



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.NET

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

NRA Affiliate Number G8162



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September 2016 VGCA Newsletter

★ VGCA Meeting of August 25, 2016:

Our August presentation was from Emory Hackman on the topic of Guns of the Early Cowboy Era. The “Early Cowboy Era” is defined by the years 1868 (the year of the first major cattle drive from Texas to Kansas along the Chisholm Trail – which was itself aided by the Peace Treaty of Medicine Lodge signed with the Kiowa and other tribes the previous year - and the Transcontinental Railroad moving through the plains) and 1872 (when a railroad spur reached Wichita, Kansas). An economic panic in 1873 caused cattle prices to plummet and reduced the demand for future cattle drives. Emory did an excellent job of describing the economic status of cowboys and other frontier occupations of the day, to include the Buffalo Hunters.



Model 1841 “Mississippi Rifle” (seen below) or Civil War surplus carbines in their saddle scabbards.



If they carried a pistol at all, it was also in all likelihood a Civil War surplus revolver such as the .36 caliber Colt 1861 (below) or the larger .44 caliber Remington 1859 or Colt 1860.



Cowboys were not wealthy people as Emory noted, and often carried inexpensive weapons, such as the

Unlike cowboys, who used whatever firearms they could afford (preferably ones that were also cheap to shoot), the Buffalo Hunters of the period used the finest, most powerful weapons they could find (such as cartridge firing Sharps rifles). Hunting for buffalo hides could be very lucrative, with successful hunters making over \$1000 a month.



This was another outstanding presentation and was enjoyed by all present! On behalf of all of the members of the VGCA, thank you Emory!

☛ **August Business:** The business meeting this month began with Ernie Lyles leading the pledge of allegiance. Following the pledge and moment of silence, Ernie announced that member Joe Kester had recently passed away. Ernie had been contacted by Joe's widow, who is interested in selling some of Joe's guns (including two M1 Garand rifles) to VGCA members. If interested, please contact Ernie.

Rick Nahas provided an update on the November Show and stated that there were only 7 tables available and that we still need some volunteers to assist with show security. Members were reminded that this show is the weekend before the general elections.

Shannon Zeigler gave us an update on the club's financial status.

Marc Gorelick announced that the VGCA and the Potomac Arms Collectors Association (PACA) had reached an agreement whereby members in good standing with each organization can attend the other's gun show free of charge. The next PACA show would be 10-11 September in Frederick, Maryland. The VGCA would also have a table at the PACA show in an attempt to sign up new members.

Bernie Breighner announced that he was starting to compile the list of speakers for next year's meetings. If interested in giving a presentation next year, please contact Bernie (BFBKAC@gmail.com).

Rob Becker presented a new form that members may fill out for the Show-n-Tell items. It will serve two purposes – it will help Rob accurately describe your item in the Newsletter and it can help organize the item's details for the member. This form will be added to our website in the future.

One member asked if we could distribute a list of club members and their contact information. It was explained that, for privacy reason, it is not club policy to do so.

☛ **Upcoming September 22nd Meeting:** Our September presentation will be from Rob Becker and will cover U.S. and German Flare Guns of World War 2. Please remember to bring any friends who may be interested.

As usual, there will be pizza and drinks available for a recommended five dollar donation. Social time begins at 6:15 with the meeting beginning at 7p.m.

☛ **November VGCA Show Update:** As of August 25th, there are only 7 tables available - get your reservation now. Remember, a display table is FREE for members!

President's Comments

Fellow Members,

Summer is over and it is getting near leaf pickup time, not my favorite time of the year. We are looking for programs for 2017 – which is only 3 ½ months away! Our fall show is moving right along with only a few tables left and the advertising is all in place. We still need a few volunteers to help with show security.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at this month's meeting.

-- Ernie

Treasurer's Report

We are in good financial standing with no major expenses in the past 30 days. We will increase spending as we prepare for our fall show. Remember to tell your friends, family, acquaintances, and strangers about the show!

Respectfully Submitted, Shannon Zeigler

Other News!

