



# VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

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## June 2025 VGCA Newsletter



### **PRESIDENT'S NOTES**

Greetings, Members!

There is a lot of news this month! First, our May Membership Meeting was held on a Saturday, and the consensus is that it was a big success! So big, in fact, that our Executive Committee voted to hold two such meetings next year. They are currently scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays in January and February. Having Saturday

meetings will gain attendees who can't make them during the work week and having them in the winter will ensure they don't compete against yard work or other outdoor activities.

Next, we are moving forward with both a joint VGCA-NORVA Picnic and Schutzenfest as well as a Field Trip to the Smith & Wesson factory in Tennessee this fall. While neither has a firm commitment or date, we are hoping to nail both down this month. We will quickly announce details as they become available.

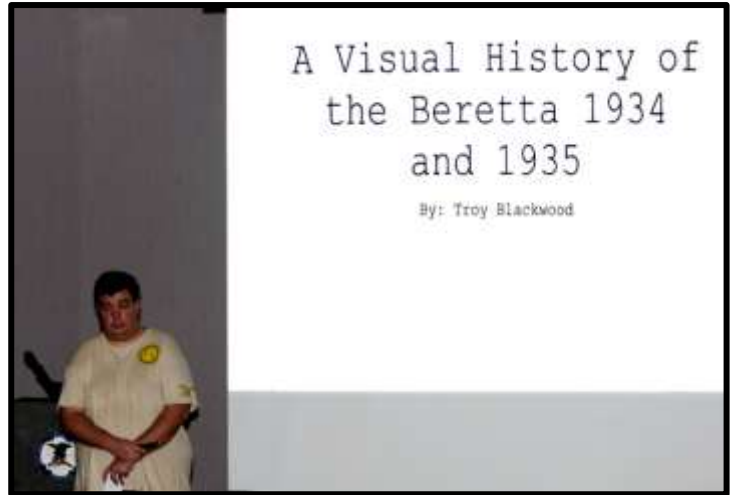
I want to remind everyone that we will have a Membership Meeting in July. Typically, we take the month of July off, but this will be another experiment (like the Saturday meeting). The July Meeting will be all Show-n-Tell, with a theme of "Guns of the Old West." Please bring one or two of your favorite lever guns or revolvers of the period.

Finally, I want to close by saying our Membership Meeting in June will be held on Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup>. Marc Gorelick will be telling us about Swedish military handguns, from the Model 1850 to the m/88. I hope to see you there!

***Rob Becker, VGCA President***

# ★ May Presentation: Visual History of the Beretta Models 1934 and 1935

The May presentation was by none other than VGCA Director and resident expert on all things related to Italian military arms, Mr. Troy Blackwood (*at right*). The subject on this particular Saturday afternoon was the Beretta Models 1934 and 1935 pistols. Troy opened by stating these two models are second in importance only to the ubiquitous Model 92 pistol for the Beretta company, with over 2,000,000 produced across several decades.



Troy started the story of these two pistols with the Beretta Model 1923. The M1923 was chambered in 9mm Glisenti caliber, a round with identical case dimensions as the 9mm Luger (9x19) but loaded to a lower power level/chamber pressure. The Italian Navy asked Beretta to submit a design for a scaled-down M1923 chambered in 7.65mm (.32ACP). The result was the Beretta Model 1931. The Italian Army was the next military branch to become interested in a new service sidearm, though the Army asked Beretta to increase the caliber to 9mm Corto (.380ACP) and incorporate a slide-mounted safety similar to that on a Walther PP or PPK pistol. Beretta eventually dissuaded the Army from the slide mounted safety with their strong recommendation to keep their frame-mounted safety. Beretta provided prototypes of the new Model 1934 (chambered in .380 ACP) and Model 1935 (chambered in .32 ACP). The Army approved the M1934 and gave Beretta a contract for 150,000 pistols in 1936. The Italian Air Force followed with a contract for M1935.

Troy pointed out there is a myth that the Army only procured M1934s and the Air Force only bought M1935s. This is not true. While the majority of M1934s did go to the Italian Army, the Army did acquire some M1935s as well. The reverse is true of the Italian Air Force. The majority of the Air Force purchases were for M1935s, but they did buy some M1934s.



*Troy brought in several examples of M1934s and M1935s with different markings (above).*

Troy went to lengths to show the different markings found on these models. He showed how these markings changed over the course of production, showing examples year by year and explained how the

military acceptance and property stamps are often lightly struck. He explained how the government pistols were marked with both the year of manufacture as well as the year of Benito Mussolini's rise to power/Fascist rule in Italy (in Roman numerals starting in October 1922).

Troy also pointed out the changes made to the guns to comply with Italian law so these models could be sold on the civilian market. Among the civilian variants was one with a Dural aluminum alloy frame, production of which started in 1937/1938.

Though the Italians surrendered to the Allies in 1943, the Beretta factory remained within the German occupied territory. Production of the M1934s and M1935s continued, with unmarked slides. You will find some "internet wisdom" stating that frames marked "4UT" or with serial numbers having "AA" and "BB" suffixes means they were produced for Germany, but Troy noted that is not necessarily the case. The only way to know for certain if the gun was intended for German use is if it is stamped with the "WaA162" waffenampt, denoting official German inspection and acceptance.

After WWII, both models remained in production and in service with the Italian military for many years. While the Italian Navy adopted the Model 1951 as their sidearm, the Italian Army and Air Force hung on to their M1934s and M1935s until the 1990s, when they were finally replaced by the M92.



There were some post-war sales of the M1935 to the Italian Carabinieri (from the American perspective, the Carabinieri are a combination of a federal police force and the national guard). The Dural frame was also revived post-war for civilian sales. Beretta ceased production of the M1935 in 1967 and the M1934 in 1991.

Troy gave a great presentation and based on the number of Show-n-Tell examples of these two models, one that resonated with the membership! The next time you see him, be sure to thank him for sharing his time and knowledge with us!



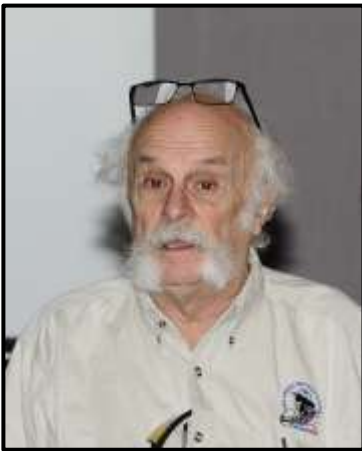


## ★ May Meeting Notes

The meeting was called to order by VGCA President Rob Becker at 3:00 p.m. Life member Ed Cercone led the Pledge of Allegiance. Guests and new members were introduced. There were 38 members and guests in attendance, with 5 more participating via webinar.

Rob Becker opened by welcoming everyone to our Saturday afternoon Membership Meeting. The VGCA officers and directors decided to try something new as an experiment to see if we can increase meeting attendance by getting together on other than a “school night.” This appeared to be successful as almost 16% of those in attendance had never been to one of our meetings before, and half of those stated they could not make it on a Thursday night. The officers and directors will vote on whether we will continue with one or two Saturday meetings in 2026.

Andrew Brown, who is the NRA-ILA Grass Roots Coordinator for Virginia, introduced himself and spoke for a few minutes on his role in the NRA.



Member Rick Nahas (*left*) displayed the medal and award he won representing VGCA at the NRA annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia the previous month. He showed two of the guns from his award-winning display. The first was a double action .38 S&W Special submitted to the U.S. Air Force in 1951 for testing as a possible gun to arm aircrew. The serial number is X65 (identifying it as a S&W prototype)

and only two were made. This example was given by S&W to Colonel Frank Allen who had it engraved, and gold plated. It remained in the Allen family for 71 years until purchased by Rick.

The second was a Smith & Wesson preproduction “Baby Aircrewman” revolver in 38 S&W Special. Only two of these factory test guns were made in 1952 and it remained in S&W factory hands until 1996 when it was sold at Butterfields.



Member Dan Helm announced the winners of the educational displays from our April Gun Show and the display owners were presented with their medallion and ribbon.

Shannon Zeigler took Third Place with his display on **Colt AR-15 SP1 Sporter Rifles 1964-1984**.

Troy Blackwood and Louie DiGaetano placed Second with their display on **Italian Carcanos**.

Rob Becker took First Place with his display on **Carbines of WWII carbines**.

Rob also earned **Best Military Firearm** with his German G33/40 Mountain Carbine, while the **Best Antique Firearm** went to Mike Jambrosic for his magnificent set of 18th century flint dueling pistols.



The three newly elected VGCA Directors were announced. Congratulations to Troy Blackwood (second term), Louie DiGaetano and Chris Britton. See their bios on pages 6-8.

Keith Simmons spoke on changes to the CMP M1911 program. The lifetime limit on buying 1911s from CMP has been raised to four and there is no longer a lottery. You can now just place an order.

**★ Next Membership Meeting: Thursday, Jun 26<sup>th</sup>**

## Presentation: “Swedish Military Pistols and Revolvers:

# M/1850 to m/88" by Marc Gorelick

**Location: NRA HQ Basement Auditorium**

Our June VGCA Membership Meeting will be in the basement auditorium of the NRA Headquarters. The room will open at 6 p.m. with pizza (we are asking for a \$5 donation per person for the pizza) arriving shortly thereafter and the meeting starting at 7 p.m. We hope you can make it!

**SPECIAL ONE-TIME DISCOUNTED MEMBERSHIP OFFER  
FROM THE COMPANY OF MILITARY HISTORIANS**



The Company of Military Historians is offering one-time, limited-time membership deal. This membership discount is for new members. People in the U.S joining between May 1 and June 30 can get a special 6-month membership for the remainder of 2025 for only \$20. International applicants pay \$30. If they then renew for 2026 at the regular rate they may purchase the total run of the 75 years of the Company of Military Historians Journal on a flash drive for the incredibly low price of only \$15. This would normally cost \$100 at the regular rate. Sign up here: <https://military-historians.org/>

The Company of Military Historians was founded in 1949 as an educational, scientific, and literary institution devoted to the study and dissemination of: *“information on the uniforms, equipment, history, and traditions of members of the Armed Forces of the United States worldwide and other nations serving in the Western Hemisphere.”* This renowned international organization is made up of professional and amateur historians, curators, and collectors who wish to preserve the material military culture of the Americas from pre-Columbian America through the War of Terror. The Company of Military Historians holds national meetings and numerous chapter meetings every year.

