



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.ORG



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(A Non-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G 8162

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February 2007 Newsletter

The President's Corner: The show is just around the corner. We have changed the advertising program so let's hope it works as planned. As I mentioned at the last meeting, there are over a hundred gun shows this year with in 250 miles..., so we have our work cut out for us. We will need lots of help as usual in set up and security. We have lots of new members so you new folks now have a chance to pitch in.

We have some interesting programs still in the planning stage so stay tuned. We will keep you informed as things develop. This meeting should be interesting and it is important as well as it is the last one before the show on March 10-11. So, weather permitting, make an effort to attend.

Regards, Addison

UPCOMING for the February 22 Meeting: The upcoming meeting will feature a joint VGCA/NRA/National Firearms Museum presentation. Kenneth Hamilton, noted expert on Native American firearms used during the American Revolution, will address the group. He will be in costume and will bring some of the rifles. All are encouraged to bring in any Revolutionary War arms and associated equipment. Phil Schreier will open the museum to let us see the striking painting of fighting in that war that is on loan to the museum as well as displayed arms of that period. The subject of this presentation was featured in an article by Phil in the publication, *Man at Arms*. The meeting will begin promptly at 7:00pm and with the selected subject matter it is easy to predict a big turnout, so arrive early to get some food, shoot the breeze, browse the weapons and ask questions. Members with email are encouraged to pass this news to other members who might be receiving this newsletter late by regular mail.

⚡ Weather alert: Since the weather is determined to let us know it will not be second-guessed, and Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow, winter remains a potential challenge. **Please remember to check the VGCA website, <http://www.vgca.org>, for late breaking notices on meeting cancellations.**

January 25 Business Meeting of the VGCA: Addison re-opened the meeting following a short break. Larry Hunt, VGCA Show Security Chief, called for security volunteers for all three days, as well as setup and teardown. A sign-up sheet was circulated for volunteers of all stripes. There was some discussion about restricting free entrance to the show to only those that have participated in some form of VGCA support function. This could consist of any number of activities. A special thanks and Atta' Boy goes out to John Frietsch, Gary Holderman, and Rick Nahas for providing the great feed at the January meeting, courtesy of COSTCO. It was very well received by the gathered herd and cost was a fraction of our normal feed bill.