★ **Membership Candidates:** One change from the recently approved by-laws is how we review and accept potential new members. Instead of prospective new members having to attend a meeting with their sponsor, when we receive their membership application we will list the candidates' names here in the newsletter. From that point you, the VGCA membership, will have 30 days to contact an Officer or member of the Executive Committee with a complaint or reason against allowing the candidate to join. This allows for raising an objection out of the public eye. After the 30 days, if there are no objections to a prospective member, then they will be considered to have a vote of yes from the club. At this point they will be asked to introduce themselves to the club at a meeting and pay their dues. Once their dues have been paid they will go on the roster as an active member. Those candidate presented during the August Newsletter and for which there were no objections is listed below:

NEW MEMBER

Andrew (Andy) Galusha

SPONSOR

Paul Veneziano (also known by Marc Gorelick and Larry Hare)

This month there are no new candidates for membership.

★ **From the Membership Chair - Notice of New Annual Dues and Membership Renewal Procedures for Annual Members (Part 1):** Annual members should be aware that the membership renewal process and the payment of annual dues were revised this past December 2015 with approval by the membership of the new Virginia Gun Collectors Association, Inc. Bylaws.

According to the new Bylaws, ARTICLE III – Dues, Section A., the payment of annual dues is due by January 1 of each year. For 2017, the Annual Dues are due by January 1, 2017.

Section B. requires that there will be an Annual Member Dues Renewal Notices. The Notice and Form will be in both the mailed and emailed newsletters beginning with the October 2016 issue. Dues must be paid by the first membership meeting of the year (January 26, 2017).

Section C. provides, “in the event that payment is not received on or before the first membership meeting of the year, the member shall be deemed to not be in good standing, and shall not be eligible to vote or run in association elections, participate in Association activities, and shall forfeit his or her membership and may only regain membership as specified in Article II.” That means re-applying for membership. Additional information will be issued at the meetings and in the remainder of the 2016 newsletters. If members have any questions, please email **Bill Chronister, Membership Chair** at vgca_membership@cox.net.

★ **Continued Call of Articles for the Website:** In an effort to share the extensive expertise found in our membership rolls, we are making a call for articles for the VGCA website. They must be about guns or gun collecting, not shooting sports or hunting. No political articles will be used. Articles may be about modern or antique firearms and may be historical and/or technical in nature. All we ask is that you please fact check and proofread your own work. All articles may be submitted to Marc or Richard at web@vgca.net. Official Guidelines for articles may be found on the education page of the VGCA site.

★ August 2016 Show and Tell ★

Brian Pelton brought in his first-ever Curio and Relic purchase – a Carcano Type I made for the Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN). The IJN at the time was in direct competition with the Imperial Japanese Army for domestic small arms production, and with war on the horizon, the IJN was forced to look outside Japan to acquire weapons. With a rear half that looks like a Carcano and a front half that resembles a Type 38 Arisaka, approximately 60,000 to 120,000 of the Type Is were produced in 1938-39. Chambered in

6.5x50 Japanese, there is no record of these rifles actually being issued and they are often found in excellent condition. Brian picked up this specimen at a Dale City show about 7 years ago. He also shared an outstanding book on the subject entitled “Italian Small Arms” by Ralph Riccio. Published by Schiffer Ltd Publishing, it is “the definitive source for WWI and WW2 Italian small arms.



A member presented a Smith & Wesson “Lemon Squeezer” (aka the Safety Hammerless) chambered in .32 S&W. This double-action revolver that was produced from 1887 to 1940 and incorporated an internal hammer and an external grip safety on its back strap. This grip safety is how it earned the “Lemon Squeezer” nick-name. Also presented was his Richmond Arms 10 gauge “Coach Gun” which he had custom made by Cowboy Cody in Maryland for Cowboy Action Shooting.



