



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

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President
Show/Reservations Manager
Membership

Rob Becker
Andrew Woodard
George Dungan

Phone: 703-441-1211
Cell: 301-613-5718
Phone: 571-243-6387

rpebecker@verizon.net
ajw055570@aol.com
george@eccominv.com

Website: www.vgca.net

Facebook: @VirginiaGunCollectorsAssoc

Twitter: @VAGunCollectrs

Instagram: @vaguncollectors

August 2025 VGCA Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Greetings, Members –

It is almost the end of August and Labor Day is just a week away. I hope you had a great summer and are looking forward to the fall!

This month I have some good news and some bad news.

The good news is actually a 'two-fer'! First, our July Membership Meeting was a success. And second - not only was having a

meeting in July successful but having an expanded Show-n-Tell meeting featuring "Guns of the Old West" also proved very popular. While we have had a couple of these Show-n-Tell meetings in the past, your VGCA officers and directors have decided to make this an annual event. Look for a vote at our August meeting to pick the next Show-n-Tell meeting theme.

Unfortunately, we also got some bad news this week. We had wanted to have a joint NORVA-VGCA Picnic/Schutzenfest at the NORVA Rod and Gun Club this fall.

However, the NORVA Board of Directors have decided there wasn't enough time to properly plan and execute this event, so they have postponed a final decision until next spring. I am still hopeful we can make this happen – it just won't happen this fall. We will keep you posted.

Lastly, we have another great topic planned for our meeting on August 28th – Carlos Davila will be talking to us on "Spanish Military Weapons Industry and the Ameli." I hope to see you this Thursday!

Rob Becker, VGCA President

★ July Presentation: Show-n-Tell: Guns of the Old West



VGCA Vice President George Dungan (*left*) led the way for our first July meeting and his shirt says it all – the theme of the evening was “Guns of the Old West!” It is worth noting that having a Membership Meeting in July (typically a vacation month for us) was an experiment by the VGCA officers and directors to boost overall meeting attendance. Anecdotally, we have a drop in attendance every summer after skipping July and having a July meeting was an attempt to “maintain momentum,” if you will. The meeting was viewed as a success and the VGCA Executive Committee voted to continue having a July meeting next year. One added benefit – you will receive an extra newsletter, with separate July and August issues instead of one combined issue!

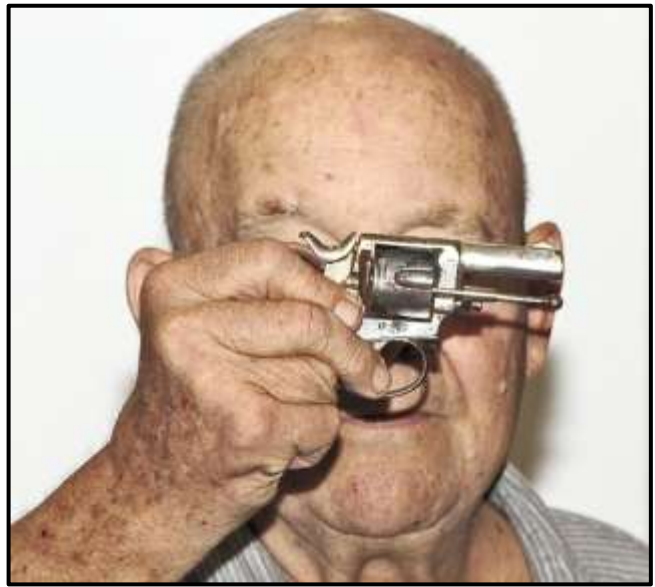
Member 1 started us off with a Springfield Armory Model 1877

trapdoor cavalry carbine (*right*). Chambered in .45/70 (though the carbine round had a reduced powder charge), 20,065 of these carbines were produced between 1877 and 1884. Examinations of M1873 carbines found after the June 1876 Custer massacre at Little Bighorn indicated case extraction issues and led to a new, improved model carbine in 1877. Modifications included adding a trap in the butt stock for a 3-piece jointed clearing/cleaning rod and a reinforced receiver and breechblock. This particular carbine has the later oval shaped trap in the butt plate and the M1879 rear sight and was made circa 1880.



Member 1 also shared a Sharps Model 1874 Sporting Rifle chambered in .44 Sharps (*left*). These single-shot falling block rifles were known for their strong actions capable of handling large calibers and were popular for buffalo hunting in the West. Sharps made 6,500 rifles between 1871 and 1881. This example was produced in 1875 and features a 32” octagon barrel with double set triggers. It was invoiced to E.E. Eaton, a Sharps agent in Chicago, on September 28, 1875.

Member 2 shared a British Bull Dog revolver (*right*). The “British Bull Dog” was initially introduced by Philip Webley & Son of Birmingham, England in 1872, though the design dates back to 1868. Henry Webley registered “British Bull Dog” as a trademark in 1878. The term (often spelled as one word “Bulldog”) became synonymous with any small short-barreled, double-action, solid frame revolver with a swing-out ejector rod and was quickly copied by gunmakers in Europe and the United States. While details vary, Bull Dogs typically had 5- to 7-shot cylinders and were chambered in a wide range of calibers. Bull Dogs proved to be popular firearms and were produced into the 1900s.



General George Custer is known to have owned a pair of Bull Dogs and it is thought that he had them with him at the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

This example has no markings and no proofs and is chambered in .32 S&W.



Member 3 shared several handguns associated with the Western Frontier. There was another British Bull Dog (*left*) – this one a nickel-plated 7-shot chambered in .32 caliber.

Next was an 1849 Colt Pocket revolver (*near right*). This cap-and-ball 6-shooter represents older technology and was made in 1852. At the same time, Member 3 presented a Smith & Wesson #2 (*far right*). This tip-up is chambered for self-contained .32 Rimfire cartridges and represents new technology at the time. Both guns are very similar in dimensions!





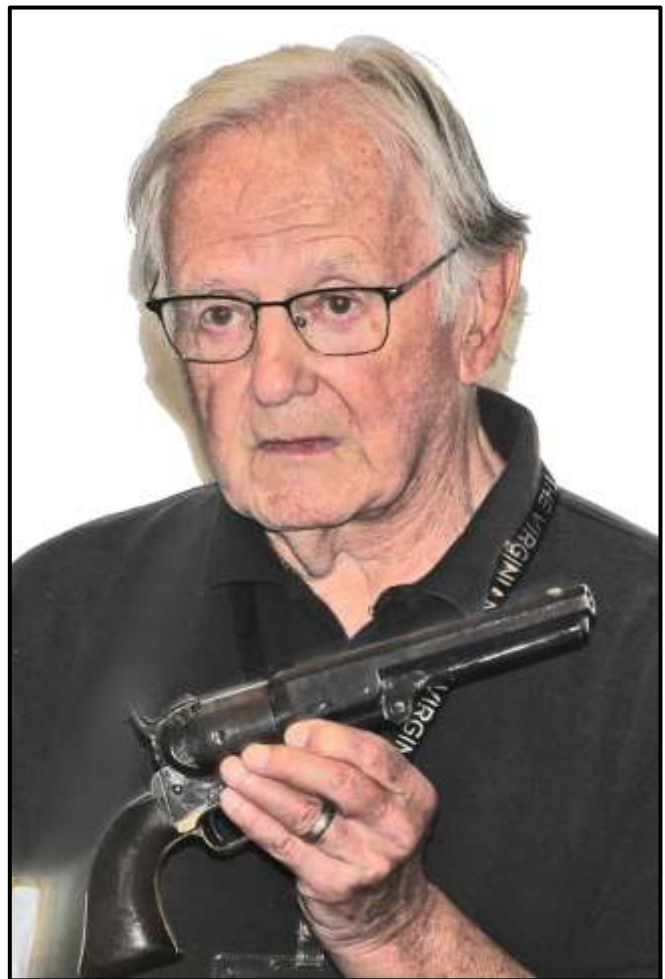
Next was a Remington Derringer (*shown open for loading at left*), a diminutive double-barrel tip-up chambered in .41 Rimfire. Production started shortly after the American Civil War in 1866 and resulted in more than 150,000 being made over the course of nearly seven decades. A lever on the right side of the frame is rotated 180 degrees to free the barrels to swing upward. A manual extractor on the left side of the barrel group allows the cartridges to be pushed out of the chambers. According to Jim Supica in an article published in the *American Rifleman* in October 2006:

“The hinge area at the top rear of the barrels is a weak point in the Remington design, and it’s not unusual to find these little guns with cracked or repaired hinges, which will reduce their value.”

These popular guns were available in several variations, including blued or nickel-plated and various grip panel materials.

Finally, Member 3 shared a Colt Model 1851 Navy (*right*). The M1851 is a 6-shot single action cap-and-ball revolver in .36 caliber. It was designed by Samuel Colt between 1847 and 1850 and was produced from 1850 until 1873. It was immensely popular in its day, known for its excellent balance, practical accuracy, and being much lighter than its .44-caliber stablemate, the Colt Dragoon. The M1851 cylinders are mechanically engraved with a scene of the victory of the Second Texas Navy at the Battle of Campeche on May 16, 1843. This subject was selected by Colt in appreciation of the Texas Navy’s purchase of his earlier Patterson design. Over 250,000 were made over the course of its production run. Famous Colt Navy users included General Ulysses S. Grant, “Wild Bill” Hickok, William “Buffalo Bill” Cody, and John Henry “Doc” Holliday.

