



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.ORG



Est. 1983 (A Non-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G 8162

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August 2009 VGCA e-Newsletter



Presentation at the June 25, 2009 Meeting of the VGCA: Phil Schreier of the NRA National Firearms Museum (NFM) kicked off the 11th Year of the NRA-NFM/VGCA Special Speaker series with the introduction of newly elected NRA President Ronald Schmeits. Mr. Schmeits opened with a few words on the importance of gun collecting, gun shows, and especially noted the educational exhibits as ‘something special.’ He also mentioned that the past weeks had been marked by the deaths of a number of well known persons and celebrities like Ed McMahon, Farrah Fawcett, and Michael Jackson, before tuning the podium back to Phil who introduced the nights speaker, Mr. Frank Minter (← *left photo*), author of *The Ultimate Man’s Survival Guide* and executive Field Editor of the NRA’s *American Hunter* magazine. Mr. Minter led off with a very thorough review of the concepts behind his work, designed to expose and counter the attacks on masculine activities like hunting, gun

ownership and in general the current state of creeping agenda of political correctness or PC. He linked the demise of Codes of Honor, the denigration of heroes and the rise of the “anti-hero,” as well as the passing of skills and knowledge of survival, hunting, farming, and woods craft, with a modern proclivity to choose the morally relative easy path and instant gratification. This is also evident in recent times with the diminishment of what is considered “gentlemanly behaviors.” In writing the book, he related that his experiences in covering athletics was easy, but talking to veterans, and those who have been considered heroes about heroism was much harder to write about. Mr. Minter was available for a question and answers session and was late available to sign copies of this book and another book on his experiences with big game hunting. While outside the typical evenings presentation related to firearms, the talks was interesting and thought provoking. Members are encouraged to read a review of the book on Page 44 of the August 2009 edition of the NRA magazine, *American Rifleman*.

★ UPCOMING Meetings: The August 27, 2009 meeting will be another NFM-VGCA Special Presentation Series event, [and will be Special](#). **Ollie North** will be discussing his latest book, *American Heroes in the Fight against Radical Islam*. CSPAN will be taping this presentation for repeat play. He will have books available for autographing and bring your digital camera for great photos. As an additional interesting item for this meeting, **Jim Land** will be a second speaker — for show and tell – and he will be bringing in some of his latest USMC sniper rifles (some prototypes of Rem 700s used in the USMC sniper rifle trials). Members are encouraged to bring in tactical or sniper rifles for show and tell. There will also be a special presentation made to Jim. Do not miss this. A large crowd is expected and pizza will be served, so come early. The meeting will start at **7 PM**.

Invitation to all members: If you wish to do a presentation at a meeting, please notify Addison or any of the board members. You can team with another member for a joint session. The purpose is to educate, share camaraderie and gain knowledge. We have all the 2009 meetings booked, so you do have time to prepare and get on the list for 2010.

Anthony Vanderlinden of North Carolina, a great VGCA repeat guest speaker, has a new book out. *FN Browning Pistols, Side-Arms that Shaped World History* reflects the continued work of Mr. Vanderlinden on the topic of FN Browning Pistols. This new book includes information found in the original issue titled *Belgian Browning Pistols* and expands into more variants and details geared toward collector interests. It includes detailed chapters on FN Browning Models 1899, 1900, 1903, 1905 (06) Vest-Pocket, 1910, 1922, Baby, 1935 High Power, 110, 115, 120, 125, 135 and 140, as well as the Husqvarna Model 1907. For additional information, check out <http://www.fn-browning.com/>. It looks very, very impressive with detailed illustrations and photos.

