



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.NET

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

NRA Affiliate Number G8162



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October 2016 VGCA Newsletter

✦ VGCA Meeting of September 22, 2016:

Our September presentation was by Rob Becker and covered U.S. and German Flare Guns of WW2. Rob opened by covering some of the unique aspects of collecting flare guns, such as the fact that flare guns were generally made in smaller numbers than other types of military small arms, but there are also fewer collectors, which helps keep the prices down. Collecting flare guns is popular in Europe (perhaps more-so than in the United States) as flare guns/signal pistols are not restricted like many other types of weapons are. Here in the United States, there are very few federal/state laws restricting flare guns, though live flares must be shipped as ORD.

Rob continued by covering the historical development of the flare gun, which dates back to the Coston patent and the American Civil War. By the time WW2 began, most countries had standardized on two calibers of flares – 1 inch (also designated 25mm, 26mm, 26.5mm, or 4 Kaliber) and 1 ½ inch (whose metric equivalent is 37mm). The U.S. used these 2 calibers, though we also deployed 10 gauge and 1 7/16 inch flares. Germany used 4 Kaliber almost exclusively.

Next, Rob described several specific flare guns models employed by U.S. and German forces.

American flare guns varied widely in size, weight, and construction as they were developed and employed for many different purposes. It wasn't until the AN (Army-Navy) M8 was fielded in 1942 that a single design supported both the U.S. Army (to include the Army Air Forces) and the U.S. Navy.

Shown below are two of the examples that Rob brought. On the left is the American Harrington & Richardson Mark IV (1 ½ inch) with side swing breech – a heavy bronze monstrosity that weighed nearly 4 ½ pounds – and the American AN-M8 (also 1 ½ inch) with vehicle mounting bracket. With this mount, the double action M8 could be safely fired from inside a tank or aircraft.



At the beginning of WW2, German flare guns were made with typical Teutonic precision and complexity. For example, the double barrel Leuchtpistole L “Fliegerleuchtpistole” (made for the Luftwaffe) consisted of 80 parts! The Leuchtpistole (LP) S “Sturmpistole” prototype and the later LP Z “Kampfpistole” came with a rifled barrel, detachable shoulder stock, sights, and even a spirit level to employ grenades and anti-tank shape charges in addition to flares! As the war progressed though, German ingenuity gave way to expediency and machined steel to stamped

sheet metal. This can be seen in comparing the pre-war designed LP 34 "Heer" (production ending in 1943) to the wartime production of the LP 42.



Shown above (from left to right) are pictures of the German LP S, the elegant LP 34, and the war-expedient LP 42.

Rob concluded by describing the few books and the single forum dedicated to collecting these interesting pieces. This was another informative presentation to the VGCA that seemed to be enjoyed by all present!

★ **August Business:** The business meeting this month began with Ernie Lyles leading the pledge of allegiance. Rick Nahas provided an update on the November Show and stated that there were still a few tables available. Joe Roberts needs volunteers to help with show security (only 10 have signed up so far) and Ernie added that we need volunteers to assist with putting out and recovering street signs. Please contact Ernie if you can help.

Shannon Zeigler gave us an update on the club's financial status.

Marc Gorelick updated the organization on an initiative for the VGCA to become affiliated with the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP). There are benefits to being affiliated with the CMP, but also a requirement for an organization Point of Contact and certified firearms instructor. Member Dave Litchfield volunteered his services.

It was announced that the L.C. Smith Collectors Association was raffling an Ideal Grade 20 Gauge shotgun for \$5 per ticket.

★ **Upcoming October 27th Meeting:** Our next presentation will be by Bill Troy on the Thompson submachine gun. Please remember to bring any friends who may be interested. As usual, there will be pizza and drinks available for a recommended five dollar donation. Social time begins at 6:15 with the meeting beginning at 7p.m.

★ **November VGCA Show Update:** As of October 15th, there are 12 tables available - get your reservation now. Remember, a display table is **FREE** for members.

