



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.ORG

Est. 1983 (A Non-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G8162



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August 2012 VGCA e-Newsletter



Presentation at the June 28th Meeting: Our Speaker was VGCA Member **Bill York**, who covered some of the *Polish Radom Pistols* in his newly published book on these fine small arms. To enhance the discussion, Bill extended an invitation (June Newsletter) to the membership to bring in for discussion and the evening's Show and Tell, any examples of small arms of World War I, specifically with an emphasis on Nagant type revolvers, Ruby pistols, and other German, French, Austrian, Russian, and other small caliber pistols or revolvers used during that time period by Poland. He started with a brief history of modern Poland and their domestic and imported arms industries. He focused specifically on Poland's weapon situation following WWI, with an emphasis on pistols. After the war Poland acquired lots of armaments and pistols from the former Austro-Hungarian Empire, Russia, France, Germany, and others. This segment was amply augmented by his showing key point on the various sample pistols that he brought as well as some of the other handguns provided by members in attendance. He moved on to cover in detail, with fine examples, of the M1935 VIS Radom pistol. After the German occupation, these pistols continued to be manufactured by and marked Radom, but without the Polish crest, and were considered a highly desirable arm. He also touched upon the Polish Wz-35 .22 Training Rifle bought in by a member for the evening's Show and Tell. Bill also added that the arms manufacturers using the Radom markings are considering using modern computer controlled CNC machinery to bring the M1935 VIS Radom back to the market for a new generation of fans. The presentation was followed by a question and answer period with the audience. This was a great presentation and we thank Bill York for his expertise, his sharing parts of his collection, and for making the long trip from New England.

★ **Upcoming for August 23rd Meeting:** **Jim Burgess** will cover *Civil War Rifles*. If you have seen one of Jim's prior sessions you can be assured this will be interesting, informative and packed with historical references, as well as examples of the rifles. This is not to be missed.

★ VGCA will also be hosting Jim Supica, Director of the NRA National Firearms Museum, to present him with a \$1000 donation from the VGCA to support the Museum and its educational mission. VGCA, in the past has made contributions to support firearms education and shooter development. This year, the Officers and Directors of the VGCA voted to resume contributions with donations to the NRA-NFM and to assist the 4H Shooters purchase an electronic target scoring machine. Members are encouraged to arrive by 7:00 PM for the presentation to Mr. Supica.

Future Meetings and Speaker Topics (Tentative listing – any changes will be noted in future Newsletters):

- **September 27:** Kent Jefferies, *Federal Air Marshal Service*;
- **October 25:** Lt.Col. Bernie Breighner, USAF Ret., *Collector Class III, Sniper Rifles, and other weapons*;
- **November:** **No Meeting – Fall Gun Show**;
- **December 6:** Annual VGCA Holiday Pot Luck Dinner, BoD Candidate Nominations, extended Show & Tell/Holiday Swap Meet.

Business Meeting for June 28th: Vice President Ernie Lyles kicked off the meeting with a series of announcements and recognition and welcome of a large number of guests. (Unfortunately President Dave Litchfield was in Germany missing the festivities and the wonderful massive power outages of early July and the positively intense heat and humidity of a balmy Washington, DC summer.) Lee Turner asked if the Association would be willing to provide monetary support to allow the 4H Trigger Time shooters to purchase an electronic target scoring machine.

Notice: The VGCA critically needs a volunteer to serve as the **Deputy Security Manager** for the Gun Shows. Please call **John Frietsch, Safety and Security Coordinator** at 1-540-409-1271, or any of the Club Officers or Directors if you would like to take on this important role.

Notes from the Podium – President’s Message: Summer is upon us and 2012 is continuing to be a banner year for the VGCA. On Saturday, June 16, 15 Members traveled to Lexington, VA for our long planned trip to the Virginia Military Institute (VMI). At VMI we were treated to a superb visit to the Stewart Collection of rare 18th and 19th Century firearms.

The collection includes 32 Colt Paterson revolvers, some cased with all the accessories! There are French, British, German, American, Russian, Chinese, etc., guns of the most interesting kind. Included is a beautifully engraved Walther PP made for General George S. Patton after his troops captured the original Walther factory in 1945. We were taken back into the secure archives where hundreds of guns not on display were available for us to see. A large collection of flags, including Civil War Battle Flags is also stored in the archives. The collection also includes a large assortment of early air rifles, including one like Lewis and Clark carried on their journey.

After lunch we toured the George C. Marshall Museum and received a super in-depth briefing on Marshall's career, his work during WWI and WWII, and his tour as Secretary of State. We saw original battle maps of the Normandy Invasion, carried ashore for immediate use in the first days of fighting. We were shown original studio photographs and original correspondence between Marshall and Patton.

Lastly we toured the new \$3.5M indoor shooting range at VMI. This is a very impressive facility. The range can accommodate every caliber up to the .50 caliber BMG.

