



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.NET

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

NRA Affiliate Number G8162

CMP Affiliate Number 026160



President
Show/Reservations Manager
Membership

Bernie Breighner
Rick Nahas
Bill Chronister

Phone: 703-200-0470
Cell: 571-215-8761
Phone: 703-204-0138

BFBKAC@gmail.com
jet53sw@aol.com
Vgca_membership@cox.net

Website: www.vgca.net
Facebook: @VirginiaGunCollectorsAssoc

Twitter: @VAGunCollectrs
Instagram: @vaguncollectors

October 2019 VGCA Newsletter

President's Comments

Hi everyone!

We are rapidly approaching our November Gun Show. I am pleased to announce that we are now "Sold Out" with no table space available. Many thanks to Rick Nahas and the team for their hard work in making this happen.

I want to remind everyone that show vendor set up will not start until Friday, 2 p.m. until 8 p.m. Please plan your arrival times accordingly.

We are still looking for volunteers for show security on Saturday and Sunday. If interested, please sign up at the October membership meeting.

We are also rapidly approaching the November elections. I urge everyone to vote to protect our rights as they are severely threatened this year. The results from this election could have a serious impact on Virginia's law-abiding gun owners for years to come.

This month's meeting is dedicated to the history of the VGCA. We hope to have many of our long-time members relate some of the stories from the early days of our club. I am really looking forward to this presentation!

I hope to see you there!

--*Bernie Breighner*, VGCA President



♣ September Presentation ♣

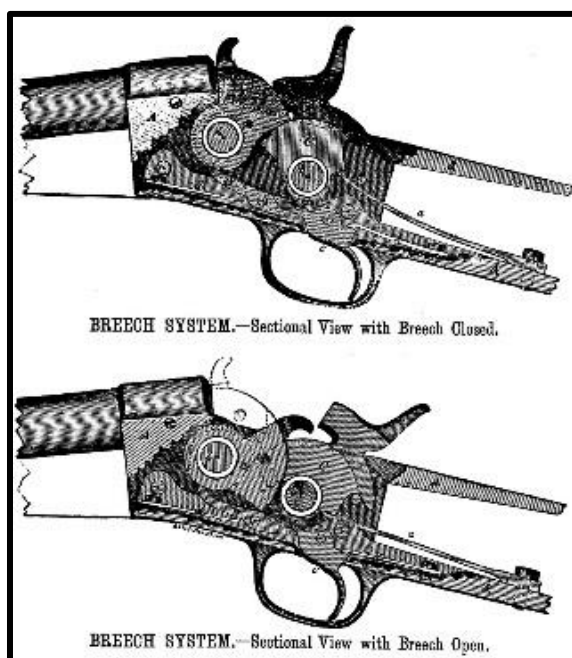
Percussion Conversions to Metallic Cartridge Breechloaders

At our September meeting, member Marc Gorelick gave the third in his series of presentations on U.S. conversions of percussion muzzleloaders to metallic cartridge breechloaders. This presentation covered some of the lesser-known conversions that took place after the American Civil War.

To set the stage, recall from August's presentation that following the Civil War, the United States Army realized that breechloading cartridge rifles represented the future of infantry arms. However, the Army had over one million muzzleloaders in storage – and no money for new weapons. The only viable option available the U.S. armed forces was to convert existing rifles into breechloaders.



The first conversion Marc covered in September involved the Remington Rolling Block action. While new-built Remington Rolling Blocks were popular in the United States and abroad for almost four decades, the Springfield-Remington and Remington Transformed Rifles are less well known. The M1868 Transformed Rifle consisted of M1863 or M1864 rifles that had been cut into two parts and had the Remington action inserted in the middle. At the same time, the barrels were sleeved with a .50 caliber liner and chambered in .50/70 centerfire. Remington converted the barrels and provided the actions to Springfield Armory, which then converted 504 rifles to the M1868 for field trials. The Transformed Rifles were generally not popular with troops in the field when compared to the 2nd Model Allin Conversions and in 1873, the remaining M1868s were sold as surplus.



