



# VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.



WWW.VGCA.ORG

Est. 1983 (A Non-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G 8162

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## Newsletter February/March 2006

**Program from the February 23, 2006 Meeting:** The speaker for this meeting was another of the NRA Speaker Series, Martin K.A. Morgan, the curator of the D-Day Museum in New Orleans, Louisiana. It was a great presentation where he told the story of the “Stinger,” an improvised, belt-fed weapon which melded a Garand stock with the

extremely fast cyclic rate of the ANM2 .30 caliber machine gun used by the rear gunner in the SBD Dauntless dive bomber. This weapon was used by Marine Tony Stein, who was posthumous awarded a Congressional Medal of Honor for actions on Iwo Jima. Readers are urged to reference the April 2006 NRA monthly magazine American Rifleman article “The Stinger” on Page 44, for a detailed illustrated accounting of this “Franken-gun,” that illustrated the special USMC virtue of “improvise and overcome.” A replica was built for the soon to be released movie “Flag of Our Fathers.” Unfortunately, the Tony Stein sequence shot for the movie remained on the cutting room floor.

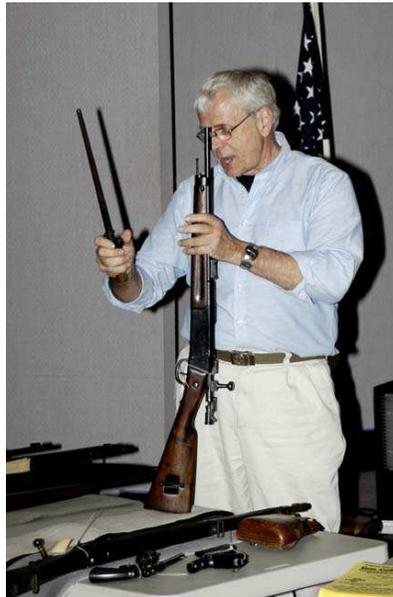


Mr. Morgan then talked about a combat-proven and battle-damaged C-47 cargo plane he recently obtained. The plane had a documented history of being used in the D-Day Normandy invasion, Operation “Market Garden, memorialized in A Bridge too Far, the crossing of the Rhine, and the relief of Bastogne in the Battle of the Bulge. It was later used by the Finns. He concluded with a presentation on the D-Day Museum in New Orleans, the effects of Katrina on the museum (thankfully minimal) and future expansion plans. Mr. Morgan remained after the presentation and took many questions from the membership and shared his expertise. (I must confess, this overview of the presentation is shorter than usual due to the NRA magazine article, to

make room for the gunshow photos and the show and tell, but mainly because I found the “Stinger” piece so riveting, that my notes were a bit sketchy. – ed.)

**UPCOMING for April 27 meeting:** Our NRA-VGCA speaker on April 27, Frank Iannamico, will be another treat. Frank has written books on historic arms and is an expert on US military automatic small arms. The presentation and subject of his new book will be the US Rifle M14. Members are encouraged to bring in their MIAs and M14s (those fortunate few). ➔ **The meeting begins at 7:00PM, and food will available shortly after 6:00PM.**

An idea was also suggested for this show and tell on the 27th. Bring in the most beautiful and prized firearm you own. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder so it might be the most accurate, the one with the most fancy wood and engraving, with the most sentimental value, or may even be the most historic. Everyone has one favorite — so bring it in and discuss it...pistol, rifle, shotgun, what have you.



**February 27 Speaker and Show & Tell Session.**

L: Mr. Morgan takes questions amid the exemplars from the "Show and Tell" session to follow.

R: Hank Hagenau makes the 'point' as he presented a nice French 1886 Lebel Cavalry Carbine in 8mm Lebel.

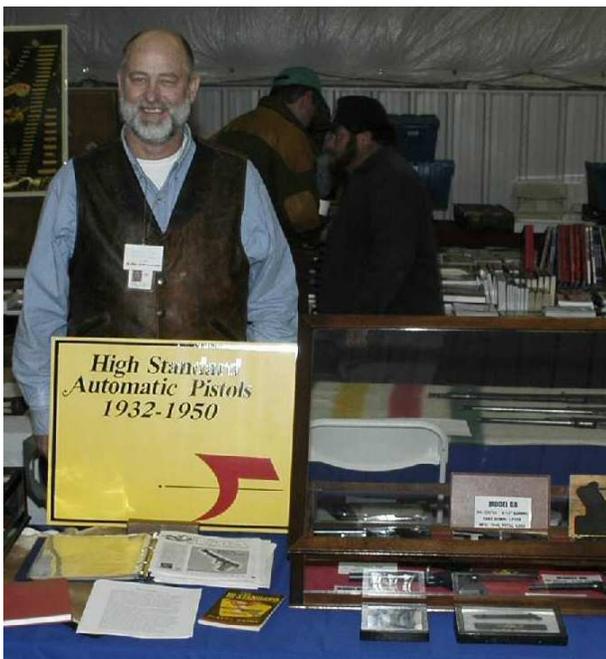
**March 2006 VGCA PWC Show**

Mid-L: Kelly Cook's High Standard display.

