



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.NET

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

NRA Affiliate Number G8162
CMP Affiliate Number 026160



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November-December 2018 VGCA Newsletter



President's Comments

To VGCA Members

We had a sold-out fall show with quality firearms and accessories for sale as well as some great displays. I would like to thank all of our volunteers for the set up and security of our show. Without our volunteer help, we would not be able to put on this event. Many Kudos to Rick Nahas (Show Director) and Steve Gomes (Show Security) for their efforts in coordinating and managing the gun show.

I would like to welcome everyone to our annual holiday potluck dinner and swap meet on December 6th. The social hour will kick-off at 6 p.m. followed by great food at 6:30. Please come hungry! We will also have swap tables set up so you can treat yourself to an early Christmas present! I am looking forward to seeing you there.

Wishing you and yours a happy and safe holiday season!

--*Bernie Breighner*, VGCA President

→→→ Special Notice for Annual Members ←←←

Annual Dues must be paid by **December 31, 2018**. Please see details under the Membership Section.

★ October Presentation



Our October presentation was on the **Finnish Mosin-Nagant Rifles** by member Matt DiRisio. Matt is a relatively new member of the VGCA and has been collecting Finnish Mosin-Nagants for several years. His knowledge and expertise on the topic was impressive!

Matt opened with a brief of summary of Finnish combat operations during the WW2 period. It started when the Soviet Union invaded Finland in November 1939 and what became known as the “Winter War” continued through brutally cold winter conditions until April 1940. Despite tremendous disadvantages in personnel and heavy equipment, the Finns managed to fight the Russian invaders to a standstill. From June 1941 until September 1944, Finland fought alongside Germany against the USSR and recovered the land lost to the Soviets during the Winter War. This period became known as the “Continuation War.” As the tide turned against Nazi Germany, the Finns signed an Armistice with the USSR, and from September 1944 until April 1945 they fought with the Russians against the Germans.

Throughout this period, the primary battle rifle of the Finnish forces was one variant or another of the Mosin-Nagant Model 1891 rifle. Indeed, the Mosin-Nagant served Finland from the time of Finland’s Independence in 1918 through to the 1980s. Truth be told, however, Finland was not a rich nation and fielded just about any weapons they could get their hands on! The M1891, chambered in 7.62x54r, was chosen primarily because Imperial Russian forces left several hundred thousand rifles behind after Finland declared its independence.



Matt provided superb background on the different models of Finnish Mosin-Nagant rifles, drawing on his own extensive collection to illustrate various details (above)

RIFLE	NOTES
M91	Made by and for Imperial Russia by no less than seven different factories in 3 countries. Original Finnish issued M91s had a stock disc noting the unit to which that the rifle was issued. These were later ordered to be removed to avoid providing intelligence data in the event the rifle was captured.
M24	Made for the Finnish Civil Guard. The Civil Guard was described as "...similar to the Boy Scouts, the National Guard, and the National Rifle Association all rolled into a single organization." The Civil Guard and the Finnish Army did not always see "eye-to-eye" and frequently fielded different weapons.
M27	Made for the Finnish Army by Tikka and Valmet. Initially noted for poorly designed nose cap that could cause the stock to splinter if fired with the bayonet mounted. A later M27 cap with reinforcing 'popsicle sticks' was retrofitted.
M28	An improved M27 made for the Civil Guard and utilizing barrels made in Germany and by SIG in Switzerland. The M28s were assembled by a new factory called "Sujeluskuntien Ase-Ja Konepaja Osakeyhtio." This translates to "Arms and Engineering workshop of the Civil Guard". Today it is better known by its initials SAKO!
M28/30	Also made for the Civil Guard, this improved version of the M28 incorporated adjustable front sights and was used to win the world shooting championship.
M39	Developed to provide one rifle to be used by both the Finnish Army and the Civil Guard. Adopted just as the Soviets invaded in 1939, only 12 had been built when the Winter War started. By 1944, half of all rifles fielded by the Finns were M39s.
M30	Made from captured Russian Mosin-Nagant Model 91/30s.
M28/76	This Cold War adaptation of the M28/30 included a half stock and diopter sights. Some M28/76s also had scope bases.
TKIV 85	This sniper/designated marksman variant of the venerable Mosin-Nagant is still in use by the Finnish Defense Forces today. Valmet provided new barrels in 7.62x53r (a caliber unique to the Finns, bullet diameter is .309 compared to the standard .311/.312 of 7.62x54r ammunition) and the TKIV 85s were assembled in 1984-85.



*Stock discs were ordered removed to avoid compromising their assigned unit, thus only 1-3% are estimated to survive. Shown is one of those scarce M91 stock discs (above left).
Matt explains the details of an M39 (above right).*

Additional notes on Mosin-Nagant markings:

- The magazines on some M28/30s and M39s are marked with an “HV.” This designates that the magazines were modified to improve feeding
- Serial Numbers – where should they be found?
 - o Russian M-Ns will be numbered on the bolt, barrel, magazine floor place and butt plate
 - o Finnish M-Ns will be numbered on the barrel and bolt. Exceptions include some M39s (last four of the s/n on the magazine floor plate) and some M28/30s (last two digits of the s/n on the butt plate). The term ‘Finn matched’ denoted matching barrel and bolt.



*Matt shared various Finnish accessories, to include oilers (above left) and bayonets (above right).
Matt noted that some accessories are far more scarce than the rifles themselves. For example, 100,000 M39 rifles were built but only 10,000 bayonets for the M39 were made.*

Matt provided an outstanding presentation that was enjoyed by all present. Thank you Matt!