Remington Model 1868 Transformed Rifle – line drawing at left and view of the open breech at right

Remington did convert additional rifles on its own and sold thousands in .58 centerfire to state militias in South Carolina and Texas. Many more were converted and sold overseas – for example, Turkey purchased 125,000 converted rifles and France bought 21,500 during the Franco-Prussian War. The last recorded sale of converted rolling blocks was 400 to the Dominican Republic in 1888.

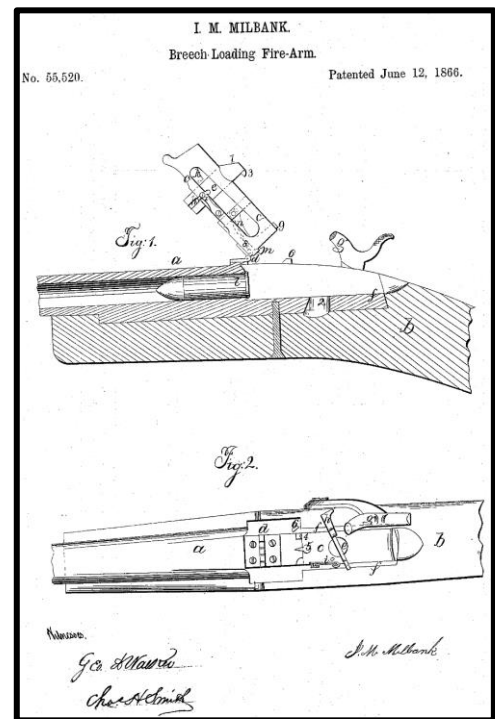
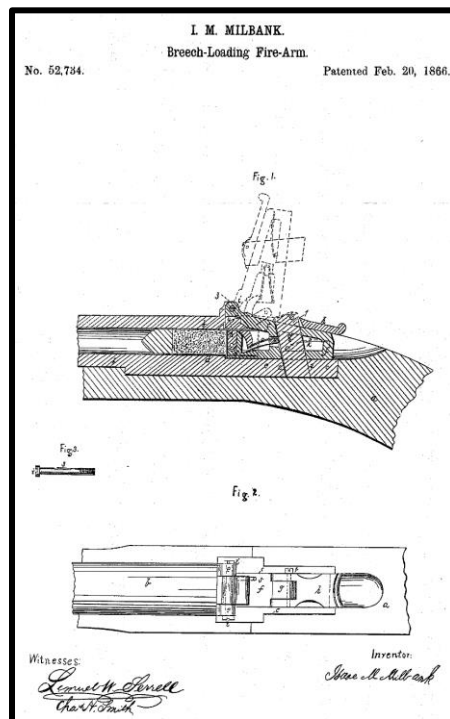
Remington also converted a small number of rifles using a trapdoor system. Patented in England but not the U.S., only three examples (one a converted Springfield M1863, the other two converted Enfield Pattern 1853s) chambered in .58 Rimfire are known.

The next conversion described by Marc was the Needham, with its distinctive side-swinging gate. Developed by London gun-makers Joseph and George Needham, these conversions were chambered in .58 Berdan centerfire. Associated with the Fenian Brotherhood (see the Show-n-Tell section in last month's VGCA Newsletter) and their associated "invasions" of Canada, the Needham was not a strong or reliable action and was never formally adopted by any country.

