

Thursday Bulletin – May 23, 2024

Executive Director's Message

Richard Pearson

NRA Elects New Officers

I am encouraged by the elections at the NRA annual meeting. The only member of the old guard who was re-elected was former Republican congressman, Bob Barr of Georgia. Everyone else is a fresh face. First Vice President went to Bill Vandenberg of Pennsylvania, who has been a leader in the shotgun sports, and has a special 2500-acre hunting area for disabled veterans. Second Vice President is Mark Vaughan of Oklahoma, who is president of one of the largest gun clubs out there and is affiliated with the Oklahoma Rifle Association.

The biggest news is the new Executive Vice President, Doug Hamlin, is replacing Wayne LaPierre. Mr. Hamlin served as long-time executive director in charge of NRA publications. He saved the NRA millions and knows every division of the NRA. There could not have been a better choice for the position of Executive VP. Hamlin was previously with Petersen Publications, served as the publisher of Guns and Ammo Magazine, and also worked for Motor Trend Magazine. He brings lots of experience to the NRA.

I know you are all interested in rebuilding the NRA. I believe it's going to take years – I would say 5 to 7 years at least. We all need the NRA, but we need a good functioning NRA, and now we have one on the way. In the meantime, organizations like the Illinois State Rifle Association, Second Amendment Foundation, Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms and some other groups, have to tow the line.

The Illinois State Rifle Association will continue to fight for the Second Amendment and the rights of law-abiding firearm owners. But we could really use your help. **Please join the ISRA today.** <[INSERT LINK](#)>

Update on Litigation

There were several “so-called” assault weapon ban cases headed to the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS). The Maryland case was the first case filed. It has been turned down by SCOTUS. This leaves only the Illinois cases. One of those is the ISRA case, *Harrel v. Raoul*. I still believe that the Illinois cases will be combined and heard as one case. We will soon know what kind of appetite SCOTUS has for deciding these cases.

Illinois Legislative News

Today starts the last days of spring session in Springfield and your ISRA legislative team is asking for your vigilance. So far, we have been successful in defending against dozens of gun control proposals and bills. This week is supposed to be the last week of session, and as we all know, anything can happen during this short amount of time – and it will happen quickly.

We need our members and advocates to check their emails often this week and follow us closely on social media. Some bills may post with only one hour between the bill and the hearing where it will be considered. We will get alerts out as fast as possible for our friends to get their witness slips filed, and call legislators when needed.

Your ISRA legislative team is hearing there could be action on a follow up bill to the ban on commonly owned firearms that passed last year, along with bills affecting **your rights to carry, your right to due process, and your rights to prevent unwanted intrusions** into your home – all in the guise of “safety”.

Federal Judge Halts Biden's New Gun Control Rule

A Biden administration rule that would have vastly expanded background check requirements for people who sell guns has been shot down at the last minute by a federal judge. The rule was scheduled to take effect last Monday. It required **anyone who sells a gun** to be licensed and conduct the same background checks as gun stores. U.S. District Court Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk found the ATF rule unjustly applied to those who buy and sell guns for their “personal collection”, and flagrantly violated the Second Amendment. Despite Congress having recognized the legality of private firearms sales by non-dealers, this new regulation issued by the

Biden Administration would have subjected hundreds-of-thousands of law-abiding gun owners to presumptions of criminal guilt, **for engaging in constitutionally protected activities**.

This is a big victory for Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Utah and gun rights groups such as the Gun Owners Foundation, the Tennessee Firearms Association and the Virginia Citizens Defense League, which had joined Texas in the suit. No one in congress or the Biden Administration should be allowed to overturn and nullify the Second Amendment.

Tidbits

May 23, 1785 – Bifocal Glasses Invented

Benjamin Franklin, American inventor, diplomat, patriot and one of the founding fathers, reveals his plans for his “double spectacles”. They later become known as bifocals. Franklin never had any of his inventions patented, which included the lightning rod, swim fins, a catheter, and many more. Franklin was only interested in helping his fellow citizens, not making money from them.

May 24, 1775 – American Continental Congress

John Hancock is elected as president of the Second Continental Congress. Hancock and Samuel Adams were both members of the Sons of Liberty who had infuriated King George III, to the point that when amnesty was offered to the American patriots, it was to the exclusion of Samuel Adams and John Hancock.

Hancock was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence and is noted for his large signature. He wanted King George to see his signature without spectacles. Hancock was the first person to sign the Declaration of Independence, in 1776.

May 25, 1935 – Baseball Player’s Last Home Run

Babe Ruth hits his 714th home run at Forbes Field in Pittsburgh. This was one of Babe Ruth’s last games. The “Babe” went four for four on that day. Three of those were home runs. He was 40 years old at the time.

It wasn’t until May 28, 2006, that San Francisco Giants outfielder Barry Bonds, hit his 715th career home run to pass Babe Ruth’s record for the most home runs in MLB history.

May 26, 1868 – U.S. Senate Impeachment Trial

President Andrew Johnson is acquitted by the United States Senate by one vote. Johnson was accused of violating the Tenure of Office Act when he tried to remove Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton and replace him with Ulysses S. Grant. At the time, the Supreme Court wouldn't hear the case, but several years later, the Tenure of Office Act was declared unconstitutional by the court.