This example was purchased by Member 3 from an antique dealer approximately 40 years ago. Its barrel and loading lever have been shortened by ½ inch and a German silver front sight dovetailed on. It has a four digit serial that indicates it was made in 1852.



Member 4 shared two older guns, starting with a 1836 Robert Johnson flintlock pistol (*right*). This .54 caliber smoothbore, single-shot flintlock Model 1836 pistol was made by Robert Johnson of Middletown, Connecticut. It has a round barrel and a barrel band strap that extends to the sideplate. It has a swivel type steel ramrod (designed to prevent loss of the ramrod while reloading on horseback) with a button head, iron mountings, and a brass flash pan. The lockplate, hammer and frizzen, blued trigger and frizzen spring are all case hardened.

This type of pistol was a modification of the Model 1826 pistol and was the last US martial pistol with a flintlock ignition system produced under contract for the U.S. government. It was standard issue for the Mexican War and many were converted to percussion for use during the American Civil War. It was purchased at the Las Vegas Antique Arms show in January of this year.



The second firearm brought in by Member 4 was a Sharps & Hankins Model 1862 carbine (*left*). This sliding breech action carbine was designed by Christian Sharps and patented by him on July 9, 1861. The M1862 carbine was manufactured by the Sharps & Hankins Company between 1862 and 1865, with production totalling about 8,000 rifles and carbines. Chambered in .52 Rimfire, this design was used by both the Union Army and Navy during the American Civil War. The Army used the carbine with a 19-inch barrel, while the Navy used a version with a longer 24-inch barrel and a leather cover to protect the shooter's hand

from excessive heat caused by continuous firing. This example is marked for the 11th New York Volunteer Cavalry and was also purchased at the Las Vegas Antique Arms show in January 2025.

Member 5 brought in two reproductions that exactly fit the theme of Guns of the Old West! The first was a replica Springfield Officers Model in 45/70 (*right*). Fewer than 500 of the actual Officer's Model Rifles were produced at the Springfield Armory during a ten-year manufacturing run from 1875 to 1885, making them rather scarce. Based on the standard military trapdoor design, these rifles also featured ornate scroll engraved on most metal parts, target sights, and checkered wood grips and fore-stock. These were not issued by the Army but were available for purchase by officers for sporting use. This replica was produced by Harrington & Richardson in the 1970s and was purchased at the Dulles gun show about 2013.



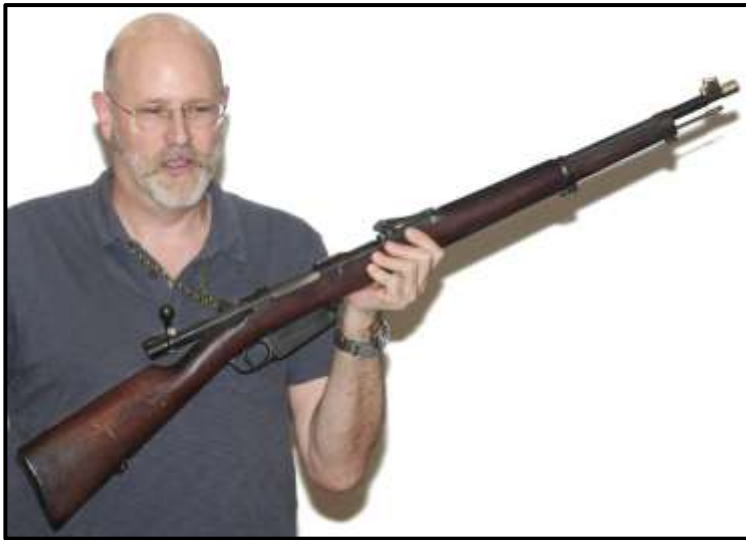
Member 5 also shared a replica Colt Single Action Army (*left*), also known as the “Peacemaker”. In addition to being the standard sidearm for the U.S. Army from 1873 until 1892, the “Peacemaker” was very popular with settlers heading west. This particular example is a limited edition General Custer Commemorative and was made/imported by Cimarron Firearms. It is in the standard Army Model 1873 configuration with 7 ½ inch barrel and chambered in .45 Colt. Member 5 called it his best shooting revolver!

Member 6 brought in a Smith & Wesson Model 1½ Frame revolver (*right*). This top break



revolver is chambered in .32 S&W Short. S&W produced 97,574 from 1878 to 1892. This example was made in late 1885 or early 1886 and has the less common blued finish (approximately 75% of production was nickel plated). It is a 5 shot ejector with a 3½ barrel, spur trigger and matching numbers, to include grips. It was purchased at the Gettysburg show in 2003.

Member 7 brought in a Orbea Hermanos Model 1884 (#7 or Ona) top break 6-shot revolver (right). The Orbea Brothers manufactured guns in the Basque region of Spain from 1884 to 1902. Chambered in .44 Russian, the Model 1884 is a Spanish copy of the Smith & Wesson #3 but in double action. The name Ona is Basque for “Good”. It was purchased for \$100 at the old Dale City VFW gun show several years ago.



Member 7 also brought in something a little less associated with the Wild West - a Peruvian Model 1891/12 bolt action short rifle (left). Peru bought 16,000 Model 1891 long rifles chambered in 7.65x53mm from DWM. Peru would later cut down the barrel and change the sights on unknown number for use by the engineers and cavalry. Designated the Model 1891/12, they are very rare in the U.S. This one was purchased off Gunbroker in 2025.

Member 8 showed a Winchester Model 1892 (right). While produced too late to technically qualify as a “gun of the old West,” the lever action Model 1892 was designed by John Browning to replace the venerable pistol-caliber Winchester Model 1873 in their portfolio. Production started in 1892 and over 1,000,000 would be produced by the time production ended in about 1941. Winchester dropped production of the M1892 in order to support the war effort, but rifles already in stock would be sold until 1945. Chambered in .32/20, .38/40, .44/40, .25/20 (starting in 1895), and .218 Bee (only made in 1936-1938), the .44/40 was by far the most popular caliber. The under barrel tube magazine held 9 to 12 rounds, depending on the caliber. This example is chambered in .25/20, features an octagonal barrel, and was made in 1926.





Member 9 shared a replica Springfield 1847 Percussion Muzzleloading .69 Caliber Fremont Rifle (*left*). The originals were made from 1842 through U.S. Civil War. In 1842, John C. Fremont, a young army lieutenant with the Army Corps of Topographical Engineers, was about to leave on an expedition to map and explore the Rocky Mountain West. Fremont would eventually go down in American history as "The Great Pathfinder," but at the moment he was just another ambitious soldier.

For his expedition, Fremont requested rifles

in a caliber greater than .54, as he thought the .54 was barely enough to irritate a grizzly. He was offered M1817's and promised new production M1841's rifles, but he wanted a .69. Original Fremont Rifles appeared to have been rifled deeper than later M1842 rifled muskets. This may indicate it was intended for a patched round ball. However existing documented rifles are rare and may have been reworked or re-rifled over their lives. Fremont went on to a career as California's first senator, land and gold-mining speculator, the Republican Party's first presidential candidate in 1856, governor of Arizona Territory, Civil War major general and Indian agent for Western Territories at St. Louis. A trained cartographer and surveyor, Fremont did much early mapping of the West - his maps becoming "the first trail guide for Oregon-Mormon-California trail immigrants." This example was made by Armi-Sport (now Chiappa Arms) of Italy.

Member 9 also brought in a replica Percussion Muzzleloading Jonathan Browning Mountain Rifle (*right*). Jonathan Browning (1805-1879) was a blacksmith and gunsmith. Whether he actually made a rifle similar to the Mountain Rifle is unknown but he was a working gunsmith in the "Mountain Man" era. He was also John Moses Browning's father.

This rifle was included in this Old West-themed Show-n-Tell due to its obvious Hawken Brothers of St. Louis rifle influence. The Hawken Brothers are best known for their large bore rifles designed for large game and defense on the plains and mountains of the 1840-50s. Kit Carson, who guided for John C. Fremont, was known to have carried an original Hawken rifle.



The Jonathan Browning Mountain Rifles were Hawken-inspired rifles manufactured between 1977-1981 by a small Utah-based company under contract to Browning Arms. These rifles were built with the same quality component parts one could find only on custom-made black powder rifles. The 31" long 1" across the flats octagonal barrels had a 1-66 twist and were built by Green River Rifle Barrel Company and can easily handle stout black powder loads. The rifle has a single set trigger that is pushed forward to set. They were available with brass mountings or iron mountings in calibers .45, .50, and .54 for patched round ball and typically weight about 9.5 pounds. This example is in .50 caliber.

YouTube video on shooting a Jonathan Browning Mountain Rifle: <https://youtu.be/ckDDw7UTPa8>

Member 10 shared a Springfield Model 1884 trapdoor cavalry carbine (*right*) in .45/70 caliber. The M1884 incorporated several improvements to the original M1873 trapdoor. Among these improvements were a serrated trigger and a new barrel band, but the greatest update was the Buffington rear sight. This sight was designed by Lt Col Adelbert Buffington of the Army Ordnance Department and included precise windage adjustments. Marksmen liked the new sight,



but average troops were a little less enthused by its relatively small notch/peep and complicated design. Both rifles and carbines were manufactured in the M1884 pattern. Carbines represent only about 10% of the total production, with approximately 20,000 made between 1886 and 1889. This example has the “C” stamp on the rear sight which is correct for use on a carbine.



