



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.NET

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

NRA Affiliate Number G8162
CMP Affiliate Number 026160



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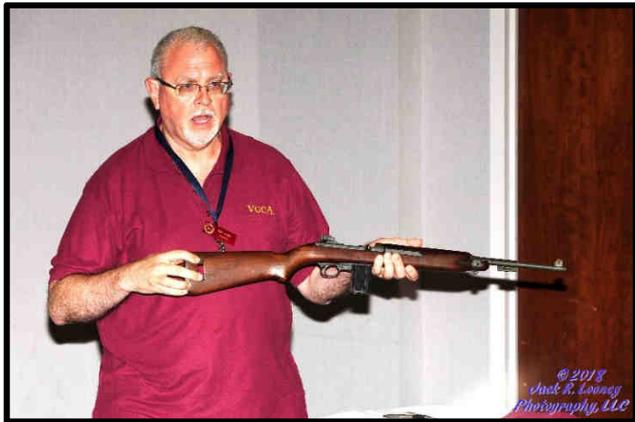
September 2018 VGCA Newsletter

★ August “Presentation”

The presentation at our August membership meeting was provided by . . . the membership! The topic was “**Three Favorites from WWII**”. We had a good turnout of members who brought their three favorite items from the Second War World (not necessarily firearms) and shared them with the other members of the club. The items were set up on the front tables and the owners gave a brief description of them and their significance – similar to our normal Show-n-Tell, but with a theme. Members were then encouraged to look at the items more closely and discuss them with the experts.

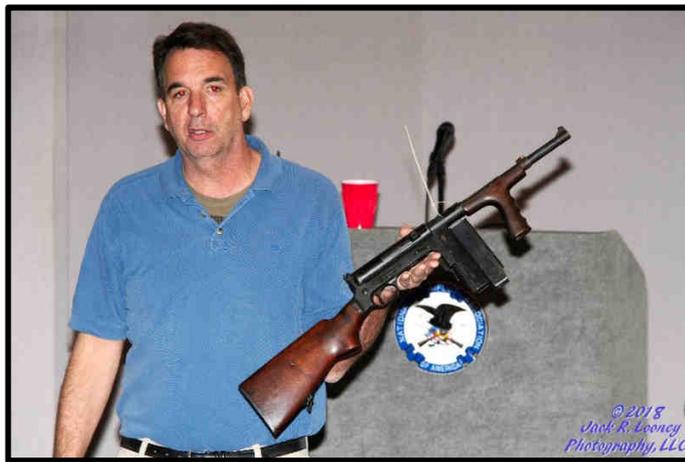


It was an enjoyable and very educational evening. The highlights included:



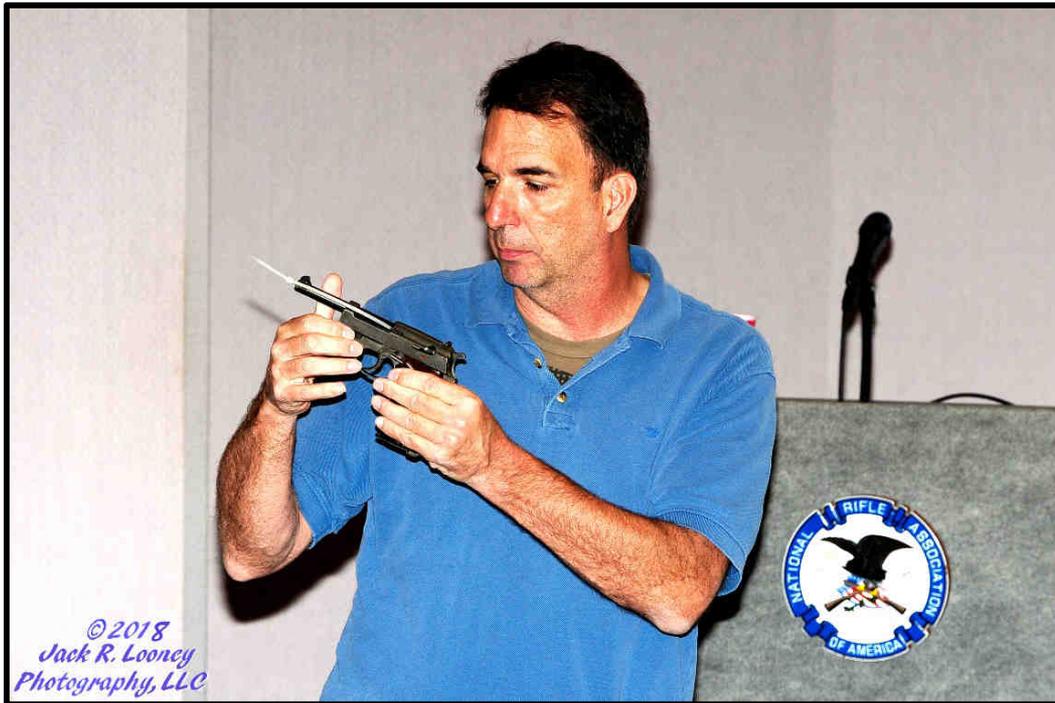
Member 1 points out the “I” cut stock on his M1 Carbine (left) German Modell “L” double barrel flare gun (right)

Member 1 shared an U.S. M1 Carbine, a German Walther P38, and a German Modell “L” flare gun. This M1 was manufactured by Standard Products, which was one of 11 companies contracted to make M1 Carbines during WWII. This particular example retains its original stock featuring an “I” shaped cut out for the sling and oiler. The P38 was an “AC 44” manufactured by Walther in December of 1944 (timeframe for the Battle of Bulge). It was subsequently captured by Soviet forces, stored for possible use during the Cold War, later sold off as surplus, and eventually being purchased by Member 1 at one of the early Chantilly Gun Shows. The Modell “L” flare gun was a double barrel in 4 caliber (~26.5mm or 1”) manufactured for the Luftwaffe, also in 1944. It was made by Waffenfabrik Gustav Bitner (factory code “gpt”) which manufactured approximately 15,000 Modell “L”s (about 16% of the total wartime production of that type).