May 27, 1941 – British Navy Sinks the German Battleship Bismarck

Hitler's pride and joy, the Bismarck was sunk on this date. The Bismarck was quickly sunk by British torpedo planes, and only 115 of its 2,221-man crew survived.

Some claimed the Bismarck was the mightiest battleship in World War II. That might have been true in 1940 but was not true by 1942. The Bismarck was equipped with 15-inch guns, but the American battleships were equipped with 16-inch guns, superior radar and analog computers to help aim the guns at long range. The Bismarck never squared off against any of the United States's contemporary battleships during its career: The USS Iowa, USS Wisconsin, USS New Jersey, USS Missouri, USS North Dakota, USS Alabama or the USS Washington. Even the old USS Texas was equipped with analog computers.

In World War II, the USS Alabama and the USS Washington tried to engage the German Battleship Tirpitz, but the Tirpitz didn't want to get involved. The Tirpitz was the sister ship to the Bismarck.

May 28, 1918 – U.S. Troops Score Victory at Cantigny, France.

This was the first American victory of World War I. General John Pershing argued for an independent U.S. command, and this victory gave credence to his argument. Up until this battle, the Germans thought American troops could easily be defeated. This proved to the Germans that American troops were as tough as they come.

May 29, 1780 – No Quarter Given

The term "Tarleton's Quarter" is coined to describe British brutality to the American patriots. Colonel Banastre Tarleton massacred American patriots who had surrendered to the British. The massacre infuriated the Americans, so the Patriot's Continental Militia returned the terror, by brutally attacking the Carolina Loyalists – killing them without mercy.

Hunting Permit Application Dates for Illinois Residents

The 2024 Fall Turkey Shotgun Lottery Permit Application Period:

1st Lottery ends July 1

2nd Lottery is July 12 thru August 19.

[Check online for permit and hunting season dates.](#)

<<https://dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/turkey/turkeyseasonsdeadlinesavailablepermits.html>>

The 2024 Fall Deer Firearm & Muzzleloader Permit Application Period:

2nd Lottery opened May 13, 2024, and closes June 30, 2024. [Check online for permit and hunting season dates.](#)

<<https://dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/deer/deerpermit.html>>

The Illinois State Rifle Association is the Home of Marksmanship in Illinois.

At the Range *All classes and events are open to the public & all range members, unless otherwise noted.*

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Limited Time Special \$50 OFF for ISRA Range Memberships!

Through June 30, 2024, we are offering \$50 off the range membership fee. Just mention code 50OFF, when you are signing up. Range membership application may be downloaded here. <[hyperlink to Range Membership flyer/order form.PDF](#)>

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Empowering First Shots FREE WOMEN'S SHOOTING EVENT on Saturday, June 15, 2024!

This event is designed to provide a safe and supportive environment for women to learn about shooting and self-defense and welcomes women of

all skill levels. For more information and to register for this event, [click here](#), or go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/empowering-first-shots-free-womens-shooting-event-registration-698794963547?aff=oddtcreator>.

Range Schedule this Week

Click [here](#) to view on the calendar.

THU May 23 – ISRA Smallbore Rifle League - Range 5 - 2:00-Dusk
FRI May 24 – F-Class Benchrest League - Range 3 - 8:00-1:00
FRI May 24 – Paper Steel League - Range 11 - 4:00-Dusk
SAT May 25 – 1st Step Pistol Course, MTW Consulting LLC - Range 2 - 8:00-12:00
SAT May 25 – Armed Women of America - Clubhouse-9:00-10:00, Range 11-10:00-12:00
SUN May 26 – Concealed Carry Day 2/CCL Renewal - Range 11 & Clubhouse - 9:00-6:00
TUE May 28 – Tuesday Night Irregular Rifles - Range 3 & Pavilion - 11:00-Dusk
WED May 29 - F-Class Rifle League - Range 3 - 8:00-5:00
WED May 29 – Benchrest League - Range 4 - 8:00-Dusk

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/events/#events-calendar>

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

Upcoming Gun Shows & Events

While the gun show information shown in this email is believed to be accurate, sometimes changes occur. This is provided for informational purposes only.

If your club or organization is holding a gun show, event or class, let us know the details, and we'd be happy to post it in our Thursday Bulletin.

Interested in attending other shooting clinics & events? Some can be found across the state on the [<NDR website>](#).

June 1 – Youth Wingshooting Clinic, Gardner Camp, Hull

June 1– 2 Hunter Clinic, Des Plaines State Fish & Wildlife Area, Wilmington

June 7 – Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) Workshop, Northern Illinois University/Lorado Taft Field Campus, Oregon

June 8 – 9 Introductory Wingshooting Clinic, Jim Edgar Panther Creek State Fish & Wildlife Area, Chandlerville

June 15 – 16 Hunter Clinic, Briar Knoll Hunting and Fishing Club, Amboy

June 22 – 23 Introductory Wingshooting Clinic, Middle Fork State Fish & Wildlife Area, Oakwood