Member 11 brought a Springfield Ward-Burton Model 1871 bolt action single shot carbine (*left*). Chambered in .50 Center Fire, about 314-315 of these carbines along with 1,011 rifles were produced for U.S. Army trials in 1871. These were the earliest bolt action weapons in service with the US Army. The manual of arms starts with opening the bolt and loading a single cartridge in the chamber. Closing the bolt cocked the weapon. The M1871 has a sliding leaf rear sight and a 22-inch barrel. It was issued to cavalry companies in the 1st through 9th Cavalry Regiments, while other companies were

equipped with trapdoor Springfields along with Remington and Sharps carbines for comparative trials. Though the M1871 received some favorable comments, the negatives outweighed the good. Troops did not like the cock on closing as it was always cocked, there were too many motions to work the gun, and the weak firing pin spring led to many misfires. In 1872 the Terry Board chose the Springfield trapdoor to be the Army's cavalry carbine. The W-B M1871 was used against the Sioux, Apache and Yavapai and the last remained in service until 1875 with the 7th and 9th Cavalry.



Member 12 displayed a replica Sharps four barrel derringer in .22 short (*above*). Around 100,000 originals were made between 1849 to 1874. It features a solid brass frame, 2½ inch steel barrels, and a revolving firing pin that moves 90 degrees to a different barrel each time it is cocked. This replica example was made by Uberti and acquired around 1980. It was imported into the United States prior to the Gun Control Act of 1968, which placed limitations on importing small handguns.

Member 13 brought in a Winchester Model 1873 (*right*). Justifiably dubbed “the gun that won the West”, the M1873 was known for its rugged, reliable design and its fast-shooting firepower. The M1873 was chambered in pistol calibers, allowing the shooter to use the same ammunition in both his rifle/carbine and his revolver (an important consideration for trappers, settlers, miners, and cowboys far from any stores and easy sources of supplies). Calibers included the .44/40, .38/40, .32/20, and .22 Rimfire. Though not particularly powerful, the M1873 was certainly sufficient for hunting and defensive purposes out to about 150 yards.



This particular example is chambered in .44/40 and was made in 1893 or 1894. It was purchased at the Dulles Gun Show.



Member 14 displayed several items. The first was a Smith & Wesson 1st Model top break, single action revolver in .38 S&W (*above right*). S&W produced 25,548 of these from 1876 to 1877. It is also known as Model 2, 1st Model or Baby Russian. This was Smith & Wesson's first centerfire revolver. This example was purchased from Tony Wilcox at the Chantilly Gun Show in 2013.

Member 14 also shared an unknown Belgian made "British Bulldog" style five-shot double action solid frame revolver chambered in .44 Webley (*above left*). It was manufactured in the late 1800s with an engraved nickel finish and Mother of Pearl grips. It was purchased for a very reasonable \$50 at the Richmond Gun Show in October of 2013!

His next item was a Winchester Model 1873 Third Model in .44 Winchester Center Fire (.44 WCF – aka the .44/40) (*below*). Winchester made over 700,000 from 1873 to 1923. It is a short rifle – also called the "Border Rifle" or "Texas Rifle". This example was made in about 1884 and has trap door in the butt for a cleaning rod. It has been shot a lot! It also has an unusual stock disk that heretofore has defied explanation. Several members examined this M1873 after the Show-n-Tell and could not hazard a guess as to disk's purpose/meaning. It was purchased at the Fredricksburg Gun Show in 2006.



His last item was a collection of western lawman badges (right) that he has collected over the years. These included several U.S. Marshall badges and one Texas Ranger badge. Member 14 noted that he is not an expert in badges in some of these may be reproductions.



Member 15 brought in a Beretta BRX1 straight pull bolt action rifle in .30/06 (*left*). While this is somewhat outside of the night's theme, it is interesting as it represents Beretta's attempt to expand into the hunting market and is a new action for Beretta. It features either a 20-inch or 22-inch threaded barrel, a detachable 5-round magazine, and is available in four calibers – 6.5 Creedmore, .308 Winchester, .30/06, and

.300 Winchester Magnum. It is designed for quick change of caliber with easy swap of barrel, bolt, and magazine. Reviewers have highlighted its accuracy, ambidextrous controls, and modular design. Production began in 2021 and importation into the U.S. started in 2024. This example has a 20-inch barrel and was made in 2022. It was acquired at a gun show earlier this year.

Member 16 shared two bayonets. The first was a British Pattern 1841 Sappers & Miners Model F Bayonet (*right*). Sometimes referred to as a P-1841 Sword Bayonet, it has a formidable knuckle guard and a 22" blade. This is one of the most impressive and important bayonets of the British Victorian era. Overall length is 27-3/8 inches. This bayonet was



designed to fit a British Sappers and Miners Carbine, however, it also fits all the East India Company (EIC) pattern muskets with a .75 bore and the straight style F pattern bayonet spring catch. The Sappers & Miners became the Royal Engineers in 1856. This example is marked N4 on the blade and J. Poe & Son on the spine. It was likely made 1845-47 and appears to be original.



Member 16 also brought in an unknown U.S. marked triangular socket bayonet (*above left and right*). If you happen to have an idea of what this may be, please contact Jack via email to

looney.house@verizon.net or text to 703-999-9458.

The members appeared to enjoy presenting their treasures, but perhaps enjoyed discussing and looking at what others brought in even more! It was observed that more people remained after the meeting adjourned and hung out longer than they do after our typical Membership Meeting (*at right and below*). I'm guessing here – but this is probably due to the wide variety of unusual and interesting guns that present.

The overall feedback from the evening was very positive and the VGCA Executive Committee has decided to continue to have a least one enhanced Show-n-Tell meeting per year going forward (keeping it on the July meeting for now).



We have now had a least three of these type meetings – their themes being:

- My Three Favorite Guns
- My Favorite Guns of WWII
- Guns of the Old West

Several possible themes for future Show-n-Tell meetings were offered by the members. Look for a vote on possible themes at our August membership Meeting!





★ July Meeting Notes

The meeting was called to order by VGCA President Rob Becker at 6:58 p.m. VGCA member Peter Kalis led the Pledge of Allegiance, with 39 members and guests in attendance and 9 more participating remotely via JITS. Guests and new members were introduced.



Rob Becker (*left*) thanked newly elected Director Chris Britton for organizing - and helping man every day - the VGCA Recruiting table at the July Chantilly Gun Show. Well done, sir!

Gun Show Director Andrew Woodard gave a quick update on our fall gun show on 1-2 November 2025. We still have 55 tables available and three members have signed up to present displays. Remember, VGCA members can reserve up to two display tables at no cost.

Member Phil Hill (*right*) read a “Thank You” card sent to the VGCA by the Trigger Time 4-H youth shooting group. The 4-H’ers wanted to thank the

VGCA for our support of their organization – especially of their recent participation in the 4H National Shooting Sports Championships Match in Grand Island, Nebraska in June. One of their members took 2nd place overall in Air Rifle!



One of our members mentioned that Master Gunsmith Al Edge, owner of Old Dominion Arms in Bealeton, Virginia, had passed away on July 21st. He was a native Virginian and had been blessed with the opportunity to study and restore many original rifles, including many Virginia rifles. Al was also famous for building beautiful replicas, each piece made with the skill, care, and attention to detail necessary to craft a true piece of art. His expertise will be missed.

Rob Becker noted that there was no update on either a future trip to the Smith & Wesson factory in Tennessee or the possible VGCA Picnic/Schutzenfest this fall. Details will be shared as soon as they are available.

Members were reminded that the Virginia election this November is critical from a Gun Rights perspective. Members are strongly encouraged to research the candidates (especially those running for Governor of Virginia) and vote accordingly. This election will be held on November 4th, the Tuesday after our fall gun show.

Member Bryan Pelton reminded everyone that there were still a few VGCA T-shirts left in sizes Medium and Large. The price has been reduced to \$10 each.



BENJAMIN PARKINSON'S REVOLVING MAGAZINE RIFLE

By Marc Gorelick



*Benjamin Parkinson Revolving Rifle. It may be a unique development or patent model.
Photos courtesy of Morphy Auctions, Denver, PA.*

Benjamin F. Parkinson was an American gunsmith who would have been relatively unknown and uncelebrated except for his invention of a magazine-fed revolving rifle. He was born on January 19, 1816, in Greene, Pennsylvania. His father was William Parkinson and his mother was Mary Ruple. He became a gunsmith and conducted business in Washington in Western Pennsylvania. At the end of the Civil War numerous designs for repeating firearms were being patented, some of them were imaginative but unworkable and looked like they were invented by Rube Goldberg – complicated gadgets performing simple tasks in indirect, convoluted ways.

Parkinson designed one such complicated repeating metallic cartridge rifle with a convoluted and impractical feeding system and was granted US Patent 48,201 on June 13, 1865, for improving magazine firearms. His invention combined a rotating replaceable magazine in the buttstock with a revolving cylinder. As Parkinson described his invention:

“The nature of my invention consists more particularly in feeding a rotating cylindrical charge-chamber in the rear of a single barrel with fixed ammunition automatically, and from a bowed magazine embedded in the stock or butt,”

The magazine took up most of the space in the buttstock and operated by a pulley and cord which supposedly would automatically feed ammunition into a four-chambered cylinder which would operate in the normal fashion. According to Parkinson's patent description, the magazine could be removed from the buttstock and reloaded with cartridges and then replaced, or a new loaded magazine could be inserted. A manually operated “gate” would control the feed from the magazine to the cylinder.



