



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.NET

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

NRA Affiliate Number G8162



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October 2015 VGCA Newsletter

★ **VGCA Important Announcement!** At our October meeting immediately following the social hour we'll be calling a vote on the new by-laws. This social hour will have added food such as wings and desserts. This vote requires a quorum of the clubs membership to be in attendance so the Board requests that everyone makes an additional effort to be at this meeting. The Board asks that all local members please be in attendance to make this vote go off as it should. The board also encourages members to vote in-favor of the new By-Laws.



★ **VGCA Presentation for September 24, 2015:** The September presentation was provided by VGCA Board Member, Marc Gorelick on John Dahlgren and the Plymouth Rifle. John Dahlgren was a Swedish-American born on November 13, 1809 who had a profound effect on the U.S. Navy both as an Admiral and munitions expert as well as the inventor of the Plymouth Rifle. During his time in the navy he served the Coastal Survey, then became an ordnance officer at the Washington Navy Yard and eventually took over there. Over the next 15 years he revolutionized the Navy's ordnance department.

Dahlgren setup many facilities at the Washington Navy Yard including a firing range, foundries, machine shops and office spaces all leading into the start of the Naval Gun Factory. From all this he achieved the rank of Commander and commanded the USS Plymouth. This command allowed him to develop many ideas on the use of sailors as light infantry and invented numerous heavy and light naval ordnance as well as small arms. Despite the navys role of providing infantry for land operations they did not have a single rifled musket in their inventory. It was for this reason that Dahlgren requested permission to develop a rifle musket and hold trials in order to determine the proper design. After contacting many companies and going through a trials period from 1856 – 1858 the Plymouth

The Civil war became a further career stepping stone for Dahlgren. When his commander joined the Confederacy, Dahlgren stepped into his position and became friends with Abraham Lincoln. It was this friendship that allowed Dahlgren to continue advancing his career. His direct commander had a dislike for him that was trumped by his friendship with Lincoln. This allowed him to achieve the rank of Captain and continued as the Chief of Ordnance and Commander of the Washington Navy Yard. Despite his issues with his immediate superior Secretary of the Navy Gideon Wells he was able to lobby congress and Lincoln for a sea command. He was given the rank of Rear Admiral and in July of 1863 took command of the Atlantic Blockade Squadron.

After the war Dahlgren took command of the South Pacific Squadron of the west coast of South America. Finally in early 1869 he took back his old positions as Chief of Ordnance and Commander of the Washington Navy Yard. It was there in one his final military acts he started the Small Arms Trial Board and selected the Remington Rolling Block caliber .50-.70 as the Navy's Standard Rifle. Shortly there after he died of a heart attack on July 12 1870. Further information can be found on our website at www.vgca.net.

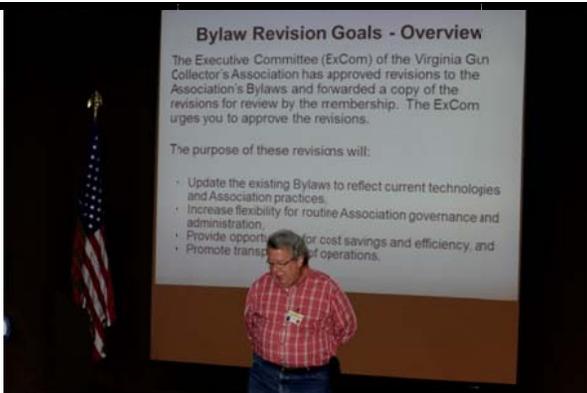
★ **October Meeting: Steve Wesbrook: American Hammer Shotguns of 1880s-90s:** Our November meeting will see a presentation on post-civil war shotguns. Please bring any similar items from your collection for show and tell after. Before hand there will the social hour with food.