All in all it was a tremendous trip and we all owe a big *Thank You!* to Addison Hurst, Joe Roberts, Sonny Line and King Von Schilling for their good work in setting up and executing the visit. Jack Looney took lots of photos, so everyone should be able to enjoy what we saw.

Our next trip will be this fall, when we visit Springfield Armory and Smith & Wesson in Massachusetts, and the Colt facility in Hartford, Connecticut. Rick Nahas and Bill York are coordinating this trip so get your name on their list.

Keep Collecting, *Dave Litchfield*

Announcements, etc.

- ◎ **CALL for Fall 2012 VGCA Gun Show Volunteers:** The dates are November 2nd, (vendor set-up), with the show on the 3rd and 4th. We **always** need volunteers for the **Show Table Setup** and the **Safety and Security Teams**, as well as some folks to help with the **Sign Detail** the morning of the show, and pick them up after the show on Sunday, etc. This is even more important with the show now being in 2 buildings. Tell **John Frietsch, Dave Litchfield** or one of the Association Officers or Directors if you wish to volunteer, or sign up at the three monthly meetings left before the show. Talk to **Larry Hare** or **Steve Phillippy** if you want to help with signs. Fall Gun Show table set-up will be on Friday, November 2, exact time TBA, but usually around 11:00AM, or whenever the tables arrive!
- ◎ **Safety Team Volunteers:** If any member wishes to help out for an hour or so at the show, please call **John Frietsch**, Safety and Security Coordinator at 1-540-409-1271. **Remember, volunteering for the Security, Safety, and Setup teams gets a free admission.**
- ◎ **Fall 2012 VGCA Gun Show Sales Tables:** **Calling all members!!!** The Association *still has tables remaining for the Fall 2012 VGCA Gun Show*. Members who wish to reserve a table for disposing of your unloved or duplicate firearms, accoutrements, parts collectable accessories, or other gun collecting related items, please contact Rick Nahas, ASAP. **We will again be in 2 buildings and tables are going FAST!** Remember, this show is right before the 2012 Presidential Election and should be quite busy if recent shows are

an indication. 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 costs with a colleague.

★ **Fairfax Friends of the NRA will hold its 2012 Friends of the NRA Dinner and Auction** on Friday, October 5, 2012 at 6:30 PM at *The Waterford at Fair Oaks*, 12025 Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax, VA. Contact: Scott Meyer at Phone: (434) 696-2189 or Email: info@fairfaxfonra.org. Please visit them at www.fairfaxfonra.org or their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/FairfaxFriendsofNRA for more information on the dinner, auctions and raffles.

Show & Tell for the June 28th Meeting: Show and Tell started with **Member 1** showing an Arsenal SGL-21 in 7.62x39 made by Legion, Ltd. and Izhmash in Izhevsk, Russia. The rifle is converted from Saiga rifles with Russian receivers and chrome-lined hammer-forged barrels into the AK-103 “Century Series” format. **Member 2** showed a dummy long rod penetrating round with discarding sabot used as an anti-tank round. This experimental round was powered by electrical energy and propellant to create a plasma generator that provided for very high velocity. The actual prototype gun used to fire the round used a large 10-shot revolving cylinder for rapid firing. The next item, discussed by Bill York in his presentation and later shown by **Member 3** was a Radom Polish Wz-35 .22RF Training Rifle. This uncommon rifle followed a general Mauser design in appearance, but the bolt and action looked more like a Mosin Nagant in appearance. This same bolt and action design was later used in the post-WW2 Wz-48 trainers that were used as a trainer for the Polish Mosin Nagant Type 44 carbines used by the Communist government. **Member 4** showed an interesting British-made automatic air rifle target box with a rotating target. It was powered by a European 220 volt motor and came with a 110 volt inverter to convert the motor to US current. They used to be sold in the back pages of *Popular Mechanics* magazine. **Member 5** displayed a very unusual antique US-made needle-fire sporting rifle. Approximately 38 caliber, the rifle was marked with and 1849 Patent and G.P. Foster, Taunton, Massachusetts. The breech was marked Klein’s Patent, 1849. The night closed with **Member 6**’s LC-14B military knife in complete, great condition. This knife was more commonly known as the civilian “Woodsmen’s Pal,” and is still in production as a survival tool. The piece was accompanied by an original military pictorial manual of use, the scabbard, survival fish hooks and line, and a lens for starting fires.

A Gentle Reminder: We received some emails and requests to remind all attendees at the meetings that **all firearms on display at the meeting, as well as those shown at the Show and Tell Sessions should be tied** using the provided plastic ties and that anyone handling the pieces should **be mindful of the muzzles** even when tied. Additionally, to prevent inadvertent damage to rare or expensive pieces, the guns being displayed should not be handled without the owners’ permission. Thanks.

Photos from the June Meeting



Above: A fine example of the uncommon pre-WW2 Polish Wz-35 Training Rifle.

More Photos from the June Meeting



Left: Bill York shows the Polish M1935 VIS Radom pistol. Right: A Steyr Roth M1907 pistol used by Poland after WW1.

