



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.ORG



Est. 1983 (A Non-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G 8162

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April 2007 Newsletter



February 22 Presentation: Ok people, this was one presentation that if you missed it, you really missed an unusual and highly entertaining evening. Phil Schreier introduced Kenneth Hamilton, a Nor'easter from Maine, who covered firearms of the Indian allies in the Revolutionary War, and a whole lot more. This went beyond the standard coverage of the weapons and their various architectures and accoutrements, and dug deeper into the life and times of the Native American inhabitants of the eastern woodlands. More formally and appropriately entitled "Guns in Native Culture," Mr. Hamilton, who was dressed in native fashion, guided the audience on a historical trip from the rise of absolutism in Europe and the standardization of weaponry, especially by the French, to the lasting impact the introduction modern firearms had on the original inhabitants of the English colonies and eastern frontier, in both regular life and in conflict. Due to the power these new weapons could impart to new users, the colonial powers were careful to limit the trade in guns, gun parts and components in times of conflict. He covered the French influence, specifically the Fusil Fin or fine guns and the trade guns. Ken heavily sprinkled the talk with anecdotes and native quotes and reference, both colonial and modern. He showed many slides on the various butt stocks, configurations, and furniture of the era including the dragon side plates so evident on 'trade guns' sold to the Indians. Of particular note was his love of the subject, and a constant homage to preservation of both the knowledge and cultural aspects of the culture as well as the firearms.

<<< There were a number of members/attendees who were so pleased with the presentation that they wished to have the club consider the possibility of making digital videos of presentations if the presenter concurred. These could then be downloaded from the website or other source. It would be worth a discussion. Ideas? Opinions? It was another outstanding effort in the NFM Series. >>>

UPCOMING for the April 26 Meeting: The April 26 meeting will feature a NRA/VGCA presentation, and a very interesting one at that. Phil Schreier of the National firearms Museum has snared a true expert on Browning High Power pistols. Anthony Vanderlinder will be the guest presenter. So, dig out all your High Powers for show and tell. ☺ *The meeting begins at 7:00PM, and food will available shortly after 6:00PM.*

→**Advance Notice of another Very Special “do NOT miss” Presentation for the August 23 Meeting and NRA/VGCA Series Presentation.** Our speaker will be Washington Post Movie Critic and Pulitzer Prize winning author and novelist – **Stephen Hunter**. Mr. Hunter’s best selling novel, “Point of Impact” was the basis for the newly released movie “**Shooter,**” starring Mark Wahlberg, which opened in theaters March 23. Phil says Mr. Hunter is simply great and not to be missed. Do not let this presentation be one you hear about after the fact. The protagonist, Bob Lee Swagger, is modeled on USMC Vietnam hero and sniper Carlos Hathcock. So check out the movie and the Bob Lee Swagger series of books by Bantam Books. Unlike many authors and members of the media, Mr. Hunter is very knowledgeable about firearms and the novels are technically accurate, fast paced and enjoyable.

The President’s Corner: This month brings good news. Our March 2007 show was a great success thanks to many VGCA members who really outdid themselves. I will not now try to list all of you helpers for fear of missing someone. With all the problems we have had to face, it was just super to have a great show. From what I could glean from many conversations, the dealers and VGCA members did very well indeed. I think our radio advertising and other ads may have done the trick. Did we have any problems — you bet, but viewed on a global perspective, most were relatively minor. The Board (EXCOM) will be addressing all the problems that came to our attention. We will be having a board meeting soon and will keep you informed. The military vehicles on display appeared to be a big hit and I hope it will continue.