One of our members, in keeping with the theme of the presentation, brought in three original Colt Navy Revolvers. They were a Model 1851 (7 ½ inch barrel), a Model 1861 (7 ½ inch barrel), and a Model 1865 (5-shot). The 1861 and 1865 were both made in their respective first years of production. These cap-n-ball revolvers fired a 126 grain .36 caliber conical bullet which was propelled by 15-20 grains of black powder. All three models were made until 1873. Among the accessories were a bullet mold, powder flask, nipple wrench, and screwdriver for the pocket Colt.



Bob Sears presented another rare and interesting firearm – this time it was a Winchester Model 54 “National Match.” Only produced in 1935 and 1936, this particular rifle has a serial number much higher than any other recorded and may be the last Model 1954 produced! Intended as an improvement over the Springfield Model 1903 for match shooting, this example is chambered in .30/06 (one of 9 calibers that the Model 54 was chambered in) and featured a Lyman 48 sight. And the wood on this gun, though cataloged as “plain” to denote no checkering, was beautiful.

Jim Burgess brought in his 1863 Sharps Percussion rifle converted with a barrel liner in 1868 to .50/70. It is an example of what a buffalo hunter may have used. Jim also provided several reproduction pieces to support Emory’s presentation.



A very nice Smith & Wesson K38 “Masterpiece” was also presented for show-n-tell. This particular

revolver was issued to USAF General Seth J. McKee. General McKee began his career as an aviation cadet in 1938, flew the P-38 “Lightning” in Europe during WW2 (where he was credited with destroying 2 enemy aircraft), and culminated his career as commander of the North American Air Defense Command from 1969-1973. This is a fine piece with an historic past!



Larry Hare brought in his reproduction Navy Arms Uberti iron-frame Henry. Chambered in .44/40, Larry acquired this lever action in 1995.



In Review

“In Review” is a new section to the newsletter (started in August 2016) and will include VGCA member reviews of guns shows, books, and museums. If you would like to submit a review, please send it to the newsletter editor at rpebecker@verizon.net.

Gun Show

PACA SHOW REPORT – Small but Full of Treasures

By Marc Gorelick

The Potomac Arms Collectors Association (PACA) annual show is small by any standard (about 60 tables) but is well worth attending. I manned the VGCA promotional table at the show September 10-11 in Frederick, Maryland. The PACA show is usually full of hidden treasures for the arms collectors and this show was no exception. Most of the tables are rented by PACA members who bring out items to sell from their personal collections. Many of them are nationally recognized experts in the arms collecting community with many years of expertise. In addition, the show also attracts dealers who are known experts in their fields. They are friendly, helpful and more than willing impart their considerable knowledge. This show is not for the modern black gun enthusiast. Rather the hall was full of wonderful historical arms, with a healthy percentage of guns, accessories and accoutrements ranging from colonial times to World War 2. Unfortunately, attendance was sparse as the show

conflicted with a nearby Silverado show. However, this only made table holders more willing to deal. A number of VGCA members took advantage of our arrangement with PACA for free admission to the show and I saw more than one VGCA member walk out with a holding a treasure and with a grin on his face. Those who didn't attend missed an opportunity to see some great guns and possibly find a gem for their collections.



Museum

A VISIT TO THE MUSEUM – THE SWEDISH ARMY MUSEUM

By Marc Gorelick, VGCA



Located in the heart of the Ostermalm section of Stockholm, Sweden, the Army Museum, or Armemuseum, is a delight for the military historian or arms collector to visit. One of Sweden's best museums, it is also a world-class military and weapons museum. Its displays illustrate the military history of Sweden from the 1500's and the history of the Swedish Army. The Army Museum has been located at Artillerigården since it was opened in 1879 as the Artillery Museum. The site has been used for military purposes since the middle of the 17th century, and the main artillery depot was located there for nearly 300 years. The current buildings were erected during the latter part of the 18th century. During the 17th century the Swedes managed to gain control of parts of Norway, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Finland, Poland and parts of Germany by conquest and sheer power. Sweden was one of the strongest European military powers during the Thirty Years War and the museum, on the whole, objectively depicts the both the horror and glory of that time. There is also a special exhibit about Raoul Wallenberg.

