



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.ORG



Est. 1983

(A Non-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G 8162

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December 2006 Newsletter



To the Members:

Once in a while, space permitting, I am permitted to give you my thoughts regarding the club. I am quite pleased at the discussion we held with you — the members — at the last meeting regarding the problems we obviously have. It was a healthy exchange and I am sure all the board members were happy to have the input. We do try to do your bidding.

It seems to me that there are several problems..., too many gun shows in the area, our need to cut expenses, increasing our gate, etc. Your board is attempting to just that so your cooperation and forbearance will be most appreciated. It will not happen without your strong support and active help. So, if you are called upon to lend a hand, we hope you will turn to and do so. We will keep you informed.

I hope 2007 will be as much fun as 2006 but with fewer problems. Be sure and vote for the three board members who you think will be of most benefit to the club. It is not a popularity contest!!

Stay well and enjoy life everyday..., we are not getting any younger. I will have tons of flyers at the January meeting. Please help us get them distributed to shows and gun shops, etc.

Happy New Year! Addison Hurst, Club President

UPCOMING Show and Tell /Swap Meet for the January 25, 2007 meeting – The January Meeting will not have a formal presentation. Instead, the “presentation topic” will be an expanded member Show and Tell session and a Swap Meet. In the past, the S&T Meetings has been very popular with members and guests as the items of interest has been uncovered from the vaults and collections. As this meeting is also a Swap Meet, members are encouraged to bring items from the routine, to the exotic, to swap or sell. In addition, the results of the board member elections will be announced at the meeting. ➔ **Meeting at 7:00PM, food will available after 6:15PM.**

❄ ❄ ❄ INCLEMENT WEATHER ALERT ❄ ❄ ❄

We are now in the winter season, and meetings are at risk of being cancelled for foul weather. Members are strongly encouraged to **Check the VGCA Website (<http://www.vgca.org>) for Weather Alerts and Meeting Cancellations!** If you see the meeting is cancelled, please inform any members you know, especially if they do not have Internet access.

Photos from the December 7, 2006 Meeting

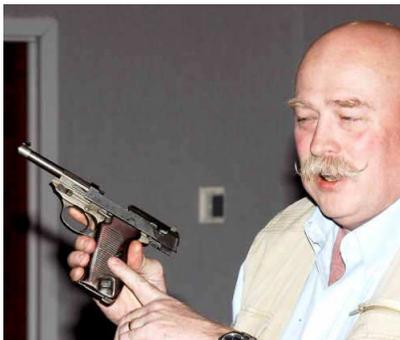


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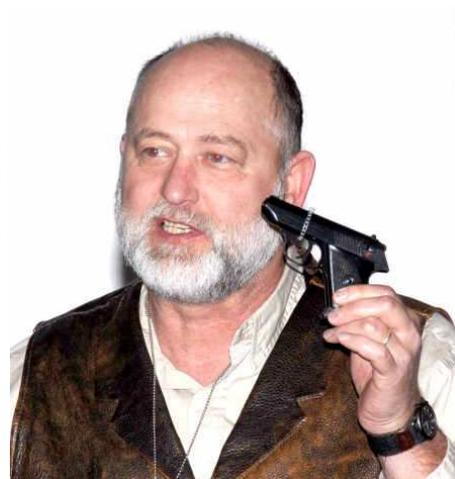


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1. C.G. Sweeting, former curator of the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, introduces his December 7th presentation on his book, *"Blood and Iron – The German Conquest of Sevastopol"*
2. Larry Hunt presents Jim Burgess and the other members of the VGCA Gunshow security team with Certificates of Appreciation and his thanks for a job well done.
3. Ernie Lyle and his French-assembled P-38 with stamped steel grips from the captured Mauser factory.
4. Hank Hagenau, showing a Needham conversion of a Civil War rifle to .58 Rimfire. This fine example was brought in by Charlie Rausch.
5. Kelly Cook showed a pre-GCA of 1968 Walther TPH in .22RF. Due to the size and point system, further importation was restricted to LE letterhead.
6. (Lower Left) Larry Hare displays his newly acquired Mossberg 44US trainer.

