



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.NET

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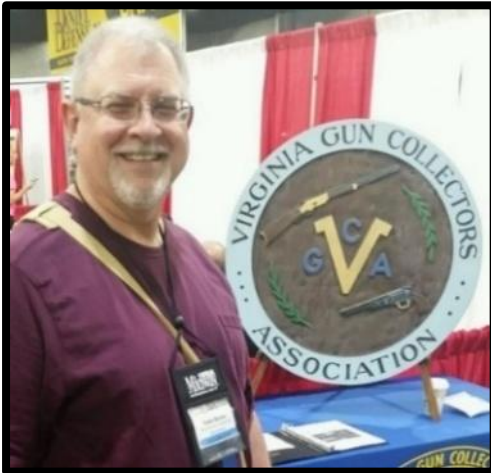
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September 2025 VGCA Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Greetings, Members –

It is after Labor Day and the kiddos are all back at school. That means our Fall Gun Show (scheduled for 1-2 November) is rapidly approaching. There is still time to reserve a sales or display table – and remember, VGCA members can sign up for one or two free tables for a display! First time displayers are also eligible for a \$100 stipend from the VGCA to offset the display construction costs (backboard, rifle rack, display case, etc.). Show

Director Andrew Woodard is looking for Set Up volunteers and Show Security Manager Al Reid needs Security volunteers as well. Please consider helping in these areas when sign-up sheets are passed around at our September and October Membership Meetings.

As for our proposed field trip to the Smith & Wesson factory in Tennessee, I just today (Sep 24th) received confirmation that our visit to Marysville to tour the S&W factory is approved! This is great news! Sign up will begin at our September meeting.

Speaking of our September meeting, we have a “double header” planned! First, member Shannon Zeigler will share some good info on the vintage Colt optics marketed for the Sporter Rifle. He will be followed by noted author Dr. Stephen Halbrook, who will present on “Gun Control in WWII Europe: What History Warns Us About Disarmament.” I hope to see you there!

Cheers!

Rob Becker, VGCA President

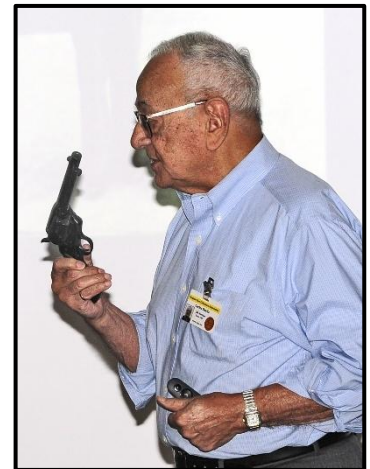
★ August Presentation: Spanish Military Weapons Industry and the AMELI

Our August presentation was another by member Carlos Davila (*right*) – a man who truly exemplifies the phrase “been there – done that!” Carlos has given several presentations to the VGCA in recent years, normally on Fabrique Nationale (FN) products. This one deviated from that roadmap, concentrating on a Spanish weapon – the MG82 “AMELI” machinegun.



Carlos opened by describing his background and life experiences. Born in Peru, his family emigrated to the United States after the politics there took a decidedly communist turn. They settled in New York, where Carlos became interested in firearms at an early age. His first gun was a Colt Peacemaker in .32/20, which he still has (*picture at right*).

Carlos spent much of his adult life in traveling and working around the world. He would return to Peru and was introduced to the FN/FAL rifle when he went to work for the secret police. He taught sniper courses throughout Latin America and Africa. He learned to fly in 1953, which served him well when he sold Swiss Pilatus PC-7 trainer and light attack aircraft to Mexico in the late 1970s (Mexico would ultimately buy 88 PC-7s). He helped design a bolt action rifle in 5.56mm NATO at the request of the president of Guatemala. Carlos worked for FN from the mid-1970s through about 1982 and proposed a chrome-plated Hi-Power pistol for the international market. He met Mikhail Kalashnikov, inventor of the infamous AK-47, and would travel to Izhevsk with the VGCA after the collapse of the USSR and fall of communism. Carlos could easily make a case to be named the “most interesting man in the world!”



The story of AMELI (which is a contraction of the Spanish “ametralladora ligera”, or light machine gun) begins with the re-armament of West Germany in 1955. The newly reconstituted German armed forces, the Bundeswehr, approached FN about manufacturing the FAL in Germany under license. As related by Carlos, this request was flatly refused by René Laloux, head of FN at the time. Mr. Laloux noted that his father has fought the Germans, he had fought the Germans, and he wanted to make sure his son didn’t have to fight the Germans. West Germany turned to the Spanish company Centro de Estudios Técnicos de Materiales Especiales (CETME) and would ultimately purchase rights to make the G3 rifle.

The G3 was based on design work by German engineer Ludwig Vorgrimler, who had worked on the German MG42 machinegun design during WWII and moved to Spain after the war. Mr. Vorgrimler is credited with solving the sticky cartridge case extraction associated with the CETME design by adding flutes to the chamber, which causes the cases to float on a layer of gas as an aid extraction.

The AMELI was developed by CETME starting in 1974, was officially unveiled in 1981, and after extensive testing was adopted by the Spanish military a year later as the MG82. The AMELI appears superficially similar in appearance to the MG42, but it utilizes a different operating system. While the MG42 uses a roller-locked short recoil operating system, the MG82 uses a roller-delayed blowback method of operation. This is the same system as the earlier CETME models and G3. Chambered in 5.56mm NATO (5.56x45) and weighing just over 11 ½ pounds, the belt-fed AMELI is actually shorter than the American M-16. It was designed to be employed as a squad-level support weapon.



The AMELI fires from an open bolt and the trigger mechanism allows for fully automatic fire only. The rate of fire is between 800 and 1200 rounds per minute and can be adjusted by using bolts of different weight (similar to the MG3, the post-WWII successor to the MG42). The ammunition is loaded onto belts of disintegrating links and carried in disposable plastic containers that can hold either 100 or 200 rounds. The barrel is chrome-lined and available with either a 1:7 inch rate of twist for the NATO SS109 5.56mm round or in 1:12 inch for the lighter M193 ammo. Overheated barrels can be quickly replaced in as little as 5 seconds.

The AMELI was produced at the government-owned Empresa Nacional Santa Bárbara factory from 1982 until the factory closed in 2013. The AMELI was adopted by Malaysia and Mexico in addition to Spain and has been observed in the Ukraine in its fight against Russia. Approximately 3,000-4,000 AMELIs were produced.

Carlos was only able to share an AMELI parts kit, which he used to highlight various design features during his presentation (*the image above of a complete AMELI is from the internet, courtesy of cod.tracker.gg*). Please join us in thanking Carlos for this great presentation on a fascinating firearm the next time you see him!

If you are interested in more information, check out Ian McCollum's video on the AMELI (*link below*).

[AMELI: Spain's Not-Mini-MG42 in 5.56mm - Forgotten Weapons](#)





★ August Meeting Notes

The meeting was called to order by VGCA President Rob Becker at 7 p.m. VGCA member Dan Helm led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence, with 44 members and guests in attendance and 9 more participating remotely via JITS. Guests and new members were introduced.

Rob Becker announced that our first July Membership Meeting last month was a success and that the VGCA officers and directors voted to make a July enhanced Show-n-Tell meeting an annual event. He reviewed possible themes for future Show-n-Tell meetings that were previously suggested and asked if there were any additions. Rob then passed around a sheet for those present to vote for two themes. Later in the meeting, after the votes were tabulated, the theme for the July 2026 meeting will be “Guns I paid too much for!”

Rob also announced a change to the September presentation topics. Instead of Shannon Zeigler talking about the German MG42 (which will now be in January 2026), Shannon will give a short presentation on Colt Sporter Rifle Optics, followed by author Stephen Halbrook discussing “Gun Control in WWII Europe: What History Warns Us About Disarmament.” There is also the possibility of media presence covering Dr. Halbrook’s talk.

A sign-up sheet was passed around for people to volunteer to give presentations next year. This was very successful, as the only months right now are September and October 2026.

It was announced that, unfortunately, the proposed joint VGCA-NORVA Rod & Gun Club Picnic/Schutzenfest will not happen this fall. The NORVA Board of Directors just felt there was enough to properly plan this event. We are hopeful to re-address this NORVA in the spring.

We are still hoping to take a Field Trip to the Smith & Wesson factory in Maryville, Tennessee in November, but this is not confirmed. Stay tuned for details as they are confirmed.

Vice President and Membership Chairman George Dungan gave an update on our members. The VGCA has 452 Life and 78 Annual Members for a total of 530.

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

Director Troy Blackwood gave an update on the VGCA Social Media accounts. He reminded the members that we have a YouTube channel and have started to publish our presentations there. The VGCA also has Instagram and Facebook accounts. See page 16 for details.

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





BATTLE OF BRISTOW, OCT. 14th, 1863.

THIRD BRIGADE, 3D DIV., 2D CORPS.

Seizing the Railroad Cut.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF BRISTOW STATION FREE TOURS – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

Contributed by Marc Gorelick

*Bristow Station Battlefield heritage Park
Iron Brigade Unit Ave, Bristow, VA 20136*

Join Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park staff and volunteers to commemorate the 162nd anniversary of the Battle of Bristoe Station, the climactic action of Robert E. Lee's last offensive campaign of the Civil War. Take a walking tour of the battlefield and learn about the war's last major battle fought in Prince William County.

