



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.ORG

Est. 1983 (A Non-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G8162



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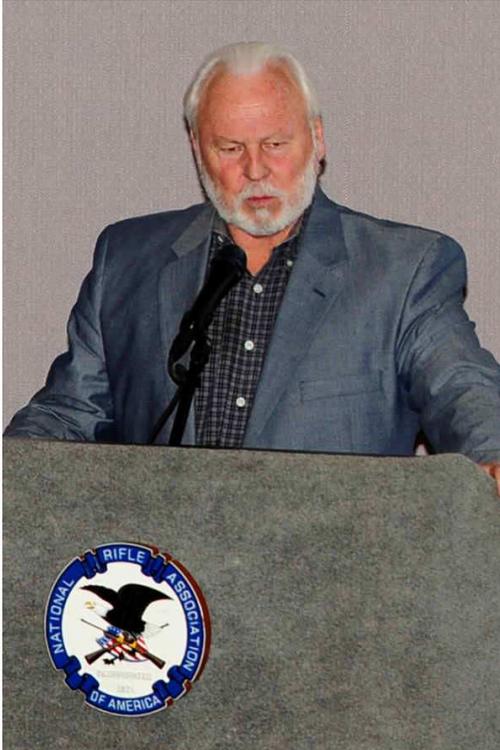
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September 2011 VGCA e-Newsletter



Presentation at the August 25th Meeting: Phil Schreier, Senior Curator of the NRA National Firearms Museum, kicked off the evening's **NRA NFM-VGCA Special Presentation Series** by introducing Mr. Phil Spangenberg, noted columnist for *Guns and Ammo* and *True West* magazines. Mr. Spangenberg had revived the Buffalo Bill Wild West Show in the 1970s, authored the black powder column in *Guns and Ammo* and played a key role in founding the Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association (CMSA). Phil's topic and mission was to cover "Guns of the Western Movies" for us. Phil began his presentation by stating that the current trend in western movies is to feature a much larger array of guns, giving a wider display of the vast number of weapons available to cowboys, lawmen, military, criminals, and sportsmen and women of the old west in the 1860s through 1890s. He covered many aspects including errors with dates, "prop" guns, continuity gaffes, anecdotes, his experiences acting and as an extra in some well known movies, and many small items of interest that unfortunately space prohibits from listing here in detail. Therefore, a small selection will serve as an example that he covered in his 90 minute presentation.

He started with the 1903 silent classic, "The Great Train Robbery," which is actually the birth of the American western. It featured Remington cap and ball revolvers and S&W triple lock revolvers and the former vaudeville star and first western star, Bronco

Billy Anderson. In 1939, "Allegheny Uprising" featured John Wayne carrying a Martin Smith Lancaster County Flintlock made in 1816. In the 1940s, Roy Rodgers movies had him carrying a Colt SAA and Winchester rifles. For the original "The Alamo" movie, there were scenes where actors are carrying fake flint lock rifles with the frizzens up in the uncocked position while they are supposedly firing. "The Alamo" movie with John Wayne had more fake flint locks that were converted from Trapdoor Springfields. Phil commented that the production crew needed so many rifles for the Mexican Army and Alamo defenders that Hollywood grabbed every rifle they could find and then tried to make them look like flintlocks. In the original "True Grit" with John Wayne (won his Oscar), Glenn Campbell and Kim Darby, showed a scene where Rooster tells Matty that she had a Colt Dragoon pistol when in fact it was a Colt Walker. In "Joe Kidd," Clint Eastwood used a Broomhandle 1896 Mauser pistol. In 1976's "The Shootist" with John Wayne, had Wayne using fancy Great Western pistols from his private collection. He did not use them when he played earlier roles because he felt they were too fancy for a regular cowboy, but were just right for an older professional gun fighter. In fact, they made a prop gun for use at the end of the movie when Ron Howard threw Wayne's pistol across the room, so the real pistol would not be damaged. In the 1979 movie "The Mountain Men," with Charlton Heston, Phil acted as the gun coach to teaching Heston how to handle a flint lock rifle. Phil was also an extra in this movie. In the outstanding Jesse James/Cole Younger Gang movie "The Long Riders," with the Keach, Carradine, and Quaid brothers acting, they used Colt SAA, Merwin & Hulbert, and S&W Schofield revolvers. In "Pale Rider," Clint Eastwood used a Remington New Model Army cap and ball, and changed the cylinder for reloading. "Dancing with Wolves," the first western to win an academy award in many, many years had Kevin Costner using an Uberti Henry Rifle and 1851 Colt Navy. Phil served as a technical

