



# VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.ORG

Est. 1983 (A Non-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G8162



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## June 2011 VGCA Newsletter



**Well summer and the wilting, humid heat are here like an evil beast, and once again the months with 5 Thursdays strike.** It seems that those months the next meeting is always here before you know it. All are reminded that we meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday (not in July though). Now if only the Newsletter Editor could remember that when calculating for the press deadline. Sorry for the delay.

**The Presentation at the May 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting:** The presentation was a comprehensive talk on shotguns by **Gary Holderman** (left photo). While covering some Winchester shotguns, Gary really elaborated on the more technical aspects of shotgunning and especially on of the key elements often forgotten (or felt to be unaffordable) by newcomers to the sport – the “fitting” of a shotgun to the shotgunner. For this he demonstrated the basic terms – length of pull, cast off, cast on, master eye, eye dominance – and how to determine what they mean and what their impact will be to the shooter. A humorous event happened during the demonstration of master eye. Aably assisted by Addison, Gary showed how to tell if the person was left or right eye dominant. This demonstration was

carefully documented by some of the attendees and our photographer, but discretion precludes inclusion here. Suffice to say, it shows a carefully orchestrated, rare, almost non-existent occurrence at any VGCA function, and was worth seeing. Gary explained how some of the fitting can be done with expensive custom stock work, but showed how it can also be accomplished in many cases by the use of an adjustable stock similar to the one he is holding in the attached photo. This was not a long presentation, but was well told, tight, and very enjoyable. Many thanks must again go to Gary for his willingness to share his knowledge, expertise, opinions, and humor, while providing a lot of usable information. This was not the first time he has stepped up, often on short notice, and delivered a professional grade session.

**→ Upcoming monthly presentations:** The **June 23<sup>rd</sup>** meeting will feature VGCA’s own Ernie Lyles talking about one of the more unusual firearms to ever hit the scene – the GyroJet series of firearms. This series of firearms featured a rocket powered projectile instead of a traditional cartridge. If you were at the VGCA shows a few years ago, Ernie had a display of unusual firearms that included some Gyrojets. So come out and check it out. **Show and tell** will be open, but in honor of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the start of the Civil War, it would be a treat if members brought any arms or swords etc dealing with the War Between the States. For this meeting, **the Mess Hall will be closed except for beverages**, so eat before you arrive or bring it along.

🌀 **Tentative plans are for a future NRA-NFM presentation** that will host noted gun writer **Phil Spangenberg** discussing *Guns of the Old West*. If you saw him a few years ago, you know why this is not to be missed. Date TBD, so we will make sure it is well featured in the Newsletter when the date is settled.

**May 26<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting of the VGCA:** Treasurer **Ed Costello** informed the members present about a new advertising venue. We will have an ad in the 2011-2012 Northern Piedmont Visitor's Guide, a full-color, glossy

magazine that has over 30,000 copies distributed Statewide to all Virginia Highway Welcome Centers, Chambers of Commerce, and various other retail destinations in Loudoun, Fauquier, Prince William, Culpeper, Orange and Madison counties. Since the life cycle of the magazine is over a year, the advertising amounts to about \$1 per day. **Larry Hare**, Membership Chair, introduced a new member for consideration. After a few word from the prospect, who was previously a member, we voted **William B. Spense** into the Association. Welcome! That was all as far as new member applications.

**Show & Tell for the April 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting:** To compliment the evening's presentation, the subject matter was Winchester shotguns. Ask and ye shall receive, as we had a very nice collection of unusual and rare examples of Winchesters and other fine names. **Ernie Lyles** brought 3 guns and led off with a beautiful Browning Citori Grade 6 with engraving and gold inlays. The shotgun also included aluminum insert tubes to allow shooting with 20, 28, and .410 gauges. He followed with a Browning BT-99 single barrel trap gun with a fixed full choke barrel. He concluded with his standard Browning Citori with adjustable cheek piece. **Ed Costello** brought in a Winchester 59, a lightweight field gun with an aluminum alloy receiver. Unfortunately, the guns were found to be unsuited to high brass field loads and had a tendency to crack their receivers. Ed had a specimen of one of the receivers with a major crack running down the receiver. Owners returning their guns to Winchester for repair were usually offered another model to replace the Model 59. **Larry Hare** displayed an old Winchester Model 97 hammer pump action in 16 gauge. **Vince Rausch** treated members present to a number of rare and unique Winchester shotguns. He stated with a Winchester Model 93 pump, the predecessor of the improved Model 97. His second example was a Winchester Class B Import (from the UK) side by side (SxS) double barrel with exposed hammers that was sold by British makers in the UK market. His third and fourth Winchesters were a very rare Model 21 SxS in 16 gauge skeet, and a Model 37 in 28 gauge. Both are avidly sought by Winchester collectors. He concluded with an even rarer Model 59 Pigeon Grade. Breaking with the shotgun theme, a member displayed a newly acquired Springfield M1 Garand similar to the one he used in Basic Training. **John Morris** brought a Strong Firearms Salute Cannon. These small cannon were used on yachts to fire salutes with 4 gauge blanks when entering port. **Kelly Cook** showed a Winchester Model 40 autoloader. This gun was a poor design and was illustrative of Winchester's lack of success in penetrating the autoloading shotgun market. **Bob Sears** provided some expert insights on the Winchester autoloading shotgun saga. Apparently Jonathan Browning offered his Auto 5 design to Winchester's Tom Bennett (Oliver Winchester's son). However Winchester refused to even consider paying royalties on a design so Browning went to FN. Winchester later introduced the Model 11, but with limited success. In 10 years the gun had over 164 changes to improve reliability and durability. They followed with the Model 40 (see above), 50, 59, and the 1400 (spurned by many as ugly and cheap) and finally the Super X. **Bill Chronister** departed from the shotgun theme with a Swiss Lienhard-Anschutz Model 57 rifle in .22LR. These limited production pieces were based upon the Anschutz 54 action, but resembled the Swiss K31 service rifle and even used some parts. These rifles were not training rifles, but were used for a Swiss match shooting discipline at 65 meters. **Addison Hurst** closed with 2 martially marked Winchester Model 12 shotguns. The first was a commercially produced example complete with Cutts compensator supplied to the military in WW2 to meet a training shotgun contract. The second was a parkerized riot gun that had a compensator installed, possibly during an arsenal rework. Thus ended the meeting.