Program from the December 7, 2006 Meeting: C.G. Sweeting, formerly curator of the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum and author of the book, *"Blood and Iron – The German Conquest of Sevastopol"* gave a detailed accounting of his research of the German conquest of Sevastopol, a campaign marked by the use of a huge 80cm railway gun named "Dora." The presentation, rich with illustrations and photos, started with an overview of German artillery with a focus on the deadly 88mm flakcannon which was adopted as an anti-tank role and adapted to main battle tank gun with devastating results due to its flat trajectory and high velocity 16,000 meter range. Of interest was his book focused not only on the history and battles, but on the experiences and privations of the average German Wehrmacht combat soldier. He covered the siege of Sevastopol, an engagement that resulted in the capture of 97,000 Soviet soldiers in brutal close-quarters combat and introduced the use of a massive 80cm railway gun that fired 7.1 ton projectiles over 23 miles, as well as 60cm self-propelled siege mortars. Since this massive 80cm weapon did not have the ability to traverse, the railway was curved so the arc would allow aiming. During the siege, rounds from this piece resulted in the explosion and destruction of an entire mountain. Following the formal presentation Mr. Sweet told a number of anecdotes and stories of his time at the Smithsonian, and the notables he was privileged to meet including General Adolf Galland, ME-262 jet pilot, and head of the fighter arm of the Luftwaffe. Mr. Sweet was kind enough to sign copies of his book that were sold after the presentation.

December 7 Business Meeting: The meeting was well-attended, due to an agenda with many issues of keen interest to club members. **Addison Hurst** opened the meeting by announcing that the **Election for the 3 Board of Director positions** would take nominations. The 4 nominated candidates for the 3 vacancies are **William Chronister, Larry Hunt, Ernie Lyles (incumbent), and Rick Nahas (incumbent)**. Ballots and Position Statements will be sent, along with an SASE to all members via mail separately from this newsletter. Please make sure you vote and return the ballots to the address provided ASAP to ensure votes are counted by the January 25 Meeting. **Larry Hunt** gave a security update on the October show. All went well, with a brief shock when a flashlight exploded. Larry Handed out Certificates of Appreciation to the Security volunteers, Addison Hurst, Jim Murray, Karl Karash, Bruce McCalley, Reed West, George Kirschbaum, Pete Roberts, Lt. Kern, and Con Rice. Volunteers for the March 2007 Spring Show are needed. Treasurer **Ed Costello** gave an overview of the club finances. He reported a small loss due to the poor showing at the last 2 shows. After his report, as planned, a spirited and very helpful discussion of ways to save money, stop the red ink, and improve the shows, were discussed. Some of the well thought suggestions included changing the date of the fall shows if possible, an annual show format, advertising effectiveness, cutting meeting food costs, etc. These suggestions and others will be considered by the board, so email them if you have a suggestion. VGCA Gunshow Manager **Rick Nahas** gave a status report on the March show. He reported about 20 fewer renewals have been received, and there were 25 vacant tables. (Good opportunity for those who have wanted to get a table. -Ed.) **Larry Hare** reported on a full slate of new member sponsorships and applications. Formally introduced and voted into the Club during the November/December monthly meeting were 3 sponsored by Larry Hunt: William Ludwig, a former MP and now Homeland Security Network teacher; Terry Fernley, a Prince William County Sheriff's Office Deputy; and Bruce McCauley, a PWC Sheriff's Office Lieutenant. Other new members were Shannon Zeigler (Bill Chronister sponsor), an Army Major, previous presenter, and collector of Japanese weapons; David Litchfield (Addison Hurst sponsor), a C&R collector of WWII German arms and a history buff; Larry Babcock (Don McCormack sponsor), a Garand collector with a special interest in failed M1 parts, and Wayne Zimmerman II (Rick Nahas sponsor), who collects modern firearms. VGCA welcomes these new members.

