



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.NET

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

NRA Affiliate Number G8162
CMP Affiliate Number 026160



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May 2019 VGCA Newsletter

THE VGCA NEEDS YOU!



VGCA ELECTIONS ARE UPON US CONSIDER RUNNING FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear VGCA members,

It is that time of the year again - time to hold elections for the Directors to the Board of Directors. There are three Director positions that are available, each for a 2-year term. Although the elections are held in May, people often decide if they want to run at the April or May meetings. If you want to contribute to the VGCA, now is the time to consider stepping up to the plate. If interested, contact Emory Hackman, Chair of the Nominating Committee at emory1biz@cox.net or come to the membership meeting on Thursday, May 23rd, where you can stand up and throw your hat into the ring for one of these positions.

NOTE: If you do want to announce your intent to run for a Director position at the membership meeting, please have a candidate statement and digital photograph available that night. Ballots will need to be printed and mailed/transmitted via Constant Contact shortly after the meeting.

★ REMINDER - Your Election ballot should be sent by the end of May (either a hard copy mailed to your house or an electronic ballot from Constant Contact sent to your designated email address). Please contact me (rpebecker@verizon.net) if you have not receive a ballot by June 7th. Remember - your vote must be received by June 25th and you can vote for no more than three candidates!

President's Comments

VGCA Members,

We had a very successful display at the NRA Annual Membership meetings in Indianapolis. Special thanks go to member Rob Becker for providing his display of WWII Flare Guns. This is our 10th display at the NRA meetings and they keep getting better every time. I will have photos and a small presentation on the NRA convention at our upcoming May meeting. Next year's NRA convention is in Nashville, TN and we are planning to sponsor another display from the VGCA. If you are interested in displaying at Nashville, please contact one of our officers or directors.

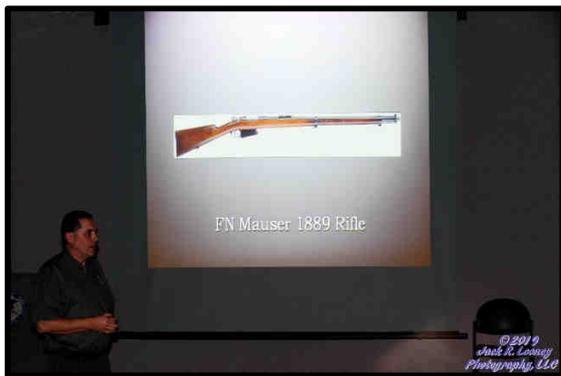
I also want to talk to the members about an issue we've been having at our gun show. We need to enforce a strict policy during Friday set up. Going forward, only security or set up volunteers will be in the building on Friday. We have had several complaints from vendors of many people moving through the building and we do not know who they are. If you would like to be there on Friday, you will need to volunteer for security or set up in order to be there or have a table. That way we have a list of names and we know exactly who is there.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our meeting on May 23rd!

--*Bernie Breighner*, VGCA President

✪ April Presentation ✪ The FN Mauser – Part II

For our April Membership meeting, Mr. Anthony Vanderlinden - noted author and historian on all things Fabrique Nationale (FN) - gave the second part of his presentation on the FN Mauser. Part I on this topic was presented to the VGCA in June 2017.



Mr. Vanderlinden (*left*), published author on the subject (his book, **FN Mauser Rifles: Arming Belgium and the World**, is available from several sources, including on-line) provided the attending members with a detailed history of the FN factory, how it came to manufacture Mauser rifles under contract for the Belgian military, and how it continued production for export sales. FN produced Mauser pattern rifles for both military and civilian use. Mauser models manufactured by FN included: Model 1889, the Spanish Mauser (1893), Model 1922, Model 1924, Model 1930, and variants.

Mr. Vanderlinden covered early WWII manufacturing, as well as production under German occupation. He covered the immediate post-war period – especially as a rework/rebuild station for U.S. arms. FN also made sporting arms for U.S. troops (among the few people in Europe immediately after the war with disposable income).

