



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

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(A Non-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G 8162

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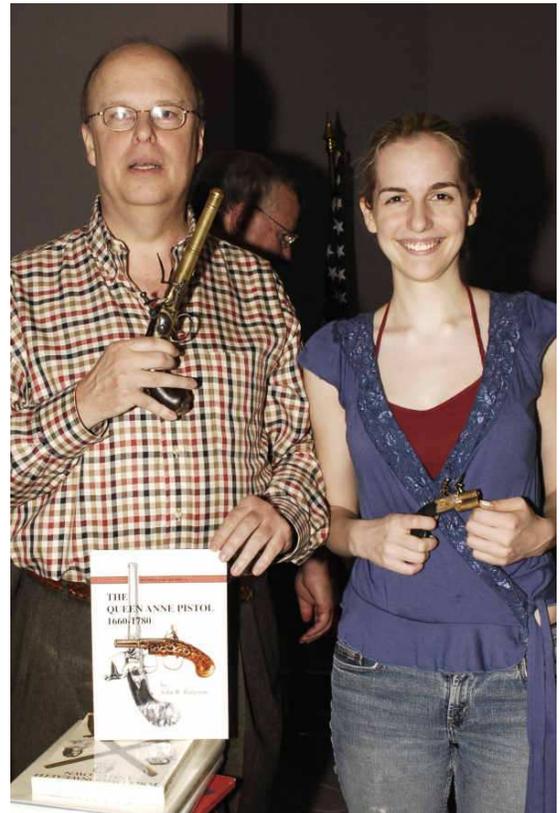
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June 2006 Newsletter

Program from the May 25, 2006 Meeting: The meeting started with a moment of silence for departed member Jim Landers.

Following the moment of silence, Charlie Rathell gave a very interesting presentation on Queen Anne and Queen Anne style pistols. Charlie introduced the subject with a brief historical synopsis of the period of Queen Anne's Reign from 1702-1714. Setting the stage with the overview of the geo-political landscape, made more complex with a healthy dose of religious strife and sectarian conflict, Charlie led up to the development of these unique pistols, which were purely civilian in their use and design. Catholic France persecuted the French protestant Huguenots, driving many to seek refuge in England. Many of these were craftsmen in the French gun trade, who brought their expertise, artistic influences, and French pattern books with them. As the same time, the increased standard of living in England had given rise to increasing banditry and robberies, resulting in a ready market for self-defense arms. The result was the Queen Anne pistol, a large caliber, smaller, concealable flintlock handgun. These arms were custom, hand-made for well-heeled customers who spared no expense, resulting in beautiful works of art festooned with silver fittings, carving, gargoyle head or gorgon (Medusa) butt caps, and silver wire inlay. Their deadly close range power was the result of loose powder under an oversized ball (for instance a common size was a 22 bore pistol using a 20 bore ball for a very tight fit). The pistols had "turn-off" smoothbore barrels which unscrewed to facilitate loading. They used a boxlock action for strength and ruggedness, and exhibited a frizzen spring design unique to this genre of pistol, along with ornate dragon or snake sideplates, and a safety engaged by sliding the trigger guard. Charlie richly covered the identification of various makers by their makers marks and described the gunsmith trade of "Olde England." To facilitate members getting a view of the details, his daughter Ann hand carried the pistols around the room for closer inspection. This was a great presentation, complete with research documentation, beautiful museum quality specimens, and a mastery of the subject matter. A number of members commented afterwards that they had never had any experience with these firearms, but that they found the presentation to be extremely interesting and fascinating. Kudos on a very fine effort.