Member 2 shared a UD M42 SMG, a G Date Luger, and a late war dual-tone P38

Member 2 brought in three 9mm weapons - a U.S. United Defense M42 Submachine gun, a German P-08 Luger pistol, and a “dual-tone” German P38 pistol. The M42 was produced by the United Defense Supply Corporation in 1942-1943. The M42 was acquired for the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) as a possible replacement for the Thompson SMG, which was complex and expensive to manufacture. The M42 was fed by a 25-round magazine and often two mags were welded together to speed reloads. Approximately 15,000 M42s were produced. The P-08 Luger is a “G Date” pistol made in 1935. This pistol has no date stamp as it was made in violation of the Versailles Treaty. The P38, manufactured by Mauser (code “svw”), featured parts with two types of finish (phosphate and blued finish) and was produced at the very end of the war (April 1945). Only ~15,000 svw-coded P38s were made.

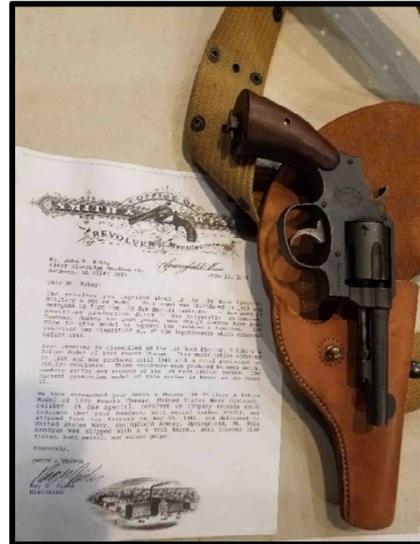


Member 2 explaining the two types of finish on his fairly rare svw-coded P38 (above)



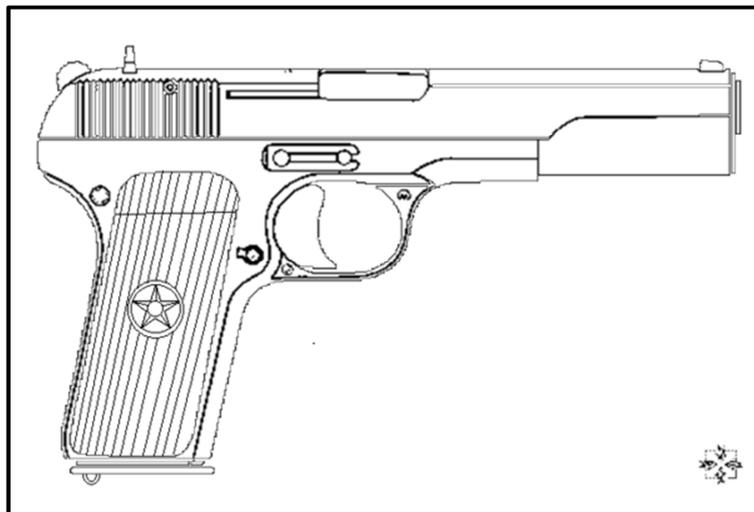
Member 3 with his Unique Model L (above)

Member 3 brought in a French Unique Model L Convertible Pistol/Rifle. Manufactured in the 1960s, this semi-automatic in .22LR features a 10 round magazine and 18" barrel (when configured as a rifle). An unusual and very uncommon piece, it is nonetheless post-WWII (there is always someone who doesn't get the memo!).



Member 4 presented his S&W M&P pistol (left). Revolver shown with U.S.N. web gear and factory letter (right)

Member 4 shared a very nice Smith & Wesson .38 Hand Ejector, Military & Police Model 1905 (4th change) with U.S. Navy web gear and factory letter. The Model 1905 (4th change) was produced from 1915 until 1942, with over 750,000 revolvers built (the modern version is known as the S&W Model 10). This particular weapon has a blasted blue finish and is chambered in .38 Special. It was made under a U.S. Navy contract, shipped from the S&W factory on May 18, 1942 and delivered to the Springfield Armory. It is attributed to having been carried during WWII by a U.S.N. Commander who was part of a Presidential Mission to the Far East at the end of the war.

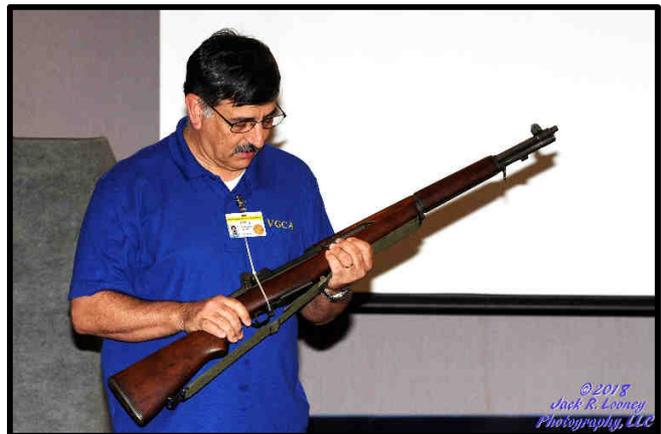


Line drawing of a Soviet TT33 Pistol (above)

Member 5 shared a Soviet TT33 (with holster and matching magazine) dated 1941. Chambered in 7.62x25, this pistol was designed by Fedor Tokarev and initially adopted in 1930. Improvements in design and to ease manufacturing were adopted three years later as the TT33. It utilizes the short recoil tilting barrel design originated by John Browning. This particular example was well worn but not abused. If it could talk, what stories could it tell? Apologies - no picture available.