Mr. Vanderlinden provided an in-depth conclusion to his presentation on the FN Mauser. Thank you sir!



☛ **April Business:** Vice President Wes Chappell (*left*) called the meeting to order as the Osbourne Park High School Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps honor guard presented the colors (*at right*). The VGCA had recently donated \$250 to this unit to help fund their attendance at the National Drill Competition in Pensacola, FL. T.J. Parmele then led the membership with the U.S. Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence. There were more than 75



VGCA members and guests in attendance and the guests were introduced to the membership by their sponsors/hosts.

Shannon Zeigler provided a treasurers report as well as a summary of the March Gun Show.

Bill Chronister, our membership chair, said that there are 18 new applicants for VGCA membership as a result of our February meeting, our March Gun Show, and the recruiting table at Chantilly.

PLEASE HELP!

VOLUNTEERS WANTED TO MAN THE VGCA TABLE AT THE NEXT CHANTILLY SHOW

Once again, the Chantilly show at the Dulles Expo Center is coming around (June 7-9) and the VGCA is looking for a few volunteers to man the VGCA promotional table. This is an opportunity to spend a few hours with fellow gun collecting enthusiasts, meet new people, help the club, and get into a big show for free!

Our objective is to have two or more folks assigned throughout the day. This gives everyone the opportunity to walk the show while others are promoting the VGCA. If you want, you can work more than one day and shift.

Remember, volunteers who help us at the table get into the show for free. This is significant when the public admission price keeps going up. It is now \$16 for 1-day and \$22 for a 3-day pass. Volunteers are needed to man the table Friday (3 - 8 p.m.), Saturday (9 a.m. - 5 p.m.), or Sunday (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.). If interested, please contact Marc Gorelick or any other VGCA Officer or Director.

NRA Annual Membership Meetings



The annual membership meetings of the National Rifle Association this year took place 26-28 April 2019 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Over 81,000 NRA members from around the country participated in the 3-day event. The participants experienced over 15 acres of booths and exhibits highlighting firearms, shooting, reloading, safes, and outdoor/hunting accessories. There were also displays by no less than 23 collector organizations, to include the Virginia Gun Collectors Association. This was the VGCA's 10th year displaying at the NRA Annual Meetings.



Rob Becker, ably assisted by his wife Polly, cousin Jack Becker, and VGCA members Ian Wulf, Marc Gorelick, Bernie Breighner (*group photo at left*), and Rick Nahas (*not pictured*), represented the VGCA by setting up his display of WWII Signal Guns and Flare Projectors. Some of you may remember this display of flare guns from our November Gun Show, but with the generous loan of several rare pieces from VGCA members, Rob was able to expand his display from 24 to 35 flare guns! Hundreds of people stopped by each day to look at this unique and fascinating collection. Needless to say, the VGCA was well represented!

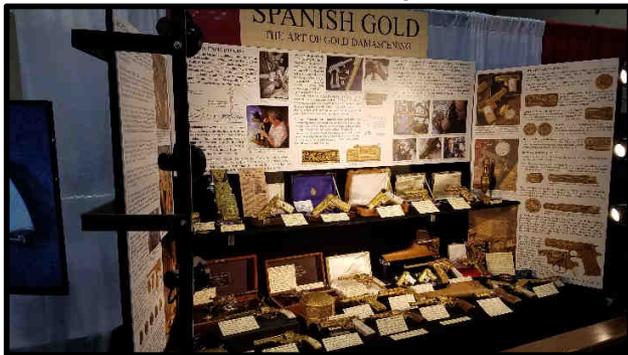


Rob Becker represented the VGCA at the NRA Annual Membership Meetings with his display of WWII Signal Guns and Flare Projectors (above). The core of this display was shown at our November 2018 VGCA Gun Show, though the display at the NRA meetings was significantly expanded and enhanced by additional pieces contributed by VGCA members Mike Hardesty, Steve Gomes, Jack Looney and Samuel S. Bevard III.



