



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

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Est. 1983

(A Non-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G 8162

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March 2008 VGCA Newsletter

Thoughts from the President February-March 2008

- Last month's meeting wherein we discussed shotguns brought in was one of the most interesting and fun meetings we have had in some time. Everyone seemed to have a great time and the pizza seemed to be a real hit. The donation cups produced a considerable offset to the cost of the food. Many thanks to those who donated. We will continue to do this since we are times of no short term income.
- It got me to thinking that while our gun shows are fun and certainly are a revenue stream for VGCA, they are not the most important thing in the world. As everyone knows, there are more gun shows now than can be attended.
- I think a smaller but quality show is better than a large commercial show. I think our members should strongly consider taking tables at our show — both selling and display tables. I think we have strayed in the old trap that bigger is better. It is not.
- As soon as Phil Schreier returns, we should have a fix on the joint VGCA-NFM presentations. August 28, October 23, and December 4 will be the NFM/VGCA dates. Mark your calendars..., they are great and not to be missed.
- **As you know, there was no monthly meeting in February. Next meeting is Thursday, March 27. The program will be show and tell and a mini-gunshow / member swap meet. Bring the good stuff. We will again have pizza due to popular demand! Pizza should arrive between 6:30 and 7PM. Be early, January was like army ants hit the pizza table -- nothing but the bones of empty boxes. Hope to see you then.**
- I talked to John Wallace. He is home and feeling stronger each day. His blood picture is improving as well.
- Dorothy Johnson, Ed Johnson's wife, is also home after surgery where he left lung was removed. One tough lady. (Would have to be in order to live with Ed for 53+ years!) Ed reports she is getting stronger each day and is glad to be home. I am glad they both are home – hospitals are dangerous places.

January 24 Business Meeting: Addison Hurst kicked off the meeting with the pledge and updates on Charlie Rausch, who is in rehab in Charlottesville with a broken hip. We wish him well. He also passed on the news that Vince Pugh and Jim Matthews are ill. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers. **Emory Hackman** and **Bill Chronister** covered the January legislative threats to firearms owners, gun shows, gun rights and concealed carry being aggressively pushed by Governor Tim Kaine. Fortunately, the group of 3 bills discussed, some of which were thinly veiled attacks on private sales using the guise of the infamous and non-existent "gunshow loophole" and specifically falsified by the Governor as "gunshows allowing felons to purchase firearms without a background check," were all defeated, assigned to committees, or tabled. This resulted in much lamenting by the Washington Post and the Governor. However, many, many more bills are in the pipeline. While many will die well deserved deaths or fade, there is always the possibility they will resurrect like bad seeds. (continued after photo page)

January 2008 Meeting Show and Tell – Shotguns



**Left: John Vagnetti and his Winchester 1897 Trench gun.
Above: Mike Hardesty and the Luftwaffe Drilling.**



**Above:
Jim Leahigh
with his
Spencer
pump
shotgun.**



**Right-above: Roger Sherman and his sw45 P-38.
Left: Emory Hackman's Russian Tula side-by-side.**



(From Page 1) Whether this surge of legislation at the state level is the result of a governor who cannot be held accountable by voters due to a single term, or legislators and a governor who are on orders from their national Central Party, or are hopes at getting a vice-presidential nod as opined by one wag in the mainstream media, the end result is we, as gun owners, collectors, hunters and shooters must be at full alert. Make no mistake, the upcoming Northern Virginia primary for representatives to Congress to replace Tom Davis have 2 well known and extremely hard-core anti-gun candidates on the blue side, and this fall's presidential election could very well spell the beginning of the end of the freedom to own or purchase many types of firearms in the U.S., hold or attend gunshows, or at least cause a reversion to a 1994 ban situation. Chose and vote accordingly for candidates for office who will be electable and able to act in your interest. Protest votes or 'sitting this one out' will be counter-productive, aid the opposition, and diminish or divide the strength of gun owners. As in the words of a famous patriot, Benjamin Franklin, while signing the Declaration of Independence in 1776, "We must, indeed, all hang together, or most assuredly we shall all hang separately."

