



# VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.ORG



Est. 1983 (A Non-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G 8162

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## October 2010 VGCA e-Newsletter



**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS OF UPCOMING EVENTS:** The end of 2010 will have two VGCA meetings with **NRA National Firearms Museum (NFM)-VGCA Special Presentation Series** speakers. There will also be other NFM related events which members will find convenient and interesting.

➔ **Special Presentation for this Month's meeting on October 28, 2010:** There will be a special presentation by **Phil Schreier, Senior Curator of the NRA National Firearms Museum**. He will speak and then take us on a private tour of the latest collection now

displayed in the William B. Ruger Gallery. It is the collection of over 400 guns that belonged to **Robert E. Petersen**, the former publisher of *Guns and Ammo* magazine, *Petersen's Hunting*, and *Sports Afield*. The exhibit includes the largest collection of Gatling guns in the country or possibly the world; Herman Goering's Merkel; Annie Oakley's shotgun and pistol; JFK's Colt New Frontier revolver; the famed "vampire" revolver; many examples of pristine Boss, Purdeys, Holland and Hollands, Westley Richards, Fabri, Ithaca, Parkers and much more. This private tour is not to be missed. At NFM-VGCA meetings, refreshments and pizza WILL be served.

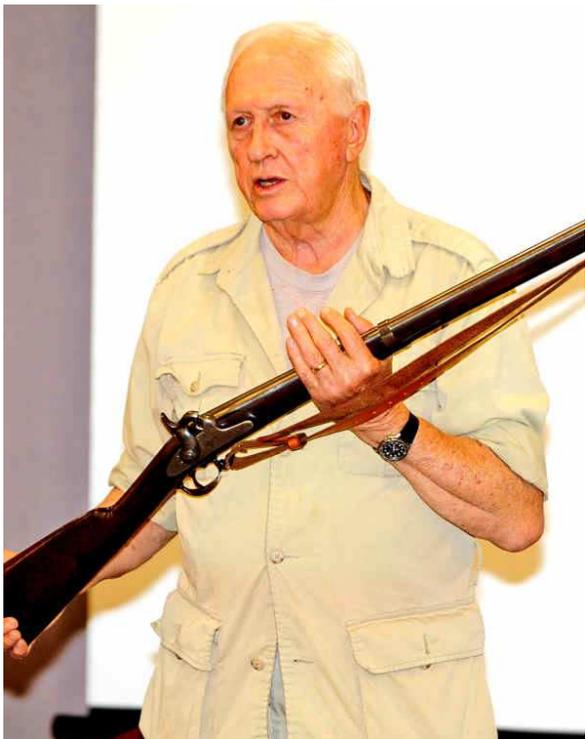
➔ **Late Breaking News:** **Richard Jones**, curator of the Pattern Room in the UK will be a guest at the October meeting and will speak about one of the world's greatest gun collections. He is a great guy and traveled to Russia with a group of VGCA members who visited General Kalashnikov, the inventor of the AK-47.

➔ **Bonus Special Halloween Event:** **Mr. Schreier** has also extended an invitation to the 3rd annual Halloween Trick or Treat event at the Museum on October 31. The museum will have extended hours from 3:00PM to 8:00PM and will include refreshments and treats. It will also feature some Halloween themed displays. Friends and family are warmly welcomed. This is a great opportunity to introduce family members and youngsters to history and firearms collecting.

➔ **Upcoming Presentation for the December 2, 2010 meeting:** The December 2<sup>nd</sup> presentation will feature the speaker who was scheduled to speak at our August meeting. The **2010 NRA NFM-VGCA Special Presentation Series** will feature noted Winchester expert and author **Edmund E. Lewis**, whose book "*The Story of the Winchester 1 of 1000 and 1 of 100 Rifles*" recounts stories and facts about these truly special edition Winchester rifles. This will be an interesting session, so get there early. Again, refreshments and pizza WILL be served. Folks are encouraged to bring in their own Winchester lever guns for the evening's Show and Tell.

➔ **Holiday Opportunity!** For those of you who wish to purchase items and gifts for the Holidays, **Phil Schreier** said that on the December 2 meeting night, the NRA/NFM Museum Store will remain open for

Christmas shoppers. So with these opportunities, and our Gun Show on November 6-7, you have plenty of opportunities before the winter descends upon Northern Virginia.