Close-up of the display case with several impressive pieces from Rob's exhibit of WWII flare guns. On the top shelf, second from the right, note the scarce stainless steel Walther SLd double barrel made for the German Navy (only 4000 produced and less than 100 estimated to have survived the war). This SLd was assigned to the Kriegsmarine North Sea Fleet and is from the collection of VGCA member Mike Hardesty.

Other displays by collector organizations, just a few of which are detailed below, showcased several rare and valuable firearms and accessories. These displays included museum-quality pieces such as some of the finest gold in-laid firearms made for royalty and the wealthy displayed by the Ohio Gun Collectors Association (*below left*) and Fifty Caliber Winchester rifles, including a one-of-a-kind smooth bore M1876 example, along with an associated box of .50 caliber shot shells, from the Winchester Arms Collectors Association (*below right*).





A signed **Michael Humble rifle** (earliest gunsmith in the Kentucky region) circa 1775-1780 was the centerpiece of a superb display by the Kentucky Rifle Association (*above left*). The Missouri Valley Arms Collectors Association hosted an exceptional collection of **British Service Lee Carbines from 1894-1912** (*just a few shown above right*). You can haunt gun shows for years and may never see even one Lee Carbine, much less the ten or so displayed at Indianapolis!



The Colt Collectors Association presented **Automatic Colt Pistols** (*above left*). This display included an absolutely mint Military Model presented to Admiral Charles O'Neil in 1903. Right next to the VGCA display was the Ruger Collectors Association (*above right*) with their fine display of **Early Ruger Pistols and Revolvers (1949-1963)**.



A Study of U.S. Model 1847 Musketoon Variations was a superb joint display by the American Society of Arms Collectors and the Maryland Arms Collectors Association (*above left*). The American Thompson Association displayed four Thompson Sub-Machine Guns, each one documented in detail. This Thompson, original serial number 5487 (*above right*), has a fascinating history. Originally sold to Consul General in Mexico, it was “lost” en route and ended up in the gang of George “Baby Face” Nelson. It was recovered in 1933, along with \$1582 in crisp new bills, following the robbery of the First National Bank of Brainerd, MN. 5487 was awarded to the bank in partial payment for their losses!



In addition to the collector's displays, all the major firearms manufacturers (and scope and suppressor and hunting gear and reloading gear and ammunition manufacturers) had booths displaying their latest wares (*NRA photo at left*). There were talks and presentations on topics ranging from concealed carry options to the guns used at Omaha Beach (German and American) during the Normandy Invasion. Both President Trump and Vice President Pence attended and spoke this year. There was an

air rifle range for young and old alike. There was live music. There were raffles and other events. It was a packed weekend! If you have never been to the NRA Annual Membership Meetings, future attendance should definitely be a "bucket-list" item. **The NRA Annual Membership Meetings next year will be at Nashville, TN, April 16-19, 2020.**



★ Show-n-Tell ★

Unfortunately, there was no time for Show-n-Tell at the April Membership meeting.

Members are encouraged to bring their Show-n-Tell items to the May meeting!



★ In Review ★

The “In Review” section to the newsletter was initiated in August 2016 and includes VGCA member reviews of guns shows, books, and museums. If you would like to submit a review, please send it to the newsletter editor at rpebecker@verizon.net.

Museum

A TRIP TO THE MUSEUM: MUSEUMS VICTORIA MELBOURNE MUSEUM ARMS COLLECTION

By Marc Gorelick

Museums Victoria, the museum organization of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, houses one of the largest and historically significant arms collections in Australia. The extensive collection of pistols, muskets, rifles, shotguns, machine guns, swords, knives, bayonets, artillery pieces and armor, are mostly from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries and is useful for understanding the technical development of firearms and munitions, military, social and political history, and the aesthetics of arms decoration and craftsmanship. Many of the approximately 3,818 items in the collection can be seen at the Melbourne Museum.



