



# VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.NET

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NRA Affiliate Number G8162

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President and Founder (Emeritus) Ed Johnson

**President**

**Show/Reservations Manager**

**Membership**

Ernie Lyles

Rick Nahas

Bill Chronister

Phone: 571-334-2863

Cell: 571-215-8761

Cell: 703-204-0138

[Pris.ernie@verizon.net](mailto:Pris.ernie@verizon.net)

[jet53sw@aol.com](mailto:jet53sw@aol.com)

[wchronister@cox.net](mailto:wchronister@cox.net)

## July-August 2017 VGCA Newsletter

★**June Presentation:** Our featured speaker in June was none other than noted author and firearms historian, Mr. Anthony Vanderlinden. His presentation (actually part 1 of 2 – he will need to return at a future date to finish) introduced “FN Mauser Rifles – from the creation of FN through the World Wars.”

The history of Fabrique Nationale (FN) has its roots in the Belgian War of Independence in 1830, after which a constitutional monarchy was formed with Leopold I as the first Belgian King.



His son, Leopold II wanted to make Belgium an economic world power, and instituted several reforms to help make that happen. Among those reforms were limited government interference in business, loans to businesses based on merit (not position in society), and a streamlined patent process. These underlying principles, together with a conveniently local coal seam (the industrial revolution required power – be it hydro or steam from coal) propelled Belgium to the #5 world economy by 1900! But I am getting ahead of myself...

By the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, the southern Belgian town of Liege was a noted steel producer, with its steel mills manufacturing everything from steam engines and mining equipment to ships and artillery pieces.

The Franco-Prussian War (1870-1871), which took place right on the southern Belgian border, served as a wake-up call to the Belgian military. In particular, the German siege of Paris demonstrated the vulnerability of Belgian cities. The Belgians quickly started building a series of fortifications around each industrial city (which explains why Chaleroi, Liege, and Antwerp were protected but not Brussels). The Belgian Army determined it needed a new rifle to arm the troops that would be manning these forts. This new rifle would need to be light/handy, accurate, and have a high rate of fire. These specifications proved to be beyond the capability of the Belgian arsenals and in 1885, the Belgians opened the rifle trials to commercial offerings.

This was a period of rapid advancements in small arms design – smokeless powder was replacing black powder, small bores were supplanting large calibers, and repeaters were replacing single shots. As a consequence, the Belgian requirements were constantly changing and the Liege rifle trials went on for several years. Several industry leaders, to include Mannlicher, Pieper, and Mauser, agreed to jointly bid

on and build whatever rifle would be ultimately selected by the Belgians. The resulting joint venture became Fabrique Nationale.

Separate trials to determine the caliber for the new rifle were being conducted simultaneously in Antwerp. Ultimately, a Mauser rifle design featuring a box magazine that could be filled via stripper clips was adopted as the Model 1891. The caliber selected was 7.62x53.

By combining assets and minimizing overhead costs, Fabrique Nationale (FN) was able to win the contract to manufacture the Model 1891. FN built a large factory in Liege with a huge power plant. This power plant produced central heat for the factory floor, powered the machines, and provided electrical lights throughout the complex (a first in Europe). The machines came from Belgium and Germany (U.S. companies did not want to make machines with metric measurements).

Ludwig Lowe, thinking that the Model 1891 would be produced in a government arsenal, sold the rifle manufacturing rights to the Belgian government, which in turn gave those rights to FN. FN manufactured 150,000 Model 1891 rifles for Belgium, then produced all the associated ammunition for Belgium. Next, FN got the manufacturing rights for the Mauser Model 1893 to assist Lowe in filling a contract for Brazil. In 1894-1895, FN made an extra 110,000 Model 1893s to have “on inventory.” FN sold ammo to Spain and Uruguay, which led to additional Model 1893 rifle sales. Lowe believed his arrangement with FN was limited to the Brazilian contract only and these additional rifles sales exceeded FN’s authority. Several lawsuits ensued, which caused investors to start selling their shares of FN stock. Lowe started buying FN stock and soon had a 51% majority share. Lowe kept the ammunition manufacturing but shut down rifle production in 1897. With massive manufacturing capacity but nothing to produce, FN began looking for alternative products. One of those was bicycles – and another pistols. These pistols, starting with the Model 1900, were designed by one John Moses Browning. But that is another story!