Since I am usually on the receiving end of complaints and very rarely kudos, I thought it might be wise to let you know that after 15 years or so, I have finally gotten a high-speed broadband email address, a.hurst@rstarmail.com. (ed: please note the period between the “a” and “hurst”) On a further personal note, as I mentioned at the last membership meeting, my eyesight, insofar as night driving is concerned, is very much an open question. I am developing cataracts and my doctor says it is too early for surgery. I probably will need to be replaced as President when the Club Officer elections come in January 2008. Being a long distance from the NRA HQ, if I do not feel comfortable driving at night, I simply will not do so. It is probably good for the members to be thinking of replacing me with a younger guy anyway. I never envisioned being President for life anyway. Idi Amin I am not. I have done the best I could for you given my admittedly limited KSAs (knowledge, skills and abilities)! My only suggestion for my replacement would be to find someone with moderate diplomatic skills, a high threshold of pain and a very sick sense of humor. I am sure you will do well in your search. There must be hundreds of similar dedicated sickos out there.
~ Addison Hurst, VGCA President

February 22 Business Meeting of the VGCA: Since the show was a success, I will not detail the show discussions at the meeting, except for the decision to advertise on WMZQ radio (which appears to be successful). The results from the Board of Directors election were announced. The new Board will be Ernie Lyles, Rick Nahas and Bill Chronister. Since Ed Costello was absent, a Treasurer’s report was not given. **Larry Hare** asked that if members do not receive the newsletter, either by email or post, that they contact him by email or at the number on the masthead. There are still a number of mailed letters returned and bouncing emails, so check your spam filters. Larry also introduced 2 new member prospects. Wayne Zimmerman II is a familiar face and works with Jim Golden Firearms. Mark Heath has a special interest in the Spanish American War and collects older Colt and S&W revolvers. Both were voted into the club by acclamation. **Addison Hurst** introduced a guest, Tim Pierce, a professional gunsmith with FN Firearms.

Meeting Show and Tell: S&T began in tune with the presentation as **John Vagnetti** showed a pair of French 1763 Charleville muskets. The first was made in St. Etienne, and the second was stamped US to prevent inventory shrinkage to the various state militias. **Jim Leahigh** followed the theme with an English Brown Bess, 2nd Model Short Land Pattern musket with Tower marked lock piece. **Jim Vaughan** shifted focus a bit with 18th century short swords – a 1767 French hanger (short sword) and a Model 1742 British infantry sword with a cast brass and wood hand guard and grip. He followed with a 1751 British hanger with a 27” fullered blade used by the British or Americans. **Lawrence Cooley** had a beautifully engraved ships horn (powder horn) from the 1780s. Moving to more recent times, **Mike Orsinger** exhibited a 40X Remington in .22RF with a long Redfield 3200 target scope. A member displayed a nice British Bulldog revolver and associated resource books. If you hear about a nice 1912 USMC Recruiting comic book (or other USMC manuals and printed materials), you know **Con Rice** has entered

the room. Con followed the comic with a Post-WW2 P-1 (P-38) pistol he recently bought for a princely \$279. **Ernie Lyles** produced for review a Nepalese Martini-Henry in .450-577 and a matching bayonet. He then showed some unusual cartridges, including a paper patched Martini round and a Civil War Burnside .54 caliber round. Not to be topped, he then displayed a rare .58 caliber Billinghamst-Requia volley gun (25 barrels) round, and a S&W 2nd Model 1½ in nickel. **Marc Gorelick** showed his newest gem, a very rare 1898 Krag .22LR Gallery Rifle made by Springfield Armory. **Larry Hare** had a pair of Cadet rifles by Hopkins and Allen. The first was a single-shot, takedown 1907 Military Cadet Musket. The second was a tube fed commercial variant. **Addison Hurst** closed the S&T with a 10 gauge Remington Signal Pistol of WW1 vintage. He then shows a Walther PPK/S with a story about his credentials badge which is numbered 007.

★★★ Photos from the February Meeting and the March 10-11, 2006 VGCA Gunshow ★★★



- Top Left – Feb. Meeting - John Vagnetti shows a French 1763 Charleville musket.
- Top Right – Feb. Meeting – Con Rice shows a drawing from his 1912 USMC Recruiting Comic.
- Bottom Left – Feb. Meeting – Lawrence Cooley with his beautifully engraved ships horn.
- March 2007 Gunshow – Folks sign up for the Thompson/Center Rifle VGCA Door Prize.



The Show had a number of U.S. Military vehicles on display. This was a popular feature.

John Morris' **Third Place** display of cannons titled "Cannons with Stories," was very well received and executed.