**Presentation for the September 23, 2010 Meeting:** The **September** meeting featured VGCA Member **Sonny Laine** who covered the *1852 - 1864 Cadet Rifles and Muskets*, and added the rich history of the Civil War interwoven with the corresponding history and events at the Virginia Military Institute or VMI. Sonny started with an insightful quote about his 1851 Cadet musket, "If only this old gun could talk." This is a key point since all of the 1851 production year examples were sent to VMI for the Cadet Corps. In 1839, VMI Cadets relieved the Virginia State Militia of the responsibility of guarding the Virginia State Arsenal. The militia had proven problematic due to lack of discipline and work to keep the occupied, which resulted in problems with the local populace. VMI Cadets were called out to Harpers Ferry Arsenal in response to the John Brown Raid. They were using the newly issued 1851 Cadets. This rapid response by the Cadets was to be repeated 15 times during the Civil War. Initially, the 1851 Cadet was a .57 caliber smoothbore with no rear sight. Springfield recalled 1000 in 1857 and fitted rifled barrels for the new .58 caliber Minié ball and rear sights. Now more accurate, they were still summed up as pretty little rifle, but unsuitable for war due to their lighter weight and slim wrists on the stocks which resulted in breakage. All in all over 4000 Cadets were made, but only 251 were

marked with the 1851 date. Due to their close association with the VMI, they are also known as VMI Cadet Muskets. Sonny liberally added historical facts about VMI, its proud traditions, the Cadet Corps, and their actions in the Civil War, and how the school suffered damage in the war. After the war, the state of Virginia rebuilt the Institute. This was a well researched and delivered talk and covered a subject that was historically interesting. Sonny received thanks from all who attended.

★ **Presentation Volunteers Needed:** We will need presenters for 2011 upcoming monthly meetings and it is not too early consider pitching in. Call **Addison Hurst** now for your choice of a 2011 date if you can be a presenter or know of someone else who would be willing. *Please verify that the person is willing and able.* ☺ Remember, you do not need to do it solo (grab a partner or friend) and it does not have to be a marathon. Short and direct works well; and it does not have to have slides. If you wish, there are members who will assist if you wish to use a PowerPoint presentation.

#### **Notes from the Podium:**

- ☉ The next two NFM presentations should not be missed. Invite guests if you would like, but let me know the approximate number of guests so we will be sure to order enough pizza and drinks.
- ☉ I am concerned that our membership has not signed up for tables to fill the PWC hall. The club needs your support. Team up with some fellow members and have a table or two and sell off your excess stuff.

I look forward to seeing you at the meetings and the show in November.

With highest regards, Addison

**Business Meeting:** The business meeting began with an announcement about the upcoming elections for the full terms of the three member Board of Directors. Members were asked to consider candidates and nominations. (See announcement below for more details.) **Larry Hare**, Membership, did not have any prospective membership

applications pending a vote. Announcements were made that there were still a number of tables available for the Fall Gun Show and members were encouraged to consider taking or sharing tables for sales or display. **Dave Litchfield** gave a briefing on his research on the logistics involved with the Association designing and manning a display in the Collectors Exhibit Hall at the NRA Annual Meetings. Such an effort is significant from a workload and manning standpoint, not to mention the work needed to design the display and for the individuals whose collections are used for the display. The Board will consider the proposal and determine if it can be accomplished in a way that would benefit the Association. **Addison Hurst** asked members present to canvas for speakers for the 2011 meetings. **John Frietsch**, Show Security and Safety, informed the group that table setup would be on Thursday, November 4. Dealer and table holder setup will be Friday, November 5. Volunteers are always welcome and recognized volunteers will gain free entry to the show.

## \* \* \* Fall 2010 Virginia Gun Collectors Association Gun Show \* \* \* (Prince William County Fairgrounds – November 6-7, 2010)

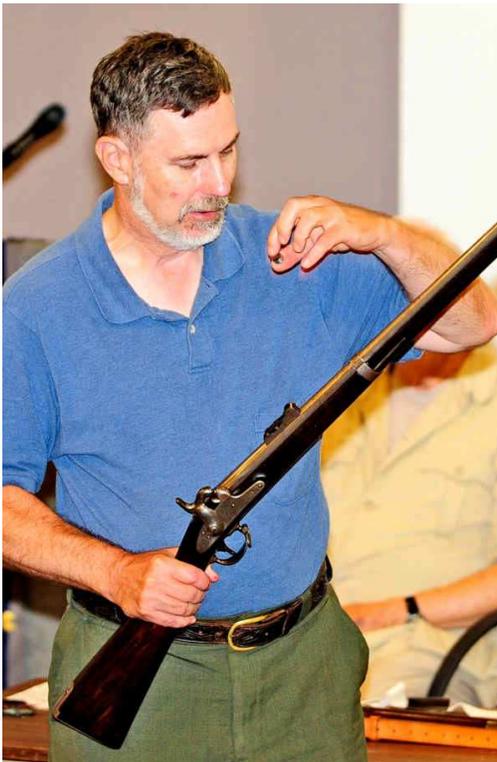
The Fall 2010 VGCA Gun Show will be at the Prince William County Fairgrounds on **November 6-7, 2010**. Pass the word and remember that flyers for the fall show will be at this meeting so plan to spread a few around.

