



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.ORG



Est. 1983 (A Non-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G 8162

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September 2010 VGCA Newsletter



Presentation for the August 28, 2010 Meeting: The meeting originally scheduled was to be the first of the 2010 *National Firearms Museum – VGCA Special Speaker Series*, and was to feature noted Winchester expert and author **Edmund E. Lewis**, and his book “*The Story of the Winchester 1 of 1000 and 1 of 100 Rifles.*” Unfortunately, due to personal circumstances the speaker had to cancel. However, **Gary Holderman**, one of the VGCA’s most enthusiastic Winchester fans and collectors, stepped up and offered to deliver a presentation on the *Winchester Model 74 and 74A Auto loading .22RF Rifles*. Gary brought 10 examples from his collection and stood and delivered a thorough and informative presentation. Often overlooked by many collectors as an “ugly duckling” compared to the elegance of a Model 52 Sporter or target rifle or a classic Low Wall or a beautiful “1 of 1000” lever action, Gary showed how these fine auto loading rifles have enough variations to please an experienced collector or enable a new collector to start a Winchester collection without breaking the bank. Leading off was a Model 74 Gallery Gun in .22 Short. Authentic Gallery guns are noted by the short loading tube and a loading hole by the pistol grip and may have the counter chain used to keep the guns pointing down range. Since the counter chain was sold by Winchester, collectors

should check ALL features of a purported gallery gun if considering a purchase. Another rare item was a notice for dealers pointing out that sales of Model 74s would increase ammunition sales. Gary showed an example with a “bolt peep sight” that required a dedicated bolt, and variations that also had rear open sights on the barrel. He finished with examples of the last year of production (1956) Model 74 which had a factory grooved receiver for a tipoff scope, and a Model 77, a sleeker-actioned model that replaced the 74. This was a very informative presentation that was enhanced by the rare literature and dealer material and accessories. Well done.

→ Upcoming Presentation for the September 23 meeting: The **September** meeting will feature VGCA Member **Sonny Laine** who will cover the *1852 - 1864 Cadet Rifles and Muskets*. This is another of our VGCA member presentations and as always, serves to highlight our core functions of gun collecting, education and history. Members are encouraged to bring any of their related firearms from the series, that period, or any other item they wish to share with the assembled membership.

August 28, 2010 Meeting and Show and Tell



↑ A Winchester 74 Gallery Gun with Counter Chain

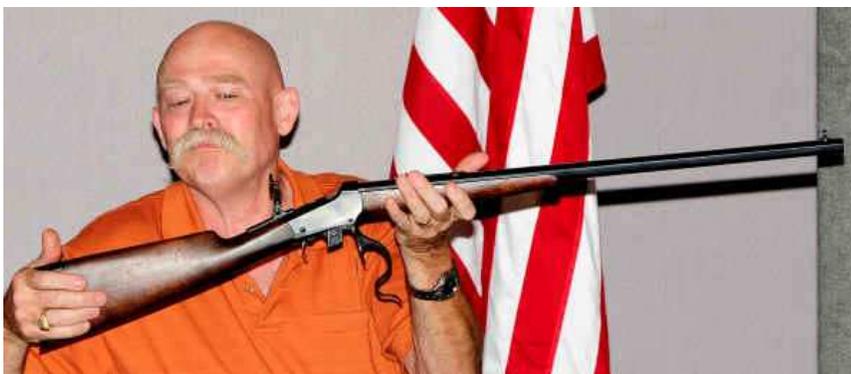
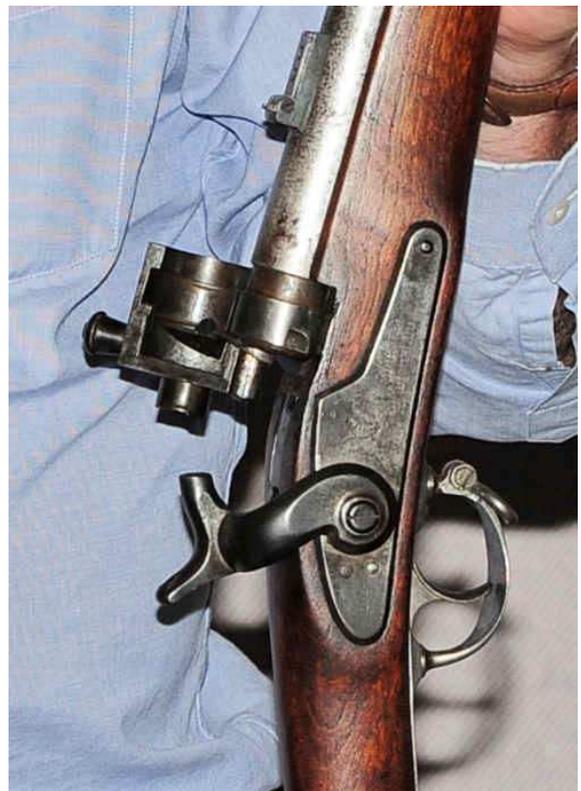
↗ Dealer sign to encourage Winchester-Western .22LR Ammo sales.