Company Members receive a quarterly publication called ***The Military Collector & Historian***. The Journal is professional in content and is profusely illustrated. Its richly annotated articles cover such subjects as weapons, accouterments, uniforms, materiel, and colors and standards. They also include information on military organization, unit history, military art and artists, recently published books and other publications, and the activities of the society and its members.

# Congrats to Our New Directors!

Please congratulate our new VGCA Directors - Troy Blackwood, Chris Britton, and Louie DiGaetano. Per the VGCA By-Laws, Article VII, Paragraph E, "In the event that all positions open for election are either uncontested or have only one candidate at the conclusion of the nomination process, the positions will be deemed reelected by a vote of acclamation and formal ballots will not be prepared for distribution." That is the case that we have this year as we had three candidates for the three positions. Their two-year terms started on June 1<sup>st</sup>. A short bio of each follows.

## **Troy Blackwood**

Hello everyone, my name is Troy Blackwood, and I have already served one year as a Director, completing Andrew Woodard's term when he accepted the Gun Show Director's position. Like many people my interest in firearms came from a passion for history. I got interested in firearms at a young age as I wanted to own a piece of history that "had actually been there." I quickly found firearms to be harder to fake than most historical items, so I gravitated towards them. I can remember the first military surplus item I "got" was I was able to talk my dad into purchasing a Mosin Nagant rifle for 110 dollars (not much more than the spam can of ammo at 80 dollars)! This sparked what has since become a lifelong passion for the hobby. This Mosin grew into anything and everything I could convince my dad was cool. We would regularly go to gun shows as a way to bond.

Firearms have always been a part of my life - in high school I got a job at a gun range and took 4th place at state in Trap my first year shooting competitively. On the day I turned 21, I proudly submitted the paperwork for my C&R license, which I have maintained since then. Among club members I am known as the Italian military firearms expert. Despite this I also dabble in black powder cartridges, reloading, French small arms, parts kit builds, and post sample machine guns. This passion for Italian firearms came from purchasing a 130-dollar Carcano from a dusty gun shop in Tucson Arizona. This has since expanded into a collection of more than 12 variants of Carcano rifle, a collection of all adopted magazine rifles by the modern state of Italy, and an almost complete collection of Italian military pistols. I am happy to be serving as VGCA director.



Note: Troy's primary Director duty is organizing, posting to, and maintaining our Social Media Accounts.

## **Chris Britton**

My name is Chris Britton and I have the pleasure of being one of the newest directors of the VGCA. My story starts long ago on a small farm in eastern North Carolina. Growing up I was fascinated by the westerns on TV and had to have my 6 shooters and cowboy hat most of the time. My father was a WWII Army vet who was stationed at Schofield Barracks when the Japanese came to visit, his 2-year enlistment became for the duration of the war. He was a combat engineer who came home with a dislike for the M1

carbine, and a respect for Springfield 1903 and Thompson SMG. I am sure I was a pain for all his hunting friends but loved to listen in whenever the conversation turned to guns.

We only had a selection of old single-barrel shotguns and a couple of .22s until he brought home a new Browning light 12 A5. I still have that old shotgun, it had been used for every type of hunting and winning quite a few turkeys at the local turkey shoot. It is well worn but earned every scar. A few years later my new brother-in-law gave him a Springfield 03-A3, this became his go-to deer rifle and my new favorite toy. Thanks to an older cousin we seemed to have an endless supply of various vintage 30-06 ammo, some in M1 clips and one canister dated from WWI. I wish I had kept that ammo box instead of trying to shoot it, but I was young and not yet thinking of collecting.

Later in life a new neighbor moved in, and he was a real collector. I had always loved firearms of all types, had read everything I could get my hands on, but now I had a mentor whether he liked it or not.



My teenage years were spent working on the farm without enough money to buy any of the fancy guns in the magazines. I did acquire a few, but nothing exciting.

I joined the Air Force and went off to fight the cold war in Europe. This was shortly after Viet Nam and the Air Force didn't see fit to allow Communications Center Airmen to handle firearms. We did have sledgehammers, but I never really cared to collect them.

I came home and entered the world of high tech. My first civilian job was in the Pentagon. This was my introduction to Washington DC. Shortly after I moved to northern VA I met my wife of 42 years. I changed jobs a couple of times and ended up travelling to Massachusetts a bit for training. I reconnected with a good friend from my Air Force days and found that he had an old 1911 that he had brought back with him in the last days of the US in Viet Nam. I had it sent to Virginia and my collecting days had begun. My father said he never had a use for a pistol, but was able to out shoot my brothers and I without any problem. I loved that gun, but one of the greatest regrets I have is selling it because I had a young family and not much money.

I started collecting, accumulating really, as money became less scarce. I don't seem to be able to focus on one era or brand, but I have a love for Sig Sauer pistols and .22 rifles and am always looking for another.

I have been a member of the Virginia Gun Collectors Association since around 2001 when a co-worker brought me to a meeting. I have worked on the security team at many of our shows, volunteered multiple times at the membership table and have had a sales table at recent VGCA gun shows.

I am proud to serve on the board and look forward to keeping this great organization moving forward.

Note: One of Chris' duties as Director is scheduling/coordinating the presentations for our Membership Meetings.

# Louie DiGaetano

I am originally from Boston MA and now call Northern Virginia my home. I'm a retired member of the USAF Security Forces and an avid weapon collector. Having carried a variety of weapons throughout my career has enabled me to hold a high level of respect and discipline for all weapons.

My interest is largely in Italian weapons, but not exclusively. I appreciate the design of earlier weapons which have led to today's modern weaponry. I truly enjoy shooting and also providing proper training for novice gun users.

I will continue to further my collection, looking to enhance my Italian portfolio and add any other pieces that I may find of interest.

I look forward to being able to further build the VGCA by promoting gun collecting for all, from the novice interest to highly defined collections.

Note: One of Louie's duties as Director is organizing and executing our Audio-Visual equipment and the digital transmission of our Membership Meetings.



## ★ 2025 Presentation & Event List ★

MEETING DATE	TOPIC	PRESENTER
26 Jun 2025	Swedish Military Pistols & Revolvers: M/1850 to m/88	Marc Gorelick
24 Jul 2025	Special Show-n-Tell Meeting – Theme is “Guns of the Old West”	
28 Aug 2025	The Spanish MG 82 “Ameli”	Carlos Davila
25 Sep 2025	The German MG 42	Shannon Zeigler
23 Oct 2025	Passing the Gun – Inheriting Guns	Phil Hill
November 2025	No Meeting due to Fall Gun Show	
XX Dec 2025	Holiday Potluck Dinner and Annual Swap Meet – no presentation	

**If you have any presentation suggestions – or would like to make a presentation yourself in 2026 (all dates are currently open) – please contact Chris Britton or one of the other VGCA officers or directors.**



# Firearms Abroad: Competing in Switzerland's 2025 Feldschiessen and Exploring European Arms Museums

*By James Anderson*

Last month, I had the unique opportunity to travel through parts of Europe at the invitation of a collector and hunter friend who lives outside of Bern, Switzerland. I had a work trip to Brussels for a week, where I visited the Brussels Royal Museum of the Armed Forces & Military History. But most memorably, participated in *2025 Feldschiessen*, the world's largest shooting competition, held annually across Switzerland. This year's competition was held May 23-25.

## Royal Museum of the Armed Forces and Military History – Brussels, Belgium



My first stop was in Brussels, where I made my way to the Royal Museum of the Armed Forces—an impressive complex filled with history and war artifacts. The galleries are organized chronologically, beginning with Napoleonic-era uniforms, weapons, and flags. As you progress, the exhibits shift to World War I and World War II.

The WWI section was particularly memorable. It included a vast collection of uniforms, prototype weapons, field artillery, and an entire hall of rifles from nearly every nation involved in the conflict.

The WWII section, although more limited due to Belgium's occupation during the war, featured weapons and gear from the major powers. The museum didn't shy away from political history either, highlighting both collaboration and resistance efforts from Belgium. The collection also includes hundreds of tanks, field artillery, aircraft, and small arms from across the 20th century.



## Feldschiessen 2025 – Wichtrach, Switzerland

A few days later, I found myself in the small town of Wichtrach, Switzerland—just a 35-minute drive outside of Bern—for *Feldschiessen 2025* (Field Shooting), Switzerland's famed federal marksmanship competition. Held annually in villages across the country (with an estimated 130,000 participants this year), Feldschiessen feels less like a rigid competition and more like a community picnic—complete with rifles and beer. Although, shooters do take the results very seriously.

Villagers casually walked along small rural roads with their rifles by their sides, heading to the range. A large beer tent and check-in station stood next to the firing line. The atmosphere was relaxed, welcoming, and deeply Swiss. Feldschiessen has been held every year since 1850, and participation is actively encouraged by the Swiss government, which subsidizes the ammunition for each range. Swiss citizens aged 10 and older are eligible to participate, and many kids were among the competitors.

Each town has its own shooting club, and even in a village of just 300 people, the facilities were impressive—complete with loudspeakers, sound mufflers, electronic target systems, kitchens, and digital scoreboards for each firing lane.



Despite not speaking German, I was able to register with help from my host, who had submitted my C&R license to the Swiss Army authorities in Bern. They requested proof that I was legally permitted to own firearms in the U.S. and this was good enough for them. Once I arrived at the front of the beer hall where all contestants check-in, I showed proof of my date of birth and was issued my ammunition—loaded into stripper clips. Only Swiss service rifles are allowed in the competition: the K31, Stgw. 57, or Stgw. 90 (SIG 550). I chose the Stgw. 90 despite my usual interest in Milsurp rifles but I can shoot mine back in the States anytime I want.

This was my first time shooting an Stgw. 90—and actually my first time shooting a firearm outside the United States. Though unfamiliar with the platform, it handled similarly to an AR-15 in both weight and function.

