



# VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.ORG



Est. 1983 (A Non-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G 8162

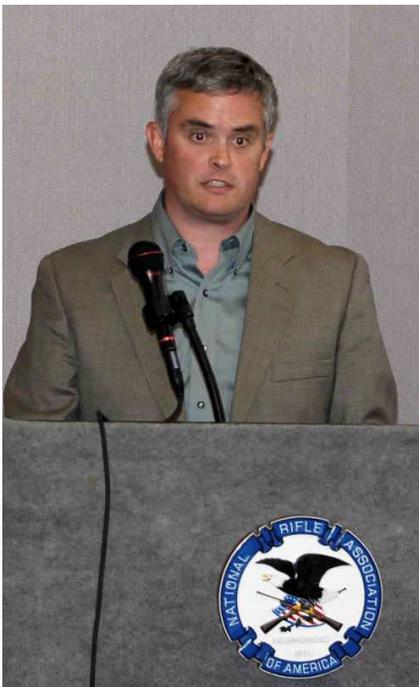
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## October 2008 VGCA e-Newsletter – Gun Show Issue

**The VGCA e-Newsletter:** To keep down the costs of first class mailings, the **VGCA Newsletter** is limited to 4 pages on 2 sheet of paper. This results in limiting the number of photos and other content forwarded by members requesting information from the combined club membership about specific problems, firearms variants, or related items. For the last few issues there have been two versions of the Newsletter, a mail version and an expanded e-mail version, the **VGCA e-Newsletter**. Soon, there will be changes to the mail version and the Newsletter will be printed in black and white. The email version will continue to be in color and will be PDF formatted to minimize the size of the document for those with dial-up email. This allows significant savings in printing and mailing, especially if mailed item is returned for a bad address. To start, or ensure continued receipt of the e-Newsletter, please update your email information with Larry Hare, ASAP. Those without email or internet access may want to ask neighbors or children to download the e-Newsletter off our webpage at <http://www.vgca.org/>. Alternately, the VGCA webpage can be accessed at your local library. Minimizing newsletter costs will help the Club, and the membership on email distribution will benefit by receiving an unabridged, color version of the **e-Newsletter**.



**Presentation at the August 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting:** After initial announcements, Doug Wickland of the NRA National Firearms Museum introduced the guest speaker in the first on this year’s NRA/National Firearms Museum (NFM) VGCA Presentation Series, Mr. Stuart C. Mowbray (photo left), the Editor of the *Man at Arms* magazine and owner of Mowbray Publishing. Over the last 30 years, Mr. Mowbray has had over 100 books in print. The presentation was dedicated to gun collecting but did not involve any specific firearm or weapon. Instead it was one of the most interesting and potentially valuable sessions a collector could ever hear – tips for collectors or how to preserve a collection. It included museum techniques and practices, such as the “white glove” treatment or using gloves while handling to minimize corrosive oils from your skin which can rust a firearm or fine blade. It included cleaning techniques and what NOT to do, including overcleaning, how to remove rust without damaging finish, and finally using preservatives. It also has a detailed explanation of what preservatives will do and also what they cannot do. He explained how even a well oiled gun can rust when dust is able to serve as a conduit for moisture through the protective oil. He covered the usage of microcrystalline versus organic waxes and how oil and wax do NOT mix. He cautioned about leather treatments and preservatives and how they may actually hasten damage due to bacteria. It was a very informative night

and generated extensive questions. He concluded with the most valuable advice cautioning about getting too paranoid and recommended that a program of care done regularly is better than a perfect program done rarely. Mr. Mowbray had signed copies of his book, *331+ Essential Tips and Tricks – A How-to Guide for the Gun Collector* available for sale.

➤ **Presentation for the October 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting:** The joint NRA/NFM and VGCA presentation will be the new director of the National Firearms Museum – Jim Supica. Jim will no doubt talk about the future plans of the museum and, hopefully Smith and Wessons, as he was the co-author, along with Rick Nahas, of the *Standard Catalog of Smith & Wesson, 3rd Edition*, one of the definitive tomes on Smith and Wesson firearms. Members may bring their S&W questions or firearms for show and tell and discuss them with Jim. The November / December meeting will be held **December 4** and feature the **3<sup>rd</sup> NRA/NFM presentation**.