← Unknown and unmarked percussion turn barrel boot pistol.

→ 1865 Springfield-Joslyn rifle (detail of the sound, strong action); however, it lacked a robust extractor.

↓ Restored 1901-1905 vintage Winchester Low Wall in .22RF



→ **Future Presentations:** The NRA will provide speakers for the **October 28th** meeting and November/December meeting to be held on **December 2nd**. Topics for the October and December *National Firearms Museum – VGCA Special Speaker Series* topics will be announced at prior meetings and in this newsletter.

→ **Presentation Volunteers Needed:** We will need presenters for upcoming

monthly meetings and it is not too early to think about 2011. Call **Addison Hurst** now for your choice of a 2011 date if you can be a presenter or know of someone else who would be willing. *Please verify that the person is willing and able.* ☺ Remember, you do not need to do it solo (grab a partner or friend) and it does not have to be a marathon. Short and direct works well; and it does not have to have slides. If you wish there are members who will assist if you wish to use a PowerPoint presentation.

Business Meeting: The business meeting focused on preparations for the November 6-7 VGCA Fall Gun Show at Prince William Fairgrounds. We still need show volunteers. (See below). There are a number of vacant tables for those of you who are considering a display or getting a sales table. Display tables are free; however they are limited so get a request in now to avoid disappointment. **Dave Litchfield** led a discussion on planning for an Association display and the NRA Annual Meetings in Spring 2011. This is not a light undertaking and will need significant planning and some creative thinking for a worthy theme and identifying members who would contribute their collections and time to its success. This would require construction and design off the display booth. Please contact Dave at litchfd@comcast.net or at his number above on the masthead. **Larry Hare**, Membership introduced a new prospect for membership in the Association. **John Keppler**, a former USMC has as his primary interest, various hunting rifles. After a brief statement and introduction, Mr. Keppler was voted into the Association. Welcome aboard. Two guests were also introduced to the members present.

Call for November 2010 VGCA Gun Show Volunteers: We still need volunteers for the Security and Show Table Setup Teams, as well as some folks to help put out the signs the morning of the show, and pick them up after the show on Sunday, etc. Tell **John Frietsch**, **Dave Litchfield** or one of the Officers if you wish to volunteer, or sign up at the monthly meeting. Talk to **Larry Hare** if you want to help with signs. If you are on the fence, there are still 2 meetings left before the show to sign up.

Safety Team Volunteers: If any member wishes to help out for an hour or so at the upcoming March 2010 show, please call John Frietsch, Safety and Security Coordinator at 1-540-409-1271.

Reminder on the VGCA Gun Show Admission Policy for Members: In November 2007, the Executive Committee of the VGCA decided to discontinue free admission for all club members, and that free show admittance would be restricted to the following categories: military personnel "in uniform," law enforcement personnel with official credentials, and all table holders and their support personnel, i.e. 2 passes for the 1st table, and one additional pass for each additional table. **This has NOT changed. The final categories for free admission, are the volunteer groups always deserving of special thanks and recognition for their tireless dedication and support – the Gunshow Volunteers – the Security, Safety and Setup personnel.** All other members pay admission. Please try to be civil to our volunteers who uphold this policy and **if you wish to gain free entry, consider contributing by volunteering for the Security, Safety, and Setup teams as we always need reliable help for these critical activities.**