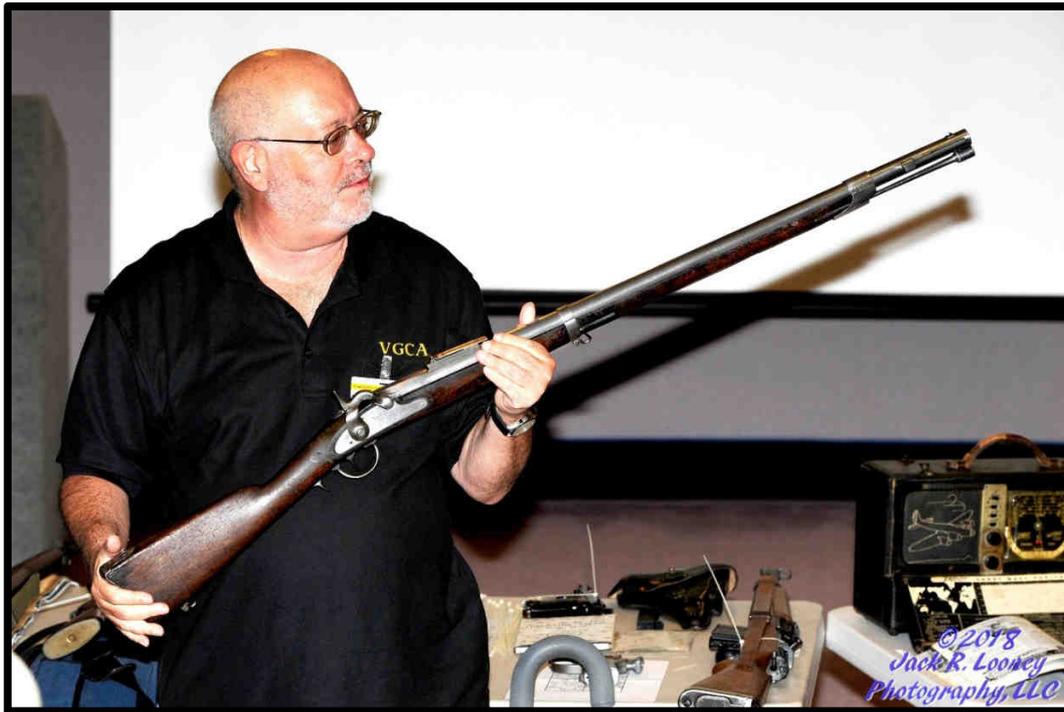


Member 6 and his Smith Corona M1903A3 (above). He related fond memories of refinishing the stock with his dad many years ago!



Member 6 with his National Postal Meter M1 Carbine (left) and an early Springfield Armory M1 Garand (right)

Member 6 brought in three U.S. issued small arms. The first was a Smith Corona M1903A3 (serial number in the 3.6m range). The L.C. Smith Corona Typewriter Factory in Syracuse, NY produced 234,580 1903A3 rifles from November 1942 until February 1944 and this is an early example. The second was a National Postal Meter M1 Carbine with bayonet. NPM produced 413,017 M1 Carbines during the war, approximately 6.8% of the total production. Like many makers of M1 Carbines, NPM had never produced firearms before and relied on other manufacturers to provide barrels. Indicative of the total mobilization of U.S. industry during the war, NPM M1 stocks and hand guards were made by the Trimble Nursery and Furniture Company. Both of these guns belonged to his father. The last was an early Springfield M1 Garand (serial number in 700,000 range) produced in approximately July 1942.



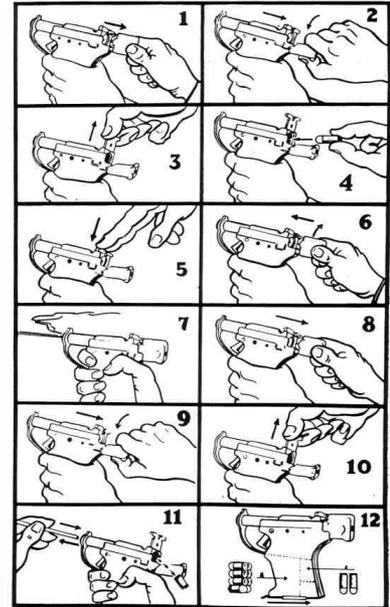
A Model 1861 Rifle (above) is not the first thing to come to mind when discussing weapons of WWII, but it does indeed belong in the discussion (albeit in a small and obscure way)!

Member 7 brought in a U.S. Model 1861 Plymouth Rifle. What is this American Civil War-era muzzle-loader doing in a discussion of WWII artifacts? Actually, there is documented evidence that the U.S. Office of Strategic Services (OSS) distributed 500 of these rifles to natives in the Pacific and the China-Burma-India theatres for use in fighting the Japanese.



Member 8 shared his early-war Walther P38 (left) and his late-war G-43 rifle (right)

Member 8 brought in a German P38 pistol, a German G43 rifle, and an American FP45 “Liberator” Pistol. The P38 was made in 1941 by Walther, one of the three companies to produce this double action 9mm pistol. The semi-automatic G43 rifle in 7.92x57 caliber (8mm Mauser) was made in 1944. The FP45 (*next page*) was a single-shot pistol in .45 ACP intended to be air-dropped to partisans and resistance fighters behind enemy lines.



*Member 8 and his FP45 “Liberator” pistol (above) – this pistol took “crude” and “inexpensive” to new levels!
A copy of the pictogram instruction sheet that was included with each pistol is shown at right*

Original delivered cost of each FP 45 was \$2.10 each and its smooth-bore barrel was effective to approximately 25 feet. The intent was to drop these pistols to partisans and resistance fighters inside occupied Europe. They were to be used in an ambush, with the ambusher expected to “upgrade” his weapon from the body of the ambushed immediately afterward! Its crude and simple design meant it would have little military utility if captured by the enemy. Its usefulness was questioned by allied staffs and of the 500,000 shipped to England and intended for the French resistance, fewer than 25,000 were actually delivered to France. Most were destroyed after the war, so the remaining FP45s are not common and command fairly high prices.



Member 9 shared several unique items, including this Zenith Model 7G605 short-wave radio



Member 9 brought in something other than firearms for our viewing pleasure. He shared a Zenith Trans-Ocean Clipper short wave radio, a Japanese Transit, and his dad's service photo album. The Zenith Model 7G605 Trans-Ocean Clipper (*previous page and at left in the above photograph*) was the earliest portable multi-band short-wave produced commercially, selling for \$75 each (a princely sum in the early 1940s). It was a victim of bad timing however, being initially offered in December 1941. With the U.S. entry into WWII that month, Zenith quickly turned to manufacturing radios for U.S. military forces. Approximately 35,000 Model 7G605 radios were produced from December 1941 until 22 April 1942.

