



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.ORG



Est. 1983 (A Non-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G8162

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February 2014 VGCA e-Newsletter



Presentation for January 23, 2014 Meeting: Doug Wicklund, Curator at the NRA National Firearms Museum (NRA-NFM) was the featured speaker for the meeting. His presentation covered the new *National Sporting Arms Museum*, a joint effort by the NRA-

NFM and BassPro Shops in Springfield, Missouri. The talk was accompanied by a great series of photos of this



new, impressive tribute and exhibition of sporting arms and accoutrements, artwork, advertising, and memorabilia from arms makers from the colonial era to the present. Here are a few examples, most of which were well documented by the photographs projected on the screen. The Museum has President Alexander Hamilton's Powder Horn, the Pachmayr Collection of superior firearms, and a 16th century (1500's) 16 shot wheel lock, with matchlock backup repeater... (© now that would be a treat to see in action). They have a staircase of rifles where the rifles serve as the posts for the railings, former NRA President and WW2 fighter ace Joe Foss's guns, and an original Armalite AR10 rifle from the 1950's. Even though this is a sporting arms museum, there are a number of military rifles on display including many of the national match rifles and pistols used over the years by famous marksmen in the National Matches at Camp Perry. Since this is a joint effort with BassPro Shops, the store's founder's gun is exhibited. One feature

that ties many of the different exhibits together is the Timeline of Guns, which covers weapons through history – and had a lot of space for the future – if we as citizens and gun owners remain dedicated to both the present fight and the future by passing on our passions and knowledge to the younger generations so they too can work aggressively to protect our firearms rights.

Included are a Lewis and Clark 1803 rifle and a Giardoni air rifle like the one used on the expedition, and an original Hawken half-stock plains rifle (very, very few original, working Hawken rifles survived their hard lives in the mountains). The Trap Shooting hall of Fame exhibit is also hosted in the museum, along with 2 of Annie Oakley's shotguns. For Old West fans, they have John Wesley Hardin's Colt double-action revolver and others. There are guns from the Remington Arms Company of Ilion, NY Museum, as well as original artwork that Remington Arms used in advertising and their famous calendars. We had a large turnout of members and were also provided with even more information by **Jim Supica**, Director of the NRA-NFM, who covered some of the many features and provided anecdotes on the design and development of the facility. This was a great presentation about an outstanding venue of which both the NFM and BassPro Shops are rightly proud, and to have such a cooperative effort by a business and an organization with long histories of facilitating the enjoyment and use of sporting arms, demonstrates what is possible. According to **Mr. Wicklund**, in the 4 months that the new facility was open in 2013, the new Museum had over 3 times as many visitors as the NFM had that same year. Both of our speakers and hosts did a great job, and a number of members remarked that the new *National Sporting Arms Museum* was going to be a destination at some point. After the presentations were concluded, those present were treated to a private tour of the Robert E. Petersen Gallery at the NFM.

☛ **Presentation for February 27 – Shannon Zeigler** will cover “*Japanese Type 99 Short Rifle Inspection Marks*” This will be a very informative program with some new material assembles from the study and observation of many

rifles. Shannon presented once before, but we had a computer snafu which precluded his illustrating his talk. That will not be a problem this time. We will have the new VGCA laptop and camera for showing details. (Note: LTC Gregg Thompson has been re-scheduled to the October 23, 2014 meeting.)

✪ **Presentations for 2014:** We have a great speaker line-up for 2014, so mark your calendars. Advance thanks to those who have signed up to present and to the members who arranged for some of the program speakers. As always, any updates will be published in the newsletters each month.

- **March – NO Meeting – VGCA Gun Show**
- **April 24 - Bill Chronister and Larry Hare** cover “*Precision Adult Air Rifles.*”
- **May 22 - Anthony Vanderlinden** returns with more on Belgian Arms with a look at “*Henri Pieper and the Bayard Legacy*” - A look at FN's co-founder and competitor
- **June 26 – Carlos Davila** on “*The G-1/2/3 Family of Military Rifles*”
- **July – NO Meeting – Summer Recess**
- **August 28 – Shannon Ziegler** – Japanese Arms Program
- **September 25 - Addison Hurst** – “*The Kalashnikov Rifle and Legacy*”
- **October 23 - LTC Gregg Thompson** on Afghani Rifles
- **November: NO Meeting - VGCA Gun Show**
- **December 4: Annual Membership Meeting** – NO Speaker/Pot Luck Dinner/Director Nominations/Show & Tell/Swap Meet

Business Meeting of January 23, 2014: Before the presentation, President **Dave Litchfield** announced to the members present to keep in mind and prayers the members and family members who are ill.