President's Comments

Fellow Members,

Our November Gun Show is fast approaching and we still need volunteers to help with the show. We need 8-10 people to assist with security and 2-3 to help with posting road signs - both putting them out on Saturday morning and bringing them back on Sunday afternoon. This should be a good show for us as it is the weekend before the election. Come on out and give us a hand!

-- Ernie

Treasurer's Report

We are in good financial standing. The majority of our expenditures were in preparation of the Fall Show. I will give a more detailed report to the members at our next meeting. Please contact me if you need more Show Flyers. I have a few thousand on hand.

Respectfully Submitted, Shannon Zeigler

Other News!

✪ **Membership Candidates:** Our one new candidates for membership this month is **Paul Blemberg**.

✪ **From the Membership Chair – October 2016 Formal Notice of 2017 Annual Dues and Membership Renewal Procedures for Annual Members (Part 2):** Last issue members were informed of the new membership renewal process and the payment due dates (January 1, 2017) for 2017 annual dues.

This months' notice will cover payment of annual dues and upgrading to life membership.

If you are in good standing and have paid your 2016 dues, you may upgrade to Life Membership during the 2017 dues cycle for \$150 (only \$120 over the cost of annual membership, plus no more annual dues requests.)

From my review, as of October 1, 2016, 23 annual members still had not paid their 2016 dues. This could be the result of confusion over due dates for renewals in the new Bylaws, or that annual members did not receive a hard-copy notification of the annual dues reminder in January 2016, since notices were included in the newsletters, both e-mail and hardcopy. If you did not receive the newsletters, please verify your mailing address and email address to prevent missing the newsletters and any notices.

For these reasons, and since I newly assumed the Membership Chair role in August 2016, annual members who have not paid for 2016 have not yet been dropped from the roles. To continue your membership without a break, please submit your 2016 payments ASAP. New members from 2016 who did not include a check for \$30 with their application should also remit your 2016 dues ASAP. For convenience, you may also include your 2017 dues of \$30 at the same time.

Dues may be paid by mail by sending a Check for \$30 (for each year you are paying - please notate the check for the year you are paying for) and a completed membership renewal form below to the address on the form. I will also accept payments in person (by CHECK only – NO CASH) with a completed attached form.

If members have questions, please email **Bill Chronister, Membership Chair** at vgca_membership@cox.net or call me at 703-204-0138.

Remember, 2017 payments are due January 1, 2017. Annual Members who are not paid up by the January Membership meeting (January 26, 2017) will be dropped from the roles after the meeting.

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Please detach and return with your payment
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Membership Renewal Request (AMR-NL-2017) **William Chronister, P.O. Box 2318, Merrifield, VA 22116-2318**

VGCA annual membership requires yearly renewal and payment of \$30.00. Life membership is still only \$150.00. If you are in good standing and have paid your 2016 dues, you may upgrade to VGCA Life Membership during the 2017 dues cycle for \$150 (only \$120 over the cost of annual membership, plus no more annual dues requests.)

Please complete and return this renewal form with your payment. Indicate Annual, Life or that you do not wish to renew your membership by checking the appropriate box below. Please Print Clearly

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

- Enclosed is a check for \$30.00 for CY 2017 VGCA Annual Membership dues.
- I wish to upgrade to Life Membership in VGCA. Enclosed is a check for \$150.00.
- Remove my name from the VGCA membership rolls.

Make all checks payable to VGCA (NO CASH PLEASE). If you have any questions contact William Chronister, Membership Chair at (703) 204-0138 or by e-mail at vgca_membership

♣ September 2016 Show and Tell ♣

Marc Gorelick brought in a Remington Mark III 10 gauge flare gun that he recently purchased at an Ohio Gun Collectors Association show. With a brass frame and 9” steel barrel, approximately 25,000 were made between 1915 and 1918 for U.S. use in WWI (though they were not used operationally by the Army).



