



# VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.ORG



Est. 1983 (A Non-Profit Organization)

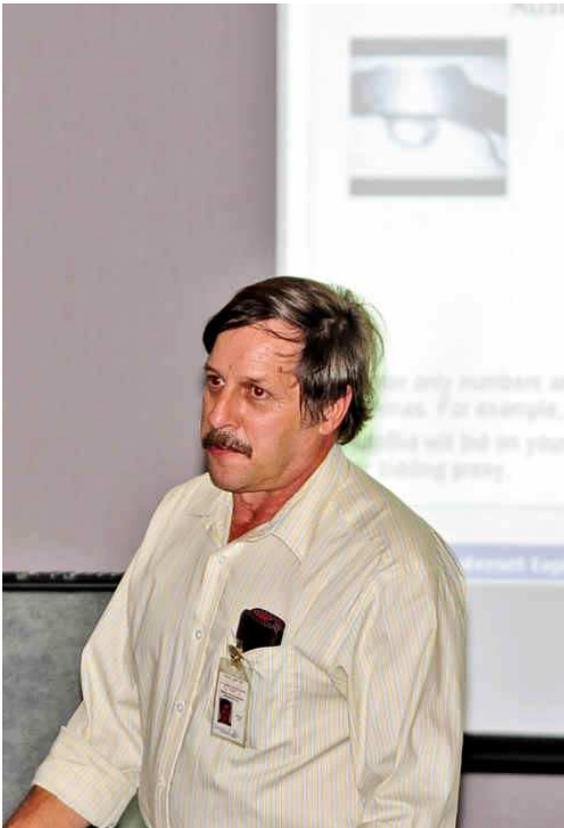
NRA Affiliate Number G 8162

President and Founder (Emeritus) Ed Johnson Home: 703-368-6560

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## October 2009 VGCA e-Newsletter



**Presentation at the September 24, 2009 Meeting of the VGCA:** The September meeting Presentation was by **Larry Hare** who cover a number of topics related to buying guns on the internet. Larry worked through a number of subjects starting with conducting basic research on planned purchases and also on resources to facilitate individuals who wish to carry out research projects on an existing collection. One example was the site Google Patent Search (<http://www.google.com/patents?hl=en>), where one can find detailed patent information of firearms design for specific models. He covered internet forums, an invaluable resource, especially when you find a well moderated and dedicated forum where information is exchanged that is accurate and devoid of the various off-topic rants or baseless opining. He also covered organizational websites, including one of my favorites mentioned in a previous newsletter, the UK NRA site ([http://www.rifleman.org.uk/Enfield\\_small-bore\\_training\\_rifles.html](http://www.rifleman.org.uk/Enfield_small-bore_training_rifles.html)), which has a wealth of information of Enfield small bore training rifles. This section also included a topic which is in fact often a topic all it own – how to utilize the tools in various search engines on the internet. That led to a discussion of internet sales, both buying and selling and as in real estate with ‘location, location, location’; with online sales it is high quality ‘photos, photos, photos’. When either selling or buying, good photos and accurate descriptions are essential to avoid hassles and rip-offs. If the gun in question does not show a

photo of a critical section or view, ask, ask, ask **QUESTIONS** of the seller!!! The key photo may have been omitted by design and you will safer in the long run. If you do not get a response, **MOVE ON**. Larry also covered the various online gun stores and parts vendors. He then covered online auctions and various strategies for bidding and researching, as well as tips to avoid getting taken, such as reviewing seller feedback. He then covered essentials such as maintaining a Curio and Relic (C&R) bound book and also keeping a personal inventory with backup copies to document and inventory your collection. In closing, the “net” is a valuable asset to the contemporary firearms collector if used properly, however, there continues to be many benefits of hardcopy references, and hands on gun shows. Ultimately, the goal is to have fun, so it’s usually to take vacation from internet buying whenever it stops being fun, the house is full, the spouse is fed up, or the bank account is empty. If you would like a copy of the presentation, please contact Larry Hare at his email listed on the masthead.

