



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.ORG

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NRA Affiliate Number G8162



President and Founder (Emeritus) Ed Johnson

Home: 703-368-6560

President
Show/Reservations Manager
Membership

W. Addison Hurst
Rick Nahas
Larry Hare

Office/Home: 540-882-3543
Office: 703-361-7409
Cell: 540-946-2050

a.hurst@rstarmail.com
jet53sw@aol.com
LaurenceHare@gmail.com

May 2011 VGCA Newsletter



The Presentation at the April 28th Meeting: The April Presentation featured Jeff Walker, the owner/gunsmith of Walker Custom Rifles (www.walkercustomrifles.com) of Culpeper, Virginia. This was a great presentation. Mr. Walker, who alleged that this was his first time speaking in public, held the crowd and went on to prove that if you know your subject, you KNOW the subject and it will show. He started with some background and how he started shooting for his own satisfaction and search for excellence. This led to his building rifles for himself and he found that if you are to be successful selling benchrest and precision rifles that you make, winning matches and shoots with your own works is the best advertising. He specializes in Remington 700 and clones of that action, due to its natural accuracy and quality. He discussed the Remington triggers and their adjustment and that properly adjusted triggers work and work well, but that the caveat “proper adjustment” and understanding how they work is the key. He moved on to covering the ‘trueing’ of an action to ensure proper bolt lug engagement and true concentricity of the bore and barrel with the actions. He also explained that all rifle barrels are NOT equal and that even fine barrels can have an off center bore – the key it to properly index the barrel so

the difference affects elevation and not windage. He went on to cover bedding and the construction of stocks and how the different stock material can affect the success of bedding. For instance, the low end “plastic” stocks can sometime present a challenge in getting the bedding to adhere to the stock and it will subsequently break down and destroy the stability of the bedding job. He covered the issue of barrel harmonics and tuning for ultimate accuracy. He also digressed into reloading and covered how total consistency of a load and material is essential to wring the last piece of accuracy out of a rifle. A spirited question and answer session followed as well as the ability to closely inspect the examples of his craftsmanship he had on display. He made it sound so simple, but sounding and executing are different, and the fine quality of the rifles he had illustrated it in spades. This presentation was special, and a reprise visit would be greatly enjoyed. ☞ **Photo:** *Jeff Walker explains bolt trueing.*

Upcoming monthly presentations:

- ☞ **PRESENTATION CANCELLED – New Date TBD - Anthony Vanderlinden** of Fabrique National (FN) fame from NC will not be speaking at the May 26th meeting. New dates to follow.
- ☞ The theme the **May 26th Meeting** will be Winchester Shotguns – Model 21s, Model 12s, skeet and trap guns, favorite hunting guns, any favorite shotguns. Gary Holderman and Addison Hurst will lead the discussion. VGCA has never had a program like this so it should be fun. Gary will show how shotguns with adjustable stocks are fitted to individual shooters. He will demonstrate the process on one of Addison’s Browning trap guns. Gary is a nationally known trap shooter and he will bring in some of his special shotguns. (PS: Gary, I have the chainsaw for adjusting Addison’s stock, let’s surprise him... ☺) Show and tell will



follow, so bring, and plan to discuss all the shotguns you have with the Winchester name on them, and any other shotgun – Remington, Browning, Merkel, or Mossberg. Military shotguns are especially welcome.

➔ **(TENTATIVE)** The **June 23rd** meeting will bring back noted gun writer **Phil Spangenberg** discussing *Guns of the Old West*. If you saw him a few years ago, you know why this is not to be missed. Mark your calendars.

Calling all Civil War History Buffs: Please see the *150th Anniversary of the Civil War* historical events in Virginia in May and June in the Upcoming Events Section. Thanks to John Babey and the Bull Run Civil War Round Table for the information.