Acting President's Comments

Hopefully everyone has received a notice in the mail encouraging attendance at our next meeting on Thursday, October 22. This will be a special meeting to vote on bylaws revisions and we will need a quorum to validate this action. We will have this vote at the beginning of the meeting, just before the program, while we have maximum attendance, given that some members have an extended drive home and must leave early after the program. Please make an extra effort to attend this important meeting. As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, Steve Wesbrook will be providing the evening's presentation on the topic of late 19th century American hammer shotguns. If any of these critters reside in your gun racks or in your closets, now would be a good time to dust them off and bring them out for show and tell.

This meeting is also important as it is the last meeting before our November show. I am happy to report that the show is now sold out and we have a growing waiting list. If you are on the waiting list, do not despair as we normally have a number of cancellations in the week immediately prior to the show. We will have volunteer sign-up sheets for security and set-up crews circulating at the meeting. We will also have show flyers available for distribution to your favorite gun shops, ranges and other haunts. Please help us promote the show especially in the next couple of weeks. This will be crucial to the success of our show.

-Jim Burgess



★ **Business Meeting for August 27, 2015:** President Jim Burgess opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Jim also recognized guests for the evening. Show Manager **Rick Nahas** reported that we have 0 tables vacant for the November show and even have a small waiting list. VGCA Membership Coordinator **Larry Hare** presented to the gathered membership a new member candidate, Mathew Gminski, sponsored by Dave Litchfield.

★ **October Meeting: Steve Wesbrook: American Hammer Shotguns of 1880s-90s:** Our November meeting will see a presentation on post-civil war shotguns. Please bring any

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Other News!

IMPORTANT NOTICE

NEW AMENDED BY-LAWS FOR MEMBER REVIEW

As announced at the August meeting, on August 20, 2015, the VGCA Board of Directors unanimously approved changes to the By-Laws. As stipulated in the current By-Laws, a copy of the proposed new By-laws was mailed to every VGCA member in good standing for review. Due to an oversight, for which the Board apologizes, the proposed new By-Laws were sent without a cover letter explaining what the enclosed By-Laws were or why it was mailed. This notice serves as a belated memorandum of explanation or cover letter.

There were a number of changes made to the By-Laws to bring them up-to-date, efficient and effective, improve club operations, governance, transparency and accountability, make the association better able to meet changing situations, and take advantage of changing technology.

Some of the major improvements include:

- Clarifying the qualifications for Life membership (Article II) – this will define the procedures to conform to the current By-Laws and help provide for a better flow of income;
- Making the procedure for applying for membership more efficient and effective – this simplifies the process and improves vetting of prospective new members;
- Improving the timing and collection of dues (Article III) – this helps provide for a more reliable income stream and member benefits;
- Adding two appointed Directors to the Board, a Show Manager and Show Security Manager (Article VI) – this expands member representation and the knowledge base of the Board, and recognizes the reality of the importance of these positions in VGCA affairs;
- Clarifying duties and responsibilities of officers and directors; (Article V & VI) – This helps makes the Board more efficient, effective and accountable;
- Changing the date of elections from January/February to May of each year (Article VII) – This eliminates winter weather, Fall Show and holiday break issues, and allows for determining “members in good standing” for voting purposes;
- Providing for the possibility of electronic balloting (Article VII) – this will save money on printing and postage, and improve transparency and participation. Those without connectivity will still get ballots by mail; and
- Clarifying descriptions of tables at gun shows (Article IX) – this improves the show operation and helps maintain the quality of the show.

Please take the time to review the new proposed By-Laws. They will be voted on at the October meeting of the VGCA by those members in good standing who are present. If you attend the meeting, the Board of Directors urges to vote **FOR** the new By-Laws.

★ **Current Speaker List for 2015:** What follows is our current sign up for speakers for the 2015 calendar year.