The most significant collection of its type in Australia, especially in terms of non-military firearms, it is also one of Museums Victoria's oldest and most extensive collections. It started in 1860 with the acquisition weapons from the Indian Mutiny of 1857-1859. Starting in 1870, items were also acquired to enable local gunsmiths and mechanics to study the principles and techniques of firearms manufacture when the Victorian colonial government became responsible for defense of the colony. The collection developed in three key ways during the 20th century: donations and transfers from military sources; transfers from Victoria Police and other police forces; and the acquisition of local private collections.



Indian-made Blunderbuss, Canning Collection, circa 1800-59. Photo – Museums Victoria

The collection is based on two key sub-collections: The Canning Indian Mutiny Collection and the William Cole Arms Collection. In November 1860, a ship arrived in Melbourne from Calcutta, India with a consignment of 287 weapons, a present to the Trustees of the Library and Museum in Melbourne by order of the Governor-General of India, Viscount Charles Canning. The weapons were war booty from the Indian Mutiny and covered the range of native Indian weapons used against the British. The collection now comprises about 50 of the best items.



Indian Torador Matchlock Musket (left) and Indian wooden powder flask (right), both 19th century from the Canning Collection. Photos – Museums Victoria

Private collecting of antique firearms in Australia was still in its infancy when William Cole (1864-1952) started acquiring items in the early 20th century. A paint merchant, musician and collector, Cole had an eye for quality and appreciated the work of English gunmakers of the end of the 18th and early 19th centuries. He made his earliest donation to the Museum in 1918 - an English sporting rifle by R.M. Reiley – and donated the bulk of his collection in September 1943. According to the museum archives, the donation consisted of “121 flint and percussion pistols and revolvers, 18 cases of pistols (pairs) with accessories complete, 6 blunderbusses, 29 flint and percussion long arms, 31 powder flasks and belts, 2 burglar alarms, 1 trap gun, and 1 miscellaneous assortment of gun tools, cartridges, etc.”



*Calisher & Terry bolt action percussion rifle, 1865, from the William Cole Collection.
Photo – Museums Victoria*

The collection, later described as “the largest single collection of antique firearms in Australia,” includes pistols, rifles and shotguns made by leading English, Scottish and Irish gunmakers in the late 18th and 19th centuries, including Durs Egg, John Manton, Robert Wogdon and Samuel Nock. The collection also includes a number of contemporary Birmingham forgeries of famous makers. When he died in 1952 Cole left additional items from his collection to the museum. Many of the items from Cole’s collection are on public display at the Melbourne Museum.



British East India Company Service Pistol, flintlock, .665 cal., 1813 from the William Cole Collection. Photo – Museums Victoria.

The Melbourne Museum is located at 11 Nicholson Street, Carlton, Victoria 3053, Australia. It is open daily from 10am to 5pm, except Good Friday and Christmas Day. Adult tickets are \$15.00 Australian and children under 16 years get free admission. There is an IMAX theater in the museum. Like many museums, it has a café/restaurant and gift shop. The Melbourne Museum also houses extensive exhibits of natural science, social, cultural, historical, and technological interest. Visitors interested in viewing the arms collections should contact the museum to find out how much of it is on display. The local telephone number is 13 11 02. To contact the museum from outside Australia call +61 3 8341 7777. Before hours (early morning) and special tours are available by pre-arrangement. There are several websites you can visit for additional information. The main website of Museums Victoria is <https://museums victoria.com.au/>. Additional information about the arms museum can be found at



<https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/collections>.

(Above) Japanese Samurai Armor, Edo period, 1603. Photo – Museums Victoria.



★ LITHGOW SMALL ARMS MUSEUM UPDATE ★

Marc Gorelick, VGCA

Last month's VGCA newsletter featured a review of the Lithgow Small Arms Museum in Australia. It also featured an article about the Government of New South Wales's (NSW) actions to, in effect, destroy the museum's unique and invaluable firearms collection as well as the firearms collections in other museums. Many people in Australia and the U.S. signed petitions against the regulation as well as writing directly to the NSW government to express their outrage. These actions helped. According to the update below from the Lithgow Small Arms Museum these efforts may have had a positive result. However, the battle is not over yet.