The many displays and dioramas take the visitor into the middle of battle and show the living conditions of the soldiers and their families during wartime and peacetime. They include life-size figures of soldiers of past centuries, as well as scenes of the major battles of Swedish forces, weapons, military clothes and other attributes of war. There is a special collection showing the trophies (including cannon) and flags of armies defeated by Sweden during its many wars during the 17th and 18th centuries. It was at this time that Swedish armies under King Gustavus Adolphus revolutionized European warfare. The museum is also unsparing in its depiction of Sweden's defeats, including those of the Great Northern War, during which it lost most of its empire.



For arms collectors, the museum's galleries house the most comprehensive collection of Swedish weapons in existence. The collection details the technological development of Swedish military firearms from the 16th century (matchlocks, wheel locks, snaphaunces and flintlocks) to the modern arms of today's Swedish army, including the AK-5 Assault Rifle version of the FN FNC. It also includes a number of unique weapons, including developer's models and prototypes, whether they went into production or not. Among these are the world's smallest automatic pistol. Many of the weapons on display can be handled by visitors. The Army Museum is open year-round and admission is free.



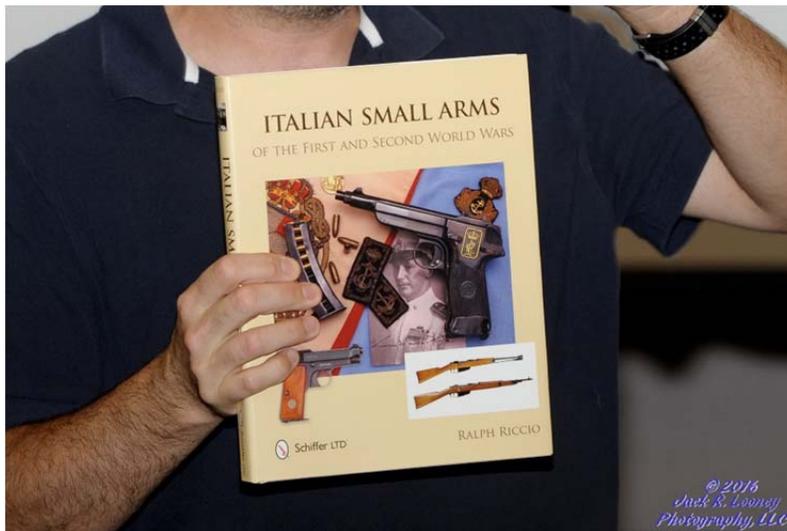
The author in the Army Museum handling a Swedish rifle-musket.



The world's smallest semi-auto pistol.

Book

During Show-n-Tell, Brian Pelton shared an outstanding book entitled "Italian Small Arms of the First and Second World Wars" by Ralph Riccio. This 224 page book is well researched and contains over 600 photographs. Published by Schiffer Ltd Publishing, it is, in Brian's words "the definitive source for WWI and WW2 Italian small arms." It is priced at \$70.



Upcoming Events and Shows

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

VIRGINIA 2016

- September 30-October 2, 2016 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters and C&E*
- October 8-9, 2016 – Dale City, VA – VFW – *Showmasters*
- October 8-9, 2016 – Harrisonburg, VA – Rockingham County Fairgrounds - *Showmasters and C&E*
- October 8-9, 2016 – Winchester, VA – Sportsplex and Indoor Center – *SGK*
- October 15-16, 2016 – Virginia Beach, VA – Convention Center – *SGK*
- October 22-23, 2016 – North Richmond, VA – Farm Bureau at Meadow Event Park - *SGK*
- October 22-23, 2016 – Roanoke, VA – Roanoke Civic Center - *Showmasters*
- October 29-30, 2016 – Fredericksburg, VA – Expo and Convention Center - *SGK*
- October 29-30, 2016 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center – *C&E*
- **October 29-30, 2016 – Front Royal, VA – Holiday Inn - Kentucky Rifle Association Show**
THIS IS A CLOSED SHOW. Only members of the KRA, CLA, HCH, & NMLRA and pre-registered guests may attend.

