



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.ORG



Est. 1983 (A Non-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G 8162

President and Founder (Emeritus) Ed Johnson Home: 703-368-6560

Officers:

President	W. Addison Hurst	Office/Home/Fax: 540-882-3543	a.hurst@rstarmail.com
Vice President	Jim Burgess	Home: 703-754-7800	Jim_burgess@NPS.gov
Recording Secretary/Membership	Larry Hare	Home: 703-339-8636	Jasperandi@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Ed Costello	Home: 703 241-7915	edwardcostello@comcast.net
Board of Directors:	Ernie Lyles	Home: 540-659-6566	pris.ernie@verizon.net
	Rick Nahas	Office: 703-550-8005	jet53sw@aol.com
	Bill Chronister	Home: 703-361-7409	wchronister@cox.net
Show/Reservations Manager	Rick Nahas	Office: 703-361-7409	jet53sw@aol.com
Counsel to the Board	Emory Hackman, Esq.	Office: 703-288-2941	emory1biz@verizon.net
Webmaster/Security Chief	Larry Hunt	Office: 703-932-1020	ldhunt@idsscanner.com
Accountant to the Board:	Charlie Rathell C.P.A.	Office: 1-800-559-6956	charles@rathellbard.com
Newsletter Editor	Bill Chronister	Home: 703-204-0138	VGCAnews@cox.net

February 2009 VGCA Newsletter

Presentation at the January 22nd Meeting: Since in lieu of a formal presentation we had an expanded Show and Tell, details will appear in the Show and Tell Section.

Special Joint Member Presentation for the February 26th meeting: The evening's presentation will be given by **Jim Burgess** and **Marc Gorelick** and cover early conversion to cartridge arms from muzzleloading rifles. These conversions, the first modifications to allow the use of self-contained cartridges, were designed to utilize the large stores of percussion muskets and rifles in military inventories around the world. If you remember Jim's last presentation on Civil War carbines and Marc's many Show and Tells, you can be assured you will see some of the more interesting early efforts to adapt to the new reality of metallic and other cartridges. Members, as always, are encouraged to bring in examples of early conversions as well as other experimental or test arms (or other items.)

*** IMPORTANT CLUB & MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS ***

VGCA Monthly Meetings to be BYOM – Bring Your Own Meal. There was an EXCOM Meeting in January focusing largely on the Spring Gun Show and Club expenses. After much consideration, it has been decided to eliminate the food at the monthly meetings, starting with the upcoming February meeting. From now on, meetings will be *BYOM – Bring Your Own Meal*. We will continue to have drinks and water available, but if you wish to dine, you will have to stop at the numerous venues on Jermantown Road, Route 50, or Route 29 near the NRA Headquarters. On the 3 meeting nights (TBA) when there is a joint National Firearms Museum-VGCA Featured Speaker presentation the Club will have food for the enjoyment of all.



Opt-In for the Mailed Newsletter: *First of 3 Announcements* - In spite of everyone's best efforts, we continue to have newsletters returned for address issues. To minimize these occurrences and reduce postage costs, as well as encourage members to receive the enhanced e-Newsletter, we will be initiating an **Opt-in Program** for the mailed Newsletter. In the next 2 issues (April and May 2009) there will be a pre-addressed form for members to verify their address and confirm their need to have the hardcopy mailed to them. Members will complete the form, add a First Class stamp and mail it back to the address on the form in order to continue to receive the mailed newsletter. If the club does not receive a reply by the June newsletter (or if your dues are not paid up), you will be dropped from the mailing list. If you do not wish to receive a mailed newsletter or wish to receive an e-Newsletter (with color photos) via email, please notify Larry Hare. **Opt-In** requests **MUST** be confirmed by regular mail. As the editor, I believe members without email should not be disenfranchised and mailed copies will continue, however,

we need to eliminate errors and encourage, as much as possible, the use of email for the newsletter and other correspondence.

Election for the VGCA Board of Directors: The winners to a 2-year term on the VGCA Board of Directors in last name alphabetical order are: **Bill Chronister (i), Larry Hunt, and Ernie Lyles (i)**. Congratulations to our new Board Members as well as all of those who chose to put their name and time up for consideration. We hope you will all pitch in and support their efforts. (Please see *Notes from the President* for additional details of the election.)

Notes from the President:

- The Club needs members to volunteer to make monthly presentations. Members need to support the club by having tables at our upcoming show. This support is vital – it is your club – you need to come to its aid... and the time is now!
- I hope the membership will understand the cost-cutting measures – elimination of food at meetings, etc. We will have food on the three NFM-VGCA presentations. These dates have yet to be determined, but you will be given advance notice in the newsletter.
- I have to add that I am very disappointed that only 36% of the membership bothered to vote in the recent Board of Directors election. The Club went to a lot of expense and trouble to enable you to vote. There are few excuses for failing to vote – especially since the ballot was pre-addressed and even return mail stamped. If you are among the folks who did not vote – shame on you.