★ **Update on Proposed Road Trip!!!** Our speaker at the May 2009 meeting, *Paul Barron* of the George C. Marshall Museum, has invited the members of the VGCA to a behind the scenes tour of the museum. He indicated that we could come anytime and he would open the museum for us. **Larry Hunt** and **Addison Hurst** have explored the logistics of a VGCA bus field trip to the museum which is located in Lexington, Virginia. This tour exclusively for members of the VGCA would definitely be a rare opportunity. Members would pay for this trip, as it would not be funded by the Club treasury. However, the trip to the museum is on hold since only 16 or so folks signed up for the bus trip. Plans are being considered to try again in October or later. We want to give all VGCA members a chance to go. Here are some facts about the trip:

- The trip will be on a Saturday to be announced.
- Distance from NRA Headquarters to Lexington is about 175 miles (3 hours). The bus capacity is about 36 riders and it is equipped with rest facilities.
- Museum opens at 9:00AM. We may also get a chance to see the VMI gun collection in addition to the Marshall Museum and archives.
- For Lunch, there are several restaurants are within walking distance in Lexington.
- Directions can be obtained to the Marshall Museum at <http://www.marshallfoundation.org/directions.html>
- Info on the VMI gun collection can be obtained at <http://www4.vmi.edu/museum/>. Sonny Laine thinks we can visit it. The Keith Gibson display of arms is due to be opened to the public in the fall. More info to come...

*** NOTICE – Details for Fall VGCA Gun Show – NEW DATE ***

The Fall 2009 VGCA Gun Show will be at the Prince William County Fairgrounds on **November 7-8, 2009**. This is a **new**, later date. Please pass the word and remember that flyers for the fall show will be at this meeting so plan to spread them around.

- ⊙ **Fall VGCA Gun Show Sales Tables:** The Club still has sales tables available for the **November 7-8, 2009** Fall VGCA Gun Show. We have vacancies and as we are a gun collecting organization, we are again asking members to come support the club by taking a table(s) for disposing of your unloved or duplicate firearms, accoutrements, collectable accessories, or other gun collecting related items. If you believe manning a sales table alone would be too demanding and not allow you time to hunt for deals or just talk to other members, get a partner and share the duties and have relief for your time around the show. Show tables cost \$60 each, so share the load with a colleague and contact Rick Nahas.
- ⊙ **Fall VGCA Gun Show Display Tables:** We are very pleased to announce that the club will continue the pilot of having **FREE DISPLAY TABLES** for members on a space available basis for the Fall show. *This is a great opportunity to test the waters if you wanted to do a display table.* Display tables may be limited, so contact Rick Nahas to get yours.

Announcements: It is with sadness that the Club announces the death of member Bob Sweeney on July 4. He died as a result of a fall and head injury in New York. There will be a celebration of Bob Sweeney's life that will take place at a boat docked at the end of Prince Street in Old Town Alexandria on Monday, August 17 from 2:00 – 4:00PM. All who can attend should RSVP to Larry Hunt (ldhunt@idsscan.com or 703-368-2887) by Aug 7.

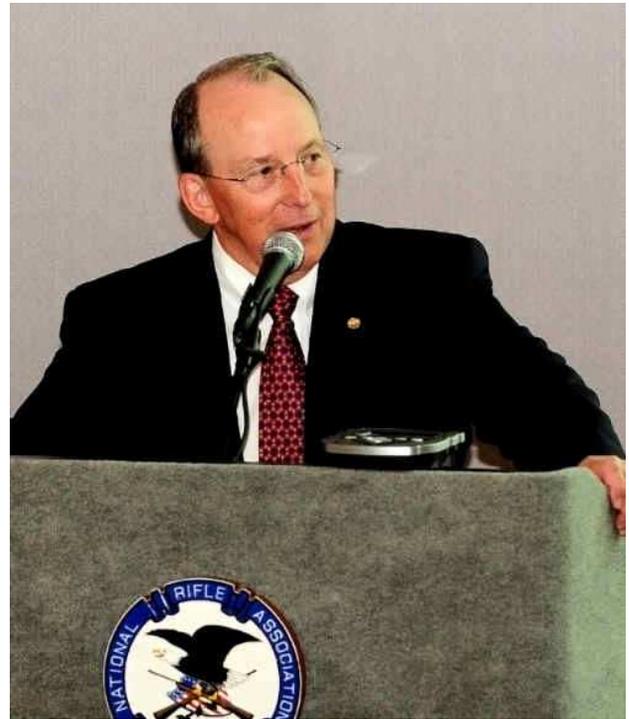
Regretfully, VGCA Life Member Dan Lehmann's wife Pat passed away suddenly on June 6 at home. Contributions in lieu of flowers were made to the Lupus Foundation.