Ed Costello closed the business portion with a financial overview of the club treasury and while not rosy, there appears to be some available solutions.

Focused January Meeting Show and Tell - Shotguns: After a short recess, members re-convened for the Show and Tell of "individualized presentations" of items of interest. **John Vagnetti** kicked off with his exceptionally well preserved (make that mint) 1942 vintage Winchester Model 1897 Trench gun setup with Remington Model 1917 WW2 re-worked bayonet and original WW2 00 Buckshot. You do not see them better than this one. Outstanding! **Mike Hardesty** displayed an unusual German Luftwaffe Survival Drilling in 9.3x74mm and 12 guage made by J.P.Sauer. His superbe example was complete with the transport case, all accessories and paperwork. These drillings were designed for use as a survival weapon for German Ju-87 Stuka pilots. One interesting technological feature was that when used as a rifle, the dual shotgun triggers functioned as a set trigger. **Bart Legatt** shifted to a sporting theme and presented an uncommon in the US, Winchester Model 91 over/under shotgun. This shotgun was produced in Spain for the European market. It had double single triggers with a John Browning patent. Another member followed Bart and showed his very nice commercial Colt Model 1911 Automatic Pistol with a High Standard barrel. **Phil Valentini** challenged the membership with a request for any information on a micrometer sight fine adjuster similar to the O'Hare Springfield M1903 accessory popular with match shooters. It was marked MRT-30. If anyone knows anything, about this item please let me know or notify any of the officers on the newsletter masthead. **John Babey** brought out his Browning Superposed European Model B-26 (Model B-27 in the US), an elegant gun with 28" barrels. He followed this with a WW2 1935 Beretta with a polished finish in .32 ACP, that was accompanied by an uncommon P.Beretta marked holster. **Dick Wardian** followed with a nice sleek, Riverside Arms side-by-side in 2.5" .410 guage. A cased Tony Galzan US-made 20 guage custom side-by-side followed. This gun was made one of 3000 made at the former Black & Decker factory. **Larry Hare** surfaced his US-made Spencer-Bannerman 12 guage pump shotgun that was assembled by the famed Bannerman firm. **Bob Sears** offered a technical analysis of the timing and operation of the gun. **Jim Leahigh** enhanced this with his original Spencer-made and assembled pump shotgun. **Roger Sherman** succumbed to pre-meeting pressure and showed his recent acquisitions, an outstanding, very rare, first type Mauser svw45 all gray P-38, with rare Waffenamt marked matching original steel grips. This piece was one of the last Mauser made guns and was in truly perfect shape and looked not only unissued, but unhandled. He compared and contrasted this to a January 1945 Mauser byf44 with Czech barrel. This is also a rare variation due to a high factory rejection rate due to the deteriorating situation in the East. **Bill Chronister** showed a WW2 vintage 1943 Finnish Civil Guard (Sk.Y marked) M-39 Mosin-Nagant and a very rare original M-39 Finnish bayonet. Due to the presence of brightwork on selected parts, this rifle was in as-issued condition and had never been re-worked after the war. **Bob Sears** had a very early Browning Superposed shotgun. In 1931 Browning began importing these to the US. Over 377,000 were made by FN with 79% coming to the US. **Emory Hackman** showed his fathers shotgun, a Russian civilian 16 guage with sights for rifled slugs made by the Tula Arsenal. This is an unusual piece in the US due to the import restrictions on Soviet-made arms during the cold war. **Jack Looney** displayed a very nice Swiss 10.4X38mm rimfire M1878 Vetterli infantry rifle with a real value-added feature – a professional conversion to centerfire enabling him to shoot this fine example of the first repeating rifle adopted by a major military. **Addison Hurst** concluded this shotgun-focused session with a US martially marked military M11 Remington with 'military finish.' This is an FN licensed, Remington-made version of the Browning Auto-5. With that final piece, the presentations of a diverse range of shotguns and other guns came to a close, and the meeting adjourned.

