



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.ORG



Est. 1983

(A Non-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G 8162

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May 2007 VGCA Newsletter



April 26 Presentation: Anthony VanderLinder, noted FN expert from Greensboro, North Carolina, was the evenings guest lecturer in the NRA-NFM/VGCA presentation on the Belgium armament giant Fabrique Nationale or FN. Mr. VanderLinder, pictured at left with an FN-made milking machine (!?!), gave a detailed accounting of the firm known to most as the producer of military and fine firearms from the mind of John Moses Browning. However, while he amply addressed the various developments leading to many well recognized pistols, rifles and shotguns, he also revealed an insight into the diverse items and manufacturing which flowed from the FN factories. This included typewriters, adding and stenography machines, bicycles, and cars, including race and rally cars. Formed in 1889, after intense lobbying by an association of smaller domestic Liege-based Belgium arms makers, FN was the Belgian answer to the other European national arms manufacturers and armories such as Mauser. This was

coincidentally facilitated by the recent adoption of the Mauser rifle by the Belgium military and the acquisition by the Belgian government of the rights to produce Mausers – rights which were provided directly to FN. He covered the first FN produced pistols, the Model of 1899 (also known as the 1900 – a naming discrepancy which was common throughout their early product lines. FN made a significant splash at the 1900 Worlds Fair and won 3 prizes, not for firearms, but 2 for bicycles and one for a car, which was advanced for the time by having a steering wheel instead of a tiller bar, a sprung suspension and reverse gearing. This was followed in 1902 with the introduction of a motorized bicycle with a four cylinder engine to overcome the unreliable ignitions of the day in single cylinder bikes. After additional illustrations of the firearms, the speaker showed a segment of the January 14, 1914 Gala John M. Browning Evening which celebrated the production of 1 million Browning designed pistols. He included items from his own collection including an original menu from the affair. He covered the automobiles which were legendary for their durability in African rallies, but were built using antiquated, non-assembly line methods. He also had museum-quality examples of the various non-firearm FN items including a beautiful FN bicycle with wooden rims, a carbide lamp, and wooden fenders. He also had posters, typewriters, adding machines, and steno machines (plus the milking machine). A Q&A session followed and the club extended an invitation to return at a later date and fill in the gaps in the FN story that time did not permit covering this session. It was quite a different take on Fabrique Nationale organization.

UPCOMING for the May 24 Meeting: The April 26 meeting will have a new guest speaker. Addison has graciously offered to give a presentation on a World War I theme. I cannot remember a First World War themed meeting so this should be an interesting evening. Members and guests are encouraged to bring in items of interest

from the Great War.

➔ *The meeting begins at 7:00PM, and food will available shortly after 6:00PM.*

April 2007 Meeting NRA-NFM/VGCA Presentation and Show & Tell



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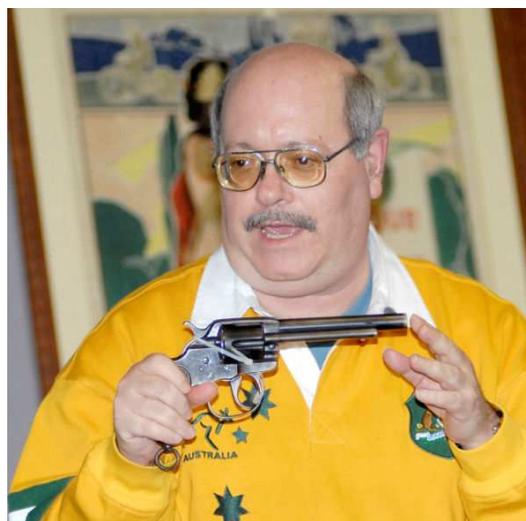


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1. Anthony VanderLinden and FN Poster Art and Bicycle
2. MAP (FN) Typewriter
3. Dick Mason's beautiful 1905 Mannlicher Schoenauer
4. John Morris's pressure testing device.
5. Gary Holderman's Winchester with folding stock
6. Marc Gorelick Colt 1902 Alaskan revolver

Request for a June Meeting Speaker: We still need a program for the month of June. Now is a good time to try your hand at a presentation. As all are aware, we have had quite a variety of quality presentations from club members and this is a chance to share your knowledge and expertise and inspire members to once again search the dusty racks and back rooms for items related to your presentation. This is your last chance for 2007 as the rest of the year is covered.

→**Advance Notice: Special Presentation in the NRA/VGCA Series for the August 23 Meeting.** The 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, as was the movie.

April 26 Business Meeting of the VGCA: Due to the length of the presentation, the business meeting was abbreviated. Larry Hare, absent on TDY, provided a list of 6 potential membership candidates. Bill Chronister ran through the list, and with 2 of the candidates present, introductions were made. An additional application was made from the floor and provided an introduction. After the vote by acclimation, 3 new members, Frank Cooper, sponsored by Robert Tarca; Timothy Pierce, sponsored by Blaire Gluba and Addison Hurst; and Jason Lee, also sponsored by Blaire Gluba, were voted into the fold. A reminder was made for members who have not paid the annual dues to get their payments current.

