



# VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.NET

Est. 1983 (A Not-for-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G8162  
CMP Affiliate Number 026160



**President**  
**Show/Reservations Manager**  
**Membership**

Bernie Breighner  
Rick Nahas  
Bill Chronister

Phone: 703-200-0470  
Cell: 571-215-8761  
Cell: 703-204-0138

[BFBKAC@gmail.com](mailto:BFBKAC@gmail.com)  
[jet53sw@aol.com](mailto:jet53sw@aol.com)  
[Vgca\\_membership@cox.net](mailto:Vgca_membership@cox.net)

## July-August 2018 VGCA Newsletter

### ★ June Presentation

The topic at our June membership meeting was “Force on Force Training Firearms” presented by member Gary Latta. Commonly referred to as “simunitions” (Simunition is actually the brand name for a specific type of non-lethal training ammunition from General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems Canada, Inc.), this equipment has been used to train law enforcement and military personnel since the late 1980s. The training hardware generally consists of two main components – a low power projectile containing a marker and a modified firearm to fire the projectile – plus protective gear for the shooters, of course!



The purpose of this equipment is to train “force on force” – that is, to allow living, breathing targets to safely shoot back at trainees. Both “friendlies” and “bad guys” have similar weapons – always colored blue for instant recognition. These guns cannot fire “live” ammo, so the danger of mixing live and non-lethal rounds is eliminated.



*Left: “Simunition” round with blue marker. Right: Glock 17 made specifically to cycle the very low power sim rounds. This particular model cannot be made into a live weapon. Note the blue color (for training only)*

The non-lethal training ammunition consists of a plastic capsule containing a marker that will leave a colored mark on the target. Different colors are available, so each shooter in a particular scenario can see where his/her rounds landed. The capsule is sub-caliber (generally around .30”) so standard ammunition will not chamber. It is propelled either by a very small powder charge (Simunition), or in some cases (Ultimate Training Munitions (UTM)), just the primer. Because of the limited usage/production compared to “normal” ammo, non-lethal ammunition costs slightly more. The tradeoff in cost comes from the realism in training – an instructor acting in a specific role (either as a “bad guy” or a “neutral” – such as a hostage) can provide training that is just not possible with a paper target.

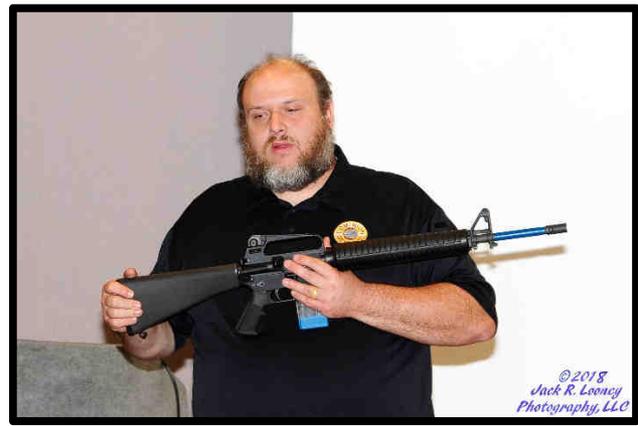


*Left: Glock with conversion barrel and slide. Right: Sig converted to operate with non-lethal rounds*

The “weapon,” which can be a semiautomatic pistol, a revolver, rifle, or even a submachine gun has a small diameter rifled bore to stabilize to sub-caliber rounds and is a straight blow-back action (except for the revolvers of course). Most weapons utilize a standard frame/lower with a dedicated training upper. AR15s and M16s use an upper that takes the 9mm non-lethal Simunition/UTM type ammunition.

In addition to the many example training weapons that he brought to show us, Gary also shared a selection of videos demonstrating the “simunitions” in use.

The club thanks Gary for an inside look at a fascinating topic unfamiliar to most of us!



Left: Gary with a SMG made for force-on-force training use. Right: A converted AR15.

### President's Comments

Fellow VGCA Members,

I hope everyone has been having a great summer! We have been busy here at VGCA getting the organization up to speed in the world of social media. The board feels this is a critical function to promote our club and our gun shows. We have hired a part-time media consultant to set up new accounts such as Twitter and to revamp our Facebook presence. Added benefits include attracting younger members who are more reliant on social media to get their information. The entire board and I are excited to get these initiatives moving. Our next project will be to update the website to make it more user-friendly, current, and a valuable resource to the collecting community.

Our August meeting will be a theme night, so please bring your favorite three items from World War II (not necessarily firearms). We will have each member briefly describe what they brought and then there will be a "group interaction" where other members can view/discuss the items more closely. It should be a fun and very interesting night – I hope to see you there!

--*Bernie Breighner*, President

★ **June Business:** President Bernie Breighner called the April meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Jim Burgess led us through the pledge of allegiance. There were 62 VGCA members and guests in attendance. The guests were introduced to the membership.