The Japanese surveying transit (*above on right*) is a nice piece of precision equipment produced from 1938 to 1945. This example was purchased at the Baltimore Antique Arms Show about 10 years ago.

Member 9's father's photo album chronicled his service in the 5th Air Force while stationed in North Africa. A treasure indeed!



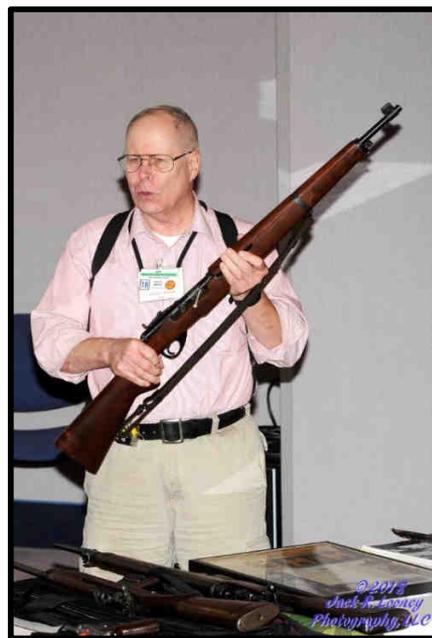
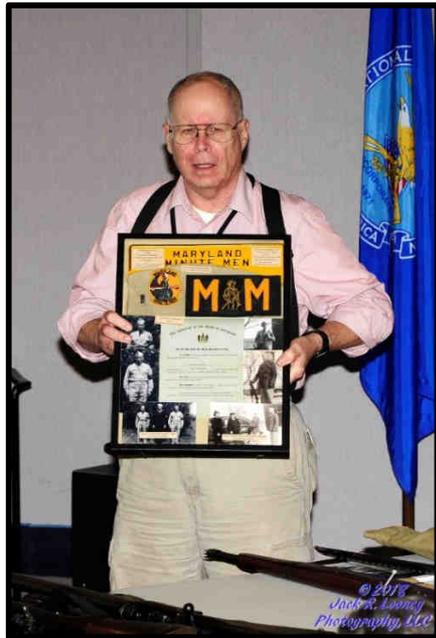
Member 10 and his Walther P38 (left) and Inland M1 Carbine (right)



Member 10 provided the members present with an opportunity to look at his German P38 (another AC 44), U.S. M1 Carbine, and British/U.S. Savage No.4 Mk I*. The P38 is another Walther-made (code “ac”) variant of this popular sidearm with this example made in 1944 (*top left photo*). This pistol made its way to Member 10 via one of the early members of VGCA, who had found it at a yard sale!

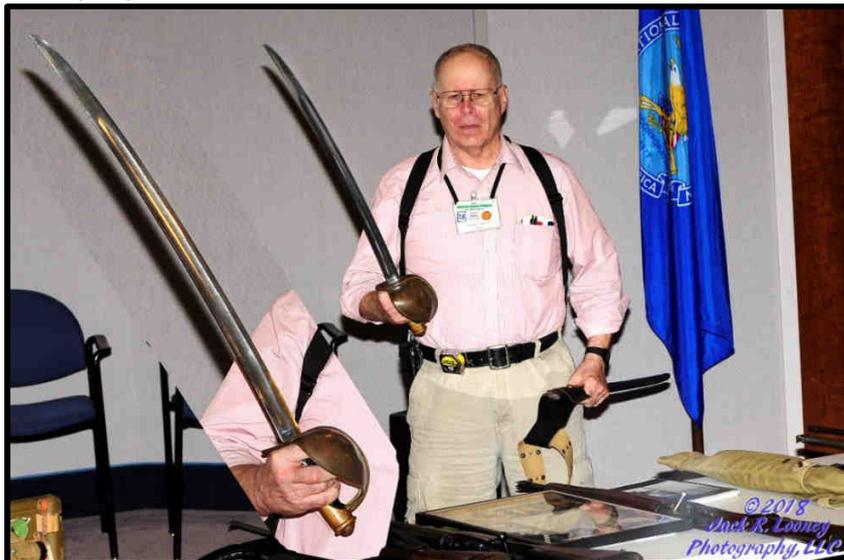
This M1 Carbine (*top right*) was manufactured by the Inland Division of General Motors. Inland is noteworthy for producing more carbines (2,281,389) than any other manufacturer. Inland also produced over 200,000 select fire M2 Carbines.

The No.4 Mk I* Enfield in .303 British (*above*) was produced by Savage-Stevens in the United States and provided to British/Commonwealth forces via “Lend-Lease.” As such, this rifle is marked “U.S. Property” and was expected to be returned to the United States after the war. This example included a distinctive No.4 Mk II spike bayonet.



Member 11 presenting family Maryland Minute Men (MM) memorabilia (left). This Savage-Stevens semi-automatic .22LR serviced with the MM, protecting Maryland infrastructure from Nazi Saboteurs!

Member 11 shared his family heirlooms from the days of the Maryland Minute Men. In the early days of WWII, National Guard units were activated for service overseas. When these state troops left for training, their parent states were left vulnerable to the very real dangers of sabotage (research the German Operation Pastorius). The governor of Maryland formed the Maryland Minute Men to protect local infrastructure. The MM consisted of mainly of local men and boys, armed with whatever personal weapons they had on hand (mostly single-shot .22s and shotguns) and were tasked with protecting important buildings, bridges, etc. Their uniform was typically limited to a state-provided hat and armband. Member 11's family was fortunate in that they were equipped with a Savage Stevens semi-automatic .22 in a military-style stock!



One of the items Member 11 brought was unexpected – the Model 1860 Cutlass (*above*). Apparently, a shortage of small arms during the rapid wartime expansion of the U.S. Navy meant this antique edged weapon was pressed into service as a sidearm for the Shore Patrol. It was noted that drunken sailors become very cooperative when addressed by SP carrying a cutlass!



Member 11 also demonstrated one of the less successful accoutrements developed by the U.S. War Department – the M1 Carbine holster (*above*). One of the roles the M1 Carbine was designed fill was as a replacement for the pistol as a primary weapon of military police, engineers, signalmen, etc. Since it was to replace a pistol, it made sense that it should have a holster, right? While in theory it allowed the user have the carbine immediately available while also keeping the soldier’s hands free for other tasks – in practice, it just wasn’t practical.

