



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.ORG

Est. 1983 (A Non-Profit Organization)

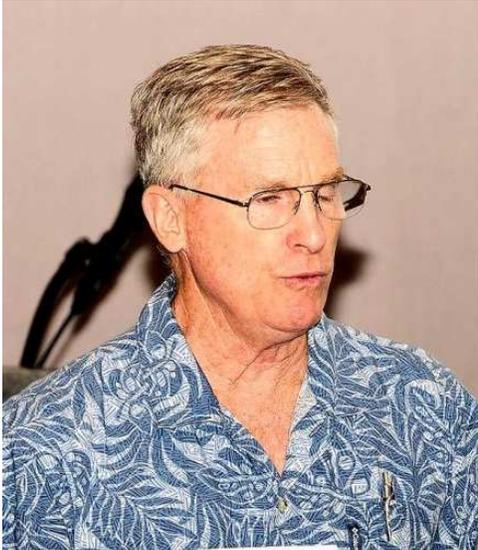
NRA Affiliate Number G8162



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August 2013 VGCA e-Newsletter



Presentation from the June 27, 2013 Meeting: VGCA President **Dave Litchfield** gave a presentation on **German Pistols** and collecting German pistols. This was a presentation that covered a lot of ground, yet was designed to touch upon the actual pistols themselves, while also introducing members to the science of collecting German pistols and what to look for and tips on separating the average from the good. To illustrate his talk, he brought a number of outstanding examples from his collection and had a number of items provided by members that he covered or were later covered by their owners later in the Show and Tell. Dave started off with the most famous and recognizable German pistol – the P-08 – commonly known as the Luger. These were made in many variations and for many countries. He provided ID tips, production dates and also covered the countries that adopted the Luger. As there are so many variations and sub-variations (some exceedingly rare), these fine pistols can range in price from imminently affordable to rare enough to be made of “unobtainium” and command the equivalent of a small mortgage. He went on to cover another instantly recognizable sidearm, the Mauser C96 or “Broomhandle,” and some of its variations and more notable figures in history, such as Winston Churchill, who favored this pistol. He then moved on the period between the world wars and covered German target pistols that made their marks at the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics, and sparked a number of refinements, with later pistols becoming known as the “Olympia.” They swept the Gold Medals at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. They are superb businesslike performers while also being sleek and attractive sporting arms and are highly collectible. Walther was not just a target pistol manufacturer, but also developed in 1929 the first successful double-action automatic pistols which were named the PP for Polizei (police) pistol. Later smaller versions were the PPK which was favored by the German plainclothes police officers and the Nazi-era Secret Police. Their reputation led to them being the preferred sidearm of Ian Fleming’s fictional British Secret Agent James Bond. Dave also covered other familiar police pistols of the time like the Mauser HSC, and the Sauer & Sohn 38H. He discussed gas and starter pistols. Knowing no presentation would be complete without mention of the German P-38, he covered the history, variations and marking codes of this famous WW2 veteran and popular GI trophy. He concluded by covering some fine Walther air pistols using some models in his collection. This was a well delivered and detailed talk with great examples of many of the guns. For those of you attending the VGCA gun shows, Mr. Litchfield frequently assists the evaluation table with questions on German pistols and rifles and helps new collectors with his knowledge and experience. This presentation was a job well done.

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🌀 **Presentation for August 22, 2013 Meeting:** For the presentation, we will have NRA Second Vice President and VGCA member **Allan D. Cors** covering the new Americans in Wartime Museum. Come hear Mr. Cors provide a description of this new museum that will tell the stories of an entire nation answering the call to serve; from those in uniform, to their families behind on the home front, the veterans, and those who did not return, the Museum will capture their stories. The Museum site is on 70 acres in Prince William County, Virginia, so this will be a preview of a facility most of us will be able to readily visit.

★ **Remaining Presentations for 2013:** The following presentations are scheduled in the coming months. As usual, details and changes will be published in the newsletter each month so keep checking for updates.