Benjamin Parkinson Revolving Rifle. Right side showing the hammer and steel cylinder. The brass groove above the trigger is presumably for loading/ejection of spent cartridges. Photo courtesy of Morphy Auctions, Denver, PA.



Benjamin Parkinson Revolving Rifle. Note the brass doors on the stock covering the "magazine" chamber and mechanism. Photo courtesy of Morphy Auctions, Denver, PA.

The example pictured here is possibly a one-of-a-kind patent model. It has a 27 5/8 inch long half-round half-octagon barrel and fires a .32 caliber rimfire cartridge. The barrel, as well as the action and four chamber cylinder are in the white. It has a blade front sight but is missing the rear sight. There is a large spur hammer which is offset to the right, with a single trigger. It has dark-finished maple stocks with brass hardware, including two brass doors that cover the compartments that hold the tubular rope and pulley/wheel-operated magazine.

The triggerguard, buttplate and other furniture are all brass. There is a brass plate on the right side of the butt that bears the inscription in script:

**BENJ. F. PARKINSON
WASHINGTON PA.
FEB. 14 1865**

Needless to say, Parkinson's design went nowhere. He passed into relative obscurity but continued his occupation as a gunsmith in West Virginia. According to the US Census records,

in 1880 he was a 62-year-old gunsmith in Clay District, Wirt County, West Virginia. He died on August 25, 1894, in Clay, West Virginia at the age of 78, and was buried in Wirt.



Benjamin Parkinson Revolving Rifle. Photo above: Top of the rifle showing the off-set hammer. Photo below: Bottom view showing brass triggerguard, Photos courtesy of Morphy Auctions.



Parkinson may have been ahead of his time in trying to devise a detachable magazine, however his idea of using a magazine in the butt that used ropes and wheels was not exactly practical or reliable. It was not until James Paris Lee invented the detachable box magazine that used in the Remington-Lee rifle in the late 1870's that the idea came to fruition. (See Lee's US Patent 221,328 dated November 4, 1879.) One could say that all subsequent box magazines are based on that of James Paris Lee.

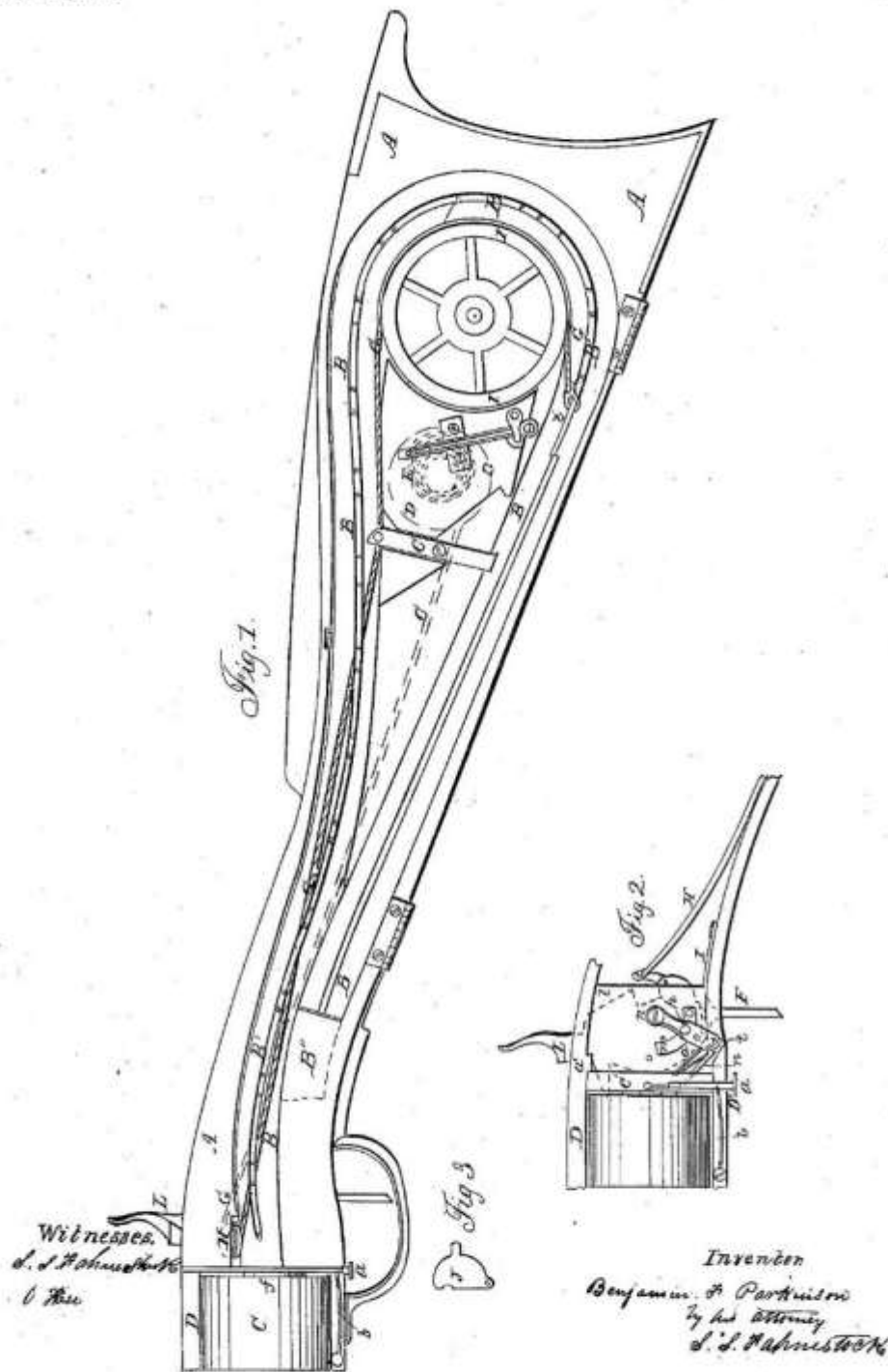
The patent drawing from Parkinson's US Patent 48, dated June 13, 1865, and the accompanying written description (see below) indicate how complicated Parkinson's "Rube Goldberg" mechanism was. It is doubtful if more than this example were produced.

Left: Brass plate on the right side of the stock with Benjamin Parkinson's name, address and date of February 14, 1865, now known as Valentine's Day. Photo courtesy of Morphy Auctions, Denver, PA.

B. F. PARKINSON.
Magazine Fire-Arm.

No. 48,201.

Patented June 13, 1865.



H. PETERS, PHOTO LITHOGRAPHER, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Parkinson's US Patent 48,201 dated June 13, 1865. Source U.S. Patent Office.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BENJAMIN F. PARKINSON, OF WASHINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN MAGAZINE FIRE-ARMS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 48,201, dated June 13, 1865.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BENJAMIN F. PARKINSON, of the town and county of Washington, in the State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Magazine Breech-Loading Fire-Arms; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

The nature of my invention consists more particularly in feeding a rotating cylindrical charge-chamber in the rear of a single barrel with fixed ammunition automatically, and from a bowed magazine embedded in the stock or butt, there being other points which will be more fully described hereinafter.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe its construction and operation.

In the drawings, Figure 1 represents an elevation of the left-hand side of the stock or butt of the gun, the hinged lids or covers being removed. Fig. 2 shows the lock and device for rotating the cylinder.

A represents the wooden butt of the arm, in which is embedded the bowed magazine B in a cavity cut out for the purpose. This magazine can be removed, filled, and put back in its place. C is the rotating cylinder or charge-chamber, similar to those of most revolvers. This is secured between the barrel and butt or breech in the usual way, in a frame, D, which secures the barrel to the butt-piece.

The cylinder is adapted to fixed ammunition or metallic-flanged cartridges, fed into the rear end from the magazine. I use fewer holes in the cylinder than is usual. The cartridges are exploded, as is common in revolvers, by being struck on the flanges containing the fulminate by the hammer when the chamber is opposite the barrel. The supplying the charge-chambers of the cylinder from the magazine is done automatically.

On the right-hand side of the stock is seen, in dotted lines, embedded a coiled flat spring, E, which is attached to a drum, F, and to this drum is fastened a cord, G. This passes forward on the right-hand or in side of the butt, over a pulley, H, at the extreme front part, then down or backward on the left side over a larger pulley, I, to the front (lower) end of

the bowed magazine, where it is attached to a follower, J.

Supposing the magazine to be filled and in place, the spring E, acting on the drum F, tends to wind up the cord, pressing the follower against the fixed ammunition B' in the magazine, feeding or pressing it into the chambers of the cylinder. This comprises the automatic feeding device.

In front of the magazine, or between it and the cylinder, there is a gate, J, (see also Fig. 3,) to open by hand or close, and permit or prevent, as desirable, the feeding of the metallic cartridges. The action of the spring on the drum and cord or its follower is such as to force the cartridges forward into the cylinder.