advisor for a movie about the Wounded Knee massacre, and also acted as an Army Sergeant leading troops in the battle. The production company gave him the Army Unit Guidon as a gift. They used trapdoor Springfields in the movie. This was a fun, informative and truly incredible presentation. I would like to thank Board Member **Dave Litchfield** for his extremely detailed notes he took in my absence.

- ⊙ **Upcoming September 22nd Monthly Presentation:** Our speaker will be John H. Thillmann, an expert on US cavalry and artillery sabers from 1833-65. He is a well known and respected authority on the subject, and a member of the Company of Military Historians. John has written several books on sabers and many articles for *Man at Arms*. He is interested in native wars in the US from 1830-1880, the Mexican War and the western frontier in general. He has a fascinating digital slide presentation that he will bring. I would encourage you to have the members bring in any Civil War arms, bayonets, swords. It should be a great show and tell and an educational experience for all. There will be pizza and drinks at 6:15.
- ⊙ The October VGCA Meeting will be held on Friday, October 21, and feature *Dave Rivers, Sgt. (ret.), Homicide Bureau, Miami Dade Police Department*, on the 1986 FBI Miami shoot-out. This should be very interesting. **PLEASE NOTE: The date of the October VGCA Meeting will be Friday, October 21, 2011 instead of the following week on the customary 4th Thursday of October 27.** We will have Pizza, but **we will also need members to help clean up all the trash.** This is **critical** due to a Saturday NRA event in the lecture hall, and we do not want to leave a mess. Show & Tell theme will Law Enforcement firearms.
- ⊙ The last meeting of the year will be on December 1 with an NFM-VGCA presentation. Phil Schreier of the NRA informed the members at the August meeting that he has secured Mr. Val Forgett, owner and CEO of *Navy Arms* and *The Old Western Scrounger*, as the guest speaker. This meeting will have covered dish holiday food instead of pizza, if there is sufficient member interest.

August 25th Meeting Announcements: President Addison Hurst called the meeting to order at 7 PM and informed the attendees that we were fortunate to have Mr. Jack Bokinsky back with us after having undergone heart surgery earlier in the summer. Jack looked great and sounded like his old self. Addison also announced that Mr. Frank Lindsay was very ill with cancer. He then announced that plans for the evening had been changed. Phil Schreier of the NRA National Firearms Museum had contacted him earlier in the week to report that he had secured a guest speaker for the evening, Mr. Phil Spangenberg, noted journalist, firearms collector, and acclaimed technical consultant to the movie and television industry on western guns, gun tactics and techniques, clothing and equipment. In addition we were also to have Mr. Sam Hatfield provide a technical presentation of accurizing AR15 type rifles. Unfortunately, Mr. Hatfield was suffering from a case of the flu, so he and his team asked to depart early. It will be rescheduled for a future date. Sam has moved to 8898 Mathis Avenue, Manassas, VA 20110. Phone: 703-369-GUNS. His webpage is www.hatfieldgunsmithing.com. The new shop is much larger and he is currently installing shooting simulators for the public. Sam is also offering a gunsmithing class for 1911s in his shop. Members should call for details.

Phil Schreier provided an update on recent NRA-NFM. Among the topics he covered were: 2010 was a banner year for the NFM a record attendance of over 40,000 visitors and record sales from the gift shop. The Museum web site is attracting 1800 visitors per day and has high resolution photos of every firearm displayed. The NRA has completed plans for a National Sporting Arms Museum to be located at the Bass Pro Shop in Springfield, Missouri, scheduled to open in fall 2012. The store has over 4 million customers visit every year.