Bernie opened his first meeting as President by giving a brief "State of the Club."

- VGCA membership stands at 425. We have seen an significant increase in membership applications as a result of having a VGCA table at the Chantilly Gun Shows this year
- We are in solid financial shape and are in the process of developing our budget for 2019
- Bernie shared the silver medallion earned by Rick Nahas for his Pre-Model 37, 5 screw, 5 shot, J Frame Aircrewman prototype at this year's NRA Annual Membership meetings in Dallas, TX. He also made a pitch for a volunteer to display at future NRA Annual Membership meetings. Next year will be in Indianapolis, IN.
- We are looking at publishing a couple of firearms-related books, including the range notebook of Ned Roberts (who worked with others to develop the .257 Roberts cartridge)
- VGCA Polo Shirts are available for pick-up tonight. We are ordering VGCA patches and possibly more VGCA table clothes (Jim Burgess is sending around a sign-up list for the latter)

Rick Nahas provided an update on our November Gun Show. He and Dave Litchfield also made a pitch for displaying at future NRA meetings.

Steve Gomes is looking for volunteers for show security at our November show. He will have a sign-up sheet available at our August membership meeting

Rob Becker announced that he would take final orders for more VGCA Polo shirts tonight.

Bill Chronister mentioned that we would have 55 annual members after the June applicants are approved.

Remember – there is no membership meeting in July!

★ **Upcoming August 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting:** Our August presentation will be provided by . . . the membership! The topic is “**Three Favorites from WW2**”. Bring your three favorite items from the Second War World (they do not necessarily have to be firearms) and share them with the other members of the club. The items will be set up on a table and owners will talk about them as other members walk from table to table. Now is the time to show off your items without having to build a formal presentation. Social time begins at 6 p.m. (there will be pizza) with the meeting beginning at 7 p.m.

## ★ Other News! ★

### ★ **Membership Chairman’s Report July-August 2018:**

Please welcome our new Annual Members:

- **Bronson Armstrong** of Marshall, VA was sponsored by **Bill Chronister**
- **Matthew DiRisio** of Marshall, VA was sponsored by **Bill Chronister**
- **Mike Mahoney** of Manassas, VA was sponsored by **Bill Chronister**
- **Johnny Ray McAlexander** of Montclair, VA was sponsored by **David Litchfield**
- **Michael G. Renaghan** of Herndon, VA was sponsored by **Chris Britton**
- **Craig Weston** of Mount Seton, VA was sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**
- **Jonathan Twiford** of Virginia Beach, VA was sponsored by **Marc Gorelick** and **Bill Chronister**

Gentlemen, welcome aboard and congratulations. Your Annual Membership ID card has been mailed to your home address on your membership application. We hope to see you at the upcoming Membership Meeting on Thursday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00PM at the NRA National Firearms Museum. We begin with a social session and refreshments (for a suggested \$5 donation), from 6:15 to 7:00.

**New Member Applications:** The VGCA 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 or questions, please notify an Officer or Director, and the Membership Chair before September 23, 2018.

- **Michael Cummings** of Manassas Park, VA is sponsored by **T.J. Parmele**
- **Montgomery Hand** of Alexandria, VA is sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**
- **Paul Latchford, Jr.** of Clifton, VA is sponsored by **Joe Roberts**
- **Richard W. Middleton** of Manassas, VA is sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**
- **Paul Moog** of Fairfax, VA is sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**
- **George Primbs** of Lake Ridge, VA is sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**
- **Nathaniel Rife** of Manassas, VA is sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**
- **Kasev Ram Sundar** of Woodbridge, VA is sponsored by **Phil Hill**
- **Andrew Woodard** of Manassas, VA is sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**

**IMPORTANT: Please keep your contact information and addresses current:** If you are not receiving newsletters or other VGCA mailings, or have changed either your USPS mailing address or your e-Mail address, please provide corrected information ASAP to Membership Chair, Bill Chronister at [vgca\\_membership@cox.net](mailto:vgca_membership@cox.net) (note underscore between *vgca* and *membership*). For e-mail non-receipt, **FIRST CHECK** your SPAM folder or you Internet Service Provider (ISP) settings. While convenient, using work e-Mail addresses may affect your receipt of VGCA newsletters or communications due to enhanced security and attachment restrictions often used in corporate or government enterprise systems. Thanks!

☛ Notice: VGCA encourages its members to sign up for the emailed newsletter. Due to mailing and printing costs, the hard copy mailed newsletter is limited to 4-6 B&W pages. By getting the email version, you will receive a longer newsletter in color with photos of meetings; reviews of books, other shows, events or museums; and a schedule of upcoming shows and events. These excellent newsletters are sent in encrypted PDF format. It can be viewed on a PC or mobile device, or printed out.

