



# VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.NET

Est. 1983 (A Not-for-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G8162



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## May 2016 VGCA Newsletter



🔴 **VGCA Meeting of April 28, 2016:** This month we were treated to a very special guest in the form of Richard Jones, Editor for Janes Small Arms and former Director of the UK Pattern Room. He presented a fabulous series on Soviet Arms development since 1945 going into detail on weapons ranging from pistols to light machine guns to sniper rifles to special purpose firearms. Some of the pistols discussed included the PMM, the Nagant, the PSM, and the SR-1. Along with a discussion of these pistols their use and effectiveness on types of body armor as well as change in bullet design as well as barrel fluting were covered in detail. As we moved on into SMGs Richard was able to go into detail about 8 of these. The SR2MP and the PP90M stood out among them for their odd stocks and designs. The PP-90M in particular could be folded up into a compact box that just looked like a standard piece of military gear rather than a weapon. The presentation then moved on to battle rifles and the AKs which are not called AK-47s in Russian but Avtomat Kalashnikova.

There are many variations on the weapons within the Kalashnikov family such as the stamped AK, the machined AK, AKS, AKM, and the AKMS. Further on top of those there is the AK-74 and its variants including the altered bullet it fires post 1991 with a mild steel core reshaped to better defeat hard ballistic plates. We also got into next gen rifles such as the AEK-971 and the AK-12 as well as the AK-100, the AN-94, and some more outside the box options. These included the AM Vikr and the AS Val. However moving on from Standard Rifles we entered Light Machine guns where the largest focus is reducing the soldiers weight burden. The Russians have beautifully done this with the PKM which ends up weighing roughly 60% of the US M240.



The final area of focus was Heavy Machine Guns and Special Purpose Firearms. One of the best examples of these is the Kord which weighing nearly 3 times the weight of a M240 does not care one bit about the soldiers weight burden and is a veritable powerhouse. Going to the exact opposite end of the spectrum we find the PMM silent pistol which uses self-contained projectile, cartridge and piston setup to fire a round quietly enough no one would associate it with a weapon discharging. In addition, the weapon only weighs in around 2 lbs. Another silent option is the S4M pistol though here we also entered into underwater pistols and rifles. These were the SPP-1, the APP-1M and the ADS.

All in all Richard gave us as spectacular overview of many Russian weapons throughout the years and how they have changed, developed, and improved. His presentation was eloquently wrapped up with a single photo showing our clubs fine tradition of connection to historians and the history of firearms. Simply put a photo of him and many of our own members with General Kalashnikov on a trip to Russia.

✪ **April Business:** The business meeting this month began with Jim Burgess leading the pledge of allegiance. Shannon Zeigler then gave us an outstanding financial update on how the gun show went as well as the status of the clubs finances overall. Rick Nahas then gave a report on the show which was largely a success with no incidents and a good renewal rate. We still need more table holders for the next show and you can reach out to Rick for that. Larry Hare than introduced then welcomed two new members to our club, Paul K. Kadowaki, sponsored by Dave Litchfield and Robert Bennett, sponsored by Larry Hare. The business meeting then proceeded into nominations for the upcoming election which is detailed below.

✪ **Upcoming May 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting:** Our May presentation will be from Mike Cogswell who will be speaking on the subject of Navy Lugers. As per the new normal the food trough will be open with a five dollar donation appreciated for use of the pizza and drink. Social time begins at 6:15 with the meeting beginning at 7. Please remember to bring your friends who may be interested.

### Outgoing Acting President's Comments

This is the last time I will use this soapbox. I want to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to the other members of the Executive Committee for their support and hard work over the last year and several months I have been Acting President. We were able to enact new bylaws to keep this organization rolling smoothly, maintain a record of safe and successful gun shows, help the National Firearms Museum with an important acquisition and support other worthy causes. (We recently voted to make another donation to the NRA Foundation earmarked for the museum.) Thanks to the many speakers who stepped forward, we enjoyed some outstanding presentations and we were able to keep the pizza flowing at the meetings. I can take little credit for this and as I step down there is comfort in knowing that VGCA will remain in good hands.

Hopefully every member has received a ballot for the 2016 officer elections either by email or snail mail and has cast their vote. The results will be announced and I will hand over the gavel to the new President at the May meeting. I may shy away from leadership roles but I will continue to volunteer my services to this organization as needed.

Last month we had a void to fill in our speaker's list for May. However, Mike Cogswell readily stepped up to offer a program on Navy Lugers. If it wasn't for him you would have to listen to me ramble on about something related to the Civil War (that was "Plan B"). You are safe for now and we will look forward to learning something new about P-08 pistols.