**Comments from the Podium:** The speaker for the 3<sup>rd</sup> in the VGCA/NFM Presentation Series at the October 22, 2009 Meeting will be **John Hamilton from the American Society of Arms Collectors and curator of the Higgins Armory**. He is an expert on fraternal swords and the swords of the Ames Sword Company. Bring in any and all interesting swords. It should be a most educational and informative session, as are all NFM presentations. Bring in firearms too, tied as always.

- We will need to get a sign up list going for folks to work with Larry Hunt on Security at the November gun show. *We are sold out* and the advertising is in place, so with good weather and God willing, we will have another good show.
- I will have the ultimate AK-47 coffee table book at the meeting. We plan to give it to General Kalashnikov who will be 90 on November 10. Please feel free to write in any birthday greetings you may care to send in the book.
- The show will take the place of a monthly VGCA meeting in November.
- Bill's announcement (see below) about postponing the election of officers for a month or two is a sincere effort by the Board to get new blood to run the club. Several of the officers are indeed mossbacks who will not last forever. The club must progress into the future and we need your help and permission to make some changes that we feel will help make this happen. No changes will be made without member approval. We appreciate your thoughts and support in this. Be sure and let the board know of whom you would like to see lead the organization. It is your club and you need to take charge of the club's destiny.
- See you on Oct 22. Come hungry as pizza will be served. ~ Addison Hurst, VGCA President

★ **UPCOMING Meetings:** We still have one more VGCA/NFM presentation this year, for the joint November/December meeting being held on December 3. Pizza will be served at this meeting also. The speaker for December is TBA (to be announced).

**Invitation to all members:** If you wish to do a presentation at a meeting, please notify Addison or any of the board members. You can team with another member for a joint session. The purpose is to educate, share camaraderie and gain knowledge. All the remaining 2009 meetings are booked, but 2010 allows ample time to gather up your courage and prepare a presentation.

**September 24, 2009 Business Meeting:** The business meeting was brief due to the length of the presentation and small crowd remaining. There was a brief discussion about potential new locations for our show that will be considered by the Board. Several other announcements are included in the *Comments from the Podium* Section above.

★ **Update on Proposed Road Trip:** The trip to the George C. Marshall Museum will be postponed until Spring 2010 (this upcoming spring). Developments will be shared at the monthly meetings and in the newsletter.

### \*\*\* NOTICE – Final Details for Fall VGCA Gun Show \*\*\*

The Fall 2009 VGCA Gun Show will be at the Prince William County Fairgrounds on **November 7-8, 2009**. This is a **new**, later date. Please pass the word and remember that flyers for the fall show will be at this meeting so plan to spread them around.

◎ **Fall VGCA Gun Show Sales Tables:** Members and Rick Nahas have gone all out on the upcoming show. As a result, the Club has ~~very few~~ **NO** tables remaining for the **November 7-8, 2009** Fall VGCA Gun Show. We may have some last minute few cancellations, so if members wish to reserve a table on a waiting basis for disposing of your unloved or duplicate firearms, accoutrements, collectable accessories, or other gun collecting related items, please contact Rick Nahas. If you believe manning a sales table alone would be too demanding and not allow you time to hunt for deals or just talk to other members, get a partner and share the duties and have relief for your time around the show. Show tables cost \$60 each, so share the load with a colleague.

- © **Fall VGCA Gun Show Display Tables:** The club will continue the pilot of having FREE DISPLAY TABLES for members *on a space available basis* for the Fall show. *This is a great opportunity to test the waters if you wanted to do a display table.* Display tables may be limited, so contact Rick Nahas to get yours. **SOLD OUT!**