~~ Bill Chronister, Membership Chair, [vgca\\_membership@cox.net](mailto:vgca_membership@cox.net)



### ☛ VGCA Polo Shirts

For those of you who ordered a VGCA Polo Shirt, they will be available for pick-up at the August Membership meeting (Thursday, 23 Aug 18).



## Thank You!

I want to thank club member Matt Gminski, who helped me out at a recent Chantilly Gun Show. He gave me a hand after seeing me struggle to pack up and get my stuff to my car after the show ended.

Thank you, Matt!

*--Jack Looney*



## VGCA TABLE AT CHANTILLY SHOW UPDATE

*By Marc Gorelick*

The VGCA promotional table at the gun show at the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly has been successful in promoting the club, promoting our show, educating the public, and recruiting new members. The last show at Chantilly is no exception. Many thanks to members Matt DiRisio, Chris Britton, George Dungan, and Joe Roberts for manning the table at the last show July 27-29. Special thanks to Joe and member Sydney Rodda for displaying pieces from their collections. Sydney “loaned” us a Winchester Model 92 in .25-20 and a Colt Lightning DA in .38 Colt. Joe displayed his North Vietnamese SKS that he brought back from his tour. The items helped to attract people to the table. Thanks are also due to those who manned the table at past Chantilly shows: Andy Galusha, Steve Gomes, Wes Chappell, Phil Hill, Mark Howard and Dov Kawamoto. Apologies if I left anyone out. Remember, manning the VGCA table is not a heavy lift. There is plenty of time to walk the show and spend money, and volunteers get into the show free during the day you are at the table.



## CMP 1911 Customer Purchase Details:

1. **CMP 1911** order form packet is now posted.
2. **CMP 1911** customer service number is 256-835-8455 extension 461
3. **CMP 1911** customer service email address is [cmp1911@thecmp.org](mailto:cmp1911@thecmp.org)
4. Only **ONE** **CMP 1911** order form packet per customer may be submitted.
5. **CMP 1911** order form packet must be mailed to the following address. This includes USPS, UPS, Fed Ex, etc. **Orders must be postmarked NOT PRIOR TO 4 September 2018 and NOT AFTER 4 October 2018.** Any orders received postmarked prior to September 4 will not be accepted. Hand delivered, emailed and faxed orders will **not** be accepted. Only orders sent to the following **CMP 1911** address will be accepted:  
**CMP 1911**  
**1800 Roberts Drive**  
**Anniston, AL 36207**
6. Customer names from **complete CMP 1911** order form packets will be fed into a computerized Random Number Generator on 5 October 2018. The Random Number Generator will provide a list of names in sequential order through the random picking process. Customers will be contacted in the sequence provided by the Random Number Generator. The **CMP 1911** customers will select their grade of pistol (Service, Field or Rack) from available inventory at the time of order notification. Customers with higher numbers may have fewer grades from which to choose. When this year's allotment of 1911s is exhausted, the remaining orders will be held in the existing sequence for all future allotments of 1911s. The CMP does not know what future allotments might be.
7. **All 1911's will be shipped to a 01, 02 or 07 Federal Firearms License. Customers MUST provide a signed copy of the 01, 02 or 07 FFL.**

### **CMP 1911 Pricing:**

CMP has priced the 1911 type pistols at fair market value in accordance with CMP's enabling legislation.

**Service Grade \$1050.** Pistol may exhibit minor pitting and wear on exterior surfaces and friction surfaces. Grips are complete with no cracks. Pistol is in issuable condition.

**Field Grade \$950.** Pistol may exhibit minor rust, pitting, and wear on exterior surfaces and friction surfaces. Grips are complete with no cracks. Pistol is in issuable condition.

**Rack Grade \$850.** Pistol will exhibit rust, pitting, and wear on exterior surfaces and friction surfaces. Grips may be incomplete and exhibit cracks. Pistol requires minor work to return to issuable condition.

**Auction Grade.** (Sales will to be determined by auctioning the pistol). The condition of the auction pistol will be described when posted for auction. Note: If you have already purchased a 1911 from CMP, you will not be allowed to purchase an auction 1911. If you purchase an auction 1911, your name will be pulled from the sequenced list. No repeat purchasers are allowed until all orders received have been filled.

Please go to the CMP 1911 website for complete information and to download forms.



# NEW VGCA SHOW DISPLAY RULES AND GUIDELINES

The VGCA Board of Directors appointed a committee to review, update and improve the display criteria, rules and guidelines for displays at our show and displays that we may sponsor and send to the NRA Annual Meetings to represent the club. The committee, made up of Board members Rob Becker and Marc Gorelick, and Display Chairman Jim Burgess, engaged in a lengthy and arduous process of review. After careful consideration, the Committee presented its recommendations to the Board, and the Board approved them at its July 19 meeting. Here are the approved recommendations:

## NRA DISPLAYS

1. NRA display nominations should primarily be picked from among the best displays at VGCA shows. Displays in the last 1 ½ years (at least three previous shows) should be considered and displayers approached by assigned members of the board and asked if they would support a club display.
2. If no VGCA Show displayers want to display at the NRA or no show displayer is asked, then volunteers can be solicited from the membership.
3. NRA displays are limited to only one funded VGCA display per NRA Annual Meeting.
4. VGCA does not have to display at every NRA Annual Meeting. A primary consideration is distance/cost.