The shooting course (all prone at 300 meters range) was as follows:

1. 6 shots in 6 minutes
2. 3 shots in 1 minute (repeated twice)
3. 6 shots in 1 minute

Each shooter received a printed scorecard and had a digital screen displaying their hits in real time—a surprisingly high-tech setup for such a small-town event. I scored 55 out of 90—just shy of the 57 needed for a medal. My host, Dominik, beat me by a single point. Still, we both walked away with beautifully printed recognition cards from the Shooting Club in Wichtrach, bearing the crests of all Swiss cantons—a great souvenir and a reminder of the day.

Afterwards, we joined others in the beer tent for drinks and sausages and drinks while watching other groups compete. The casual yet competitive spirit was great to see. It's rare to see a shooting event that brings together all generations—from kids as young as eight to seasoned veterans—all treated with the same camaraderie and respect. Even outside the formal event, the club had informal groups of friends that were competing and betting against each other.



Switzerland may have the most accessible shooting culture in the world. Ammunition for service rifles is government-subsidized (at least at formal events), the ranges are modern and abundant, and the shooting tradition is not only preserved but actively celebrated. Nearly every small village we passed had one or two dedicated ranges. It's remarkable.

A big thank you to the shooting club in Wichtrach for allowing me to compete alongside them.

## Solothurn Old Arsenal Museum

Later in the trip, we visited the Swiss town of Solothurn, home to the Solothurn Old Arsenal Museum. The collection spans three floors and includes medieval armor, swords, early firearms, black powder weapons, and a detailed display of antique and modern Swiss military rifles. The top floor is entirely dedicated to full suits of plate armor.



The museum also heavily highlights Switzerland's early history, particularly the religious conflicts (Catholic vs. Protestant) that shaped its federal and cantonal structure. All in all, I'd



recommend it for anyone passing through. The town itself is quite beautiful and was a major shipping town.



## Final Thoughts

Feldschieszen and these European museums offered more than just historical insight—they revealed a culture where firearms are deeply respected, seamlessly integrated into national identity, and celebrated across generations. The casual yet reverent Swiss approach to shooting sports is something I'll never forget. It's a tradition that blends community, national pride, and marksmanship—one I was honored to experience firsthand.



## ★ Hampton Roads Military Society

The Hampton Roads Militaria Society (HRMS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to assist collectors and historians in the collection & preservation of militaria of all sorts and periods, preserve and honor our military past, and honor the veterans of all our conflicts. They generally meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, but this can vary. The HRMS is a sister organization to the VGCA and VGCA members are welcome to participate as guests in their meetings and tours. Upcoming meetings (at Rescue Squad No. 8 at 1243 Bayne Drive in VA Beach) are:

**08 Jul 2025** “The Army Inspector General” by Nelson Voke (served as an IG during part of his career)

**12 Aug 2025** **Topic TBD** by Chris Galosi





# Magtech Recalls 5.56 NATO Ammo

By Daniel Y. Firearmsblog.com, 4 Jun 2025



Magtech has recalled some batches of 5.56x45 NATO ammo. The affected batches have “incorrect” powder charges, which is never a good thing. Keep reading to get all the details.

Three specific lots of ammo are subject to the recall:

**Lot Number: CBC546/24**

**Lot Number: CBC591/24**

**Lot Number: CBC601/24**

All of these lots have item codes beginning with “556A.” Magtech warns that ammunition could damage your firearm, or potentially you or bystanders if it is used. If you have any of this ammo, call Magtech at 763-235-4000. They will arrange for you to ship back the recalled ammo and will replace it at no charge.

From the manufacturer:

*“WARNING: Magtech has determined that the above lots of 5.56 x 45mm ammunition may contain incorrect powder charges. Ammunition with incorrect powder charges may cause firearm damage, render it inoperable, and expose the shooter and bystanders to a risk of serious personal injury or death.*

*DO NOT USE Magtech® 5.56 x 45mm Ball M193 SYMBOL 556A WITH LOT NUMBER CBC546/24, CBC591/24, or CBC601/24. The ammunition Lot Number and Symbol are printed on the top flap of the 50-round box as indicated here, for example.*

*To determine if your ammunition is subject to this notice, check the Symbol and Lot Number. If the Symbol is 556A and the Lot Number is CBC546/24, CBC591/24, or CBC601/24, immediately discontinue use and contact Magtech at 763-235-4000. Magtech will arrange for the return shipment of your ammunition, and upon receipt, will send you replacement ammunition at no cost to you."*

## ★ VGCA Membership Dues Going Up in 2026

The VGCA Executive Committee recently approved an increase in membership dues for next year. Effective on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, Annual Membership costs will increase to \$40 (from the current \$30) per year and Life Memberships will increase to \$250 (from the current \$150). These increases, the first in over 30 years, are necessary to help cover the costs associated with membership.

## ★ Our Second Field Trip of 2025



**Smith & Wesson®**

Our second Field Trip of 2025 is tentatively scheduled to go to the Smith & Wesson Factory in Marysville, Tennessee. While the date has not been solidified yet, we are looking at Fridays in September. We will let you know and start signing people up as soon as the exact date is confirmed.

## ★ We need your help!

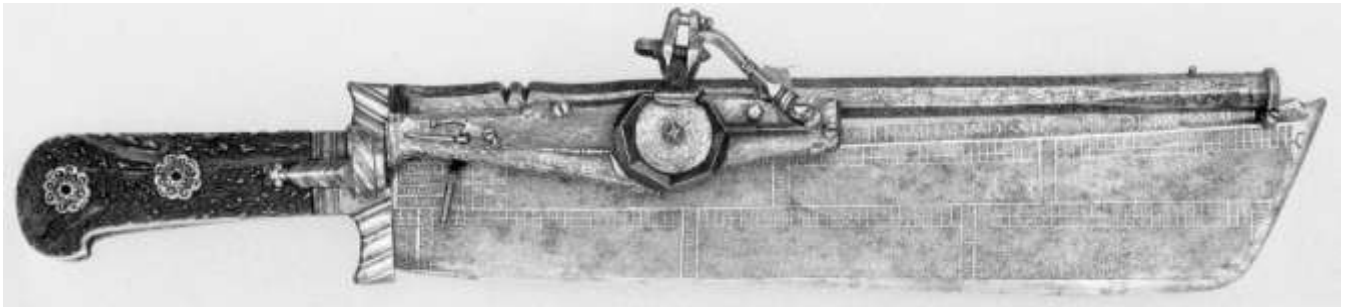
Do you love history and firearms, are reasonably organized, have a decent command of the English language, possess fair computer skills, and can dedicate a few hours each month to the VGCA? Then you may be just the person to take over as our newsletter editor! Rob Becker will continue as our editor through the December 2025 issue but is looking for some relief. If you think this is something you would be willing to take on – in whole or in part - please contact any of the officers or directors.

# VGCA GUNS OF DISTINCTION: COMBINATION HUNTING KNIFE AND WHEELLOCK PISTOL, 1529

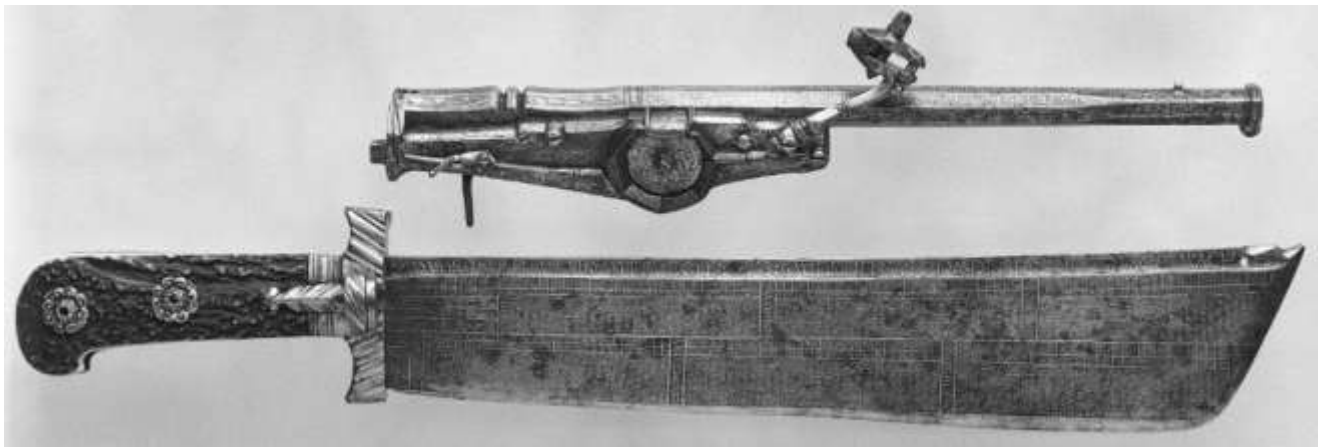
*By Marc Gorelick*

*Photographs – Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Public Domain*

Ever since firearms were invented they were made in combination with other weapons. Early guns were mostly single shot, slow to reload, often inaccurate and not always entirely reliable. Prudent users wanted a back-up and one such was the combination weapon. During the 16<sup>th</sup> century, wheellock pistols were sometimes combined with swords, knives, axes, maces, spears, and even crossbows, which could be used in the event the pistol misfired. As wheellocks were expensive, they were owned mostly by the nobility and rich. Thus, combination weapons were also mostly owned by wealthy and noble classes. Although they were often clumsy and impractical, they were still prized by those who could afford them.