Member 12 also brought in one of the “secret” FP45 “Liberator” pistols. Even the designation of the “Liberator” was clandestine – the “FP” prefix was referred to as “Flare Pistol” in official documents in order to disguise its true purpose. These .45 ACP single shots are not common and to be able to see two of them shared by VGCA members was a real treat. For a photograph of this example, see the group shot on the next page.



The photo above shows Member 11's M1 Carbine and holster (top), Member 12's FP45 "Liberator" (in the red-lined presentation case), Member 13's Reising Model 65 .22 Trainer, Member 14's German K98k rifle and Japanese Type 44 Carbine, and finally, Member 15's signal flags (bottom)



The next item was a Reising Model 65 .22 rifle (*above*) brought in by Member 13. Called "The General" (though none were marked that way), this rifle was used by the military both as a trainer and for pest control. The USMC is credited with using suppressed versions to kill rats at night on Pacific Islands. This semi-automatic weighs 8.75 pounds and uses a 10-round magazine.



Member 14 is shown describing his late war K98k rifle (above left). The “dot” factory code (above right) was for the BRNO factory in Czechoslovakia)

Member 14 brought in a nice condition late war German K98k rifle. Chambered for the German standard 7.92x57 round, this rifle was produced in 1944 by the BRNO factory in Czechoslovakia. Early in the war, BRNO made the G24(t) (basically the pre-war VZ24) and the G33/40 “Mountaineer’s carbine”, but switched to producing the standard K98k in 1943. BRNO used the factory code “dot” from 1942-1944. In 1945, the code was changed to “swp”.

Member 14 also brought a Japanese Type 44 Cavalry Carbine (*see photo on next page*). The Type 44, a 5-shot bolt action chambered in 6.5x50 semi-rimmed, was a development of the earlier Type 38 and featured a permanently attached folding bayonet. It entered Imperial Japanese service in 1912 and approximately 91,000 had been made when ended in 1942. It served with Japanese cavalry and transportation units until the end of WWII.



Member 14 with his Japanese Type 44 Carbine



Member 15 presented a set of three Signal Flags in yellow/orange, red, and green (*see above*). Identified via the item designation code of CS90 for the flag case and MC273 (red flag), MC274 (yellow/orange flag), and MC275 (green flag), this set of signal flags was used by U.S. armored vehicle crews early in the war, when radios were few and unreliable. The International Military Antiques web site (ima-usa.com), quotes the ***ARMORED FORCE FIELD MANUAL March 7, 1942*** as follows:

“Each combat vehicle is equipped with three solid color flags, orange (yellow), red, and green. Flags are displayed vertically overhead; in tanks through the top of the turret. They may be held either stationary or waved to attract attention. All signals are executed as soon as they are understood. Subordinate leaders repeat signals. The following code will be vised:

- Enemy in sight - Red.
- All clear, ready, or understood - Green.
- Disregard or vehicle out of action - Orange.
- Assembly or close - Orange and green.
- Extend - Red and orange.
- Disperse - Red and green.”

A sincere "Thank You" is extended to everyone who took the time and effort to bring their WWII treasures for all to see! They made this presentation a special event for everyone involved!

NOTE: Anyone bringing in items for Show-n-Tell, please hold them up so the members can see it. This will also help your Volunteer Photographer get a decent photograph of the special item you brought to show, and people who could not attend the meeting can see it in the newsletter. Thank you!

President's Comments

Fellow VGCA Members,

I hope everyone had a pleasant and productive summer. As we approach fall, our focus is on our VGCA Gun Show on November 3-4. We are in good shape overall, but do have some tables available. Please consider setting up a display or sales table.

The VGCA Executive Committee would like to formally introduce Gary Latta as our newest Board Member. Gary will be filling the vacancy created by my election as VGCA President. He is going to oversee our Social Media and work with our social media consultant to "get the word out" on the VGCA. We are very excited to have Gary on the Board. We had three excellent candidates for the open position. Thank you to all.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the September meeting!

--*Bernie Breighner*, VGCA President

♣ **August Business:** President Bernie Breighner called the August meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Jim Burgess led us through the pledge of allegiance, followed by a moment of silence. There were 60 VGCA members and guests in attendance, with many new VGCA members attending for the first time. The guests were introduced to the membership.

Bernie announced that the VGCA Executive Committee has approved hiring a social media coordinator. The hope is, that by keeping our social media accounts current and timely, we can attract more (and younger) members

Rick Nahas gave a show update. We still have over 40 available tables for our November 3-4 gun show. Please contact Rick if you are interested in reserving either a sales or a display table.

Marc Gorelick announced that the Executive Committee has approved several changes to the VGCA Show Display Rules. One change is that to represent the VGCA (and be reimbursed for your efforts) with a display at the NRA Annual Membership Meeting, you must present that same display at a VGCA show within the preceding two years. All of the new rules will be published in the show package for our March 2019 Gun Show.

Shannon Zeigler gave an update on the club financial status. He announced that we have been operating slightly in the red for the last year or so. This is primarily due to declining attendance (and the corresponding reduced gate) at our last 3 or 4 shows. This decline has been evident at all area shows, not

just ours. One way to increase show attendance is by word-of-mouth – tell your friends, family and co-workers about our show. Shannon also announced that we are looking for volunteers to help man the VGCA Table at the September Chantilly Gun Show (see notice later in the newsletter).

Steve Gomes is also looking for volunteers for show security at our November show.

Jim Burgess announced that he is taking orders for custom-made Table Covers with the VGCA logo – perfect for sales or display tables! Price is dependent on how many are ordered but should be less than \$150 each (see notice in this newsletter).

Rob Becker stated that if you ordered a VGCA Polo Shirt, they will be available for pick-up at the September membership meeting as well as at the VGCA table at the September Chantilly Gun Show.

★ **Upcoming September 27th Meeting:** Our September presentation will be on the **Czechoslovakian Vz. 58 Rifle** provided by member Rob Becker. Social time begins at 6 p.m. (there will be pizza) with the meeting beginning at 7 p.m.