Notes from the Podium: I hope you enjoyed the April meeting as much as I did. Jeff Walker, owner of Walker Custom Rifles (www.walkercustomrifles.com), while claiming never to have spoken publicly on his passion of building precision 1000 yard rifles, turned out to be one hell of a speaker. He spoke for over an hour non-stop without notes. His body of knowledge and his ability to field questions from our very inquisitive guys was amazing. I talked to him after his presentation and he loved it, and loved the questions from the members. As a hunter, reloader, and bench rest shooter, he felt quite at home with us. He said he would love to come back another time and share more information with us. I told him we would love to have him come back. I gave him a tour of the NRA museum. He was stunned by the Robert E. Petersen Gallery Collection. I will bring some of his business cards to the next meeting. Meanwhile, check out his website. He thought we were one heck of a group of kindred spirits.

A bit of bad news, Anthony Vanderlinden, from Greensboro, NC, and our resident expert on all things FN, can not make the meeting on May 26th as he will be on vacation. He will come to us a bit later in the year. More on that as it develops. In the meantime, visit his great website at (www.WetDogPublications.com). He has published some fantastic books on FN products. He is one great guy and speaker as you know if you were around a few years ago when he showed up with everything from rifles, pistols, a bicycle, and even a milking machine from FN. He is an entertaining speaker who is perhaps the ultimate expert on FN products.

Since I was running out of ammo and airspeed (as Moe Phillips used to say) regarding programs, I came up with another different subject – an expanded show and tell this month on Winchester Shotguns – Model 21s, Model 12s, whatever. I will bring my reference books and I would ask you do the same, to help identify what you are going to bring in. Bring in and plan to discuss any of the shotguns you have with the Winchester name on them. For that matter, bring in any Remington, Browning, or Mossberg shotguns – especially military versions. Since the pizza donations have been good of late, we will again have pizza for this meeting. Come early and eat and enjoy the meeting.

I am always working on bringing in new speakers. We will need a speaker for August 25 and September 22. Help me out if you have suggestions. Am hopeful that Phil Spangenberg, noted writer and expert on Old West arms, will be here for the June 23 meeting, but it is not 100% carved in stone.

I would again like to thank all the members who were so helpful in putting on the last gun show. We are doing well, all things considered, so I hope you keep it up..., at least until my last term as President expires in January 2012!

For the benefit of those members who live outside of the attendance area, I thought I should again mention the deaths of Alan Wampler and Ed Wages. We are all diminished by their departure from us.

Addison Hurst, VGCA President

April 28th Business Meeting of the VGCA: **Larry Hare**, Association Membership Coordinator, reported that the VGCA voted in four new members to the fold. The new members are: **Craig Pearson, Robert Kennedy, James Hunt**, and **Richard Jones**. The VGCA welcomes you.

Show & Tell for the April 28th Meeting: **Kelly Cook** started this off when he presented an antique English hammer muzzleloading shotgun. Specifically, it was a Hollis & Sheeth manufactured between 1844 and 1861. **Bob Sears** displayed a Spanish Civil Guard Model FR-8 Mauser bolt action rifle. These rifles were designed with features like the newly adopted Spanish CETME military automatic, to provide familiarization to the user and ensure certain accessory compatibility. He also explained the difference between *accuracy* (point of impact) and *precision* (repeatability). **John Babey** showed his newest acquisition, a beautiful Colt Model 1862 NM pocket

police .36 caliber revolver with the L serial number prefix. The L would normally indicate that it was a London Colt, however this one was manufactured in New York. **James Lee Hoffman** graced us with an OUTSTANDING 1874 Remington No.1 Rolling Block CREEDMORE Long Range match rifle chambered for the .44-90 cartridge. It was truly a magnificent example of a very rare and historic rifle. **Addison Hurst** closed the evening with his newly acquired French MAS Mdle 49/56 semi-automatic military rifle together with all of its many accessories including the sniper scope which initially prompted his acquisition. (S&T - recap thanks to **Larry Hare**)

Photos of the April 28th Meeting – Show and Tell



Top: Jeff Walker with his rifles and Remington trigger diagram he drew.

Upper Right: John Babey Colt Percussion Revolver.

Lower Left: Kelly Cook English shotgun action and barrel detail.

Lower Right: James Lee Hoffman with his Remington Number 1 Rolling Block Rifle.