June 25 Meeting Presentation and Show and Tell



← 1.
NRA-
NFM
Curator
Phil
Schreier
introduces
special
guests and
speaker.

→ 2.
NRA
President
Ronald
Schmeits
opened
with a few
words.



↖ 3. Mike Pizako displayed his combination gun in 7X57mm Mauser and 16 guage.

↗ 4. Marc Gorelick showed a classic Remington Model 30 Express in .30-06.



← 5. Jack Looney displayed his home built .308 Winchester on an Interarms MkX Mauser action.

June 25, 2009 Business Meeting: The business meeting was brief. Updates were received on table sales and preparations for the re-scheduled Fall VGCA Gun Show. Issues from the floor included a new DHS Customs and Border Protection (CBP) rule making effort on changing the definition of switchblade knives to include spring assist and knives with studs to allow one-handed opening. This could affect many of the folding knives currently being sold. While this would not affect legality from state to state, it would place these knives on a prohibited from import status, which could lead to state level bans. Congressional reaction to complaints from collectors and knife manufacturers appeared to be leading to a legislative fix to be attached to a must pass defense bill to preclude the rule making. CBP pulled the rule, however it could resurface again. **Jim Vaughan** of the Potomac Arms Collectors announced their fall show and the speaker for the July meeting and invited VGCA members to attend. (See coming events listing at rear for show details.) Guests in attendance were introduced. **Larry Hare** gave an update on the recent Opt-in for mailed Newsletters. Updates were provided on the proposed George C. Marshall trip (see above).

June 25, 2009 Show and Tell: The notional theme of the Show and Tell was "hunting rifles." **Larry Hare** was first out of the gate with two fine Mowrey muzzleloaders, a .50 caliber rifle and a 12 gauge shotgun. The Mowrey firm specialized in replicas, circa 1980s, of the Allen and Thurber rifle of the 1800's, and are frequently encountered with brass frames and highly figured wood for a distinctive look. **Mike Pizako** displayed his combination gun in 7X57mm Mauser and 16 gauge. This great example of old world craftsmanship included a matching claw mount holding a vintage Weaver K2.5 scope. **Marc Gorelick** showed a classic Remington Model 30 Express in .30-06. This rifle, based upon the old Model of 1917 Enfield-designed action, was one of a bloc of serial numbers purchased by the Pennsylvania State Police. **Bill Chronister** presented a Swiss K31 in .22 Long Rifle. This look-a-like made by Lienhard in Krienz (later G+E) was not a trainer (Swiss never used .22 trainers), but was a 50 Meter Eidgenössischer Kleinkaliber-Schützen-Verband EKS (50 Meter military-style indoor match rifle). **Bob Sears** told of his very early Ruger M77 in 7X57mm Mauser that was elegantly customized by Lowell Manley, a Midwest gunsmith. It sported a re-sculptured stock and a truly practical modification of the Ruger tang safety. **Jack Looney** displayed his home built .308 Winchester on an Interarms Mk X Mauser action. It had a hand cut stock from a Fajen blank, hand rubbed with Homer Formby's furniture finish, Leupold bases, QR rings, and a 1.5-6 Zeiss w/BDC good to 600 yards. **John Babey** covered his First Model Smith & Wesson Target Model single-shot pistol. **Dan Szatkowski** also brought an interesting single-shot target pistol in .22 RF. Dan's piece was made by Hopkins and Allen. **Rick Nahas** did not display, however he talked about the S&W Registered Magnum Series from the first .357 Magnum revolvers made by Smith & Wesson. Registered Magnum Revolver Number 1 was presented to J. Edgar Hoover of the FBI, but after his death it vanished and its current whereabouts is unknown. However at a recent S&W Collectors meeting, mysterious photos of what may be the Hoover gun surfaced, followed closely by inquiring FBI agents. So if you are offered this revolver, think twice about it. **Addison Hurst** closed the session and the meeting with his display of a Browning A-Bolt with the BOSS tuning brake in 7mm Remington Magnum. The stock has been refinished from the traditional Browning high gloss polymer finish to a rich, classic hand-rubbed oil finish.