- **October 22:** Steve Wesbrook: American Hammer Shotguns of 1880s-90s
- **December 3:** Holiday Dinner/Show & Tell/Swap Meet

★ **Continued Call of Articles for the Website:** We are making a call for articles for the website. They must be about guns or gun collecting not shooting sports or hunting. No political articles will be used. Articles may be about modern or antique firearms and may be historical and/or technical in nature. Detailed guidelines will be available on the website. Please fact check and proofread your own work. All articles may be submitted to Marc or Richard at web@vgca.net. Official Guidelines for articles may be found on the education page of the VGCA site.



★ **Inquiry From UK Regarding The Lapointe Machine Tool Company and 8-Groove Gang Broach for Rifling the UK Bren Gun:** The VGCA received an inquiry from a UK BREN Gun collector of the first order asking for any information about the Lapointe Machine Tool Co. before and during World War II and any Canadian connections in regard to rifling BREN gun barrels in .303 caliber. The

Lapointe Machine Tool Co was the premier US Company for making broaching machinery, including for rifling gun barrels. Its broaching machinery and broaches were exported all over the world, including the UK.

According to the British collector, “sources who formerly worked at RSAF Enfield, say the use of broaches was not a British working practice for rifling the longer rifle/MG's barrels, (pistol/SMG barrels only) although that is not apparently the case with US production. So it is probable that this item is at least experimental in 'BREN' .303 terms and may reflect a Canadian knowledge of US working practices to provide a speedier method of rifling a barrel?”

John Morris (VGCA) explained, “The barrel is rifled in one pass of this tool. The broach is fixed and does not rotate on its axis but the barrel is free to rotate and is made to do so by the design of the broach. This broach speeds the barrel rifling operation and reduces the cost.”

The website for Lapointe Machine Tool Company, now known as “Pioneer” is:
<http://www.pioneerbroach.com/#lapointe-hudson-broach-div-of-pbc/cegb>

Any member with specific information about an 8-groove broach for rifling BREN gun barrels, please contact Richard Jones at richardjones320@hotmail.com.

Show and Tell



🔴 **Show & Tell for the August 27, 2015 Meeting:** **Member 1** presented a Japanese Type 99 WWII rifle that had been re-barreled and otherwise professionally converted to fire .22LR. He also showed a quality reproduction of the Plymouth rifle knife bayonet. **Member 2** presented a Chinese Type 56 SKS rifle, manufactured in 1966, all matching and in pristine condition. Complete with original cleaning kit. **Member 3** showed us a Japanese samurai sword that he had acquired years ago and was trying to determine if it was an original, or a reproduction sword. Lastly, **Member 4** shared his original Plymouth Rifle, complete with the original Knife bayonet. Mike reported to us that he had regularly shot his example years ago.

Upcoming Events and Shows

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

VIRGINIA 2015

- 👉 October 31-1, 2015 – Norfolk, VA – Norfolk Scope – *C&E Gun Shows*
- 👉 November 7-8, 2015 – Manassas, VA – Prince William County Fairgrounds – *V.G.C.A Show*
- 👉 November 14-15, 2015 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway – *SGK*
- 👉 November 20-22, 2015 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *The Nation’s Gun Show*
- 👉 November 28-29, 2015 – Harrisonburg, VA – Rockingham County Fairgrounds – *Showmasters*
- 👉 December 5-6, 2015 – Fishersville, VA – Augusta Expo – *C&E Gun Shows*

MARYLAND 2015

- 👉 October 24-25, 2015 – Upper Marlboro, MD – Showplace Arena – *Appalachian Gun Shows*
- 👉 November 14-15, 2015 – Frederick, MD – Annapolis National Guard Armory – *Silverado Gun Show*
- 👉 December 5-6, 2015 – Stevensville, MD – Kent Island American Legion – *GunShows*

PENNSYLVANIA 2015

- 👉 October 31-1, 2015 - York, PA – York Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Gun Shows*
- 👉 December 5-6, 2015 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds – *Forks of the Delaware*

The e-mail address for any Newsletter related matters or a submission is Newsletter@vgca.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. v/r Richard Pripeton, VGCA Newsletter Editor