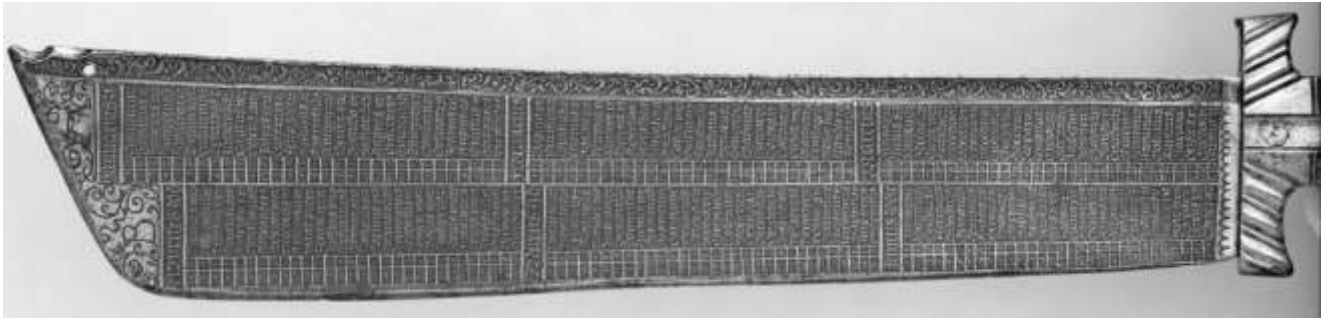


The German combination described here is a combination hunting knife and wheellock pistol. What makes it unique is that the heavy, cleaver-like blade is etched with a multi-year calendar and signed by the artist, Ambrosius Gemlich. The weapon is made of steel, gold, staghorn and bronze. The blade was made about 1528-29 and etched on both sides with a calendar for the years 1529 through 1534. The gun barrel is dated either 1540 or 1546. The gun is also removable, which raises the question of was the knife originally made as a knife and then later made into a combination weapon, or was it a replacement barrel?



*Combination Hunting Knife & Wheellock Pistol. Gun separated from knife.*

The weapon's overall length is 18  $\frac{1}{4}$  inches. The heavy blade is 13  $\frac{1}{4}$  inches long, and the .28 caliber gun barrel is 12  $\frac{3}{8}$  inches long. Besides the calendar, the blade bears the inscription, "*Ambrosi Gemlich Mitbvrger zvo Minichenn had disse Kollender gemach.*"

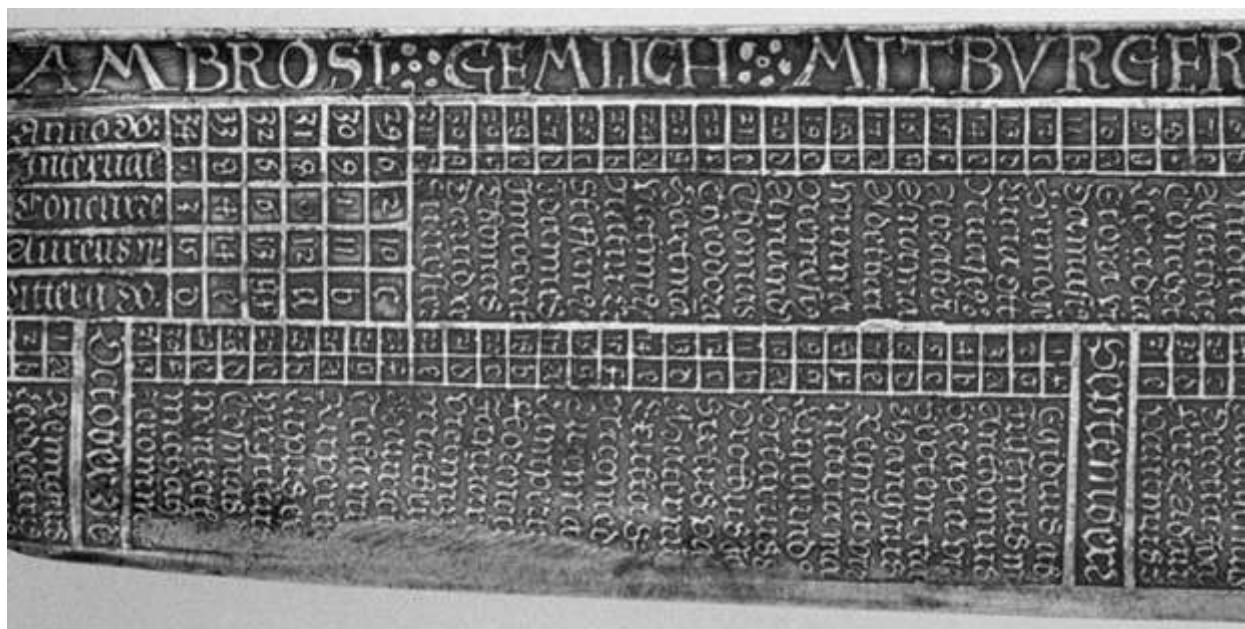


*Left side of blade showing calendar etched into it.*



*Right side of blade with his inscription along the top edge and the calendar etched on the blade's body.*

Ambrosius Gemlich, the weapon's decorator, was born about 1500 and was active in Munich and Landshut from about 1520 to about 1550. He was well regarded as a swordsmith and decorator of weapons and collaborated with gunsmiths, to decorate their products. For instance, a highly ornate double wheellock pistol, manufactured by Peter Peck (1503-1596) and decorated by Ambrosius Gemlich was made for Charles V, the Holy Roman Emperor. It can be seen in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. (Note: Watchmakers were the primary early makers of the often delicate and always intricate wheellock mechanisms.) Swords and other weapons or armor made or decorated by Gemlich, including a combination matchlock and wheellock gun, can be found in the collections of leading European museums.



*Enlargement showing the multi-year calendar etched into the blade.*



# U.S. SUPREME COURT: A 2A WIN AND SOME PUNTS

*By Marc Gorelick*



The Supreme Court dealt anti-gun advocates and the Mexican Government a massive defeat when it unanimously ruled against a Mexican Government lawsuit against to U.S. firearms industry. The case, *Smith & Wesson Brands v. Estados Unidos Mexicanos*, was an overreaching effort by the Mexican government to impose its own vision of gun control within the United States by means of a lawsuit.

According to Dan McLaughlin, in a recent article in the **National Review**:

“The Mexican government filed a massive damages lawsuit alleging that the carnage wrought by heavily armed Mexican drug cartels was the fault not of the cartels or the corrupt and compromised Mexican government, but of legal gun sales in the United States. If successful, the suit would effectively outlaw the AR-15, guns capable of holding more than ten rounds of ammunition, and other legal weapons. The Supreme Court has long been skeptical of similar efforts at end runs around the legislative process and constitutional rights via tort law, especially when undertaken by foreign governments. So has Congress, which enacted the Promotion of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA) almost 20 years ago. But the First Circuit concluded that Mexico had alleged that the gun makers “aided and abetted” illegal activities, which “proximately caused” gun deaths in Mexico. That required a lot of bizarre leaps of logic that distorted the statutory definitions of those well-known common-law terms, conflicting with how the Court has read the same terms in other statutory contexts.”

McLaughlin went on, “The Court traditionally assumes that the proximate-cause standard, being grounded in deeply-embedded principles of Anglo-American common law, is intended by Congress to be incorporated in any federal statute that uses the language of causation unless it quite explicitly creates a different causation standard. Thus, there are a great many cases applying the same basic proximate-cause standard under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO) and a host of other federal laws.”

“Justice Elena Kagan’s opinion for a unanimous Court didn’t even get to the proximate cause question because it concluded that there wasn’t even a plausible allegation of aiding and abetting under the standard laid out by Justice Clarence Thomas’s opinion for the Court in the 2023 case of *Twitter, Inc. v. Taamneh*. It did so even though the case came to the Court on a motion to dismiss the complaint, under which the courts assume that all the facts plausibly alleged by the plaintiff are true and ask only whether

those facts, if proven true, would add up to a violation of law (or, in this case, to an exception to PLCAA's liability shield)."

Kagan finished the Court's opinion by observing that this was exactly the sort of lawsuit PLCAA was aimed to bar, and that the Court would not let creative lawyering destroy Congress's handiwork. She wrote: "Mexico's suit closely resembles the ones Congress had in mind: It seeks to recover from American firearms manufacturers for the downstream damage Mexican cartel members wreak with their guns. Of course, the law Congress wrote includes the predicate exception, which allows some suits falling within PLCAA's general ban to proceed. But that exception, if Mexico's suit fell within it, would swallow most of the rule. We doubt Congress intended to draft such a capacious way out of PLCAA, and in fact it did not."

Justices Clarence Thomas and Ketanji Brown Jackson each joined the majority but wrote separately to argue for a more expansive reading of the PLCAA litigation bar based on the statute.

In other Supreme Court news, the Court has been punting (kicking the can down the road) in other cases regarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment. One of these cases is the Maryland Ban on AR-15 "Assault Rifles." The Maryland ban on AR-15s was challenged on December 1, 2020. The plaintiffs lost in the District Court and before the Fourth Circuit. In August 2024, a certiorari petition\* was filed in *Snope v. Brown* in August 2024 but sat in limbo for almost a year. On June 2, the Supreme Court denied cert. Justice Brett Kavanaugh wrote that although the Court was denying cert now, under the Court's precedents, the Fourth Circuit's decision was questionable.

Kavanaugh wrote: "This case primarily concerns Maryland's ban on the AR-15, a semi-automatic rifle. Americans today possess an estimated 20 to 30 million AR-15s. And AR-15s are legal in 41 of the 50 States, meaning that the States such as Maryland that prohibit AR-15s are something of an outlier. Given that millions of Americans own AR-15s and that a significant majority of the States allow possession of those rifles, petitioners have a strong argument that AR-15s are in 'common use' by law-abiding citizens and therefore are protected by the Second Amendment under *Heller*,"

Despite this he voted to deny cert and went to write, "Although the Court today denies certiorari, a denial of certiorari does not mean that the Court agrees with a lower-court decision or that the issue is not worthy of review. The AR-15 issue was recently decided by the First Circuit and is currently being considered by several other Courts of Appeals." .... "Opinions from other Courts of Appeals should assist this Court's ultimate decision making on the AR-15 issue. **Additional petitions for certiorari will likely be before this Court shortly and, in my view, this Court should and presumably will address the AR-15 issue soon, in the next Term or two.**"

Justice Clarence Thomas, who voted to accept the petition, disagreed and wrote in his dissent: ""Despite the foregoing, the Fourth Circuit upheld Maryland's ban on the ground that AR-15s are not 'constitutionally protected arms' under the plain text of the Second Amendment." .... Thomas further wrote: "The Fourth Circuit placed too high a burden on the challengers to show that the Second Amendment presumptively protected their conduct. And, its determination that AR-15s are dangerous and unusual does not withstand scrutiny."

The issue is that the Supreme Court is currently extremely busy with a multitude of other cases (many of them challenges to Trump Administration policies and actions) and this case, as well as other 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment cases, will be put on the back burner until the Court's docket lightens up.