- **September 26:** Reserved – Details TBA
- **October 24:** Reserved – Details TBA
- **November:** No Meeting - Fall Show
- **December 5:** Pot Luck Dinner/Officer Nominations/Show & Tell/Swap Meet (NOTE: earlier Newsletters erroneously had the December meeting listed as December 7th. **The correct date is Thursday, December 5.**)

★★★ 2014 Presentation Schedule – Opportunities for new volunteers ★★★

As you can see from the above list and this month's upcoming meeting, we have a full slate for 2013, but vacancies for presenters in 2014. Call one of the Association officers now to request a date for 2014, or if you have an outside speaker who wishes to cover firearms and historically related topics. Here are some advantages:

- A 2014 date gives you plenty of time to prepare or to discuss with a colleague or other member to partner in a presentation – a partnered presentation by 2 or more members have in the past been very good and allow each to capitalize on the other's comments or collections – such as the presentation by Jim Burgess and Marc Gorelick on cartridge conversion rifles.
- Another advantage is if one person is uncomfortable about public speaking, the other could handle the actual speaking while their colleague contributes knowledge, highlights or examples, or does a handout or slides.
- Keep in mind, these presentations are not intended to be at the published expert level (we would welcome those), but are for collectors to share information and gather information from fellow collectors and Association members. For those of you who have done a show and tell, it is just a longer session.

We do not have meetings in March and November (gun shows) or in July. Shorter and direct works best; and it does not require slides. If you wish, there are members who will assist you in creating a PowerPoint presentation.

Business Meeting of June 27: After the opening activities and member guest introductions, President **Dave Litchfield** introduced **Susan Marsh** with the 4H shooting club, and **David Murray** with his sons, **Daniel** and **John Luke** from the Belvoir Bullets shooting team. Each gave a brief overview of their organizations' activities. VGCA has a long history of providing support to encourage youth shooting and safe firearms use. **Jim Burgess** provided and update on the status of the new VGCA table covers project, and in a subsequent email let the Board know that the sample he had reviewed looked very good. **Bill Chronister** provided an update on the Henry Rifles (more current info follows.) **Rick Nahas**, Show Manager reported we are sold out and have started a waiting list. It was also reported that the Fairgrounds have installed two new admission booths at the gate. This has great potential to streamline our admission process and will be considered by the Show Committee and the Board.

Larry Hare, Membership Coordinator, presented two new members for consideration. **Dave Litchfield** sponsored **Don Boast**, and **Jim Burgess** sponsored **John Murphy**. Both were inducted into VGCA. Gentlemen, welcome aboard.

Rick Nahas informed members that the NRA-NFM is opening a National Sporting Arms Museum with Bass Pro Shops in Springfield, Missouri. Subsequently, the NRA-NFM website reported that the National Sporting Arms Museum will focus solely on guns of the great outdoors, thanks to a partnership between Bass Pro Shops and the NRA. Bass Pro donated the space and time and NRA arranged for the guns, research and background material. Included will be art from Remington Arms, the full collection of the Pachmayr Foundation, and guns owned by individuals such as Napoleon Bonaparte, Annie Oakley, Jessie James and President Theodore Roosevelt. It opened on August 2 at the Bass Pro Shops on 1935 S. Campbell in Springfield, Missouri, and the admission is free.

VGCA e-Mail List: Feel out of touch, change your e-mail, or miss any of the opportunities? Members are encouraged to make sure we have your current e-mail address. A number of newsletters still are bouncing, as have special announcements. Getting the Newsletter via email gets you a larger, full color version with more photos, as we are not limited to 4 pages (2 sheets), and allows us to include last minute additions to the Newsletter or changes to the meeting presentations. It also allows us to send special membership announcements. This e-mail list is closely controlled and is used only for Association broadcast of the newsletters, and other urgent VGCA business. It is never sold, it is not available for individual member use, nor is it used for solicitations, political activity, charities, etc. It is exclusively for activities directly related to the operation of the Association and communicating

with the membership. Even these communications are controlled and kept to a minimum to avoid e-mail fatigue. Take advantage of the convenience while helping the Association's mailing costs. You may send e-mail address corrections to Larry Hare at LaurenceHare@gmail.com, or use the sheet that will be circulated at the monthly meetings.

Important Announcements, etc.