Photos of Recent Events

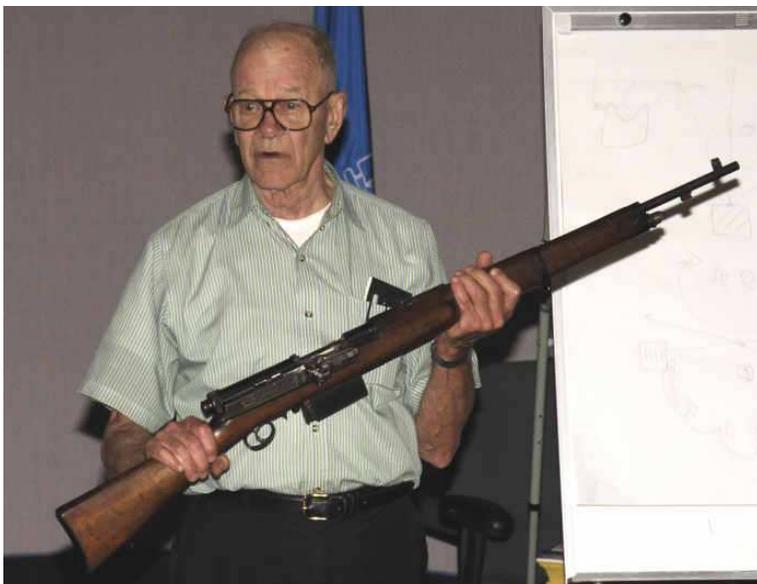


Left: Two Queen Ann Style pistols. Note the frizzen spring on the top gun.

Right: Jim Landers funeral.



Left: Note the unique frizzen spring, gorgon butt cap and sterling silver wire inlays.



Left: Mr. Valentino and Swiss Mondragon

**Right:
Diamler
Dingo
Scout Car
at Open
House**



UPCOMING for June 22 meeting: Part 1 will feature Hal Johnson discussing the conversion of a 10.4 x 38 (.41) Swiss rimfire Vetterli rifle to center fire and the problems of loading ammunition for it. This will be a technical discussion that should be quite interesting. These old rifles have been gaining in popularity due to these conversions. When the Swiss adopted the 1869 Vetterli it was the first magazine fed repeating rifle to be adopted as standard issue by any military. When adopted, it was the world's most advanced military rifle, however when it was retired in 1889, it was the most obsolete.

Following Hal's presentation, the second half will be a large show and tell. Since we have not had a show and tell as part of the presentation for a while, members are encouraged to bring out the treasures from the vault, as well as lots of favorite pieces and share their knowledge. There will be swap tables in the back in case anyone wants to trade, sell, or upgrade their collection. ➡ *The meeting begins at 7:00PM, and food will available shortly after 6:00PM.*

ADVANCE NOTICE for the September 28 meeting: We are fortunate to have a guest speaker scheduled for the September 28 meeting. Mr. Shannon Zeigler, a local resident and member of the Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society in Bethlehem, PA has agreed to give the presentation on Japanese Military Weapons of WWII. He recently earned a second place at the May Forks of the Delaware show with a fine display of some of the nicest Japanese military arms I have ever seen. Mark your calendars.

May 25 Business meeting: The meeting began with an introduction and welcoming of guests. Charlie Rathell introduced his daughter Ann who had graduated High School the night before. Larry Hare, Membership Chairman, introduced prospective member William Schaff. Bill was voted unanimously into the herd as a life member during the meeting. The entire club welcomes the new members. Again, members are encouraged to provide email addresses if available for receiving the newsletters. Members who have not paid their \$20.00 annual dues are reminded to get their dues current to remain in good standing.

The President discussed the upcoming September show and some experiences from the Spring show. Apparently some of the chairs we rented were subjected to stresses exceeding their design parameters and failed. Fortunately, no one was injured. We will probably cut back on chairs as there were many unused. Ed Costello discussed the fact that we will have another local show the same weekend of the VGCA show, and solicited input on advertising and strategies for increasing the Sunday attendance. Members should contact Ed with ideas for the board to consider. David Fleming is out of the hospital and a ramp was built for his house. We wish him well.

May 25 Show and Tell: This segment was kicked off early by Con Rice presenting a pair of Argentine Goucho belt knives. They sported Solingen blades with silver fittings and woven leather inlays. After the business meeting, Mr. S&T, Larry Hare displayed 2 vintage air rifles. The first was a 1934 Birmingham Small Arms (BSA) Standard Model in .22 caliber which shoots at a respectable 450 FPS. The second was Fritz Langerheim break barrel rifle in .177 caliber or 4.5mm. Marc Gorelick presented a newly acquired 1863 Sharps Carbine with the 1867 conversion to the .52-70 cartridge. This was a very well preserved specimen with all the appropriate cartouches from the manufacture, acceptance and conversion processes. Phil Valentino showed an exceedingly rare 1908 Mondragon semi-automatic rifle in 7mm Mauser made in Switzerland. Making it even more interesting was it was modified at the German Spandau arsenal to take a higher capacity magazine for use as a WWI German flieger rifle or air corps rifle. Mike Vargosko presented an early M1903 Springfield in .30-03 with a 1905 dated barrel. This was an exceptional unmodified example pre-dating the modifications to .30-06. Ben Simms had a nice selection of antique arms to compliment the evening presentation. He had a 1763 Charleville musket, an 1803 Harpers Ferry Rifle, an 1805 Harpers Ferry Pistol, and an 1836 flintlock pistol, the last flintlock contract pistol model made. A member conducted a 'show and ask' about a Frank Wesson single shot rifle marked J. Cutler Fuller, Shanghai. The .44 Henry Rimfire rifle has a nickel plated brass frame. Any help is appreciated. Jack Looney, (our photographer extraordinaire) told about a Western Field (Savage 520 Series) takedown 12 guage pump action shotgun he had acquired. Addison Hurst concluded the Show and Tell displayed a mint cased Browning Medalist target pistol with all the accessories except for the manual. A very striking pistol. Time to search on eBay for an overpriced original manual.