*\*A certiorari petition (often shortened to "cert") is a legal document filed by a party who lost a case in a lower court, requesting that the U.S. Supreme Court review the lower court's decision. Essentially, it's a request to the*

*Supreme Court to grant a "writ of certiorari. When the Supreme Court grants certiorari it means the court has agreed to review a case from a lower court. This decision is made at the Court's discretion, and at least four justices must vote to grant certiorari for a case to be heard. Granting cert signifies that the Court will consider the case's legal issues and potentially reverse or modify the lower court's decision.*



**Our Instagram account**  
**@vaguncollectors**  
**has 733 followers as of 22 Jun 2025!**  
**Follow us for a regular dose of interesting gun-related content!**

**Our VGCA youtube.com channel**  
**@vgca-viriniaguncollectorsasso**  
**Troy Blackwood started this effort on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March and by the 17<sup>th</sup> we had 56 subscribers. We have 5 videos and 61 subscribers as of 22 Jun 2025.**



## ★ Gun Show Survey Results

Member Dan Helm conducted a survey of attendees at our April Gun Show with the purpose of determining the effectiveness of our advertising. The VGCA Executive Committee asked him to do this so we can better focus our advertising dollars. A total of 336 show attendees (a little more than half of the total show attendees) were polled. When asked **“How did you hear about our Gun Show?”** – the following responses were recorded:

Word of Mouth (85)	25.3%
Return Customer (74)	22.0%
VFW Electronic Sign (60)	17.9%
On-line Advertising (50)	14.9%
Printed Flyer (43)	12.8%

The results from these five categories add up to 92.9% of those polled. In statistical terms, these five categories are the “significant few.” The “insignificant many” included various print ads, small street signs, our website, social media posts, and emails – which together totaled only 7.1%. The “return customer” category is somewhat problematic as it does not fully describe how the person learned about the dates of this particular show, and we will eliminate it from future surveys.

It is important to note that the single biggest category was “Word of Mouth.” The learning point here is that each of us needs to talk up our show with as many friends, family, and co-workers as possible!

We plan to repeat this survey at our Fall Gun Show on November 1-2, 2025.



# ★ Membership Chairman's Report – June 2025

Since the last newsletter we have had the following applicants for our group:

- Neil Hammerstrom of Alexandria sponsored by Sidney Blackmer
- Georgette Phillips of Fredericksburg sponsored by J. Craig Peters

Please welcome the following new members to our group:

- Richard Chandler
- Leeyung Chang
- Scott Johnson
- Brandon Hunt
- Kyle Kinnie
- Thomas Mize
- Gary Boward
- Juane Canaves
- Harvey Soefer
- John Nagel
- Stephen Jones
- Joseph Namgoong
- Caleb Routh
- Daniel Bassett
- William Morris
- Alexander Rogge
- Sean Malone
- Gary Hunt

If you know of anyone who would be interested in joining our organization, please invite them to a meeting or to our upcoming VGCA Gun Show. **If you sponsor a candidate, either at one of our membership tables or elsewhere, please make sure that you fill in and sign the Sponsor page.**

**Notice to New Member Sponsors:** VGCA has discontinued hard copy versions of the VGCA Newsletters. Please ensure your prospective applicants provide a legible email address and telephone contact number if possible. Also, please make sure your name is clearly written on the sponsorship form. Without a valid email address, new members will not receive the newsletter or VGCA announcements.

**Membership Numbers:** There are currently 451 Life members and 74 Annual Members for a total of 525 members in the Virginia Gun Collectors Association, Inc.

**Recruiting:** Thank you to everyone who has worked our membership tables in the past and those of you who have signed up new members. Your efforts bring more knowledge to our organization through the new members who have an interest in gun collecting. Membership in the VGCA is a great way for people with an interest in the history, development, and use of firearms to broaden their knowledge and share what they know with others. It also offers the opportunity to network with individuals who have similar interests. To facilitate new memberships, we have a Membership Table at every Chantilly gun show, as well as at our own VGCA gun shows.

**Membership Table at upcoming gun shows:** The next gun show at the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly is the weekend of July 18th and, as always, we will have a VGCA Membership Table there. If you are willing to engage



with the general public to spread the word about our organization and sign up potential new members, please contact **Bruce Buchner** at [buchnerb@cox.net](mailto:buchnerb@cox.net). We also have a couple of sales tables available in our VGCA block for that show. If you would like a sales table (\$150 for the weekend) contact **George Dungan** at [george@ecominv.com](mailto:george@ecominv.com) or 571-243-6387.

**Membership Renewal: Dues for 2025 are now past due. If you wish to continue receiving the Newsletter, getting into the VGCA gun shows for free, and other benefits that come with membership please update your dues payment.** You can renew annually for \$30 or \$150 for life. Please use the form below to renew and either mail it in or bring it to a meeting and give it to either George Dungan or Bruce Buchner. If you are unsure of your membership status email [george@ecominv.com](mailto:george@ecominv.com) and I will let you know.

*George Dungan*, Vice President and Membership Chair



# CMP UPDATE

*By Marc Gorelick, CMP Liaison*

*The VGCA is a CMP Affiliated club. The VGCA club number is 026160.*

## CMP NEW-BUILD M1 GARAND PROGRAM



The Civilian marksmanship program is rolling out a new program – the new **M1 Garand by CMP**. This is a commercial reproduction of the classic and historic rifle with a commercial forged receiver as its centerpiece. The CMP and its partner, Heritage Arms USA, used both the original drawings and specifications of a Springfield receiver as well as the actual historic receivers themselves to recreate identical, forged replicas of the original M1 Garand.

The new-forged receiver with a CMP serial number in the classic, historical font and format on the receiver heel makes this a unique offering. It will be paired with commercial barrels and a mix of other commercial and GI parts. Most will feature new stocks and barrels, but many complementary parts will remain GI.

One of the reasons the CMP started this new program is that the supply of government surplus rifles and pistols will not last forever. Therefore, as an organization that largely resources its many programs and competitions via the sale of these firearms, the CMP needs to develop new ways of supplementing the costs associated with our essential and expanding programs. The CMP is using its decades of expertise in the assembly of the M1 Garand. This is a shift in the CMP's usual activities of selling surplus firearms. All the sales of this new M1 Garand will feed directly into CMP's Federally-chartered national mission to

promote marksmanship with a focus on youth. The CMP wanted to bring a new product to the marketplace that it believes will be a great firearm for a variety of purposes, including shooting, collecting, or connecting with our nation's history. The CMP also believes that it will be a desirable collector gun - the combination of the forged receiver and the CMP serial number make it an extraordinary and completely unique product.

While the first rifles produced and sold will be chambered in .30-06 and .308, the CMP hopes to bring other historically relevant variants to market. Since the new CMP M1 Garand is a commercial gun, the CMP will sell it through the normal FFL sales process, much like how it sells its surplus M1911 pistols. In conjunction with this new **M1 Garand by CMP**, the CMP is simultaneously deploying a new, more modern, streamlined, digital, online order form process. This online form will also provide a pre-order opportunity. Customers can visit <https://thecmp.org/m1-pre-order-form/> to place their pre-order. Once the CMP is ready to process the order, customers will receive an email with a link to the eStore to pay for their order. The CMP will also sell them at its stores at the Talladega Marksmanship Park and Camp Perry and it plans to have some for sale at the National Matches at Camp Perry this summer.

The price of the .30-06 and .308 models will be \$1,900 MSRP plus \$40 shipping and handling. Customers will receive a CMP custom fitted hard rifle case with each rifle purchase. Other future variants will have different pricing, as will the early serial numbers. Except for a few early serial numbered guns that the CMP will keep for posterity, it expects to auction the first 100 numbers. Later, three-digit serial numbers may also have special pricing.

The newly manufactured M1 Garand rifles are built to the original specifications and maintain the same gas system tolerances as the WWII-era designs so they will require ammunition that stays within the correct pressure range to avoid excessive stress on the system. Tests with Lake City (LC) and other M2 Ball spec loads confirm that it operates well within those parameters. These rounds produce the appropriate port pressures to ensure reliable cycling without risking damage to the system, making them a proven and safe choice for sustained use in CMP's new M1 Garands.

Go to the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/introducing-the-m1-garand-by-cmp-a-new-chapter-begins/> for additional information.



## LIMITED IN-PERSON M1911 SALES EVENTS

The CMP announced a series of exclusive In-Person 1911 Pistol Sales Events that are scheduled for this summer. These three one-day events will be held in conjunction with some of the CMP's most popular marksmanship competitions of the year, giving those in attendance the rare opportunity to browse and purchase these vintage pistols.

The M1911 sales events are scheduled for

- ~~Friday, June 6 — Anniston, Ala. (2025 D-Day Match)~~ (PASSED)
- Tuesday, July 15 – Camp Perry, Ohio (National Pistol Matches)
- Saturday, August 2 – Camp Perry, Ohio (National Rifle Matches)

Each event will feature approximately 400 pistols, organized and displayed by grade (Service, Field, and Rack) and specialty categories, including:

- Consecutive Serial Number Pairs

- Slide & Frame Match (Same Manufacturer)
- Early Production 1911 Pistols
- Other Rare and Collectible Features

In order to ensure a fair and orderly purchasing experience during these events entry will be limited to ticket holders, with a maximum of 20 customers per 50-minute time slot. Tickets will be sold in three pricing tiers based on shopping times, with earlier slots offering the widest selection:

- \$200: 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM
- \$150: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- \$100: 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

For additional information, including information about purchasing tickets go to the CMP website at: <https://thecmp.org/cmp-announces-three-limited-entry-1911-pistol-sales-events-for-summer-2025/>. If you have specific questions, e-mail the CMP at [cmp1911sales@thecmp.org](mailto:cmp1911sales@thecmp.org).

## OTHER CMP M1911 SALES NEWS

The Department of the Army recently transferred 10,000 more M1911 pistols to the CMP in the spring. The CMP also obtained the Army's concurrence to increase the lifetime M1911 sales limit from two to four pistols. As stated in last month's VGCA Newsletter. The CMP also changed its 1911 sales process. It no longer operates in "rounds" and has adopted an updated and streamlined online ordering system. All eligible US citizens are welcome to apply and orders will be processed on a first-in; first fulfilled basis.