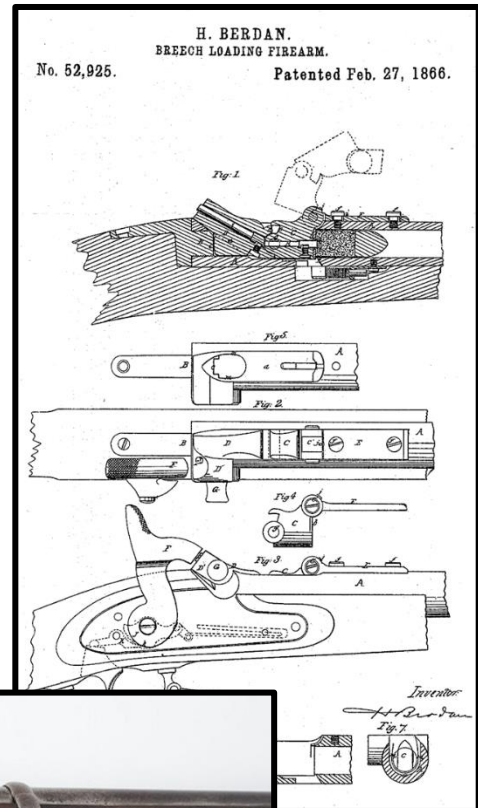


Needham Conversion – close up of closed action at left and open action on right

Isaac Milbank designed a number of conversion systems, including a side-gate breech in .58 Rimfire similar to the Needham and a trapdoor conversion similar to the Allin. Though none of the Milbank systems were successful during U.S. trials, two of his trapdoor patents (*seen at right*) would be used to form the basis of the Swiss Milbank-Amsler conversions.



In Marc's words, Hiram Berdan was "a brilliant mechanical engineer, inventor, and military officer, world-renowned marksman, and organizer and commander of the famed 1st and 2nd U.S. Volunteer Sharpshooter Regiments during the Civil War. One of his many inventions (which included a machine to separate gold from gold ore and a mechanical bakery) was a cartridge conversion system. A trapdoor design, his conversion evolved through several iterations, each making improvements over the last. The first, the Type 1, incorporated a hinged two-piece breech (*top diagram at right*). This was not successful and was replaced by the Type 2 with a solid breechblock. 2,000 of the Type 2 were manufactured in .58 Berdan by Remington. Maryland equiped two militia companies with this rifle, but they were not well liked. A stronger mechanism to hold the breechblock closed was the primary improvement found in the Type 3. Although the Type 3 was adopted by the U.S. Army, in 1867 it was used as the basis for converting Spanish Model 1857 carbines and Model 1859 rifles for that country.



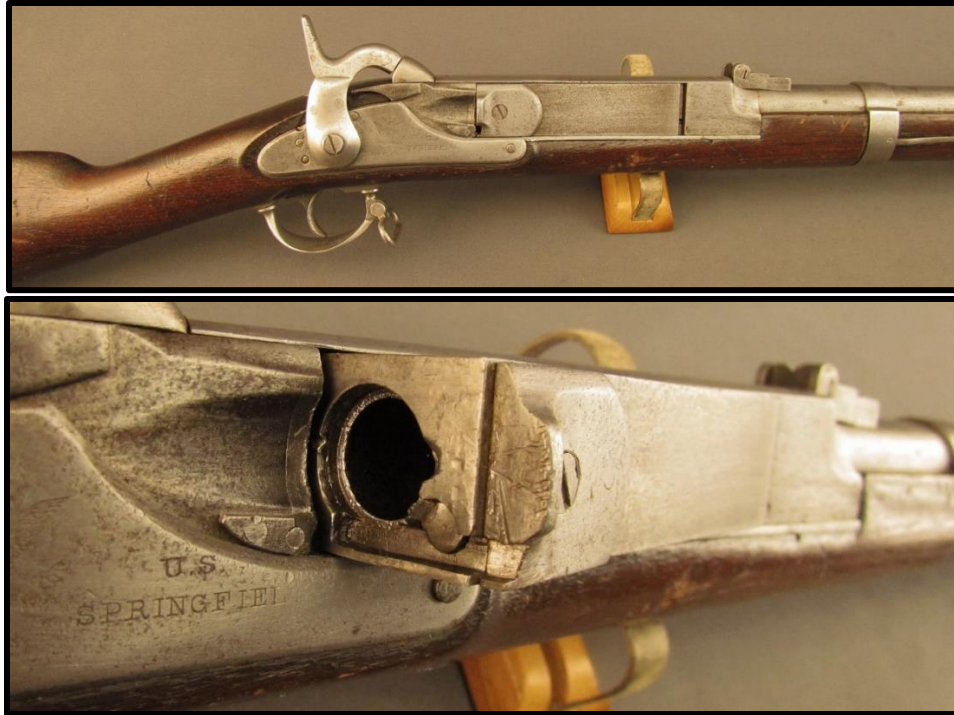
Berdan Cartridge Conversion (above)