- ⊙ **FRIENDS OF NRA will hold its Loudoun County Banquet & Auction on September 9, 2013 at the Dulles Airport Marriott, 45020 Aviation Drive, Dulles, VA 20166.** Contact Ed Levine at 1-800-327-1727 or at e-mail vagunrights@gmail.com for information. Regular tickets are \$80.00 and couples tickets are \$150.00. Friends of NRA banquets boil down to one goal — fund-raising for the future of the shooting sports. Since its inception in 1992, Friends of NRA has held over 15,000 events, reached over 2.8 million attendees and raised over \$200 million for The NRA Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.
- ⊙ **Breaking news on the VGCA Limited Edition Henry Arms .22 Golden Boy Rifle group buy! *The Rifles have arrived!!!* John Isoldi**, the VGCA coordinator, has inspected the shipment and reported they look great. An e-mail will be going from **John Isoldi** to notify the buyers. Henry Arms delivered way ahead of schedule! At the end of July, Henry Arms reported that after a brief delay locating suitable wood for the specially marked laser engraved stocks, that they estimated a delivery to the FFLs would be 30-40 days out. Thanks to **John Isoldi** for the update.
- ⊙ **CALL for Fall 2012 VGCA Gun Show Volunteers:** The dates are Friday, November 1, (vendor set-up), with the show on the Saturday and Sunday, November 2 - 3. 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. Tell **Dennis Gerdovich, 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 **show table set-up** will be on Friday morning, November 1, around 10:00AM, or whenever the tables arrive!
- ⊙ **Safety Team Volunteers:** If any member wishes to help out for an hour or so at the show, please contact **Dennis Gerdovich**, Acting Safety and Security Coordinator. **Remember, volunteering for the Security, Safety, and Setup teams gets a free admission.**



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Notice: The VGCA still critically needs a volunteer to serve as the Security Manager or Deputy Security Manager for the Gun Shows. Please call **Dave Litchfield, Rick Nahas, Dennis Gerdovich** or one of the Association Officers if you wish to volunteer for this important role.
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- ⊙ **Early consideration for the Election of VGCA Officers for the 2014-2016 Term.** This is an early reminder to members that they begin thinking about the Annual Association Membership Meeting in early December. As last time, we will be taking nominations from the floor at both the October AND December meetings for candidates for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The December meeting is also one of the only opportunities you may have to question potential candidates about their ideas for the direction of the Association, instead of relying on a photo and one paragraph attachment to the ballot. Some of the incumbent Officers have indicated they are not running for re-election, so we will need to have candidates to fill the vacant positions. Please consider if you would like to run, or if you have someone you would like to nominate to run. Our recent elections have had increasing interest and candidates, and we have been busy recruiting and signing up new members, which is a good sign.

Show & Tell at the June 27, 2013 Meeting: Show and Tell began with **Member 1** who last month showed a large powder tank for 16" battleship guns. This evening he had examples of the silk powder bags that held 100 pounds of powder. He also brought a dummy 76mm (3") round for the naval rapid-fire cannon. This gun fired at a rate of 300 rounds per minute. Their most common deployment was on U.S. Coast Guard cutters. He also displayed an inert single grain of powder from a 175mm gun. **Member 2**, augmented the evenings presentation with about 20

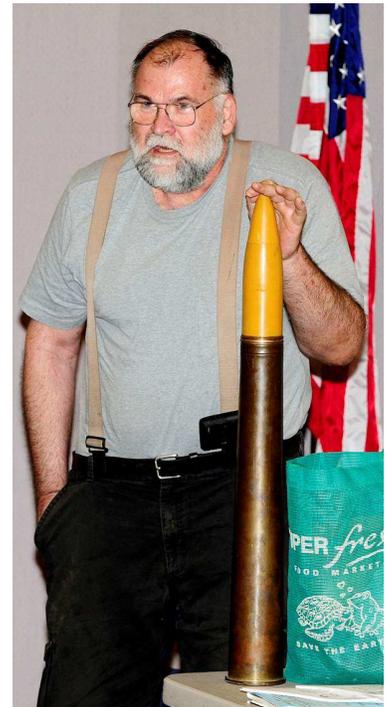
pistols from Germany and Austria, used for both civilian and military disciplines. They included an Austrian Model 7 Steyr in 8mm Steyr; a Steyr-Hahn in 9mm Steyr; A Walther Model 4 from 1910; A Sauer and Sohn pistol; a Dreyse Officers Pistol; a Walther Target pistol circa 1932; a Walther PP Sport Kit in .22LR; a SVW45 Walther P-38 (a "Gray Ghost" assembled by the French after the German surrender); a Walther LP-53 Air Pistol (LP = luftpistol or air pistol in German); and a Walther LP3 air pistol. **Member 3** also followed the theme of the evening with two P-38 pistols; a BYF (Mauser) made example and a SVW45 French-assembled model. The final and closing pistol displayed was by a **guest** who showed a 1920 German DWM commercial Luger P-08 that was obtained from her grandfather who was a U.S.A.A.F. aviator and prisoner of war in Germany during WW2. The evening's S&T featured a great selection of arms and was well done. Thanks to all who presented.