The CMP also just resumed M1911 sales on its Auction Site. So keep an eye out for a select few 1911s in the coming weeks, including a few "specialty categories" that will be highlighted. Visit [https://thecmp.org/cmp\\_sales/guns-on-auction/](https://thecmp.org/cmp_sales/guns-on-auction/) for more auction details.

To learn more about the CMP M1911 program, go to the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/sales-and-service/1911-information/>.

## CMP RECLAIMED RIFLE SALES PROGRAM



The CMP recently announced that it started an initiative to reclaim original M1 Garand and Model 1903-A3 drill rifle receivers that were previously decommissioned and rendered inoperable – giving them new purpose and making them available to U.S. citizens as fully functioning firearms that are fit to collect and safe to shoot. The CMP did this as a way of responsibly returning tens of thousands of historic receivers to collectors and shooters, sustain its rifle inventory, and avoid scrapping valuable artifacts.

The CMP puts each of its reclaimed and restored rifles through rigorous programmatic and individual rifle testing to ensure they are as safe to shoot as any other rifle sold by the CMP. The CMP stands behind the quality and safety of these guns and is excited to be able to get them back in the hands of eligible US citizens. For additional information about this program, visit the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/the-cmp-drill-rifle-initiative/>.

# CUSTOM SHOP NEWS & M1 GARAND SPECIAL SALES

The CMP Custom Shop currently is currently taking orders for maintenance, repair or customization of vintage U.S. Military rifles. All services are conducted by CMP's expert armorers. See full instructions on using the services of the CMP Custom Shop at <https://thecmp.org/custom-shop/>.

The CMP Custom Shop has been distributing its Custom Shop (CS) Special M1 Garand Rifle. The rifle is accurized and meticulously handcrafted to be competition-ready, fully meeting all "As-Issued" CMP standards and assembled to perform as a one-to-two MOA (Minute of Angle) rifle. To learn more go to the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/custom-shop/cs-special-rifle/>.

## ★ In Review ★

*The "In Review" section of the newsletter includes VGCA member reviews of gun shows, books, and museums. If you would like to submit a review, please send it to the newsletter editor at [rpebecker@verizon.net](mailto:rpebecker@verizon.net)*

## A SHOW REVIEW: 2025 NRA Annual Membership Meetings

*By Troy Blackwood*

This spring marks the second year in a row that Lou DiGaetano and I have been to the NRA show. This year's show was east of the Mississippi in Atlanta, Georgia. The show, as always, is massive! They claimed to have 14



acres of show floor! Every major vendor you can think of is there from



Colt to Winchester to FN, and so many more. This was our first time going to the show as an attendee. For those that are not familiar with the NRA Annual Meetings, this is very similar to something like the DC auto show. This is a chance to check out the current lineup of products on the market from major and minor manufactures alike. This is a perfect opportunity to get to handle



new firearms to help make an informed purchase or just see what is out there. It is also an opportunity to get to talk to representatives from various manufacturers. This means you get to hear things straight from the “Horse’s mouth.” Personally, I enjoyed talking to reps more about their product rather than actually trying out the products. This might be more to do with me being quite familiar with most company’s offers already. One of the more interesting parts of NRA Show is finding all of the little booths on people that you would not expect to be there. One that is always a surprise to me is Criteon Barrels. You would not think that the OEM for CMP M1 Garand barrels would be interesting in talking to the public about their product.

There are isles and isles different types of vendors. There are also a lot of non-firearms related stuff. Some items are somewhat related to firearm accessories, others less so \*cough\* - random 1920’s style whiskey manufacture you’ve never heard of \*cough. Returning to show, the process to get tickets was fairly smooth, especially if you had reserved your ticket online. We started out leaving on Friday with a red eye flight out of DCA. We ended up getting to the show before it opened at 9 a.m. The first booth we saw was Springfield Armory, which was positioned in front of the main entrance. Like many others, we wanted to get our hands on the new Springfield Kuna (*bottom left on previous page*). This is IM Metal’s newest pistol caliber carbine (PCC) that is being imported by Springfield armory. To me, this was one of the highlights of the show as these are just starting to hit store shelves and this was my first opportunity to actually handle one. One of the major drawbacks of NRA as compared to something like a SHOT show is that NRA generally only has current products on store shelves - no “coming soon” products. This was a major disappointment because with an auto show, they will show you the products not on the market to draw interest. With NRA you can run into the issue of “these are the same guns I can see at Cabela’s.” I found when you ask a lot of the large vendors about what they have coming out, you get a lot of blank stares. They are here to push current products. Despite this I did have some very interesting conversions.



In addition to the Springfield Kuna. Lou and I also got to talk to Century Arms. They are looking to



expand their line of AP pistols which are licensed copies of HK products made for the Turkish armed forces. They have introduced the AP53 and now AP51, but they hope to bring in the full length AP33 later as a pistol. After having a conversation with the head of PSA retro line of rifles. I really grew to respect what they are trying to do. The man in charge of that line is really a “gun nerd” and a fan of the M16 and M4 rifle. He can explain to you when every manufacturing change took place on the commercial and military line. He really sold me on those.



We also stopped by our favorite vendor - Beretta. They had two new weapons on display. Their new modular chassis Brx1 rifle and their new folding stock A300 Ultimate. I was more impressed by the Brx, which is a sub-2,500-dollar chassis rifle.

I would be remiss if I did not address the elephant in the room however, the displays! There were 14 different clubs displaying weapons, from the Ohio Gun Collectors Association, the American Society of Arms Collectors, Polish Hunters and Shooters, the Smith and Wesson Collectors, the Colt Collectors, and our very own Rick Nahas representing the VGCA with his display on Smith and Wesson Air crewman revolvers (*at right*). Competition was fierce as always. OGCA brought an amazing display on Colt's path to the M1911 with included several extremely rare examples of pre-1911 pistols. The Smith and Wesson Collectors



Association went all in on "spur hammer" revolvers totting some very rare Mexican contract revolvers as well and they even had their very own Doc Holiday! All in all, great displays all around. Rick was able to secure two awards - Best Educational display and a Silver Medallion for his gold-plated Smith and Wesson Aircrewman. So next time you see him make sure to give him a congratulations!



Rick's Silver Star winning Smith and Wesson Aircrewman (*above, in the upper right*)

Overall, it was a very enjoyable show. Lou and I hope to be able to have some good stuff come out of our conversations with Beretta for their 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year. Hopefully some good stuff will come out of it for the club as well!



# ★ Show-n-Tell ★

**NOTE: For anyone bringing in items for Show-n-Tell - please hold the item up so the members in attendance can see it. This will also help your photographer get a sharp picture and allow people who could not attend the meeting to see it clearly in the newsletter. We also ask that you provide a Fact Sheet (copies of the one below will be provided at the meeting) to assist the newsletter editor in accurately describing your item. Thank you!**

## VGCA Show-n-Tell Fact Sheet

Manufacturer: \_\_\_\_\_

Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Action Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Caliber: \_\_\_\_\_

Years of Production: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Produced: \_\_\_\_\_

Year this example was manufactured (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Significance: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Question(s) for members: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Where acquired (optional): \_\_\_\_\_ When acquired (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

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A message from your VGCA Photographer--

I ask those who bring items in for Show-and-Tell to PLEASE hold the item UP and in view of the audience so that they can be seen clearly, and so that I might be able to get a decent picture for the newsletter. PLEASE stand behind the tables and simply hold the item at chest or waist level, face forward, stand still, and give me a five or six seconds to grab a decent photograph of the Show-and-Tell item.

If you do not want your Show-and-Tell item to be shared with other VGCA members, just tell me in advance and I will not attempt to take a photo of it.

I do photography for the VGCA and its' members, not for myself, and not for any personal gain. Your assistance in documenting your items will be a great help. I spend an average of five hours editing the pictures for the newsletter and not having a clear view of the subject has been a great and constant frustration for me.

Your help will assist in making a better newsletter for all VGCA members. Thank you!

*Jack Looney*



Member 1 (*left*) brought in two early Colt semi-automatic pistols - a Model 1900 and a Model 1902. The Colt M1900 is the first in a long line of semi-automatic pistols designed by John M. Browning and licensed and manufactured by the Colt Patent Firearms Manufacturing Company. It is a short-recoil operated "self-loading" pistol chambered in .38 Automatic Colt Pistol (ACP) caliber. The earliest examples of the M1900 featured a "sight safety." With the hammer cocked and sight safety in the lower position, the sight safety served as a firing pin block. When raised to the upper position, the device also functioned as the rear sight. The .38 ACP should not to be confused with the smaller .380 ACP. The .38 ACP was designed by Browning specifically for the Colt M1900. It is similar in ballistics to the 9mm Luger (115 grain bullet at

about 1150 fps), but does so from a longer, semi-rimmed case. Colt manufactured the M1900 (*detailed image found on the internet at right*) for three years, with a total of just under 4,300 pistols produced. This example shipped from the Colt factory in 1901.



Browning's next handgun design was the M1902 (*shown above and in detailed internet image at right*). The M1902 was not a new design, but rather an incremental improvement upon the nearly identical M1900. It had no safety but added a slide stop. The slide serrations cut through the entire slide from top to bottom and moved to different locations over the course of production. Three variations of the M1902 were made – the Military Model 1902, the Sporting Model 1902, and the pocket Hammer Model 1903. Colt produced 18,068 Military Models and 6,927 Sporting Models. Production of the Sporting Model ended in 1908 while the Military Model was made until 1928. The M1903 Pocket Hammer was basically a short barreled Sporting Model, with 29,237 made between 1903 and 1927.



The legacy of the M1900 and M1902 pistols is that their development continued over the next few years and ultimately culminated in the famous Colt 1911 pistol.



Member 2 shared his early Beretta M1934 (*inset below*). Chambered in .380 ACP, this example was produced in 1936 which was the first year of production. It has the early blue finish and carries the “R.E.” markings for the Reggio Escrito (Royal Italian Army). It was purchased from Ernie Lyles old gun store.