*Anthony Vanderlinden, the speaker at our June membership meeting, is thanked by VGCA President Ernie Lyles*

★ **June Business:** President Ernie Lyles brought the June membership meeting to order at 6:53 p.m. and led us through the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 62 members and guests in attendance.

Our President recognized long-time member Bob Sears for Lifetime Achievement and presented him with a vintage Springfield catalog (see picture at right). Bob has shared his extensive knowledge of firearms history at our monthly meetings and we are all the better for it!



Emory Hackman (chairman of the election committee) announced the winners of the VGCA Board of Directors election. Congratulations to Bernie Breighner, Marc Gorelick, and Phil Hill!

Shannon Zeigler gave a treasury update – we are good financial shape. Also, on request from the audience, he provided an update on his flooded gun room! Fortunately, damage to his collection was minimal (though the combination of water with the gypsum in dry wall will apparently eat right through commercial bluing!) and not a single book in his rather extensive collection got wet.

Bill Chronister provided feedback on the number of members that voted, both electronically and via “snail mail.”

Finally, Marc Gorelick reported on our donation to the 7 Bends 4H club. The VGCA provided \$1500 to the 7 Bends 4H to be used for black powder supplies (see Marc’s article below).

### **President’s Comments**

Fellow Members,

We are getting closer to our fall show. There are still tables available if you want to clean out some of those nonessential parts of your collections. Volunteers are always needed to help with the show. Our spring show could have used more members to work security and zip-tying guns. I am personally interested in Rick’s presentation this month on S&W Airweights, so let’s have a good attendance.

--Ernie Lyles

★ **Upcoming August 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting:** Our very own vice president and resident Smith & Wesson expert, Mr. Rick Nahas, will give a presentation on the S&W “Airweight.”

As always, get there early for social time (and pizza) at 6 p.m., with the meeting starting at 7 p.m.

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# Other News!

★ **ELECTION RESULTS!** The votes for our new Board of Directors were tallied immediately before the June membership meeting. As reminder, we had five very qualified members running for the three opening Directors positions. Congratulations are in order for:

**Bernie Breighner**

**Marc Gorelick**

**Phil Hill**

Thank you for volunteering your time and effort to support the Virginia Gun Collectors Association!

## ★ **VGCA SUPPORTS YOUTH SHOOTING EDUCATION**

*By Marc Gorelick*

Although the Virginia Gun Collectors Association is primarily a collecting organization that promotes the collection, use, preservation, education and history of firearms, gun collecting, and firearms safety, it also supports youth education and shooting. The VGCA recently donated money to the Seven Bends 4-H Shooting Education Club for the purchase of black powder shooting supplies and equipment. This estimable organization, located in the northern Shenandoah Valley has expanded its youth shooting education programs to include muzzle loading target shooting. Shooting muzzle loading rifles provides a connection to the history of early firearms and can instill an appreciation for, and interest in, collecting these early weapons that helped shape our nation.



*VGCA Board member Marc Gorelick with coaches, parents and members of the Seven Bends 4-H Shooting Education Club at the NORVA range on June 11. All photos courtesy of Seven Bends 4-H Club.*

VGCA Board member Marc Gorelick presented a check for \$1,500 to the Seven Bends 4-H club on Sunday, June 11 during one of their practice sessions at the NORVA range near Star Tannery, Virginia.

NORVA had recently upgraded the range and the facilities used by the 4-H'ers were excellent. While there he observed the boys and girls loading and shooting black powder muzzle loaders. While the kids were well coached and closely monitored by their adult coaches, and were seriously observing all safety rules, they were obviously having fun while learning how to handle and shoot their black powder rifles. Their enthusiasm for shooting muzzle loaders and desire to excel was evident. Both the adults and kids of the Seven Bends 4-H club were appreciative of the VGCA's support.