### Thoughts from the Club President – October 2008

- Our last show was a great success in terms of high quality offerings and great displays. The only thing we lacked was a large gate. We had approximately 750 paid admissions. The tight economy with a reduction in disposable income, the wonderful fall weather, the internet offerings of collector guns, the number of gun shows, and our show's location no doubt all contributed to the low turnout. But, the purpose of our gun shows is to let our members have fun and to earn enough money to sustain us. The show was great fun and I enjoyed being able to talk to so many of our members.
- Ed Costello will be on travel for the meeting. I will have the figures on the show at the meeting.
- We will be discussing the possibility of holding a joint show with another collector organization at a new venue. We will keep you informed, but we are at least going to sit down with these folks to see if it might work.
- We did not know until they showed up, but Virginia State Police Troopers are now being assigned to be at all gun shows. This may allow us to eliminate our two deputies, saving some expenses. We will continue to have pizza and sodas at the meetings since your generous donations have helped offset the cost.
- One area we can cut costs is to minimize mailing the newsletters. (see e-Newsletter notice on Page 1)
- I am very optimistic about our club. We simply must adapt to the changing landscape. I do not know how the Presidential election will turn out, but I am hopeful that gun shows will not be outlawed. However, your vote will be very important. I look forward to seeing all of you on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Remember to tie all guns you bring in for show and tell. I will have lots of ties.

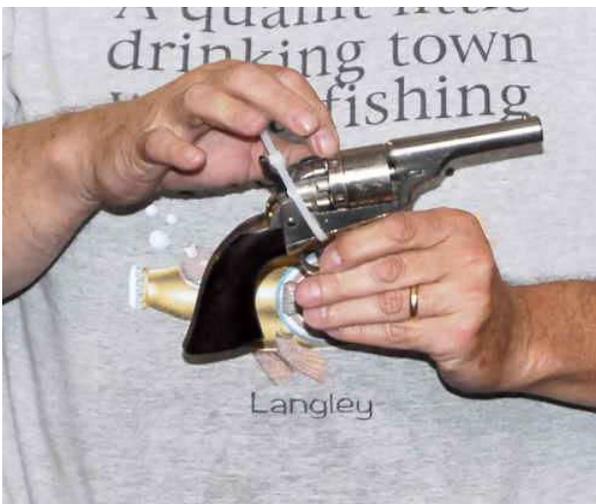
Regards to all, *Wm. Addison Hurst*, President

**August 28<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting:** **Addison Hurst** chaired the meeting. Prior to the presentation, it was announced that Phil Schrierer, Senior Curator of the NRA/NFM was working in Raton, NM to set up the National Firearms Museum Annex on the Old West. After the presentation and short break, **Larry Hare**, Membership reported that there were no new VGCA membership applications pending. **Rick Nahas** announced that the show would have 14 display tables, and he had only 10 vacant tables available. **Ed Costello** provided a Treasurer's report on Club expenses and income. **Kelly Cook** introduced his guest, Andy Dotson.

**August Show and Tell:** The S&T was kicked off by **Addison Hurst** who wrestled out his M82A1 Barrett Light Fifty, a semi-automatic long range rifle firing the .50 Browning heavy machinegun round. This rifle has achieved a stellar reputation in the Global War on Terror in Iraq and Afghanistan against a variety of targets – NOT your casual plinker. **Sonny Laine** explained his new 1898 Krag Carbine in a 1901 stock that he recently obtained from a very limited release by the CMP. The carbine, although not in a standard configuration, was modified for use of the M3 blanks. Another **member** displayed a very rare Short Magazine Lee Enfield SMLE No.1MkV Trials Rifle. This rifle was one of 24,000 built between 1922-24 and featured a receiver mounted rear peep sight, a concept later adopted for improved WW2 era No.4Mk1. **Ernie Lyles** presented his 1909 Steyr automatic pistol in .25 ACP with a tip up barrel. These pistols had a long run with manufacture ceasing in 1939. He also had a .22LR loading block marked Parker Whelan, Washington, DC. **Bill Chronister** showed 2 recent acquisitions, a 1896 Swedish Mauser in near perfect condition, and a Tennessee Valley Muzzleloading (TVM) semi-custom Southern Virginia school "Poorboy" flintlock in .50 caliber. **Larry Hare** brought his CZ241 16 gauge automatic shotgun made in 1947 in Czechoslovakia, and a Schwarzlos German "blow-forward" action pistol in .32 ACP. A **member** showed military script from Afghanistan and a selection of S&W military revolvers consisting of a .38 Special, an Australian-