Member 2 also brought in a M1935 – but not a Beretta! His M1935 was a Chilean M1935 Mauser carbine (*main photo above*). These carbines were chambered for 7mm Mauser (7x57) and 10,000 were produced by Mauser for the Chilean Carbineros in 1935-36. The Carbineros who were a horse mounted police unit whose motto “Orden y Patria” translates as “Order and Fatherland” and was stamped on the receivers of these carbines (*detail at right*). Uniquely - for a cavalry-type carbine - the slings were permanently pinned to the wrist of the stock. Examples are found with the slings removed because they were very uncomfortable when slung over the back. These weapons are still in service in Chile for training and ceremonial use. Some were also purchased by Brazil and can be found with a beautiful Brazilian crest stamped on top of the receiver. This rifle was purchased last year on Gunbroker.com.



Member 3 brought in four items for Show-n-Tell! First were two WWII-era Model 1903A3s. One has a Remington barrel dated May 1943 (*at right*) and was hand-picked by Member 3 at the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) North Store at Camp Perry, Ohio. The other M1903A3 was a ceremonial rifle (*not pictured*) and was chrome-plated with a refinished stock. This one was a Rack Grade and was also hand-picked, though from the CMP South Store at Anniston, Alabama.

Also from the CMP, his third gun was a nice looking M1911A1 pistol (*below*) with a Remington frame and a Colt slide. This “Service Grade” pistol had been refurbished in 2000.



British in .455 Webley. The Army wanted .45 caliber pistols and did not want to have two different types of pistol ammunition at the front, so both companies were ordered to modify their revolvers to use 45 ACP. The 45 ACP is a rimless cartridge and not well suited for use in a revolver cylinder, so an engineer at S&W invented a “Half Moon Clip” that was a semi-circular thin sheet of spring metal with three notches to hold three 45 ACP rounds. Using two of these clips would allow the revolver to be quickly loaded or empties ejected. Both revolvers were designated the Model 1917 and each company produced approximately 160,000 pistols until the contracts were canceled at the end of the war.



The last item shared by Member 3 was a US Army S&W Model 1917 revolver (*below*) in 45ACP. When the USA entered WWI, it quickly realized that Colt and Springfield could not produce enough M1911s to equip the army being raised. Smith & Wesson and Colt both had large frame double-action revolvers in production for the





Member 4 shared a Winchester Model 1892 lever-action centerfire rifle (*right*). This heirloom that has been in his family for several generations. Designed by John Browning as a smaller, lighter version of his large-frame Model 1886, and which replaced the Model 1873 as Winchester's lever-action for pistol-caliber rounds.

When asked by Winchester to design an improved lever action to compete with a recent Marlin offering, Browning said he would have the prototype completed in under a month or it would be free. Within two weeks, Browning had a functioning prototype of what would become the M1892. The original rounds chambered were the .32-20, .38-40, and .44-40,

followed in 1895 by the then new .25-20. A few M1892s chambered in .218 Bee were produced from 1936 to 38. Rifles in .44-40 proved to be most popular, far outstripping sales of the other chamberings. The tube magazine under the barrel held 9 to 12 rounds, depending on the caliber.



The Winchester Models 53 (1924) and 65 (1933) were relabeled M1892s. Admiral Robert E. Peary carried a M1892 on his trips to the North Pole and Secretary of War Patrick Hurley was presented with the one millionth rifle on December 13, 1932. Famous Amazon explorer Percy Fawcett carried a Winchester '92 on his expeditions.

The Winchester company produced 1,007,608 M1892 rifles. The Depression greatly affected sales of the Winchester '92 and at the start of World War II, Winchester dropped production while it retooled for the war effort. Production was not resumed after the war. M1892 manufacture was restarted in the 1970s by Amadeo Rossi in Brazil; more recently by Chiappa Firearms, an Italian factory; by Browning in Japan; and by Winchester in Japan. In its modern form, using updated materials and production techniques, the Model 1892's action is strong enough to chamber high-pressure handgun rounds, such as .357 Magnum, .44 Magnum, and .454 Casull.

This example has an octagonal barrel, is chambered in .25/20 Winchester Center Fire (WCF), and was made 1911.



Member 4 also brought a Swedish AG-42 semi-automatic rifle (*left*). This rifle, designated the Ag m/42 in Sweden, saw limited use by the Swedish Army from 1942 until the 1960s. During the Winter War (Nov 1939 – Mar 1940), Finland captured a number of SVT-38 rifles, and at least one found its way to Sweden. The Ag m/42 was designed in 1941 by Erik Eklund of the AB C.J. Ljungmans Verkstäder company of Malmo, loosely following SVT mechanics and entered production at the Carl Gustafs Stads Gevärsfaktori in Eskilstuna in 1942. The Ag m/42 has a removable 10-round box magazine. In practice, however, the magazine usually remained attached to the rifle and it was loaded from the top via five-round stripper clips. Like the British

Lee-Enfield and Soviet SVT-40, the AG m/42s magazine was intended to be removed only for cleaning. Chambered in 6.5x55, approximately 30,000 rifles were manufactured.

Norwegian "police troops" trained in Sweden during World War II were issued a number of Ag m/42s and brought these rifles to Norway when the Germans surrendered in 1945.

After a number of issues had been discovered, including a serious problem with rusting gas tubes, the existing stocks of the rifle were modified between 1953 and 1956, and the reworked rifles were designated Ag m/42B. Modifications included a stainless-steel gas tube, adding two ergonomic gripping knobs on the breech cover, a new manual safety to prevent breech cover induced hand injuries, a new elevation knob for the rear sight, a rubber case-deflector, a revised magazine release and a new cleaning rod. The Ag m/42B was replaced in Swedish service in the mid-1960s by the Ak 4 (derived from the Heckler & Koch G3).

In the early 1950s, a license to manufacture the Ag m/42B was sold to Egypt, which redesigned the rifle to use the 8mm Mauser (7.9x57) cartridge. The resulting rifle was designated the Hakim. Sweden later sold their tooling to Egypt and the Hakim was thus built with the same machine tools as the Ag m/42B.

The Ag m/42 is operated by means of a direct impingement gas system, similar to that of the French MAS-49 rifle. The Ag m/42 also uses a tilting breech block like the Tokarev SVT-38/SVT-40, the MAS-49 and FN FAL rifles. The Ag m/42 lacks an adjustable gas port or valve to adjust the rifle to various propellants and pressures, so it is limited to specific ammunition. That said, this example has VERY positive ejection of empties!

Member 5 shared a WWII German Gewehr 43 semi-automatic battle rifle (*right*). Developed by Walther to replace the earlier (and less successful) Gewehr 41, the G43 design was influenced by captured examples of the Russian SVT-40. The G43 is a gas-operated short-stroke piston with flapper locks chambered in 8mm Mauser and with a detachable 10-round magazine. The Walther factory produced over 400,000 between 1943 and 1945.



This example was captured by the Soviets, refurbished, and was then later used in post-war East Germany.



Member 5 also brought in a British Lee-Enfield No.4 (T) sniper rifle (*left*). Chambered in the standard .303 British rimmed cartridge, the No.4 (T) rifles were hand-selected from No.4 MkI rifles that were particularly accurate during test firing. The conversion was done by the world-famous gunsmiths of Holland & Holland, where the rifles were carefully rebbed to improve accuracy as well as fitted with scope bases, a wooden cheekrest, and a third sling swivel in front of the magazine. Finally, each rifle was paired with a 3.5x No. 32 scope in a one-piece mount. The No.4 (T) is considered by many to be the best sniperrifle of WWII.

This example has matching serial numbers and was made by Birmingham Small Arms (BSA) in their Shirley factory in 1945. The scope is also dated 1945. This is Member 5's favorite gun!



Keeping with the theme of the evening, Member 6 brought in a Beretta Model 1934 (*right*). As an M1934, it is chambered in 9mm Corto (aka .380 ACP). This example was made in 1941 and, like many M1934s, bears the “RE” stamp of the Italian Army. With it was the correct Italian army leather holster. Member 6 purchased this pistol at a VGCA gun show about 2018 from Kelly Cook.

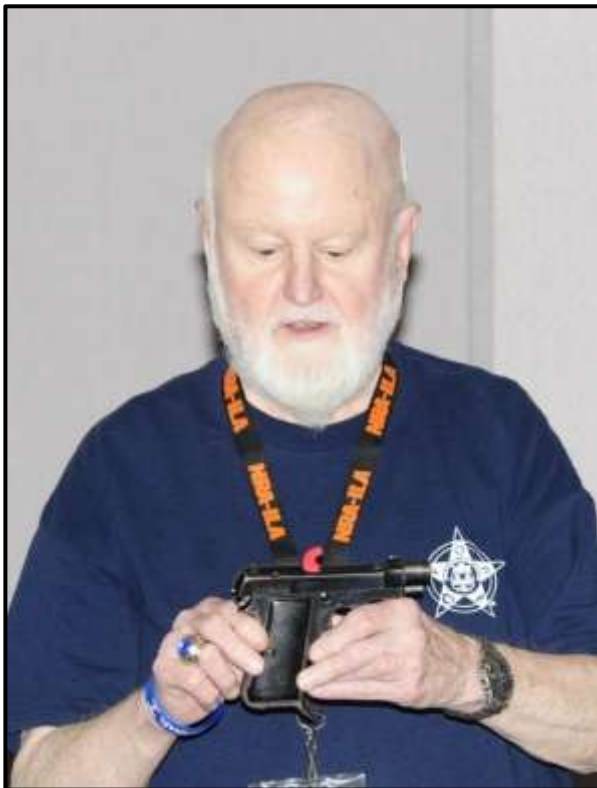


Member 7 brought in an example of the “stable-mate” of the Model 1934 – a Model 1935 (*left*). Chambered in 7.65mm (.32 ACP), it, like most M1935s, is stamped with the “Crown over Eagle” mark of the Royal Italian Air Force. It was made in 1940 and bears the Roman numeral “XVIII” denoting the 18<sup>th</sup> year of Mussolini’s fascist rule.

Member 8 brought in a Mauser C96 “Broomhandle” pistol (*right*). One of the earliest semi-automatic pistol designs and the first to be a commercial success, the C96 was very popular with military and civilians around the globe, but especially in China. It featured an integral magazine ahead of the trigger guard that was loaded via stripper clips. Mauser produced 1,100,000 between 1896 and 1937 and many more unlicensed copies were made in Spain and China.

