander was enjoying a Christmas Eve Party and never read the note. The commander was killed, and the note was found in his pocket.

December 27, 1932 – Radio City Music Hall opens. Radio City Music Hall was designed to be an entertainment palace for ordinary people. Since 1932, more than 300 million people have attended shows there. The idea for Radio City Music Hall came from John D. Rockefeller.

The Illinois State Rifle Association is the home of marksmanship in Illinois.

At the Range

Click [here](#) to view the entire calendar. All classes and events are open to the public & all range members, unless otherwise noted.

Air Gun Leagues are now open for registration.

You are not required to register for both leagues.

Air Pistol League: Clubhouse/Indoor Range, Tue., Dec. 26, 5pm – 8pm

Air Rifle League: Clubhouse/Indoor Range, Wed., Dec. 27, 11am – 3pm

Range schedule this Week

12-26 - [Air Gun Practice – Range 12 \(Indoor Range\)](#)

12-27 - [F-Class Indoor League – Clubhouse/Range 12](#)

12-27 - [Air Rifle Practice – Range 12; Clubhouse](#)

Winter Wars

Our first big event of the year is Winter Wars on the 13th of January, held at the ISRA Range. **Registration is from 8 am – 9 am, the match begins at 9 am and runs until 5 pm.**

This is a fun time to commemorate the winter battles and the rifles used in them. These would include, but not limited to 1903 and 1903-A3 Springfield Rifles, 1917 Enfield, M1, M1 Carbine and M1As. Non-US Rifles would include Enfield SMLE Rifles, SVT-38/40, SA80, Mosin Nagant, SKS Rifles, AK Rifles, KAR98K, and other miscellaneous rifles. This is the perfect time

to dig those rifles out of the closet and go have some fun with them. There will be hot coffee and chili for all. Come out and enjoy the fun.

The entry fee is \$25 for two battles. Entries must be postmarked by December 31, 2023. Walk-ins are welcome. Entries after December 31st will be \$30. **Please bring 40 rounds of ammunition per battle with you.**

For more information, email wnbilotta@comcast.net. Late registration is at 8-8:30 am., Safety briefing starts at 8:45 am., First shot is at 9:00 am.
You must be present for the 8:45 am safety briefing to fire the match!

Mail entry to Bill Bilotta, 1804 Heather Lane, Joliet IL 60431, 708-514-4683
Make checks payable to ISRA TNIR League (please print legibly).

Name: _____ Range member? Yes No

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

The ISRA Range is located at 1589 N 7000w Rd, Bonfield, IL 60913.

**The ISRA Range offers great classes and leagues,
for shooting enthusiasts!**

**Interested in joining a league?
Just show up 15 - 30 minutes early.**

[Range memberships are available.](#)

A day at the ISRA Range is *always a great day!*

Thank you for being a member!



If you are not an ISRA member, [join today](#)

Donate: <https://isra.org/support-us/>

Visit: www.isra.org

Upcoming Meetings: <https://isra.org/isra-activities-and-events/>

Upcoming Range Events: <https://isra.org/the-range/#range-calendar>

Upcoming Gun Shows

While the gun show information shown in this email is believed to be accurate, sometimes changes occur. This is provided for informational purposes only. 2024 (Shows added as we receive more information.)

Jan 13 Davenport Gun & Knife Show, Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds, Davenport
Jan 14 Kane County Sportsman's Show, Kane County Fairgrounds, St. Charles
Jan 20 – 21 Dubuque Gun & Knife Show, Grand River Conference Ctr., Dubuque
Jan 20 – 21 Kankakee Gun & Sportsman's Show, Kankakee Co. Fairgrounds
Jan 27 – 28 Sauk Trail Gun Show, Bureau County Fairgrounds, Princeton
Feb 10 – 11 The Quad Cities Gun Show, QCCA Expo Center, Rock Island
Feb 11 Kane County Sportsman's Show, Kane County Fairgrounds, St. Charles
Feb 17 – 18 Central Illinois Gun Collectors Assoc., Sangamon County Fairgrounds,
New Berlin, www.cigca.net

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