Upcoming Events and Shows

Please note: There are sometimes changes in schedules by gun show promoters 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.

VIRGINIA 2011

- ☞ **May 19-22, 2011 – Manassas, VA** – Annual Civil War Trust Conference in Manassas. Lectures, tours and more. For information, link to www.civilwar.org.
- ☞ **May 21-22, 2011 - Virginia Beach, VA** - Convention Center - *SGK, LTD*
- ☞ **May 21, 2011 – Vienna, VA** - “Secession Vote Re-enactment,” at the historic Freeman House Store and Museum, 131 Church St. NE, Vienna. Public participation is invited. 2-4 p.m. Free. Call 703-938-5187 or link to www.historicviennainc.org.
- ☞ **May 26, 2011 – Manassas, VA** – Lecture, “First Blood, Battle of Blackburn’s Ford,” at the Old Manassas Courthouse, 9248 Lee Ave. 7 p.m. Free. Call 703-367-7872.
- ☞ **May 27, 2011 – near Boonsboro, VA** – Walking tour, “Battle of Fox’s Gap,” on the South Mountain State Battlefield near Boonsboro. Begins at South Mountain Inn on Alternate U.S. 40. 1 p.m. Free. Call 301-432-8065.
- ☞ **May 28-29, 2011 - Harrisonburg, VA** - Rockingham County Fairgrounds – *C&E Gun Show*
- ☞ **May 28-29, 2011 – Middletown, VA** – Reenactment of the 1861 “Great Train Raid” includes a 4.5 mile reenactment (5/29) of men and horses pulling tons of rail equipment from the Cedar Creek Battlefield south of Middletown to the Strasburg Museum. Details link to www.greattrainraid.com.
- ☞ **May 28-29, 2011 – Manassas, VA** – Living history, infantry drills and demonstrations at the Manassas National Battlefield Park (Henry Hill). 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Free with Park admission. Call 703-261-1339 or www.nps.gov/mana.
- ☞ **May 30, 2011 – Manassas, VA** - Memorial Day commemoration at the Groveton Confederate Cemetery on New York Avenue at the Manassas National Battlefield Park. Noon. Free with park admission. Call 703-261-1339 www.nps.gov/mana.
- ☞ **June 1, 2011 – Fairfax, VA** – Fairfax Court House Skirmish Commemoration and Lecture at Historic Fairfax Courthouse, 4000 Chain Bridge Rd. 6 p.m. Free. Seating limited. Call 703-385-8414 for more information.
- ☞ **June 4-5, 2011 - Dale City, VA** - VFW Post 1503 - *Old Dominion Shows*
- ☞ **June 25-26, 2011 - Fredericksburg, VA** - Expo Center - *SGK, LTD*

MARYLAND 2011

- ☞ **June 18-19, 2011 – Timonium, MD** - Timonium Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*

PENNSYLVANIA 2011

- ☞ **June 4-5, 2011 - Philadelphia, PA** - National Guard Armory - *Appalachian Promotions*
- ☞ **June 11-12, 2011 - Harrisburg, PA** - Farm Show Complex – *Mid-Atlantic Arms Collectors*
- ☞ **June 17, 18 & 19, 2011 - King of Prussia, PA** - Valley Forge Convention Center - valleyforgegunshow.com
- ☞ **June 18-19, 2011 - Tarentum, PA** - Pittsburgh Mills Galleria - *Pennsylvania Gun Collectors Association*.
- ☞ **June 24-26, 2011 – Gettysburg, PA** - Eisenhower Inn's Allstar Complex on Steinwehr Avenue off of Rte 15 – *Gettysburg Civil War Show*
- ☞ **July 9-10, 2011 - Allentown, PA** - Agricultural Hall - *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*. Contact: FDHAS, 3491 Linden St., Bethlehem, PA 18017. 610-997-8613 after 6pm.

**“A fanatic is one who can't change his mind and won't change the subject.”
“I am always ready to learn, although I do not always like being taught.”
~ Quotes from Winston Churchill**

Address for any Newsletter related matters or submissions 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.

VGCA Newsletter Editor