*This is a free event, and tickets are not required.
Tours begin at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m.*

Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park is a 140-acre historic site in western Prince William County. Here, Union and Confederate soldiers fought the Battle of Kettle Run on August 27, 1862, and the Battle of Bristoe Station on October 14, 1863. These two battles and numerous encampments engulfed Bristoe Station during the American Civil War. While small compared to other Civil War battles, the August 1862 Battle of Kettle Run and the October 1863 Battle of Bristoe Station produced hundreds of casualties.

Prior to the Civil War, Bristoe Station was an important stop along the Orange and Alexandria Railroad. Drawn by the railroad and the nearby water supply, numerous Union and Confederate encampments sprang up around Bristoe Station from 1861 through 1864.

Battle of Kettle Run

In August 1862, the Civil War returned to Prince William County. As part of the 2nd Manassas Campaign, Confederate soldiers under Stonewall Jackson captured the railroad at Bristoe Station before capturing the warehouses of food at Manassas. On the afternoon of August 27, 1862, the small, but deadly, Battle of Kettle Run was fought at Bristoe Station, the first of a series of battles known as 2nd Manassas.

Battle of Bristoe Station

In the fall of 1863, after the Battle of Gettysburg, both the Union and Confederate armies returned to Central Virginia where they rested and refitted. In early October, General Robert E. Lee went on the offensive again, trying to repeat his successful 2nd Manassas Campaign. General George G. Meade, commanding the Union army, acted quickly and ordered his army into a hurried retreat north to the safety of the forts around Centerville. The campaign would be a race between opposing armies.

Unfortunately for the Confederates, General J.E.B Stuart and his cavalry were caught between two columns of the Union army while scouting near the small town of Auburn. Stuart took his men to a small ravine outside the town and there they hid on the night of October 13 while Union soldiers marched and camped yards away. Stuart managed to get a courier to Lee informing him of his predicament. On the morning of October 14, Lee sent Ewell's Corps to Auburn on a rescue mission to extract Stuart's cavalry. Between Ewell and Stuart was the Union 2nd Corps, Army of the Potomac commanded by General Gouverneur Warren. The 2nd Corps attempted to rejoin the rest of the army along the Orange and Alexandria Railroad when Ewell's forces arrived on the field. During the Battle of Auburn, Stuart was able to get around Warren's men and rejoin Lee's army, while the 2nd Corps was able to make it safely back to the Orange and Alexandria Railroad.

At noon on October 14, hours after the fighting at Auburn, General A.P. Hill's column reached a hill near Bristoe Station. Now at the head of Lee's army, Hill looked towards Broad Run and saw Union soldiers in the process of crossing the stream. Believing this to be the Union rearguard, Hill thought he saw an opportunity to strike a blow at the retreating Union army. Hill ordered his lead division under General Henry Heth to attack. With Union soldiers retreating, the Confederates soon received reports of enemy troops along the railroad, out of Hill's view. These soldiers proved to be only part of Warren's 2nd Corps. As Heth deployed his men, the right of his line came under fire from Federal skirmishers protecting the main column from danger. Heth's division wheeled right and advanced on this new threat. However, only two brigades of North Carolinians made the wheel.

Warren quickly deployed his few units that had arrived at Bristoe Station along the railroad, using the embankment as cover and called up the rest of his command. It was now a race for the railroad between Heth's North Carolinians and the rest of Warren's 2nd Corps. Warren's men won this race, and the North Carolinians were raked by an overwhelming fire from the naturally strong position along the railroad and from 14 cannon on the hills behind the embankment. By 4:00pm the Confederates were withdrawing from their attack. The charge at Bristoe cost the Confederates nearly 1,400 men killed, wounded, or captured against the 300 men that Warren lost. The battle, and the campaign, was over. In a few weeks both armies returned to where they had started.

*Directions from Rt. 66 – Go south on Rt 234, Prince William Pkwy. Get off and go west on Rt. 28 Nokesville Rd..
Turn left on Rt. 619 Bristow Rd., 2nd right, turn right onto Iron Brigade Unit Ave.*

Alternate – continue on Rt 28 Nokesville Rd and turn left at light – Battalion Square. Turn right on Bristow Station Drive. Turn left on Iron Brigade Unit Ave.



SAMUEL BRUNN'S MASTERPIECES

By Marc Gorelick



Photo – Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

Beginning around 1780, a small group of talented gunmakers set up workshops on the outskirts of the center of London. Among them were Durs Egg, John Manton, and Samuel Brunn, names that are largely unknown to those outside the arms and armor field. However, to those who study or collect fine guns, their names stand at the pinnacle of British gunmakers. Their contributions to the art of firearms are almost without parallel. In fierce competition with one another for lucrative commissions, fame, and prestige, they brought the flintlock gun to a level of beauty, elegance and refinement that has rarely been matched. They all but discarded extraneous decoration and instead favored the development of elegant yet ergonomic designs incorporating new technologies that served to enhance accuracy, handling, and speed. Through these designs, a beautiful and distinctly British style of firearm was born. These gunmakers deservedly earned a devoted following among the British royalty and the aristocracy, as well as acquiring great fame throughout Europe and down to the present day.

Samuel Brunn was a leading London sword cutler and gunmaker who held appointments to the Prince of Wales (later Prince Regent and King George IV, 1760–1830) and other members of the royal family, the aristocracy and the government's Board of Ordnance. He is recorded from 1795 to 1815, first appearing in the Small Gun Office records on September 9, 1795, as “continuing the business of the late Mr. Knubley” (died February 1795) by supplying equipment to the Board of Ordnance. John Knubley was a leading London gunmaker and sword cutler in Charing Cross. He was a gunmaker to the Prince of Wales, Duke of Clarence and Prince Edward, and Contractor to Ordnance (canon locks, trade muskets, pistols and broadswords) and Brunn may have worked for him. Evidence suggests that Brunn formed a partnership with Knubley’s widow, Sarah, which lasted for two years. A sword in the Royal Collection is signed Knubley & Brunn and a pair of silver mounted pocket pistols signed Knubley Brunn & Co., Charing Cross, supports this view. And in May 1796 Brunn entered his mark in the Goldsmiths Hall and gave his address as 7 Charing Cross, the address of Knubley & Co.



*Above and below: Note the inlaid gold decoration on the barrel, lockplate, cock, frizzen and screws
Photos - Metropolitan Museum of Art*





*Above: Left side of one of the pair. Note the exquisite silver decoration and silver tipped ramrod.
Below: Enlarged image of a silver Nereid feeding a sea leopard. Photos - Metropolitan Museum of Art.*



By the spring of 1797 Brunn was established at 55 Charing Cross, Westminster. Invoices from 1799 in the Royal Accounts for swords and belts for the Prince of Wales give this address, as does Brunn's Trade Card. In 1803 his address had changed to 56 Charing Cross where he is recorded until 1819-1820.

Some of Brunn's pistols were displayed by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, in a special exhibition of Egg's, Manton's and Brunn's pistols that ran from January 29, 2019, until January 29, 2020. Many of the pistols had rarely or never been exhibited and the exhibition highlighted the English pistols' restrained elegance and high level of craftsmanship and finish, combined with their ingenious use of a range of new technologies and their emphasis on accuracy and ease of handling. Because of this emphasis they differ in appearance from most fine firearms being made on the Continent by such masters as Nicolas-Noel Boutet and Jean Le Page, which, by contrast, were usually highly embellished.

Although Brunn is known for the elegant simplicity of his firearms, the exhibition showcased a pair of gorgeously decorated flintlock pistols made by him between 1800 and 1801, reputedly for the Prince Regent, the future King George IV, who was known to be a Francophile. As such these pistols are the

exception to the pattern of simplicity and have the opulent decoration of fine French firearms. According to John Byck, Assistant Curator of the Department of Arms and Armor at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, “They’re arguably the finest Neoclassical British firearms in the world.”



*Top and bottom of the pistols showing the inlaid gold and extensive silver decoration.
Photos – Metropolitan Museum of Art.*

These pistols are masterpieces of the gunmaker’s art and are among the most ornately decorated Neoclassical English firearms known. The barrels and lockplates are of blued steel engraved and gold-inlaid with trophies of arms and foliage. The cocks and frizzens are also decorated with gold inlay and there is an inlaid gold border around the edge of the lockplate. The decoration of the stocks was inspired by contemporary French Empire firearms. It combines engraved sheet-silver inlay and heavy cast and chased silver mounts. The mounts, including the triggerguards and ramrod pipes, the designs of which appear to be unique to British firearms, are the work of London silversmith and sword-hilt maker, Michael Barnett whose mark is M.B.



Top of one of the pistols. Note the rear sight. Also note the maker’s name and address in gold inlay on the top flat of the octagonal barrel. Photo – Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The exquisite decoration of the pistol was influenced by French fashion, which is not surprising since the person who commissioned the pistols was the Prince Regent, a Francophile. It has much of the Empire style including militaristic trophies of arms. However, some of the ornamental motifs are based on ancient Greco-Roman sources. For example, a Nereid feeding a sea leopard on the sideplate derives from an engraving, published in Rome in 1762, of a wall painting found in the ruins of Herculaneum; and the oval medallion on the silver trigger guard represents Hercules with a defeated Amazon. The Medusa head on the butt is also based on classical art in which the idealized model has been transformed into a grimacing gorgon. Even the screw heads are decorated, some having gold inlay.