-Jim Burgess

### Other News!

✪ **2016 VGCA Officers Election:** This election marks our first since the new bylaws have been passed. The executive committee has voted to implement an electronic voting system for those members who receive the newsletter via email. The candidates running are Ernie Lyles for President, Richard Pripeton and Rick Nahas for Vice-President, Robin "Rob" Becker for Secretary, and Shannon Zeigler for Treasurer. As the close date for the election was May 19<sup>th</sup> I can happily report we increased voting to nearly 50% of those who received e-ballots nearly doubling election response. If anyone has any further questions about the e-ballots or didn't receive one and needs their email updated with the club you can message me at [web@vgca.net](mailto:web@vgca.net).

✪ **Membership Candidates:** Another welcome change from the new by-laws being implemented here is how we deal with and accept new potential members. Instead of having to spend as long in meetings and waiting for a new member to be able to make to a specific meeting we will be listing the candidates' names here in the newsletter once we have received their membership application. From that point you the membership will have 30 days to

contact an Officer or Member of the Board with a complaint or reason against the member joining. This allows the possibility of raising an objection out of the public eye as well as simplifying the process. After the 30 days' time if there are no objections raised to a member they will be considered to have a vote of yes from the club. At this point they will be asked to introduce themselves to the club at a meeting and pay their dues. Once their dues have been paid they will go on the roster as an active member. To begin this process I will now list the names of all the candidates we currently have for consideration for the club as well as their sponsors. Richard McCommack, Sponsor – Winwood Holbrook/Dave Litchfield; Scotty R. Gerbich, Sponsor – Larry Babcock; Lester Hayden Smith, Sponsor – Paul Veneziano; Wesley Chappell, Sponsor – Ernie Lyles; David A. Doehler, Sponsor – Jeffery Perkins; Chad E. Williams, Sponsor – Gregory Dixon; Timothy Ward, Sponsor – Greg Butcher; Joe Ramsey-Clark, Sponsor – Richard Pripeton.

♣ **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](mailto:web@vgca.net). Official Guidelines for articles may be found on the education page of the VGCA site.

♣ **February 2016 Show and Tell** ♣



This musket is a very rare Merrill breech loading musket that was very well regarded by the Union troops. It was manufactured in Baltimore MD.



A Colt Model 1851 revolver. What made this one special is that it was one of about 2000 that were sold to the Russians and confiscated as it was smuggled

through Germany only later to be appropriated by the German Navy for use on one of its ships. It is well marked to that effect.

A US Springfield Model 14 complete with it's original select fire feature.

A Swiss K31 military look-a-lite .22RF rifle manufactured by Hammerli as the Model EKSX. A very uncommon match rifle in great condition.

A Russian Model SVT 40, numbers matching in great condition.





A Russian Mosin Nagant 1891 Sniper Rifle complete with matching scope also in great condition.

And then you have a Russian Biathlon Basic .22 rifle with the very interesting and functional inverted toggle lock action.



### 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

- May 21-22, 2016 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway – *Showmasters*
- June 4-5, 2016 – Fredericksburg, VA – Expo and Convention Center – *SGK*
- June 10-12, 2016 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *The Nationals Gun Show*
- June 25-26, 2016 – Fredericksburg, VA – Expo and Convention Center – *SGK*
- June 25-26, 2016 – Manassas, VA – Prince William County Fairgrounds – *SGK*
- July 9-10, 2016 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway – *Showmasters*
- July 16-17, 2016 – Hampton, VA – Convention Center – *SGK*
- June 10-12, 2016 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *The Nationals Gun Show*

#### MARYLAND 2015

- July 16-17, 2016 – West Friendship, MD – Howard County Fairgrounds – *Silverado Gun Shows*

#### PENNSYLVANIA 2015

- April 30-1, 2016 - Carlisle, PA – Carlisle Expo Center – *Eagle Arms*
- May 28-29, 2016 - Gettysburg, PA – All Star Conference Center – *Eagle Arms*
- June 25-26, 2016 - Allentown, PA – PA Rodeway Inn Expo Center – *Eagle Arms*
- June 25-26, 2016 - York, PA – Fairgrounds Memorial Hall – *Appalachian Promotions*
- July 9-10, 2016 - Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds Agriplex – *Forks of the Delaware*

The e-mail address for any Newsletter related matters or a submission is [Newsletter@vgca.net](mailto: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.