Bethel Burton of Brooklyn, NY, was a firearms innovator who was ahead of his time. His original bolt action patent, for a percussion breechloader, was in December of 1859. Nine years later, in 1868, he revised his system to work with metallic cartridges and received a new patent. Burton's conversion system chambered a .58 centerfire round and utilized a bolt with interrupted threads similar to an artillery breech (*photo at right*). Burton attempted to sell his conversion to several countries, including Great Britain, Spain, Italy, France and Russia, and though it was generally praised it garnered no sales. Burton would later partner with Colonel William Ward. Springfield Armory would make over 1,000 Burton-Ward Model 1871 rifles in .50/70 and 316 carbines in .50/55 for field trials. These would be the first bolt actions ever



manufactured at Springfield. The Ward-Burton did poorly in field trials and the U.S. Army went on adopt the Model 1873 Trapdoor in .45/70.

The Merlett conversion featured a laterally swinging side-breech. Designed by John Merlett (who was granted a patent in 1868), the Merlett converted a Model 1861 Rifle-Musket and fired a .58 caliber round. In this case, the entire chamber swung to the right, not just a block covering the rear of the chamber. The Merlett was not successful.



Merlett Cartridge Conversion (Photos courtesy of Joe Salter)

The Sharps and Hankins conversions is an adaptation of the classic sliding Sharps and Hankins action (one of the best carbines used during the Civil War and large numbers were available for conversion). While the original calibers were .54 S&H rimfire and .52 and .56 Spencer, the barrels were relined to fire the .50/70 cartridge. A lever under the action was rotated forward, moving the entire barrel forward about 2 ¼ inches for loading (see photographs at right).



The Brown-Merrill was a bolt-action conversion of the British Pattern 1853 Enfield rifle, many of which were imported and used by both the North and the South during the Civil War. It was an extensive conversion that unlike most of the others described, even removed the side lock plate and hammer (replaced by a wooden spacer). It utilized a centerline hammer that was cocked as the bolt was unlocked and brought to the rear. Originally chambered in .58 centerfire, it has also been encountered in .58 rimfire and the sample gun entered into the U.S. Army trials in 1872 was chambered in .50/70. During those trials it was plagued by misfires and became increasingly difficult to operate. It was rejected.



A Pattern 1853 Enfield (above) before conversion with the bolt action Brown-Merrill (below) after conversion



One last conversion described by Marc, the Van Choate, was similar to the Brown-Merrill. Like the Brown-Merrill, it was manufactured by Brown, entered into the Army's 1872 trials, and rejected.

Marc provided a thoroughly enjoyable and informative presentation on a time period of great experimentation and innovation in firearms design. Not all of these designs were winners, but they were important steps in transitioning the world from percussion muzzleloaders to breechloading cartridge guns. On behalf of the VGCA - thank you Marc!



★ **September Business:** VGCA Vice President Wes Chappell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Jim Burgess led the membership in reciting the U.S. Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of our country. There were 65 VGCA members and guests in attendance and the guests were introduced by their sponsors/hosts.