- ⊙ **Fall VGCA Gun Show Sales Tables:** The Association *still has tables remaining for the Fall VGCA Gun Show*. Members who wish to reserve a table for disposing of your unloved or duplicate firearms, accoutrements, collectable accessories, or other gun collecting related items, please contact Rick Nahas, ASAP. 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 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.
- ⊙ **LAST CALL for VGCA Gun Show Volunteers:** We still need volunteers for the **Security** and **Show Table Setup** Teams, as well as some folks to help with the **Sign Detail** the morning of the show, and pick them up after the show on Sunday, etc. Tell **John Frietsch**, **Dave Litchfield** or one of the Officers if you wish to volunteer, or sign up at the monthly meeting. Talk to **Larry Hare** if you want to help with signs. If you are on the fence, there are only 2 weeks left before the show to sign up. **Remember, if you wish to gain free entry, volunteering for the Security, Safety, and Setup teams gets a free admission. Safety Team Volunteers:** If any member wishes to help out for an hour or so at the upcoming March 2010 show, please call John Frietsch, Safety and Security Coordinator at 1-540-409-1271.
- ⊙ **Reminder on the VGCA Gun Show Admission Policy for Members:** In November 2007, the Executive Committee of the VGCA decided to discontinue free admission for all club members, and that free show admittance would be restricted to the following categories: military personnel "in uniform," law enforcement personnel with official credentials, and all table holders and their support personnel, i.e. 2 passes for the 1st table, and one additional pass for each additional table. **This has NOT changed. The final categories for free admission, are the volunteer groups always deserving of special thanks and recognition for their tireless dedication and support – the Gunshow Volunteers – the Security, Safety and Setup personnel.** All other members pay admission. Please try to be civil to our volunteers who uphold this policy and **if you wish to gain free entry, consider contributing by volunteering for the Security, Safety, and Setup teams as we always need reliable help for these critical activities.**

**Upcoming 2011 Elections for the VGCA Board of Directors:** This past May, the Association held an election to fill out the remaining terms for members of the Board of Directors who stepped down or were elected to Officer positions in the Association. **Jim Burgess**, **Kelly Cook**, and **Dave Litchfield** were elected to fill out the vacant terms. In January 2011, as directed by the Association bylaws, there will be another election to fill the full terms on the Board of Directors. Consider who you wish to fill these positions. If you wish to nominate one or all of the current Board member(s), someone else, or even run yourself, give it serious consideration. An Election committee will be announced and will include who to contact for nominations.

**VGCA Meeting of September 23, 2010 Show and Tell:** This month had some interesting guns on display that spanned almost 2 centuries. Jim Burgess showed a nice Cadet Rifle he brought. **Jim Vaughan** presented a beautiful 1817 Common Rifle. This rifle, originally in .54 caliber had been “freshened” to a larger caliber smoothbore at sometime in its history. Jim stated that this example was originally converted from flint to percussion, but had later been converted back to a flintlock. Many were made by Henry Deringer of Philadelphia, PA. This rifle was replaced in US service by the 1841 Mississippi Rifle. **Larry Hare** showed an 1896 Carl Gustav Swedish Mauser sporter. This one was unusual in that it was a very well done .22 rimfire. Due to the fine work in the conversion, it is possible this was made from a CG-63 Junior, a .22 match rifle for civilian use made from 1896 Swedish Mausers actions. **Bill Chronister** showed an Albanian SKS or “Independence Carbine.” These are one of the scarcest SKS variations that use an AK looking bolt carrier and a hand guard fully covering the gas tube. This variant was unknown in the west until after the breakup of the East Bloc, and less than 16,000 were made with only half of that surviving. **John Morris** showed a rapid-fire Navy 6 pounder case made by Winchester. Originally attracted by this shell case, he was very pleased to see it had been engraved that it was from the USS Olympia, (Admiral Dewey’s flagship) and had been fired in Manila Bay in 1898, making a desirable curio a prized collectible. He also showed a 1 pound powder measure with Washington Navy Yard markings and inspector marks for the NJ State Naval Militia. **Addison Hurst** closed out the evening with his on topic, “First Allin Cadet Rifle. Only 270 of these were made, and no records survive at Springfield Armory. Chambered in .58 Rimfire, these conversions were done in the early 1880’s.