✪ **October Business:** Vice President Wes Chappell (*at right*) called the August meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Former President Ernie Lyles led us through the U.S. Pledge of Allegiance, which was followed by a moment of silence to remember those serving in harm's way. There were 54 VGCA members and guests in attendance. The guests were introduced to the membership by their sponsors/hosts.



Wes provided an update on our November gun show – stating that our show was sold out and that there was a waiting list for tables. Set up is on Friday, November 2nd and we need volunteers (preferably with strong backs!) to help set up tables, etc.

Security director Steve Gomes also made a pitch for volunteers, saying that there were slots available on both days of the show.

Director Gary Latta mentioned our social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) and encouraged the membership to share/help increase “clicks” and “likes.” Please let Gary or Shannon Zeigler if you have any suggestions for social media show announcements, or gun related articles that you would like to see posted.

Shannon Zeigler gave a Treasurers Report, noting that the VGCA Executive Committee has just passed the first-ever VGCA Annual Budget for 2019. Copies are available for membership review upon request.

Membership Chairman Bill Chronister announced that we had three new members approved this month and that there were six more prospective members awaiting approval.

Member John Babey reminded us that the L.C. Smith Collectors Association will conduct its 4th Annual Raffle on Apr 27, 2019. They are raffling a 1935 L. C. Smith .410 Field Grade with 26” barrels. If interested, please see the notice at the end of this newsletter in the “For Sale” section for details.



✪ **Upcoming December 6th Meeting:** Due to the holidays, our next meeting will be on 6 Dec 18. There won't be a presentation but there will be the annual VGCA pot-luck dinner and Swap Meet. Please bring a side dish or dessert and the VGCA will provide a ham. This is a busy time of year but the December meeting has always a great time of fellowship. Please bring your food in time to start eating by 6:30 p.m. Our annual swap meet will also be that night. Bring those extras from your collection to sell or trade. See you on the 6th!

★ Other News! ★

★ Membership Chairman's Report December 2018:

New Members: Please welcome new Annual Member(s):

- **Brendan J. Baker** of Falls Church, VA was sponsored by **David Litchfield**
- **Matthew Rohring** of Falls Church, VA was sponsored by **David Litchfield**
- **Maron L. Gebron** of Riverview, FL was sponsored by **David Litchfield** and **Greg Thompson**
- **Tom Galloway** of Fairfax Station, VA was sponsored by **George Dungan**

Gentlemen, welcome aboard. I will have your Annual IDs at the upcoming December 6th Annual Membership Holiday Potluck Dinner Meeting. If you cannot make it, your ID card will be mailed to your home address on your membership application after the meeting. We hope to see you on Thursday, December 6 at 7:00PM at the NRA National Firearms Museum. As this is the Annual Dinner, get there early from 6:30 to 7:00PM to enjoy the various dishes and desserts.

Life Members: Welcome **Tim Messick**, **Benjamin Henry**, and **David Murphy** as new VGCA **Life Members!**

Honorary Membership: The Officer and Directors of the VGCA would like to announce their conferring of Honorary Membership on **Richard D. Jones** of Nottingham, United Kingdom. Mr. Jones is a noted author, historian, and world-class authority on the world's small arms. Richard was Custodian of the UK Ministry of Defense Pattern Room, and until his retirement, editor of *Janes Infantry Weapons* and author of *Janes Guns Recognition Guide*. Richard's specialties are in the more modern arms. His technical analysis of firearms has proved invaluable to many agencies and researchers around the world, and while custodian of the Pattern Room he devoted much of his time to the furthering of the Pattern Room collection, scoring many interesting additions. In addition, he has been a resource to many other gun authors, giving freely of his knowledge and expertise. He is a member of the Nottingham Society of Riflemen.

New Applications: We had a busy October and November with a bumper crop of new applications for membership received at the October meeting, the November VGCA gun show, and the November Chantilly gun show. VGCA received Membership Applications from the following individuals. The applicant's information and sponsor's name is published below. If there are any comments or questions on any applicant, please notify an Officer or Director, and the Membership Chair before the January 10, 2019.

- **James C. Ashing** of Falls Church, VA is sponsored by **Shannon Ziegler**
- **Samuel S. Bevard, III** of Haymarket, VA is sponsored by **David Litchfield**
- **Bradley D. Bloom** of Herndon, VA is sponsored by **David Litchfield** and **Bill Chronister**
- **Richard E. Byers** of Woodbridge, VA is sponsored by **David Litchfield**
- **Frank Crowe** of Midlothian, VA is sponsored by **Bill Chronister**
- **James Daniel Helm** of Bealeton, VA is sponsored by **Gary Latta**
- **Nelson Hufano** of Fairfax, VA is sponsored by **David Litchfield**
- **Peter O'Connor** of Fairfax Station, VA is sponsored by **Tim Messick**
- **J. Craig Peters** of Stafford, VA is sponsored by **Edward Costello**

- **David H. Wulf** of Princeton, NJ is sponsored by **Ian Wulf** and **Bill Chronister**
- **Michael Aver** of Gaithersburg, MD is sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**
- **Ronald Bank** of Vienna, VA is sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**
- **Michael L. Bass** of Spotsylvania, VA is sponsored by **Jim Burgess**
- **Sidney Jonathan Cole Blackmer** of Alexandria, VA is sponsored by **Johnny Cooke**
- **Holt Bradshaw** of Centreville, VA is sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**
- **Greg Buckingham** of Laurel, MD is sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**
- **David H. Jensen** of Arlington, VA is sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**
- **Arthur Pence** of Oak Hill, VA is sponsored by **Joseph Roberts**
- **Tim Powers** of Mitchells, VA is sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**
- **Keith A. Ryan** of Herndon, VA is sponsored by **Matthew DiRisio**
- **Tom Siciliano** of Lorton, VA is sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**
- **Richard Stumbo** of Front Royal, VA is sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**

☛ **Notice:** VGCA encourages its members to sign up for the emailed newsletter. The hard copy mailed newsletter is limited to 4-6 B&W pages. By getting the email version you will receive a longer newsletter in color with photos of meetings; reviews of books, other shows, events or museums; and a schedule of upcoming shows and events. These excellent newsletters are sent in encrypted PDF format. It can be viewed on a PC or mobile device, or printed out. ~ ~ *Bill Chronister*, Membership Chair, vgca_membership@cox.net.