The pistols are 16 inches (40.6cm) long with 10 1/8 inch (25.7cm) long octagonal barrels. They are .603 caliber (15.3mm). They are made of steel, wood (walnut and rosewood), gold and silver. The hallmarks are from 1800-1801. The butts are finely checkered; the checkering being almost overlooked because of

the ornate silver decoration that surrounds it. The maker's name and address, Brunn / CHARING CROSS / London, are inlaid with gold on the top flat of the barrels. The pistols have low rear sights and a small gold front post sight.



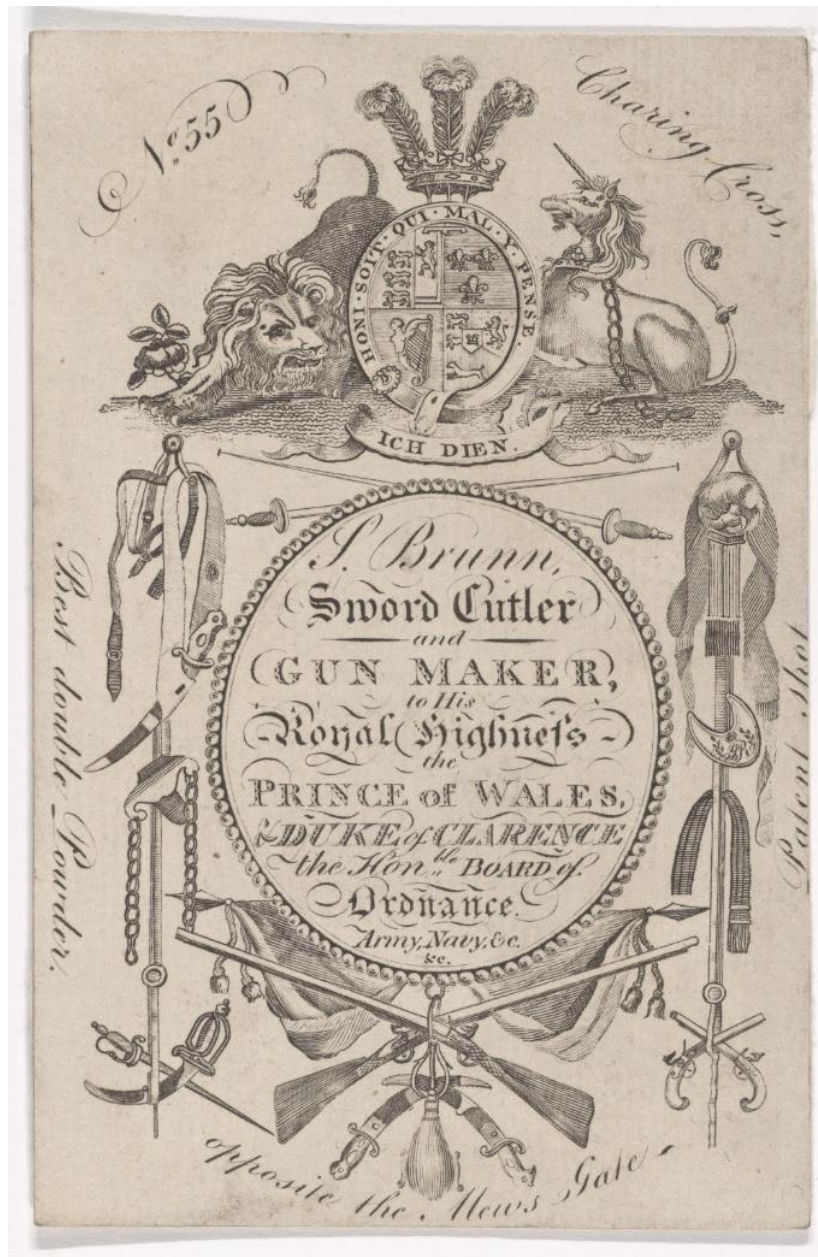
*Left: Silver martial design with cannon, pole arms, shields and Roman fasces on the wrist of the butt.
Center: Bottom of one of the pistols showing the medallion on the silver triggerguard with Hercules and an Amazon. Note the superb detail.
Right: Gold inlaid decoration on the blued steel barrel. Note the gold border near the muzzle and top of the gold front sight. Photos – Metropolitan Museum of Art.*



The silversmith, Michael Barnett (1758–1823), worked extensively for the arms trade. He registered his first mark with the Goldsmiths' Company in 1781 and listed himself as a hilt maker, though few sword hilts struck with his mark are recorded. However, his mark (the letters M B separated by a pellet) is found on the silver mounts of some of the finest and most highly embellished London firearms of the period, including the two by Samuel Brunn that are described here. He also did silver work, for other leading London gunmakers, including Durs Egg and William Brander.

Photo above: The two Brunn pistols at an angle that clearly shows the opulent silver ornamentation. Also note the inlaid gold border around the lockplate. Photo – Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Photo left: The Medusa head butt cap. Silversmith Matthew Barnett appears to have transformed the evil Medusa into an almost humorous caricature of the legendary Greek monster. Note the exquisite detail of the snakes that make up the Medusa's hair. Photo – Metropolitan Museum of Art.



Samuel Bruun's Trade Card. Used by him from 1797 to 1803 when his business was located at 55 Charing Cross, Westminster, London. Photo- Metropolitan Museum of Art.

In the late 18th century, craftsmen, including gunmakers, in England used customized engraved trade cards as a means of advertising their services, qualifications and wares to potential clients. They can be considered similar to today's business cards or flyers. Samuel Bruun's elegantly designed card shows some of his products – pistols, muskets, and swords of various kinds. The card highlights Bruun's impressive credentials, specifically his appointments to members of the Royal family; the Prince of Wales (Prince Regent and future King George IV) and the Duke of Clarence, as well as contracts with the Board of Ordnance, Army and Navy. Bruun highlighted his relationship with the Prince of Wales by including at the top of his trade card the Prince's distinctive crest of three ostrich feathers above a royal coronet (crown), and his motto, ICH DIEN (I Serve).

★ Next Membership Meeting: Thursday, Sep 25th

We will have two Presentations!

**“Colt Sporter Rifle Optics” by Shannon Zeigler and
“Gun Control in WWII Europe: What History Warns Us
About Disarmament” by author Dr. Stephen Halbrook
Location: NRA HQ Basement Auditorium**

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



★ How to watch the September Meeting from Home

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

Click the following link to join the meeting: <https://meet.jit.si/vgca-september2025meeting>

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

Just want to dial in on your phone? Dial-in +1.512.647.1431 PIN: 3583335580 followed by #. Click this link to see the dial in phone numbers for this meeting <https://meet.jit.si/static/dialInInfo.html?room=vgca-september2025meeting>



★ 2025/2026 Presentation & Event List

MEETING DATE	TOPIC	PRESENTER
25 Sep 2025	Colt Sporter Rifle Optics	Shannon Zeigler
“ “ “	Gun Control in WWII Europe: What History Warns Us About Disarmament	Stephen Halbrook
23 Oct 2025	Passing the Gun – Inheriting Guns	Phil Hill
November 2025	No Meeting due to Fall Gun Show	
TBD Dec 2025	Holiday Potluck Dinner and Annual Swap Meet – no presentation	
24 Jan 2026 (Sat)	The German MG42	Shannon Zeigler
28 Feb 2026 (Sat)	The Beretta 92 – Part 1	Louie DiGaetano

If you have any presentation suggestions – or would like to make a presentation yourself in 2026 (September and October are still open) – please contact Chris Britton or any officer or director.



14 Oct 2025 “WWI Experimental Helmets” by Tom Buck

9 Dec 2025 Potluck Dinner and Auction[illegible]

First & Last Name, Email (Hotmail accounts may have trouble getting necessary emails from S&W) and phone numbers.

[illegible]



★ Important Update: VGCA Membership Dues Going Up in 2026

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

★ We need your help with our Newsletter!

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

★ VGCA Social Media Accounts ★

Our Instagram account

[@vaguncollectors](#)

has **836 followers** as of **22 Sep 2025!**

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

Our VGCA youtube.com channel

[@vgca-viriniaguncollectorsasso](#)

Troy Blackwood started this effort on the 11 Mar 2025. We have **22** videos and **75 subscribers** as of **22 Sep 2025**.

The VGCA Facebook Page

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

has **1834 followers** as of **22 Sep 2025**.

VGCA GUNS OF DISTINCTION: PAIR OF SCOTTISH FLINTLOCK PISTOLS BY ALEXANDER CAMPBELL OF DOUNE

By Marc Gorelick

Photos courtesy of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

The Highland warriors of Scotland carried distinctive arms, including claymore swords and the lochaber axe. Their flintlock pistols were also distinctive. Unlike those made elsewhere in Great Britain, they had evolved to where they were constructed entirely from metal, usually steel, and were engraved and often silver-inlaid with geometric and foliate ornament of Celtic inspiration. The matched pair pictured here, signed by the renowned gunmaker Alexander Campbell of Doune, Perthshire, is a classic example of the final type. Among the defining features are the scrolled "ram's-horn" butts, button-shaped triggers without trigger guards, decorative pierced rosettes behind the head of the cock, a lock pick mounted in the butt, and belt hooks mounted on the side opposite the locks.