## VGCA SHOW DISPLAY AWARDS

1. Plaques should be given for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in addition to a monetary prize.
2. Photos of displays and display winners to be included in the VGCA newsletter and posted on the website. Displayers can opt-out of either their display photos or photos of themselves if they have concerns about privacy.

## VGCA SHOW DISPLAYS

1. Displayers should submit the titles of their display at least one week prior to the show. They should be submitted to Rick Nahas, Show Director, and Jim Burgess. This is so Jim can pre-print the judging sheets and other documentation he uses.
2. A line will be added to the table application so people can give the title of their displays. This will start with the March 2019 show.
3. The first two display tables will continue to be free for VGCA members. Subsequent tables will be charged a nominal fee for each additional table at the discretion of the board.
4. Displays by up to two people will be eligible for awards.
5. Displays by three or more people are permitted but they will not be eligible for awards.

## DISPLAY JUDGING

1. New judging criteria with 10 items, each criteria item worth 10 points, was adopted. This has been changed in the *Show Rules and Guidelines* and will be posted on the website.
2. Judging will no longer be by volunteers. Judges will be displayers who will judge others' displays but not their own. This returns us to a prior practice.

Many thanks to Rob, Marc and Jim for their hard work!



*Educational displays are an important part of our gun shows. Here is Wally Ustupski's Polish **Radom Vis 35** display which earned a well-deserved 1<sup>st</sup> place at our March 2018 show!*

## ★ June 2018 Show-n-Tell ★

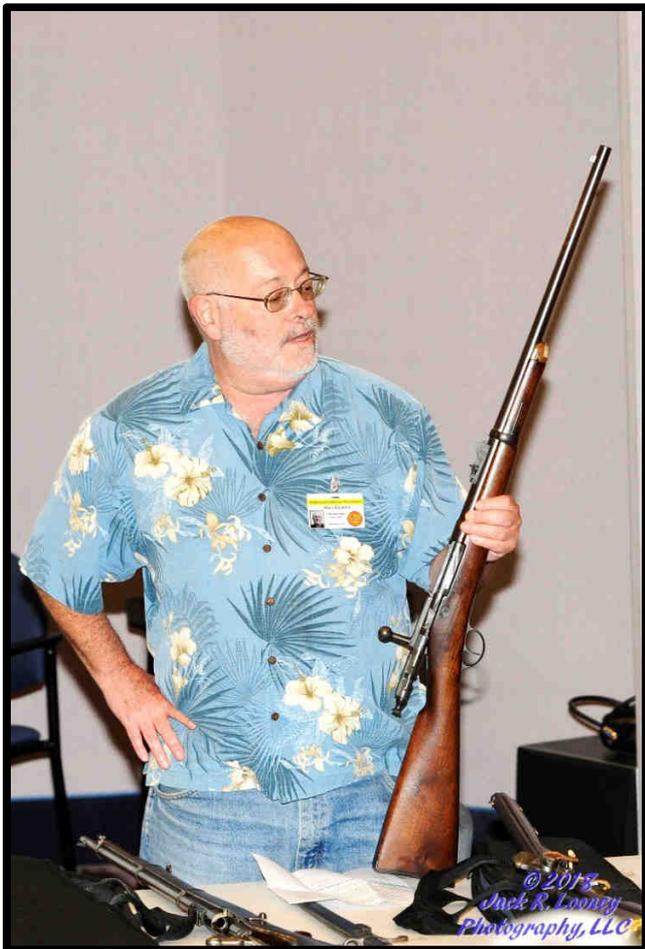
On a night featuring “simunitions,” Member 1 (*at right*) kept to the theme and presented an Umarex Mauser 712 select fire “Broomhandle” - though this particular pistol is actually a CO2 powered BB gun! It is fully functional as either a full-auto or semi-automatic. Its magazine holds 18 .177 caliber BBs and the CO2 cartridge. It will keep its shots in a 6-inch circle at 15 feet range. This cute little shooter has the look, feel, and function of a Schnellfeuer but at \$120.00, it retails for a very small fraction of the cost of the genuine article!



Member 2 (*left*) brought in a reproduction Pennsylvania Rifle from the Christian’s Spring school. Christian’s Spring, near Bethlehem, PA, was noted for manufacturing a rifle that transitioned from the heavy German Jaeger rifle to a slimmer and lighter rifle adopted for use on the American frontier (circa 1750-1780). This flintlock is modeled after the Edward Marshall rifle attributed to Moravian gunsmith Andreas Albrecht, made in approximately 1762 to 1765. Crafted by modern-day custom gunsmith Ted Kramer of Minnesota, it is made to shoot a .52 caliber round ball.