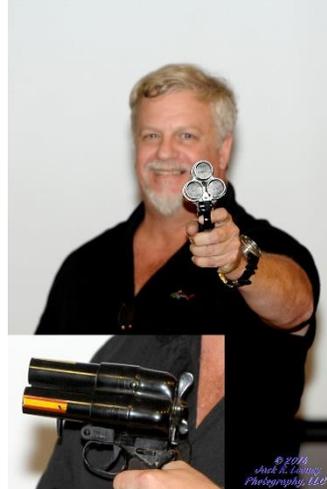
Ed Costello brought in several flare guns from his collection. Shown below is an impressive British Number 1 Mark I, also of WWI vintage. This shoulder-fired 1 ½” was built for the Royal Flying Corps on the Webley Mark VI revolver frame. Approximately 26,400 were made.



Ed also shared a Remington Mark III (with holster) and a WWI German “Hebel” model flare gun.



Dave Litchfield shared a very nice Walther “banner” Leuchtpistole. This 4 Kaliber displayed the finest pre-war workmanship in steel with wooden grips.



Mike Hardesty brought in a real treat – a Japanese Type 90 triple barrel from WW2! Only 5200 were made and because they were used by the Imperial Japanese Navy, not many survived the war. This superb example even had the colored decals indicating which color flare to put in each barrel! Mike also brought in a rare Swedish Husqvarna flare gun with holster.

Larry Hare brought in a Swiss K31 recently purchased from Simpsons. This is not a typical K31 however, it has been converted to .22LR! It came complete with sling, muzzle cap and bayonet.



Matthew (above, right) shared his Marlin Model 60 “Glenfield”. This “economy” model .22 was made in 1980 and featured pressed checkering. It is his favorite plinking rifle!

In Review

“In Review” is a new section to the newsletter (started in August 2016) and will include VGCA member reviews of guns shows, books, and museums. If you would like to submit a review, please send it to the newsletter editor at rpebecker@verizon.net.

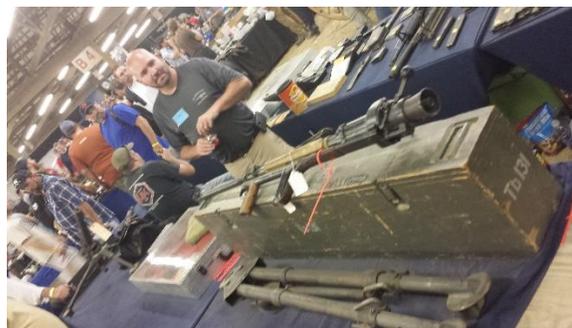
Gun Show

KNOB CREEK SHOW REPORT – A Bucket List Item that will be repeated!

By Rob Becker

Twice a year there is a shooting event in Kentucky that has been on my bucket list for long time. For three days every April and October, the Knob Creek Gun Range in West Point, KY (just south of Louisville) plays hosts to a gathering of automatic weapons and artillery like nowhere else - outside of the military. This former USN cannon test range is a now filled with targets whose destruction is assured by DOZENS of registered machine guns, sub-machineguns, assault rifles and anti-tank rifles. You can't help but smile when a mini-gun opens up, or a civil war cannon blasts away. But as much fun as the Machine Gun Shoot is (and it IS a lot of fun) that is not the only reason to go. Associated with the shoot is one heck of a gun show!

Just behind the firing line is pole barn with about 600 tables of machine guns, military surplus, ammunition, parts, and accessories. Many well-known vendors set up shop, to include Numrich Gun Parts, SARCO, and Apex. Do you need a front sight post for an American AN-M2 .30 caliber aircraft machine gun (as one VGCA member did)? No problem. Need the carry handle for a Czechoslovakian ZB26 machine gun barrel (like another VGCA member)? Found that too. Want the tooling to bend a flat piece of sheet metal into a semi-automatic AK47 receiver? They have you covered. And you will see military hardware from years past that you have only read about or seen in museums – such as an FG42, made in small numbers during WW2 for German airborne troops (actually, there were two FG42s for sale there) or an Italian Villar Perosa M15 from WWI (the very first sub machinegun – and one of only 3 registered in the U.S.). Perhaps the best compliment for any gun show is that you want to go back. I do – and I will!