★ Other News! ★

★ **Membership Chairman's Report September 2018:**

Please welcome our new Annual Members:

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

Gentlemen, welcome aboard and congratulations! I will have your Annual IDs at the upcoming meeting. If you cannot make it, your ID card will be mailed to your home address on your membership application after the meeting. We hope to see you at the upcoming Membership Meeting on Thursday, September 27 at 7:00PM at the NRA National Firearms Museum. We begin with a social session and refreshments (for a suggested \$5 donation), from 6:15 to 7:00.

New Member Applications: The VGCA received Membership Application(s) from the following individual(s) for your review. The applicant's information and sponsor's name is published below for the review of the VGCA membership. If there are any comments or questions, please notify an Officer or Director, and the Membership Chair before October 23, 2018.

- **Nicholas Guevremont** of Washington, VA is sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**
- **Richard Valenzi** of Manassas, VA is sponsored by **Dave Litchfield**
- **Stephen R. Vaughn** of Winchester, VA is sponsored by **Dave Litchfield**

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

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



☛ VGCA Polo Shirts

For those of you who ordered a VGCA Polo Shirt, they will be available for pick-up at the September Membership meeting (Thursday, 27 Sep 18) as well as at the VGCA table during the next Chantilly Gun Show (28-30 Sep 18).



☛ ***VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to Staff the VGCA Promotional Table at the Next Chantilly Gun Show***

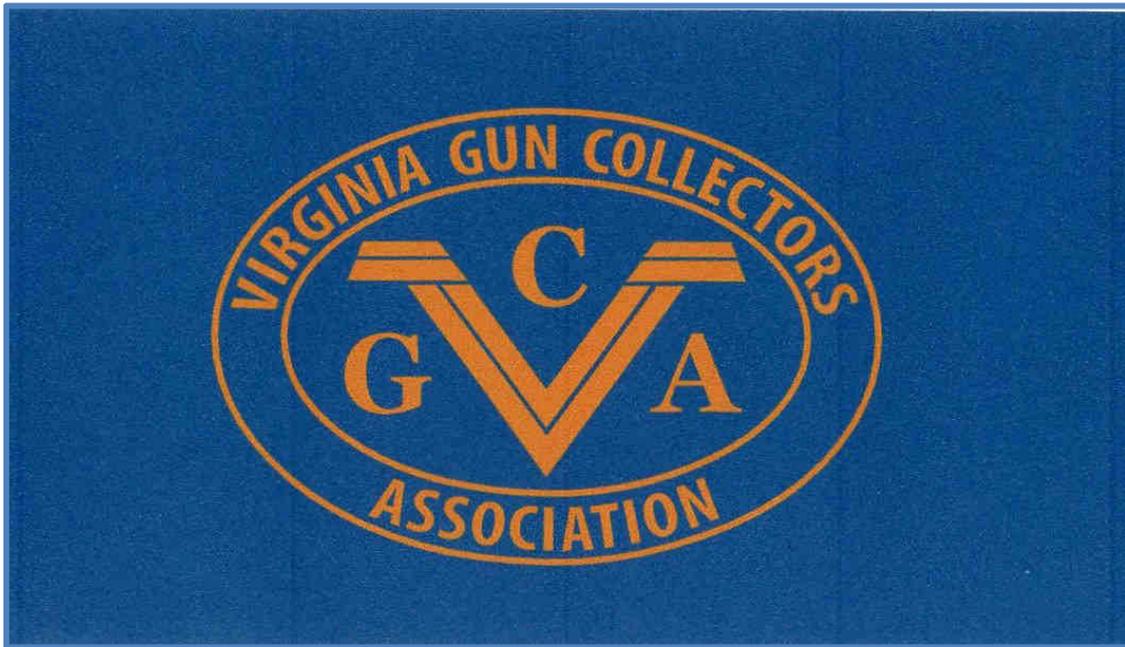
Speaking of the VGCA table at Chantilly - volunteers are needed to staff the VGCA table during the September 28-30 show at the Dulles Expo Center. Volunteers usually support the table for only one day. A significant benefit of volunteering is that volunteers get a vendor badge for the days they are there. This gives free entry into the show (an important consideration since the show admission price was recently increased to \$16 for one day!). Volunteers get to spend time among fellow gun collectors and shooters. You talk about the club, its activities (including our show), and the many benefits of membership (talking points provided). There is also time to walk around the show and spend money. Contact Board member Shannon Zeigler at (412) 401-

9284 (or any other Board member) if you are interested in taking advantage of this great opportunity.

★ Last Call for VGCA Table Covers

Seven members have already signed up to purchase one or more table throws with the VGCA logo (see image below). These table throws will cover an 8-foot table and are open in the back to allow easy access to items stored under the table. They are a polyester fabric that is flame retardant as well as stain and wrinkle resistant. Front and center, the VGCA logo will be imprinted in gold over a royal blue color consistent with previously obtained table covers. While other colors are available, it would likely increase the cost if everyone ordered something different. The cost will depend on how many we order at one time but should be less than \$150 each.

Are there any more members who wish to be included in this order? If you are interested in showing off your VGCA affiliation at gun shows and would like to order one or more VGCA table throws, please contact Jim Burgess (703-754-7800 or jim_burgess@nps.gov) no later than October 1. The intent is to take delivery in time for our November show.



★ CMP 1911 SALES UPDATE

Marc Gorelick, CMP Liaison

The Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) has posted updated information about its 1911 sales program on its website. You can download the CMP 1911 order form from the website; however, orders will not be accepted after October 4th. The CMP 1911 order form packet should also be downloaded from the

CMP website. Those interested should go to the following address to obtain the forms and additional information: http://thecmp.org/cmp_sales/1911-information/



CMP 1911 Customer Purchase Details:

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

IF YOUR SERIAL NUMBER IS FOUND, STOP USING YOUR REVOLVER IMMEDIATELY AND FOLLOW OUR INSTRUCTIONS SO WE CAN INSPECT AND, IF NECESSARY, REPAIR YOUR REVOLVER.

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN:

Stop using your revolver immediately.

Call 855-982-8787 for assistance.