Upcoming Events and Shows

Words to the Wise: There are sometimes changes in schedules by gun show promoters or errors on websites. Members are strongly encouraged to verify before driving to a show. These dates have been published as of this writing, but are not guaranteed. If you have an event you would like to tell other members about, please email the Editor with a short description and location, and I will include it as room permits. Historical events and lectures, re-enactments, auctions (both national, international, and local estate auctions) are all welcome.

VIRGINIA

- August 15-16, 2009 - Richmond, VA - Raceway & Fairgrounds – *Showmasters*
- August 22-23, 2009 – Roanoke, VA - Roanoke Civic Center – *Showmasters*
- August 29-30, 2009 - Fishersville, VA - Augusta Expoland – *Showmasters*
- September 5-6, 2009 - Norfolk, VA – Norfolk Scope Arena – *Showmasters*
- September 12-13, 2009 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center - *C&E Gun Show*
- September 19-20, 2009 - Hampton, VA - Convention Center - *SGK, LTD*
- September 26-27, 2009 - Fishersville, VA - Augusta Expoland – *Showmasters*
- October 2-4, 2009 - Chantilly, VA - Dulles Expo Center - *C&E Gun Show / Showmasters*

- **November 7-8, 2009 - Manassas, VA - Prince William County Fairgrounds – Virginia Gun Collectors Association**

MARYLAND

- **September 12-13, 2009 - Frederick, MD - Elks Lodge #684, 289 Willowdale Dr. - Potomac Arms Collectors' Association** featuring the *National Air Gun Collectors* & the *Appalachian Arms Collectors*
- **September 12-13, 2009 - Pikesville, MD - Pikesville Armory - Appalachian Promotions**
- **September 19-20, 2009 - Howard County, MD - County Fairgrounds (I-70, Exit 80) – Silverado Promotions**
- **October 3-4, 2009 – Timonium, MD - Timonium Fairgrounds - Appalachian Promotions**

PENNSYLVANIA

- **August 29-30, 2009 - Oaks, PA - Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – Mid-Atlantic Arms Collectors**
- **September 12-13, 2009 – Greencastle, PA - Mason Dixon Auto Auction - Appalachian Promotions**
- **September 12-13, 2009 – Harrisburg, PA - Farm Show Complex – Mid-Atlantic Arms Collectors**
- **September 18-20, 2009 - King of Prussia, PA - Valley Forge Convention Center - valleyforgegunshow.com**
- **October 10-11, 2009 - Carlisle, PA - Carlisle Expo Center - Appalachian Promotions**

OHIO

- **Sept. 19-20, 2009 – Wilmington, OH – Roberts Centre - Ohio Gun Collectors Association. **OGCA MEMBERS ONLY.**** For membership information contact Laura Knotts (330) 467-5733.

WEST VIRGINIA

- **September 18-20, 2009 - Franklin, WV - Fort Seybert - 250th Massacre & Burning of Fort Seybert - Contact: David Swecker, Phone: 304-668-1753, Fax: Ph304-358-7254 (6pm), E-mail: d.e.swecker@live.com**

"Of all tyrannies, a tyranny exercised for the good of its victims may be the most oppressive. It may be better to live under robber barons than under omnipotent moral busybodies. The robber baron's cruelty may sometimes sleep, his cupidity may at some point be satiated; but those who torment us for our own good will torment us without end, for they do so with the approval of their consciences." – C.S. Lewis

Address for any Newsletter related matters or submissions is VGCAnews@cox.net. Feel free to email items for inclusion in the newsletter. For changes of address or non-receipt of the newsletter, either via email or the mailed hard-copy, please contact Larry Hare at the numbers on page one.

V/R, Bill Chronister, Newsletter Editor.