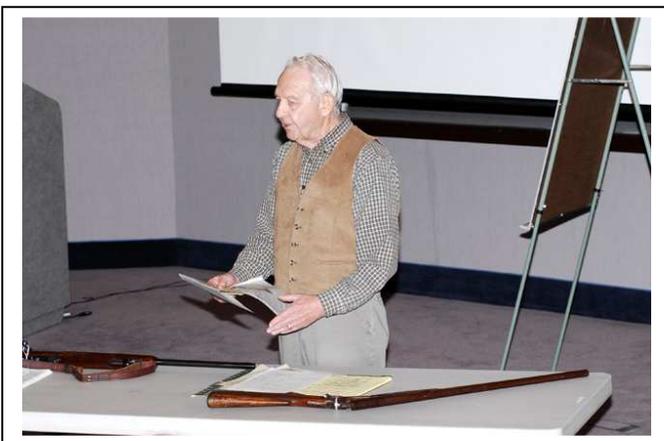
Highlights from the January Meeting



Ed Costello Presiding



Marc Gorelick & Springfield Miller Conversion



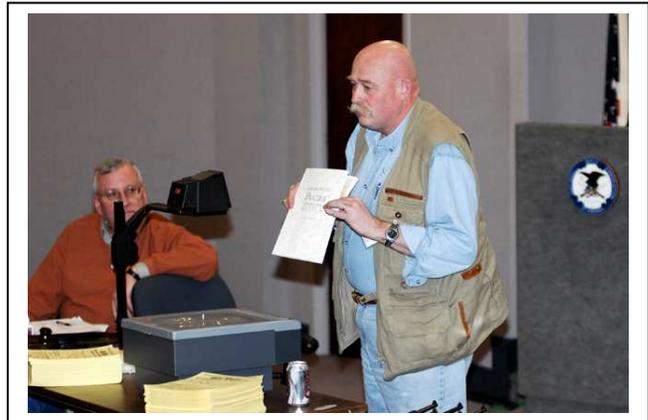
Bob Sears & Shattuck Shotgun



Roger Sherman & Swiss Lugers



Swiss Lugers



Ernie Lyles

Meeting Show and Tell: Bob Sears opened up with a very nice Shattuck Arms Company single-shot break-open shotgun dating from the 1890's. Bob went on to tell the group how this particular shotgun was originally owned by a friend of his father, that he had acquired it at a very young age. Next up to the plate was Ernie Lyles, just back from a trip to Louisville, Kentucky where he had an opportunity to tour the Frazier Historical Arms Museum. According to Ernie, who is alleged to not be easily impressed, it was quite a display, including one of Teddy Roosevelt's Holland & Holland double barrel shotgun. Roger Sherman presented an awesome collection of three original pattern Swiss Lugers in exceptional condition. The first was a DWM Swiss military contract Model 1900 with the rare wide trigger, the second was a DWM Swiss military contract Model 1900/06 and the last was a Waffenfabrik Bern manufactured Swiss Military Model 1906/24 1st variation. Truly spectacular! Elmer Alsey

(sp?) brought out a "one of a kind" Ruger MK 1 clone built by PAWS with an integral silenced barrel. Apparently a small number were made up for a movie scripted around an assassin and all but one, (this example), were subsequently destroyed. John Morris is a big guy, and he collects big stuff. Consequently, he described his recent acquisition to the gathering, which consisted of an 1880's Navy breech loading boat howitzer. He would have brought it in, but it was too big, and too heavy (800lbs.) to bring into the building. It was still loaded in his van out in the parking lot and he did show it off to all who were interested after the meeting. Rick Nahas showed us a copy of his "Standard Catalog of S&W," now in its 3rd edition. It's been much more popular than he had originally anticipated when he collaborated with Jim Supica in the writing years ago. Marc Gorelick presented his Springfield musket with a .58 rimfire Miller Conversion manufactured between 1865 and 1867 and used by the Maryland and New York state militias. Larry Hare pulled out a Mossberg Model 144LS that he recently acquired. It was an example of firearms that are becoming very popular among new and older collectors, that are still readily available, and at a reasonable cost. Addison Hurst presented a late production (1918), all original; Model of 1917 Enfield rifle in exceptional condition, complete with an Model 1917 bayonet of course. This was another varied and fascinating grouping of arms and thanks go out to all who participated.

Member Notes: The following was received from LTC Christopher Smith (edited for space):

First I'd like to tell you all how much I enjoy receiving the newsletter each month - I always forward it to my friends and co-workers and they enjoy it too. However, as some of the folks know, I was mobilized (USAR) this past summer - so I won't be able to attend in person.

I have had a fairly unique tour over here in Theater thus far. It has allowed me to see quite a bit of what is going on. In early July 2006, I was posted to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait as the Chief of Current Operations for Deployment/Redeployment Operations. We shepherded 30 Brigades (15 in, 15 out) into and out of Theater as part of the annual rotation of forces. As that task was winding down for the year (before the latest surge plan), I was able to get an assignment with Task Force 586. TF 586 is based in LSA Anaconda, Iraq, we're about 50 miles north of Baghdad, near the city of Balad (in the Sunni Triangle). Our mission is to recover all surplus/excess vehicles, equipment and supplies in Theater and get them back into the supply system for re-issue and/or repair. With 30 BDEs swapping out equipment, trading gear, and moving around the battlefield there is "stuff" scattered among the various Forward Operating Bases (FOBs). We're sort of the clean-up crew. In early November I was selected to lead the TF 586 effort in Afghanistan and moved to Bagram (an air base about 15 miles north of Kabul) to take over operations here. I have been earning my C-130 and C-17 frequent flyer miles! One nice thing about Afghanistan (besides the fact that the mortar and rocket attacks are less frequent) is the opportunity to visit some of the Afghan arms bazaars - mostly junk but a few potential gems.

All in all, I am very proud to report that wherever I have traveled the morale and spirit of the Troops (Army, Marine, Air Force and Navy) has been magnificent. I have also found that the closer to the cutting edge - the better the morale. I don't know yet when I will be rotating back home - sometime this summer or fall I hope. But until then, a hearty thanks to you folks that are keeping the club together, making the shows happen, your actions reverberate beyond your immediate surroundings and is appreciated.