– Wm. Addison Hurst

On the VGCA Gunshows: There is an all-out effort for the Spring Gun Show. The purpose of our gun show is to provide a venue for our members to sell, display and advance the hobby and science of gun collecting. Our Fall 2008 show, though small, had some of the best looking wares and displays in a long time. We also have many fine dealers who have supported our club with great deals and collectibles for many years. We are taking strong action to increase table sales and our advertising to increase our gate. We are also focusing on new advertising venues – including online. We still have the old tried and true show flyers. Members are encouraged to go to the VGCA website (<http://www.vgca.org>) and download a PDF copy of the flyer and send it to their email contacts who may be interested in attending our gun show and encourage those folks to forward it to their interested friends. The traditional flyers are a proven way we reach people, so this method should prove just as effective. However, in the end, we need to increase our gate and foot traffic. *Increased gate = increased table sales and more dealers and vice versa*. So now is the time to come out and contribute to our show, whether by spreading the word, by renting a sales table, displaying, helping out, or just buying.

Spring VGCA Gun Show Sales Tables: The Club still has sales tables available for the Spring VGCA Gun Show on March 28-29, 2009 at the Prince William County Fairgrounds. We have vacancies and as we are a gun collecting organization, need members to come support the club by taking a table(s) for disposing of your unloved or duplicate firearms, accoutrements, collectable accessories, or other gun collecting related items. I guarantee those unusual or rare items are always in demand and if priced right will fly off the table. If you believe manning a sales table alone would be too demanding and not allow you time to hunt for deals or just talk to other members, get a partner and share the duties and have relief for your time around the show. Show tables cost \$60 each, so share the load with a colleague and contact Rick Nahas.

Spring VGCA Gun Show Display Tables: The club will again have FREE DISPLAY TABLES for members on a space available basis for the Spring VGCA Gun Show on March 28-29, 2009. *This is a great opportunity to test the waters if you wanted to do a display table*. Display tables may be limited, so contact Rick Nahas to get yours.

Help Needed!! The Spring 2009 VGCA Gun Show is just around the corner. As always, we need volunteers for setup, gate duty, and security and all the other details that ensure a successful event. Remember, volunteers with a volunteer coupon get free admission to the show.

★ **Invitation to all members:** If you wish to do a presentation at a meeting, please notify Addison or any of the board members. These sessions do not have to be as detailed or all inclusive as some of the NFM Presentations, and you can team with another member for a joint session. We have had excellent sessions from members talking

about what they truly enjoy, from Civil War rifles, or Queen Anne pistols, to Mannlicher-Schoenauers. There are members who are able to offer pointers and who will bring in pieces from their collections to fill gaps. The purpose is to educate, and share camaraderie and gain knowledge. Please think about it. We have 6 meetings left in 2009 and 3 are NFM-VGCA presentations, so you have a chance to shine. Slots are now open...

Dues for annual membership were due in January 2009 and are \$30.00 per year. Get payments in now to avoid being removed from the VGCA roles.

VGCA Website: Finally, if you have not done so, please look at the club website (<http://www.vgca.org>). In the next few months you will hear more about increased use of the website and opportunities to get exposure for your business or share your collecting expertise via that venue. More to come...

***** INCLEMENT WEATHER ALERT *****

We are now in February, the month in winter where meetings are most at risk of being cancelled for foul weather, especially the DC area specialty that WTOP calls ‘wintery mix.’ Members are strongly encouraged to **check the VGCA Website** (<http://www.vgca.org>) **for Weather Alerts and Meeting Cancellations!** If the meeting is cancelled, there will be a flashing cloud with a notice when you open the page. Please inform members you know, especially those without Internet.

January 22nd Business Meeting: President Addison Hurst opened the business meeting with a moment of silence for departed members. Ed Costello announced that Marty Eakes was doing better. Members were also informed that Charlie Rausch was also doing better. Treasurer Ed Costello provided a report on the club finances and members discussed various cost savings measure for consideration. Rick Nahas gave a report on the number of tables sold for the Spring VGCA Gun Show. The resulting debate issues and suggestions served as a basis for further discussions at a subsequent Executive Committee meeting.