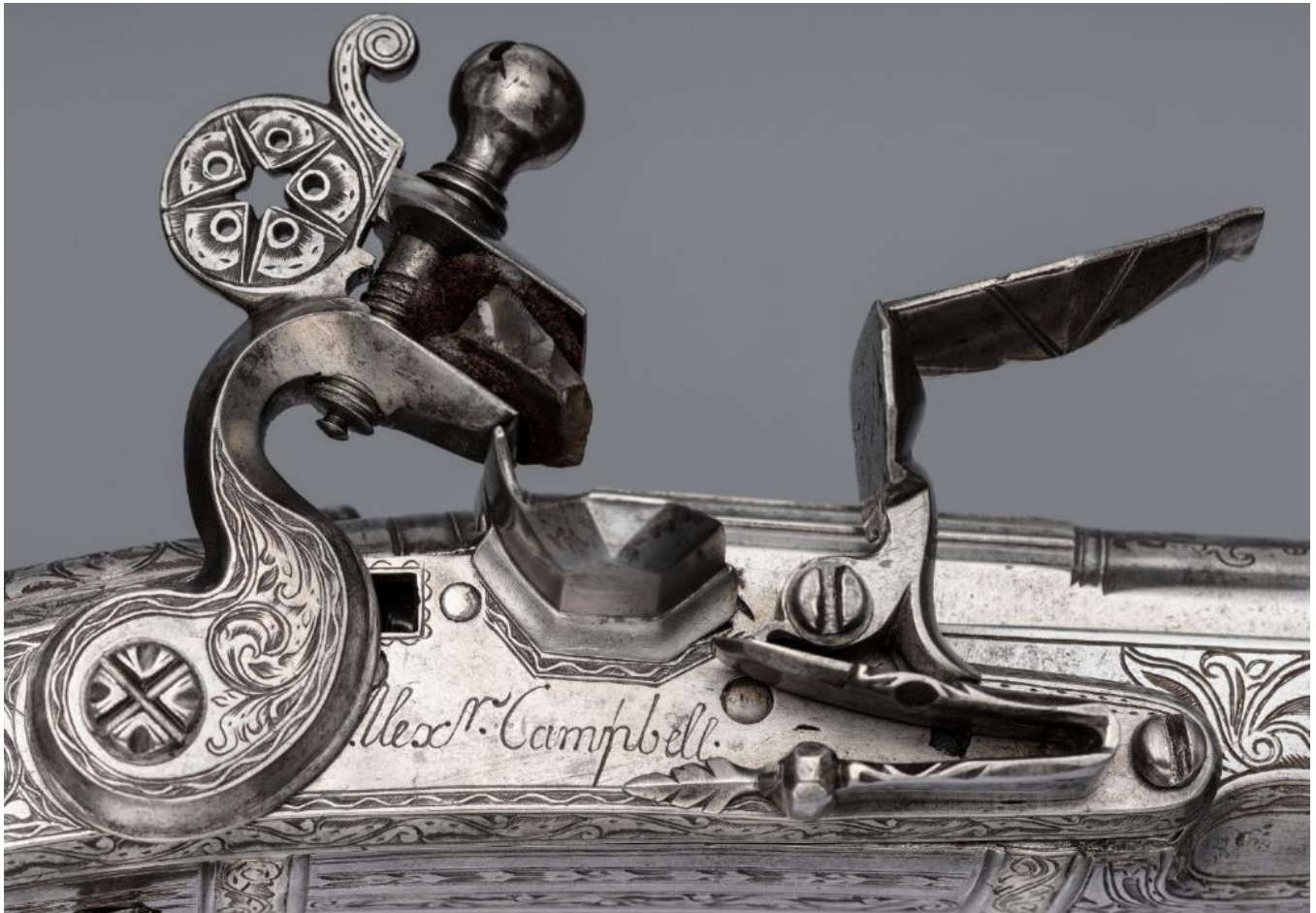
The pistols date from around 1750 to 1770. Alexander Campbell died in 1790. They are made of steel and silver and are 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches (29.8cm) long. Campbell's pistols, featuring the "classic" ram's-horn butt and button-shaped trigger, are considered among the finest made in the period and these are no exception. This pair's metal stocks have near full coverage scroll engraving accented with silver inlaid scrollwork which extends to the hammer and barrel, which has a cannon-type muzzle. The round button trigger has an engraved floral blossom design which is repeated on the head of the pick mounted in the butt. The belt hooks are engraved and there are silver oval plaques on the sides of the grips. These plaques were often engraved with the owner's name or coat of arms. There are decorative pierced rosettes behind the heads of the cocks. The lockplates are signed "*Alex Campbell.*"



From the 17th century, gunsmiths in Scotland produced pistols that were unique to the country. They acquired the name "Highland pistols" because many of the towns where they were made - Tain, Inverness, Brechin, Perth, and Doune - skirted the southern and eastern edges of the Highlands, and because they were worn and used by Highland clan warriors.

Scottish pistols were sold in pairs, sometimes with their mechanisms on opposite sides for use in each hand. A long belt hook enabled them to be worn against the body or tucked inside a plaid, protected against the weather. Their butts are also characteristic. Early examples are shaped like fish-tails, lemons and hearts. The most common, the ram's horn or scroll butt, is associated with pistols from Doune. These were solid, self-contained pistols that could be drawn quickly, but their button triggers, unprotected by a guard, risked an accidental shot.

The small Perthshire village of Doune between Stirling and Callander was known throughout the world as the home of the famous pistols which possessed such mystery, artistry and deadly accuracy that they brought incredible sums in the 1600s and 1700s.



Top and bottom views of Campbell pistols.

In 1646 Thomas Caddell settled in Doune, setting up business as a gunsmith. His artistry and rare skill were renowned, and it has been said of him that he “brought his work to such high degree of perfection that no pistol made in Britain excelled or perhaps equaled those of his making either for sureness or

beauty." His guns were soon bought by Highland clansmen and cost between four and twenty quineas, a lifetime's savings for many in those days. In later years, more pistols inlaid with silver and gold were ordered by noble families. Thomas Caddell passed on his skill to his son Thomas, his grandson John and apprentices John and Alexander Campbell. Five generations of Caddells and the gunsmiths they trained as apprentices - Campbell, Christie, Murdoch - expanded and dominated the trade until the 19th century. Campbell himself attained a high level of expertise and was active when Doune reached its height for producing high quality arms and pistol-making reached its peak during the 1700s.



Doune gunmakers sold pistols to local aristocrats, to Highland regiments and to foreign royalty. For instance, Peter the Great of Russia and Louis XIV of France both owned examples of Doune-made pistols. Doune pistols were carried and used by high-ranking clan chieftains and officers in almost every Scottish battle for two centuries. Doune's gunmaking industry was dealt a heavy wound when the British introduced the Disarming Act in 1746, which banned Scots from carrying weapons in an effort to crush the Highland clan system after Bonnie Prince Charlie's Jacobite Rising in 1745. A gunmaking workshop still operated in Doune until about 1798 when the town's it was finally killed off by the manufacture of cheap imitations, primarily in Birmingham, England.

Today, pistols from Doune are highly prized by collectors and are displayed in almost every main museum on the European continent. The oldest such weapon is of 1678 and signed by Thomas Caddell, in the Neuchatel Museum, Switzerland. Campbell's pistols, featuring the "classic" ram's-horn butt and button-shaped trigger, are considered among the finest made in the period.



★ SEPTEMBER LEGISLATIVE UPDATE ★

By Al Reid

Virginia's next election is occurring on November 4th, just a couple of days after our Fall Gun Show. More than ever, if you have regard for the 2nd Amendment and your ongoing love of firearms, you must vote in this election – it is crucial for the protection of your Constitutional Rights! At the very least, your vote has the chance of changing the numbers positively in the Legislature or General Assembly and in the best case, maintaining a Governor who is pro-2A. Currently the NRA and VCDL candidate ratings for the Governor, Deputy Governor and Attorney General are essentially the same. The Republican Candidates are rated as “A’s” while the Democrat Candidates are rated solid “F’s” in regard to their views on the 2nd Amendment.

Some interesting factoids:

Civilians in the United States legally own upwards of 400,000,000 firearms. This is approximately 47% of all civilian owned firearms in the world and approx. 40% of civilian and state-owned firearms. These figures are used by the anti-gun factions to demonize firearm owners and the firearms themselves. As we know, firearms have a capacity to commit violence and to control humans. So often the firearm is the blame - NOT the criminal using it. The above figures would have us believe that firearm related crime is a leading cause of death in the US! Factually, firearm related deaths/injury account for very few deaths compared with other causes such as drugs (illegal or prescription), motor vehicle accidents, unintentional accidents, and disease to name a few. Blunt force trauma, fists, boots, clubs, etc. kill more people than all long gun (rifles and shotguns of ALL descriptions) in private hands.

