



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.ORG



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NRA Affiliate Number G 8162

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Newsletter February/March 2006

Program from the April 27, 2006 Meeting: The presentation for the April meeting was another of the NRA Speaker Series. Phil Schreier of the NRA National Firearms Museum introduced Frank Iannamico, the author of The Last Steel Warrior: U.S. M14 Rifle. Mr. Iannamico covered in well illustrated detail the evolution and

development of what was to be the last full-power battle rifle of the US armed forces. Responding to a changing battlefield and recent developments in small arms sparked by the world war and the specter of the East Bloc, nations began to search for more firepower and weapon system flexibility. For the West this was complicated by the desire for common calibers for NATO members, and nation's inevitable chauvinism for their own arms. The M14 was an example of this quest and other political pressures. Developed to replace the M3 submachinegun (greasegun), the M1 and M2 carbines, the M1 Garand, and the M1918 Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR), it was inevitable that this would be a weapon which historically would have devotees and detractors (this was evident from comments during the Q&A that followed). The speaker covered the development from the M1, the pressure from advocates of a mid-power assault rifle and cartridge, various foreign competitors such as the FN-FAL family, and the difficulty encountered in the full-automatic fire role. He also covered some of the very rare prototypes such as the M14M and M15 (heavy barreled variants) and work on creating a workable SAW with the M14E2 with its muzzle stabilizer and pistol grip. He concluded with

production figures and the contract prices bid by the manufacturers (\$97.70 for H&R, \$68.75 for Winchester). A very well participated Q&A session followed, where many questions were asked and Bob Sears shared his experiences at Springfield in the 1961 National Match Rifle development. Other members told of their experiences with the rifle and or aspects of ammo testing or other ordnance work. All in all, another fascinating program and comment period.

UPCOMING for May 25 meeting: The May program will be presented by Charlie Rathell. He will cover 18th century pistols, focusing on the Queen Anne era. This is a member presentation and it should be interesting both for the subject and to once again see and hear the expertise within the club that is always impressive. In keeping with tradition, all are encouraged to bring in flint lock pistols and rifles for the Show and Tell. ➔ ***The meeting begins at 7:00PM, and food will available shortly after 6:00PM. If the last meeting is any indication the cookies will be gone first so get there early.***

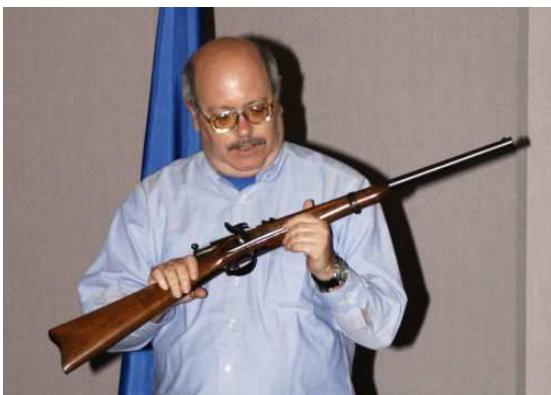
Charlottesville, VA

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< L: Bob Sears tells of the M14 National Match Program during the presentation Q&A session.

> R. George Rich showed his Winchester M14, one of only a handful of M14s in private hands.



< L: Marc Gorelick and the Palmer bolt action Carbine.

> R: Muzzle detail of John Morris Italian cannon.



A Note from the President: C&E had to change their show date at the last minute with the unfortunate result that their Chantilly Expo Center Militaria show **WILL** conflict with our October 14-15 VGCA Show. This C&E show is not the same as the big Expo Gunshow, but it will not help us. We hope to cross-advertise of course. Steve of C&E will be able to furnish us tables for the VGCA as he has done in the past and did not think the military show would hurt us that much. I am not so sure. It is too late to change our dates so as not to conflict with C&E. Please take a look at the C&E web page – they have a nice look. <http://thenationsgunshow.com>

The VGCA made our donation (\$3000.00) to the Virginia Shooting Sports Association (VSSA) this year.

We have had a big scare, Lee Turner has been quite ill, however the good news is that he does not have Lyme disease as we initially thought. He is one tough submariner and he will be back before long kicking ass and taking names and no prisoners.