Member 3 (*above*) presented a Portuguese Model 1886/98 Kropatschek rifle. Made in Austria by Steyr, the M1886 features an 8-round tubular magazine under the barrel (similar to the German Model 1871/84) and was originally chambered in the 8x60mm blackpowder round. This particular example was converted in 1898 to use the smokeless powder 8x56r with an updated rear sight to match the higher-velocity round.

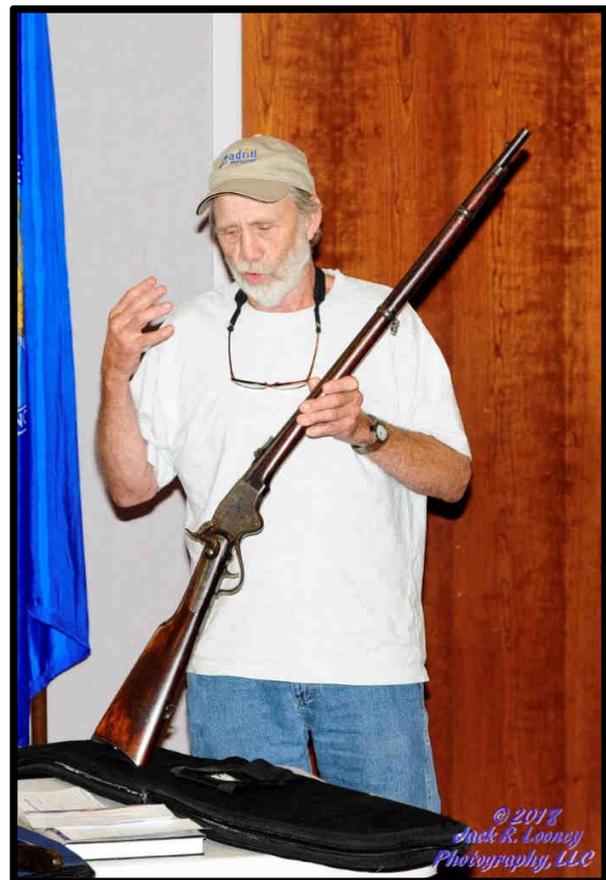


Member 4 (*left*) brought in a piece of history with his Winchester Hotchkiss 2<sup>nd</sup> Model Carbine. Chambered in .45/70, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Model Carbine followed the 1<sup>st</sup> Model Carbine (500 produced) and the 1<sup>st</sup> Model Rifle (also 500 produced) as the first U.S. Army bolt action weapons. Fed by a 5-round tubular magazine in the buttstock, the 1<sup>st</sup> Model carbines and rifles were recommended by the U.S. Army Ordnance Board in 1878 for trials. Despite a tendency for the stocks to crack at the wrist (the wood was very thin due to the passage of the large diameter tube magazine through that area) and a confusing combination safety/magazine cut-off lever, the infantry liked the 1<sup>st</sup> Model Winchester Hotchkiss rifles. The cavalry – not so much. As a result, in 1880 Winchester offered the 2<sup>nd</sup> Model Carbine with an improved stock design and separate levers for the safety and magazine cut-off. However, the United States Congress would only authorize an additional \$20,000 for the new trials guns, so Winchester delivered the upgraded actions to the Springfield Armory where between 518 and 522 (sources vary) guns were assembled and completed. Many of these Winchester Hotchkiss (and Springfield) 2<sup>nd</sup> Models were fielded by the 4<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry during the Apache Wars of 1882-1886.



Member 5 (*above*) was looking for some assistance in identifying his Show-n-Tell contribution. It was a side-by-side double barrel hammer shotgun with an under lever chambered in 16 Gauge. It has a fairly short stock/length of pull, perhaps indicating it was made for a woman or adolescent. Purchased earlier this year at the Chantilly Gun Show, the only markings are a script “R” underneath a 5-pointed crown and a serif “K” between the barrels. Can anyone narrow down the country of origin? If so, member Frank Ogden would like to hear from you.

Member 6 (*at right*) also brought in a bit of a mystery gun to share with the membership. In this case, it is a Spencer/Springfield 3-band rifle. A chamber cast shows it is in .56/46, a Civil War carbine caliber. The extractor is definitely post-Civil War (~1877?) and the barrel is marked with a “VP” Eagle, signifying Springfield manufacture. Is this repeating rifle an experimental or trials gun? If you have an answer – or even an educated guess - please contact member Chip Smith!