Unfortunately, if you do a computer search on firearms-related statistics, any “facts” and figures you find will be negative about firearms. Typically, these “facts” and figures are posted by leading Gun Control groups and there is very little, if any, actual truth in the data. This is a sad reflection on the bias shown by the social media networks in this country and the world in general.

Legal firearm carrying civilians have prevented approximately 148 potential mass casualty events in the US in the last couple of years. In the same period, Law Enforcement has prevented approximately 156. Civilian responders have caused NO collateral injury to bystanders in these incidents however, at least 2 fatalities can be attributed to Law Enforcement. This is not a reflection on Law Enforcement by any means but proves that the armed civilian on the scene will often have a greater perspective on who the actual criminal is.

Bottom line - YOUR vote is important in order to maintain your Rights under the Constitution.

★ We Need Volunteers for the Fall Show

Our gun shows are only successful through the efforts and dedication of our members. If you would like to help out, please contact:

For Set-up	Show Director Andrew Woodard at ajw055570@aol.com
For Security	Show Security Manager Al Reid at reid_allen@hotmail.com

★ Membership Chairman's Report – Aug 2025

Please welcome the following new members to our group:

- **Joshua Handarie of Centreville**
- **Richard Holder of Bristow**
- **Homer Brett of Alexandria**

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

Notice to New Member Sponsors: Please ensure your prospective applicants provide a legible email address and telephone contact number if possible. Also, please make sure your name is clearly written on the sponsorship form. Without a valid email address, new members will not receive the newsletter or VGCA announcements.

Membership Numbers: There are currently 454 Life members and 77 Annual Members in the Virginia Gun Collectors Association, Inc.

Recruiting: Thank you to everyone who has worked our membership tables in the past and those of you who have signed up new members. Your efforts bring more knowledge to our organization through the new members who have an interest in gun collecting. Membership in the VGCA is a great way for people with an interest in the history, development, and use of firearms to broaden their knowledge and share what they know with others. It also offers the opportunity to network with individuals who have similar interests. To facilitate new memberships, we have a Membership Table at every Chantilly gun show, as well as at our own VGCA gun shows.

The next gun show in Chantilly is the weekend of September 26 and we need volunteers for our membership table all three days. If you can work a shift or two, please contact Bruce Buchner at buchnerb@cox.net.

Membership Renewal: Dues for 2025 are now past due. If you wish to continue receiving the Newsletter, getting into the VGCA gun shows for free, and other benefits that come with membership please update your dues payment. You can renew annually for \$30 or \$150 for life. Please use the form below to renew and either mail it in or bring it to a meeting and give it to either George Dungan or Bruce Buchner. If you are unsure of your membership status email george@eccominv.com and I will let you know. Dues will be going up starting 1 January 2026.

George Dungan, Vice President and Membership Chair





CMP UPDATE

By Marc Gorelick, CMP Liaison

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

CMP AUCTION MOVES TO GUNBROKER.COM

The Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) announced a new partnership with **GunBroker.com** that is designed to improve access and visibility to many of the items that the CMP sells. Beginning on September 9, 2025, all CMP Auction and “Buy Now” items are now listed and sold through **GunBroker.com**, one of the most widely used online marketplaces for firearms and related items. According to the CMP, this partnership will allow for improved accessibility, a more user-friendly bidding experience, and enhanced customer support, all while maintaining the same level of quality items that CMP qualified and affiliate members have come to expect from the CMP’s auction site.

To ensure a smooth transition, CMP’s current auction website will include a direct link to the new CMP Site on the GunBroker.com platform. Current and featured listings will also be visible on the CMP site, with direct links to the auction on GunBroker.

CMP - GunBroker Schedule:

Buy Now Items -- posted on Thursdays at 9:00 AM Eastern Time

Regular Auction Items -- posted on Mondays at 9:00 AM Eastern Time

In order to participate in CMP auctions on Gun Broker, you must create a Gunbroker account at <https://www.gunbroker.com/newregistration/signupdetails>.

For more information go to the CMP website at <https://www.gunbroker.com/s/npfo/civilian-marksmanship-program/>. If you have additional questions you can contact the CMP Auction Team at auction@thecmp.org or (256) 835-8455 ext. 418. Inquiries relating to account creation on the GunBroker.com platform should be addressed to the GunBroker Help Center at <https://support.gunbroker.com/hc/en-us>.

NEW CMP ON-LINE MILITARY SURPLUS ORDER FORM

The CMP has introduced a new on-line order form for purchasing surplus military rifles. Customers can now order online in one place — just complete the form, upload eligibility documents, and submit them to the CMP. According to the CMP, customers will immediately receive a confirmation email. Once your order is ready to process, the CMP will send you a unique code to log into the CMP eStore, to confirm, and pay securely. Orders will then be shipped within a few days. Go the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/military-surplus-rifle-order-form/> for additional information, an explanation of requirements, and a link to the order form. To order surplus military rifles from the CMP, you must meet all the requirements, including proof of current membership in a CMP affiliated organization. Membership in the VGCA fulfills that requirement because the VGCA is a CMP affiliated organization.

CMP MILITARY SURPLUS RIFLE ORDER FORM CHECKLIST & INSTRUCTIONS

TO PURCHASE MILITARY SURPLUS RIFLES FROM THE CMP, A PURCHASER MUST PROVIDE PROOF OF:

- **U.S. Citizenship and Age:** You must provide a copy of a U.S. birth certificate, passport, proof of naturalization, or any official government document that shows birth in the U.S. or otherwise states citizenship as U.S. A driver's license is proof of age but **IS NOT** proof of U.S. citizenship. A copy of a military ID (active, reserve, guard, retired) serves as proof of U.S. citizenship (must be an E5 or above).
- **Membership in a CMP Affiliated Organization:** **You must provide a copy of your current membership card or other proof of membership.** This requirement cannot be waived. We can accept an emailed receipt, letter from the club or anything that shows that you are in current and good standing with that club and when the membership expires. The CMP currently has over 2,000 affiliated organizations located in many parts of the country. Membership in the Virginia Gun Collectors Association (VGCA) satisfies this CMP requirement for purchase. The NRA is NOT a CMP affiliated organization.
- **Marksmanship or other Firearms Related Activity:** You must provide proof of participation in a marksmanship related activity or otherwise show familiarity with the safe handling of firearms and range procedures. Your marksmanship related activity can be with rifles, pistols, air guns or shotguns. Proof of marksmanship participation can be provided by documenting any one of the following:
 1. Current or past military or law enforcement service.
 2. Participation in a rifle, pistol, air gun or shotgun competition (provide copy of results bulletin).
 3. Completion of a marksmanship clinic that included live fire training (provide a copy of the certificate of completion or a statement from the instructor).
 4. Distinguished, Instructor, or Coach status.
 5. Concealed Carry License.
 6. Firearms Owner Identification Card that includes live fire training.
 7. FFL or C&R license.
 8. Completion of a Hunter Safety Course that included live fire training.
 9. Certification from range or club official or law enforcement officer witnessing shooting activity. A form for use in completing & certifying your range firing can be downloaded from the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/wp-content/uploads/marksmanship.pdf>.

- **Legal Eligibility to Purchase a Firearm:** The information you supply on your application will be submitted by the CMP to the FBI National Instant Criminal Check System (NICS) to verify you are not prohibited by Federal, State or Local law from acquiring or possessing a rifle. Your signature on the Purchaser Certification portion of the purchase application authorizes the CMP to initiate the NICS check and authorizes the FBI to inform CMP of the result. **IMPORTANT:** If your State or locality requires you to first obtain a license, permit, Firearms Owner ID card or Certificate of Eligibility (COE) in order to possess or receive a rifle, you must upload a photocopy of your license, permit, or card with the application for purchase. These states are California, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Washington, and the District of Columbia.

Go to <https://thecmp.org/military-surplus-rifle-order-form/> for additional information and forms.



Contributed by Marc Gorelick

**Now Open for Applicants:
CSAH Fellowship Programmes Supporting Early-Career Arms Historians**

The Centre for the Study of Arms History (CSAH) is now accepting 2025 applications for two fellowships designed to support early-career researchers making meaningful contributions to the field of arms history. Applications for both fellowships are open from now until **15 October**.

Apply here at: <https://www.armshistory.org/research>

Cody Firearms Museum Early-Career Fellowship

Offered in partnership with the Cody Firearms Museum (CFM) at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody, Wyoming, this fellowship is open to applicants with fewer than three years of professional experience in arms history or related disciplines. It is especially suited to those transitioning from other fields or seeking to professionalize informal experience (e.g., collectors or enthusiasts). The fellowship supports research projects that benefit from access to the world-class collections of the CFM, part of the Buffalo Bill Center of the West. One or more outputs should be shared through the museum's activities or publications, such as Armax: The Journal of Contemporary Arms.

ARES Emerging Experts Fellowship

Available to early-career researchers undertaking or having recently completed postgraduate study, the Armament Research Services (ARES) Emerging Experts Fellowship supports the production of a discrete, publishable output—such as a journal article, technical report, or literature review—on a topic related to the study of contemporary arms or munitions (1800 to present day). Fellows are selected based on research excellence and potential and are matched with a mentor from the ARES team. The fellowship provides financial and practical support to advance original, high-quality research and help position recipients as future leaders in the field.