January 22nd Show and Tell: This large show and tell theme was your most valuable or prized gun. Show and tell started with **Dan Szatkowski** displaying his Remington 51 pistol, a S&W Model 61 clone circa the 1914 era. He also showed a Warner “Infallable” pistol. **Gary Holderman** followed with a trio of rifles – an unusual Winchester Model 677, essentially a Winchester 67 with a Winchester scope and no sights installed by the factory, a Model 69 Winchester, also with a Winchester scope, but also having sights, and finished with a very nice 7mm Mauser custom rifle with set triggers which was truly gunmaker’s art. Next up was a Browning Citori over/under shotgun from **Dick Mason** which was heavily engraved with pheasants and ducks. Not to be outdone, he followed with a Warren County, VA 1 of 10 Civil War commemorative Winchester Model 94 in .45 Colt, fully plated in 24 carat gold. **Another member** showed a Winchester 1897 pump shotgun in like new condition, in a custom hard case. This gun was well documented to the former U.S. Ambassador to Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) P.K. Crowe and mentioned in a memoir written by the Ambassador of his time in country. **Marc Gorelick** showed his newest modern acquisition, a PTR-91C. This rifle is a modern clone of the HK-91, the civilian version of the German G-3 battle rifle in 7.62 X 51 NATO caliber. **John Vagnetti** turned back the clock to the immediate post-American Revolutionary War period with a very fine 1798 contract musket by Daniel Gilbert of New England. Still in its original flint and never converted to percussion, this piece was patterned after the French Charleville musket provided to the US by the French. **Jim Burgess** kept to the early 18th century, showing an Eli Whitney contract musket, also in very good shape. Of note was Eli Whitney’s use of a stock duplicating machine. **John Morris** went to a heavier caliber with his scale mode of a Dahlgren Navy Gun manufactured at the Washington, DC Navy Yard. These cannons, with their distinctive bottle shape, were used during the Civil War. **Jim Vaughn** of PACA, showed his Model 1816 US Musket marked Harpers Ferry 1820. While most were later converted to percussion, this prize piece was all original. **Hal Johnson** shared his recently acquired Swiss 1893 Mannlicher Cavalry Carbine made by SIG. This short carbine was disliked by the Swiss cavalry due to its mediocre accuracy and high recoil. They are relatively uncommon today. **Kelly Cook** showed his German Imperial Naval Luger with matching board stock. This piece was obtained right before the US entered WWI by the Port Director of the Port of Hampton Roads. **Bob Sears** showed a treasure he first encountered during his days at Springfield Armory. It was the Woodworth .22 Hornet Springfield made from an M1922 action and has bases for a Winchester A5 scope. Only 2 other similar rifles exist, the Townsend Whelan and the George A. Woody rifles. Both men are well known to Springfield collectors for their tenure at the Armory. **Ed Johnson** had a crowd pleasing Colt Peacemaker in .41 Colt with carved ivory grips. This beautiful revolver is a documented 1887 frontier gun and had an 1885 holster

made of cactus fiber. **Larry Hare** displayed his Colt Model 1878 double barreled hammer shotgun. Only 7300 were produced. **Chris Smith** had 2 Garand Sniper rifles, an M1D and an M1C he restored from a DCM rifle with a plugged M1C receiver. **Shannon Zeigler** looked east with his Japanese Type 38 Rifle, and a rare Siamese Type 66, made from 1924-28. Although 42,000 were made in 8 X 52 Rimmed, only 39 are documented having been imported into the US. Examples are still in Thai inventories. **Jack Looney** showed his custom German Brandl sporter made on a Model 98 Mauser action. **Charlie Rathell** showed a side-by-side percussion underlever, hammer shotgun converted to centerfire. The gun was originally made in the 1836-38 time frame. El Presidente **Addison Hurst** closed out the long session with 2 pieces from his collection, a 1926 vintage Winchester Model 12 won at a PACA raffle, and his C.Sharps Company (Big Timber) long range express buffalo rifle with fitted case. The inletting on this rifle is so precise that the wood looks like it grew around the metal. Thanks all for sharing pieces from your collections.

From the Surprise, Surprise Change is Here Department: The Panic is on – For those who may not have seen the Oklahoma Land Rush-type of stampede to the ammunition and high capacity semi-automatic handgun dealers when a gun show opens these days, please read the following: **BACKGROUND CHECKS CONTINUE TO SPIKE IN JANUARY** – Firearm sales continued to increase in January, continuing an upswing that began after November's election. Data from the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) show background checks on the sale of firearms jumped 28.8 percent in January when compared to January 2008. The increase follows a 24 percent rise in December and a 42 percent jump in November, when a record **1,529,635** background checks were performed. NICS reported **1,213,885** checks in January, up from 942,556 in the same month a year ago. Last year, a total of **12,709,023** background checks were reported, up 14 percent from 2007.