No update on Kenny Fleming. As mentioned, Ken is very ill and all the prayers you have can not do anything but help. We sent a get well card at the last membership meeting.

Allan Cors – of the Virginia Museum of Military Vehicles group – has invited all VGCA members to his open house on June 3, 2006 at Alden Field south of Manassas. ☺ *Further information will be in the Upcoming Events Section.*

In Memorium: I am sad to report that VGCA Member Jim Landers died Monday, May 8 in a black powder-related accident. There was only one service - at graveside at Quantico National Cemetery, 18424 Joplin Road, Triangle, VA 22172. The service was held at noon on Monday, May 15. Enders and Shirley Funeral Home in Berryville, VA handled the arrangements. They have a web page where you can view Jim's obituary and sign the guest book at www.endersandshirley.com. Jim's wishes were in lieu of flowers to make donations in his memory to the Lion's Club program, Lion Leader Dog , c/o Clark County Lions Club, PO Box 127, Berryville, VA 22611. VGCA will make a donation to this worthy cause. Due to the short lead time, Larry Hare sent a notification in a broadcast to all VGCA members with email last Friday. Lets all remember safety with black powder.

April 27 Business meeting: Treasurer Ed Costello provided a financial report and had good news about increased attendance at the March PWC Show. It appears we are recovering ground. He challenged members to consider strategies to increase Sunday attendance, as the second day is often less attended. The visit of the Fire Marshal was reviewed which resulted in a few minor violations which were remedied or will be remedied for future shows.

We also received a report from members who had visited a new display location, and the issue of alternative show venues was discussed. From many of the comments, there is a growing belief that the PWC location offers many favorable advantages and that the club should continue to develop and fine tune the current venue.

Clarifications were provided in response to inquiries on the judging criteria and award structure. In addition the issue of lavalier microphones for meeting speakers was also re-surfaced and information on costs will be provided to the board.

Report from Larry Hare, Membership Chairman: The following new were voted in as new members by unanimous acclaim at our last VGCA meeting: Thomas Ring, a collector and professional gunsmith; Donald McCormack, a M1 collector and dealer of .22 tuning systems; Robert Gudz, the Class III dealer at the March show, and Philip Valentini, a collector of US martial arms from the Trapdoor to the present. The entire club welcomes the new members.

Larry also reported that the newsletter mailing with the new list went well. Members are encouraged to provide email addresses if available for receiving the newsletters. Members who have not paid their \$20.00 annual dues are reminded to get their dues current to remain in good standing.

April 27 Meeting Show and Tell: In keeping with the spirit of the presentation, Jim Burgess displayed his early M1A (the civilian, non-select fire version of the M14) which he uses for competition. He acquired the rifle after using the M14 in the service and reading a review in the American Rifleman. Ernie Lyle showed his fine M1A, a new to his shop SOCOM M1A with short barrel and integrated Picatinny rail system, and a limited edition Remington M40A1. This rifle is a recreation of the Vietnam era USMC Sniper rifle that was built on a Remington.700 action. While appearing to be similar to the Remington PSS, the presence of receiver sight holes and bolt configuration, looks suspiciously similar to the 40X match gun receivers. Bill Chronister shows a newly acquired brass-mounted .50 caliber Jonathan Browning Mountain Rifle, a late 1970's faithful replica of the original Hawken Brothers Plains rifle. Marc Gorelick showed a pristine Palmer carbine, a .50RF bolt action, side hammer piece developed during the Civil War, but too late for issue. Hal Haus showed his father's M1911 Colt Automatic Pistol. Larry Hare showed a brace of schuetzen-styled European rifles – an 8.15X46R Germanic target rifle, and a smaller Zimmer Schuetzen with all the original mechanicals allowing the indoor shooting of lead balls powered by specially primed cases. John Morris showed a very curious swivel mounted cannon shaped like a fish or dragon which was most likely of Italian origin. It was a fascinating piece. George Rich showed his Winchester M14, one of only a handful of M14s in private hands. Jack Zimmerman displayed a beautiful S&W Model of 1950 .45ACP revolver he had engraved by a Rhein-Main, Germany master engraver. It is a great looking piece that gets used. An unidentified member (slipped away before I could reach him) displayed a unique German silver-mounted muzzleloader custom-crafted by Al Edge to use .50 Minie balls. Addison presented his custom-built M1A-E2 clone of the M14E2 with a serious Springfield Armory scope. This was however, totally eclipsed by his Shiloh Sharps Creedmore Rifle in .45-70, complete with English-style fitted case. Bob Sweeney showed a Colt .45 SAA from the Texas State Prisons and a full set of prisoner transport shackles with leg, wrist, waist and neck cuffs (a bit less kinder and gentler). He also had a .38-40 Colt SAA Sheriff's Model. Ed Johnson closed out this eclectic