John Wallace's display of "The National Match M1 Garand" garnered a **Second Place**. It was excellent and a unique chance to see genuine, documented, as issued National Match M1 rifles and accoutrements.



First Place went to Shannon Zeigler's well designed and very complete display of "Colonel Arisaka's Rifles 1897-1945." It was a truly amazing display, with depth and variety and outstanding condition pieces.

Congratulations on fine displays to the awardees and to others for their efforts.

★★★ The March 10-11, 2006

★★★ VGCA Gunshow ★★★

Well, from Addison's opening comments and the view from our modest sales table, it appears the show was a success. Many members reported sales and some fair trades and swaps. From my view, this show had a pretty friendly group of attendees, and a number of tempting wares. I hope this is the shape of things to come. Thanks to all the attendees, dealers, members, helpers and family members who made it a success.

Thanks to the Various Volunteers: Thanks to the following members who volunteered their time and sweat equity to set up our last show. Some of these individuals are regular volunteers for this task and we are very grateful for their contributions. Tony Romano, King Von Shilling, Lee Turner, Bart Leggett, Chris Britton, Larry Hare, Ed Costello, and Bill York, thanks again. Ed Costello wished to recognize new member Bill Alexander who helped with the signs and did a lot of outdoor (it was cold on Friday) front gate security. Larry Hunt wished to thank all those who assisted with the ever important show security. Dennis Gerdovich, Bill Alexander, Bill Ludwig, Phillip Valentini, George Kirschbaum, Larry Burman, Pete Roberts, Carl Warhurst and Jim Frigiola, as well as Lt. McCauley and Lt. Fernley deserve a hand for their efforts.

The Show Awards: This show contained a series of fine displays of collectible firearms, accoutrements, and history, by club members and guests that once again were exemplary. All were well researched, documented, presented and showed a lot of work and preparation.

- **First Place** – went to Shannon Zeigler's well designed and very complete display of "Colonel Arisaka's Rifles 1897-1945." A truly amazing display, with depth and variety and outstanding condition pieces. Congratulations on a fine effort.
- **Second Place** – John Wallace's display of "The National Match M1 Garand" was simply excellent as John's displays always are. It was a unique chance to see genuine, documented, as issued National Match M1 rifles and accoutrements.
- **Third Place** – John Morris' had a display of cannons that was very well received and executed. Entitled "Cannons with Stories," it was very educational and contained some very rare pieces.

Plaques will be mailed to the winners. The photos do not do justice to the work and research that goes into displays. Congratulations to all the awardees and additionally to all those who take the time to share their knowledge and expertise and collections. I spoke to a number of attendees, including two fathers with young sons, who indicated that the fine educational displays and the courteous members are one major factor that attracted them to the VGCA shows. As Addison said in his opening message, attendance was up and from what a number of folks indicated, people were buying.

VGCA Gun Show Attendance for the Past Five Years

March 2003 (Hugo's)	2,230	September 2003 (Hugo's)	1,508
March 2004 (Hugo's)	1,674	September 2004 (Hugo's)	1,863
March 2005 (Hugo's)	1,609	October 2005 (PWC)	1,418
March 2006 (PWC)	1,631	October 2006 (PWC)	922
March 2007 (PWC)	1,707		

Our VGCA door prize - a .50 cal Thompson/Center black powder rifle - was won by Bruce Johnson of Potomac Falls, Virginia. He's happy!!

Announcements: It is with great sadness to announce to you that Jack Bokinsky lost his dad. John "Boogy" Bokinsky died March 2, 2007. He was 93. Jack often had his dad at the picnics we used to hold at the NORVA Range. We all extend our sympathy to Jack and Dobie.

Speaking of sadness, Addison wanted to let all of you know (he announced this at the last meeting but we have so many folks too far away to come in to the meetings) that a long time member of VGCA – Gerald "Jerry" Rubin died August 11, 2006. Jerry and his wife Elaine were wonderful members and supporters of VGCA. Both were "characters" in the best sense of the word!! They both loved VGCA and our members. They were with us back to the Kalashnikov era of VGCA in the late '80s and '90s. They moved to the Midwest many years ago. We signed a sympathy card at the last meeting and sent it to Elaine. She greatly appreciated it. We all extend our most sincere sympathy to Elaine.

