



# VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

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Est. 1983

(A Non-Profit Organization)

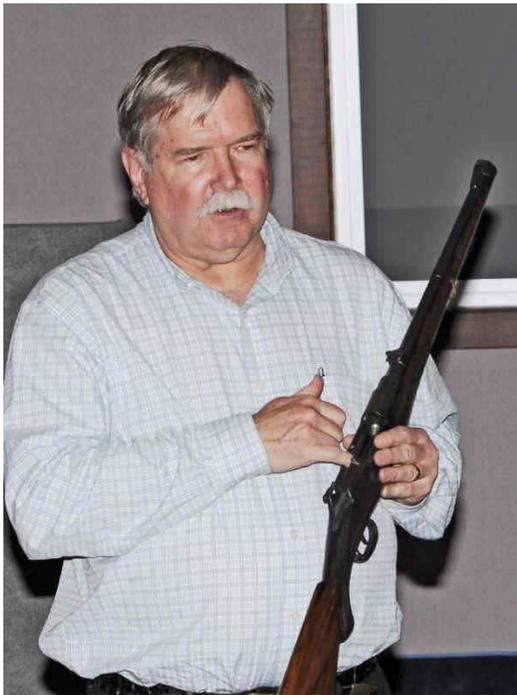
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## June 2008 VGCA Newsletter



**Presentation at the May 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting:** Prior to the introduction of the evening's speaker, President **Addison Hurst** made a few announcements and member updates. On the medical front, the news on **John Wallace** continues to be positive and he is doing well. **Charlie Rausch** is still in rehab for his injury. Addison also recognized club member **Hank Hagenau** who took a Third Place for his display at the Ohio Gun Collectors Association show. That is an award that deserves a big round of applause as the OGCA is large club well known for the quality of member displays. With the announcements concluded, the evening's presentation by **Mr. Tom Pavelko** kicked off. This was a very comprehensive presentation just overflowing with beautiful specimens of **Mannlicher-Schoenauer Rifles and Carbines** exhibiting superb old world craftsmanship. Tom started with the Model M1903 and worked his way through the M-S sporting arms he had brought with him while adding historical and technical aspects of the line of rifles. One particular example showed the characteristic full length Mannlicher stock with a stag horn forearm cap. Of technical interest, is the M-S line of rifles were basically a militarily obsolete receiver design (adopted only by the Greeks) with a split rear receiver bridge that made scope and peep sight mounting a challenge, which was contrasted by a removable rotary magazine of advanced design and incredibly silky smoothness.

These features made it a success as a hunting arm in Europe and the US among well-heeled sportsmen. The M1903 arms were originally chambered in the 6.5mmX54 M-S and also 8mmX56 and 8X60 M-S. The caliber choices expanded with the Models of 1905, 1908, 1910 and 1924 and included a 9X54 round among others. Due to the split bridge design, scope mounting was by specialized claw mounts or side mounts which required precision machining and labor and could sometimes obscure the original receiver markings. Improvements included the adoption of express sights on the M1924 models, and in 1956, a cheek piece made its appearance on the stocks, as well as Magnum chamberings and many US calibers. Also in the 1950s, the famed Griffin and Howe scope mounts became available, making scoping more practical, but still expensive. In comparison to its contemporaries, these rifles were not known for target accuracy, but were more than qualified as hunting accurate, which when coupled with a short handy design and light weight ensured its success. **Bob Sears** added his technical assessment that while these actions and rifles were precision made, ultra high quality craftsmanship pieces, they were hindered by long bolt throws and a slow striker fall. This does not detract from their beauty and *(Please turn to Page 3)*

## May 2008 Meeting and Show and Tell Photos



1L: Tom Pavelko and some M-S display pieces.

1R: Detail of the M-S scope mounting.

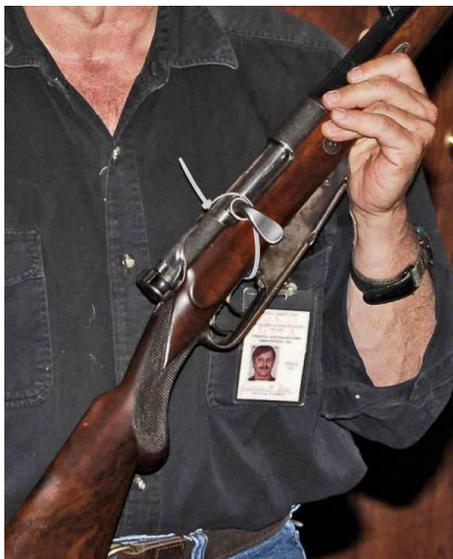
2L: Larry Hare Haenel 1888 Sporter

2C: John Babey .30-06 M61 M-S

2R: Addison's "new" Krag bandolier.