Start Thinking!!! January 2011 Elections for the VGCA Board of Directors: This past May, the Association held an election to fill out the remaining terms for members of the Board of Directors who stepped down or were elected to Officer positions in the Association. **Jim Burgess**, **Kelly Cook**, and **Dave Litchfield** were nominated, willing to serve, and elected to fill out the vacant terms. In January 2011, as directed by the Association bylaws, there will be another election to fill full terms on the Board of Directors. It is not too early to begin considering who you wish to fill these positions. If you wish to nominate one or all of the current Board member(s), or someone else, or even run yourself, give it serious consideration. An Election committee will be announced at a future meeting and in this venue, and will include who to contact for nominations. This is a good opportunity to get involved in the Association governing body.

VGCA Meeting of August 28, 2010 Show and Tell: **Bill Chronister** kicked off the evening's Show and Tell with a first edition, numbered, and hand colored version of Joe Kindig's *Thoughts on the Kentucky Rifle in its Golden Age*. This is one of the, if not THE, primary works on the Kentucky (more appropriately the Pennsylvania) Rifle. This limited edition from the first printing has many of the photographs hand colored, whereas the regular version had all B&W photos. Subsequently reprinted as a two volume set, this was a rare find at an incredible price from a used bookstore in Havre de Grace, Maryland. **Bruce Furr** showed two old black powder, percussion

pieces, a side-by-side shotgun, and a nice turn barrel boot pistol with interesting engraving and design, but no maker's marks. **Marc Gorelick** presented an 1865 Springfield-Joslyn rifle. Originally chambered in .50-60 Rimfire, they could also use .56-50 Spencer rimfire rounds, and some were later made in .50-70 Center fire. Unfortunately, although a sound, strong action, it lacked a robust extractor. While not a common arm (only 3000 were made) it was nevertheless in service until 1876 when the last examples from Sandy Hook, NJ was turned in for new trapdoors due to lack of ammo. **John Babey** displayed a nicely engraved Ithaca side-by-side shotgun with 32" barrels choked full/full. This piece was from the Pennsylvania area and thought to be a live pigeon gun. **Dick Mason** also showed a side-by-side box lock shotgun, this one a J.C.Higgins 101.7 also marked as a Stevens 311A. This small, lightweight, and soft recoiling gun was chambered in .410 gauge. **Jack Looney** brought 3 .22s for his session. There was an early Mossberg bolt gun, and 2 Coeys – a British-marked Model 39, and a Winchester Canada-marked model. Association Vice President **Ernie Lyles** kept to the Winchester theme and closed out with his nicely restored 1901-1905 vintage Winchester Low Wall in .22RF. At a post Show and Tell discussion **Bob Sears** explained how the action was designed to allow for a secure and repeatable lockup.

Upcoming Events and Shows

Henry Stewart 19th Century Antique Firearm Collection Finds Home in VMI Museum: Henry M. "Hank" Stewart Jr. '35, left the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) with a civil engineering degree, but established himself as an authority on 19th-century American and European firearms, amassing an 800 piece collection of world renown. Upon his death in 1988, Stewart bequeathed his 800-piece collection to VMI, which until recently was unable to display the collection due to a lack of space. This fall, the entire collection - goes on display in the renovated VMI museum. The collection is known for the rarity and quality of the arms, the artistry of some of the weapons, and its insight into 19th-century arms manufacturing. Stewart was not just a gun collector; he was also a historian of early weapons manufacture. He demonstrated that Samuel Colt did not invent the revolver, by locating earlier patents. Many pieces are original U.S. government patent models, including the 1818 Artemus Wheeler flintlock, representing the first U.S. revolver patent. One of the rarest pieces is the Isaiah Lukens air rifle carried by Lewis and Clark. Other new permanent collections for the VMI Museum are planned, including a VMI Heritage exhibit, and the VMI Citizens & Soldiers exhibit which focuses on distinguished alumni.