proofed Victory Model in .38 S&W, a post-war Military and Police model, and a 1917 .45 ACP revolver. **Jack Zimmermann** displayed William B. Harrison's Revolutionary War sword. No, NOT the President, but a Virginian from the Leesburg area. This was a very well preserved example with wonderful provenance. **John Morris** surprised the crowd with an under-200 pound weapon, a pocketable Walther PP pistol in .380. He then went on to caution the audience how he had a discharge from the pistol when it was dropped without the safety engaged. Take heed. **John Babey** presented his pocket Navy Conversion chambered for .38 rimfire. These revolvers were converted between 1875-1880 from the older, obsolete cap and ball design to use modern cased ammunition and use old stock. **Roger Sherman** closed the session with an update on his Mannlicher-Schoenauer Model 1956-MC Carbine marked .244 Remington (6mm Remington). This is one of the rarest variations of this firearm. It now sports a wonderful 1.7-10X42mm Swarovski illuminated reticle scope cradled in a new Griffin and Howe dual lever, quick release sidemount installed by Griffin and Howe, who also added custom 22 LPI checkering to the stock.

### The August Meeting of the VGCA



**Top L:** Doug Wickland, NRA/NFM gives an update on the museum. **Top R:** Roger Sherman shows the Barrett. **Lower L:** John Babey's Pocket Navy Conversion. **Center R:** Roger Sherman and his M1956-MC Mannlicher-Schoenauer. **Lower R:** Jack Zimmermann Revolutionary Sword with local provenance.

## \*\*\* The Fall 2008 VGCA Gun Show \*\*\*

The Fall 2008 VGCA show had a great selection of high quality sale items and a huge variety of wonderful historical and educational displays, all which were well put together and presented. It appears the free display table offer inspired folks, who went all out and really showed some imagination in planning, presenting and talking about their displays. From hearing the comments of attendees, they were very well received, however one comment stood out when a husband and wife made a point about this is what gun collecting is all about. To the awards...

### **1<sup>st</sup> Place: Marc Gorelick & Addison Hurst - U.S. Magazine Rifles and Carbines, Caliber .30**

This comprehensive review of the US Service rifles known as Krag's ranged from the first 1892 model to one of the last Krag's cartouched in 1903, the year the M1903 Springfield was adopted. The display included .22 trainers, accoutrements, original ammunition, manuals and documentation. Congratulations!

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Dan Szatkowski - Webley Pistols**

Though small in size, this display was rich in variety. It was a very comprehensive display of British Webley pistols and revolvers, including some extremely unusual and rare variations, especially here in the United States where they were never marketed. Thanks for the history.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Jim Vaughn - The Arms of Morgan's Raiders**

Jim, from the Potomac Arms Collectors, put together this well regarded Civil War display of an overview of the types of rifles, pistols and edged weapons that were used by Morgan's Raiders in the U.S. Civil War. Well done!

### **Judges' Choice: Ernie Lyles - It Does What?**

If you attend the monthly meetings and have ever seen Ernie Lyles tell of his esoteric arms like automatic revolvers, triangular or rocket-propelled bullets from space guns and other unique action firing mechanisms, this was your display. To see these obscure rarities in one place was a real treat.

Thanks for historical and educational displays also goes to: Jim Burgess – *Guns of the North-South Skirmish Association*; Ed Costello, Karl Karash, and Bill York – *Broomhandle Mausers*; Pete Roberts – *Drillings*; and Kelly Cook – *Colt .22 Automatics*.

**Security Chief Larry Hunt** thanks and recognizes the volunteers who contributed their time and energy to security. The security this year was outstanding with no incidents primarily due to a solid security and police presence. While the Virginia Troopers and our security staff recognized several potential issues, nothing developed. On two occasions vehicles with DC tags were noted entering the parking area and the occupants approached the entrance, observed our security presence and did an immediate about face, returned to the vehicles and left the fairgrounds. We will never know their intent, but LEO presence worked. VGCA show security volunteers were **Dave Litchfield, William Ludwig, George Kirschbaum, Larry Burman, Carl Warhurst, Dennis Gerdovich** and **Addison Hurst**. The VGCA acknowledges and thanks the following Law Enforcement Officers: from Prince William Sheriff's Office – **Lt. Terry Fernly** and **Sgt. Bruce McCauley**; from Virginia State Police – **Trooper Culbertson, Trooper Stafford, Trooper Carman, and Trooper Bocate**. To all, many thanks.