*Loading the muzzle loaders.*

The Seven Bends 4-H Shooting Education Club is well regarded and has been involved in youth shooting programs for years. The club has a long tradition of excellence in youth shooting education and community service. For instance, in November 2016 the Shenandoah County 4-H Achievement Program awarded club members with achievement awards for shooting education. During the week of June 11, the club hosted 80 kids at the range as part of a local sheriff's youth program.



*Seven Bends 4-H members on the firing line.*

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★ **Membership Report for July 2017: IMPORTANT: Keeping your contact information and addresses current:** We are still getting bounced emails and returned hard copy newsletters. If you have not received newsletters or the recent Election Ballot, or have changed either your USPS mailing address or your e-Mail address, please provide this information ASAP to Membership Chair, Bill Chronister at [vgca\\_membership@cox.net](mailto:vgca_membership@cox.net) (note underscore between *vgca* and *membership*) and to Larry Hare, Newsletter Distribution at [LaurenceHare@gmail.com](mailto:LaurenceHare@gmail.com). While convenient, using work e-Mail addresses may affect your receipt of newsletters or ballots due to enhanced security and attachment restrictions often used in corporate systems. Thanks!!! Bill Chronister, Membership Chair.

Please welcome our new Annual Member.

- William Tribble of Vienna, VA was sponsored by Ernie Lyles.

Welcome aboard and congratulations. We hope to see you at the Monthly Membership Meeting on Thursday, August 24, 2017.

★ **New Member Applications:** The VGCA has received Membership Application(s) from the following individual(s) for your review. The applicant's information and sponsor's name is published below for the review of the VGCA membership. If there are any comments, please notify an Officer or Director before the September Membership Meeting.

- Mark Bonanno of Alexandria, VA is sponsored by Wesley Chappell and Phil Hill
- Ethan Kauffman of Alexandria, VA is sponsored by Shannon Zeigler

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★ Would the member who bought the Winchester Model 52 from Jack please contact him about the anvil you spoke to him about, either at the next meeting, or call him at 703-999-9458. Thank you.

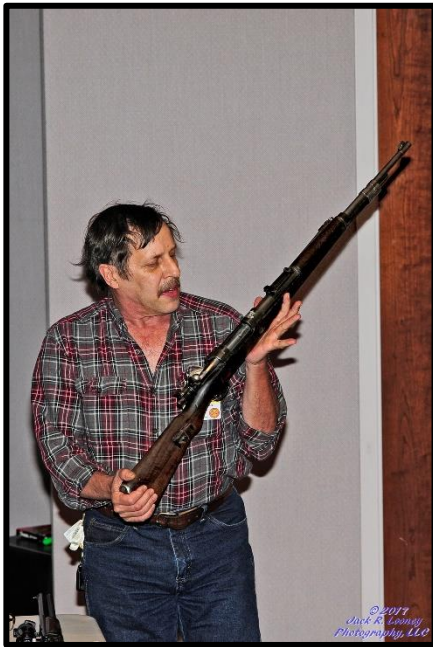
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## Show-n-Tell

Member 1 presented two very interesting modern rifles. The first was an FN FNC Standard Model chambered in 5.56x45. These rifles can be found as semi-automatics and fitted with a National Firearms Act (NFA) registered/transferrable full auto sear, making it a "reasonably priced" (this is a relative term!) fully automatic rifle. That is the case with this example (which is now on its second barrel!).



Member 1's second rifle was a reproduction FG42 – a modern semi-automatic copy of the famous WWII German light machine gun. Made by SMG Guns in Decatur, Texas, this VERY authentic reproduction does everything like the original except shoot fully auto. This “affordable” version (have you priced an original FG42?) fires from a closed bolt and can be made with many different finishes and wood furniture. It is truly a work of art!



Member 2 shared three rifles manufactured by FN. The first was a Model 30. Made for Belgian military in 1951-1952 (this example was made in 1952), it is chambered in .30/06 and features the crest of Leopold II on the top of the receiver. It is also marked with an “ABL”, which stands for “Armee Belge-Belgisch Leger” (which translates as “Belgian Army”, in French and Dutch, both official languages of Belgium).