When the magazine is empty it can be easily removed and filled and put back, or another substituted; or, by making a recess in front of its lower end, as at B'', the same one can be refilled. When the cartridges in the cylinder have been fired the shells can be pushed out to the rear by a spring-rod, operated by hand, entering the front of each chamber when presented in turn to it. The cylinder can be rotated for this purpose by the hammer; but by pushing up a sliding pin, a, which has an arm passing under the dog or ratchet-lever, (which rotates the cylinder in the usual way,) this dog is pushed back from the ratchet-teeth on the rear of the cylinder, and it can be turned at pleasure by the hand. A spring, b, operating on the pin a, draws it down, and the dog is restored to its seat in the ratchet-teeth.

The pivoted bar c serves as a button to hold the magazine in its place in the stock, a small projection on its upper end serving to pass the cord under or secure it to when the magazine is taken out. By pushing the dog back or out of its seat in pressing upward on pin a, I can cock without disturbing the cylinder, which it is often desirable to do.

In Fig. 2 will be seen the several parts of the lock, the hammer L being located on the right-hand side of a metallic partition, l, and shown mostly in dotted lines. A curved slot, m, is seen cut in the plate l. The hammer is pivoted at n, and carries an arm, o, on the left-hand side of plate l. A pin, s, which passes through the slot, forms a second connection between the hammer and arm, strengthening the latter. A ratched dog or pawl, n, is pivoted

to the lower end of the arm, at *t*, and when rotating the cylinder it has some play, the spring *u* yielding to a backward pressure, still keeping the pawl in its ratchet-seat. This arrangement affords better leverage to rotate the cylinder. The nose of the hammer goes through a slot in plate *c'*. Its upper projection strikes against a shoulder, *d*, on plate *D*, limiting its forward motion.

Flanged metallic cartridges are designed to be used. *F* is the trigger, the lower part of the hammer *L* serving as the tumbler. *H* is the mainspring, having its usual connections; and *I*, the trigger-spring.

The operation of the arm is as follows: Supposing the cylinder to be loaded and the magazine full, the cartridges in the former are exploded, as usual, by cocking the hammer and pulling the trigger. After the shells have been ejected the gate *J* of the magazine

is opened, and as each chamber comes opposite the mouth of the magazine a cartridge is pushed into it automatically through the operation of the spring-drum cord and follower. The gate is then closed, and the firing can be resumed.

Having described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The bowed removable magazine *B*, constructed and operated substantially as described, for the purpose set forth.

2. The spring-pin *a*, for releasing the pawl, enabling the arm to be cocked without rotating the cylinder, or rotating the cylinder without the intervention of the hammer or trigger.

BENJAMIN F. PARKINSON.

Witnesses:

J. D. BRADEN,
J. L. JUDSON.

This unique gun with its striking appearance was sold at a Morphy auction in Denver, PA in September 2023. The final price, including the buyer's premium, was \$4,428.

★ Next Membership Meeting: Thursday, Aug 28th Presentation: The Spanish MG82 "Ameli" by Carlos Davila Location: NRA HQ Basement Auditorium

Our August VGCA Membership Meeting will be in the basement auditorium of the NRA Headquarters. The room will open at 6 p.m. with pizza (we are asking for a \$5 donation per person for the pizza) arriving shortly thereafter and the meeting starting at 7 p.m. We hope you can make it!

★ How to watch the August Meeting from Home

JITSI is our new free service, replacing our previous Webinar "Go to meeting." You can join via your phone through the app or via your browser on the computer. Neither requires an account. All you need to join a JITSI meeting is a link, like the one below. Simply click the link.

Click the following link to join the meeting: <https://meet.jit.si/vgca-august2025meeting>

You will be asked to enter your name. You can enter your actual name or use a pseudonym. It will then prompt you to allow access to camera and microphone, which you also do not need to gain access to the meeting. Then click "Join" – it is as simple as that!

Just want to dial in on your phone? Dial: 1-512-647-1431. Enter PIN: 1546993144 followed by #. Click this link to see the dial in phone numbers for this meeting <https://meet.jit.si/static/dialInInfo.html?room=vgca-august2025meeting>

★ 2025/2026 Presentation & Event List

MEETING DATE	TOPIC	PRESENTER
28 Aug 2025	Spanish Military Weapons Industry and the Ameli	Carlos Davila
25 Sep 2025	Colt "Sporter" Optics	Shannon Zeigler
" " "	Gun Control in WWII Europe: What History Warns us About Disarmament	Stephen Halbrook
23 Oct 2025	Passing the Gun – Inheriting Guns	Phil Hill
November 2025	No Meeting due to Fall Gun Show	
XX Dec 2025	Holiday Potluck Dinner and Annual Swap Meet – no presentation	
24 Jan 2026 (Sat)	The German MG42	Shannon Zeigler
28 Feb 2026 (Sat)	TBD	TBD

If you have any presentation suggestions – or would like to make a presentation yourself in 2026 (all dates are currently open) – please contact Chris Britton or one of the other VGCA officers or directors.

★ Hampton Roads Military Society

The Hampton Roads Militaria Society (HRMS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to assist collectors and historians in the collection & preservation of militaria of all sorts and periods, preserve and honor our military past, and honor the veterans of all our conflicts. They generally meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, but this can vary. The HRMS is a sister organization to the VGCA and VGCA members are welcome to participate as guests in their meetings and tours. Upcoming meetings (at Rescue Squad No. 8 at 1243 Bayne Drive in VA Beach) are:

- 9 Sep 2025 "The End of WWII in the Pacific" by Jim Paschall
- 14 Oct 2025 "WWI Experimental Helmets" by Tom Buck
- 11 Nov 2025 "MBA Vietnam projects funded DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency)" by Doug McDougal
- 9 Dec 2025 Potluck Dinner and Auction

★ NORVA-VGCA Picnic/Schutzenfest

Unfortunately, due to schedule conflicts we have been unable to schedule a picnic and "Schutzenfest" at NORVA Rod & Gun Club this fall. The respective Board of Directors of both organizations will relook at this initiative in the spring. We will provide details on this event as soon as they are available.

★ S&W Factory Tour Update

There is still no update on our tentative field trip to the Smith & Wesson Factory in Marysville, Tennessee. If we are able to schedule a tour for this year, it will probably be on a Friday in early-to-mid November. We will let you know and start a sign-up list as soon as the trip and exact date are confirmed.



Smith & Wesson®



★ Important Update: VGCA Membership Dues Going Up in 2026

The VGCA Executive Committee recently approved an increase in membership dues for next year. Effective on January 1st, 2026, Annual Membership costs will increase to \$40 (from the current \$30) per year and Life Memberships will increase to \$250 (from the current \$150). These increases in dues, the first in over 30 years, are necessary to help cover the increased costs associated with membership.



★ We need your help with our Newsletter!

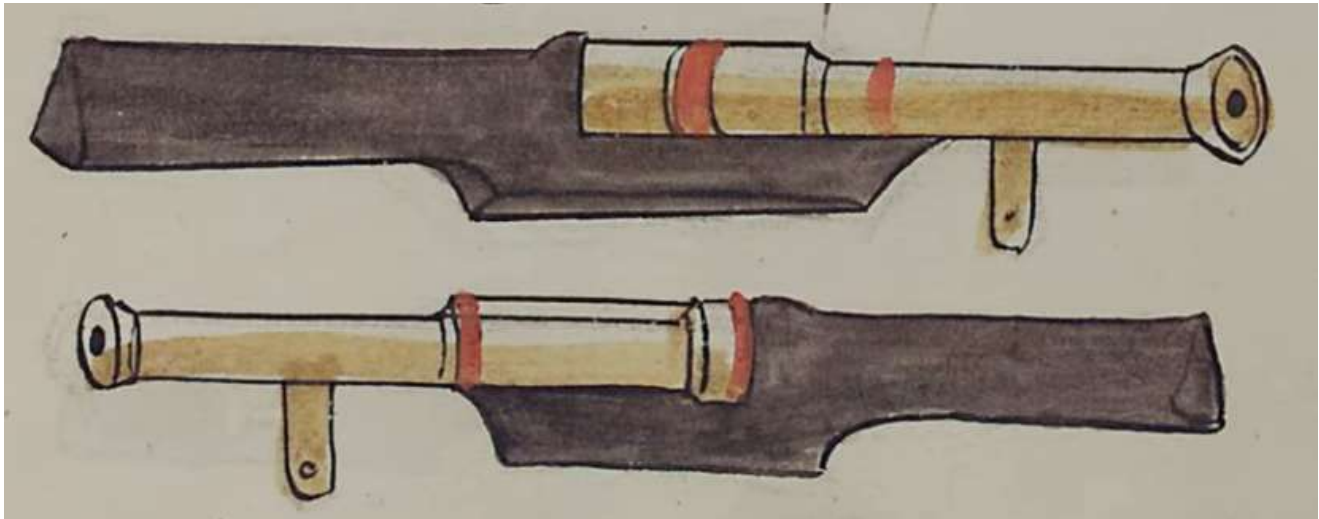
Do you love history and firearms, are reasonably organized, have a decent command of the English language, possess fair computer skills, and can dedicate a few hours each month to the VGCA? Then you may be just the person to take over as our newsletter editor! Rob Becker will continue as our editor through the December 2025 issue but is looking for some relief. If you think this is something you would be willing to take on – in whole or in part - please contact any of the officers or directors.



VGCA GUNS OF DISTINCTION: **MALHERBE PERCUSSION BREECHLOADING WALL GUN**

By Marc Gorelick

Photos courtesy of Joh. Springers Erben, Vienna Austria



Drawings of early hakbut wall guns from the Armoury Book of Emperor Maximilian I.