Words to the Wise: 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. Historical events and lectures, re-enactments, auctions (national, international, and local estate auctions) are all welcome. **Collector shows are highlighted in yellow.**

VIRGINIA 2010

- September 25-26, 2010 - Fishersville, VA - Augusta Expoland – *Showmasters*
- October 1, 2 & 3, 2010 - Chantilly, VA - Dulles Expo Center - *C&E Gun Show / Showmasters*
- October 2-3, 2010 - Dale City, VA - VFW Post 1503 - *Old Dominion Shows*
- October 3, 2010 – Winchester, VA - Fort Shenandoah - Living history, live-fire national competition - *North-South Skirmish Association*. Spectators welcome. Free. For details and directions www.n-ssa.org.
- October 9-10, 2010 - Harrisonburg, VA - Rockingham County Fairgrounds – *C&E Gun Show*
- October 16-17, 2010 – Richmond, VA – Showplace - *C&E Gun Show*
- October 23-24, 2010 – Roanoke, VA - Roanoke Civic Center – *Showmasters*
- **November 6-7, 2010 - Manassas, VA - Prince William County Fairgrounds – Virginia Gun Collectors Association**
- November 6-7, 2010 - Norfolk, VA – Norfolk Scope Arena - *C&E Gun Show*
- November 6-7, 2010 - Dale City, VA - VFW Post 1503 - *Old Dominion Shows*
- November 13-14, 2010 - Richmond, VA - Raceway & Fairgrounds – *Showmasters*
- November 19, 20 & 21, 2010 - Chantilly, VA - Dulles Expo Center - *C&E Gun Show / Showmasters*

MARYLAND 2010

- September 18-19, 2010 - Howard County, MD - County Fairgrounds (I-70, Exit 80) – *Silverado Promotions*
- October 2-3, 2010 – Timonium, MD - Timonium Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*

- November 6-7, 2010 – Upper Marlboro, MD - Show Place Arena – *Silverado Promotions*
- November 13-14, 2010 - Frederick, MD - Frederick Fairgrounds – *Silverado Promotions*

PENNSYLVANIA 2010

- September 25-26, 2010 - Allentown, PA - Rodeway Inn - *Eagle Arms*
- October 2-3, 2010 – Lebanon, PA - Lebanon Expo Center - *Eagle Arms*
- October 9-10, 2010 - Monroeville, PA - Convention Center - *Showmasters*
- October 9-10, 2010 - Carlisle, PA - Carlisle Expo Center - *Appalachian Promotions*
- October 16-17, 2010 - Allentown, PA - Agricultural Hall - *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*. Contact: FDHAS, 3491 Linden St., Bethlehem, PA 18017. 610-997-8613 after 6pm.
- October 23-24, 2010 – Allentown, PA - PA Expo Center - *Appalachian Promotions*
- October 23-24, 2010 - Bloomsburg, PA - Columbia Mall Events Center - *Eagle Arms*
- October 30-31, 2010 – York, PA – York Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*
- November 13-14, 2010 – Philadelphia, PA - (Center Oaks) Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Mid-Atlantic Arms Collectors*
- November 13-14, 2010 - Poconos, PA - Split Rock Lodge - *Eagle Arms*.

NEW YORK

- September 25-26, 2010 – Freeport, NY - The Freeport Recreation Center - *Long Island Antique Historical Arms Society*. Contact: Dave Gruner (631) 722-3248, P.O. Box 41, Jamesport, NY 11947.

OHIO 2010

- November 20-21, 2010 – Wilmington, OH – Roberts Centre - *Ohio Gun Collectors Association*. **OGCA MEMBERS ONLY**. For membership information contact Laura Knotts (330) 467-5733.

OKLAHOMA 2010

- November 13-14, 2010 – Tulsa, OK - Expo Center-Expo Square (Tulsa Fairgrounds) - *Tulsa Arms Collectors Association*. ****MORE THAN 3,900 TABLES!****

“Never give in, never give in, never, never, never – in nothing, great or small, large or petty – never give in except to convictions of honor and good sense.”
– Winston Spencer Churchill Address at Harrow School, October 29, 1941

Address for any Newsletter related matters or submissions is VGCAnews@cox.net. Feel free to email items for inclusion in the newsletter. For changes of address or non-receipt of the newsletter, either via email or the mailed hard-copy, please contact Larry Hare at the numbers on page one.

V/R, *Bill Chronister*, Secretary/Editor