



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.NET

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NRA Affiliate Number G8162



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Presentation for the April 24, 2014 Meeting: The presenters of the evening were **Larry Hare and Bill Chronister**, VGCA Members and volunteers, their subject was Precision Adult Air Guns. Larry started off the presentation with the history of air guns in different parts of the world and an explanation of how air guns are as varied as other firearms. In North America they have been viewed as toys, dangerous still, but as toys primarily for children. In the 1880's some immigrants were producing high grade air guns but these were rare and expensive. The first commercial American air guns were from Quackenbush in the 1880s and were very low powered targeted to the middle class. In Europe however, air guns were common for target shooting and military training especially in England and Germany due to the restrictions on firearms. By 1900 they were both producing very nice precision air guns including BSA rifles. These weren't getting well imported into the US until Robert Law started importing through Air Rifle Headquarters and educating the public. This company was later bought by Beeman who work with law on producing literature. Precision air guns did not start really getting manufactured in the US until the 1980s but are still not common here.

Many of the air guns made as trainers operated with clips and magazines that held BBs and had similar weight to the real version of the rifle. Examples of these rifles are the German MARS which was also used by the Swiss, the Swiss K31, the Czech VZ-47 and the Egyptian Hakim produced in Germany. Machine gun trainer examples also exist such as the MacGlashin BB Machine Gun produced during WWII for the USAF.

Air guns are powered by numerous methods. Most common to the previously discussed guns is the spring piston model. In this model a spring moves forward compressing a section of air providing the energy needed to launch the bb. The multi-pump pneumatic design would be pumped using an internal built in source to fill an air chamber that dumps all the air into a single shot. A pre-charged pneumatic however, holds air in a storage reservoir that is released in regulated amounts to give you multiple shots. This storage reservoir requires either an external compressor or pump to recharge and they give no appreciable recoil. There are also CO2 cartridge rifles and revolvers that used CO2 filled cartridges with a nozzle tip that held a BB. They can be reused by refilling the gas chamber and putting a new bb in the nozzle. Another example of these is the Giffard CO2 rifle which uses a CO2 reservoir cylinder which can give you multiple shots. One of the more accurate powering methods is the single pump pneumatic which gives a consistent pressure and a simple use requiring only a single pump.



There are numerous variations on the spring air rifle design many of which were featured at the meeting. To start with is the break barrel design which requires lowering the barrel from a hinge point to charge the spring. However depending on the length of the barrel at this point it can take a lot of force to accomplish this and thus can be very tiring to shoot. Secondly, is a under lever design which has a fixed barrel wherein you pull down a lever from the bottom of the stock to charge the spring. Due to the fixed barrel they are far more accurate. Examples of these include the BSA standard under lever. Less common designs are the side lever, turret loading, and tap loading. Benefits of spring power are a low number of parts and self-contained

mechanisms providing high reliability. In addition they are not sensitive to temperatures and can be highly accurate however you are limited to iron sights since the omni-directional recoil caused by the spring can ruin most scopes. In addition they require physical effort to fire each shot and require proper technique to shoot.

The Theoben from England is a gas piston that operates using a miniature version of the struts that help open your trunk. It is an under lever with an expansion chamber with a port that directs the muzzle blast into the lever so that the report is muffled. The advantage of the gas powered is that you can leave them cocked unlike the spring powered rifles.

A danger of these rifles is that you must use a silicon oil or hydrocarbon oil because if you don't you can have something called dieseling where the oil is subjected to high heat due to the high levels of air pressure. On this note a really cool little gun is the Beracuda spring air gun. It has a little tube that is a reservoir that holds the old medical glass tubes of ether. When you pulled the bolt back it injected a small amount of ether into the piston which would be set off by the pressure when the piston went forward. This would provide quite a boost to the power.