***** VGCA Upcoming Meeting Schedule *****

- ⊗ The **May 24 and June 28**, Monthly VGCA Membership Meetings currently do NOT have presentations scheduled. Now is a good time to grab the opportunity to share some knowledge and display your favorite pieces from your collection.
- ⊗ **July** — no meeting — vacation time and the humid dog days of summer in Washington.
- ⊗ **August 23** - NRA/VGCA presentation with Pulitzer Prize winning author, movie critic, and novelist Stephen Hunter. See page one for details.
- ⊗ **September** — no meeting due to the Fall 2007 VGCA Gunshow.
- ⊗ **October 25** – Larry Hare has agreed to provide a presentation on the Marlin Lever-action .22 Rimfire Rifles and Carbines.
- ⊗ **December 6** — November/December combined meeting will most likely be a NRA/VGCA presentation. The speaker/topic is TBA.

***** Future Events and Gun Shows *****

VIRGINIA

- ⊗ **April 28-29, 2007** – Dale City, VA – VFW Post 1503 - *Old Dominion Shows*
- ⊗ **May 19-20, 2007** – Richmond, VA – The Showplace - *C&E Gun Show*
- ⊗ **May 25-27, 2007** – Harrisonburg, VA – Rockingham County Fairgrounds - *Old Dominion Shows*
- ⊗ **June 9-10, 2007** – Fredericksburg, VA – Expo Center - *SGK, LTD.*
- ⊗ **June 23-24, 2007** - Winchester, VA – Sportsplex Event Center - *Old Dominion Shows*

MARYLAND

- ⊗ **June 16-17, 2007** - Timonium, MD – Timonium Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*
- ⊗ **June 23-24, 2007** - Frederick, MD – Frederick Fairgrounds - *Silverado Promotions*
- ⊗ **October 13-14, 2007** – Frederick, MD - Frederick Fairgrounds – *51st Annual Potomac Arms Collectors Association Show, featuring the National Air Gun Collectors.*

NEW YORK

- ⊗ **April 21-22, 2007** - Syracuse, NY - State Fairgrounds, Verizon Center of Progress - *New York State Arms Collectors Association.* Contact: Sandy Ackerman Klinger, 346 Paul Street, Endicott, NY 13760. (607) 748-1010.

PENNSYLVANIA

- ⊗ **April 21-22, 2007** - Hamburg, PA – Hamburg Field House - *The Pennsylvania Antique Gun Collectors Association.* Contact: PAGCA Treasurer, P.O. Box 63, Media, PA 19063.
- ⊗ **May 5-6, 2007** - Allentown, PA – Lehigh Valley Expo Center - *Appalachian Promotions*
- ⊗ **May 5-6, 2007** - Harrisburg, PA - Farm Show Complex - *Mid-Atlantic Arms Collectors*
- ⊗ **May 12-13, 2007** - Allentown, PA - Agricultural Hall at Fairgrounds - *The Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society.* Contact: FDHAS, 3491 Linden St., Bethlehem, PA 18017. (610) 997-8613 after 6pm.
- ⊗ **June 9-10, 2007** - Harrisburg, PA - Farm Show Complex - *Mid-Atlantic Arms Collectors*
- ⊗ **June 23-24, 2007** - York, PA - York Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*
- ⊗ **July 14-15, 2007** - Allentown, PA - Agricultural Hall at Fairgrounds - *The Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society.* Contact: FDHAS, 3491 Linden St., Bethlehem, PA 18017. (610) 997-8613 after 6pm.

NORTH CAROLINA

- ⊗ **June 2-3, 2007** - Raleigh, NC - North Carolina State Fairgrounds - *37th Old North State Antique Gun and Military Antiques Show - Carolina Trader Promotions*

A great civilization is not conquered from without until it has destroyed itself within. The essential causes of Rome's decline lay in her people, her morals, her class struggle, her failing trade, her bureaucratic despotism, her stifling taxes, her consuming wars.

– WILL DURANT, *Caesar and Christ, Epilogue, p. 665 (1944).*

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.

V/R, Bill Chronister, Newsletter Editor