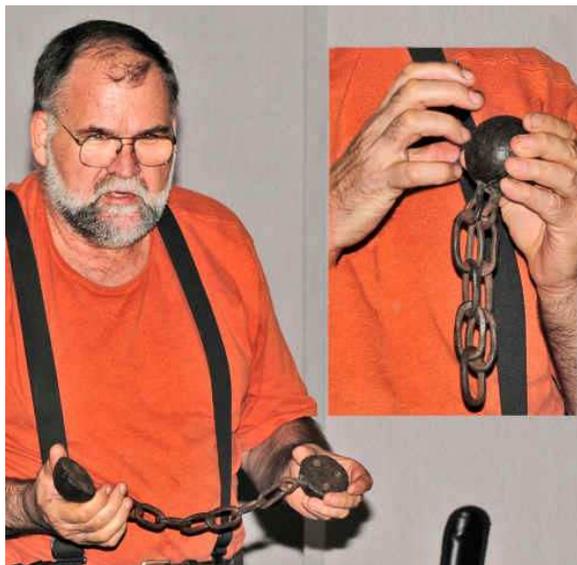
**Upcoming Election of VGCA Officers:** As mentioned in last month's newsletter, it is nearing the time for the election of the VGCA Officer positions.

The Officers and Board of Directors of the VGCA held an EXCOM meeting on September 27 to discuss club business and direction, the upcoming gun show and club governance. To increase member interest and participation and to provide for new blood, the Board is considering a re-structuring of the Officers and Board of Directors. To allow for the review of the proposed options, organizational planning, and the drafting of proposed amendments to the bylaws for a vote by the Club membership, the Board voted to postpone the Election of the Club President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer until February.

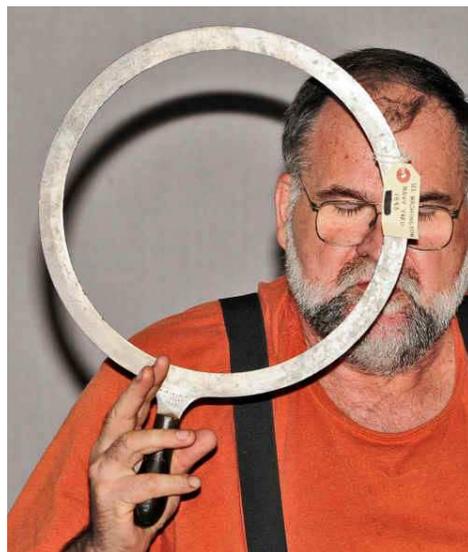
During that time, the Officers and Board would like the members to think long and hard about what you would like to see from the club, what directions we should take as an organization and who you believe can best serve the club. Consider if you would like to make a nomination (always good to check with the member you are nominating first), or if you would like to make a run yourself. Details will come in the next Newsletter.

**September 24, 2009 Show and Tell:** Show and tell kicked off with **Gary Holderman** showing a number of Gallery Guns made by – you peeked – Winchester. He had a Model of 1890 with the gallery counter chain on the octagon barrel, a Model 62A, and a Model 74 Gallery, as revealed by the cartridge loading hole by the grip. All were in .22 Short. He also showed a now uncommon box of frangible .22 Short gallery ammo by Remington. **John Morris** had a number of antique cannon items, a 3 pound chain shot that consisted of two hemispherical pieces connected by a chain. These were used for both anti-personnel and to damage ships rigging and masts. He also showed a 12" shot gauge from the Washington Navy Yard used to measure cannon balls. **Sonny Laine** displayed an 1840 US non-commissioned officer's sword with USMC markings and an intact leather scabbard that was made by the Ames Company and dated 1861. Intact leather scabbards are very rare. This evening's Presentation speaker, **Larry Hare** showed an unusual Iver-Johnson Model X with an unusual sight-blocking safety that was made from 1928 to 1932. **Bob Sears** added his unique, rich historical insights into this design. **Bob Sears** then showed the group 2 Stevens rifle barrels. One was a half-octagon round schutzen barrel for the Stevens Number 44 rifle. The barrel weighed 8 pounds and was chambered in .32-40. He then showed a smaller Stevens Scout barrel in .22 Rimfire. Addison Hurst closed out the evening with a short anecdote and closed the meeting.

### September 24 Meeting Presentation and Show and Tell



**John Morris** showed a 3 lbs. chain shot and a 12" shot gauge from the Washington Navy Yard used to measure cannon balls.





↖ Gary Holderman showing a Winchester Model 62A gallery rifle and box of frangible .22 Short Remington gallery ammo.

→ Sonny Laine's 1840 US non-commissioned officer's sword with USMC markings and an intact leather scabbard.