“Thanks for supporting our quest to overturn the unjust Firearms Regulation requiring Museums to permanently deactivate firearm objects. We believe our collective efforts have had an impact and our concerns are being listened to by the NSW Government. Our recent meeting with the Police Minister was quite productive. We now look forward to reviewing the draft Amendment to the Regulation which will be issued shortly as part of the ongoing consultation process. Your support has been invaluable.”

--Lithgow Small Arms Museum.



★ 2019 Presentation List ★

The following presentations are scheduled for our remaining 2019 membership meetings:

| DATE | PRESENTATION | PRESENTER |
|----------------------------|--|------------------|
| May 23 rd | NRA Annual Membership Meetings – 2019 Report | Bernie Breighner |
| June 27 th | “Saturday Night Specials” | Matthew G. |
| July | No membership meeting scheduled for summer break | |
| August 22 nd | U.S. Metallic Cartridges Post Civil War – Part 1 | Mark Gorelick |
| September 26 th | U.S. Metallic Cartridges Post Civil War – Part 2 | Mark Gorelick |
| October 24 th | History of the VGCA | TBD |
| November | No membership meeting scheduled due to our Fall Gun Show | |
| December xx | Holiday Pot Luck and Annual Swap Meet (<i>date is TBD</i>) – no presentation | |

★ 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 or shows.

VIRGINIA - 2019

- ☞ May 18-19, 2019 – Salem, VA - Salem Civic Center - *C&E*
- ☞ May 24-26, 2019 – Hillsville, VA – VFW Post 1115 – *Blue Ridge Gun Shows*
- ☞ Jun 7-9, 2019 - Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- ☞ Jun 29-30, 2019 – Harrisonburg, VA – Rockingham County Fairgrounds – *Sporting Shows Unlimited*
- ☞ Jul 13-14, 2019 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK*
- ☞ Jul 20-21, 2019 – Richmond, VA – Richmond International Raceway – *North South Trader's Civil War (National Civil War & Antique Arms Show)*
- ☞ Jul 20-21, 2019 – Salem, VA - Salem Civic Center - *C&E*
- ☞ Jul 26-28, 2019 - Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- ☞ Aug 17-18, 2019 – Roanoke, VA – The Berglund Center – *Showmasters*
- ☞ Aug 24-25, 2019 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex – *Showmasters*

NOTE: SGK has recently announced that they will no longer sponsor/promote gun shows at either Winchester, VA, or the Prince William County Fairgrounds. Our VGCA gun show will now be the only such show at the fairgrounds this year.

MARYLAND - 2019

- ☞ Aug 31, 2019 – Parkville, MD – Baltimore County Fish & Game – *Baltimore County Fish & Game Protective Association*
- ☞ Sep 7-8, 2019 – West Friendship, MD – Howard County Fairgrounds – *Silverado*

PENNSYLVANIA - 2019

- ☞ May 18-19, 2019 – Oaks, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Arms*
- ☞ Jun 1-2, 2019 - Gettysburg, PA – All Star Conference Center – *Eagle Arms*
- ☞ Jun 8-9, 2019 – Allentown, PA - Econo Lodge – *Eagle Arms*
- ☞ Jun 8-9, 2019 - Leesport, PA – Leesport Farmers Market – *Appalachian Promotions*
- ☞ Jun 15-16, 2019 – Harrisburg, PA – PA Farm Show Complex – *C&E Gun Shows*
- ☞ Jun 29-30, 2019 – Wind Gap, PA – Plainfield Fire Company – *Eagle Arms*
- ☞ Jun 29-30, 2019 – York, PA – York Fairgrounds-Memorial Hall - *Appalachian Promotions*
- ☞ Jul 6-7, 2019 - Philadelphia, PA – National Guard Armory – *Appalachian Promotions*

PENNSYLVANIA – 2019 (continued)