December 7 Show and Tell: The S&T followed the business meeting and provided some new items. **Hank Hagenau** show a Needham Conversion to .58 Rimfire cartridge. This was originally a Civil War muzzleloader and had a trapdoor-type of mechanism which swung out to the side to expose the chamber. This very fine example was recently acquired and brought in by **Charlie Rausch**. **Ernie Lyles** showed his newly obtained P38 pistol that was assembled by the French at the captured Mauser factory. It was marked BYF44 and sported the rare stamped steel grip panels. **Kelly Cook**, stuck with the Walther theme with his pre-Gun Control Act of 1968 (GCA 68) Walther TPH in .22LR, with all boxes and paperwork. This tiny auto was later banned from import. It was not able to meet the BATFE point total needed for importation under the GCA 68. **Dan Szatkowski** displayed a 1909 Shattuck Palm Gun. **Larry Hare** exhibited his newest C&R purchases, an excellent martially-marked Mossberg 44US training rifle, followed by another rimfire, a Bayerischen Waffenfabrik Parlor Rifle, in 4mm Flobert. Both were very nice examples. The S&T was closed by **Addison Hurst** and his British No.4MkI that was brought back from Vietnam by a Special Forces veteran who captured it from a Vietcong irregular. The marking showed this rifle had

been exported from the UK possibly to France. This was an exception to the buy the gun, not the story maxim. The January 25 meeting will feature an expanded Show & Tell/Swap Meet in lieu of a presentation.

Members should watch for the Board of Directors ballots and election materials. Note the due dates to ensure counting of your votes and certification of the results in time for announcing at the January 25 meeting.

Upcoming Events and Gun Shows

(Please verify dates with the promoter/club before travel, there have been many recent schedule changes and cancellations.)

VIRGINIA

- ☞ January 12-14, 2007 - Harrisonburg, VA - Rockingham County Fairgrounds - *Old Dominion Shows*
- ☞ January 20-21, 2007 - Fredericksburg, VA - Expo Center - *Southeastern Gun & Knives, Ltd.*
- ☞ January 27-28, 2007 - Hampton Roads, VA - Hampton Convention Center - *Southeastern Gun & Knives, Ltd.*
- ☞ January 27-28, 2007 - Roanoke, VA - Roanoke Civic Center – *Showmasters*
- ☞ February 3-4, 2007 - Richmond, VA - Richmond Raceway & Fairground - *Showmasters*
- ☞ February 3-4, 2007 - Winchester, VA - Sportsplex Event Center - *Old Dominion Shows*
- ☞ February 10-11, 2007 - Norfolk, VA - Norfolk Scope – *Showmasters* (Note: Not familiar with this venue. If anyone attends I would appreciate feedback.)

☞ **March 10-11, 2007 – Manassas, VA - Prince William County Fairgrounds - Virginia Gun Collectors Association** Contact: Rick Nahas, P.O. Box 328, Manassas, VA 20108. (571) 215-8761.

MARYLAND

- ☞ March 17-18, 2007 – Timonium, MD – Maryland State Fairgrounds – “The Baltimore Show” by Maryland Arms Collectors Association

NEW YORK

- ☞ January 20-21, 2007 – Albany, NY - Empire State Plaza - *New York State Arms Collectors Association*. Contact: Sandy Ackerman Klinger, 346 Paul Street, Endicott, NY 13760. (607) 748-1010.

PENNSYLVANIA

- ☞ January 20-21, 2007 - Monroeville, PA - Expo Mart/Radisson Inn – *Pennsylvania Gun Collectors Association*, Contact (412)854-4625
- ☞ February 10-11, 2007 – Allentown, PA – Agricultural Hall in Fairgrounds - *The Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society, Inc.* Contact: FDHAS 3491 Linden St., Bethlehem, PA 18017. (610) 997-8613 after 6 p.m. (This is a good show folks, and worth the drive.)

OHIO

- ☞ January 24-25, 2007 - Wilmington, OH – Roberts Center - *Ohio Gun Collectors Association* **Note: OGCA MEMBERS ONLY.** For membership information contact Laura Knotts (330)467-5733.

OKLAHOMA

- ☞ March 31-Apr 1, 2007 - Tulsa, OK - Expo Center-Expo Square (Tulsa Fairgrounds) - *Wanemacher's Tulsa Arms Show* <<http://www.tulsaarmsshow.com>>

v/r, Bill Chronister, VGCA Newsletter Editor