Wall guns, which reached their pinnacle during the 18th century were heavy oversized guns used to defend walls and fortresses. They were often mounted on the rampart, hence, their designation as rampart guns and were used to break the advance of enemy troops. It can reasonably be said that the first wall or rampart guns were hakbuts, which were in use during the 15th century in Europe. These early firearms were had a hook or protrusion on the bottom of the barrel for bracing along the top of the wall and were fired using a match and touchhole. The 18th century was the heyday of the wall gun. By this time flintlock wall guns had become scaled up versions of muzzle loading infantry muskets and rifles and filled the gap between infantry weapons and light artillery pieces, such as swivel guns. Wall guns were often mounted on walls using swivels. They were able to hit the attacking or besieging enemy at a distance at which he could not yet bring his own infantry weapons to action. Due to the large caliber with corresponding bullet weight, wall guns were also capable of engaging hard targets that could not be dealt with by normal infantry rifles. They were also said to be more accurate than regular infantry long arms and in this sense, wall rifles are the predecessors of today's "anti-material rifles."



By the 19th century the wall gun had evolved and its development followed that of other firearms. Heavy, extra-long and unwieldy, muzzleloading wall guns were slow and difficult to load, and breechloading versions were coming into favor. For example, the French army adopted a breech-loading wall gun in 1819 for the defense of towns, and improved percussion, or caplock, versions were introduced in 1831 and 1842.

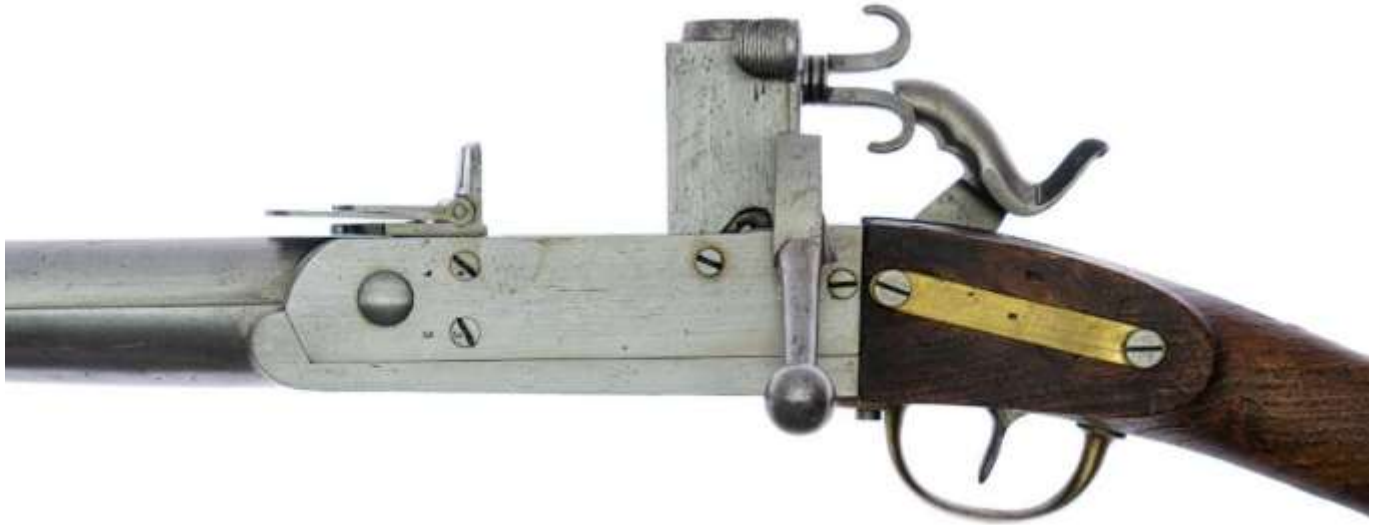


This European breechloading percussion wall rifle was made by P.J. Malherbe of Liege, Belgium in 1837. It is 70 inches (178cm) long and weighs 24 ¼ pounds (11kg). The 50 inch (127cm) long heavy round barrel has a caliber of 20mm, which was usual for this type of gun. The rear sight is graduated from 100 to 300 meters (front sight is missing). A large pivot pin, which went into a receptacle on the wall to hold the gun steady, is attached to the rear of the barrel by a clamp. The lockplate bears the maker's name and year of manufacture. And the walnut stock has a German cheek piece.



The gun has an interesting action and is loaded via a hinged chamber with brass fittings. The chamber is hinged at the rear and when the front end is raised by a lever (moved from the right side to the left side)

and the powder can be loaded into the chamber's front end. A bullet is seated in the rear of the barrel and the chamber is then closed. By sliding this forward, a reasonably gas-tight seal is created using a cone. A percussion cap placed on the nipple and the gun is ready for firing.



The Malherbe gunmaking dynasty was established in Liege, Belgium in the late 18th century. By 1807 Pierre Joseph Malherbe de Goffontaine had three manufactories and by the mid-1800's the firm of P.J. Malherbe et Cie, was a major manufacturer of military guns, including various designs of breechloaders. In fact, Malherbe was a major exporter of arms to North America during the U.S. Civil War.

This big rifle was sold at the Joh. Springer's Erben 39th Classic Auction in Vienna, Austria on May 4, 2023. The starting price was \$1,630 (1,500) euros and it sold for \$2,822 (2,600) euros. A miniscule price for such a big gun that can be mounted on a wall.

★VGCA Social Media Accounts★

Our Instagram account

[@vaguncollectors](https://www.instagram.com/vaguncollectors)

has **797** followers as of 24 Aug 2025!

Follow us for a regular dose of interesting gun-related content!

Our VGCA youtube.com channel

[@vgca-virginiaguncollectorsasso](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvGca-virginiaguncollectorsasso)

Troy Blackwood started this effort on the 11 Mar 2025. We have **18** videos (including our July Show-n-Tell Meeting on "Guns of the Old West") and **70** subscribers as of 24 Aug 2025.

The VGCA Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/VirginiaGunCollectorsAssoc/>

has **1831** followers as of 24 Aug 2025.

Since the last newsletter we have had the following people apply for membership in our group:

- If you know of anyone who would be interested in joining our organization, please invite them to a meeting or to our upcoming VGCA Gun Show. **If you sponsor a candidate, either at one of our membership tables or elsewhere, please make sure that you fill in and sign the Sponsor page.**

Membership Numbers: There are currently 452 Life members, 75 Annual Members, and 3 applicants for a total of 530 members in the Virginia Gun Collectors Association, Inc.

Membership Renewal: Dues for 2025 are now past due. If you wish to continue receiving the Newsletter, getting into the VGCA gun shows for free, and other benefits that come with membership please update your dues payment. You can renew annually for \$30 or \$150 for life. Please use the form below to renew and either mail it in or bring it to a meeting and give it to either George Dungan or Bruce Buchner. If you are unsure of your membership status email george@eccominv.com and I will let you know.

[illegible]



CMP UPDATE

By Marc Gorelick, CMP Liaison

The VGCA is a CMP Affiliated club. The VGCA club number is 026160.

M1917 \$100 PRICE REDUCTION



The Civilian Marksmanship Program announced that is reducing its price of surplus U.S. Model of 1917 rifles by \$100. The new price is \$900 plus \$35 shipping and handling. These rifles are available now and ready to ship to collectors and shooters.

The M1917, formally named “United States Rifle, cal .30, Model of 1917” was an American modification and production of the British .303 caliber Pattern 1914 (P14) rifle developed and manufactured during the period 1917-1918. When the Britain entered World War I, it had an urgent need for rifles, and contracts were placed with Winchester and Remington in the United States to manufacture the .303 cal. P14 rifle. When the U.S. entered the war, it had a similar extreme need for rifles. Rather than re-tool completely, the factories, under the close supervision of the U.S. Army Ordnance Department altered the P14 design to handle the US .30-06 caliber. Winchester produced the rifle at its New Haven, Connecticut plant and Remington at Ilion, New York and at Eddystone, Pennsylvania. The M1917 was the most numerous rifle used by American doughboys during the First World War, surpassing the M1903. In fact, Sergeant Alvin York used an M1917 when he earned the Congressional Medal of Honor. For more information about the P14 and M1917 read the article on the articles page of the VGCA website, www.VGCA.net.

Go to the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/sales-and-service/m1917-enfield-rifle-information/> for additional ordering information. Customers must meet CMP’s Eligibility Requirements when placing an order. All sales are AS-IS with NO RETURNS OR EXCHANGES. The CMP has a limited number of M1917s and does not expect to ever again receive large quantities of these rifles. Effective January 7, 2025, customers are allowed to purchase up to twelve (12) surplus rifles (any type) per year. This limit excludes .22 caliber rifles.

CMP RECLAIMED BARRELED RECEIVERS FOR SALE

Mixed manufacturer M1 Garand barreled receivers, re-machined to original specs with new commercial barrels professionally installed and headspaced to the included bolt. Cosmetic condition is good to very good, with minor weld marks primarily below the wood line. These receivers have been “Dual Field Magnetic Particle Inspected” and all have passed ASTM 1444E magnetic particle inspection and are safe to fire per the CMP. Online and mail orders are luck of the draw, sold as-is, no refunds or exchanges. Available in .30-06 and .308. The price is for a barreled receiver is **\$500 plus \$20 shipping and handling.**



The barreled receivers are not sorted by manufacturer and will be distributed randomly—no special requests will be accepted. All orders will be shipped via FedEx Priority Overnight and will require an adult signature upon delivery. Or you can stop by any CMP store to browse the displayed inventory in person and choose your own barreled receiver. Barreled receivers will count toward your 2025 annual limit, and all state laws and regulations will be followed. For additional information go to the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/receivers-and-barreled-receivers/>.