About CSAH

The Centre for the Study of Arms History (CSAH) aims to serve as the peak international body promoting the study of arms history. Offering a research hub for students and practitioners the world over, CSAH brings together arms historians, archivists, curators, collectors, professionals, and those in allied fields. CSAH connects researchers with world-class resources, partner institutions, and unique study opportunities. Learn more about the Centre for the Study of Arms History at www.armshistory.org



★ In Review ★

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

A TRIP TO THE MUSEUM: **LYON AIR MUSEUM**

By Marc Gorelick

If you ever fly into or out of John Wayne Airport in Santa Ana, California, make some time to visit Lyon Air Museum, which is located on the west side of the airport. Founded by Major General William Lyon (USAF), Lyon Air Museum captures the remarkable history of United States World War 2 aviation. Although small when compared to other aviation museums, the Lyon Air Museum features an operational fleet of historically significant aircraft in its hanger facilities. All of the aircraft on display have been restored to operational status and include some of the most famous of US World War 2 American warplanes.

I was told that the aircraft on display in the hanger that houses the museum are rotated. Besides signage that gave detailed specifications and type history, each plane has signage that talked about that aircraft's particular history.



Lyon Air Museum's B-17G "Fuddy Duddy" in flight. Photo Lyon Air Museum.

Pride of place in the museum is a Boeing B-17G, nicknamed “Fuddy Duddy.” This heavy bomber with its crew of 10 sported up to 13 Browning M2 .50 caliber machine guns and had atypical bomb load of 8,000 pounds. The maximum short-range bomb load with special external wing racks was 17,600 pounds. “Fuddy Duddy” was used as a VIP transport in the Pacific at the end of World War II and it once carried General Dwight D. Eisenhower who later became the 34th President of the United States. In civilian life, it worked as a fire bomber and was occasionally used for motion picture filming, flying on-screen in movies such as the 1962 Steve McQueen movie, “The War Lover.”

There was also a North American B-25J “Mitchell” medium bomber. Named after the controversial champion of U.S. Airpower, General “Billy” Mitchell, the B-25 is best known for the April 18, 1942, bombing of Tokyo. Led by Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle and flown from the deck of the aircraft carrier USS Hornet, 16 B-25s successfully completed the first strike on Japanese soil during World War II. The B-25 in the Lyon Air Museum flew combat patrol missions in Alaska and around the Aleutian Islands during World War II before coming home to be used as a trainer for pilots and aircrew. It had a six man crew, 12 .50 caliber machine guns and a typical bomb load of 4,000 pounds.



Above – B25J “Mitchell” Medium Bomber. Below – A26B Invader Light Bomber. Photos by author.



Another warplane on exhibit was a Douglas A-26 Invader. This light bomber was the successor to the Douglas A-20 Havoc (known to the British as the Boston) and it later was re-designated as the B-26. The A-26 came in two forms: one with a gun-nose that could house six or eight .50 caliber machine guns or 20mm or 37 mm cannon; and the other with the glass “bombardier nose” with two .50 caliber machine guns. Typical armament was 14 machine guns and 14 rockets. It had an internal bomb load of 4,000 pounds and could carry an external load of 2,000 pounds. The Invader fought in more wars than any other aircraft type of its era. Americans flew the attack bomber in World War 2, Korea and Vietnam,

while the French used it in Indo-China, Algeria. It was also used during wars in Biafra, Cuba, The Congo, and in at least a dozen other conflicts. This Douglas A-26B Invader, nicknamed “Feeding Frenzy,” was built at the end of World War II. It was flown by the French Air Force in Indo-China in the 1950s and was later operated by Hughes Tool Company. Reportedly Howard Hughes flew this aircraft, as he did with most of the planes his companies owned. Today, “Feeding Frenzy” wears Korean War colors.

Other aircraft on display included a Cessna O-1E Birdog, a Douglas C-47 Skytrain and a civilian version DC-3, a North American T-6 Texan trainer and a Boeing (Stearman) PT-13D “Kaydet” biplane trainer that was used by the US Army Air Force in World War 2. The C-47 on display has a remarkably long and successful service life. After serving during World War 2 with the US Army Air Force, it was transferred to the French in May of 1945, and continued to fly for the most part unmodified, unlike so many of its contemporaries. In 1967 it again changed ownership, this time transferring to Israel where it continued service without major modification. It was ultimately sold to the civilian market where it found its way to Lyon Air Museum as one of the most complete and original C-47s currently in operation.



Above left – NSU Kettenkrad HK101 Tracked Motorcycle. Above right - German KundappK44 in Afrika Korps livery. Photos by author.

But the Lyon Air Museum isn’t just about World War 2 planes. There is a collection of US and German military vehicles, which include a German 1939 VID Tempo Geleandewagen with its two spare side wheels that aided in the prevention of high-centering in rough terrain, a 1941 Dodge ½ ton Command and Reconnaissance Truck, several jeeps and motorcycles. World War 2 military motorcycles included a rare German 1943 NSU Kettenkrad HK101 Tracked Motorcycle, a German 1933 KundappK44, a very rare Japanese 1943 Rikuo Sidecar Motorcycle, a rarer Japanese Kurogane Type 95, and a US 1945 Indian “Chief” Motorcycle. There is even a US Army 1936 Hawthorne ZEP Bicycle.

For car enthusiasts there are a number of extremely rare beautifully restored classic cars. These include a 1941 Cadillac Series 62 Convertible Sedan (only 400 produced), a 1940 Packard Darrin Custom Victoria, a 1929 Duesenberg Model J Lebaron Dual Cowl Phaeton (the very first one), a super rare left-hand drive 1937 Mercedes Benz 540K Special Roadster (only 26 were built and only six with left-hand drive), a Shelby Cobra 427 SC, and a more modern 2004 Porsche Carrera GT (only 1,270 were built). Perhaps the rarest and most historical of all is the Mercedes Benz Model G4 Offener 6-wheel Touring Wagon that was originally delivered to Adolph Hitler in late 1939 and was used by him in Ober Salzberg, Berlin and Poland until seized by the French Army at Berchtesgaden.

This small museum is worth a visit and can easily be toured in an hour. The lighting is outstanding and the signage is easy to read and informative. There are also helpful docents who can answer your questions and are willing to impart their expert knowledge. The planes and vehicles can be seen from all

angles. Group tours are available and the facility, a hanger next to the airport tarmac, can be rented for special events. There is a small gift area.



Mercedes Benz 1937 540K Special Roadster (only 26 total were built). One of six built with left-hand drive. Behind it is a B25 "Mitchell" medium Bomber. Photo by author.



The museum is open from 10am to 4pm daily. General admission is \$14 and \$11 for seniors. Children are \$7. It is located at 19300 Ike Jones Road, Santa Ana, California 92707. The telephone number is (714) 210-4585 and the website address is www.lyonairmuseum.org.

Left - AT-6 Texan trainer stripped and undergoing maintenance. A B-17G Flying Fortress can be seen behind it. Photo by author.



Left - Cessna O-1E Birdog. These planes were flown by the US Army, Air Force and Marines, and 19 foreign countries. It flew liaison, reconnaissance, artillery fire control, Forward Air Control, and Search and Rescue missions during the Korean and Vietnam Wars. I was told that the Museum director flies this plane to Cataline Island on weekends. Photo by author.

★ Show-n-Tell ★

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

VGCA Show-n-Tell Fact Sheet

Manufacturer: _____

Model: _____ Action Type: _____

Caliber: _____

Years of Production: _____ Total Produced: _____

Year this example was manufactured (if known): _____

Significance: _____

Question(s) for members: _____

Name (optional): _____

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

A message from your VGCA Photographer--

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

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

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

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

Jack Looney

August Show-n-Tell



Member 1 started our Show-n-Tell with a BAR – the Model 1918 Browning Automatic Rifle (*above*). Chambered in .30/06, the BAR entered production in 1918 and was made until 1960. The M1918 is gas operated, has an overall length of 47-inches with a 24-inch barrel, and utilizes a detachable 20-round magazine. A total of 351,554 of all versions were made. This particular gun was produced by Winchester in June of 1918, which was the first month of the first year of production. It was sent to Great Britain as Lend-Lease during WWII. It later came back to the U.S. and was sold as surplus. Member 1 acquired this fully transferable machine gun in Houston, Texas in 1984.



Member 1 also shared the distinctive WWI BAR Belt (*left*), also dated “6-18”. This belt came with BAR magazine pouches and the cup to support the buttstock when employing “walking fire” to advance across the battlefield. Member 1’s display included period BAR tools and other accoutrements.

Member 2 shared a Ruger 10/22 (*right*). This extremely popular semi-auto rifle is chambered in .22LR and has been produced since 1964. This example is a pre-ban gun that was manufactured in 1991. It has been customized with a Ram-Line folding stock, flash hider, globe front sight, rear peep sight and includes a rare Ram-Line thumb screw takedown kit.



It is equipped with a pre-ban unmarked 25-round magazine. It is a Police Evidence Gun from a Police Department in Tennessee and is a time capsule of a state-of-the-art tactical .22 from 30 years ago!