This example was one of those made in China, in this case it was manufactured in 1926 (*note Chinese characters engraved on the right side of the frame – near right*).

Chambered in 7.63mm Mauser, this gun does include some German made parts – possibly including the slide. If only it could talk!



Member 9 also brought in another example of the Beretta Model 1934. This one was acquired in August, 1998.



# ★ Upcoming Events and Shows ★

PLEASE NOTE: VGCA members are strongly encouraged to verify shows before driving to an event. These dates were confirmed when this newsletter was written but are not guaranteed. Shows highlighted in **yellow** are shows with a collector focus.

## VIRGINIA – 2025

- Jun 21-22, 2025 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK*
- Jul 12-13, 2025 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex - *Showmasters*
- Jul 18-20, 2025 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- Jul 19-20, 2025 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center – *C&E Gun Shows*
- Aug 23-24, 2025 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex – *Showmasters*
- Sep 6-7, 2025 – Fishersville, VA – Augusta Expo – *Showmasters*
- Sep 13-14, 2025 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK*
- Sep 26-28, 2025 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*

## MARYLAND – 2025

- Jul 12-13, 2025 – Timonium, MD – Timonium Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Aug 23-24, 2025 – Frederick, MD – Frederick Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Aug 30, 2025 – Parkville, MD – Baltimore County Game & Fish – *Baltimore County Game & Fish Protective Association*
- Sep 6-7, 2025 – Easton, MD – Easton Vol. Fire Dept. – *Eastern Shore Arms Collectors*
- Sep 20-21, 2025 – Crownsville, MD – Anne Arundel Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*

## PENNSYLVANIA – 2025

- Jun 21-22, 2025 – Harrisburg, PA – PA Farm Show Complex – *C&E Gun Shows*
- Jun 21-22, 2025 – Washington, PA – Washington PA County Fairgrounds – *ARH Sport Shop*
- Jun 27-28, 2025 – Allenwood, PA – Warrior Run Area Fire Dept Social Hall – *Williamsport Area Cartridge Show*
- Jun 28-29, 2025 – Allentown, PA - Parkview Inn - *Eagle Shows*
- Jun 28-29, 2025 – York, PA – York Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Jul 5-6, 2025 – Reeders, PA – Jackson Township Vol Fire Comp – *Jaeger Arms*
- Jul 12-13, 2025 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds – *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*
- Aug 2-3, 2025 – Bloomsburg, PA – Bloomsburg Fairgrounds – *C&E Gun Shows*
- Aug 8-10, 2025 – Oaks, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Shows*
- Aug 16, 2025 – Greencastle, PA – Greencastle Sportsman's Assoc – *Izaak Walton Franklin Co.*
- Aug 16-17, 2025 – Allentown, PA - Parkview Inn - *Eagle Shows*
- Aug 16-17, 2025 – Lewis Run, PA – Lewis Run VFD Station 6 – *Lewis Run VFD*
- Aug 16-17, 2025 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center - *Showmasters*
- Aug 23-24, 2025 – Trevoze, PA – Radisson Philadelphia Northeast – *Eagle Shows*
- Aug 30-31, 2025 – Sellersville, PA – Forrest Lodge VTW245 – *Jaeger Arms*
- Sep 6-7, 2025 – Washington, PA – Washington PA County Fairgrounds – *ARH Sport Shop*
- Sep 14, 2025 – Portland, PA – William Pensyl Social Hall – *Portland Hook & Ladder Comp #1*
- Sep 20-21, 2025 – Morgantown, PA – Morgantown Expo Center – *Eagle Shows*
- Sep 27-28, 2025 – Allentown, PA - Parkview Inn - *Eagle Shows*
- Sep 27-28, 2025 – Gettysburg, PA – Redding Auction Hall – *Central PA Antique Arms Assoc.*
- Sep 27-28, 2025 – Leesport, PA – Leesport Farmers Market – *Appalachian Promotions*

## **SPECIAL EVENTS / SHOWS – 2025**

- ➡ **Jun 21-22, 2025 – Cleveland, OH – I-X Center – Annual Display Show - *Ohio Gun Collectors Association***
- ➡ **Jul 11-13, 2025 – Cody, WY – Annual Winchester Arms Collector Association show – *WACA***
- ~~➡ **Jul 19-20, 2025 – Wilmington, OH – The Roberts Centre – Remington Society of America (RSA) and Ruger Owners & Collectors Association (ROCS) Show – *Ohio Gun Collectors Association* - CANCELED**~~
- ➡ **Jul 19-20, 2025 – Doswell, VA – Meadow Event Park – *North South Trader Shows* – National Civil War and Antique Arms Show**
- ➡ **Aug 3, 2025 – Woodbridge, VA – Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton VFD Firehall – O-W-L / Belvoir Militaria Show – *Fort Belvoir ASMIC* – Free admission – No Guns**
- ➡ **Aug 9-10, 2025 – Springfield, OH – Clark County Fairgrounds – *Ohio Gun Collectors Association***
- ➡ **Sep 20-21, 2025 – Ladson, SC – Exchange Park Fairgrounds – *South Carolina Arms Collector Association***
- ➡ **Sep 27-28, 2025 – Cleveland, OH – I-X Center – Annual Display Show - *Ohio Gun Collectors Association***
- ➡ **Oct 1-5, 2025 – Winchester, VA - Fort Shenandoah – *151<sup>st</sup> National Skirmish* – *N-SSA***
- ➡ **Oct 18-19, 2025 – Statesville, NC – Statesville Civics Center – *North Carolina Gun Collectors Association***
- ➡ **Nov 2, 2025 – Woodbridge, VA – Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton VFD Firehall – O-W-L / Belvoir Militaria Show – *Fort Belvoir ASMIC* – Free admission – No Guns**
- ➡ **Nov 8-9, 2025 – Tulsa, OK – Expo Square (Tulsa Fairgrounds) – *Wanenmacher* – World's Largest Gun Show – 4200+ tables!**
- ➡ **Nov 22-23, 2025 – Ladson, SC – Exchange Park Fairgrounds – *South Carolina Arms Collector Association***
- ➡ **Nov 28-29, 2025 – Nashville, TN - Franklin/Cool Springs Marriott Hotel – *Tennessee Military Collectors Association***

**NOTE: OGCA Gun Shows are not open to the public – they are restricted to members and invited guests only. Several VGCA members are also members of OGCA and can sponsor you if you are interested in attending.**

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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 and is intended for listing firearms and firearm related items. 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 regard 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](mailto: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. Items will be listed for one issue of the Newsletter.

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## VGCA Logo Available at Lands' End

### Here's how to order your apparel:

1. Go to the VGCA store on Lands' End business:  
<https://business.landsend.com/store/vgca>
  - a. It must be the URL shown above. **Do not** go to the regular Lands' End website. It will not show our logo options.
2. Above the photo on the home page click on "Men" or "Women"
3. On the drop-down menu select what you are interested in. For example, Men>Activewear>Tops gives you 19 different styles and fabrics of men's shirts. When you have selected an item click on it and select your color, size and quantity. Then on the lower right-hand corner of the screen click on the blue "Apply Logos" button.
4. On the next screen click on the VGCA logo to choose it and it will open the "select a Location" menu showing where you can have the VGCA logo embroidered. Choose a location and then scroll down to the "Apply Logo" button in the lower right corner and click it. It will return you to your garment page.
5. If you are satisfied with your garment, color, size and logo location click on the "Add to Bag" button in the lower right corner.
6. Then you can then go to checkout or continue shopping. When you checkout it will show an additional \$8.95 for embroidery.



If you have any questions, you can reach Bruce Buchner at 703-339-8212 or [Buchnerb@cox.net](mailto:Buchnerb@cox.net)

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## FOR SALE:

✪ **FINNISH MOSIN-NAGANT** is authored by VGCA member Matt DiRisio and published by Wet Dog Publications. The list price is \$99.95. It is 584 pages long with over 1,500 color and black and white photographs.

For ordering information go to the Wet Dog Publications website at:  
<https://www.fnbrowning.com/book-finnish-mosin-nagant>.

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## FOR SALE:

✪ After more than two and a half years of research, VGCA member Bill Vanderpool has 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.

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#### FOR SALE:

★ VGCA member Charlie Pate has four books that he has authored for sale, at discounted prices for VGCA members. These include:

- “U.S. Handguns of World War II” - \$45.00
- “The Smith & Wesson American Model” - \$55.00
- “U.S. Military Arms Inspector Marks” - \$45.00
- “The Colt Model 1860 Army Revolver” - \$60.00

If interested, please contact Charlie at [usarmsresearch@gmail.com](mailto:usarmsresearch@gmail.com)

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#### FOR SALE:

★ VGCA member Larry Babcock has published a companion piece to his earlier book **M1 Garand Photo Essay**. This second book, titled **M1 Garand Photo Essay Volume II** covers all new material, to include the M1C and M1D sniper rifles as well as a myriad of M1 accessories. Best of all, both books are offered at a discount to VGCA members. Volume I is normally priced at \$69 and volume II lists for \$49, VGCA members can buy them directly from Larry for \$60 and \$40 each respectively - or \$90 total if you buy both. Look for Larry Babcock set up near the VGCA recruiting table at the next Chantilly Gun Show or order from him directly at [larrybab@comcast.net](mailto:larrybab@comcast.net) / or text to 703-856-2561.

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#### WANT TO BUY:

- ★ Browning lever action Gold Medallion, short action, blue or silver.

Also: Browning lever action with pistol grip and take down. Prefer .308 but any considered.

Call King at 703 576-7016, if there is no answer leave name and number with a brief description.

Thank you, King von Schilling

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#### WANT TO BUY:

★ Seeking a Bagnold Sun Compass, used during WWII by British desert troops. It was mounted on their vehicles. Must be complete and in working order. Contact Jack via email to [looney.house@verizon.net](mailto:looney.house@verizon.net) or text to 703-999-9458.



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The e-mail address for any Newsletter-related matters is [Newsletter@vgca.net](mailto:Newsletter@vgca.net) - or you can reach the editor directly at [rpebecker@verizon.net](mailto: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 George Dungan.