



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.ORG

Est. 1983 (A Non-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G8162



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April 2013 VGCA e-Newsletter



Presentation for the February 28, 2013 Meeting: The speaker of the evening was **Val Forgett, III**. He covered his family's extensive history and experiences of surplus arms, replica arms, and other firearms and ammo with *Navy Arms*, *Gibbs Rifles*, and the *Old Western Scrounger*. This was accomplished by both a narrative and by a DVD interview of his father, Val Forgett, Jr., who almost singlehandedly created the replica firearms market. The DVD was produced by the Armor and Arms Club of New York, and presented Mr. Forgett, Jr. recounting his family's involvement with Bannerman's Island and a contract they had in the late 1960's to clear the island of old ordnance that was left after the Bannerman Family surplus arms business and sporting goods store closed. The interview began with an accounting of how Bannerman started by purchasing and selling, both internationally and domestically, surplus arms, many of which were sold by the US government after the end of the frontier era. Many of these included Civil War arms and other obsolete arms. It also included lots of heavier ordnance including cannon, shells and projectiles. Their first catalog, now collector items in their own right, was published in 1888. Bannerman bought the island in 1900. He proceeded to build a castle-like armory and buildings on the island. Unfortunately, it

was built with condemned cement that had been supplied by a person who used it as cover in an arms smuggling scheme. This resulted in the buildings rapid deterioration. Much of the DVD was filming of the Forgetts' inspection of the armory prior to and after receiving the contract. The speaker recounted his memories of the island from when he was there with his father. This was probably one of the most fascinating presentations we have had and many in the audience brought in Bannerman items they or relatives had purchased in the heyday of the Bannerman business.

🔴 **Presentation for April 25, 2013:** We will not have a speaker. However, **we will have an "Extended Show and Tell" with a focus on "bucket list" acquisitions or "recent acquisitions that filled a hole" in our collections, and a Swap Meet.** Since we have not had an extended Show and Tell for a while, this will focus on firearms collecting and that hunt for or stumbling upon that special missing piece. We all have a few of these guns and stories, so bring them in to share. Now as a bonus since we had a very good Spring show in March, the Association **will be having pizza**. So get here early, bring a gun and story, and enjoy. *Since we will be eating, we will need to be better than campers, and pack it all out, AND NOT leave any foot or fingerprints (or crumbs, etc.) Please bring heavy trash bags, help pack up, and take a bag home. We need to leave the place cleaner than we find it.* Hope to see you there.

2013 Presentation Volunteers Needed ASAP: As you can see from the above list and this month's upcoming meeting, we still have vacancies for presenters for 2013. Call one of the Association officers now to request your preferred month for 2013, or if you have an outside speaker who wished to cover firearms and historically related topics. There are still 4 open slots (April, possibly May, August, and October) in 2013. Remember, we do not have meetings in March and November (gun shows) or in July. Shorter and direct works best; and it does not require slides. If you wish, there are members who will assist you in creating a PowerPoint presentation.

❖ **Remaining Presentations for 2013:** The following presentations are scheduled in the coming months. As usual, details and changes will be published in the newsletter each month so keep checking for updates.

- **May 23:** Tentative - Doug Wicklund - Tour of NRA National Firearms Museum
- **June 27:** Open
- **July:** **No Meeting** – Summer Recess
- **August 22:** Alan Cors - Americans in Wartime Museum
- **September 26:** Bill Chronister/Larry Hare - Precision Air Rifles
- **October 24:** Open
- **November:** **No Meeting** - Fall Show
- **December 7:** Pot Luck Dinner/Officer Nominations/Show & Tell/Swap Meet

Notes from the Podium – President’s Message

Dear fellow collectors,

2013 marks the 30th anniversary of the founding of the VGCA by **Ed Johnson** and a small cadre of friends gathered around his kitchen table. Ed served as President for 18 years and then passed the gavel to **Addison Hurst** who served as President almost 11 years. I was humbled to follow these two veterans of the Korean and Vietnam Wars respectively, who had provided so much leadership to the VGCA and who had given so much of their personal time to guide us for 29 of the 30 years. Please thank Ed and Addison at the April Meeting! Many more of you have filled leadership billets over the years and you are to be congratulated also. We'll recognize more of you on the 25th.