### Photos of the May 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting – Show and Tell



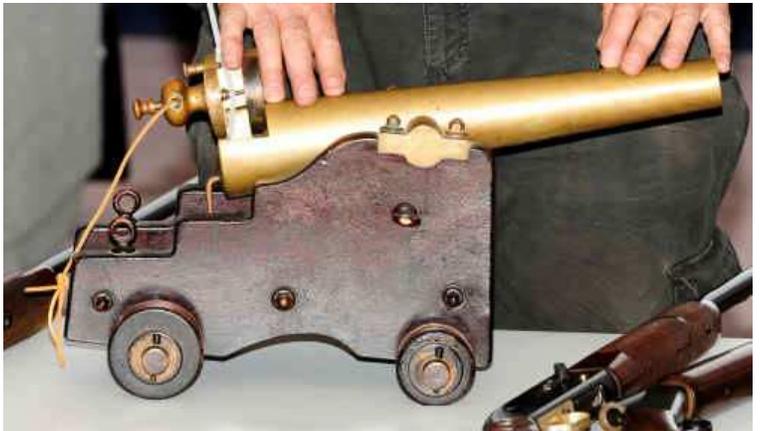
L: Ernie Lyles Browning Citori Grade 6 over and under that he uses for Sporting Clays

R: Details of the engraving and gold inlay work.





L: Ed Costello shows his Winchester Model 59 lightweight field shotgun. R: Model 59 Cracked receiver – note horizontal crack running the length of the receiver, a typical problem when high brass hunting loads were used.



↖ Side lock detail on Vince Rausch's Winchester Class B Import (from the UK) side by side.

↗ Strong Firearms 4 gauge Salute Cannon.

← Addison Hurst and his martially marked 'commercial' Winchester Model 12.

↘ Swiss Lienhard-Anschutz Model 57 .22 Match Rifle.



## 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 online, but are not guaranteed.

### VIRGINIA 2011

- ☉ June 25-26, 2011 - Fredericksburg, VA - Expo Center - *SGK, LTD*
- ☉ July 9-10, 2011 - Richmond, VA – Showplace - *C&E Gun Show*
- ☉ July 16-17, 2011 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center - *C&E Gun Show*
- ☉ July 23-24, 2011 - Hampton, VA - Convention Center - *SGK, LTD*
- ☉ July 29, 30 & 31, 2011 - Chantilly, VA - Dulles Expo Center - *C&E Gun Show / Showmasters*
- ☉ August 6-7, 2011 - Dale City, VA - VFW Post 1503 - *Old Dominion Shows*
- ☉ August 13-14, 2011 - Richmond, VA - Raceway & Fairgrounds – *Showmasters*
- ☉ August 20-21, 2011 - Roanoke, VA - Roanoke Civic Center – *Showmasters*
- ☉ August 27-28, 2011 - Fishersville, VA - Augusta Expoland – *C&E Gun Show*

### MARYLAND 2011

- ☉ June 18-19, 2011 – Timonium, MD - Timonium Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*
- ☉ July 9-10, 2011 - Frederick, MD - Frederick Fairgrounds – *Silverado Promotions*
- ☉ July 16-17, 2011 – Upper Marlboro, MD - Show Place Arena – *Silverado Promotions*

### PENNSYLVANIA 2011

- ☉ June 18-19, 2011 - Tarentum, PA - Pittsburgh Mills Galleria - *Pennsylvania Gun Collectors Association*.
- ☉ June 24-26, 2011 – Gettysburg, PA - Eisenhower Inn's Allstar Complex on Steinwehr Avenue off of Rte 15 – *Gettysburg Civil War Show*
- ☉ July 9-10, 2011 - Allentown, PA - Agricultural Hall - *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*.  
Contact: FDHAS, 3491 Linden St., Bethlehem, PA 18017. 610-997-8613 after 6pm.
- ☉ July 16-17, 2011 - Greencastle, PA - Mason Dixon Auto Auction - *Appalachian Promotions*
- ☉ July 23-24, 2011 - Allentown, PA - Rodeway Inn - *Eagle Arms*

### OHIO 2011

- ☉ July 16-17, 2011 – Wilmington, OH – Roberts Centre - *Ohio Gun Collectors Association*. **OGCA MEMBERS ONLY**. <http://www.ogca.com/index.htm>

**"A great industrial Nation is controlled by its system of credit. Our system of credit is concentrated. The growth of the Nation and all our activities are in the hands of a few men. We have come to be one of the worst ruled, one of the most completely controlled and dominated Governments in the world – no longer a Government of free opinion, no longer a Government by conviction and vote of the majority, but a Government by the opinion and duress of small groups of dominant men."**  
– Woodrow Wilson."

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.

v/r VGCA Newsletter Editor