Keep the treasures, curios, and artworks coming, especially for this month's meeting.

Report on the Virginia Museum of Military Vehicles Group Open House:

On June 3, 2006, Allan Cors, Virginia Museum of Military Vehicles Group hosted VGCA members to his open house at Alden Field south of Manassas. The program included a reenactment of assault of a Iwo Jima type bunker by the Marines, AND included a live flamethrower. Present was Col. Jim Hickey who was the officer in charge of the unit that found Saddam Hussein and dug him out of his spider hole. A photo of one of the numerous armored vehicles present, a Diamler Dingo Scout Car, is in the photo spread.

Upcoming Events and Shows

VIRGINIA

- ☞ **July 8-9 Richmond, VA - C&E Gun Show** at the Showplace.
- ☞ **July 14-16 Harrisonburg, VA - Old Dominion Gun Shows** at Rockingham County Fairgrounds.
- ☞ **July 28, 29, 30 Chantilly, VA - The Nation's Gun Show** at Dulles Expo Center, Contact: C&E Gun Shows, 1204 N. Main Street, Blacksburg, VA 24060, (540)552-9458.
- ☞ **August 5-6 Dale City, VA - Old Dominion Gun Shows** at the VFW
- ☞ **August 12-13 Richmond, VA - Showmasters** at the Richmond Raceway and Fairgrounds
- ☞ **August 12-13 Bealeton, VA - Old Dominion Gun Shows** at the Fauquire Activity Service (FAS) Building.
- ☞ **August 19-20 Richmond, VA - North South Trader's National Civil War & Antique Arms Show** at the Showplace. Contact: Show Hotline (540)672-4845 or show@nstcivilwar.com.
- ☞ **August 19-20 Roanoke, VA - Showmasters** at Roanoke Civic Center
- ☞ **October 14-15, Manassas, VA - Virginia Gun Collectors Association** at Prince William County Fairgrounds. Contact: Rick Nahas, (571)215-8761.

MARYLAND

- ☞ **June 24-25 Frederick, MD – Silverado Promotions** at Frederick Fairgrounds.
- ☞ **July 22-23 Upper Marlboro, MD - Silverado Promotions** at Showplace Arena

PENNSYLVANIA

- ☞ **June 24-25 York, PA –Appalachian Promotions** at York Fairgrounds
- ☞ **July 8-9 Allentown, PA - The Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society** at Agricultural Hall. Contact FDHAS, 3491 Linden St, Bethlehem, PA 18017. (610)997-8613 after 6 pm.
- ☞ **July 15-16 Allentown, PA - Appalachian Promotions** at the Lehigh Valley Expo Center.
- ☞ **July 22-23 Monroeville, PA - Pennsylvania Gun Collectors Association** at Expo Mart, Monroeville, PA. Contact: PGCA, P.O. Box 341, Bethel Park, PA 15102. (412)854-4625.

OHIO

- ☞ **July 15-16 Wilmington, OH - Ohio Gun Collectors Association** at The Roberts Centre, Wilmington, OH. Contact: P.O. Box 670406, Sagamore Hills, OH 44067 or (330)467-5733.

NEW YORK

- ☞ **September 16-17 Syracuse, NY - New York State Arms Collectors Association** at the State Fairgrounds. Contact: Sandy Ackerman Klinger, 346 Paul Street, Endicott, NY 13760. (607)748-1010.

➔ NOTE: There will not be a VGCA monthly meeting in July, nor will there be a newsletter. The next meeting will be August 24. The next newsletter will come out in August before the meeting.

**Have a nice, safe, 4th of July and mosquito-free summer.
Bill Chronister**