CMP RECLAIMED M1 GARAND RECEIVERS FOR SALE



As reported in previous CMP updates, the CMP is offering reclaimed M1 Garand receivers and barreled receivers for sale. The CMP's reclaimed receivers are not rewelds—they are fully inspected, certified, and tested to exceed typical safety protocols and come with the confidence of the CMP's engineering and armory teams. There are two grades of reclaimed receivers, A and B.

A GRADE RECEIVER PRICE: \$325 plus \$15 S&H

Mixed manufacturer. Re-machined to its original specifications. Cosmetic condition will be good to very good. Receivers will show signs of previous weld(s), primarily below the wood line; however, the depth of penetration will be superficial. These receivers have been “Dual Field Magnetic Particle Inspected” to ASTM 1444E standards and, according to the CMP, are safe to fire.

B GRADE RECEIVER PRICE: \$275 plus \$15 S&H

Mixed Manufacturer. Re-machined to its original specifications. Cosmetic condition will exhibit moderate variation in finish color, pitting and/or porosity from the previous weld(s). These receivers have been “Dual Field Magnetic Particle Inspected” to ASTM 1444E standards and per the CMP are safe to fire.

Receivers are not sorted by manufacturer and will be distributed randomly—no special requests will be accepted. All orders will be shipped via FedEx Priority Overnight and will require an adult signature upon delivery. Online and mail orders are “luck of the draw” and sold as is with no refunds or exchanges. Or you can stop by any CMP store to browse the displayed inventory in person and choose your own receiver. Receivers will count toward your 2025 annual limit, and all state laws and regulations will be followed. Go to <https://thecmp.org/receivers-and-barreled-receivers/> for additional information.



★ In Review ★

The "In Review" section of the newsletter includes VGCA member reviews of gun shows, books, and museums. If you would like to submit a review, please send it to the newsletter editor at rpebecker@verizon.net

THE HISTORY OF MARINE CORPS LONG ARMS WEBPAGE

By Marc Gorelick



The 18 muskets and rifles featured on the website. Photo US Marine Corps

The US Marine Corps posted a new webpage on its official website that reviews the standard shoulder arms that were issued to Marines in the service's 250 year history, from British Brown Bess and French Charleville muskets during the Revolutionary War to the post 9/11 M4s and current standard issue M27. The scrolling post rolls through 18 of the standardized, issued long guns that Marines have fought with during their illustrious history.

The post is part of the Marine Corps' celebration of its 250th birthday, and it's a good visual review for both those who know nothing about firearms, and collectors and historians who need a quick historical overview. The rifles and muskets on the list do not cover every long gun issued to Marines, however those on the webpage were selected because of the number in service, their place in history, and their technological significance in the evolution of firearms. While the text doesn't go into great detail about each individual weapon (a purist would say it is light on details), it does try to give the basics and put the guns into historical context. There are a few technical errors, such as calling a US Model 1861 a musket instead of a rifle-musket, and the titles sometimes do not correspond to the arms pictured or the text describing the gun. However, if you remember that this webpage is intended for general public and not the advanced collector or historian, the text is reasonably interesting and the photographs of the weapons are reasonably good.

The webpage can be found at <https://www.marines.mil/News/News-Display/Article/4235049/there-are-many-like-it-250-years-of-marine-corps-service-rifles/>.

★ Show-n-Tell ★

NOTE: For anyone bringing in items for Show-n-Tell - please hold the item up so the members in attendance can see it. This will also help your photographer get a sharp picture and allow people who cannot attend the meeting to see it clearly in the newsletter. We also ask that you provide a Fact Sheet (copies of the one below will be provided at the meeting) to assist the newsletter editor in accurately describing your item. Thank you!

VGCA Show-n-Tell Fact Sheet

Manufacturer: _____

Model: _____ Action Type: _____

Caliber: _____

Years of Production: _____ Total Produced: _____

Year this example was manufactured (if known): _____

Significance: _____

Question(s) for members: _____

Name (optional): _____

Where acquired (optional): _____ When acquired (optional): _____

A message from your VGCA Photographer--

I ask those who bring items in for Show-and-Tell to PLEASE hold the item UP and in view of the audience so that they can be seen clearly, and so that I might be able to get a decent picture for the newsletter. PLEASE stand behind the tables and simply hold the item at chest or waist level, face forward, stand still, and give me a five or six seconds to grab a decent photograph of the Show-and-Tell item.

If you do not want your Show-and-Tell item to be shared with other VGCA members, just tell me in advance and I will not attempt to take a photo of it.

I do photography for the VGCA and its' members, not for myself, and not for any personal gain. Your assistance in documenting your items will be a great help. I spend an average of five hours editing the pictures for the newsletter and not having a clear view of the subject has been a great and constant frustration for me.

Your help will assist in making a better newsletter for all VGCA members. Thank you!

Jack Looney

★ Upcoming Events and Shows ★

PLEASE NOTE: VGCA members are strongly encouraged to verify shows before driving to an event. These dates were confirmed when this newsletter was written but are not guaranteed. Shows highlighted in **yellow** are shows with a collector focus.

VIRGINIA – 2025

- Aug 23-24, 2025 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex – *Showmasters*
- Sep 6-7, 2025 – Fishersville, VA – Augusta Expo – *Showmasters*
- Sep 13-14, 2025 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK*
- Sep 26-28, 2025 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- Oct 4-5, 2025 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center – *C&E*
- Oct 11-12, 2025 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fredericksburg Fairgrounds – *SGK*
- Oct 18-19, 2025 – Virginia Beach, VA – Virginia Beach Convention Center – *SGK*
- **Nov 1-2, 2025 – Dale City, VA – Dale City VFW Post 1503 – *VGCA (Our Show!)***
- Nov 1-2, 2025 – Harrisonburg, VA – Rockingham County Fairgrounds – *Showmasters*
- Nov 15-16, 2025 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex – *Showmasters*
- Nov 21-23, 2025 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- Nov 29-30, 2025 – Fishersville, VA – Augusta Expo – *Showmasters*
- Nov 29-30, 2025 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK*

MARYLAND – 2025

- Aug 23-24, 2025 – Frederick, MD – Frederick Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Aug 30, 2025 – Parkville, MD – Baltimore County Game & Fish – *Baltimore Co Game & Fish*
- Sep 6-7, 2025 – Easton, MD – Easton Vol. Fire Dept. – *Eastern Shore Arms Collectors*
- Sep 20-21, 2025 – Crownsville, MD – Anne Arundel Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Oct 4-5, 2025 – Timonium, MD – Timonium Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Oct 25-26, 2025 – West Friendship, MD – Howard County Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promo*
- Nov 1-2, 2025 – Easton, MD – Easton Vol. Fire Dept. – *Eastern Shore Arms Collectors*
- Nov 8-9, 2025 – Frederick, MD – Frederick Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*

PENNSYLVANIA – 2025

- Aug 23-24, 2025 – Trevoise, PA – Radisson Philadelphia Northeast – *Eagle Shows*
- Aug 30-31, 2025 – Harrisburg, PA – PA Farm Show Complex – *C&E Gun Shows*
- Aug 30-31, 2025 – Sellersville, PA – Forrest Lodge VTW245 – *Jaeger Arms*
- Sep 6-7, 2025 – Washington, PA – Washington PA County Fairgrounds – *ARH Sport Shop*
- Sep 6-7, 2025 – Williamsport, PA – Liberty Arena – *Eagle Shows*
- Sep 13, 2025 – Wampum, PA – Chewton VFD Hall – *Ellwood Wampum Rod & Gun Club*
- Sep 13-14, 2025 – Union City, PA – UCVFS Social Hall – *Randy Peterson*
- Sep 14, 2025 – Portland, PA – William Pensyl Social Hall – *Portland Hook & Ladder Comp #1*
- Sep 20-21, 2025 – Morgantown, PA – Morgantown Expo Center – *Eagle Shows*
- Sep 27-28, 2025 – Allentown, PA – Parkview Inn – *Eagle Shows*
- **Sep 27-28, 2025 – Gettysburg, PA – Redding Auction Hall – *Central PA Antique Arms Assoc.***
- Sep 27-28, 2025 – Leesport, PA – Leesport Farmers Market – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Sep 27-28, 2025 – West Middlesex, PA – Hidden Valley Sportsmen's Club – *Hidden Valley Sportsmen's Club*
- Oct 4-5, 2025 – Trevoise, PA – Radisson Philadelphia Northeast – *Eagle Shows*
- Oct 10-11, 2025 – Shippenville, PA – Oak Grove Events Bldg – *Allegheny Log Homes*

PENNSYLVANIA – 2025 (continued)