New Members: **Larry Hare**, Membership Chair, introduced new member candidates. First up for consideration was **Michael Alsop**, who was sponsored by member **Greg Dixon**. The second was **Chris Christov**, who was sponsored by member **Bill York**. After short presentations by both candidates about their backgrounds and area of collecting interests, they were voted into the Association by unanimous acclaim. Welcome aboard gentlemen.

There was an announcement about the availability of member Larry Babcock's book, the M1 Garand Photo Essay, which shows photographic details of all the parts and variations of parts on this iconic battle rifle of WW2. It was also reported that the Belvoir Bullets Shooting team are already using the target systems we funded.

Details were provided on the planned VGCA Member and Guest banquet. (Please see below in the Announcements Section for information.)

2014 Election of Officers Cycle: As the January nominations to fill the full 2014-2015 terms of the Association Officers was opened to the floor. As there were no additional nominations, motions to close the nomination were approved by the members present. The five (5) nominees for the 4 Officer positions are: **David Litchfield** (Incumbent) for President; **Ernie Lyles** (Incumbent) and **Jim Burgess** for Vice-President; **Richard Pripeton** for Secretary; and **Shannon Zeigler** for Treasurer. You will have received and hopefully have mailed back your ballot by the time you receive this newsletter. The returned ballots will be tallied at this upcoming meeting on February 27, and the winners announced.

*** **INCLEMENT WEATHER ALERT** ***: We are STILL in the winter season. During the winter months meetings may be cancelled for bad weather. **Check the new VGCA Website (www.vgca.net) for Weather Alerts and Cancellations!** If the meeting is cancelled, there will be a notice when you open the homepage. Please inform members you know, especially those without Internet access.

2014 Dues of \$30.00 for annual members are now overdue. A final notice has been mailed. Get payment in now to avoid being dropped. If you have already paid, we thank you. Get payment in now to avoid being dropped from the VGCA membership roster. A renewal form is on the last page of this Newsletter.

Payments should be mailed to: Larry Hare, P.O. Box 102, Afton, VA 22920

If you will be at the meeting, you may submit the form and a check payable to VGCA (NO CASH PLEASE) directly to Larry Hare, Membership Coordinator and save postage.

Notes from the Podium – President's Message

Hello Members,

I hope everyone survived the recent show storms and enjoyed some quiet reloading time during these winter months. We have had some speaker shuffling to adjust to moving schedules. This month at our February 27 monthly meeting, Shannon Zeigler will present on Japanese Rifles.

Check the new VGCA Website (www.VGCA.net) to find the adjusted list. We are all sold out for the March 22-23 Gun Show, so we have started a waiting list.

If you want to share a table, contact our Show Manager, Rick Nahas, immediately. We'll work our way down the waiting list and as we get cancellations we'll assign tables.

The Chantilly gun show was packed this last weekend, and I believe we will draw a large crowd in March. Remember to price your sales items as "good deals" and be willing to consider offers. Flexibility with your pricing and a friendly greeting to your customers is the best way to make sales. Retail prices and inflexibility will guarantee that you take your guns home on Sunday. We can't offer "good deals" on everything, as those special, hard to find, hard to get guns or collectibles speak for themselves. I have a nice Mauser 98K re-chambered from 7.92 x 57 (8mm Mauser) to 7.92-06 (8mm-06), a common action done to thousands of WWII Mausers to take advantage of plentiful .30-06 brass, so I have purchased a box of 8mm-06 ammo to give with the rifle, an easy loss leader to make selling the rifle easier. I recommend this same example to all of you for the less common calibers.

Please keep Ben Sims in your thoughts as he recovers from throat surgery. Ben has had a tough last year and we are praying for his return to better health. I look forward to seeing you all on the 27th!

~~ Happy Collecting, *Dave Litchfield*

Announcements, etc.