Important Issues for Association Members' Consideration: There are a number of important issues which it is not too early to think about.

- ⊙ **The Fall 2011 VGCA Gun Show** will be on November 5-6, 2011 in Manassas, Virginia at the Prince William County Fairgrounds. As usual, we need VGCA gun show members to volunteer for the show table setup, safety and security Teams, as well as some folks to help with the sign detail the morning of the show, and pick them up after the show on Sunday. Please let **John Frietsch, Dave Litchfield** or one of the Association Officers know if you wish to volunteer. Talk to **Larry Hare** if you want to help with signs. Table set-up will be on Thursday, November 3, usually around 1PM, or whenever the tables arrive.
- ⊙ If any member wishes to help out for an hour or so at the show on the Safety and Security Teams, please call **John Frietsch**, Safety and Security Coordinator at 1-540-409-1271. **Volunteering for the Security, Safety, and Setup teams gets a free admission.**

- ⊙ **Fall VGCA Gun Show Sales Tables:** The Association *still has tables remaining for the Fall VGCA Gun Show*. Members who wish to reserve a table for disposing of your unloved or duplicate firearms, accoutrements, collectable accessories, or other gun collecting related items, please contact Rick Nahas, ASAP. If you believe manning a sales table alone would be too demanding and not allow you time to hunt for deals or just talk to other members, get a partner and share the duties and have relief for your time around the show. Show tables cost \$60 each, so sharing splits costs with a colleague.
- ⊙ **VGCA Gun Show Educational and Display Tables:** The club will continue having FREE DISPLAY TABLES for members *on a space available basis* for the Fall show. This is a great opportunity to test the waters if you wanted to do a display table. Display tables are space available depending on sales table rentals, and therefore may be limited, so again, contact **Rick Nahas** ASAP to reserve yours.
- ⊙ **Election of VGCA Officers for the 2012-2014 Term:** While it appears to be a ways off, there are now only 2 general membership meetings (September and October) until the Annual Association Membership Meeting in early December. This December Annual Membership Meeting is the meeting where nominations are taken from the floor for candidates for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The election will be in January 2012. Ballots are mailed out in January and must be returned to allow the ballots to be counted and the results announced at February 2012 Meeting. This December meeting is also one of the only opportunities you may have to question potential candidates about their ideas for the direction of the Association, instead of relying on a photo and one paragraph attachment to the ballot. Some of the incumbent Officers have indicated they are definitely not running for re-election, so we will need to have candidates to fill the vacant positions. Please consider if you would like to run, or if you have someone you would like to nominate to run. This is extremely important as we face a number of challenges. Our recent elections have had increasing numbers of candidates, which is a good sign of increased interest, so if you wish to get involved, now is the time to make your interests known.
- ⊙ **December Annual Membership Meeting:** We combine the December and November meeting into one early December meeting due to the Gun Show and the Thanksgiving and December Holiday Seasons. We will have the nomination of officer candidates and other business. Since this will also be a meeting with food, this is a great opportunity for members who may wish to bring some special food to brighten the meeting and also celebrate the holiday seasons and another year of the Association. Not wishing to make it into a large production, this would be left up to members to decide if they wish to bring something. However, if pizza and wings leaves you flat, this would be a great opportunity to spice up the evening with some Holiday theme food (bought or homemade is OK). Let any of the Association Officers know if you like the idea and also if you would be willing to provide or kick in for some food. Please contact one of the officers with ideas.