Wes (*left*) made a few business announcements. The first being that our Annual Christmas Pot Luck Dinner and Swap Meet is scheduled for Thursday, 12 December 2019. As always, the club will provide the main course (normally a delicious ham!) and the drinks with everything else provided by the members. Join us for a relaxing night that will include a Swap Meet and Show-n-Tell!

The VGCA Picnic tentatively scheduled in October at the NORVA Range is postponed. Look for details of a rescheduled picnic after the New Year.

Wes also provided a quick update on our November Gun Show. It is a sell out with all the tables rented!

REMINDER – only table holders and set-up/security volunteers will be allowed in the show building on Friday, November 1st. Also, no one will be allowed to set up prior to 2 p.m. that day.

Director Dave Litchfield asked for volunteers to make presentations at our membership meetings in 2020. There are 3-4 confirmed speakers so far but there are several open dates. If interested, please contact him at 703-624-8696. UPDATE: As of the publication date of this newsletter, we have speakers for each of our meetings next year. Thanks to all who volunteered!

Dave is also soliciting ideas for potential Field Trips next year. If you have any ideas for a firearms-related, club-sponsored trip (either a local day trip or 2-3 day adventure), please contact Dave Litchfield.

Steve Gomes passed around sign-up sheets for security volunteers at our November Show. Please consider signing up for a few hours to provide show security. Dates are Friday, November 1st (set up), Saturday, November 2nd, and Sunday November 3rd. NOTE: This will be Steve's last show as security manager. If interested in replacing Steve, please contact him or one the officers/directors.

Bill Chronister announced that we have eight newly confirmed members with one additional member pending approval. We have also learned of the passing of two life members. This means our membership stands at exactly 500!

Finally, there was a review of potential new gun control laws that are being proposed by the Virginia Governor. These proposals are wide-ranging and harsh – magazine restrictions, limiting firearms purchases to one per month, an "assault weapons" ban, a ban on suppressors, background checks for ammunition purchases, limits on the numbers of guns you can own and the amount of ammunition you can have, universal background checks on all firearms sales, etc. etc. The only way we can fight these oppressive (and truth be told, ineffective against crime) measures is to . . . **VOTE!** All Virginia residents were reminded that the outcome of this November's election might be the most important one for Virginia gun owners in many years.

PLEASE HELP!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE VGCA TABLE AT THE NEXT CHANTILLY GUN SHOW

The next Chantilly show at the Dulles Expo Center is coming up (November 22-24) and we are looking for a few volunteers for the VGCA promotional table. This is an opportunity to spend a few hours with fellow gun collecting enthusiasts, meet new people, help the club, and get free admittance into a big show!

Our objective is to have two or more folks assigned throughout each day. This gives everyone the opportunity to walk the show while others are promoting the club. If you want, you can work more than one day and shift.

Remember - volunteers who help us at the table get into the show for free. This is significant benefit when the admission price keeps going up. It is now \$16 for 1-day and \$22 for a 3-day pass. Volunteers are needed for Friday (3 - 8 p.m.), Saturday (9 a.m. – 5 p.m.), or Sunday (10 a.m. – 5 p.m.). If interested, please contact Marc Gorelick or any VGCA Officer / Director.

[illegible]

New Members: Please welcome our new Annual Members -

- Congratulations and welcome aboard. Your Annual Membership ID has already been sent to you.

- **Joseph Langone** of Sterling, VA is sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**

New Member IDs: Prospective members are announced in the VGCA Newsletter for member review. If there are no issues, the membership is effective 30 days after publication in the newsletter. Membership IDs are prepared and brought to the Monthly Membership Meeting following publication. If the new member is not present, the ID is mailed to their mailing address a few days after the meeting. If you did not get an ID or renewal sticker please let me know by e-Mail. Make sure you provide your full mailing address and contact info so I can verify the mailing address and get an ID or renewal sticker to you. Please send an E-mail to **Bill Chronister, Membership Chair** at vgca_membership@cox.net.