### VGCA Meeting of September 23, 2010



← Jim Burgess shows his Cadet Rifle.

→ John Morris’ engraved Naval 6 pounder shell inscribed with USS Olympia, (Admiral Dewey’s flagship) and that it had been fired in Manila Bay in 1898.

↓ Close-up detail of Jim Vaughan’s 1817 Common Rifle. Of note are the oval patch box and the sling swivel forged into the tail spur of the trigger guard.



## 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. **Collector shows are highlighted in yellow.**

### VIRGINIA 2010

- ⇒ **October 28, 2010 – Fairfax, VA – VGCA Meeting** with Special presentation by **Phil Schreier, NRA National Firearms Museum**. Private tour for VGCA members of the latest collection on display.
- ⇒ **October 31, 2010 – Fairfax, VA** - 3rd Annual Halloween Trick or Treat event at the NRA NFM. Extended hours from 3:00PM to 8:00PM, refreshments and treats and some Halloween themed displays. Friends and family are warmly welcomed.
- ⇒ **November 6-7, 2010 - Manassas, VA - Prince William County Fairgrounds – Virginia Gun Collectors**
- ⇒ **November 6-7, 2010 - Norfolk, VA** – Norfolk Scope Arena - *C&E Gun Show*
- ⇒ **November 6-7, 2010 - Dale City, VA** - VFW Post 1503 - *Old Dominion Shows*
- ⇒ **November 13-14, 2010 - Richmond, VA** - Raceway & Fairgrounds – *Showmasters*
- ⇒ **November 19, 20 & 21, 2010 - Chantilly, VA** - Dulles Expo Center - *C&E Gun Show / Showmasters*
- ⇒ **November 27-28, 2010 - Hampton, VA** - Convention Center - *SGK, LTD*
- ⇒ **December 2, 2010 – Fairfax, VA - VGCA Meeting** with *NRA National Firearms Museum Store* extended hours from 3:00PM to 8:00PM for Holiday Shopping.
- ⇒ **December 4-5, 2010 – Richmond, VA** – Showplace - *C&E Gun Show*
- ⇒ **December 11-12, 2010 - Harrisonburg, VA** - Rockingham County Fairgrounds – *C&E Gun Show*
- ⇒ **December 11-12, 2010 - Dale City, VA** - VFW Post 1503 - *Old Dominion Shows*
- ⇒ **December 18-19, 2010 – Salem, VA** – Salem Civic Center - *C&E Gun Show*

### MARYLAND 2010

- ⇒ **November 6-7, 2010 – Upper Marlboro, MD** - Show Place Arena – *Silverado Promotions*
- ⇒ **November 13-14, 2010 - Frederick, MD** - Frederick Fairgrounds – *Silverado Promotions*
- ⇒ **December 11-12, 2010 - Parkville, MD** - Tall Cedars Bldg., Putty Hill Shopping Center - *Appalachian Promotions*

### PENNSYLVANIA 2010

- ⇒ **October 30-31, 2010 – York, PA** – York Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*
- ⇒ **November 13-14, 2010 – Philadelphia, PA** - (Center Oaks) Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Mid-Atlantic Arms Collectors*
- ⇒ **November 13-14, 2010 - Poconos, PA** - Split Rock Lodge - *Eagle Arms*
- ⇒ **December 4-5, 2010 - 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 11-12, 2010 - Monroeville, PA** - Convention Center - *Showmasters*
- ⇒ **December 11-12, 2010 - Harrisburg, PA** - Farm Show Complex – *Mid-Atlantic Arms Collectors*
- ⇒ **December 17-19, 2010 - King of Prussia, PA** - Valley Forge Convention Center - *valleyforgegunshow.com*.

### OHIO 2010

- ⇒ **November 20-21, 2010 – Wilmington, OH** – Roberts Centre - *Ohio Gun Collectors Association*. **OGCA MEMBERS ONLY**. For membership information contact Laura Knotts (330) 467-5733.

"It has been said that politics is the second oldest profession. I have learned that it bears a striking resemblance to the first."

— Ronald Reagan

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**, Secretary/Editor