Upcoming Events and Shows

Words to the Wise: 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.

VIRGINIA

- ☉ February 28-March 1, 2009 - Virginia Beach, VA - Convention Center - *SGK, LTD*
- ☉ March 7-8, 2009 – Richmond, VA – Showplace - *C&E Gun Show*
- ☉ March 14-15, 2009 - Fredericksburg, VA - Expo Center - *SGK, LTD*
- ☉ March 21-22, 2009 – Roanoke, VA - Roanoke Civic Center – *Showmasters*
- ☉ **March 28-29, 2009 - Manassas, VA - Prince William County Fairgrounds – Virginia Gun Collectors Association**
- ☉ March 28-29, 2009 - Richmond, VA - Raceway & Fairgrounds – *Showmasters*
- ☉ April 4-5, 2009 - Norfolk, VA – Norfolk Scope Arena - *Showmasters*
- ☉ April 18-19, 2009 - Hampton, VA - Convention Center - *SGK, LTD*
- ☉ April 24-26, 2009 - Chantilly, VA - Dulles Expo Center - *C&E Gun Show / Showmasters*

MARYLAND

- ☉ February 21-22, 2009 – Upper Marlboro, MD - Show Place Arena (P.G. County) – *Silverado Promotions*
- ☉ February 28-March 1, 2009 - Pikesville, MD - Pikesville Armory - *Appalachian Promotions*
- ☉ March 21-22, 2009 - Baltimore, MD - Timonium Maryland State Fairgrounds – *Maryland Antique Arms Collectors*
- ☉ April 4-5, 2009 - Frederick, MD - Frederick Fairgrounds – *Silverado Promotions*

PENNSYLVANIA

- ☉ February 21-22, 2009 - York, PA - York Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*
- ☉ March 13-15, 2009 - King of Prussia, PA - Valley Forge Convention Center - *valleyforgegunshow.com*
- ☉ April 18-19, 2009 – Greencastle, PA - Mason Dixon Auto Auction - *Appalachian Promotions*
- ☉ May 1-3, 2009 - York, PA - York Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*

- ☞ **May 9-10, 2009 - Allentown, PA** - Agricultural Hall - *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*. Contact: FDHAS, 3491 Linden St., Bethlehem, PA 18017. 610-997-8613 after 6pm.

OHIO

- ☞ **March 14-15, 2009 – Wilmington, OH** – Roberts Centre - *Ohio Gun Collectors Association*. **OGCA MEMBERS ONLY**. For membership information contact Laura Knotts (330) 467-5733.

OKLAHOMA

- ☞ **April 4-5, 2009 – Tulsa, OK** - Expo Center-Expo Square (Tulsa Fairgrounds) - *Tulsa Arms Collectors Association*. ****MORE THAN 3,900 TABLES!****

No man's life, liberty, or property is safe while the legislature is in session. ~ Mark Twain (1866)

Address for any Newsletter related matters or submissions is VGCANews@cox.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 at the numbers on page one.

Photos of the January 22nd Meeting Show and Tell Presentation



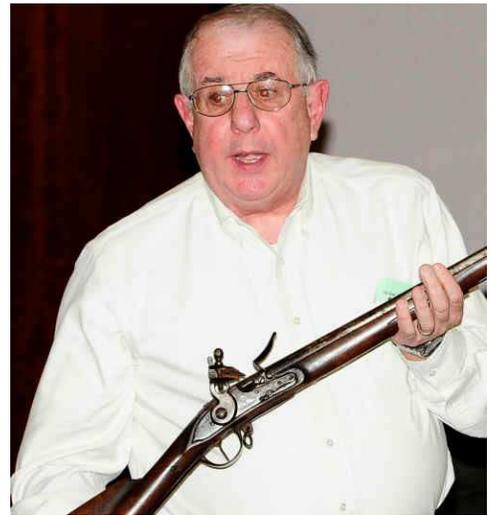
Dick Mason's Citori – wonderful curl and engraving.



Lock from Jim Burgess' Eli Whitney musket.



Kelly Cook's German Imperial Naval Luger with matching board stock.



L: John Morris' scale Dahlgren Navy Gun made by the Washington Navy Yard.
R: John Vagnetti and the 1798 contract musket by Daniel Gilbert.



UL: Hal Johnson and his Swiss 1893 Mannlicher Cavalry Carbine.

UR: Ed Johnson's 1887 .41 Colt Peacemaker with carved ivory grips and 1885 holster made of cactus fiber.



L: Receiver and lock area of Charlie Rathell's side-by-side percussion underlever, hammer shotgun that was converted to centerfire.

© Photos courtesy of Jack Looney Photography.