LTC Christopher A. Smith, TF 586, Bagram, Afghanistan

Con Rice: Michael Rice achieved his Eagle Scout Rank on Friday, January 26, 2007. Michael's Eagle Leadership Project was the creation of a rest area on the W&OD Trail in Purcellville where he coordinated the planting of 37 large trees and the construction of a 10 x 16 foot deck with benches and a ramp leading to the trail.

Legislative Alert: The following came to us via the Trapshooters.com forum. "The Democrats are not wasting any time. Regulation to include background checks of private sales is no doubt a part of this although it is not specifically mentioned here. This would probably impact informal club swap meets too." We strongly encourage our membership to contact their elected representatives, especially Tom Davis, and express their feelings on this recently introduced legislation.

The most Draconian bill thus far, though, is "The Gun Show Loophole Closing Act of 2007," H.R. 96 (<http://tinyurl.com/2m8vmr>). Says Alan Korwin of HR 96, "Under the original draft, currently legal gun shows are outlawed without prior federal permission. Gun show promoters must agree to warrantless searches in order to operate, and may be arrested if private citizens talk at the show about gun sales they wish to complete away from the show. The right to assemble peaceably at a gun show or even plan for one, carries stiff prison terms unless

federal licenses are issued in advance. Massive new bureaucracy is created because all shows and their exhibitors must be registered 30 days before the show, then again 72 hours before the show, and again five days after the show. That's in addition to registering anyone who walks in, plus 'any other information' the Secretary of the Treasury decides, by regulation, is necessary on vendors, attendees, and the show itself."

VGCA Welcomes New Members: Larry Hare welcomed new club member William Alexander after being soundly grilled and voted in, and **reminded annual members that dues ARE DUE NOW and they can be paid directly, in person thus saving the club printing and postage costs.**

The Spring 2007 VGCA Gun Show: The upcoming VGCA show at the Prince William County Fairgrounds (PWC) is March 10-11, 2007. The Security coordinator is requesting volunteers (club members) to work security Friday, March 9th; Saturday, March 10th; and Sunday, March 11th for the upcoming Gun Show. Volunteers should call 703-368-2887 during the day and speak to Larry Hunt or email ldhunt@idsscan.com.

All concealed weapon carry requests for the upcoming VGCA Gun Show **must be made by February 25th or they will not be granted.** Email your request with a reason for your request to carry and a statement that you hold a valid Virginia Concealed Weapons Permit, or you are an active or retired law enforcement officer, and a member in good standing with VGCA to ldhunt@idsscan.com. Anyone not appropriately registered before February 25th will be asked nicely to remove the weapon from the building.

It is especially important that we highlight the fact that we are a totally firearms related, quality show. There are no jewelry tables, no Beany Babies, no junk and no other fooferall items at the VGCA shows, and the displays are well conceived and top notch, often with rare and unusual items, but always with a goal of educating and informing the public and members of the history, technology and nostalgia of the period covered.

Future VGCA Show dates: Future dates for Fall 2007 are September 22-23, 2007. This includes the setup date on Fridays, September 21, 2007. That is plenty of time to plan and design a display table of your favorite firearms field.

Upcoming Events and Shows

VIRGINIA

- ☛ February 18-19 – Roanoke, VA – Roanoke Civil Center by *Showmasters*
- ☛ March 3-4 – Dale City, VA - VFW Post 1503 by *Old Dominion Shows*
- ☛ March 25-26 – Manassas, VA - Prince William County Fairgrounds, *The Virginia Gun Collectors Association (VGCA)* www.vgca.com. (Please see other show details in the newsletter.)
- ☛ March 30-April 1 – Chantilly, VA - The Nation's Capital Militaria Show at Dulles Expo Center: *C&E Gun Shows* or *Showmasters*.

MARYLAND

- ☛ March 17-18, 2007 – Timonium, MD – Maryland State Fairgrounds – “*The Baltimore Show*” by *Maryland Arms Collectors Association*
- ☛ Saturday only - May 20, only –Frederick, MD - Frederick Fairgrounds, *Potomac Arms Collectors Association (PACA)*. Featuring the National Airgun Collectors.

PENNSYLVANIA

- ☛ Feb 25-26 York, PA - York Fairgrounds, *Appalachian Promotions*.

I have an email address specifically for any Newsletter related matters or submissions. That address is VGCAnews@cox.net. Feel free to email comments, photos, etc. 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 at the numbers on page one.

Many thanks to **Larry Hare** for stepping in with covering the meeting and writing the newsletter while I was on extended official travel.

Bill Chronister