Mid-R: Bill Chronister and his First Place Display - Swiss Rifles 1867-1958

Bot-L: Ed Costello (back to camera) with Bob Sears and other members.

Bot-R: Ed Johnson mans his table.



**February 23 Business Meeting:** The meeting opened with an introduction and club welcome to our guests, Dick Worley, Mike Brenahan, Eric Strott (Capt. of HS Rifle Team), and Al Sheppard. Larry Hare reported there were no new members for consideration as no candidates or sponsors were present. He offered an annual dues (\$20) reminder, and noted the life membership remains at \$100. The meeting continued with a review of issues for the upcoming show at the Prince William County (PWC) Fairgrounds, including security plans, the need for volunteers and coordination with the local police authorities. Rick Nahas provided details of the new entrance and announced the show was sold out. Ed Costello informed members of the new PA system (made even better by the entrance change) and explained the new insurance requirements and loaded firearms restrictions.

**Meeting Show and Tell:** A very large and well delivered show and tell was held emphasizing World War II weaponry, fitting the NRA presentation. Sonny Laine told a story of departed member Fred Fees being wounded in Korea which was the introduction to his USMC M1903 Sniper Rifle. Jim Burgess does in fact have modern weapons and he brought a selection of Allied and Axis arms, including a brace of Remingtons, the M1903 (Modified) in a scant stock and a nice M1903A3. He concluded with a Savage-made British Enfield No.4Mk1\*, and a German Walther P-38 pistol. Bill Chronister showed a British Enfield No.2MkIV .22RF trainer. Emory Hackman displayed his father's 1911-vintage Springfield Model of 1903, an M1 Garand where the serial number was his date of birth, and a sporterized M1903 Springfield he carried in Panama while in the military. Hank Hagenau presented a nice French 1886 Lebel Cavalry Carbine in 8mm Lebel. Bill Edwards showed an M1903A3 he used in DCM qualifications that rifle had been rescued from underwater at Saipan in the Pacific. He also showed a Browning 1907 pistol with an SA marking, and a smoothbore .41 Colt 1908 DA revolver associated with the M. Hartley Company.

Roger Sherman shared a German P-38 pistol, A German marked VIZ 35 Radom with no Polish markings, a Soviet Tokarev SVT40 rifle from 1942, and a rare German G43 sniper rifle with Voigtlander scope made in 1945. Larry Hare detailed his US Rifle Model of 1917 Enfield cut-away-rifle, complete with dummy rounds in the magazine. Bob Hardy exhibited an impressive Class III collection which included US, British, German and Swiss-made guns (Thompson, Lanchester, Sten, MP-40, MP-34 Solothurn, and a Mauser M1930 Schnellfeuer pistol.) Chris Smith showed a Mauser M98 Sporter based upon a very, very rare Steyr-coded receiver. Ernie Lyle produced his WWII Liberator pistol made by the Guide Lamp Corp. This was a sterile single-shot for use by resistance and local fighters and had a comicbook pictorial set of instructions for illiterate or non-English users. John Vagnetti displayed a Winchester 1897 12 guage trench gun made in 1942 with the rare original brass ammo. Joe Kester showed D-Day memorabilia from his father – plates given to the USGI liberators of the village of Mastrecht, Holland. He also showed a collection of original Garand ordnance gauges including the rare bolt lug gauge. Addison Hurst scoured the treasure chest and found an original M1A1 carbine and M3 trench knife, a Johnson Automatic rifle, and an M-50 Reising – a nice combination of the good, the controversial and the less than stellar performers in the US arsenal. Ed Johnson produce an unused, mint Colt Pistol US Model 1911A1. Finishing off this extensive and comprehensive show and tell was Jim Leahigh with a great Remington M1903A4 sniper rifle. All-in-all, quite a varied and diverse display.

### ★★★ The March 2006 PWC VGCA Gunshow ★★★

**A Note from the President:** We had a good show. The paid attendance exceeded the fall show at Hugos. So, I think we are on the right track. I think it will increase as people get to know about the location change. The advertising was good. The changing of the entrance worked OK and circulation in both halls was good. We blazed some new ground this show. We had a class 3 dealer who was well received. He is a law enforcement officer who sells police equipment. He will be joining VGCA and he enjoyed our show very much. The food vendor almost sold out of food. The new PA system purchased by the fairground worked well. Security was the best ever. We want to tweak some things but the show was good and we had very few problems. I would like to thank all who helped in so many ways.