MARYLAND 2016

- **October 1-2, 2016 - Timonium, MD – Timonium Fairgrounds – Maryland Antique Arms Show**
- October 15-16, 2016 – Timonium, MD – Timonium Fairgrounds – *The Gun Shows*
- November 12-13, 2016 – Frederick, MD – Frederick Fairgrounds – *Silverado Gun Shows*

PENNSYLVANIA 2016

- September 24-25, 2016 - Allentown, PA – PA Roadway Inn Expo Center – *Eagle Arms Productions*
- September 24-25, 2016 - Greencastle, PA – Mason Dixon Auto Auctions – *The Gun Shows*
- September 24-25, 2016 - Dover, PA – Union Fire and Hose Company – *The Hunters Gun Show*
- September 24-25, 2016 – Washington, PA – Washington County Fair Grounds – *ARH Sport Shop*
- October 1-2, 2016 – Matamoras, PA – Best Western Hotel – *North East Gun Shows*
- October 7-9, 2016 – Oaks, PA – Oaks Expo Center – *Eagle Arms Productions*
- October 8-9, 2016 – East Berlin, PA – East Berlin Fish and Game – *East Berlin Fish and Game*
- October 15-16, 2016 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds Agri-plex – *Allentown Show*
- October 15-16, 2016 – Gettysburg, PA - Reddings Auction Service – *The Hunters Gun Show*

- ⇒ **October 15-16, 2016 – Jamestown, PA** - Fireman’s Club Banquet Hall – *Larry Spicer*
- ⇒ **October 15-16, 2016 - Mount Joy, PA** - 85 Range Rd - *Mount Joy Sportsmen Association*
- ⇒ **October 15-16, 2016 - New Castle, PA** - 198 S. Dupont Hwy - *NUR Shrine*
- ⇒ **October 22-23, 2016 – Bloomsburg, PA** - 620 West 3rd S – *Eagle Arms Productions*
- ⇒ **October 22-23, 2016 - Monroeville, PA** – Monroeville Convention Center – *Showmasters and C&E*
- ⇒ **October 29-30, 2016 – Gettysburg, PA** - Allstar Events Complex - *Civil War, World Wat I, World War II & Antique Gun Show*
- ⇒ **October 29-30, 2016 - Wind Gap/Easton, PA** - Plainfield Township Fire Company Social Hall – *Eagle Arms Productions*
- ⇒ **October 29-30, 2016 – York, PA** – Fairgrounds, Memorial Hall - *Appalachian Promotions*

DISPLAY FOR 2017 NRA MEETING IN ATLANTA

The next NRA Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 2017 in Atlanta, Georgia. The VGCA has had winning displays at previous NRA Meetings. If any member wants to put on a display, please contact a Board Director. This is an opportunity to highlight your knowledge and collection. We have had at least two members who are thinking about it but have not committed. Putting on an NRA display would not be a single person act. Other members of the club can contribute their help or items from their collections. It could be a “club effort” involving multiple members. For instance, one member who is considering a display needs additional items related to *Model 1861 Navy “Plymouth” Rifle*. These would include bayonets, accessories, accoutrements, documentation, or other naval items from that period. Or a French *Carabine a Tige*, on which the Plymouth rifle was based.

Left the Range – VGCA Life Member Gary Hoskinson: VGCA received a telephone call on September 3, 2016 from Linda Hoskinson Boten, sister of VGCA Life Member **Gary Hoskinson**, informing us that Gary had passed away in the Summer of 2015. She had been reviewing documents at his residence and came across the most recent VGCA Newsletter and called to let us know of his passing. According to Ms. Boten, Gary had always attended and enjoyed the regular meetings and the gun shows and had often worked on the Security detail at the shows. Members remembered him as friendly and often offered ideas. Gary was a longtime resident of Falls Church and the Pimmit Hills neighborhood. He relocated to Smithfield in the Tidewater area in 2014. Prior to his relocating he was a regular at the monthly meetings. Rest in Peace.

The e-mail address for any Newsletter related matters or a submission is Newsletter@vgca.net or you can read 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 Larry Hare.