The second rifle was an FN 1952 Belgian military trainer in .22LR. Approximately 1000 of these post-WWII trainers were made. They had a rear peep sight which was supposed to mimic the rear sight on an FN49 rifle. Because the rear sight was very flimsy, few trainers will be found today with the rear sight intact.

Member 2's third rifle was another FN trainer – this one the Model 1930 made for Israel (not pictured). Designed to train Israeli recruits on the K98 rifle, FN made approximately 1,800 of these post-war single-shot trainers. This example was made in 1951.

Member 3 presented another FN Mauser with a connection to Israel. This one was a K98k, originally made in the 1950s for the Israeli Defense Force in 8mm Mauser (7.92x57). This particular rifle, complete with an Israeli crest on the receiver, was later converted to 7.62x51 NATO.



Member 4 also brought an Israeli K98k, but one with a slightly more convoluted past. This example was stamped “swp 45” indicating the receiver was made during WWII at Waffen Werke Brunn (aka Brno) in Czechoslovakia. The rifle itself may or may not have been WWII production, as the Czechs used left-over wartime receivers (and many other parts) to manufacture K98s postwar – and indeed, made K98s until 1950. Originally chambered in 8mm Mauser, this rifle was also converted to 7.62x51 NATO. Member 4 shared several accessories for the K98, to include an Israeli made M1949 bayonet, a grenade launcher, and a practice rifle-launched grenade.



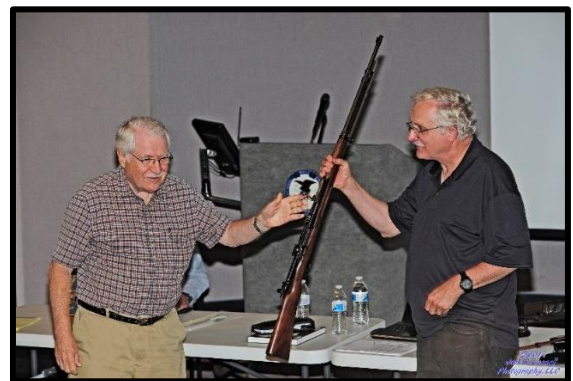
Member 4 also shared a recently acquired semi-automatic VEPR AK74. Manufactured by Molot in 2016, it is chambered in 5.45x39 and incorporates several RPK parts, to include barrel and furniture. What is significant about this particular version is that it was banned from further importation into the United States in June of this year. Acquiring one before the supply had dried up would appear to be a very wise investment indeed!

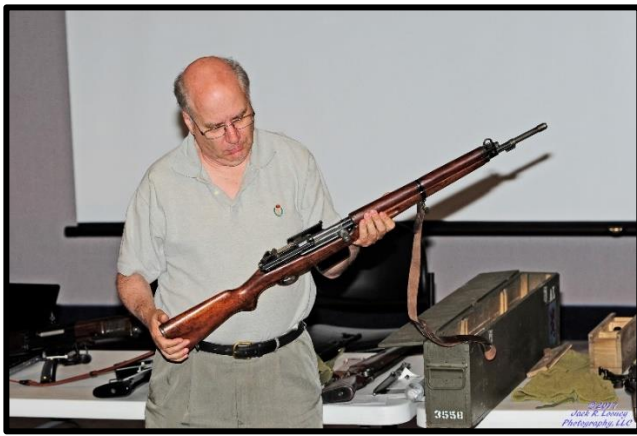
Member 5 presented a Marlin lever-action Model 1895 "Limited V" chambered in .45/70. Only 1000 of this particular model were made, all in 2001. It is the 5<sup>th</sup> limited series of Model 1895 rifles and features a part octagonal/part round barrel as well as a full-length magazine tube. This fine rifle was acquired at our March Gun Show.