**The Show Awards:** This show again was host to a group of fine displays of collectible firearms, accoutrements, and history. All were well presented and showed a devotion to the hobby of collecting, history and subject matter research. The Judges honored the following people and their displays with recognition and awards:

- **Judge's Choice** – Peter Kuck - GEW1898 Rifle Conversions
- **Third Place** – Phil Hill - Governmental Model Automatic Pistols
- **Second Place** – Karl Karash - Model of 1911 Navy Marked Pistols
- **First Place and Best of Show** – Bill Chronister - Swiss Military Rifles 1867-1958

Award plaques will be mailed to the winners.

**Special recognition and thanks:** From Larry Hunt, Chief Security Officer – I would like to thank the following members for their support and excellent job working security at the March Gun Show. Everyone worked long and hard hours to insure we had a safe and secure show. *John Schuh, Jack Looney, Addison Hurst, George Kirshbaum, Larry Burman, Paul Edwards, Jim Mathews, Carl Warhurst, Jim Burgess, David McKenzie.* A special thanks to *Jim Burgess* for his assistance in providing breaks for the security Staff and the Safety Staff for their effort in keeping weapons tied. Again thank you, for your support and hope to see you again in October.

Larry Hunt, VGCA Chief Security Officer

From Larry Hare, Recording Secretary – I'd like to thank the following members for their help with the show set up: *Ed Costello, Phil Hill, Vernon Cochran, Bill Dangoia, Rick Nahas, Bart Leggett, Lee Turner* and *Kelly Cook* who was the walking wounded with a new bionic knee but still came out to help. It was a very light turnout, but the two buildings were still set up in about two hours. *Bill York* from Connecticut, and our own *Marc Gorelick* provided the legs to help set up and take down all of the road signs. Signed, Larry Hare

**Comments on this Show:** As with the last show and all our shows, the Board welcomes input, compliments, gripes and suggestions! Your input and comments as a table holder, displayer, and attendee are valuable. It can be things you have seen at other shows, and ideas of what you would like to see. I mentioned previously that since we are in a new venue things are still new enough that the 'tried and true' is not yet 'tried and true,' nor "set in stone." ☺

**A Note from the Club President regarding Kenny Fleming:** Kenny Fleming is still in the hospital following serious surgery. He has many other serious problems and may be confined to a wheel chair in the future. Every one in VGCA is pulling for him. His number (as of April 11) at the hospital is 814-234-6710. You will need to ask for Ken, as it is not a direct number. A get well card will be available at the meeting for all to circulate and sign. We missed him at this show, and hope he will make the next one.

☞ **We need speakers for May 25, June 22 and Sept 28 VGCA meetings.** Contact Addison Hurst if you have any good suggestions. Members are encouraged to volunteer for a presentation or team up with a colleague for a joint presentation.

### Upcoming Events and Shows

➔ **VSSA Service Rifle Clinics – May 7/June 17 – Fairfax Rod and Gun Club, Manassas, VA:** The Virginia Shooting Sports Association (VSSA) will hold a series of clinics to help new and experienced shooters improve their marksmanship skills and promote Service Rifle competition in Virginia. The first two clinics will be at the Fairfax Rod and Gun Club on May 7 and June 17, 2006. Shooters receive instruction in safety, shooting in standing, prone, and sitting positions, breath and trigger control, sighting, and wind estimation. Rifles and ammo will be available for those without an M1, M14, M1A, or M16/AR15. Costs: Free to Junior shooters (under 18), Adults are \$50.00 (using VSSA rifles and ammo) or \$25.00 (using personal rifle and ammo). Participants must be VSSA members or join at the clinic (\$20.00 – VSSA membership). **The first Garand Match is scheduled for July 22.**

#### **VIRGINIA**

- ☞ **Apr 28-30 Chantilly, VA** – The Nations Gunshow, Dulles Expo Center [C&E Gun Show](#) and/or [Showmasters](#)
- ☞ **May 20-21 Richmond, VA** – Showplace [C&E Gun Show](#)
- ☞ **May 26-28 Harrisonburg, VA** [Old Dominion Gun Shows](#)

#### **MARYLAND**

- ☞ **May 20, Frederick, MD \*\*Saturday only\*\*** – Frederick Fairgrounds [Potomac Arms Collectors Association \(PACA\)](#) (9am to 5pm). Featuring the [National Airgun Collectors](#). For those of you interested in antique, historical and collectible airguns, this is a nice addition.

#### **PENNSYLVANIA**

- ☞ **May 6-7 Harrisburg, PA** – Farm Show Complex, [Mid-Atlantic Arms Collectors](#)
- ☞ **May 6-7 Hamburg, PA** – Hamburg Field House [Pennsylvania Antique Gun Collectors Association](#) Contact: Russ Dussling (610) 891-8405.
- ☞ **May 13-14 Allentown, PA** – Agricultural Hall [The Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society](#) Contact FDHAS, 3491 Linden St., Bethlehem, PA 18017 (610) 997-8613 after 6 p.m.
- ☞ **May 20-21 Monroeville, PA** – Expo Mart/Radisson Inn [P.G.C.A.](#) Contact (412) 854-4625