3L: Ed Johnson Drilling

3R: Bill Chronister T/C Patriot



practical hunting utility and they enjoy a legacy as one of the more exotic, collectable sporting arms. At the conclusion of the presentation, close inspection of the displayed guns, all in great shape, and the various sighting arrangements and scope mounts made for an informative and educational evening. We all thank Tom for sharing his knowledge, time and collection. ☺

► **Presentation for the June 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the VGCA:** Don't miss **Kelly Cook's** presentation on Colt auto loading .22 pistols. For those of you familiar with Kelly's displays at the shows, this will be a great opportunity to get a more detailed and up close view of these famed Colt pistols – from the workhorse field pistol to the fine match pistols. As always, folks are invited to bring in any of their own Colt .22 pistols for the Show and Tell as well as any other items for display. Ties will be provided for all firearms on display or being shown. The pizza will be there at 6:30. Do not forget that donations for the pizza have greatly helped offset the cost.

**May 22<sup>nd</sup> Business Meeting:** The May meeting had a good turnout and the pizza and chicken wings were tasty. We had a good mix of sodas and water. We over-ordered a bit on the pizza, so we will adjust that since summer attendance is often lower with honey-do lists and vacations. The business meeting was brief. As of the May meeting, approximately 40 tables were still available for the Fall Gun Show. Larry Hare reported there were no applications for new members for consideration. Make sure you pick up some flyers for the September 2008 VGCA Gunshow for distribution at the June meeting.

→→→ **DISPLAY TABLE Opportunity for the SEPTEMBER 2008 Gunshow** ←←←

The club will run a pilot program for display tables for the Fall Show and will have **FREE DISPLAY TABLES** for members on a space available basis. *This is a great opportunity to test the waters if you have wanted to do a display table.* Contact Rick Nahas as to availability, and get your reservation in early to get a table.

**Remaining 2008 VGCA Meetings Schedule:** [There is no July meeting, as is customary during the middle of summer.](#) Meetings will resume on **August 28** with the **First of the NRA National Firearms Museum Series** of presentations – speakers TBA. There will be **no meeting in September due to the VGCA Fall 2008 Gunshow on September 20 and 21.** The final two meetings, **October 23** and the combined November/December meeting to be held on **December 4** will feature the **Second and Third NRA National Firearms Museum presentations.**

**May Show and Tell:** We were very fortunate that in addition to our regular photographer, **Jack Looney**, we had **Bill Hitchcock** shooting the M-S presentation. The detail of some of the photos from both photographers allowed for some real close-ups of the guns being shown. For that reason, some of the images shown on page two are close-ups of the details of the firearms, instead of the members holding the gun. I know some of you do not like to see yourself in lights, but you continue to bring in great pieces, so we have the best of both worlds – great images of the guns of the Show and Tell, and you do not have to look at yourself... **Larry Hare** kicked off with his new, bought before the meeting, Commission 1888 Sporter by Haenel chambered in 8X57 Mauser with the J bore or .318 diameter bullet. This rifle showed vivid case coloring and a nice early European sporter features. **John Babey** complemented the M-S presentation with his example of a Stoeger imported Model 61 Mannlicher-Schoenauer carbine in .30-06. His carbine had the Pachmeyer low scope mount. He also showed a pre-1964 Winchester Model 88 with a post-1964 basket weave pattern stock. Both were very nice looking rifles in excellent condition. **Ernie Lyles** shared one of the nicest Remington 1951 pistols many have seen. This pistol in .32 ACP appeared to be in brand new condition. Since the trend was moving too modern, **Marc Gorelick** decided to turn back the clock and brought up a Remington Model of 1867 U.S. Navy Rolling Block carbine. Remington made 5100 of these carbines from 1868-69, originally chambered for the .50-45 center fire cartridge. This example has the naval anchor, all the correct cartouches, and was in original configuration. They figured in a number of East Asian actions, before being retired in 1873. **John Morris** displayed what appeared to be a percussion signaling device made by J.Stessier of Klagenfurt, Austria. During his research and testing of the device, he discovered it emitted a loud whistle when the gasses from the burning black powder were forced through a small hole. A new interesting item which should prove handy during the July 4 celebrations... **Bill Chronister** showed a Thompson/Center Patriot percussion target pistol and matching T/C loading stand he found at a well known muzzleloading shop in Kempton, PA. The pistol, in .45 round ball caliber, is reputed to be extremely accurate, and looks unfired. **Ed Johnson**, presented a circa 1920 German drilling configured as a 16 gauge side-by-side over a 9.3X64 rifle. This drilling had a correct scope,