Upcoming Events and Shows

Words to the Wise: Lately there have been some changes in scheduling by gunshow promoters or errors on some websites. Members are strongly encouraged to check before driving long distances for a show. These dates have been published as of this writing, but are not guaranteed. If you have a show you would like to tell other members about, please email the Editor with a short review, including the items displayed, i.e., modern, new, or antique, and I will include it if room permits.

VIRGINIA

- ☞ March 22-23, 2008 - Virginia Beach, VA - Convention Center - *SGK, LTD*
- ☞ March 22-23, 2008 - Roanoke, VA - Roanoke Civic Center – *Showmasters*
- ☞ April 5-6, 2008 - Norfolk, VA - Norfolk Scope - *Showmasters / C&E Gun Shows*
- ☞ April 11-13, 2008 - Chantilly, VA - Dulles Expo Center - *C&E Gun Show / Showmasters*
- ☞ April 19-20, 2008 - Dale City, VA - VFW Post 1503, 14631 Minnieville Rd. – *Old Dominion Shows*
- ☞ April 19-20, 2008 - Salem, VA - Salem Civic Center - *C&E Gun Show*
- ☞ May 17-18, 2008 - Richmond, VA - The Showplace - *C&E Gun Show*

MARYLAND

- ☞ March 15-16, 2008 – Timonium, MD - The Baltimore Show - Maryland State Fairgrounds - *Maryland Arms Collectors Association*
- ☞ April 5-6, 2008 - Frederick, MD - Frederick Fairgrounds – *Silverado Promotions*
- ☞ May 17-18, 2008 - Baltimore, MD - Antique Arms, Militaria, Armory - *Scott Condello, 215-699-8064*

PENNSYLVANIA

- ☞ March 15-16, 2008 – Harrisburg, PA - Farm Show Complex - *Mid-Atlantic Arms Collectors* **NOTE:** *The Ruger Collectors Association will once again display at the March 2008 show. March 2007 there were over 30 tables of some of the nicest Rugers in the U. S. A. Expect to see many more at the 2008 show.*
- ☞ April 19-20, 2008 – Hamburg, PA – Hamburg Field House - *The Pennsylvania Antique Gun Collectors Association*, Contact: PAGCA Treasurer, P.O. Box 63, Media, PA 19063.
- ☞ April 25-27, 2008 – Allentown, PA - Days Inn - *Eagle Arms*
- ☞ May 10-11, 2008 - Allentown, PA - Agricultural Hall - *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*. Contact: FDHAS, 3491 Linden St., Bethlehem, PA 18017. 610-997-8613 after 6pm.
- ☞ June 14-15, 2008 – Harrisburg, PA - Farm Show Complex - *Mid-Atlantic Arms Collectors*

OHIO

- ☞ May 10-11, 2008 – Wilmington, OH – Roberts Centre - *Ohio Gun Collectors Association*. **OGCA MEMBERS ONLY.** For membership information contact Laura Knotts (330) 467-5733.

NEW YORK

- ☞ April 19-20, 2008 – Syracuse, NY – State Fairgrounds - *New York State Arms Collectors Association*, Contact: Sandy Ackerman Klinger, 346 Paul Street, Endicott, NY 13760. (607) 748-1010.

OKLAHOMA

- ☞ April 5-6, 2008 – Tulsa, OK - Expo Center-Expo Square (Tulsa Fairgrounds) - *Tulsa Arms Collectors Association*. ****MORE THAN 3,900 TABLES!**** Featuring *Browning Collectors Association*

“I ask, sir, what is the militia? It is the whole people. To disarm the people is the best and most effectual way to enslave them.” -- George Mason, during Virginia's Convention to Ratify the U.S. Constitution (1788)

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.

V/R, Bill Chronister, Newsletter Editor