At the May membership meeting, we had a show-n-tell “Collection in a Box” of three early cartridge handguns. In June, we were treated to another collection of handguns – this time by Member 7 (*above left*) and his French Pistol collection (*above right*). This group of five included the Model 1935A, and the redesigned M1935S. Adopted by the French military shortly before WWII, both semi-automatic pistols are chambered in 7.65 French Longue (a unique caliber only chambered in three guns – these two plus the MAS 38 submachinegun – and which is dimensionally similar to the .30 caliber Pedersen of Pedersen Device fame). Following the fall of France to Nazi Germany in 1940, production of the 1935A was continued for the German war machine. However, the tooling for the 1935S was hidden and production did not resume until after the Allies liberated France in 1944. The collection included two MAB Model Ds, semi-automatic pocket pistols chambered in 7.65mm (.32 ACP) – one made in 1940 (pre-occupation) and the other made in 1941 (post-occupation and stamped with a Waffenamts denoting inspection/acceptance for German use). The final pistol was a MAS Model 1950. This semi-automatic with a single-stack magazine is chambered in 9mm Parabellum. It is still in French service today. Many/most MAS 1950s found in the U.S. were brought back by GIs who served in Vietnam. A fine collection indeed!

To everyone who took the time and effort to share their treasures – thank you!

## ★ In Review ★

“In Review” is a relatively new section to the newsletter (started in August 2016) and 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: VALLEY FORGE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK GEORGE C. NEUMANN COLLECTION

By Marc Gorelick, VGCA

*“We were determined to persevere.” Private Joseph Plumb Martin, Continental Army*  
*“Grateful Americans will come to this shrine of quiet valor, this forge of our Republic’s iron core.”*  
*President Gerald R. Ford at Valley Forge, July 4, 1976*

Valley Forge National Historical Park is the site of the third winter encampment of the Continental Army, commanded by George Washington, during the American Revolution, taking place from December 1777 to June 1778. General Washington chose the location because it was between the seat of the Second Continental Congress in York, supply depots in Reading, and British forces in Philadelphia 18 miles to the east. It was a time of great suffering for the army, which was short of clothing, supplies and food. However, it was also a time of retraining, reorganization and rejuvenation. Few places evoke the spirit of patriotism and independence, represent individual and collective hardship and sacrifice, or



demonstrate the resolve, fortitude, tenacity and determination of the people of the United States to be free as does Valley Forge. The hardships shared by the officers and men, combined with Baron von Steuben's professional military training program turned a beaten army into a dedicated, professional fighting force able to take on and defeat the best that the British had. Valley Forge marks a turning point in the Revolutionary War.

The park today encompasses 3,500 acres and contains historical buildings, recreated encampment structures, memorials, museums, and recreation facilities. Established as the first state park of Pennsylvania in 1893, Valley Forge was designated a U.S. National Historic Landmark in 1961 and in 1976 Pennsylvania gave the park as a gift to the nation for the Bicentennial.



*English Long Land Service Musket (Brown Bess), .75 cal. George C. Neumann Collection.  
Photo – Valley Forge National Historical Park, National Park Service*

Valley Forge National Historical Park is the home of a number of diverse, historically important collections of artifacts and documents related to the 1777-1778 encampment the Revolution, and to the soldiers and officers who fought for and against our nation's independence. Among these collections, and of special interest to gun and arms collectors, is the George C. Neumann Collection of early American and Revolutionary arms. Comprising approximately 1,600 historic items, the Neumann collection consists of four separate, yet related, parts: firearms, edged weapons, pole arms, and accouterments. Much of the collection is on permanent display.



*German Jaeger Rifle, .51 cal. Neumann Collection. Photo - Valley Forge National Historical Park, NPS*

The George C. Neumann Collection exhibits a wide array of firearm technology and innovation from the 16th century to the early 19th century. It includes a wide range of pre-war and Revolutionary War guns used by both sides of the conflict. The firearms in this expansive collection range from early matchlocks and wheellocks to advanced flintlocks. They demonstrate how social and cultural conditions in Europe and America pushed the evolution of firearm technologies. In America, firearm technology lagged behind Europe, largely because the manufacturing facilities and greater population density existed in Europe. But, conditions in America pushed the mother country to supply its colonists with the most up-to-date firearms as possible. The guns in the collection were made by various manufacturers in different countries, including England, Germany, Spain, France, the Netherlands, and America. Several different types of long guns are represented - flintlock muskets, fowlers, carbines, wall guns, blunderbusses and rifles. The Neumann collection exhibit also includes a large number of flintlock pistols used by the different armies.



*French Infantry Musket, 69 cal., dated 1777. Neumann Collection. Photo - Valley Forge National Historical Park, NPS*

*French Officer's Flintlock Holster  
Pistol, 1750-1770. George C. Neumann  
Collection.  
Photo - Valley Forge National  
Historical Park, National Park Service*



Among the gun accessories in the Neumann collection are a number of powder testers and powder horns and powder flasks.