Our Show last month was a milestone for attendance and profit for the VGCA. Most table holders reported heavy sales and many new faces. Our signage, fliers, internet, and word of mouth salesmanship paid off for us in a big way. Now we have to keep the momentum going for the Fall Show.

Rick Nahas, Dennis Gerdovich, and Emory Hackman of the Show Committee and a large crew of volunteers executed a solid Show Plan, and they deserve our most sincere thanks. Let me also thank the volunteers for Set Up, Security, and Gun Checking, and a special thank you to Addison Hurst for manning the Evaluation Table mostly by himself for 2 whole days.

The current U.S. Senate gun control bill (S.649) contains extreme language that will require all gun sales to be approved by the State of Virginia, except for sales between family members, among many other Draconian measures. If the Bill passes and is made law we will need to be prepared to electronically seek approval for all Gun sales at the November show. Now is the time to be heard by your Senators and Representatives on this matter – for or against it.

On April 6, we gathered at the City Tavern in the Olde Towne Inn for our Second Annual Recognition Dinner & Auction for members, spouses and guests. We had a vocal group of attendees who applauded **Ed Costello** as he was awarded a plaque for his 30 years of service to the VGCA, including over 25 years as our Treasurer. **Jim Burgess** will receive his plaque at the April Meeting, recognizing his 30 years of support, including serving for 13 years as the Show Manager. Please congratulate Ed and Jim on this milestone of service to our organization.

We raised over \$500.00 at the Auction, and will use it for supporting our Youth Shooting Clubs and the NRA. Suggestions are welcome from any member who would propose a new organization for us to support.

Since our April Meeting will not have a guest speaker we will have the following plan:

★ **We'll serve pizza to all attendees in honor of our successful March Gun Show, no donations needed this time!!!** (however, they will be accepted if offered. ☺);

★ We'll discuss the show as far as what worked well and what needs attention;

★ We'll conduct an open discussion with all attendees on topics such as: Improving the Annual Recognition Dinner attendance – we need your input; backup plan for a new meeting location if we cannot meet regularly at the NRA; enlarging the Show Committee; enlarging the Evaluation Table staffing; AND,

★ **We'll have an expanded Show & Tell.**

In the meantime, I hope to see many of you stop by the VGCA member tables at the Dulles Expo on the weekend of April 19-21, and again for our Monthly Meeting on Thursday, April 25.

~~ Happy Collecting, *Dave Litchfield*

Business Meeting of February 28, 2013: President **Dave Litchfield** started with the recognition of guests and a call for new members. **Larry Hare**, Membership Coordinator, presented the following membership candidates: Allen R. Wild - sponsor Allan Rupp; Kent Jefferies - sponsor Dave Litchfield; Jeffrey David Nickel - sponsor

Dave Litchfield; Robin E. Becker - sponsor Dave Litchfield; and James R. Hemdal - sponsor Richard Pripeton. After a few words by themselves or their sponsors, all were unanimously inducted into the VGCA. Welcome aboard, gentlemen. After the membership induction, sign-up sheets were circulated for security volunteers at the March Gun Show. Sign-up sheets were also circulated for the VGCA Members and Spouse banquet and Auction. Updates were provided on the Spring gun show. **2013 Election of Directors:** The winners of the 3 Director positions were **Jim Burgess, Marc Gorelick, and Dennis Gerdovich**. We had a voting rate of 37%. Out of 379 members eligible to vote, 139 did so.

*** VGCA Spring 2012 Gun Show Report ***

The Spring 2013 VGCA Gun Show was held at the Prince William County Fairgrounds on **March 23-24, 2013**. The show was very busy and the tables were well stocked (there was even ammo, but at market panic prices) and had something for almost everyone. The crowds were the best we have had in years with well over 2,550 attendees the best showing by far over the past 10 years.

The Evaluation table again saw some very interesting and unusual pieces pass under the eyes of our expert(s) who provided those asking with an assessment of what they presented. This year **Addison Hurst** handled the majority of the queries at the table with some assistance from **Jim Burgess** and the table was rarely without a line of attendees seeking help. It is truly unique and is probably one of the best features of our show which supports our being a collector organization and a collector-focused show, as well as providing one on one education. Having other Association members available to evaluate some specialized sub-categories that they collect is an added bonus.