IMPORTANT: Please keep your contact information and addresses current: If you are not receiving newsletters or other VGCA mailings, or have changed either your USPS mailing address or your e-Mail address, please provide corrected information ASAP to Membership Chair, Bill Chronister at vgca_membership@cox.net (note underscore between *vgca* and *membership*). Thanks!!! Please do not unsubscribe from the VGCA emails. If you unsubscribe, you will not get ANY mailings including election ballots and newsletters.

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Please detach and return with your payment

Membership Renewal Request (AMR-NL#1-2019)
William Chronister, P.O. Box 2318, Merrifield, VA 22116-2318

Please complete and return this renewal form with your payment. Indicate Annual, Life or that you do not wish to renew your membership by checking the appropriate box below. *Please Print Clearly*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

- Enclosed is a check for \$30.00 for CY 2018 VGCA Annual Membership dues.
- I wish to upgrade to Life Membership in VGCA. Enclosed is a check for \$150.00.
- Remove my name from the VGCA membership roster.

Make all checks payable to VGCA (Please - NO CASH or Money Orders). If you have any questions contact William Chronister, Membership Chair at (703) 204-0138 or by e-mail at vgca_membership@cox.net.



VGCA Fall Gun Show

The VGCA executed another successful gun show at the Prince William County Fairgrounds on November 3-4, 2018. As always, this would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of many members – from our Show Manager Rick Nahas to the many security volunteers led by Steve Gomes.



Our show is unique among the many area gun shows in that we limit our vendors to firearms or firearms-related items only and we offer multiple educational displays.

A sincere “Thank You!” goes out to our many volunteers (and apologies if we inadvertently left off any names).

Set Up Volunteers

Mike Renaghan	Dave Murphy	Kelly Cook	Joe Roberts
Rich Valenzi	Bob Chapman	Dave Litchfield	Rick Nahas

Security Volunteers

Mike Renaghan	Jim Frigiola	George Dugan	Steve Vaughn
Sam Bevard	Jack Looney	Bill Troy	August Przybilla
Jim Burgess	Wesley Chappell	Bill Ludwig	Keith Webster
Bob Chatman	Tim Messick	Carl Warhurst	Kasev Sundar
Paul Blemberg	Rich Valenzi	Steve Gomes	

A special thanks goes to **George Kirschbaum** – who has worked VGCA show security for over 20 years and has only missed one or two shows in all that time! Thank you, George!

Overnight Security

Jack Looney	Wesley Chappell
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All volunteers received a \$25 voucher which can be redeemed with any vender at this or one of our upcoming shows. We can always use additional help, especially during Friday afternoon table set up. If interested, please contact Steve Gomes, Rick Nahas, or any of the VGCA officers or Directors.



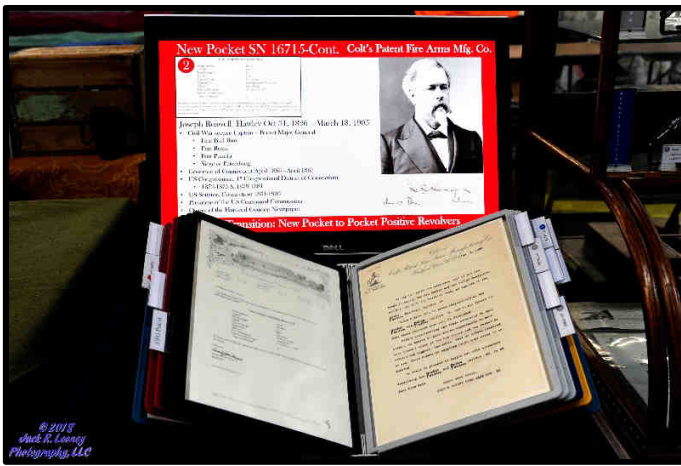
Electronic sign advertising our show (above left) VGCA President Bernie Breighner congratulates several of displayers (above right). From left – Gary Latta, Mike Alsop, Karl Karash, Bernie, Jim Ashing, Rob Becker, and Shannon Zeigler

There were eight judged displays at the November show – and all were exceptional! Details follow:

DISPLAY TITLE	EXHIBITOR	NOTE
Transition of Colt New Pocket to Pocket Positive Revolvers	Jim Ashing	1 st Place
Signal Pistols and Flare Projectors of WW2	Rob Becker	2 nd Place
Where have all the rare M1911s gone?	Karl Karash	3 rd Place
Commonwealth Aperture Backsights	Shannon Zeigler	Judges Choice
U.S. Model 1905 Bayonets	Roy Anderson	First Time Exhibitor
Early Remington Shotguns	Mike Alsop	
Evolution of Glock Perfection	Gary Latta	First Time Exhibitor
Life in the Trenches (WW1 Firearms & Equipment)	Mark Tatum	



Jim Ashing's (a first time exhibitor!) display of the Transition of Colt Revolvers from New Pocket to Pocket Positive models was truly exceptional and earned a well-deserved 1st Place in the judging!



Jim's display included a computer screen that cycled through a presentation explaining the features and significance of each piece as well as hard copies of support documentation (above left). This display also included an impressive collection of Colt shop tools and gauges (above right).