Meeting Show and Tell: As always, the popular Show & Tell session followed. **Dick Mason** displayed an exceptional, brand new appearing Mannlicher Schoenauer Model 1905 in 9mm x 56 caliber with set triggers. This was a beautiful piece and a great representation of this classic of old world craftsmanship. **John Morris**, always ready to share his passion for lightweight arms – NOT!, showed a pressure testing gun/device made by Dupont for 12 gauge shotgun shells, which used an 1873 trapdoor Springfield lock for ignition. In the commentary which followed **Bob Sears** gave a very concise explanation of the difference in pressure testing methods including the difference between CUPS (copper units of pressure), LUPS (lead units of pressure), and PSI (pounds per square inch – measured using crystals. John also displayed various Dardick trounds in .50 caliber and triplex configurations, and a 'sterile' 12.7 x 108 Soviet heavy MG round. **Con Rice** assisted his son **Patrick** describe his new Chipmunk .22LR single-shot bolt action rifle and a matching shooting jacket. **Ernie Lyle**, the first to exhibit a FN and Browning designed pistol, showed a Browning Centennial 1976 High Power 9mm pistol. He followed this with an unusual .31 caliber black powder smooth bore cane gun. **Gary Holderman** produced the rare prototype "Pancho Villa assault rifle" – actually it was an unusual 1892 Winchester in .44-40 from the early 1900s with a very well designed folding wire stock – a truly unusual rifle. **Ed Costello** presented a Browning High Power made by Inglis in Canada with tangent sights and a shoulder stock. This combination was examined and authenticated by the Mr. VanderLinder, who added details on the Inglis and other shoulder stocks found with HP pistols. Another Canadian Inglis HP with shoulder stock, fixed sights and Nazi markings was shared by **Tom Kyrakas**. He also displayed a post-WWII Browning HP with Browning Arms, St. Louis markings. **Sonny Lane** continued the High Power cycle with his English pistol and Canadian holster, and two books, a desert pamphlet and a Canadian restoration guide. **Mark Gorelick** shared his most recent acquisition, a US martially marked Model 1902 Colt revolver with a factory letter and notches on the grips. Based on the 1878 action, this revolver, also known as the Alaskan due to its large trigger guard thought by some to be for gloves, was in fact used in the Philippine campaign. Typically found in fairly rough condition due to long service and humid climate in the Philippines, this was a much better than average example. **Bill Chronister** displayed a Zfk.31/42 Swiss sniper rifle, a very rare in the US variant having a folding pivoting prismatic telescopic sight. The rifle, with less than 1200 made, is based on the standard Swiss K31. Adding to the High Powers on display, **Larry Burman** had an Armand Swenson accurized and customized Browning High Power. Armand Swenson accurized HPs and M1911s exhibit superb craftsmanship and accuracy from a famed custom gunsmith and are quite collectible. New member **Jason Lee** told a cautionary

tale of a Darwinian accident with an H&R Handy Rifle reinforced line throwing gun and improper hand loads. He also showed a cased US Liberator pistol produced for WWII resistance and guerilla groups by the Guide Lamp Corporation. After seeing the accident X-rays, most felt he was lucky to be able to tell the tale and share these examples.

Want Ads and Requests for Information (RFI) Department –

- ⊙ **Jack Looney** has a Navy Arms LeMat revolver for sale. Asking \$600.00, will consider a serious wad of cash offer...? Please contact by email at rifleman-1st.45-70@att.net, or by phone at 703-534-3286.
- ⊙ **Bill Chronister** is looking for a source for original manuals for a 1976 vintage Japanese Grade II Browning Semi-Automatic .22LR (SA-22) takedown rifle, and also a Jonathan Browning Mountain Rifle. He can be reached at 703-204-0138 or at wchronister@cox.net.

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 verified as of this writing, but are not guaranteed.

VIRGINIA

- ⊙ **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*
- ⊙ **July 7-8, 2007 – Richmond, VA** – The Showplace - *C&E Gun Show*
- ⊙ **July 27-29, 2007 – Chantilly, VA** - Dulles Expo Center - *C&E Gun Show* and/or *Showmasters*

MARYLAND

- ⊙ **June 16-17, 2007 - Timonium, MD** – Timonium Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*
- ⊙ **June 23-24, 2007 - Frederick, MD** – Frederick Fairgrounds - *Silverado Promotions*
- ⊙ **July 21-22, 2007 – Upper Marlboro, MD** – Showplace Arena - *Silverado Promotions*
- ⊙ **September 15-16, 2007 – Howard County, MD** – Howard County Fairgrounds - *Silverado Promotions*

PENNSYLVANIA

- ⊙ **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*

"The Constitution of most of our states, and the United States, assert that all power is inherent in the people; that they may exercise it by themselves: that it is their right and duty to be at all times armed; that they are entitled to freedom of person, freedom of religion, freedom of property, and freedom of the press."

-- Thomas Jefferson, Proposed Virginia Constitution, 1776

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