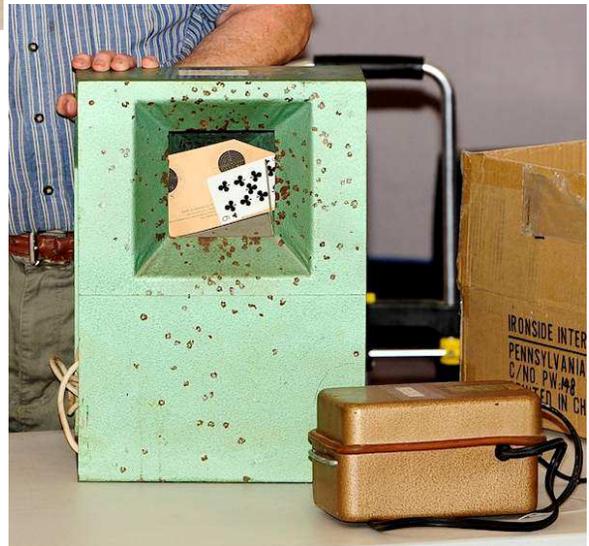


Left: The dummy long rod penetrating round with discarding sabot anti-tank round. Note the long rod on the table top.

Right: This is a photo of the actual finned penetrator minus the sabots.

Lower Left: US-made needle-fire sporting rifle. Approximately 38 caliber, the rifle was marked with and 1849 Patent and G.P. Foster, Taunton, Massachusetts. The breech was marked Klein's Patent, 1849.

Lower Right: British-made automatic air rifle target box with a rotating target, powered by a European 220 volt motor with a 110 volt inverter to convert the motor to US electricity.



Upcoming Events and Shows

PLEASE NOTE: There are sometimes changes in schedules or errors on websites. Members are strongly encouraged to verify before driving to a show. These dates have been published online, but are not guaranteed. **Yellow** = Collector organizations.

VIRGINIA 2012

- August 18-19, 2012 - Roanoke, VA - Roanoke Civic Center – *Showmasters*
- August 25-26, 2012 - Richmond, VA - Raceway & Fairgrounds – *Showmasters*
- September 7-8, 2012 – Blairs, VA – (Friday & Saturday only) Dana's Garden Spot (Former 84 Lumber Building) – *Chestnut Firearms (New)*
- September 8-9, 2012 - Norfolk, VA – Norfolk Scope Arena - *C&E Gun Show*
- September 15-16, 2012 - Fishersville, VA - Augusta Expoland – *C&E Gun Show*
- September 15-16, 2012 - Fredericksburg, VA - Expo Center - *SGK, LTD*
- September 22-23, 2012 - Hampton, VA - Convention Center - *SGK, LTD*
- September 22-23, 2012 - Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center - *C&E Gun Show*
- September 28-30, 2012 - Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center - Nation's Gun Show – *C&E Gun Show*

MARYLAND 2012

- **September 8-9, 2012 (tentative) - Frederick, MD - Elks Lodge #684, 289 Willowdale Dr. - *Potomac Arms Collectors' Association***
- September 15-16, 2012 – West Friendship, MD - Howard county Fairgrounds – *Silverado Productions*
- September 29-30, 2012 - Annapolis, MD - Annapolis Armory – *Appalachian Promotions*

PENNSYLVANIA 2012

- August 18-19, 2012 - Monroeville, PA - Convention Center - *C&E Gun Shows*
- August 25-26, 2012 – Philadelphia, PA - Greater Philadelphia Expo Center (Oaks) – *Eagle Arms*
- September 1-2, 2012 - Gettysburg, PA - Allstar Sports Complex - *Eagle Arms*
- September 8-9, 2012 - Tarentum, PA - Pittsburgh Mills Galleria - *Pennsylvania Gun Collectors Association*.
- September 8-9, 2012 - Harrisburg, PA - Farm Show Complex – *Mid-Atlantic Arms Collectors*
- September 15-16, 2012 – Lancaster, PA - Lancaster County Convention Center - valleyforgegunshow.com

OHIO 2012

- **September 15-16, 2012 – Wilmington, OH – Roberts Centre - *Ohio Gun Collectors Association. OGCA MEMBERS ONLY.* <http://www.ogca.com/index.htm>**

NEW YORK 2012

- **September 15-16, 2012 - Syracuse, NY - NY State Fairgrounds - 1000 8" tables - SyracuseGunshow.com**
- **September 22-23, 2012 – Freeport, NY - The Freeport Recreation Center - *Long Island Antique Historical Arms Society.* Contact: Dave Gruner (631) 722-3248, P.O. Box 41, Jamesport, NY 11947**

“A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover that they can vote themselves largesse from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most benefits from the public treasury with the result that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy, always followed by a dictatorship. The average age of the world's greatest civilizations has been 200 years.” Attributed to ALEXANDER FRASER TYTLER, Lord Woodhouselee, AKA: Alexander Tyler, a Scottish history professor at the University of Edinburgh, 1887.

The e-mail address for any Newsletter related matters or a submission 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. v/r VGCA Newsletter Editor