If you have any interest in military small arms of the last century, you need to find the time to go to Knob Creek during one of their spring or fall shoots. You won't be disappointed. Just be sure to take some hearing protection!

Museum

A VISIT TO THE MUSEUM – ARSENALEN, THE SWEDISH TANK MUSEUM

By Marc Gorelick, VGCA

For those who like big guns and armored vehicles, a visit to Arsenalen, the largest military vehicle museum in Scandinavia, is well worth the effort. The museum presents the history of military armored vehicle development from the first armored vehicles in Sweden and abroad from World War 1 until today and is a tank lover's dream come true. The vehicles are shown in their technical and historical context. The emphasis is on the period from the outbreak of World War II until the end of the Cold War (1939-1990), during which unprecedented technical and

tactical development in armored fighting vehicles took place. The museum's collection includes about 350 vehicles, of which about 75 are on public display at any time. These range from the earliest British and French armored fighting vehicles (AFVs) purchased by Sweden to the famous Swedish S Tank to the very latest Swedish version of the German Leopard 2 MBT, the Stridsvagn 122 or Leopard 2S, which is on active service with the Swedish Army today. Although the majority of the vehicles are those that were in Swedish service, the collection and displays also include many well-known, and some rare, foreign AFVs, including a German Jagdpanzer 38 Hetzer and Panzer I, Russian T34-85, T55 and T-72 tanks, British Centurions (adopted by Sweden) and a Chieftain Mk10 tank, and an American M4A4 Sherman armed by the British with their 76mm (17 pdr.) Quick Firing Gun, and called the "Firefly" during World War II. American AFVs in the collection include an M24 Chaffee Light Tank and an M8 Greyhound armored car used by the Swedish UN Battalion in the Congo.



Swedish S Tank

While the displays in the building are static, most are accessible and many of the vehicles can be touched. They are not packed together so the visitor can see them from almost every angle. Most of the vehicles belong to the Swedish government, some are one of a kind, and many are in operational condition and are driven a few times a year. The Arsenalen Museum also houses the museum of the local Södermanland Regiment which existed from the 14th century to 2005 and took part in many of Sweden's wars. Arsenalen also houses a fascinating museum of miniature figures, formerly a private collection, which shows the military history of the world in a number of dioramas. The museum grounds also contain an original soldier's croft or farm from the late 19th century.



German Jagdpanzer 38 Hetzer and SdKfz. 302 Goliath

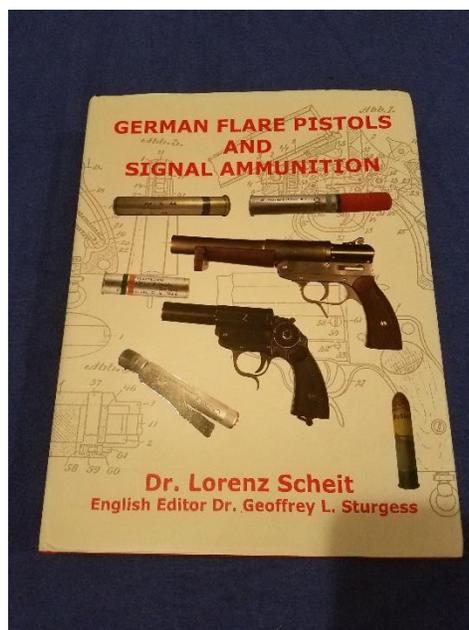
The museum was established in June 2011 and is open year round. It is run by a private military history foundation and is located west of Stockholm, about 7 km from Strängnäs, along the E20 motorway.



The author next to a Swedish Leopard 2S Main Battle Tank in the Arsenalen.

Book

During his presentation on U.S. and German Flare Guns of WW2, Rob Becker explained that there are very few books written on flare guns, and even fewer in English. This is one of them. “German Flare Pistols and Signal Ammunition” by Dr. Lorenz Scheit and translated by Dr. Geoffrey Sturgess is truly a definitive work. Spanning over 700 pages and containing thousands of photographs, illustrations, and copies of historical documentation, this book is a must-have for the collector interested in flare guns. Published by Brad Simpson Publishing in 2012, it is available online and is priced at \$125.