Member 3 brought in an Oviedo Spanish M1893 chambered in 7x57mm Mauser (*left*). Oviedo produced approximately 500,000 of these from 1896 to 1920, with this example made in 1901. This was the first Mauser design with a flush 5-round staggered internal magazine that revolutionized bolt action rifle design. They

were used by Spain during the Spanish-American War and were clearly superior to the U.S. Army's Krag-Jorgensen rifles. That experience led the U.S. Army to develop the Model 1903 Springfield. This example was purchased on Gun Broker in 2023.

Member 3 also shared a Siamese (Thailand) Model 1903 / Type 45/46/RS121 in 8x50mm (unfortunately, we did not get a photo of Member 3's M1903 – the picture at right is from the internet courtesy of Deactivated-guns.co-uk).

Koishikawa in Tokyo produced about 70,000 for Siam and most were converted by Siam to 8x52mm Spitzer in 1923. Later, some were converted by Siam to .30/06 while many were converted by U.S. gunsmiths to .45/70 after they were sold as surplus in the 1970s. Member 3's example was acquired at the VGCA Spring 2025 Show.



Member 4 brought in a pair of Luger pistols. The first was a variation of Georg Luger's classic P08 toggle-lock pistol design, the Lange Pistole 08 (LP08, aka the "Artillery Luger") in 9mm Parabellum (*left*). The LP08 features a long 7.9-inch barrel, a rear sight graduated out to a very optimistic 800 meters (rather ridiculous considering the 9mm bullet drops about 35 feet at 500 meters), a detachable shoulder stock, and a 32-round "snail drum" magazine. It was intended to provide a compact small arm for artillery crew members who would have difficulty handling a full-size rifle in addition to their primary duties. The 32-round drum, called the *Trommelmagazin*, was a complicated and expensive item that was loaded via a loading tool that is almost as complex as the magazine it fed! The LP08 proved popular with early German aviators (pre-aerial machine guns) as well as by late-WWI

elite *Sturmtruppen*. Though all matching, this example has been refinished and may have replacement grip panels. That said, it is an excellent shooter!

The second Luger displayed was a WWII "Black Widow" Luger (*right*). These distinctive pistols, with their black Bakelite grips and un-numbered black plastic magazine bottoms are known as the "Black Widow" solely from an advertising ploy when sold as surplus in the U.S. During WWII, Germany devised a series of manufacturer codes intended to deny production information to the military intelligence services of their adversaries. The 'BYF' code was used by the Mauser factory in 1941 and 1942. This example is also all matching and is also an excellent shooter.





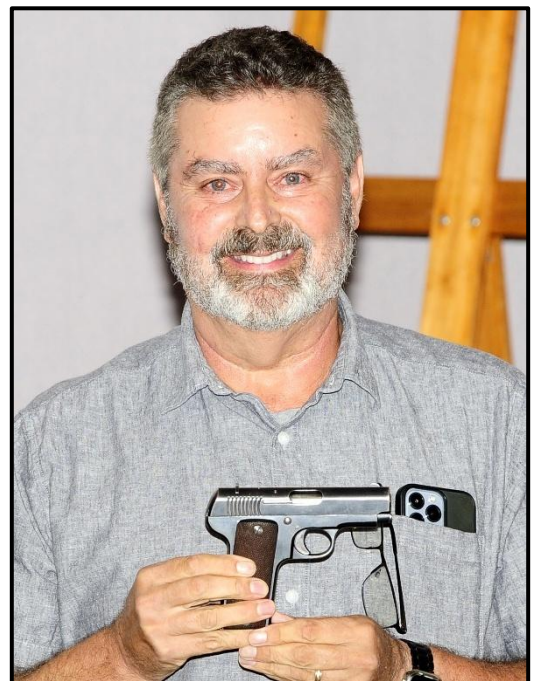
Member 5, in keeping with a “Spanish” theme for the night, shared a Destroyer Carbine (*right*). The Destroyer Carbine (so named for the simple engraved warship on the top of the receiver) is a small bolt-action carbine usually chambered for the 9×23mm Largo cartridge. It was used by Spanish police and prison services, including the Guardia Civil from the mid-1930s until the late 1960s, replacing the El Tigre Rifle (a Spanish copy of the Winchester Model 1892). It continued the tradition, started in the 1890s, of issuing police units with a short, handy, repeating carbine in pistol ammunition caliber. The Destroyer is essentially a scaled-down Mauser Model 1893 with two rear-mounted locking lugs and a Mauser-style two-position flip safety. The Destroyer fired the same ammunition as the standard-issue police

handgun but used a six-shot single stack magazine.

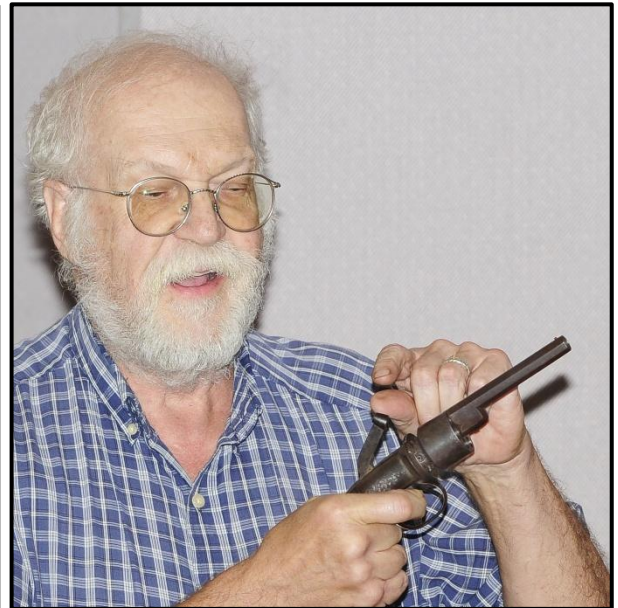
The Destroyer was initially manufactured in Eibar, Spain by Gaztanaga y Compania, then by Ayra Duria S.A. and possibly others, with some minor improvements made over time. The carbine is more accurate than a self-loading service pistol due to its better sights, longer sight radius, and most importantly, the stable firing platform offered by a weapon with a sturdy shoulder stock. Due to the longer barrel, muzzle velocity of the 9mm Largo is commonly 200-300fps higher than achieved by pistols.

While no longer in government service, the Destroyer Carbine is prized as a collector item due to its comparative rarity, as well as being a desirable target rifle due to favorable shooting characteristics such as minimal recoil and relatively inexpensive surplus ammunition.

Member 5 also brought in a Spanish “Ruby” Model 1916 pistol. Chambered in 7.65mm (.32 ACP), these pistols were purchased in large numbers by the French Army during WWI. Produced by dozens of different manufacturers in Spain, interchangeability of parts is not the Ruby’s strong suit! Fortunately, this example has its matching magazine. This example also has the “French Ordnance Rivet” – a rivet added by the French to keep the holster from inadvertently moving the pistol’s safety to “Fire.” Only French Army accepted Ruby’s have this feature.

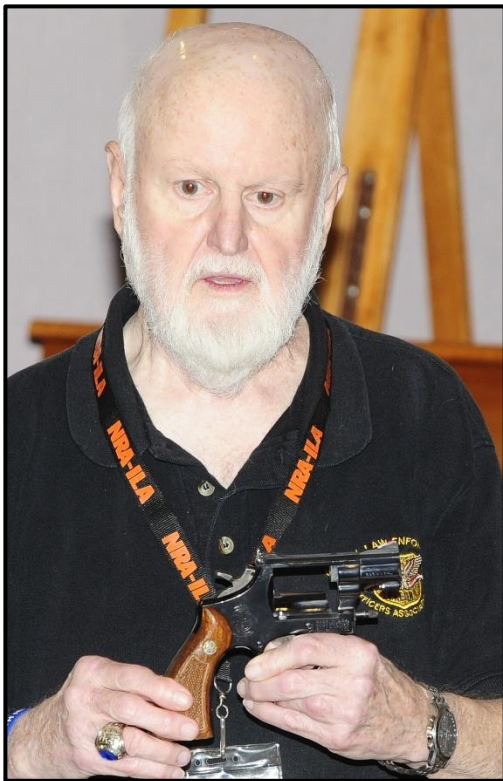


Finally, Member 5 displayed a Star Modelo Super (right). Chambered in 9mm Largo and .38 Super, the Modelo Super was manufactured from 1946 until 1983. This example is well made, in great condition, and with nicely strawed parts. Chambered in 9mm Largo, it is an excellent shooter.



Member 6 shared an English Wiggan Revolver (above left). Produced in John Wiggan of Birmingham, this early cap and ball revolver was made in the 1850's and represents a transition design between the self-cocking/double action only bar hammer of Pepperbox pistols (demonstrated above right) and barrel/cylinder arrangement of later revolvers. This example is in its original case with appropriate accessories, including a period tin of percussion caps (detail at right). Each chamber in the cylinder has been individually proofed and it appears to be .42 or .43 caliber. This revolver is strictly hand fitted with no interchangeable parts. It was made in approximately 1850 – 1856.