If you no longer have this revolver, please inform current owner of this notice.

We appreciate your business and value you as a customer.

★ In Review ★

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

Museum

A TRIP TO THE MUSEUM: THE CLAUD E. FULLER ARMS COLLECTION at the CHICKAMAUGA AND CHATTANOOGA NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

By Marc Gorelick, VGCA

All photos courtesy of National Park Service



Most serious collectors of early U.S. military firearms have heard of Claud E. Fuller, and have even read some of his books. Author of “*The Rifled Musket*,” “*The Breech-Loader in the Service*,” “*Firearms of the Confederacy*” and “*The Whitney Firearms*,” Fuller was an authority on American military firearms and a prolific gun collector. Born in 1886, Fuller was a self-taught engineer who was interested in how things worked. Armed with only a 7th grade education, Fuller’s career as an engineer blossomed to produce 48 patents for machinery and brick-making processes. Fuller also had a life-long

passion for firearms collecting that began when, as a youth, he purchased a small pistol and two boxes of cartridges in a Kansas hardware store. By 1923, after thirty-seven years of collecting, the collection included over 2,000 items and was still growing. In 1949 Fuller offered over 350 of the finest guns in his collection to the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, stipulating that the collection always remain in the park to be studied and admired by the public. He worked with park staff to organize



and install the weapons in a newly constructed museum wing that was unveiled in a special ceremony on July 4, 1954. Fuller died in 1957 and today the collection is on display in the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center.

The Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park is an appropriate home for the Fuller Arms Collection since many of the guns in the collection were used in the Civil War. Others were used to secure the freedoms that we enjoy today. Dedicated in 1895, it is the first such park in the country and it has served as a model for most national military and historical parks. The park is not on one unified location but is scattered among more than 9,000 acres of battlefields, monuments, and forests, and urban landscapes, and includes some of the most famous and pivotal battles of the Civil War – Chickamauga Battlefield, Lookout Mountain Battlefield, Missionary Ridge, Signal Point, and Orchard Knob.

In 1863, Union and Confederate forces fought for control of Chattanooga, known as the "Gateway to the Deep South." In September, the Confederates were victorious in one of the bloodiest battles of the war at nearby Chickamauga. However, renewed fighting in Chattanooga and at Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge gave Union troops a victory. After the fighting, a Confederate soldier ominously wrote, "This...is the death-knell of the Confederacy."

The Fuller Collection is a must see for anyone interested in firearms who is visiting the area. It is a world-class collection that is a time-line of technology and mechanical development that follows the evolution of U.S. military shoulder arms. There are some very rare guns on display, including a Harper's Ferry blunderbuss manufactured in 1808, a rare Jenks flintlock breech-loading musketoon, and a Model 1847 Sappers and Miners musketoon with an equally rare sword bayonet. Indeed, some visitors have related that they got to see little of the other sites in the park because they had visited the collection first and were mesmerized by it. The museum, of course, has more than Fuller's guns. There are a number of other exhibits, including displays of equipment, and life-size dioramas.

The many guns are displayed in well-lit cases with easy to read signage that provides pertinent information about the gun, its operating mechanism and its place in the development of firearms and history. And the guns are not just Civil war and pre-Civil War. The exhibit includes relatively modern (and scarce) pieces. For instance, one of the U.S. Krag-Jorgensens on display has an extremely rare Bolo bayonet (only 56 were manufactured). The guns are immaculately maintained and are in outstanding condition.

There is a well-stocked book and gift shop in the visitor's center where a booklet describing The Fuller Collection of American Military Shoulder Arms by Harold L. Peterson.



All units of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park are open for visitation during daylight hours. Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center (where the Fuller collection is on display) is open daily from 8:30 am to 5 pm Eastern Time. Visit the park website at <https://www.nps.gov/chch/index.htm> to check the dates and times of all the park units and reservations. The Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center is located at the north end of Chickamauga Battlefield at 3370 LaFayette Road, Fort Oglethorpe, GA 30742. Check the park website for the locations, directions, and other information about the park. You can also contact the park by phone at: (706) 866-9241.

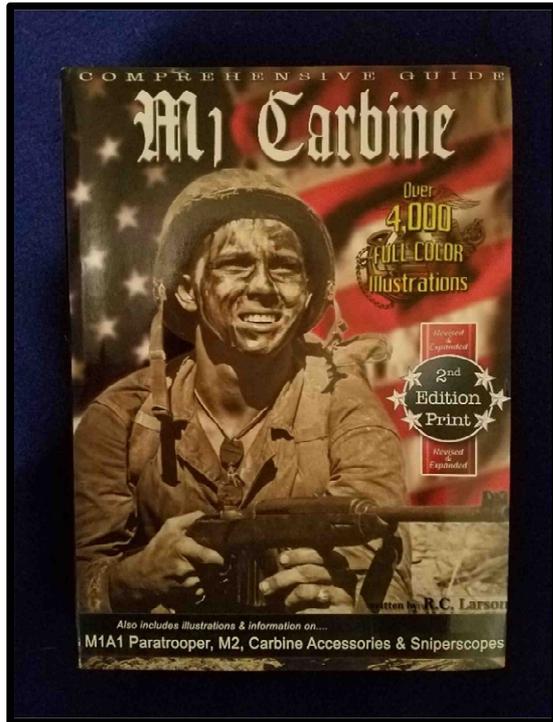
Book

M1 Carbine: Comprehensive Guide

By Roger C. Larson

Second Edition (Third Edition now available), 829 pages

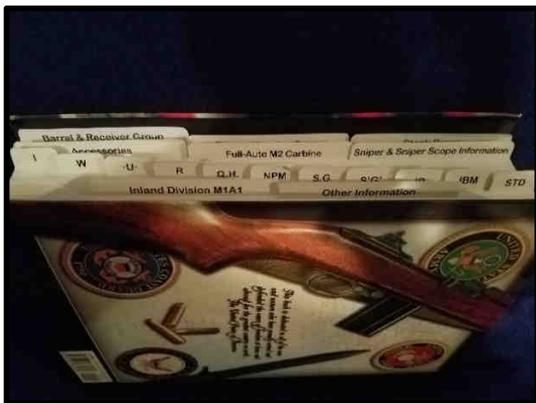
Review by Rob Becker, VGCA



When it came time to document the August “Three Favorites of WWII” presentations by the

membership, I had a couple of sources to help with the background information. One was Google – and another, due to the popularity of the M1 Carbine that night, was the book *M1 Carbine: Comprehensive Guide* by Roger C. Larson. My copy is the second edition, though a third edition is now available.