Member Announcements and Requests for Member Assistance:

- VGCA Patches for sale. Cost is \$5.00. See Addison.
- The NRA asked if we could assist for a future *American Rifleman* article on military .22lr ammunition. They are seeking boxes of Remington made T-42 and M-24 subsonic for photographing. Please contact Bob Boyd of the NRA at 703-267-1389.
- Jack Looney, (703-534-3286) is selling the following: **Thompson Center Contender Barrels:** .22 LR, 10" Octagon, blue, **with forearm**, \$275; .22 Hornet, 10" Bull, blue, **with scope mount base**, \$250. **Two Vietnam Tet Offensive bring backs: Chinese Mosin-Nagant Carbine, Type 53** (PRC version of Russian M-44), 7.62x54R, with folding bayonet. **Mossberg Model 'R'**, .22, with **Beech Front Sight** and a non-Mossberg (possibly Winchester) **Carbine Type Ladder Rear Sight**. 'R' Stock has a split in the fore end. The guns have **letters of regarding their authenticity from actions in My Tho Province, 1967~1968**. According to the report, as bodies were being policed, the Type 53 was found beneath an NVA soldier, with an empty chamber, and no rounds in the magazine. The rifle has blood rust on the left and top of the receiver/barrel. No individual story is available on the Mossberg, but it was brought back at the same time as the Type 53. Jack prefers to sell the pair as a set and is accepting reasonable offers.
- Jack Looney is also looking for a member with expertise on the variations of the Thompson/Center Contender pistols, barrels and locking lug fitting, and interchangeability. Contact him at 703-534-3286.

Show & Tell for the August 25th Meeting: **John Morris** showed his 1761 Dutch model cannon made by Pieter Seest. The cannon had HO engraved on the barrel, which could possibly be the initials of the owner of the cannon. It was bought in Holland from a family who claimed to have had it for many generations and John has only seen

one other like it, which he also owns. The bore is .92 inches, and fired blanks to celebrate royal birthdays and other holidays. **John Babey** showed four Smith & Wesson pistols, all nickel plated. The first, a Baby Russian, was one of 26,000 made in .38 S&W cal; the second was an 1891 single action, also in .38 S&W that was shipped in 1893; The third was a model 2 S&W, again in .38 S&W, in the original box; and the fourth and last was an 1881-1882 model double action in .32 S&W center fire. It was a nice view of some of the pieces in his collection. **Marc Gorelick** showed his newly acquired (from Cliff Sophia) Remington New Model Army, serial number 135,573, in .44 caliber percussion dated from 1867. It has an inspector's cartouche of GP on the bottom of the left grip. This model was issued for Army use from 1865 to 1872 and was not as well liked as the Colts due to weak springs wearing out or breaking too often. The pistol is in excellent condition, especially the grips. **Addison Hurst** showed his new acquired Colt AR15 from the 1980s with the original 1 in 12" twist and no bolt forward assist. The rifle has had very few rounds shot through it and is in like new condition. He purchased it from his water treatment guy.

Photographs from the August Meeting and Show & Tell



← Phil Schreier kicked off the evening by introducing Phil Spangenberg, noted columnist for *Guns and Ammo* and *True West* magazines.

→ Phil's topic and mission was to cover "Guns of the Western Movies"



← Far Right: The presentation was loaded with illustrations and movie stills to augment Mr. Spangenberg's rich narrative.

← Right: 1761 Dutch model cannon made by Pieter Seest. The .92" bore cannon had markings on the barrel, which could have been the owner's initials. It was bought in Holland from a family who claimed to have had it for many generations. The gun fired blanks to celebrate royal birthdays and other holidays.

↘ Marc Gorelick showed a Remington New Model Army revolver.



Upcoming Events and Shows

Please note: There are sometimes changes in schedules or errors on websites. Members are strongly encouraged to *verify before driving to a show*. These dates have been published online, but are not guaranteed. **Yellow highlights** = Collector organizations.