- **VGCA Members and Spouses Banquet**: The Membership and Guests Banquet is scheduled for Saturday evening, April 5, 2014. This year we will be dining at Anthony's Italian Restaurant at 7234 Centreville Road (Rt. 28) in Manassas, VA 20111. They have a nice private Dining Room.
We will have a cash bar and a meal with a salad; entrée choices of **Stuffed Eggplant (Veggie) - \$21.95; Chicken Cordon Blue - \$24.95; Atlantic Grilled Salmon - \$24.95 and Prime Rib - \$27.95**. The meal includes two side dishes and ice cream for dessert. Soft drinks, tea and coffee are also included.
We will be recognizing our members who do so much over the year for VGCA. We will also have a live auction, so bring cash, and contribute any items you want to recycle to another collector. The last 2 years auctions have had some great deals and all the proceeds go to support your Association. Please contact **Emory Hackman** at (703) 288-2941 to reserve your seat(s) and pay.
- **March 2014 Spring VGCA Gun Show Update**: VGCA has a [waiting list for tables!!!](#) The March 22-23 VGCA Gun Show is SOLD OUT. We are in ONE building only. If a member want to get a jump on the November 2014 Fall show, contact **Rick Nahas** to get a reservation request in so you do not get shut out.
- **Call for VGCA Gun Show Volunteers**: We **ALWAYS NEED VOLUNTEERS** for the show table setup and **especially for the Security and Safety Teams**, as well as some folks to help with the **Sign Detail** the morning of the show, and pick them up after the show on Sunday, etc. Tell **Dave Litchfield, Rick Nahas, Dennis Gerdovich, or Kent Jeffries** or one of the Association Officers if you wish to volunteer. Talk to **Larry Hare** if you want to help with signs. **Table set-up will be on March 21, at 10:00AM. Remember, working on the Security, Safety, and Setup teams earns a free admission.**

Show & Tell for the January 23 Meeting: There was a lot of variety in the Show & Tell this evening. **Member 1** showed a Mossberg MB42 that was one of 50,000 .22LR training rifles made for the United Kingdom during WW2. These rifles that were sold as military trainers will show serial numbers, and those destined for the UKL will show British proof marks. This rifle, originally a Mannlicher stocked piece, had apparently been modified in the UK by replacing the full stock with a Mossberg sporter-type of stock. **Member 2** showed a very nice Swedish 1896 Mauser CG-63 Match Rifle. These were made from original Swedish 1896 Mauser long rifles, from a pattern designed in 1963 by the Carl Gustaf factory, hence CG-63. The changes included restocking in a heavy target stock

with raised cheek piece, installing front and rear diopter target sights, and rebarreling with a medium or heavy match barrel to take full advantage of the inherently accurate 6.5 x 55 Swedish military round. **Member 3** brought a Browning BLR prototype lever action rifle in .243 made by TRW. These were made to try US manufacturing, but the results were not acceptable to Browning, so manufacturing was done by FN, the traditional manufacturer of Browning long arms at that time. Manufacturing was later moved to Miroku in Japan. The final item of the night was shown by new **Member 4**. He displayed 1842 MP Ames percussion Naval Pistol in fine condition. He also displayed a flint lock piece in relic condition that he obtained in Haiti. Close examination showed it to be from an 1809 British Brown Bess India Pattern Type 2 Musket. If only it could tell its history.

Member Requests for Assistance:

Wanted: Burris 200381 Compact Rimfire 3-9X32 Scope for Sako Quad Rifle. These were made exclusively for the Sako Quad 4 barrel .22/.17 cal rifle set. They were made by Burris for Sako and stopped production about 6 months ago. Will pay premium price and Finders Fee!!! Please contact VGCA Member Thomas Litton at thomaslitton@msn.com, or call 561-644-4617.



Upcoming Events and Shows

PLEASE NOTE: There are sometimes changes in schedules or errors on websites. Members are strongly encouraged to *verify before driving to a show*. These dates have been published online, but are not guaranteed. **Yellow** = Collector organizations.

VIRGINIA 2014

- March 8-9, 2014 - Fredericksburg, VA - Fredericksburg Expo & Conference Center - *SGK Shows*
- March 15-16, 2014 - Winchester, VA - Winchester Sportsplex - *SGK Show*
- March 15-16, 2014 - Dale City, VA - VFW Post 1503 - *Old Dominion Shows*
- March 22-23, 2014 - Hampton, VA - Hampton Roads Convention Center - *SGK Show*
- **March 22-23, 2014 - Manassas, VA - Prince William County Fairgrounds – Virginia Gun Collectors Association**
- April 5-6, 2014 - Norfolk, VA - Norfolk Scope Arena - *C&E Gun Show*
- April 12-13, 2014 - Fishersville, VA - Augusta Expoland - *C&E Gun Show*
- April 25-27, 2014 - Chantilly, VA – Expo Center, The Nation's Gun Show - *C&E Gun Show*
- April 26-27, 2014 - Dale City, VA - VFW Post 1503 - *Old Dominion Shows*