- Oct 11-12, 2025 – Bloomsburg, PA – Bloomsburg Fairgrounds – *C&E Gun Shows*
- Oct 11-12, 2025 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center - *Showmasters*
- Oct 12, 2025 – Mount Bethel, PA – Mount Bethel Volunteer Fire Dept – *Mount Bethel VFD*
- Oct 17-19, 2025 – Oaks, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Shows*
- Oct 18-19, 2025 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds – *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*
- Oct 25-26, 2025 – Lake Harmony, PA – Split Rock Resort – *Eagle Shows*
- Oct 25-26, 2025 – Matamoras, PA – Best Western Hotel at Hunt's Landing – *Westchester Collectors Inc.*
- Nov 1-2, 2025 – Quarryville, PA – Solanco Fairgrounds – *Eagle Shows*
- Nov 1-2, 2025 – Sellersville, PA – Forrest Lodge VTW245 – *Jaeger Arms*
- Nov 1-2, 2025 – York, PA – York Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Nov 8, 2025 – St. Thomas, PA – St. Thomas Sportsmen Assoc – *St. Thomas Sportsmen Assoc*
- Nov 15-16, 2025 – Allentown, PA - Parkview Inn - *Eagle Shows*
- Nov 15-16, 2025 – Leesport, PA – Leesport Farmers Market – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Nov 16, 2025 – Portland, PA – William Pensyl Social Hall – *Portland Hook & Ladder Comp #1*
- Nov 22-23, 2025 – Harrisburg, PA – PA Farm Show Complex – *C&E Gun Shows*

SPECIAL EVENTS / SHOWS – 2025

- Sep 20-21, 2025 – Ladson, SC – Exchange Park Fairgrounds – *South Carolina Arms Collector Association*
- Sep 27-28, 2025 – Cleveland, OH – Ross Expo Center-Lorain County Fairgrounds – Annual Display Show - *Ohio Gun Collectors Association* – with **Winchester Arms Collectors Association and German Gun Collectors Association**
- Oct 1-5, 2025 – Winchester, VA - Fort Shenandoah – *151st National Skirmish – N-SSA*
- Oct 18-19, 2025 – Statesville, NC – Statesville Civics Center – *North Carolina Gun Collectors Association*
- Nov 2, 2025 – Woodbridge, VA – Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton VFD Firehall – O-W-L / Belvoir Militaria Show – *Fort Belvoir ASMIC* – Free admission – No Guns
- Nov 8-9, 2025 – Tulsa, OK – Expo Square (Tulsa Fairgrounds) – *Wanenmacher* – World's Largest Gun Show – 4200+ tables!
- Nov 22-23, 2025 – Hamilton, OH – Spooky Nook/Champion Hill – *Ohio Gun Collectors Association*
- Nov 22-23, 2025 – Ladson, SC – Exchange Park Fairgrounds – *South Carolina Arms Collector Association*
- Nov 28-29, 2025 – Nashville, TN - Franklin/Cool Springs Marriott Hotel – *Tennessee Military Collectors Association*

NOTE: OGCA Gun Shows are not open to the public – they are restricted to members and invited guests only. Several VGCA members are also members of OGCA and can sponsor you if you are interested in attending.

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 and is intended for listing firearms and firearm related items. 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 regard 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. 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.

VGCA Logo Available at Lands' End

Here's how to order your apparel:

1. Go to the VGCA store on Lands' End business:
<https://business.landsend.com/store/vgca>
 - a. It must be the URL shown above. **Do not** go to the regular Lands' End website. It will not show our logo options.
2. Above the photo on the home page click on "Men" or "Women"
3. On the drop-down menu select what you are interested in. For example, Men>Activewear >Tops gives you 19 different styles and fabrics of men's shirts. When you have selected an item click on it and select your color, size and quantity. Then on the lower right-hand corner of the screen click on the blue "Apply Logos" button.
4. On the next screen click on the VGCA logo to choose it and it will open the "select a Location" menu showing where you can have the VGCA logo embroidered. Choose a location and then scroll down to the "Apply Logo" button in the lower right corner and click it. It will return you to your garment page.
5. If you are satisfied with your garment, color, size and logo location click on the "Add to Bag" button in the lower right corner.
6. Then you can then go to checkout or continue shopping. When you checkout it will show an additional \$8.95 for embroidery.



If you have any questions, you can reach Bruce Buchner at 703-339-8212 or Buchnerb@cox.net

FOR SALE:

✪ **FINNISH MOSIN-NAGANT** is authored by VGCA member Matt DiRisio and published by Wet Dog Publications. The list price is \$99.95. It is 584 pages long with over 1,500 color and black and white photographs.

For ordering information go to the Wet Dog Publications website at:

<https://www.fnbrowning.com/book-finnish-mosin-nagant>

FOR SALE:

✪ After more than two and a half years of research, VGCA member Bill Vanderpool has published his book **Guns of the FBI**. This book is available at GunDigest.com or can be purchased

directly from Bill by calling 703-626-2975. He is more than happy to sign a copy for you. Cost is \$50.00.

FOR SALE:

★ VGCA member Charlie Pate has four books that he has authored for sale, at discounted prices for VGCA members. These include:

- “U.S. Handguns of World War II” - \$45.00
- “The Smith & Wesson American Model” - \$55.00
- “U.S. Military Arms Inspector Marks” - \$45.00
- “The Colt Model 1860 Army Revolver” - \$60.00

If interested, please contact Charlie at usarmsresearch@gmail.com

FOR SALE:

★ VGCA member Larry Babcock has published a companion piece to his earlier book **M1 Garand Photo Essay**. This second book, titled **M1 Garand Photo Essay Volume II** covers all new material, to include the M1C and M1D sniper rifles as well as a myriad of M1 accessories. Best of all, both books are offered at a discount to VGCA members. Volume I is normally priced at \$69 and volume II lists for \$49, VGCA members can buy them directly from Larry for \$60 and \$40 each respectively - or \$90 total if you buy both. Look for Larry Babcock set up near the VGCA recruiting table at the next Chantilly Gun Show or order from him directly at larrybab@comcast.net / or text to 703-856-2561.

FOR SALE: PRICES ARE NEGOTIABLE. COUNTER-OFFERS ARE WELCOME

VGCA member Peter O'Connor has the following six vintage firearms for sale that may well be of interest to collectors. Photo sets available upon request to help assess the finish and features on each firearm.

1. “(BISLEY MODEL) 45 COLT” left side barrel: serial #250487 on butt plate, frame, and trigger guard frame; year of manufacture 1904; 6 screws visible; 7 1/2” barrel; hard rubber grips with prancing pony on both; aged finish but no nicks or scratches on steel or grips; bore is clear; stiff cycling but fully functional. \$950.



2. “COLT ARMY 38 SPECIAL” left side barrel; serial #374372; year of manufacture 1929; 3 screws visible; 6” barrel; hard rubber grips with COLT on both; “CITY OF BWS NEW YORK” markings on left panel identifying it was issued to the NYC Bureau of Water Supply Police; cycling functionality is sharp and precise. \$775.



3. “COLT AUTOMATIC CALIBER 25” right side of slide; full nomenclature: Colt Model 1908 .25ACP Vest Pocket Hammerless; serial #404612; year of manufacture 1937; 2” barrel; single action; comes with original box and one 6-round magazine; in very good condition; prancing pony medallions on both checkered walnut grips, which are in excellent condition; fully functional. \$550.

4. "38 S&W SPECIAL CTG" right side barrel; serial #333424; year of manufacture of this 4th Model published as 1895-1909 with serial number indicating a likely manufacture date of 1895 based on an analysis of 4th Model serial numbers and production numbers; 5 screws visible; 6" barrel; stiff cycling but fully functional; finish looks to be nickel; no S&W logo – not uncommon for the era. \$475.



5. "CAL 6.35MM [.25ACP] ARSENAL VIENNA, AUSTRIA" left side slide: OWA is abbreviation for Austrian Works Arsenal; serial #21283; year of manufacture 1922; produced 1921-1924; 2" barrel; single action; has a pivoting top barrel assembly in a blowback design; checkered hard plastic grips with OWA logo; comes with one 6-round magazine; imported into Virginia by L. Oppelman as listed in his 1930 Imported & Gun Catalog; appears to be functional but the operation of this collectable is certainly different. \$325.

6. WINCHESTER REPEATING ARMS CO. MODEL 69-22 – SHORT-LONG-AND LONG RIFLE" left side barrel; no serial #; 25" barrel; one 5-round magazine; blade front sight and buckhorn rear open sight drift-adjustable for windage; walnut stock; date of manufacture estimated to be 1935-1936 when the model 69-22 first came out - estimation based on major changes to this rifle that occurred in 1937 that are not evident in this model 69-22 for sale; fully functional. \$425.



If you are interested and want additional photos of a listed firearm, please contact Peter at oconnorhome@cox.net.

FOR SALE:

★ Mossberg Model 9200 Crown Turkey. 12-gauge with 3" chamber 24-inch barrel with Modified Choke (same as Full Choke when used with steel shot).



Also includes a second 24-inch slug barrel with rifle sights. \$499.

Contact Jack via email to looney.house@verizon.net or text to 703-999-9458.

WANT TO BUY:

★ Browning lever action Gold Medallion, short action, blue or silver.
Also: Browning lever action with pistol grip and take down. Prefer .308 but any considered.
Call King at 703 576-7016, if there is no answer leave name and number with a brief description.
Thank you, King von Schilling

WANT TO BUY:

★ Seeking a Bagnold Sun Compass, used during WWII by British desert troops. It was mounted on their vehicles. Must be complete and in working order. Contact Jack via email to looney.house@verizon.net or text to 703-999-9458.



The e-mail address for any Newsletter-related matters is Newsletter@vgca.net - or you can reach the editor directly at 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 George Dungan.