Rob Becker's display "Flare Pistols and Signal Projectors of WW2" covered an unusual subject and included flare guns from five separate nations (United States, England, Germany, Japan, and the U.S.S.R.). This display earned 2nd Place in the judging!



© 2013
Jack R. Looney
Photography, LLC

Karl Karash undoubtedly displayed some of the rarest specimens at the show. His exhibit title of “Where have all the Rare 1911s gone?” definitely answered its own question! Included were three examples of Singer M1911A1s (out of a production run of only 500 pistols) as well as three examples of the even more rare North American Arms M1911 (total production ~100 following the cancelation of their WWI contract). This exceptional gathering of rare and valuable pieces was a definite treat to those who got to see them and earned 3rd Place!



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Jack R. Looney
Photography, LLC

Shannon Zeigler’s display of Commonwealth Aperture Backsights shared some of the “tools of the trade” of shooting Lee-Enfield service rifles in competition five plus decades ago. The precision engineering and manufacturing that went into these target sights (and other accessories) is very impressive!



A detail view (at left) of some of Shannon's target aperture sights, original boxes/cases, front sight adjustment tools, etc. The display judges recognized the effort that went into gathering the pieces of this unique display and presented a well-earned "Judge's Choice Award" to Mr. Zeigler!

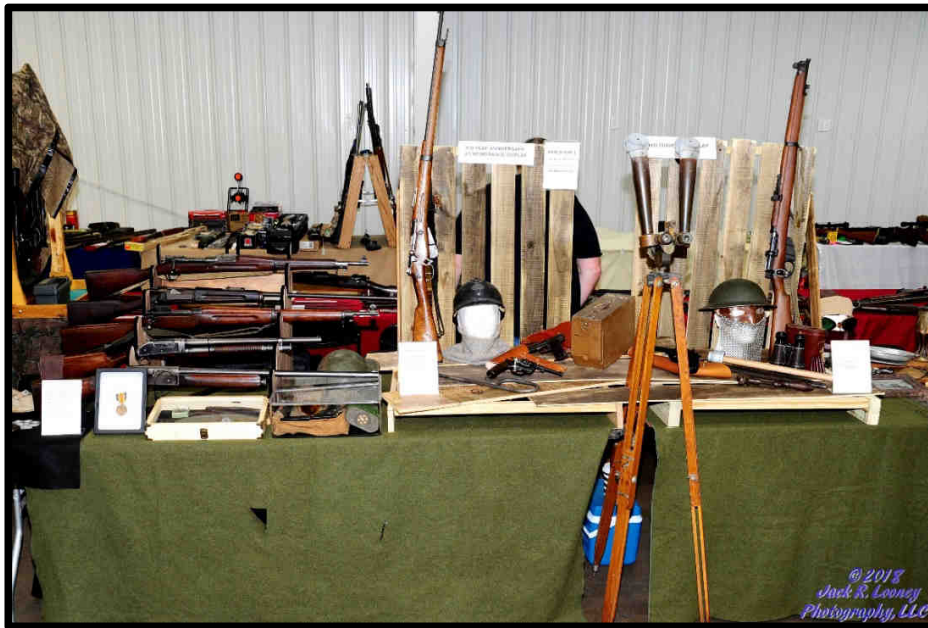
Roy Anderson is VGCA member who displayed for the first time at our November gun show. His exhibit was on the U.S. Model 1905 Bayonet (at right). The Model 1905 bayonet was adopted shortly after the Model 1903 Springfield rifle was fielded by the U.S. Army, replacing the less-than-successful ramrod bayonet of the initial M1903 rifles. Roy's display covered all aspects of the bayonet that served the U.S. military on M1903 and M1 Garands for almost 40 years, including many seldom-seen variants – and some of the even more scarce scabbards!



Mike Alsop's display of Early Remington Shotguns (at left) included an impressive selection of both single and double-barrel examples dating as far back as the 1860s. It included a single shot rolling block shotgun (I never knew Remington made such a thing!) and the first hammerless Remington shotgun (the Model 1894).



Gary Latta (another first-time exhibitor) provided a more modern collecting perspective with his “The Evolution of Glock Perfection” display (above). It covered all generations of this contemporary classic, as well as rarely encountered training pistols. Note red pistol at the upper right. It is one of only two known red live pistols made for the Stembriage Movie Rental Company (red Gllocks, such as the two at the lower left are typically non-functioning police/security trainers)



Last but certainly not least was Mark Tatum’s “Life in the Trenches – A Timely Display of WWI Firearms and Equipment.” Timely indeed, in this 100th Anniversary of the end of “the War to End All Wars.” In addition to firearms, this display included rarely encountered equipment such as trench maces and periscopes!

It is worth noting that Jim Ashing, Roy Anderson, and Gary Latta were first time exhibitors. The VGCA Executive Committee, in an effort to encourage our newer members to display their collections, has established a \$100 stipend to help first time displayers defray the costs of setting up an educational display. Please contact Shannon Zeigler if you have not received your stipend.



★ STOLEN MACHINE GUN PARTS KITS

The burglary of the home of the U.S. Marine in tidewater Virginia resulted in the loss of several firearms and two demilled machine gun parts kits. The machine gun kits are a Japanese Type 96 (with optic) and a German MG-42 and are valued at several thousand dollars each. Photos with serial numbers are shown below.



Stolen Japanese Nambu Type 96 Machine Gun parts kit (serial number 45031)



Stolen German MG42 Machine Gun parts kit (serial number 7517a, manufacturer code cra)

If you happen to come across either of these parts kits, please contact local law enforcement or the BATFE Stolen Firearms Program Manager (1-888-930-9275).