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 2016

- ⇒ October 29-30, 2016 – Fredericksburg, VA – Expo and Convention Center - *SGK*
- ⇒ October 29-30, 2016 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center – *C&E*
- ⇒ October 29-30, 2016 – Front Royal, VA – Holiday Inn - *Kentucky Rifle Association Show*
THIS IS A CLOSED SHOW. Only members of the KRA, CLA, HCH, & NMLRA and pre-registered guests may attend.
- ⇒ November 5-6, 2016 – Dale City, VA – VFW – *Showmasters*
- ⇒ November 5-6, 2016 – Manassas, VA - Prince William County Fairgrounds – *VGCA* (our show, of course!)
- ⇒ November 5-6, 2016 – Norfolk, VA – Norfolk Scope - *Showmasters and C&E*
- ⇒ November 5-6, 2016 – Winchester, VA - Sportsplex and Indoor Center – *SGK*
- ⇒ November 12-13, 2016 - Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway – *Showmasters*
- ⇒ November 12-13, 2016 - Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway – *Capital of the Confederacy Civil War Show*
- ⇒ November 18-20, 2016 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters and C&E*
- ⇒ November 26-27, 2016 – Hampton, VA – Convention Center - *SGK*
- ⇒ November 26-27, 2016 – Harrisonburg, VA – Rockingham County Fairgrounds - *Showmasters and C&E*

MARYLAND 2016

- ⇒ November 12-13, 2016 – Frederick, MD – Frederick Fairgrounds – *Silverado Gun Shows*

PENNSYLVANIA 2016

- ⇒ October 29-30, 2016 – Gettysburg, PA - Allstar Events Complex - *Civil War, World War I, World War II & Antique Gun Show*
- ⇒ October 29-30, 2016 - Wind Gap/Easton, PA - Plainfield Township Fire Company Social Hall – *Eagle Arms Productions*
- ⇒ October 29-30, 2016 – York, PA – Fairgrounds, Memorial Hall - *Appalachian Promotions*
- ⇒ November 5, 2016 (1 day only) – Shippensburg, PA – Shippensburg Auction Center – *The Hunters Gun Show*
- ⇒ November 5-6, 2016 – Lebanon, PA - Lebanon Valley Expo Center - *Eagle Arms Productions*
- ⇒ November 5-6, 2016 – Philadelphia, PA – National Guard Armory - *The Gun Shows*
- ⇒ November 12-13, 2016 – Leesport, PA - Farmers Market - *The Gun Shows*
- ⇒ November 12-13, 2016 - North Huntingdon, PA - The Country Place – *Guns and Ammo Shop*
- ⇒ November 12-13, 2016 – Lake Harmony, PA – Split Rock Resort - *Eagle Arms Productions*
- ⇒ November 19-20, 2016 – Allentown, PA – Roadway Inn Expo Center – *Eagle Arms Productions*
- ⇒ November 19-20, 2016 – Hermitage, PA – Hickory Post VFW – *LR Gun Show*
- ⇒ November 26-27, 2016 - Monroeville, PA - Monroeville Convention Center - *Showmasters and C&E*

DISPLAY FOR 2017 NRA MEETING IN ATLANTA

The next NRA Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 2017 in Atlanta, Georgia. The VGCA has had winning displays at previous NRA Meetings. If any member wants to put on a display, please contact a Board Director. This is an opportunity to highlight your knowledge and collection. We have had at least two members who are thinking about it but have not committed. Putting on an NRA display would not be a single person act. Other members of the club can contribute their help or items from their collections. It could be a “club effort” involving multiple members. For instance, one member who is considering a display needs additional items related to *Model 1861 Navy “Plymouth” Rifle*. These would include bayonets, accessories, accoutrements, documentation, or other naval items from that period. Or a French *Carabine a Tige*, on which the Plymouth rifle was based.

The e-mail address for any Newsletter related matters or a submission is Newsletter@vgca.net or you can read 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 Larry Hare.