VIRGINIA 2011

- ⇒ September 24-25, 2011 - Hampton, VA - Convention Center - *SGK, LTD*
- ⇒ September 24-25, 2011 - Fishersville, VA - Augusta Expoland – *C&E Gun Show*
- ⇒ October 1-2, 2011 – Winchester, VA – Winchester Sportsplex – *SGK, LTD*
- ⇒ October 7, 8 & 9, 2011 - Chantilly, VA - Dulles Expo Center - *C&E Gun Show / Showmasters*
- ⇒ October 8-9, 2011 - Dale City, VA - VFW Post 1503 - *Old Dominion Shows*
- ⇒ October 15-16, 2011 - Richmond, VA – Showplace - *C&E Gun Show*
- ⇒ October 14-15, 2011 – Salem, VA - **Roanoke Airgun Show** - Moose Lodge, 3233 Capawba Valley Drive, Salem, VA. 24153. Hours: Friday 8AM-12PM - Dealers and Early Buyers (early buyers \$50.00 admission Friday 8AM). Public: Fri. 12-5PM, Sat. 9AM-5PM. \$5.00 admission goes to Moose Programs. There will be a test range to test airguns at the show. On-site camping available. Auction at 5PM on Friday. Info: 607-734-3805 or email: ars@stny.rr.com.
- ⇒ October 22-23, 2011 – Virginia Beach, VA – Convention Center - *SGK, LTD*
- ⇒ November 5-6, 2011 - Manassas, VA - **Prince William County Fairgrounds – Virginia Gun Collectors Association**
- ⇒ November 4-6, 2011 - Woodstock, VA - Shenandoah County Fairgrounds - *Virginia Gun & Knife Shows*
- ⇒ November 5-6, 2011 - Norfolk, VA – Norfolk Scope Arena - *C&E Gun Show*
- ⇒ November 5-6, 2011 - Dale City, VA - VFW Post 1503 - *Old Dominion Shows*
- ⇒ November 12-13, 2011 - Richmond, VA - Raceway & Fairgrounds – *Showmasters*
- ⇒ November 18, 19 & 20, 2011 - Chantilly, VA - Dulles Expo Center - *C&E Gun Show / Showmasters*
- ⇒ November 26-27, 2011 - Hampton, VA - Convention Center - *SGK, LTD*

MARYLAND 2011

- ⇒ October 1-2, 2011 – Timonium, MD - Timonium Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*
- ⇒ November 5-6, 2011 – Upper Marlboro, MD - Show Place Arena – *Silverado Promotions*
- ⇒ November 12-13, 2011 - Frederick, MD - Frederick Fairgrounds – *Silverado Promotions*

PENNSYLVANIA 2011

- ⇒ October 1-2, 2011 – Lebanon, PA - Lebanon Expo Center - *Eagle Arms*
- ⇒ October 22-23, 2011 - Monroeville, PA - Convention Center - *C&E/Showmasters Gun Shows*
- ⇒ October 15-16, 2011 - Allentown, PA - Agricultural Hall - *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*. Contact: FDHAS, 3491 Linden St., Bethlehem, PA 18017. 610-997-8613 after 6pm.
- ⇒ November 5-6, 2011 - Poconos, PA - Split Rock Lodge - *Eagle Arms*
- ⇒ November 12-13, 2011 - Tarentum, PA - Pittsburgh Mills Galleria - *Pennsylvania Gun Collectors Association*.
- ⇒ November 12-13, 2011 – Philadelphia, PA - Greater Philadelphia Expo Center (Oaks) – *Eagle Arms*
- ⇒ November 12-13, 2011 - Philadelphia, PA - National Guard Armory - *Appalachian Promotions*
- ⇒ December 3-4, 2011 - Allentown, PA - Agricultural Hall - *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*. Contact: FDHAS, 3491 Linden St., Bethlehem, PA 18017. 610-997-8613 after 6pm.

NEW YORK 2011

- ⇒ September 24-25, 2011 – 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 2011

- ⇒ November 19-20, 2011 – Wilmington, OH – Roberts Centre - *Ohio Gun Collectors Association*. **OGCA MEMBERS ONLY**. <http://www.ogca.com/index.htm>

OKLAHOMA 2011

- ⇒ November 12-13, 2011 – Tulsa, OK - Expo Center-Expo Square (Tulsa Fairgrounds) - *Tulsa Arms Collectors Association*. ****MORE THAN 4,100 TABLES!****

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. v/r Bill Chronister, VGCA Newsletter Editor