CMP UPDATE – 2019/2020 CMP SCHOLARSHIPS

Marc Gorelick, CMP Liaison



Not many know it but the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) has an annual scholarship program in which it awards \$1,000 scholarships to exemplary student-athletes. The scholarships are based on merit and rifle or pistol marksmanship participation and are open only to current high school seniors. Since 2005, the CMP has awarded over \$1 million dollars in scholar money and winning recipients came from a mix of JROTC, 4-H groups and other shooting clubs.

The CMP is dedicated to supporting youth programs and furthering the education of the young adults associated with them. Through these scholarships, the CMP is able to fulfill one of its missions of rewarding those who demonstrate exceptional talent, motivation and determination in the field of marksmanship. Scholarships may be used to pursue education or vocational programs for the upcoming school year.

To be considered for a scholarship, applicants must submit a list of past and present rifle and/or pistol competition history, awards, involvements and future expectations for the sport. Proof of participation must be submitted. These include match bulletins, photos or CMP Competition Tracker printouts. Applicants must also submit academic records showing that they have a 3.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) or higher, as well as an official transcript. (Anyone with a less than 3.0 GPA will not be considered.) In addition, applicants must submit a letter explaining why he or she is applying and what future plans the scholarship money will fund. Finally, a nomination/recommendation letter from a coach or instructor is required.

According to the CMP, incomplete applications will not be considered and all required forms and documents must be sent together. The deadline for submissions is March 20, 2019. If you know a young man or women who you think may qualify, inform them of this opportunity. Application forms and detailed information can be found on the CMP website at <http://thecmp.org/communications/cmp-scholarship-program/>. For specific questions, contact Kathy Williams at (419) 635-2141, ext. 709 or e-mail her at kwilliams@thecmp.org.

★ VGCA Table Covers have been Delivered!

We have received 20 blue table covers with the VGCA logo printed on it in black and yellow. These will fit an 8-foot table and are flame retardant (now a requirement at some shows). Most of those covers that were pre-ordered have been delivered. As of now, there is one cover that is not spoken for and is available for \$120. Please contact Rick Nahas if you are interested in purchasing this table cover. Special thanks go out to member Jim Burgess for his work in making this purchase possible!



LAST CHANCE TO VOTE FOR MEMBER OF THE YEAR!

Our Pot-Luck and Swap Meet meeting on 6 Dec 18 will be your last chance to vote for the **2018 VGCA Member of the Year**. The annual **Member of the Year Award** is a way for you and other VGCA members to publically recognize a member in good standing who selflessly went above and beyond for the club or for collecting during 2018. All VGCA members except sitting Board members are eligible to receive the award.

A ballot box and slips of paper will be available. Just write in the name of the member you think should get the award and (if you want) the reason you think he or she should get it (what he or she has done in 2018). Then put the paper in the box. No preselected list of names will be available for voting – this is **your** choice from start to finish.

After the votes have been counted the person being recognized will be announced at the January 2019 meeting and presented with his/her award.

Reasons for being selected include, but are not limited to:

- Volunteering for set-up or security, or other duties before or during the shows
- Volunteering other services to the VGCA, such as setting up trips or administering club programs
- Giving presentations at meetings
- Promoting the VGCA or gun collecting as a whole
- Putting on displays not just at our shows but other shows to enhance collecting
- Writing books or articles to further gun collecting
- Volunteering to man the VGCA table at the Chantilly show

Remember – only those members in good standing who attend the December 6 meeting will have the opportunity to nominate and vote for the **Member of the Year Award** for 2018. So come to the meetings and vote for your choice.

★ Show-n-Tell ★

NOTE: Anyone bringing in items for Show-n-Tell, please hold them up so the members can see it. This will also help your Volunteer Photographer get a decent photograph of the special item you brought to show, and people who could not attend the meeting can see it clearly in the newsletter. Thank you!



Member 1 brought in a Finnish Sako P46 (*at left*). This single shot bolt action is a commercial sporting rifle chambered in .22 LR. The P46 model was manufactured from 1947 to ~1952. Only about 9500 were made, so this rifle is fairly uncommon. It is well built and features a birch hardwood stock.



In keeping with the night's presentation topic, Member 2 shared his Finnish Mosin-Nagant M-24 Civil Guard Rifle (*above left*). As Matt pointed out, the M24 (sometimes referred to as the 91/24) was also known as the "Lotta" Rifle. The "Lotta" name came from the Civil Guard's woman's volunteer service, the *Lotta Svard*. This group helped raise money to pay for the rifles by holding events and bake sales. The *Lotta Svard* was organized in 1918. By 1944 it had 242,000 members and was the largest women's auxiliary in the world.

When the Finnish Civil Guard rebarreled their M1891 rifles, they obtained barrels from Schweiz Industrie Gesellschaft (SIG) in Switzerland, and two companies in Germany. German barrels were marked "Bohler Stahl." Swiss barrels were marked "Schweiz Industrie Gesellschaft." To meet Civil Guard accuracy requirements, the barrels were heavier than standard Russian barrels. Some of the later heavy barrels were stepped on the end to allow fitting the Russian bayonet. Total production of the M24 was 26,000 (8000 with SIG barrels, less than 3,000 had SIG straight barrels) made between 1924 and 1926. This example started a Remington Model 1891 Russian Contract. This rifle is all original Remington, with exception of the Swiss SIG straight barrel and sight modifications.

Member 2 also shared a Finnish muzzle cap/cleaning rod guide for the M24 and a bayonet for the Finnish M28 (*above right*).