On a night of rifles (most with an FN connection), Member 6 brought a Pieper Bayard Model 1908 pistol. Heinrich (Henri) Pieper was one of the original founders/investors of FN, though he had his own firearms company. The Model 1908 was a blowback semiautomatic pistol that was made between ~1909 and 1923. They were chambered in 6.35mm (.25 ACP, which is very scarce), 7.65mm (.32ACP), and 9mm Kurz (.380 ACP). The Pieper factory was captured by the Germans in 1914 and continued making Model 1908s throughout WWI. This particular pistol is in .32 ACP and has an Imperial German acceptance stamp which indicates use by the Germans during the war.

The next Show-n-Tell item was provided by Member 7. It was a Mauser "Serviceman's Rifle." This beautiful target rifle, chambered in 8.15x46r, has markings linking it to an Austrian Shooting Club.





Member 8 presented an FN49 sniper rifle. Between 1949 and 1953, the semi-automatic FN49 battle rifle was adopted by eight countries (in order: Venezuela, Egypt, Belgium, Luxembourg, Indonesia, Belgian Congo, Columbia, and Argentina) and was the predecessor to the FN FAL. This example was made for the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and is chambered in .30/06. It is a complete sniper rig, with scope and transit case (all three items purchased separately at the same auction many years ago).

Member 9 shared not just a Springfield Model 1884 (a single-shot breech-loader in .45/70) but also the story of the man responsible for many of the design improvements of this particular model – Adelbert R. Buffington. Many collectors are familiar with the “Buffington rear sight” of this model “Trapdoor”, but we learned that then-Lieutenant Colonel Buffington was also responsible for the improved cam latch lock as well as the rod bayonet. He eventually retired as a Brigadier General and Chief of U.S. Army Ordnance, having served from 1861-1901.



## In Review

The “In Review” section of the newsletter includes VGCA member reviews of guns 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).

### ★ Museum

#### *A Trip to the Museum*

## THE INDIANA MILITARY MUSEUM

### *A Time Capsule of American Military History*

*By Marc Gorelick, VGCA*

If you are ever traveling through Indiana, the Indiana Military Museum in historic Vincennes is a must-see. The museum houses one of the best comprehensive collections of military arms, artifacts, and memorabilia in the country. A visit to the museum is a journey through time and space, from the

American Revolution to the beaches of Normandy; the jungles of Vietnam to the deserts of Afghanistan. Visitors explore the life and times of brave military men and women: the uniforms they wore, weapons they used, and vehicles they drove. Many of the items in the collections are unique and of historical significance. The museum is expanding its facilities and frequently updates its collection with new artifacts and featured exhibits, so there is always something fresh and exciting to see.



Exhibits include:

#### SMALL ARMS AND ARTILLERY

This is a must for the gun collector. From Civil War mini-balls to a 16-inch battleship projectile; flintlock rifles to an 8-inch Howitzer, the museum displays weaponry covering the history of the United States military. The vast collection of individual weapons includes such artifacts as a Plains Indian metal tipped arrow, Philippine warrior swords from the Spanish American war, and muskets, rifles and pistols from colonial post-revolutionary times to Afghanistan. Larger items include WWI machine guns and a British 60-pounder field gun, a WWII twin .50 caliber machine gun mount from a PT boat, and dozens of cannons and artillery pieces ranging from 37mm anti-tank guns to the massive 8-inch gun.



#### ARMORED FIGHTING VEHICLES

The museum's armor collection includes tracked and wheeled vehicles from the United States and other countries, both friend and foe. Many of these are in running condition and are demonstrated throughout the year. While the majority of the armor collection is from WWII, there are also specimens from the Korean War, Vietnam, and the Gulf War. The collection includes a rare WWII Japanese Type 95 light tank, a German half-track, and a Russian-made 2S1 Gvozdika 122mm self-propelled howitzer used by Iraq. There are also numerous examples of Allied armor; from a British Sexton to the Sherman and M-47.



### SOFT SKINNED MILITARY VEHICLES

The collection has a great number of military support vehicles on display, ranging from a WWI Renault field hospital truck to a modern Humvee. There is also a multitude of the ubiquitous jeep, ambulances from different wars, amphibious vehicles, trucks, fire suppression and ammunition handling units, and a command car.