- **Aug 3-4, 2019 – Oaks, PA** – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Arms*
- **Aug 16-17, 2019 – Gettysburg, PA** – Gettysburg Fire Dept – *Militaria & Historic Arms Show*
- **Aug 17, 2019 – St. Thomas, PA** – St. Thomas VFD – *Franklin Co Chapter of Izaak Walton League*
- **Aug 17-18, 2019 - Harrisburg, PA** – PA Farm Show Complex – *C&E Gun Shows*
- **Aug 17-18, 2019 - Leesport, PA** – Leesport Farmers Market – *Appalachian Promotions*
- **Aug 24-25, 2019 – Monroeville, PA** – Monroeville Convention Center – *Showmasters*

SPECIAL NOTE – 2019

- **Jul 13-14, 2019 – Wilmington, OH** – The Roberts Centre – *Ohio Gun Collector's Association*
 - **Sep 13-14, 2019 – Morgantown, PA** – Holiday Inn – *Contemporary Longrifle Association (10th Annual Eastern Pennsylvania Longrifle Show)*
 - **Sep 18-22, 2019 – Monroeville, PA** – Monroeville Convention Center – *Ohio Valley Military Society (The MAX Show)*
 - **Oct 11-12, 2019 – West Point, KY** – Knob Creek Gun Range – *Machine Gun Shoot and Military Gun Show*
 - **Nov 9-10, 2019 – Tulsa, OK** – Tulsa Fairgrounds (Expo Square) – *Tulsa Arms Collector Association – aka Wanenmacher's (world's largest gun show – over 4200 tables!)*
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FOR SALE:

The "For Sale" section of the Virginia Gun Collectors Association (VGCA) Newsletter is provided as a service exclusively to the members of the VGCA. The VGCA, its officers, and directors are not responsible for any listings made in any VGCA Newsletter. We are not responsible for the accuracy (condition, value, etc.) of any listings. All buyers, traders, and sellers agree to comply with all local, state, federal, and international laws in regards to items sold via the VGCA Newsletter. It is their duty and responsibility to ensure the quality and value of the transaction and that all such laws are followed at all times. Buy, sell, or trade at your own risk.

If you would like to list an item (or items) in the VGCA Newsletter, please send your description, price, and contact information to rpebecker@verizon.net. I must receive your material no later than the second Sunday of the month for it to be included in that month's newsletter. Unless other arrangements are made, items will be listed for one issue of the Newsletter.

RAFFLE RESULTS:

★ The L. C. Smith Collectors Association held its annual raffle on Apr 28, 2019. This year's prize, a 1935 L. C. Smith .410 Gauge Field Grade with 26" barrels, went to . . . a 14-year-old from Pierre, South Dakota. The winning ticket was purchased at a Pheasant Fest event in Illinois! Thank you to all VGCA members and guests who participated!

--VGCA member John Babey

FOR SALE:

★ Sig Sauer Model XO 1911 in .45 ACP. It has a stainless steel slide and frame, black nitron finish, performance 5" barrel, Novak-type sights, combat hammer, beaver tail grip safety, excellent bore, and quick-release holster. It comes with 7 and 10-round magazines and is in excellent condition. Cost is \$795.00.

★ Springfield Model 1903 Mark I in .30/06 made in 1919 for Pedersen device. Excellent 24" barrel (dated October 1919) w/excellent bore. Good wood – overall VGC. Cost is \$1195.00.

If interested, call 571-308-4978 or send email to jrbzn13@aol.com

FOR SALE:

★ After more than two and a half years of research, VGCA member Bill Vanderpool has recently published his book "Guns of the FBI". This book is available at GunDigest.com or can be purchased directly from Bill by calling 703-626-2975. He is more than happy to sign a copy for you. Cost is \$50.00.

The e-mail address for any Newsletter-related matters is Newsletter@vgca.net - or you can reach the editor directly at rpebecker@verizon.net. Feel free to e-mail items for inclusion in the newsletter. For changes of address or non-receipt of the newsletter, either via e-mail or the mailed hard copy, please contact Rob Becker or Bill Chronister