Member 3 brought a Finnish Mosin-Nagant – this one a M27 (*above*). Made for the Finnish Defense Forces (as opposed to the Civil Guard), the M27 is sometimes referred to as the “Make Do” Rifle. The M27s started as M1891s that were modified with new stocks consisting of two pieces of native arctic birch spliced together, resulting in less warpage. They were also given new barrels (this barrel was made by Tikka) and rear sights calibrated in meters instead of the archaic Imperial Russian standard unit of measurement of arshins. This example was “made” (modified may be a better descriptor) in 1934 and has the “popsicle stick” extensions to the nose cap – a redesign that solved the problem of the stocks breaking when used with the bayonet.

Member 3 also shared an Italian Carcano-Mannlicher Model 1938 rifle (*not pictured*). This bolt action is chambered in 7.35x51, which was not made in sufficient numbers to reequip the Italian military prior to the start of WW2. Therefore the M1938 was “surplused” when Italy decided to revert to standardize on the 6.5x52 Carcano caliber. As a result, 94,500 Model 1938s and 50 million rounds of ammunition were sold to Finland in 1940 and 1941. Nicknamed the “Terni” by the Finns (after the Italian factory that produced most of the rifles), it was not popular in that country due to its non-standard caliber and mediocre accuracy (not helped by a fixed rear battle sight set for 200m). In Finnish service, the M1938 was mainly used by rear echelon troops. The example was marked “SA” in a box, indicating it was one of those M1938s that was sold to Finland. The boxed SA for Suomen Armeija (Finnish Army), was the Finnish Army property mark.

Member 4 is seeking the memberships help in identifying a mystery “ZF39” scope (*not pictured*). It is a German scope manufactured during WW2 by O.G. Sherrel. It is also marked “DK GERARD, Charlottenburg.” If anyone can shed some light on this scope, please contact member Dave Litchfield.



Member 5 presented a very nice Remington M1891 and bayonet (*above*). Remington was one of the companies contracted by Russia to make M1891s during WW1 and went on to produce 1,500,000 examples during 1915-1917. This example has an early serial number (making it over 100 years old) and was probably delivered before the Russian Revolution in 1917. It ended up in Finnish hands and its condition suggests it did not see field use.



Member 6 shared several items, including a Savage 99, a Colt Lightning revolver, a Martini Henry action, and an H&K USP Compact 45 pistol (*the latter three pictured above*). The Savage Model 99 was perhaps the finest hunting lever action ever made. This very nice example is chambered in .300 Savage, has a 5-round rotary magazine with a round counter and was made in 1946.

The Lightning was Colt's first double-action revolver. This one was made in 1880 and will shoot .38 Short and .38 Long Colt.

The Martini-Henry action is a large frame short lever model and was originally made for R.B. Rodda Outfitters. Member 6 intends to resurrect it as a 10 or 12 gauge shotgun.

Finally, Member 6 presented his Heckler & Koch USP pistol chambered in .45 ACP. It was made in Germany in the 1980s or 1990s – and points very naturally!



Member 7 brought in a rather unusual revolver made by Merwin, Hulbert & Company (*above*). Merwin, Hulbert & Co. were based in New York City and produced revolvers and rifles from 1876 to 1916. This particular single action revolver is a Pocket Army – 2nd Model. It is in .44/40 Winchester Center Fire caliber and was one of less than 20,000 manufactures between ~1880 and 1890. The Pocket Army was an open top design and 3 ½ inch or 7 inch barrels were available. Because of its design, the barrels were easily swapped out and the savvy pistolero of the late 19th century could convert his handgun back and forth to suit his needs. It also featured a “birds head” grip with a protruding “skull-crusher” at the bottom of the frame. Merwin-Hulberts had a reputation for quality design and manufacturing and were considered by many at the time as the finest revolver available (to include Jesse James and Pat Garrett). This piece was made in about 1881, though it hard to say for certain as factory records were lost in a fire.



Member 8 shared his Springfield Model 1864 .58 caliber rifle (*above*) and bayonet. This is last model of muzzle-loader made at the Springfield Armory and was only in production for about one year. This example is in excellent condition and belongs to Member 8’s father.

★ What is It? ★

Member Jack Looney is trying to identify the three items depicted below:



Top Left: The first item shown may be a British Martini-Henry Bayonet Lug... maybe?
<<<**This item has just been confirmed by member Bill Chronister as an Enfield-inspected Martini Henry Mark II-IV Top Barrel Band – thanks Bill!**>>>

Top Right: This barrel band has the marking shown – perhaps it is E+B_ or E+R_ or possibly E+BackwardsE

Bottom Photo: This is Bayonet Lug Barrel Band – but to what model rifle?

If you happen to know what any of these pieces fit, please contact Jack at 703-999-9458 (cell).



★ In Review ★

The “In Review” section to the newsletter was initiated in August 2016 and includes VGCA member reviews of guns shows, books, and museums. If you would like to submit a review, please send it to the newsletter editor at rpebecker@verizon.net.

Museum

A TRIP TO THE MUSEUM: KUNGSHOLMS FORT

By Marc Gorelick, VGCA

Kungsholms Fort is a large, naval fortress off the west coast of the island Tjurkö, around 5 kilometers south of Karlskrona in southern Sweden. Construction started in 1680 on the orders of Sweden's King Karl XI to protect the town of Karlskrona. Located at the southern entrance of the Blekinge archipelago, it, and the Drottningsskär Castle fortress on the neighboring island of Aspö, would guard the main channel to Sweden's newest naval base. Throughout the years Kungsholms's artillery and defenses were modernized and strengthened and the fortress was a linchpin of Sweden's coastal defenses during the cold war. Kungsholms Fort is still owned by the Swedish Navy, which conducts specialist training there, and it is thus the longest continuously used military installation in the world as well as being a World Heritage site. The fortress is only accessible to the public by special boat and guided tours.



Kungsholms Fort. Note the artillery tower, the circular harbor and the Swedish navy vessels.