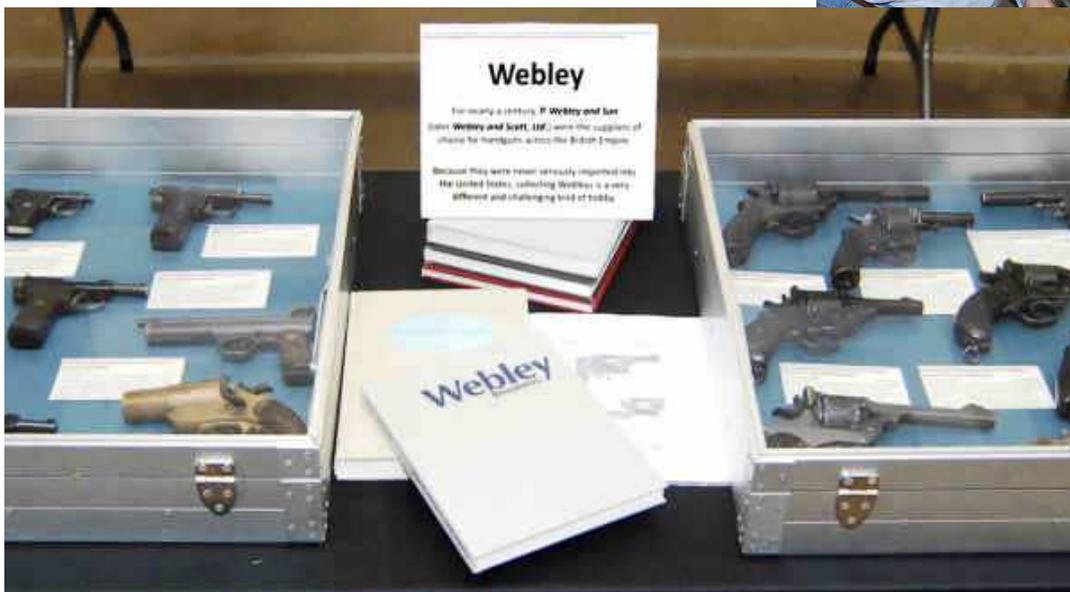
**Setup Thanks:** The VGCA thanks the tireless efforts of the setup volunteers who helped set up the show Thursday evening. They included **Kelly Cook** despite his bum knee, and even two helpers that weren't club members, but still pitched in. Now that's dedication! Thanks go to: **Chris Britton, Kelly Cook, Rick Nahas, King Von Shilling, Tony Remano** (non-member), **Bill York, Karl Karash, Jim Burgess, Bart Leggett, Lee Turner, Ron Smith (4H Trigger Time), Ed Costello, and Larry Hare**. The show was set up in record time, even allowing for the reduced size of the venue. A hearty thanks to all, **Larry Hare**.

**Announcements: Elections** - No not THAT election, but the election for **3 seats on the VGCA Board of Directors**. Please consider if you would like to run or nominate a candidate. Further announcements will be made at the next meeting and posted in the newsletter. **Dues for annual membership** are payable in January 2009 and will increase to \$30.00 per year. Get them in now to avoid being removed from the VGCA roles.

**Request for Information (RFI):** Larry Hunt would like to start a feature on the VGCA web page "Know Your Gun's History." He would like articles with photos from VGCA members about their collections. He suggests 2-3 pages in length. He would like to get our members more involved in the club and to share their knowledge. He

would also like members to help him gather data in an attempt to build [VirginiaMuzzleLoaders.com](http://VirginiaMuzzleLoaders.com), [VirginiaGunCollectors.com](http://VirginiaGunCollectors.com) and [GunCollectors.com](http://GunCollectors.com). Larry can be reached at his e-mail address or number listed on the masthead of the newsletter. This is a great opportunity to contribute to what will surely become a resource for as well as provide visibility for the club.

### Fall 2008 VGCA Gun Show Photos



**Awards for Educational and Historical Displays presented by Jim Burgess, Vice- Pres., VGCA**

**Top & Center L: 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Marc Gorelick & Addison Hurst - U.S. Magazine Rifles and Carbines, Caliber .30 (Panorama)**

**Center R & Bottom: 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Dan Szatkowski - Webley Pistols**

Top: 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Jim Vaughn - The Arms of Morgan's Raiders



2<sup>nd</sup> Row: Judges' Choice: Ernie Lyles - It Does What?