The edged weapon collection includes various swords and other bladed weapons from the various collections of Valley Forge. It contains a wide variety of period military swords and hunting swords used by officers and soldiers on both sides of the conflict, halberds, a spontoon and a pike. Swords and sword making are not fully appreciated today because both are antiquated weapons and trades. However, during the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries were important to different people for different reasons. A sword represented social standing in society for a civilian. For an officer, the sword represented both social standing and rank, as well as serving as a weapon of war. Lastly, for the common soldier or sailor, the sword represented the last means of offense or defense during close quarters combat. The hunting swords in the collection were civilian weapons that were used as symbols of rank by American officers who could not afford heavier military swords. The American halberds in this collection are also distinctive. They are locally made; their ornate designs are examples of American folk art.



*English Grenadier Hanger, 1750-1765.  
George C. Neumann Collection.  
Photo - Valley Forge National Historical Park,  
National Park Service*

And for those interested in historical research, John F. Reed Collection contains rare original 18th century manuscripts, broadsides, pamphlets, and books. The best known of these documents is the letter written at Valley Forge by General Washington on December 23, 1777 that expresses the desperate plight of the American army.

Valley Forge National Historical Park is located at 1400 North Outer Line Drive, King of Prussia, PA 19406. It can be driven to from the Washington, DC area. Entry to the park is free. The park grounds are open daily, year-round 7AM to dark (1/2 hr. after sunset). However you should go to the website to see the hours of the different sites and attractions in the park. The park website is:

<https://www.nps.gov/vafo/index.htm>. The phone number is: (610) 783-1000. You can visit the Library and Archive Services page at <https://www.nps.gov/vafo/learn/historyculture/laservices.htm> for more information about services offered by the Park Curator or to make an appointment to see the collections.

## Book

# Military Rifles of Japan

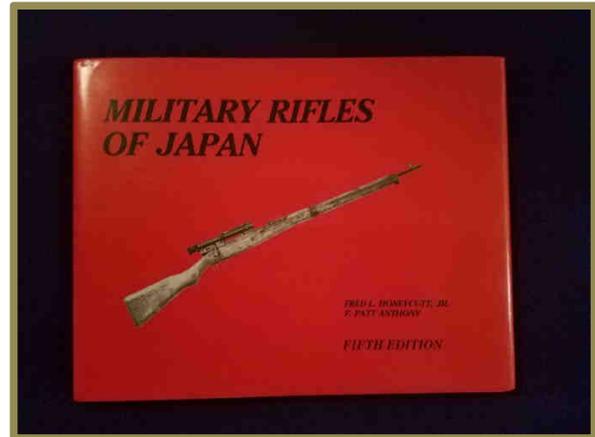
## By Fred L. Honeycutt, Jr. & F. Patt Anthony

Fifth Edition, Julin Books, 207 pages

*Review by Rob Becker, VGCA*

With the enabling assistance of Mr. Shannon Zeigler, our resident expert on Arisaka rifles, I recently purchased a Japanese Type 38. I did not know much about it beyond the caliber (6.5x50 semi-rimmed) and that it had a “ground ‘mum (indicative of a weapon surrendered after the war as opposed to a battlefield pick-up). The need to expand my knowledge of Japanese rifles seemed like an excellent opportunity to add a book to my gun library.

But what book? I quickly discovered that, unlike Lugers and Colts, Winchesters and Mausers, there simply are not a lot of reference books about Imperial Japanese weapons. A co-worker had recently purchased two Japanese rifles from a WWII veteran’s estate and found himself in a similar “knowledge deficit” situation. He recommended *Military Rifles of Japan* by Honeycutt and Anthony to me. After confirming with Shannon that this was a worthy acquisition, I ordered a copy (from Mr. Honeycutt himself, as it turns out).



At just over 200 pages, this is not an exhaustive tome on the subject but is a good general reference. As expected from the overall numbers produced, descriptions and data on the Type 38 and Type 99 rifles predominate, taking up almost a third of the book (67 pages). However, this book does cover every Japanese rifle and carbine from the Type 13 Murata (adopted in 1880) through the “Last Ditch” and experimental semi-automatic rifles manufactured at the end of the WWII. It contains just about everything associated with Japanese rifles, to include the Japanese Arsenal system that manufactured them, training rifles, export contracts and foreign copies, sniper variants, grenade launchers, bayonets, accoutrements, and even ammunition. In my opinion, the section covering the depictions and definitions of Kanji characters alone justifies including this book in your firearms library. The 300 pictures and illustrations, though black-and-white, accurately highlight the features described in the text.

As I stated earlier, this is a good general reference and I do not believe there is a better book currently available on the subject. *Military Rifles of Japan, Fifth Edition*, can be purchased from multiple sources on-line and costs approximately \$55.00.

As for my rifle – it was made at the Mukden Arsenal in China and falls in the second block of serial numbers produced there. One thing I learned is that the Type 38 continued to be manufactured simultaneously with the Type 99 (I always thought the latter replaced the former). Mine was probably made in 1942.