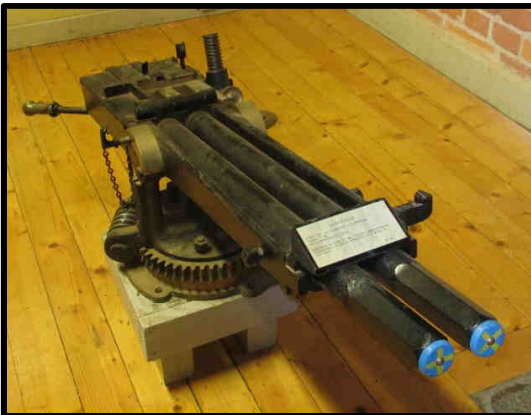
The fortress itself is one huge artillery museum and although most of the heavy ordnance has been removed the gun emplacements are impressive. And one can clamber over the walls and bastions. The most famous building of the fort is probably the remarkable circular harbor which was built so the fort could be safely resupplied during sieges. Also of interest is the mighty three-story cannon tower, once the central defense installation of the fort. On the top floor of the tower is a hidden museum that contains numerous coast artillery range finders, ship detection apparatus, artillery aiming devices, loading equipment, and related artillery equipment. Although many of the devices have signage it is not a museum exhibit in the modern sense but seems rather like a storage room for old equipment - you can walk among the devices and actually handle them.



For gun collectors, the small fortress museum, which tells the story of the fort and coastal artillery, is a hidden and pleasant surprise full of machine guns, including many different models of Nordenfelt guns. In fact, it almost seems like a Nordenfelt museum. The Nordenfelt was a popular piece of ordnance in the Swedish navy. Like the top floor of the artillery tower, it is not a living museum in the modern sense, but is rather a static museum that has not been updated. Most of the guns, other ordnance, and related equipment are right out there on the floor to walk among and touch.

One of the older pieces of artillery at Kungsholms. Photo – author.

The Nordenfelt gun was a multiple barrel organ gun that had a row of from two to twelve barrels. It was designed by a Swedish engineer, Helge Palmcrantz, who patented in 1873 a mechanism to load and fire a multiple barreled gun. Production of the weapon was funded by a Swedish steel producer and banker (later weapons maker) named Thorsten Nordenfelt, who was working in London and the gun is named after him.



Two-barrel Nordenfelt. Photo – author



Four-barrel Nordenfelt. Photo – author.

It was fired by pulling a lever back and forth and ammunition was gravity fed through chutes for each barrel. It was produced in a number of different calibers from rifle caliber up to 1 inch. There were larger caliber Nordenfelts but for them the mechanism simply permitted rapid manual loading rather than automatic fire. The gun was adopted by over 14 countries, including the British Royal Navy. During a demonstration held at Portsmouth a ten-barreled Nordenfelt weapon, firing .45 caliber cartridges fired 3,000 rounds in 3 minutes and 3 seconds without stoppage or failure. When the Maxim machine gun came on the scene it outclassed the Nordenfelt. Thorsten Nordenfelt merged his firm with the Maxim Gun Company in 1888 to become Maxim Nordenfelt Guns and Ammunition Company Limited.

The Nordenfelts in the Kungsholms Fort museum were used on Swedish naval vessels as well as for defense of the fort in case hostile forces attempted to land on the island.

Almost all the signage in the museum is in Swedish and much of the printing is faded making some of the signage difficult to read. The small museum appears to have been put together as an afterthought and stuck in a former bomb shelter. It has the feel of a storage room more than a curated museum and lighting could be better. However, for the military historian or machine gun and artillery enthusiast it is a diamond in the rough. And the tour of the rest of the fortress is fascinating.



Above and below: Various early machine guns in the Kungsholms Fort museum. Photos – author.



facilities for tourists.

Visiting Kungsholms is only possible with a guided tour that is offered regularly from May to September. Tickets must be obtained in advance at the tourist office in Karlskrona’s central square. Each participant over 18 years must provide proof of identity; foreigners should show their passports. The fortress island is only accessible by special tour boat, which leaves from Fisktorget in Karlskrona. The boat trip provides interesting a sights of Karlskrona’s several harbors, including artillery towers built on small islets. Tours are conducted in Swedish, German and English and parts of the island fortress are off-limits. There are no food

Below: Drottningens Kastell. Photo - author.



What it lacks in small arms displays it makes up for in period cannon. You can take the free car ferry that runs once an hour and departs from Handelshamnen, just north of the Marinmuseum in Karlskrona. Entrance is free and there is a restaurant.



★ 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 - 2018

- Dec 8-9, 2018 – Fishersville, VA – Augusta Expo Center - *Showmasters*
- Dec 8-9, 2018 – Fredericksburg, VA – Expo and Conference Center – *SGK*
- Dec 15-16, 2018 – Doswell, VA – Farm Bureau Center at Meadow Event Park - *SGK*
- Dec 22-23, 2018 – Salem, VA - Salem Civic Center - *C&E*
- Dec 28-30, 2018 - Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- Jan 5-6, 2019 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex – *Showmasters*
- Jan 19-20, 2019 – Dale City, VA – Dale City VFW – *Showmasters*
- Jan 19-20, 2019 – Salem, VA - Salem Civic Center - *C&E*
- Jan 26-27, 2019 – Fishersville, VA – Augusta Expo Center - *Showmasters*
- Feb 2-3, 2019 – Roanoke, VA – The Berglund Center – *Showmasters*
- Feb 2-3, 2019 – Woodstock, VA – Shenandoah County Fairgrounds – *Sporting Shows Unlimited*
- Feb 8-10, 2019 - Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- Feb 16-17, 2019 – Harrisonburg, VA – Rockingham County Fairgrounds - *C&E*
- Mar 2-3, 2019 – Dale City, VA – Dale City VFW – *Showmasters*
- Mar 23-24, 2019 – Roanoke, VA – The Berglund Center – *Showmasters*
- **Mar 23-24, 2019 – Manassas, VA – Prince William County Fairgrounds – *VGCA* (our show!)**
- Mar 30-31, 2019 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex – *Showmasters*