← Larry Hare and the Iver-Johnson Model X with sight-blocking safety.

→ Bob Sears showed a Stevens Scout barrel in .22 Rimfire.



## Upcoming Events and Shows

**Words to the Wise:** There are sometimes changes in schedules by gun show promoters or errors on websites. Members are strongly encouraged to verify before driving to a show. Historical events and lectures, re-enactments, auctions (national, international, and local estate auctions) are all welcome.

### VIRGINIA

- ☞ October 24-25, 2009 - Fredericksburg, VA - Expo Center - *SGK, LTD*
- ☞ October 24-25, 2009 - Roanoke, VA - Roanoke Civic Center - *Showmasters*
- ☞ October 23-24, 2009 - Roanoke, VA - Roanoke Civic Center Exhibit Hall - ***International Airgun Expo*** -  
NOTE DATES: Friday, 10/23, 12:00 noon - 7:00PM, Saturday, 10/24, 9:00AM - 5:00PM. Address:  
710 Williamson Road, Roanoke, VA 24016. Contact Fred Liady, fax: 540-345-4210
- ☞ October 30-31, 2009 - Winchester, VA - Hampton Inn 1-540-678-4000 - *Virginia-Kentucky Rifle Show* -  
Contact: Tim Hodges, Phone: 1-540-662-5438, E-mail: [thhodges@comcast.net](mailto:thhodges@comcast.net)
- ☞ November 7-8, 2009 - Norfolk, VA - Norfolk Scope Arena - *Showmasters*
- ☞ **November 7-8, 2009 - Manassas, VA - Prince William County Fairgrounds - Virginia Gun Collectors Association**
- ☞ November 14-15, 2009 - Richmond, VA - Raceway & Fairgrounds - *Showmasters*
- ☞ November 20-22, 2009 - Chantilly, VA - Dulles Expo Center - *C&E Gun Show / Showmasters*
- ☞ November 28-29, 2009 - Hampton, VA - Convention Center - *SGK, LTD*
- ☞ December 5-6, 2009 - Richmond, VA - Showplace - *C&E Gun Show*

### MARYLAND

- ☞ December 12-13, 2009 - Parkville, MD - Tall Cedars Bldg., Putty Hill Shopping Center - *Appalachian Promotions*

### PENNSYLVANIA

- ☞ October 31-November 1, 2009 - York, PA - York Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*
- ☞ November 7-8, 2009 - Pottstown, PA - Sunnybrook Ballroom - *Pennsylvania Antique Gun Collectors Association (PAGCA)*
- ☞ November 14-15, 2009 - Greencastle, PA - Mason Dixon Auto Auction - *Appalachian Promotions*
- ☞ November 21-22, 2009 - Oaks, PA - Greater Philadelphia Expo Center - *Mid-Atlantic Arms Collectors*
- ☞ December 5-6, 2009 - Allentown, PA - Agricultural Hall - *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*.  
Contact: FDHAS, 3491 Linden St., Bethlehem, PA 18017. 610-997-8613 after 6pm.

### OHIO

- ☞ Nov. 21-22, 2009 - Wilmington, OH - Roberts Centre - *Ohio Gun Collectors Association*. **OGCA MEMBERS ONLY.** For membership information contact Laura Knotts (330) 467-5733.

### OKLAHOMA

- ☞ November 14-15, 2009 - Tulsa, OK - Expo Center-Expo Square (Tulsa Fairgrounds) - *Tulsa Arms Collectors Association*. **\*\*MORE THAN 3,900 TABLES!\*\***

***"Do not blame Caesar, blame the people of Rome who have so enthusiastically acclaimed and adored him and rejoiced in their loss of freedom and danced in his path and gave him triumphal processions. Blame the people who hail him when he speaks in the Forum of the 'new, wonderful good society' which shall now be Rome's, interpreted to mean 'more money, more ease, more security, more living fatly at the expense of the industrious.'"***  
***-- Roman Statesman Marcus Tullius Cicero (106-43 B.C.)***

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 at the numbers on page one.

V/R, Bill Chronister, Newsletter Editor