### AIRCRAFT

If you are a U.S. military aircraft enthusiast, then you are in luck. Among the many aircraft in the museum's collection are a WWII C-47 and C-45, the A-26 Invader that fought from WWII to Vietnam, a T-33 jet trainer, and a Cold War nuclear missile along with an F-4 Phantom and an F-16 Fighting Falcon. Small items include a fragment of a WWI Zeppelin, and the clothing worn by Ted Lawson, pilot of the B-25 "Ruptured Duck" in the Doolittle Raid and author of the book, *Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo*.



## OTHER ITEMS

The Indiana Military Museum features thousands of unique artifacts from the Civil War to present day, including a wide range of uniforms. It has possibly the best collection of General Officer uniforms in the country, including President Eisenhower's D-Day uniform. There are Civil War flags carried in pivotal battles, along with the Medal of Honor awarded to a member of Michigan Cavalry at the battle of Dinwiddie Courthouse. There is also an original Quantrill's Guerillas reunion ribbon which belonged to Frank James. The Indian War exhibit includes a hand knitted afghan made by Libby Custer as a gift to an officer serving in Custer's Regiment. The museum also sponsors Civil War, WWI and WW2 reenactor events.

The Indiana Military Museum is located at  
715 South 6th Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

General Hours: March 1 – December 31 the museum is open daily from 10:00am to 4:00pm. During winter (January 1 – February 28<sup>th</sup>) the museum is open Tuesday – Sunday, 11:00am to 4:00pm. Closed Monday.

Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for veterans and seniors (over 62), free for WWII Vets, \$3 for children aged 6-18, and children under 6 get in for free.

Group tours are available upon request.

## ✪ Book

# FN Mauser Rifles – Arming Belgium and the World

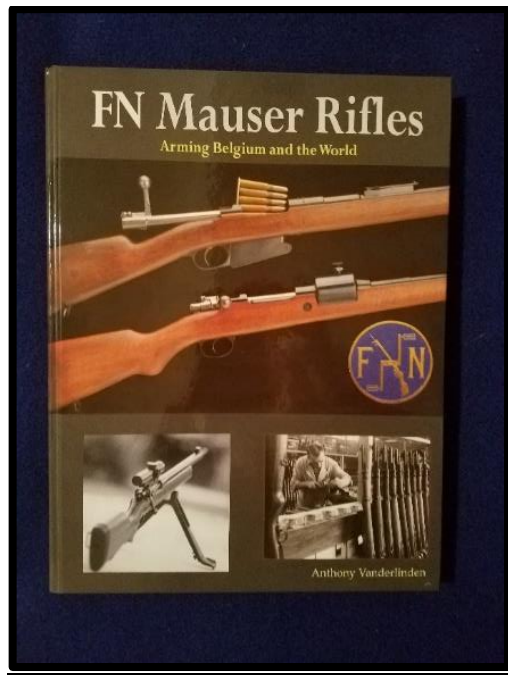
*By Anthony Vanderlinden*

Wet Dog Publications, 428 pages

Review by Rob Becker

“Hello, my name is Rob and I am a bibliophile.” Perhaps I am not the best person to be writing book reviews as I like all books – especially books about firearms. I already had Anthony Vanderlinden's book “*FN Browning Pistols*” so I was looking forward to our June speaker's follow-on effort “*FN Mauser Rifles*.” This book does not disappoint! It is not just another dry compendium of serial number lists and close-up photos of factory stamps, but rather it is an interesting and enjoyable read about a country (Belgium), a city (Liege), a company (Fabrique Nationale), and the bolt action rifles it produced for over 50 years. Anthony Vanderlinden is nothing if not a story teller! With access to the FN archives, the author ensured this book was LAVISHLY illustrated on almost every page. Many of the photos show these rifles in the field and in the hands of soldiers, giving context to their use and usefulness.

As a testament to its utility, I referenced “FN Mauser Rifles” several times when adding details to June Show-n-Tell rifles.



While this book does indeed contain serial number lists and close-up photos of factory stamps, it also contains patent drawings, contract details, photographs of production lines and machinery, contemporary ads and catalogs, entire sections on prototypes and unique pieces, all kinds of accessories, and – of course – bayonets.

