



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.NET

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NRA Affiliate Number G8162



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May 2015 VGCA e-Newsletter



✦ **April 23rd Meeting on The Finest in Firearms:** Bob Hart, provided an exceptional presentation on a somewhat eclectic subject of single shot, bull's-eye (target) pistols. Bob has been a VGCA member for many years now, and has been collecting this genre of fine single shot pistols for more than 30 years. His presentation covered single shot cartridge pistols from the 1860's to the present, and included both European and American, pre and post WWII, and plinker/parlor/target examples.

Early American single shot pistols discussed included the Frank Wesson bicycle and target model pistols, Stevens model #43 parlor, model #35 medium frame, and the Stevens Lord target pistol

(as used by Annie Oakley), the S&W Perfect single shot series of pistols, and the Remington series of rolling block single shot pistols. Early European single shot pistols, were largely manufactured in Belgium and Germany by various modestly sized manufactures, and tended to be very elaborate, sometimes incorporating double set triggers. These early European pistols were typically designed for use in indoor parlor/beer hall, or at a target range, and seldom used for lowly plinking activities such as was enjoyed by many American shooters.

In the 1920's and 30's, several American manufacturers, such as Remington (RB Mdl. 1902), Harrington & Richardson (Model USRA), Colt (Camp Perry Model) and S&W (Straight Line) free single shot target pistols were produced for a somewhat limited specialty market, including Olympic competition. Generally, American single shot free pistols tended to mimic the grips of US military service revolvers, or the Colt Model 1911 semi-automatic pistol with a locked wrist grip. Europeans, on the other hand tended to prefer to design their free pistols for a relaxed wrist grip.



Post WWII American pistols included such memorable examples such as the Wamo Power Master, Sheridan Knockabout, Savage Model 101 (SAA mimic) and the Tompkins pistols. Post WWII free pistol competition was dominated by the fine Hammerli Model 100 Olympic, the ugly, but finely functional Russian TOZ 35, and some excellent Italian pistols. Americans developed the High Standard and Green free pistols that utilized electric trigger mechanisms, but their production numbers were extremely low and as such they are rarely encountered. Bob's presentation was exceptionally interesting and covered an area of collecting that is seldom experienced by most collectors. We wish to thank Bob for sharing his awesome collection and his vast knowledge on this subject.



✪ **Business Meeting of April 23, 2015:** Acting President Jim Burgess brought the meeting to order. Jim called all guests to introduce themselves of which we had three. Membership Chairman Larry Hare announced there was one new prospective member present to be voted on. Tor Johnson was voted into the club, sponsored by Richard Pripeton. Shannon gave a treasurers report. We had a good show, 1,500 people through the door. We can attribute this largely to road signs, fliers and the internet. We made more than we spent overall, and we are in a better place financially than where we were last year. Surveys showed there was general happiness with our show, and there were some good suggestions the board will be following up on.

We sponsored a table at the NRA Convention in Nashville, TN. One of the guns at the table won a silver medallion which they present to ten unique arms at the convention. By winning the silver medallion for sponsoring the table we received another gold star to add on our plaque. The other gold stars we received in the years 2000, 2001, 2004, and 2014. Meeting next year will be in Louisville, KY.

Acting President's Comments

Dear Members,

As I write this I'm preparing to attend the North-South Skirmish Association's national matches which are held biannually at Fort Shenandoah outside Winchester, Va. I still have to finish putting together ammunition for six different reproduction black powder guns to be fired over the five days of team and individual competition so this column will be brief. Just because the 150th anniversary of the Civil War is essentially over doesn't mean we can't now talk about Civil War guns. In fact the presentation at our meeting on May 28 will be given by yours truly on the subject of Civil War Infantry weapons. We'll save cavalry arms and artillery for another night. If you don't know the difference between the various Civil War rifles, muskets, rifle-muskets or rifled muskets and their respective bayonets, this will be an opportunity to learn some of the basics. If you have some of these critters in your collection, please bring them out for show and tell. Admittedly my collection of original Civil War arms is somewhat limited by virtue of my meager government paycheck so the more examples that can be brought to the meeting, the better.

Jim Burgess

✪ **Comments from the Board of Directors:** The Board is still looking for a member willing to help and step up into the highly needed position of president by the next election cycle. IF you or someone you know is interested please have them contact a member of the Board of Directors or email us at web@vgca.net.

Other News!

✪ **Fall Show 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. If you're interested in volunteering in other ways please contact Rick Nahas whose contact information is provided above.

✪ **Current Speaker List for 2015:** What follows is our current sign up for speakers for the 2015 calendar year.

- **May 28:** Jim Burgess: Civil War Guns/Bayonets
- **June 25:** Rob Becker: SKS Family of Rifles
- **August 27:** Bill Troy: President Thompson Collectors Association
- **September 24:** Marc Gorelick
- **October 22:** Steve Westbrook: American Hammer Shotguns of 1880s-90s
- **December 3:** Holiday Dinner/Show & Tell/Swap Meet

✪ **Continued 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. Official Guidelines for articles may be found on the education page of the VGCA site.

Show and Tell



Member 1 presented a plaque. Dad's shellvack USS Milwaukee.

Member 2 showed a Webley single-shot pistol with a box, and original markings. You can open the handle up and add weights. It was chambered in .22 caliber long-rifle.

Member 3 presented his recently acquired Russian Type 91 Mosin Nagant Genuine Sniper Rifle complete with matching scope and mount.



Member 4 presented his recently acquired Swedish Model 67/84 Rolling Block military rifle in 8x58 Danish, complete with original spike bayonet. In addition, he presented numerous single shot European target pistols, including a Hammerli Model 100 Olympic, Russian Model TOZ-35, Czech Bruno PAV break barrel entry level target pistol, a Webley & Scott Service pistol with the Parker Hale .22 conversion unit, a Webley & Scott Mdl 1911 London Metropolitan Police .22 training pistol, and a Webley & Scott Mdl 1909 break barrel target pistol.



Member 5 presented a fine looking pre-war Mauser Model DSM 34, .22RF German training rifle acquired at our last show.

Member 6 showed a 1909 Webley single shot pistol.



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 2015

- ☉ June 5-7, 2015 - Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Nation's Gun Show*
- ☉ June 20-21, 2015 – Manassas, VA – Prince William County Fairgrounds – *SGK Show*
- ☉ July 11-12, 2015 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway – *Showmasters*
- ☉ July 24-26, 2015 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center - *Showmasters*
- ☉ August 8-9, 2015 – Fredericksburg, VA – Expo and Convention Center – *SGK Show*
- ☉ August 22-23, 2015 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway – *Showmasters*
- ☉ August 29-30, 2015 – Winchester, VA – Sportsplex & Indoor Events Center – *SGK Show*

MARYLAND 2015

- ☉ June 13-14, 2015 – Baltimore (Timonium), VA – Timonium Fairgrounds – *The Gun Shows*

PENNSYLVANIA 2015

- ☉ June 13-14, 2015 - Gettysburg, PA – All Star Conference Center – *Eagle Arms*
- ☉ June 19-21, 2015 - Harrisburg, PA – PA Farm Complex – *Showmasters*
- ☉ July 11-12, 2015 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds – *Forks of the Delaware*

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