# ★ 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 - 2018

- Aug 18-19, 2018 – Roanoke, VA – The Berglund Center – *Showmasters*
- Aug 25-26, 2018 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex – *Showmasters*
- Sep 1-2, 2018 – Norfolk, VA – Norfolk Scope Arena - *Showmasters*
- Sep 8-9, 2018 – Doswell, VA – Farm Bureau Center at Meadow Event Park – *SGK*
- Sep 8-9, 2018 – Fishersville, VA – Augusta Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- Sep 22-23, 2018 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK*
- Sep 28-30, 2018 - Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- Oct 3-7, 2018 – Winchester, VA – Fort Shenandoah (Sutler Row) – *138<sup>th</sup> National Skirmish by the North-South Skirmish Association*
- Oct 13-14, 2018 – Salem, VA - Salem Civic Center - *C&E*
- Oct 20-21, 2018 – Dale City, VA – Dale City VFW – *Showmasters*
- Oct 20-21, 2018 – Roanoke, VA – The Berglund Center – *Showmasters*
- Oct 20-21, 2018 – Virginia Beach, VA – Virginia Beach Convention Center - *SGK*
- Oct 27-28, 2018 – Fredericksburg, VA – Expo and Conference Center – *SGK*
- **Nov 3-4, 2018 – Manassas, VA – Prince William County Fairgrounds – *VGCA* (our fall show!)**

## MARYLAND - 2018

- Sep 8-9, 2018 - West Friendship, MD – Howard County Fairgrounds – *Silverado Gun Shows*
- Oct 20-21, 2018 – Timonium, MD – Timonium Fairgrounds – *TheGunShows.com*
- Nov 10-11, 2018 – Frederick, MD – Frederick Fairgrounds - *Silverado Gun Shows*

## PENNSYLVANIA - 2018

- Aug 18, 2018 – St. Thomas, PA – St. Thomas VFD – *Izaak Walton League of Franklin County*
- Aug 18-19, 2018 – Harrisburg, PA – PA Farm Show Complex - *C&E*
- Aug 18-19, 2018 – Leesport, PA – Farmers Market – *Thegunshows.com*
- Aug 25-26, 2018 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center – *Showmasters*
- Aug 25-26, 2018 – Wind Gap, PA – Plainfield Township Volunteer Fire Company - *Eagle Arms*
- Sep 7-8, 2018 – Gettysburg, PA – G'burg Fire Dept – [hallowedgroundmilitaria@gmail.com](mailto:hallowedgroundmilitaria@gmail.com)
- Sep 8-9, 2018 – Morgantown, PA – Morgantown Center - *Eagle Arms*
- Sep 15-16, 2018 – Gettysburg, PA – All Star Conference Center - *Eagle Arms*
- **Sep 19-23, 2018 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center – *Ohio Valley Military Society (The MAX Show)***
- Sep 22-23, 2018 – Center Hall, PA – Centre County Fair Grounds – *oscshooting.com*
- Sep 22-23, 2018 – Philadelphia, PA – National Guard Armory – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Sep 29-30, 2018 – Allentown, PA – Allentown EconoLodge – *Eagle Arms*
- Oct 5-7, 2018 - Oaks, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Arms*
- Oct 13-14, 2018 – Bloomsburg, PA – Bloomsburg Fairgrounds - *Eagle Arms*
- Oct 13-14, 2018 - Mount Joy, PA – Mount Joy Sportsmen's Association – *MJSA*

## PENNSYLVANIA – 2018 (continued)

- Oct 20-21, 2018 - Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds – *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*
- Oct 20-21, 2018 – Carlisle, PA – Expo Center - *Eagle Arms*
- Oct 20-21, 2018 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center – *Showmasters*
- Oct 27-28, 2018 – Wind Gap, PA – Plainfield Township Volunteer Fire Company - *Eagle Arms*
- Oct 27-28, 2018 – York, PA – York Fairgrounds-Memorial Hall - *Appalachian Promotions*

## SPECIAL NOTE – 2018

- Sep 8-9, 2018 – Wilmington, OH – The Roberts Centre – *Ohio Gun Collector's Association (Featuring the Winchester Arms Collectors Association)*
- Sep 29-30, 2018 – Newark, DE – Aetna Fire Hall – *Newark Antique Gun & Military Collectors Show*
- Oct 12-14, 2018 – West Point, KY – Knob Creek Gun Range – *Fall Machine Gun Shoot & Military Gun Show*
- Nov 17-18, 2018 – Wilmington, OH – The Roberts Centre – *Ohio Gun Collector's Association (Annual OGCA meeting and Director Election)*

---

### **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.

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.

---

### **WANT-TO-SELL:**

✦ AEG Soft Air M14, fires Full or Semi-Auto. Comes with One Magazine, Magazine Loader, Charger, Battery, and a good supply of various weight/color pellets. Only fired appx 20 pellets. \$200.00, cash only. Contact Jack at (703)-999-9458, (cell phone), with a text, or leave a message.

---

### **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 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 Bill Chronister.