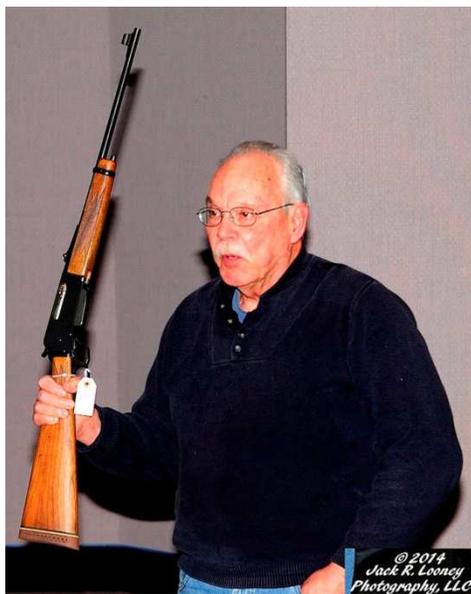
MARYLAND 2014

- **March 15-16, 2014 – Baltimore (Timonium), MD – Timonium Fairgrounds – Maryland Arms Collectors Association, www.baltimoreshow.com**

PENNSYLVANIA 2014

- March 15-16, 2014 - Altoona, PA - Blair County Convention Center - *C&E Gun Show*
- April 26-27, 2014 - Monroeville, PA - Monroeville Convention Center - *C&E Gun Show*
- **May 10-11, 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**

Photos from January 23, 2014 Meeting



Top Row: Doug Wicklund (L) and Jim Supica (R) give the NRA-NFM Presentation on the *National Sporting Arms Museum*, a joint effort by the NRA-NFM and BassPro Shops in Springfield, Missouri.

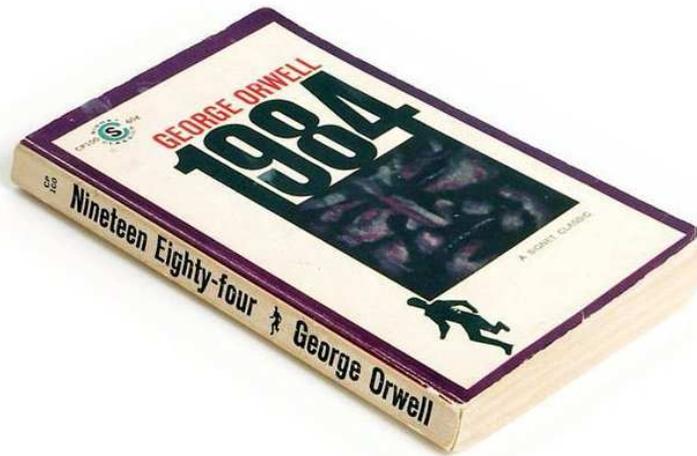
2nd Row: Member 1 (L) shows his Mossberg MB42 WW2 Training Rifle with English proofs. Member 2 (R) presents his Swedish 1893 Mauser CG-63 Target Rifle.

3rd Row: Member 3 (L) displays his TRW-made prototype Browning BLR in .243. Member 4 (R) speaks about his Model 1842 Naval Pistol made by Ames.



1984 + 30 = 2014, Hmm... Coincidence?

Winston Smith was not permitted to own guns



Why do you think that was?

This Newsletter will be my last newsletter I write as you will soon have a new Secretary and Newsletter Editor. I want to thank all the members who over the last 9 years have sent me items and events for listing in the newsletter. I always tried to get in the historical events for which this area is so well known. I also want to thank all of you who personally called me, wrote me, or stopped me at meetings or various gun shows to tell me how much you liked the newsletter. That made it a lot easier to buckle down and put pen to paper on late nights.

I believe you will find the new Editor will make some changes and add or delete some sections, but I believe it will get even better with fresh eyes and ideas. Thanks for your support.

Feel free to email items for inclusion in the newsletter.

Remember, for changes of address or non-receipt of the newsletter, either via email or the mailed hard-copy, please contact Larry Hare.

v/r *Bill Chronister*, VGCA Newsletter Editor

**Membership Renewal Request (AMR-NL-2014)
Larry Hare, P.O. Box 102, Afton, VA 22920-0102**

VGCA annual membership requires yearly renewal and payment of \$30.00. Life membership is still only \$150.00. If you have paid your 2013 dues, you may upgrade to life membership during the 2014 dues cycle for \$150 (only \$120 over the cost of annual membership.) 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.

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____ Email _____

- Enclosed is \$30.00 for CY 2014 VGCA annual membership dues.
- I wish to upgrade to Life membership in VGCA. Enclosed is \$150.00.
- Remove my name from the VGCA membership rolls.

Make all checks payable to VGCA (NO CASH PLEASE). If you have any questions contact Larry Hare, Membership Chair at (540) 946-2050 or by email at LaurenceHare@gmail.com