



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.NET

Est. 1983 (A Not-for-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G8162



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December 2014 VGCA e-Newsletter

Afghan Rifles the October 23, 2014



Meeting: LTC Gregg Thompson did an outstanding presentation on Afghan Rifles from his time overseas in Kabul. He got very fortunate on his timing being there when things were allowed to come back. He began his presentation with a focus on Jacob Snider and his system. The Enfield 1853 P53 Mk4 Rifles was converted using the snider system. The original Mk1 conversions were largely scrapped due to the ammunition not chambering. The Mk2s were then built with an improved breech lock system. While this was a good advance the rifle didn't achieve a good locking system until the Mk3. The rifles went through paper cases, shot shells, and numerous methods of brass cases eventually

reaching the bottleneck brass case we think of today. These guns while primarily produced militarily were also manufactured commercially.

Disappointment with the RSAF Enfield factory caused things to open up to anyone who could manufacture to the same standards. To show case this Gregg brought some BSA rifles as well for his presentation. LSA the London Small Arms company was made to compete with the RSAF and had some examples of their works. Gregg then went into some history and facts on the Fort William armory and historical figures. The Fort Williams Armory does not allow visitors and is currently considered a vault.



Upcoming Annual Holiday Meeting for December 4, 2014 Potluck Dinner and Swap Meet with Show and Tell:



In December we will have potluck with a ham provided by the club. Sides and desserts are greatly welcome. Dishes that are clean and easy to clean up with little chance of spilling are ideal. Please bring anything you have for our swap meet and massive show and tell. Please help us make sure that we leave the conference room cleaner than we found it. It's going to be a fantastic presentation and we can't wait to see you all there.

☛The Election of VGCA Directors for the 2015-2017 Term. We will be taking nominations from the floor at the December Annual Meeting and the January Membership Meeting for the 3 positions on the Board of Directors. The December and January Meetings are the only opportunity you may have to question potential candidates about their ideas for the direction of the Association, instead of relying on a photo and one paragraph attachment to the ballot. Please consider if you would like to run, or if you have someone you would like to nominate to run. Our recent elections have had increasing interest and candidates, and we have been busy recruiting and signing up new members, which is a good sign.

★ President's Comments ★

Our Fall 2014 VGCA Gun Show was a solid success with us selling out our tables and making a healthy profit. We'll brief the financial facts at the Dec 4th Monthly meeting. I'd like to pass my personal thanks you to all the Set Up and Security Volunteers who made the show possible. We had a new VGCA Welcome Banner made for hanging inside the show room, and many favorable comments were received. Rick and Lynn Jones were very helpful in running out to Home Depot on short notice to buy PVC tubing to serve as a frame for the sign, and they donated the material to us.

Our money control process was executed with a high degree of accuracy again this show by Dennis Gerdovich and Lee Turner. Rick Nahas, Emory Hackman and Dennis Gerdovich sold 100 of 165 tables for the March 28-29, 2015 VGCA show, pushing us towards our goal of 100% sold out. Jimmie Stoner joined the sign team of Joe Roberts, Larry Hare, Ed Costello, Dennis Gerdovich and I to help get us decent road sign coverage. We still need a volunteer to take on Sign Management and I can train that volunteer easily. Addison Hurst and Gary Holderman had their hands full at the Evaluation Table, which is much appreciated by all who visit them. Kent Jefferies and his security team maintained firm control and we had several incidents that were well managed. All in all, another good show, made possible by a lot of hard work by all the volunteers.

On 14 November I attended the funeral services for Dorothy Johnson. Many other VGCA and NORVA members were also present. The Eastern Star ladies presided over a beautiful ceremony, followed by a wonderful Memorial Service presided over by VGCA Life Member Pastor Tom Robinson. We then proceeded to Stonewall Memory Gardens Cemetery for a brief grave side service, followed by a reception held at the Manassas American Legion Hall. Please keep Ed in your prayers, as losing his wife of 61 years is hitting him very hard.

Today, 18 Nov, I took Ed Johnson out to the newly opened Elite Shooting Sports facility on Doane Road, which is off Balls Ford Road in Manassas. The facility opened on 15 Nov and they are still working on achieving 100% functionally. However the range is open, Cafe is serving food, there is plenty of ammo for sale, targets, shooting glasses, hearing protectors, and the store is slowly being stocked. Ed and I paid our \$10.00 fee to get our range badges, pictures taken, ID confirmed, contact info captured, and then we paid \$30.00 for the two of us to share one shooting position for an hour. So, for \$30.00 any of you can get accepted into their system, and shoot for one hour. Range time is \$20.00 per hour on a pay as you go basis, but 2 can share one position for \$30.00 per hour. They offer several membership packages which are probably very cost effective if you shoot regularly. With 48 firing positions covering 25, 50 and 100 yards you are probably assured of being able to shoot 7 days a week. I was not surprised that Ed shot my pants off on the range, using my very nice Taurus model 66 with target hammer, trigger and sights. His first 6 shots placed three dead center into the X ring and it was all downhill for me from that point on. We had fun and were impressed with the staff and the very modern, very safe facility. If you are not a member of a shooting club, this place offers you instant membership and access to one of the largest indoor ranges in the entire US. Go visit.