Display Awards: Chief Display Judge, **Jim Burgess** provided the following result of the judging of the Historical and Educational Displays at Spring 2013 VGCA Gun Show:

1st Place:	Karl Karash	<i>Early Gasport M1 Garands</i>
2nd Place:	Shannon Ziegler	<i>Self-loading Military Rifles</i>
3rd Place:	John Babey	<i>3 Centuries of Smith & Wesson .38's</i>

Karl Karash's First Place display of *Early Gasport M1 Garands* was very detailed and superbly documented and researched. Additionally, the method of display – on aluminum dowels inserted into the cleaning kit storage holes drilled into the stock, allowed the displayer or the viewer to rotate the rifle to see key features pointed out in the thorough photographic material. It was an amazingly effective method that was also simplicity exemplified. The **Second Place** display of **Shannon Ziegler** featured *Self-loading Military Rifles*, but was significant in that it showcased a multinational collection of rifles that were soon abandoned as nations turned from full-power cartridge, semi-auto battle rifles to smaller and lighter intermediate power (and often small-bore) cartridges in a select-fire, high-capacity removable magazine platform configuration, as the potential of the WW2 German Stg.44 and the post war Soviet Kalashnikov AK-47 became obvious. The **Third Place** display of **John Babey** highlighted *3 Centuries of Smith & Wesson .38's*, and included military, civilian and police S&W revolvers and included accouterments, original boxes and holsters, and documentation of these revolvers that enjoyed international popularity. Thanks to all of you, these were masterful displays. Great to see some returning faces displaying. Congratulations!

A well-earned thanks to VGCA Gun Show Setup & Safety Team Volunteers: VGCA would like to thank all who helped out at the Spring Show. For Setup: **Chris Britton, Jim Burgess, Bob Chapman, Dennis Gerdovich, Marc Gorelick, Dave Litchfield, Richard Pripeton, Joe Roberts, and Allan Rupp**. For Security/Safety: **Dennis Gerdovich, Acting Security Chief, Robin Becker, Chris Britton, Jim Burgess, Matt Cummings, Norman Danforth, Steve Geis, David Gilbert, Marc Gorelick, Gary Hoskinson, Kent Jefferies, Karl Karash, George Kirschbaum, Bill Ludwig, Harrison McConnell, Chip Miller (sp?), Jeff Nickel, Harry Rensell, Joe Roberts, J.F. Rybak (sp?), Paul Veneziano, Carl Warhurst, and Bill York**. Many thanks, you all make it possible.

Important Announcements, etc.

Early Call for VGCA Gun Show Volunteers for the Fall November Gun Show: It may seem to be a constant plea, but 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 one of the Association Officers if you wish to volunteer, or sign up at the January and February monthly meetings. **Remember, working on the Security, Safety, and Setup teams earns a free admission.**

Notice: The VGCA still critically needs a volunteer to serve as the Security Manager or Deputy Security Manager for the Gun Shows. Please call **Dave Litchfield, Rick Nahas, Dennis Gerdovich** or one of the Association Officers if you wish to volunteer for this important role.

Show & Tell for the February 28th Meeting: The Show and tell included a number of Bannerman-related items. **Member 1** showed a model cannon from Val Forgett, Jr. **Member 2** showed an unusual Springfield 87M, a semi-auto .22LR which resembled an M1 rifle. These rifles were also sold by Savage Arms, J.P.Stevens, and Sears where it was called the Ranger 101.16. While some allege these were US martial trainers, there is no credible documentation to that 'fact,' although specimens with 'owner enhancements' like US property markings and cartouches do exist. **Member 3** brought a large scale photographic copy of an Australian Manual for the SMLE No1MkIII. **Member 4** brought a Navy Arms/Uberti-made replica of a Model 1901 .22LR Target Pistol that used a downsized Remington Rolling Block pistol action. He also brought a reproduction of a 1924 Bannerman Catalog and a later 1958 Catalog from Golden State Arms Company. **Member 5** presented a post-WW2 French-assembled Walther P-38 made by Spreewerke (CYQ). He also showed a very nice Model 1878 Colt Double Action Army in .45 Colt made in 1894-5. **Member 6** showed a number of items from his father's WW2 handgun collection that included a .32 ACP automatic pistol of unknown make. The **7th Member** showed a selection of military rifle accoutrements that he bought from Bannerman to match his gun. All were in very good condition. **Member 8** closed the session with a beautiful 1896 Broomhandle Mauser (1930 Model in 9x19mm Parabellum) with a matching shoulder stock.