collection with a USMC NCO Sward from the Civil War, and a unusual dealer sample flintlock used in the late 1700s - early 1800s, to demonstrate a manufacturers product. This miniature, functioning rifle shot round balls made from #4 buckshot.

Upcoming Events and Shows

➔ **June 3, 2006 – Alden Field, south of Manassas, VA** – Allan Cors, Virginia Museum of Military Vehicles Group has invited all VGCA members to his open house on June 3, 2006. Hours start at 10:00 AM and the program with a narrated demonstration of armored vehicles will start at 11:00AM. The formal program will begin at 12:15PM. There will be a demo of an assault of a Iwo Jima type bunker by the Marines. The principal speaker will be Col. John Ripley, USMC – a recipient of the Navy Cross. There will be lots of veterans of Iwo Jima in attendance. Barney Barnum – who won the Medal of Honor – will be master of ceremonies. If you have never seen the 120+ workable tanks and military vehicles on display – you owe it to yourself and your kids to attend. It is a mind-boggling experience!! Please let Alan know if you can attend and the number in your party by contacting opnhse@vmmv.org All VGCA members are invited as Allan has been a VGCA member for many years. Keep a watch on the weather and remember the sunblock and water as it can get hot at that time of year.

➔ **May 7/June 17, 2006 – VSSA Service Rifle Clinics – 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 next clinic will be at the Fairfax Rod and Gun Club on 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.**

➔ **June 10, 2006 – VGCA Supports VSSA Fund-Raiser for St. Jude's Hospital – Arlington-Fairfax Isaac Walton League, Centreville, VA:** The VSSA is hosting a fund-raiser for St. Jude's Children's Hospital at the Arlington-Fairfax Chapter of the Isaac Walton League on June 10. The event, "Crush'N Clays for Kids," and VGCA is supporting this worthy cause by sponsoring a 4-person trapshooting team. Gary Holderman, Russ Grasso and Jim Burgess have already volunteered to represent VGCA in the competition but a fourth trapshooter is needed from VGCA ranks to complete the team. Any warm body with a 12-gauge shotgun will be welcome but some trapshooting experience is preferred. Ammunition and lunch will be provided by VSSA. Anyone interested in participating should contact Jim Burgess (see front page of newsletter for contact info). Act fast as there is only one vacancy to fill.

VIRGINIA

- ⌚ **May 20-21 Richmond, VA** – Showplace [C&E Gun Show](#)
- ⌚ **May 26-28 Harrisonburg, VA** [Old Dominion Gun Shows](#)
- ⌚ **June 3-4 Hampton, VA** – Convention Center
- ⌚ **June 10-11 Dale City, VA** – VFW [Old Dominion Gun Shows](#)
- ⌚ **June 10-11 Fredericksburg, VA** – Expo Center [Southeastern Gun & Knives, Ltd](#)

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.
- ⌚ **Jun 24-25 Frederick, MD** – Fairgrounds [Silverado Promotions](#)

PENNSYLVANIA

- ⌚ **May 20-21 Monroeville, PA** – Expo Mart/Radisson Inn P.G.C.A. Contact (412) 854-4625
- ⌚ **June 24-25 York, PA** – York Fairgrounds [Appalachian Promotions](#)
- ⌚ **July 8-9 Allentown, PA** – Agricultural Hall [Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society](#) (NOTE: The recent May 13-14 Show was OUTSTANDING with a number of very high quality displays, including Ruger Flattops and Japanese WWII weapons!!!)