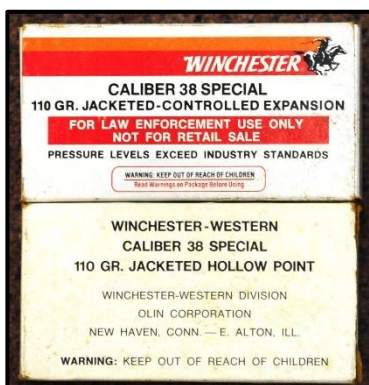




Member 7 shared two Smith & Wesson Model 15 .38 special revolvers. The first has a two-inch barrel and is identical to the issue weapons for special agents of the IRS Criminal Investigation Division from 1985 to 1991 (*left*). The second is a 4-inch barrel model made in 1985 as a 65th Year Commemorative for the Treasury Department's Criminal Investigation Division (*below*).



The third handgun from Member 7 was a Sig P228 (*unfortunately, we did not get a photo of Member 7's P228 – the picture at right is from the internet courtesy of Woodland Sports*). The P228 is a semi-automatic pistol chambered in 9mm Parabellum. It is a slightly smaller version of the P226, sacrificing 2 rounds in its double-stack magazine (13-rounds instead of the P226's 15-rounds) and having a ½ inch shorter barrel in order to shave a quarter pound of weight. Introduced in 1990, it was a hit, especially with U.S. military (where it was adopted as the M11) and various Federal agencies. It also saw use in Canada, Israel, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. It was replaced in the Sig catalog by the P229 in 1997.



Finally, Member 7 shared some of the .38 Special ammunition used by Treasury Department agents (*left*).



Member 8 brought in two CETME Ls. The first was the CETME L produced for the Spanish infantry as well as the police (*left*). CETME L is a roller locked/roller delayed rifle in 5.56mm NATO (5.56x45). The overall design is excellent, though problems occurred when design changes were made to produce a less expensive forearm. For example, nylon furniture was changed out for plastic and thin

aluminum “disposable” magazines were reused well beyond their service life. These measures inevitably led to reliability issues.

Member 8 also brought in an ET variant with a folding stock originally made for Special Forces and paratroopers (*right*). The originals were produced in Spain by CETME from 1986 to 1991. This example was built from a parts kit as one of 100 by Hill & Mac Gunworks in 2016-17. It features an early production handguard and pistol grip.



★ Upcoming Events and Shows ★

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

VIRGINIA – 2025

- Sep 26-28, 2025 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- Oct 4-5, 2025 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center – *C&E*
- Oct 11-12, 2025 – Virginia Beach, VA – Virginia Beach Convention Center – *SGK*
- Oct 25, 2025 – Woodstock, VA – Shenandoah County Fairgrounds – *Bear Run Firearms*
- Nov 1-2, 2025 – Dale City, VA – Dale City VFW Post 1503 – *VGCA (Our Show!)*
- Nov 1-2, 2025 – Harrisonburg, VA – Rockingham County Fairgrounds - *Showmasters*
- Nov 8-9, 2025 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fredericksburg Fairgrounds – *SGK*
- Nov 15-16, 2025 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex – *Showmasters*
- Nov 21-23, 2025 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- Nov 29-30, 2025 – Fishersville, VA – Augusta Expo – *Showmasters*
- Nov 29-30, 2025 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK*
- Dec 6-7, 2025 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fraternal Order of Eagles – *SGK*
- Dec 20-21, 2025 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center – *C&E*

MARYLAND – 2025

- Sep 20-21, 2025 – Crownsville, MD – Anne Arundel Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Oct 4-5, 2025 – Timonium, MD – Timonium Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Oct 25-26, 2025 – West Friendship, MD – Howard County Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promo*
- Nov 1-2, 2025 – Easton, MD – Talbot County Community Cntr – *Eastern Shore Arms Collectors*
- Nov 8-9, 2025 – Frederick, MD – Frederick Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Dec 6-7, 2025 – West Friendship, MD – Howard County Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promo*

PENNSYLVANIA – 2025

- Sep 27-28, 2025 – Allentown, PA - Parkview Inn - *Eagle Shows*
- Sep 27-28, 2025 – Franklin, PA – Rocky Grove Fire Hall – *Rocky Grove Volunteer Fire Dept*
- Sep 27-28, 2025 – Gettysburg, PA – Redding Auction Hall – *Central PA Antique Arms Assoc.*
- Sep 27-28, 2025 – Leesport, PA – Leesport Farmers Market – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Sep 27-28, 2025 – West Middlesex, PA – Hidden Valley Sportsmen’s Club – *Hidden Valley Sportsmen’s Club*
- Oct 4-5, 2025 – Trevoise, PA – Radisson Philadelphia Northeast – *Eagle Shows*
- Oct 4-5, 2025 – Conneaut Lake, PA – Conneaut Lake Sportsmans Assoc – *Glenn Favorite*
- Oct 4-5, 2025 – New Providence, PA – Southern Lancaster County Farmer-Sportsmen’s Association - *SLCFSA*
- Oct 10-11, 2025 – Shippensburg, PA – Oak Grove Events Bldg - *Allegheny Log Homes*
- Oct 11-12, 2025 – Bloomsburg, PA – Bloomsburg Fairgrounds – *C&E Gun Shows*
- Oct 11-12, 2025 – East Berlin, PA – East Berlin Fish & Game – *East Berlin Fish & Game*
- Oct 11-12, 2025 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center - *Showmasters*
- Oct 12, 2025 – Mount Bethel, PA – Mount Bethel Volunteer Fire Dept – *Mount Bethel VFD*
- Oct 17-19, 2025 – Oaks, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Shows*

PENNSYLVANIA – 2025 (continued)

- **Oct 18-19, 2025 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds – *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society***
- **Oct 25-26, 2025 – Lake Harmony, PA – Split Rock Resort – *Eagle Shows***
- **Oct 25-26, 2025 – Matamoras, PA – Best Western Hotel at Hunt's Landing – *Westchester Collectors Inc.***
- **Oct 25-26, 2025 – State College, PA – C3 Sports & Events Center - *Showmasters***
- **Nov 1-2, 2025 – Quarryville, PA – Solanco Fairgrounds – *Eagle Shows***
- **Nov 1-2, 2025 – Sellersville, PA – Forrest Lodge VTW245 – *Jaeger Arms***
- **Nov 1-2, 2025 – York, PA – York Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions***
- **Nov 8, 2025 – St. Thomas, PA – St. Thomas Sportsmen Assoc – *St. Thomas Sportsmen Assoc***
- **Nov 15-16, 2025 – Allentown, PA - Parkview Inn - *Eagle Shows***
- **Nov 15-16, 2025 – Hermitage, PA – Hickory VFW 6166 – *Canon's Gun Room***
- **Nov 15-16, 2025 – Leesport, PA – Leesport Farmers Market – *Appalachian Promotions***
- **Nov 16, 2025 – Portland, PA – William Pensyl Social Hall – *Portland Hook & Ladder Comp #1***
- **Nov 22-23, 2025 – Harrisburg, PA – PA Farm Show Complex – *C&E Gun Shows***
- **Nov 29-30, 2025 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center - *Showmasters***
- **Dec 6-7, 2025 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds – *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society***
- **Dec 6-7, 2025 – Gettysburg, PA – Allstar Events Complex – *Eagle Shows***
- **Dec 13-14, 2025 – Harrisburg, PA – PA Farm Show Complex – *C&E Gun Shows***
- **Dec 13-14, 2025 – Trevoise, PA – Radisson Philadelphia Northeast – *Eagle Shows***
- **Dec 14, 2025 – Mount Bethel, PA – Mount Bethel Volunteer Fire Dept – *Mount Bethel VFD***
- **Dec 19-21, 2025 – Oaks, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Shows***
- **Dec 27-28, 2025 – York, PA – York Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions***

SPECIAL EVENTS / SHOWS – 2025

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

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

FOR SALE:

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

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

VGCA Logo Available at Lands' End

Here's how to order your apparel:

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



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

FOR SALE:

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

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

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

FOR SALE:

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

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

FOR SALE:

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

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

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

FOR SALE:

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

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

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

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



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



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

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



5. "CAL 6.35MM [.25ACP] ARSENAL VIENNA, AUSTRIA" left side slide: OWA is abbreviation for Austrian Works Arsenal; serial #21283; year of manufacture 1922; produced 1921-1924; 2" barrel; single action; has a pivoting top barrel assembly in a blowback design; checkered hard plastic grips with OWA logo; comes with

one 6-round magazine; imported into Virginia by L. Oppelman as listed in his 1930 Imported & Gun Catalog; appears to be functional but the operation of this collectable is certainly different. \$325.



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

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

FOR SALE:

★ Mossberg Model 9200 Crown Turkey. 12-gauge with 3" chamber 24-inch barrel with Modified Choke (same as Full Choke when used with steel shot). Also includes a second 24-inch slug barrel with rifle sights. \$499.



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

WANT TO BUY:

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

WANT TO BUY:

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



The e-mail address for any Newsletter-related matters is Newsletter@vgca.net - or you can reach the editor directly at rpebecker@verizon.net. Feel free to e-mail items for inclusion in the newsletter. For changes of address or non-receipt of the newsletter, either via e-mail or the mailed hard copy, please contact Rob Becker or George Dungan.