Photos from the February 2013 Meeting



L: Springfield 87M, a semi-auto .22LR which resembled an M1 rifle. These rifles were also sold by Savage Arms, J.P.Stevens, and Sears where it was called the Ranger 101.1.



R: Unknown maker .32 ACP automatic pistol.

L: 1896 Broomhandle Mauser (1930 Model in 9x19mm Parabellum) with a matching shoulder stock



Photos from the March 2013 VGCA Gun Show



Karl Karash's First Place display of *Early Gasport M1 Garands* was very detailed and superbly documented and researched. Aluminum dowels inserted into the cleaning kit storage holes drilled into the stock allowed the display or the viewer to rotate the rifle to show key features pointed out in the photographic material.

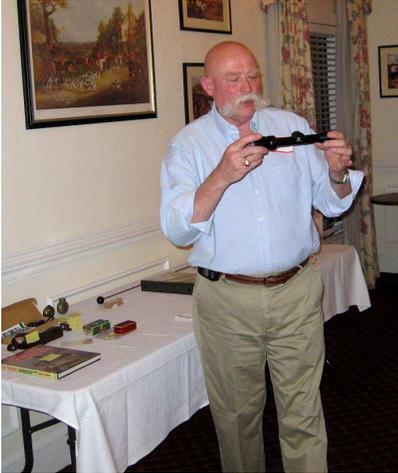
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L: A selection of magazines, chargers, enbloc clips, stripper clips and types of ammunition used in the *Self-loading Military Rifles* display.

R: **Third Place** display of **John Babey** highlighted *3 Centuries of Smith & Wesson .38's*, and included military, civilian and police S&W revolvers and included accouterments, original boxes and holsters, and documentation of these revolvers that enjoyed international popularity.

Photos from the April 6 Member Recognition Banquet



L: Vice President Ernie Lyles runs the bids for a Bushnell Trophy Scope.



R: Members, spouses and special guests await the dinners following a meet and greet session.

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 2013

- ☉ April 27-28, 2013 - Virginia Beach, VA - Convention Center - *SGK, LTD*
- ☉ April 27-28, 2013 - Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center - *C&E Gun Show*
- ☉ May 18-19, 2013 - Richmond, VA – Showplace - *C&E Gun Show*
- ☉ May 18-19, 2013 - Dale City, VA - VFW Post 1503 - *Old Dominion Shows*
- ☉ June 1-2, 2013 - Dale City, VA - VFW Post 1503 - *Old Dominion Shows*
- ☉ June 7-9, 2013 - Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center - Nation's Gun Show – *C&E Gun Show*
- ☉ June 29-30, 2013 - Fredericksburg, VA - Expo Center - *SGK, LTD*

MARYLAND 2013

- ☉ June 15-16, 2013 - Timonium, MD - Timonium Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*

PENNSYLVANIA 2013

- ☉ April 27-28, 2013 - Monroeville, PA - Convention Center - *C&E Gun Shows*
- ☉ May 4-5, 2013 – Philadelphia, PA - Greater Philadelphia Expo Center (Oaks) – *Eagle Arms*
- ☉ May 11-12, 2013 - 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 1-2, 2013 – Bloomsberg, PA – Bloomsberg Fairgrounds - *Eagle Arms*
- ☉ June 1-2, 2013 - Tarentum, PA - Pittsburgh Mills Mall - *Pennsylvania Gun Collectors Association*.
- ☉ June 8-9, 2013 - Harrisburg, PA - Farm Show Complex – *Mid-Atlantic Arms Collectors*.
- ☉ June 22-23, 2013 - Allentown, PA - Rodeway Inn - *Eagle Arms*
- ☉ June 29-30, 2013 - York, PA - York Fairgrounds (Toyota Arena) – *Appalachian Promotions*
- ☉ July 13-14, 2013 - 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 2013

- ☉ May 18-19, 2013* – Wilmington, OH – Roberts Centre - *Ohio Gun Collectors Association*. **OGCA MEMBERS ONLY**. <http://www.ogca.com/index.htm>

The e-mail address for any Newsletter related matters or a submission 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.

v/r *Bill Chronister*, VGCA Newsletter Editor