Photos from the June 2013 Meeting



↑ Dave Litchfield examines a large German Reichs Revolver that was featured in his presentation. Surrounding him in this photo montage are many of the pistols he displayed. At the upper right is a C-96 "Broomhandle" Mauser. In the lower left is a Walther air pistol. In right center is a flare pistol while the famous Luger P-08 is to the right of his head. ↓ German pistols on display by Larry Hare for the presentation and Show & Tell.





⌘ Left: Susan Marsh with the 4H shooting club describes for the VGCA members the 4H goals and youth shooting programs.

↑ Center: David Murray with his sons, Daniel and John Luke from the Belvoir Bullets shooting team, gave a brief overview of their organizations' activities, and describe some of the firearms that have been used.

↗ Right: Dummy 76mm (3") round for the naval rapid-fire cannon. The gun fired at a rate of 300 rounds per minute and is deployment on U.S. Coast Guard cutters.

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 2013

- ⊕ August 17-18, 2013 - Roanoke, VA - Roanoke Civic Center – *Showmasters*
- ⊕ August 24-25, 2013 - Richmond, VA - Raceway & Fairgrounds – *Showmasters*
- ⊕ August 31-September 1, 2013 - Fishersville, VA - Augusta Expoland – *C&E Gun Show*
- ⊕ September 7-8, 2013 - Norfolk, VA – Norfolk Scope Arena - *C&E Gun Show*
- ⊕ September 14-15, 2013 - Fredericksburg, VA - Expo Center - *SGK, LTD*
- ⊕ September 21-22, 2013 - Hampton, VA - Convention Center - *SGK, LTD*
- ⊕ September 21-22, 2013 - Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center - *C&E Gun Show*
- ⊕ September 27-29, 2013 - Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *C&E Gun Show*
- ⊕ September 27-28, 2013 – Salem, VA - Roanoke Moose Lodge #284, 3233 Catawba Valley Dr., Salem, VA 24153 – **23rd ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL AIRGUN & TOY GUN EXPOSITION** (Note: Fri., 9/27 – Noon to 7 PM, Sat., 9/28 – 9 AM to 4 PM – Davis Schwesinger, *High Adventure Inc.*)
- ⊕ **November 2-3, 2013 - Manassas, VA - Prince William County Fairgrounds – Virginia Gun Collectors Association**

MARYLAND 2013 – (NOTE: Due to the anti-2nd Amendment hysteria of the state governor and extremist anti-gun legislation passed in Maryland in Spring 2013, verify whether a show will still be held before travelling.)

- ⊕ September 7-8, 2013 - Annapolis, MD - Annapolis Armory – *Appalachian Promotions*
- ⊕ **September 7-8, 2013 - Frederick, MD - Elks Lodge #684, 289 Willowdale Dr., Frederick, MD 21702 - Potomac Arms Collectors' Association**
- ⊕ September 15-16, 2013 – West Friendship, MD - Howard county Fairgrounds – *Silverado Productions*

PENNSYLVANIA 2013

- ⊕ August 17-18, 2013 - Monroeville, PA - Convention Center - *C&E Gun Shows*
- ⊕ August 24-25, 2013 - Poconos, PA - Split Rock Lodge - *Eagle Arms*
- ⊕ August 31-September 1, 2013 - Gettysburg, PA - Allstar Sports Complex - *Eagle Arms*
- ⊕ September 7-8, 2013 - Allentown, PA - Rodeway Inn - *Eagle Arms*
- ⊕ **September 7-8, 2013 - Tarentum, PA - Pittsburgh Mills Mall - Pennsylvania Gun Collectors Association.**