Extensively researched and illustrated with several hundred of black and white (mostly period) and color photographs, this book was published last November and is available from several sources on-line for approximately \$69. This book will be a welcome addition to any library on FN or military Mauser rifles.

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## Upcoming Events and Shows

**PLEASE NOTE:** There are sometimes changes in schedules by gun show promoters or errors on websites. Members are strongly encouraged to *verify before driving to a show*. These dates have been published as of this writing, but are not guaranteed. If you have a favorite show you would like to tell other members about, please email the Editor with a short review, including the show content, i.e., modern, new, collectible or antique, and I will include it as room permits. **Yellow** = Collector organizations.

### VIRGINIA 2017

- August 26-27, 2017 – Richmond, VA – Kmart at Midlothian – *Showmasters*
- Sept 9-10, 2017 – Fishersville, VA – Augusta Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- Sept 9-10, 2017 – Manassas, VA – Prince William County Fairgrounds – *SGK*
- Sept 9-10, 2017 – Norfolk, VA – Norfolk Scope - *Showmasters*
- Sept 16-17, 2017 – Fredericksburg, VA – Expo and Conference Center – *SGK*
- Sept 16-17, 2017 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center - *C&E*
- Sept 23-24, 2017 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK*
- Sept 29-Oct 1, 2017 - Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters and C&E*
- Oct 7-8, 2017 – Dale City, VA – Dale City VFW – *Showmasters/Old Dominion*
- Oct 7-8, 2017 – Harrisonburg, VA – Rockingham County Fairgrounds – *C&E*

### MARYLAND 2017

- Sept 9-10, 2017 – Friendship, MD – Howard County Fairgrounds – *Silverado Gun Shows*

### PENNSYLVANIA 2017

- August 26-27, 2017 – Allentown, PA – Econolodge Conference Center – *Eagle Arms*
- August 26-27, 2017 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center - *Showmasters*
- Sept 10, 2017 – Brodheadsville, PA – West End Fire Company – *West End Fire Company*
- Sept 16-17, 2017 – Gettysburg, PA – All Star Conference Center – *Eagle Arms*

- Sept 23-24, 2017 – Philadelphia, PA – National Guard Armory – *The Gun Shows*
- Sept 23-24, 2017 – Washington, PA – Washington County Fair Grounds – *ARH Sport Shop*
- Sept 23-24, 2017 – Wind Gap, PA – Plainfield Fire Company – *Eagle Arms*
- Sept 30-Oct 1, 2017 – Matamoras, PA – Best Western Hotel – *Northeast Gun Shows*

#### **SPECIAL NOTE – OHIO - 2017**

- Sept 9-10, 2017 – Wilmington, OH – The Roberts Centre – *Special Guests: Winchester Arms Collectors Association & The Antique Bowie Knife Association (Members and invited guests only)*

#### **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. 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 regards 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.

- ✳ 2 1/2 box of 9mm "Simunition" ammunition, \$25.00
- Glock Model 27 [.40 S&W] Barrel WITH Recoil Spring Assembly, \$90.00
- Sauer Model 38H Slide Assembly, WITH Barrel, AND Spare Breech Block, \$325.00
- Steyr Model 1908, .25 ACP, Complete Slide Assembly, WITH Barrel, \$200.00
- Luger Swiss Contract Grip Safety, NEW, NEVER Installed, \$150.00
- 1891 Argentine Mauser NAVY Marked Rear Sight, \$45.00
- Colt Junior/Astra Cub Barrel, .22 Short, NEW, \$75.00
- Remington 1100 Forearm, NEW, Pre-1970 Production, Old Catalogue Number 26870, \$95.00
- If interested, please contact Jack at 703-999-9458 or see him at the August meeting.

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.

#### **WANT-TO-BUY:**

- ✳ Member Kim Walton is interested in buying Newton and Meeker rifles. If you have one to sell, please contact him at (210)-602-0506 or [copo6970@yahoo.com](mailto:copo6970@yahoo.com)

The e-mail address for any Newsletter related matters or a submission 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 Larry Hare.