MARYLAND - 2018

- Jan 5-6, 2019 – Frederick, MD – Frederick Fairgrounds - *Silverado Gun Shows*
- Jan 23-13, 2019 – Timonium, MD – Timonium Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- **Mar 16-17, 2019 – Timonium, MD – Timonium Fairgrounds – *Baltimore Antique Arms Show***
- Mar 22-23, 2019 – West Friendship, MD – Howard County Fairgrounds – *Maryland Sportsman & Outdoor Show*
- Mar 29-31, 2019 – Edgewood, MD – Edgewood American Legion – *Patrick Daily-Mark Logsdon American Legion Gun Show*

PENNSYLVANIA - 2018

- Dec 1-2, 2018 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center – *Showmasters*
- Dec 8-9, 2018 – Harborcreek, PA – 7275 Buffalo Road - *L & R Sporting Events*
- Dec 8-9, 2018 – Harrisburg, PA – PA Farm Show Complex – *C&E Gun Shows*
- Dec 14-16, 2018 - Phoenixville, PA (Oaks) – Expo Center – *Eagle Arms*
- Dec 22-23, 2018 – York, PA – York Fairgrounds-Memorial Hall - *Appalachian Promotions*
- Dec 29-30, 2018 – Allentown, PA – Econo Lodge Expo Center – *Eagle Arms*
- Jan 5-6, 2019 – Leesport, PA - Farmers Market – *Thegunshows.com*
- Jan 12-13, 2019 – Matamoras, PA – Best Western Inn at Hunt's Landing – *Westchester Collectors Club*
- Jan 19-20, 2019 – Conneaut Lake, PA – 11861 Sportsman Rd – *L&R Sporting Events*
- Jan 19-20, 2019 – Franklinton, PA – Franklinton Community Fire Co – *Hunters Gun Show*
- Jan 26-27, 2019 – Gettysburg, PA – Little Everett's Social Hall – *Hunters Gun Show*
- Feb 1-2, 2019 – Gettysburg, PA – Gettysburg Fire Dept – *Militaria & Historic Arms Show*
- Feb 2-3, 2019 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center – *Showmasters*
- Feb 2-3, 2019 – Philadelphia, PA – National Guard Armory – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Feb 9-10, 2019 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds – *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*
- Feb 23-24, 2019 – Waynesboro, PA – 10205 Fish & Game Rd – *Waynesboro Fish & Game*
- Feb 23-24, 2019 – York, PA – York Fairgrounds-Memorial Hall - *Appalachian Promotions*
- Mar 2-3, 2019 – Leesport, PA - Farmers Market – *Thegunshows.com*
- Mar 2-3, 2019 – St. Thomas, PA – St. Thomas Firehouse
- Mar 9-10, 2019 – Harrisburg, PA – PA Farm Show Complex – *C&E Gun Shows*

SPECIAL NOTE – 2018

- Jan 12-13, 2019 – Wilmington, OH – The Roberts Centre – *Ohio Gun Collector's Association*
- Feb 21-24, 2019 – Louisville, KY – Kentucky Expo Center – *Ohio Valley Military Society, Inc.* (confirmed for the Kentucky Expo Center despite earlier rumors it may relocate)
- Mar 9-10, 2019 – Wilmington, OH – The Roberts Centre – *Ohio Gun Collector's Association*
- Apr 6-7, 2019 – Tulsa, OK – Tulsa Fairgrounds (Expo Square) – *Tulsa Arms Collector Association - aka Wanenmacher's (world's largest gun show with over 4,200 tables)*
- Apr 12-13, 2019 – West Point, KY – Knob Creek Gun Range – *Machine Gun Shoot and Military Gun Show*

FOR SALE:

The "For Sale" section of the Virginia Gun Collectors Association (VGCA) Newsletter is provided as a service exclusively to the members of the VGCA. The VGCA, its officers, and directors are not responsible for any listings made in any VGCA Newsletter. We are not responsible for the accuracy (condition, value, etc.) of any listings. All buyers, traders, and sellers agree to comply with all local, state, federal, and international laws in regards to items sold via the VGCA Newsletter. It is their duty and responsibility to ensure the quality and value of the transaction and that all such laws are followed at all times. Buy, sell, or trade at your own risk.

If you would like to list an item (or items) in the VGCA Newsletter, please send your description, price, and contact information to rpebecker@verizon.net. I must receive your material no later than the second Sunday of the month for it to be included in that month's newsletter. Items will be listed for one issue of the Newsletter.

FOR SALE:

✪ The L. C. Smith Collectors Association will conduct its 4th Annual Raffle on Apr 27, 2019. They are raffling a 1935 L. C. Smith .410 Gauge Field Grade with 26" barrels. Tickets are \$5 each or 6 for \$25. If interested, please contact VGCA member John Babey at 571-308-4978 or jrbzn13@aol.com

WANT-TO-BUY:

✪ Member Kim Walton is interested in buying Newton and Meeker rifles. If you have one to sell; please contact him at (210)-602-0506 or copo6970@yahoo.com

The e-mail address for any Newsletter-related matters is Newsletter@vgca.net - or you can reach the editor directly at rpebecker@verizon.net. Feel free to e-mail items for inclusion in the newsletter. For changes of address or non-receipt of the newsletter, either via e-mail or the mailed hard copy, please contact Rob Becker or Bill Chronister.