but is missing the mount for the scope. The drilling was well engraved and exhibited many of the features found on these fine examples of the gun making art. **Addison Hurst** concluded the S&T with a recently acquired Model 1898 Krag with a 1903 cartouche and Model 1902 rear sight. As 380,000 1898 Krags were made between 1898 and 1903 when the M1903 Springfield was introduced, Addison determined from the serial number that this was one of the last Krags made. He then pulled out a mint, unopened Krag Bandolier of Rem/UMC made cartridges and the rare machined brass Krag muzzle cap. Although, many present wanted to see the .30-40 rounds, he kept the bandolier sealed and perfect... Hmmmm... It was a nice presentation followed by a well received show and tell (but we really wanted to see the .30-40 rounds...☺). Thanks to all present.

### Upcoming Events and Shows

***Words to the Wise:*** *Lately there have been some changes in scheduling by promoters or errors on websites. Members are strongly encouraged to check before driving long distances for a show. These dates have been published as of this writing, but are not guaranteed. If you have a show you would like to tell other members about, please email the Editor with a short review, including the items displayed, i.e., modern, new, or antique, and I will include it if room permits.*

#### VIRGINIA

- ☉ June 14-15, 2008 - Dale City, VA - VFW Post 1503, 14631 Minnieville Rd. – *Old Dominion Shows*
- ☉ July 12 -13, 2008 - Richmond, VA - The Showplace - *C&E Gun Show*
- ☉ July 19-20, 2008 - Salem, VA - Salem Civic Center - *C&E Gun Show*
- ☉ July 25-27, 2008 - Chantilly, VA - Dulles Expo Center - *C&E Gun Show / Showmasters*
- ☉ August 2-3, 2008 - Dale City, VA - VFW Post 1503, 14631 Minnieville Rd. – *Old Dominion Shows*
- ☉ August 9-10, 2008 - Richmond, VA - Raceway & Fairgrounds – *Showmasters*
- ☉ August 16-17, 2008 - Roanoke, VA - Roanoke Civic Center – *Showmasters*
- ☉ August 23-24, 2008 - Harrisonburg, VA - Rockingham County Fairgrounds – *Showmasters*

#### MARYLAND

- ☉ June 21-22, 2008 - Timonium, MD - Timonium Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*
- ☉ July 19-20, 2008 - Upper Marlboro, MD - Show Place Arena (P.G. County) – *Silverado Promotions*

#### PENNSYLVANIA

- ☉ June 14-15, 2008 – Harrisburg, PA - Farm Show Complex - *Mid-Atlantic Arms Collectors*
- ☉ June 20-22, 2008 – King of Prussia, PA - Valley Forge Convention Center - *valleyforgegunshow.com*
- ☉ Jun 28-29, 2008 - York, PA - York Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*
- ☉ July 12-13, 2008 - Allentown, PA - Agricultural Hall - *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*. Contact: FDHAS, 3491 Linden St., Bethlehem, PA 18017. 610-997-8613 after 6pm.
- ☉ August 29-31, 2008 – Allentown, PA - Days Inn - *Eagle Arms*

#### OHIO

- ☉ July 19-20, 2008 – Wilmington, OH – Roberts Centre - *Ohio Gun Collectors Association*. **OGCA MEMBERS ONLY.** For membership information contact Laura Knotts (330) 467-5733.

“You need only reflect that one of the best ways to get yourself a reputation as a dangerous citizen these days is to go about repeating the very phrases which our founding fathers used in the struggle for independence.”  
– Charles A. Beard

The e-Mail Address for any Newsletter related matters or submissions is [VGCANews@cox.net](mailto:VGCANews@cox.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 at the numbers on page one.

-- V/R Bill Chronister, Newsletter Editor