In closing I look forward to seeing you at the Dec 4th meeting for our holiday meal, show & tell and swap meet.

Happy Collecting!

Dave Litchfield, President, VGCA

Business Meeting of October 23, 2014: We started off the meeting in the usual fashion with the pledge led by Jim Burgess, followed by a moment of silence for our fallen comrades. Rick Nahas gave a final update on the gun show. Dave then made an additional call for people to help with signs and we got some new people stepping up. Chris Britton has spent a year in the making organizing a tour of the FN Factory in Columbia, South Carolina. New members were brought in by Larry Hare, John Congson, sponsored by Dave Litchfield, and Abraham Diaz, sponsored by Dov Kawamoto.

Other News!

March 2014 Gun Show Report: This report will be limited since our President Dave Litchfield did such a good job covering much of it in his comments above. The attendance for the weekend was over 1100 and had a good matching of tickets to money this year showing continued fantastic work by the show committee.

A special thanks to Jim Burgess, Joe Roberts, and Dave McKenzie for their fantastic judging of the educational displays. We had more displays this show than we've had in years and all of an amazing quality. The results of the display awards were as follows.

- First Place (\$300 Award): Daniel Szatkowski (British Service Handguns)
- Second Place (\$200 Award): Bill Chronister (Finnish Mosin-Nagant Rifles)
- Third Place (\$100 Award): Larry Hare (Early Development of Semi-Automatic Shotguns)
- Judges' Choice (\$50 Awards): Shannon Ziegler (Type 99 Rifles of the Japanese Imperial Army)
Dave Litchfield (Walther Target Pistols)

Member Announcements: Longtime member Paul Peak has passed away and his memorial service was held at Vincent Hall. He was an award winning 45 caliber shooter for the coast guard shooting team.

March Show Call for Volunteers: If you're interested in working Security at the next show in March WE ALWAYS NEED VOLUNTEERS especially if we want to grow our show and provide more for you all. Please contact Kent Jefferies at KAJefferies@aol.com and remember that working on the Security or Setup teams gets you one free admission to the gun show for the weekend.

★ **Request for 2015 Speakers:** We are starting to look for speakers for the 2015 calendar year. We've already had some great volunteers stand up but we need more. The early months are already filled but if you're interested in speaking please contact Dave Litchfield who will advise speakers on how to prepare and length of presentation.

Continued Call of Articles for the Website: We are making a call for articles for the website. They must be about guns or gun collecting not shooting sports or hunting. No political articles will be used. Articles may be about modern or antique firearms and may be historical and/or technical in nature. Detailed guidelines will be available on the website. Please fact check and proofread your own work. All articles may be submitted to Marc or Richard at web@vgca.net. Official Guidelines for articles may be found on the education page of the VGCA site.

Show and Tell



Upcoming Events and Shows

PLEASE NOTE: There are sometimes changes in schedules by gun show promoters or errors on websites. Members are strongly encouraged to verify before driving to a show. These dates have been published as of this writing, but are not guaranteed. If you have a favorite show you would like to tell other members about, please email the Editor with a short review, including the show content, i.e., modern, new, collectible or antique, and I will include it as room permits. **Yellow** = Collector organizations.

VIRGINIA 2014

- November 29-30, 2014 - Harrisonburg, VA - Rockingham County Fairgrounds - *C&E Gun Show*
- November 29-30, 2014 - Hampton, VA - Hampton Roads Convention Center - *SGK Show*
- December 6-7, 2014 - Manassas, VA - Prince William County Fairgrounds - *SGK Show*
- December 13-14, 2014 - Fishersville, VA - Augusta Expoland - *C&E Gun Show*
- December 20-21, 2014 - Fredericksburg, VA - Fredericksburg Expo & Conference Center - *SGK Shows*
- December 20-21, 2014 - Salem, VA - Salem Civic Center - *C&E Gun Show*
- December 27-28, 2014 - Winchester, VA - Winchester Sportsplex - *SGK Show*

MARYLAND 2014

- December 6-7, 2014 - Stevensville, MD – Kent Island American Legion – *Appalachian Promotions*
- December 13-14, 2014 - Annapolis, MD – Annapolis Armory – *Appalachian Promotions*

PENNSYLVANIA 2014

- November 29-30, 2014 - Monroeville, PA - Monroeville Convention Center - *C&E Gun Show*
- December 6-7, 2014 - Allentown, PA - Agricultural Hall - *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*.
Contact: FDHAS, 3491 Linden St., Bethlehem, PA 18017. 610-997-8613 after 6pm

The e-mail address for any Newsletter related matters or a submission is Newsletter@vgca.net. Feel free to email items for inclusion in the newsletter. For changes of address or non-receipt of the newsletter, either via email or the mailed hard-copy, please contact Larry Hare. v/r Richard Pripeton, VGCA Newsletter Editor

Gun Show Pictures