There is a whole sub-industry based around these guns focused on tuning them to make them smoother, increase the power or decrease the power. All spring guns are tuned in pretty much the same way either via lubrication or a complete overhaul. Compressed springs from these guns can be under highly dangerous levels of compression and care must be taken when releasing them from pressure. Since many of these guns were mass produced edges may not be perfect and the greasing may be subpar. A moly grease may be added and worked into the metal to lubricate deep into the gun on more modern guns. However, on older guns you would want to use lithium grease to protect the leather seals which may just need to be oiled to make them pliable again. Adding small buttons of Teflon allows you to tighten the fit of parts such as the pistons which can take the twang out of the action. Kits exist from people who have taken the time to work out all the issues with certain guns and can reduce a lot of the work from figuring out what is wrong with a certain gun.

All in all the world of precision air guns is far more than the idea of the toys many of us grew up with. Matches are held all across the nation in air guns including 10 meter target matches which are more focused on fun all the way to field target matches. These field target matches began in England and are similar to sporting clays in that they mimic hunting situations. These matches are strictly regulated and require great knowledge of your firearm and physics of the pellets. There are many levels of competition and far more to learn about air guns than is covered here and surely a whole world to explore not just for kids anymore.

🌀**Upcoming Presentation for May 22, 2014:** This May we'll be doing something we haven't done in a long time. A night of focused on a brand of firearms. This month we'll be focusing on Marlins! Bring all your Marlins of any type, old and new, and learn from everyone else. It will be a wonderful night of stories and shared knowledge. The food trough will be open so bring \$5 dollars as a donation. Please help us make sure that we leave the conference room cleaner than we found it. We can't wait to see you all there.

🌀**Remaining Presentations for 2014:** The following presentations are already scheduled for next year. This is a great line-up, so mark your calendars. Advance thanks to those who have signed up to present and to the members who arranged for some of the program speakers. As always, updates will be published in the newsletters each month.

- **June 26 – Carlos Davila** on *“The G-1/2/3 Family of Military Rifles”*
- **July–~~NO Meeting~~ – Summer Recess**
- **August 28 – Shannon Ziegler** – *“Japanese Arms”*
- **September 25 - Addison Hurst** – *“The Kalashnikov Rifle and Legacy”*
- **October 23 - LTC Gregg Thompson**– *“Afghani Rifles”*
- **November - ~~NO Meeting~~ - VGCA Gun Show**
- **December 4 - Annual Membership Meeting** – NO Speaker/Pot Luck Dinner/Officer Nominations/Show & Tell/Swap Meet

Business Meeting of February 27, 2014: The meeting started with the pledge and a moment of silence for those fallen. We had over 50 people in attendance for our April meeting. Dave kicked off the evening by thanking the new officers and recognizing the old. **Ernie Lyles** was recognized with a certificate honoring him for his time as both a Board member and Vice-President. **Bill Chronister** was awarded a certificate as well as a Ruger blued 10-

22 Heavy Barrel target rifle for his time and commitment bringing us an outstanding newsletter for 9 years. **Ed Costello** our secretary of 25 years was awarded a certificate and a special edition Ruger stainless 45-22 Mark III. Ed had replaced Marty when he went overseas back in 1989 as treasurer. The meeting then proceeded to a reading of the original charter members of our organization of which more than a few were in attendance and still members.

It was announced to our members that Waclaw Ustupski would be representing our club at the NRA Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, IN the weekend after our meeting. Wally presented on Radom pistols and rifles as well as polish military clothing. This was followed by recognizing other members who make displays possible, our show committee. Dennis Gerdovich who was in attendance received a certificate. Rick Nahas who was in Indianapolis helping Walclaw was thanked verbally as was Emory Hackman who could not make the meeting. Relating to the show Dave mentioned the possibility of opening up the second building and making a double wide door for an entrance at the rear second building. To make that happen would mean more volunteers and pursuant to this a call was made for more show volunteers for Security, Safety, and Setup.