This book is an outstanding source for information on the technical aspects of collecting the M1 Carbine. It covers everything from parts variations and markings to production specifics of each manufacturer. It has detailed close-up photographs of the variations described for ease of identification. Though it also has several dozen black-and-white photographs of the carbine in action, it does not cover employment and usage. This is a book for the collector, not the historian.



This is an excellent reference book – period. Its 800-plus pages are well organized and lavishly illustrated with over 4000 color photographs. Such detail does not come cheap. *M1 Carbine: Comprehensive Guide, Third Edition*, can be purchased from multiple sources on-line and costs approximately \$89.00.

Among the excellent features of this book are the section tabs. In addition to the sections on various parts and their markings, there is also a tabbed section for each manufacturer.

★ Upcoming Events and Shows ★

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

VIRGINIA - 2018

- Sep 28-30, 2018 - Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- Oct 3-7, 2018 – Winchester, VA – Fort Shenandoah (Sutler Row) – *138th National Skirmish by the North-South Skirmish Association*
- Oct 6-7, 2018 – Bristol, VA – Bristol Holiday Inn Conference Center – *A.G. Gun Shows*
- Oct 13-14, 2018 – Richmond, VA – Old Kmart on Midlothian Turnpike - *Showmasters*
- Oct 13-14, 2018 – Salem, VA - Salem Civic Center - *C&E*
- Oct 20-21, 2018 – Dale City, VA – Dale City VFW – *Showmasters*
- Oct 20-21, 2018 – Roanoke, VA – The Berglund Center – *Showmasters*
- Oct 20-21, 2018 – Virginia Beach, VA – Virginia Beach Convention Center - *SGK*
- Oct 27-28, 2018 – Fredericksburg, VA – Expo and Conference Center – *SGK*
- Nov 3-4, 2018 – Manassas, VA – Prince William County Fairgrounds – *VGCA (our fall show!)*
- Nov 3-4, 2018 – Harrisonburg, VA – Rockingham County Fairgrounds - *C&E*
- Nov 3-4, 2018 – Winchester, VA – Body Renew Fitness & Family Sports Center – *SGK*
- Nov 10-11, 2018 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex – *Showmasters*
- Nov 16-18, 2018 - Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- Nov 17-18, 2018 - Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex – *Capital of the Confederacy Civil War Show – MKShows*
- Nov 24-25, 2018 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK*

MARYLAND - 2018

- Oct 20-21, 2018 – Timonium, MD – Timonium Fairgrounds – *TheGunShows.com*
- Nov 10-11, 2018 – Frederick, MD – Frederick Fairgrounds - *Silverado Gun Shows*

PENNSYLVANIA - 2018

- Sep 29, 2018 – Greencastle, PA – Allison-Atrim Museum – *Antique and Vintage Arms Show - Greencastle Museum*
- Sep 29-30, 2018 – Allentown, PA – Allentown EconoLodge – *Eagle Arms*
- Oct 5-7, 2018 - Oaks, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Arms*
- Oct 13-14, 2018 – Bloomsburg, PA – Bloomsburg Fairgrounds - *Eagle Arms*
- Oct 13-14, 2018 - Mount Joy, PA – Mount Joy Sportsmen's Association – *MJSA*
- Oct 20-21, 2018 - Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds – *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*
- Oct 20-21, 2018 – Carlisle, PA – Expo Center - *Eagle Arms*
- Oct 20-21, 2018 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center – *Showmasters*
- Oct 20-21, 2018 – Quarryville, PA – Solanco Fairgrounds - *SLCFSA*
- Oct 27-28, 2018 – Gettysburg, PA – Allstar Events Center – *Autumn Gettysburg Civil War, Antique Gun, and Militaria Show*

PENNSYLVANIA – 2018 (continued)

- Oct 27-28, 2018 – Wind Gap, PA – Plainfield Township Volunteer Fire Company - *Eagle Arms*
- Oct 27-28, 2018 – York, PA – York Fairgrounds-Memorial Hall - *Appalachian Promotions*
- Nov 3-4, 2018 – Kittanning, PA – Pony Farm Trap & Gun Club – *Bill Hawk*

- Nov 3-4, 2018 – Lebanon, PA – Lebanon Valley Expo Center - *Eagle Arms*
- Nov 10-11, 2018 – Leesport, PA - Farmers Market – *Thegunshows.com*
- Nov 10-11, 2018 – Split Rock, PA – 100 Mossywood Rd, Lake Harmony - *Eagle Arms*
- Nov 17-18, 2018 – Morgantown, PA - Morgantown Center - *Eagle Arms*
- Nov 24-25, 2018 – Philadelphia, PA – National Guard Armory – *Appalachian Promotions*

SPECIAL NOTE – 2018

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

FOR SALE:

The "For Sale" section of the Virginia Gun Collectors Association (VGCA) Newsletter is provided as a service exclusively to the members of the VGCA. The VGCA, its officers, and directors are not responsible for any listings made in any VGCA Newsletter. We are not responsible for the accuracy (condition, value, etc.) of any listings. All buyers, traders, and sellers agree to comply with all local, state, federal, and international laws in regards to items sold via the VGCA Newsletter. It is their duty and responsibility to ensure the quality and value of the transaction and that all such laws are followed at all times. Buy, sell, or trade at your own risk.

If you would like to list an item (or items) in the VGCA Newsletter, please send your description, price, and contact information to rpebecker@verizon.net. I must receive your material no later than the second Sunday of the month for it to be included in that month's newsletter. Items will be listed for one issue of the Newsletter.

WANT-TO-BUY:

- ★ Member Kim Walton is interested in buying Newton and Meeker rifles. If you have one to sell; please contact him at (210)-602-0506 or copo6970@yahoo.com

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 Bill Chronister.