Bottom L: from the display of Ed Costello, Karl Karash, and Bill York – Broomhandle Mausers, an engraved Broomhandle carbine

Bottom R: Pete Roberts – Drillings



As you can see, there were a lot of really nice displays. Unfortunately, space precludes photos of all, but this was the most displays in a long time, and VGCA would like to thank everyone for sharing their knowledge and collections.

## Upcoming Events and Shows

***Words to the Wise:** Lately there have been some changes in scheduling by promoters or errors on websites. Members are strongly encouraged to check before driving long distances for a show. These dates have been published as of this writing, but are not guaranteed. If you have a show you would like to tell other members about, please email the Editor with a short review, including the items displayed, i.e., modern, new, or antique, and I will include it if room permits.*

### VIRGINIA

- ☛ **October 25-26, 2008 – Roanoke, VA** - Roanoke Civic Center - *Showmasters*
- ☛ **November 1-2, 2008 - Dale City, VA** - VFW Post 1503, 14631 Minnieville Rd. – *Old Dominion Show*
- ☛ **November 1-2, 2008 - Norfolk, VA** - Norfolk Scope - *Showmasters*
- ☛ **November 15-16, 2008 - Richmond, VA** - Raceway & Fairgrounds – *Showmasters*
- ☛ **November 21-23, 2008 - Chantilly, VA** - Dulles Expo Center - *C&E Gun Show / Showmasters*
- ☛ **December 6-7, 2008 - Dale City, VA** - VFW Post 1503, 14631 Minnieville Rd. – *Old Dominion Show*

### MARYLAND

- ☛ **October 25-26, 2008 – Westminster, MD** - Carroll County Agriculture Center – *Silverado Promotions*
- ☛ **November 1-2, 2008 - Upper Marlboro, MD** - Show Place Arena (P.G. County) – *Silverado Promotions*
- ☛ **November 8-9, 2008 - Frederick, MD** - Frederick Fairgrounds – *Silverado Promotions*
- ☛ **November 22-23, 2008 - Pikesville, MD** - Pikesville Armory - *Appalachian Promotions*
- ☛ **December 13-14, 2008 - Parkville, MD** - Tall Cedars Bldg. in the Putty Hill Shopping Center - *Appalachian Promotions*

### PENNSYLVANIA

- ☛ **October 18-19, 2008 - Allentown, PA** - Agricultural Hall - *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*. Contact: FDHAS, 3491 Linden St., Bethlehem, PA 18017. 610-997-8613 after 6pm.
- ☛ **October 25-26, 2008 - York, PA** - York Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*
- ☛ **December 6-7, 2008 - Allentown, PA** - Agricultural Hall - *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*. Contact: FDHAS, 3491 Linden St., Bethlehem, PA 18017. 610-997-8613 after 6pm.
- ☛ **December 13-14, 2008 – Harrisburg, PA** - Farm Show Complex - *Mid-Atlantic Arms Collectors*
- ☛ **December 19-21, 2008 – King of Prussia, PA** - Valley Forge Convention Center - *valleyforgegunshow.com*

### OHIO

- ☛ **November 8-9, 2008 – Wilmington, OH** – Roberts Centre - *Ohio Gun Collectors Association*. **OGCA MEMBERS ONLY**. For membership information contact Laura Knotts (330) 467-5733.

### OKLAHOMA

- ☛ **November 8-9, 2008 – Tulsa, OK** - Expo Center-Expo Square (Tulsa Fairgrounds) - *Tulsa Arms Collectors Association*. **\*\*MORE THAN 3,900 TABLES!\*\***

“Fight to your last cartridge, then fight with your bayonets. No surrender. Fight to the death.”

Gen. Henri Guisan, Commander in Chief of the Swiss Army, a rank only chosen in time of war or national emergency. July 1940 on the eve of a possible Nazi Germany invasion of Switzerland.

The e-Mail Address for any Newsletter-related matters or submissions is [VGCANews@cox.net](mailto:VGCANews@cox.net). Feel free to email items for inclusion in the newsletter. For changes of address or non-receipt of the newsletter, either via email or the mailed hard-copy, please contact Larry Hare, Club Secretary/Membership Chair at the numbers on page one.

v/r Bill Chronister, Editor