A warning was given to the membership that there is a potential ban on ivory coming in terms of new legislation. A number of guests were also introduced including Russell Lillard of Madison Auctions, Susan Marst from a local 4-H Club. **Larry Hare**, Membership Coordinator, then presented the following membership candidates: David Weston - sponsor Marc Gorelick; Robert G. Spence - sponsor William Spence; Scott Becker who attended with his wife - sponsor John Isoldi.

The business meeting ended with a call from Marc Gorelick and Richard Pripeton for articles for the website. A guide to what is required for the articles will be posted to the website

Other News!

Early Call for Volunteers: If you're interested in working Security at the next show in November WE ALWAYS NEED VOLUNTEERS especially if we want to grow our show and provide more for you all. Please contact Kent Jefferies at KAJefferies@aol.com and remember that working on the Security or Setup teams gets you one free admission to the gun show for the weekend.

Call of Articles for the Website: We are making a call for articles for the website. They must be about guns or gun collecting not shooting sports or hunting. No political articles will be used. Articles may be about modern or antique firearms and may be historical and/or technical in nature. Detailed guidelines will be available on the website. Please fact check and proofread your own work. All articles may be submitted to Marc or Richard at web@vgca.net.

BoD Vacancy: To all concerned, after graciously volunteering to step up John Babey has been appointed to fill out the remainder of Jim Burgess' Board of Directors spot until the upcoming elections.

Show & Tell from the February 27, 2014 Meeting: Our Show and Tell was impressive due to how many rifles were brought for the presentation. **Member 1** brought in a Walther Luftgewehr 55 one of the first rifles made by Walther after WWII. First they made adding machines and then airguns and shortly after that the LG55. **Member 2** brought in 2 air pistols. The first was a Crossman model 116 the last of the bulk air pistols. They were 22 caliber and sadly as loud as an actual 22, and yields about 15 shots per co2 tank. The second pistol was a more modern air pistol a Beeman P1 widely hailed as one of the best current air pistols and shoots .177 caliber. It is an all metal gun that can shoot different fps based on which position you cock the hammer to. **Member 3** had a Daisy target rifle single pump that shoots .177 caliber.

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 as of this writing, but are not guaranteed. If you have a favorite show you would like to tell other members about, please email the Editor with a short review, including the show content, i.e., modern, new, collectible or antique, and I will include it as room permits. **Yellow** = Collector organizations.

VIRGINIA 2014

➡ June 6-8, 2014 - Chantilly, VA – Expo Center, The Nation's Gun Show - *C&E Gun Show*

- ☞ June 14-15, 2014 - Dale City, VA - VFW Post 1503 - *Old Dominion Shows*
- ☞ June 21-22, 2014 - Manassas, VA - Prince William County Fairgrounds - *SGK Show*
- ☞ June 28-29, 2014 - Fredericksburg, VA - Fredericksburg Expo & Conference Center - *SGK Shows*
- ☞ July 12-13, 2014 - Hampton, VA - Hampton Roads Convention Center - *SGK Show*
- ☞ July 19-20, 2014 - Salem, VA - Salem Civic Center - *C&E Gun Show*
- ☞ July 25-27, 2014 - Chantilly, VA - Expo Center, The Nation's Gun Show - *C&E Gun Show*

PENNSYLVANIA 2014

- ☞ July 12-13, 2014 - Allentown, PA - Agricultural Hall - *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society.*
 Contact: FDHAS, 3491 Linden St., Bethlehem, PA 18017. 610-997-8613 after 6pm

The e-mail address for any Newsletter related matters or a submission is Newsletter@vgca.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 Richard Pripeton, VGCA Newsletter Editor



Left: Ernie Lyles receiving his certificate for his time as a Director and Vice-President

Below: Bill Chronister receiving his 10 -22 Ruger for his years as the club Newsletter Editor and Secretary.



Below: Ed Costello receiving a Stainless Ruger for his years as the club Treasurer.



Below: Member 2's Show and Tell of Crossman and Beeman air gun pistols.