Failure to pay Annual Dues by January 1, 2020 will result in your being dropped as a member. To re-join, you must complete the new member process. For questions, please email **Bill Chronister, Membership Chair** at vgca_membership@cox.net or call me at 703-204-0138.

.....
Please detach and return with your payment
.....

Membership Renewal Request (AMR-NL#1-2020)
William Chronister, P.O. Box 2318, Merrifield, VA 22116-2318

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 2020 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 roster.

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

.....
Please detach and return with your payment
.....

Your Club Needs You!



We are still looking for volunteers to help in the following areas:

- VGCA Website update and maintenance – we are looking for a dedicated individual to assist with updating and maintaining the VGCA website. This is the first impression that the general public gets of the VGCA and it requires regular attention. Please contact Ian Wulf (ic.wulf@gmail.com) or Wes Chappell (wesley@chappellfam.com) if interested.
- Show Security Manager – Steve Gomes is moving out of the area and we need someone to replace him. Duties include organizing security volunteers for our two gun shows each year. If interested, please contact any officer or director
- Gun Show Road Sign Director – Our road signs have historically been an important element of advertising for our two gun shows every year. We need someone to coordinate volunteers to put out and pick our road signs. Please contact any officer or director if interested.
- Merchandise Director (aka “Minister of Merchandise”) – we need someone to take the lead on researching, securing orders, collecting money, and distributing VGCA merchandise. The sky is the limit here – items could include shirts, hats, lanyards, coffee mugs – just about anything with a VGCA logo. If interested, please contact any officer or director.

VGCA ANNUAL MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The **VGCA Member of the Year Award** recognizes the member who the membership believes has done the most during the past year for the club and/or gun collecting. The annual **Member of the Year Award** is a way for you, the membership, to publically recognizing a member in good standing who selflessly went above and beyond for the club or for collecting during 2019. All VGCA members except sitting Board members are eligible to receive the award.

All members who attend the October and December meetings will have an opportunity to vote for the person of their choice. A ballot box and slips of paper will be available. Just write in the name of the member you think should get the award and the reason you think he or she should get it (what he or she has done in 2019). No preselected list of names will be presented for voting – this is your choice from start to finish.

After the votes have been counted the person being recognized will be announced at the January 2020 meeting and presented with his/her award.

Reasons for being selected include, but are not limited to:

- Volunteering for set-up or security, or other duties before or during the shows
- Volunteering other services to the VGCA, such as setting up trips or administering club programs
- Giving presentations at meetings
- Promoting the VGCA or gun collecting as a whole
- Putting on displays not just at our shows but other shows to enhance collecting
- Writing articles to further collecting
- Recruiting new members to the VGCA

Remember – Only those members in good standing who attend the October and December meetings will have the opportunity to nominate and vote for the **Member of the Year Award** for 2019. So come to the meetings and vote for your choice.

REMINDERS!

To assist with maintaining a safe and secure environment, the following rules will be enforced during gun show set up on November 1st:

1. Only table holders and set up/security volunteers will be allowed in the building.
2. Volunteers and table holders must wear their membership/table holder badges.
3. No one is to start setting up their table(s) until AFTER 2 p.m.

★ **ATTENTION MEMBERS: Have you the authored a book/magazine article, or published research on Firearms, Gun Collecting, History, or related subjects?**

The VGCA is fortunate to have a diverse membership with a large amount of expertise, experience, and knowledge! If you are - or know any member who is - a published author or researcher, please know that the Virginia Gun Collectors Association, Inc. wants to feature your works on the VGCA website, at gun shows, in the VGCA newsletters (see the FOR SALE section of this newsletter), and/or at VGCA meetings. We also invite you to consider giving a presentation on your works at one of our meetings. If you have any questions or wish to be included, please direct any information, including titles, publishing information, or contact information to: Bill Chronister, Membership Chairman at vgca_membership@cox.net or at home on 703-204-0138.

★ **Show-n-Tell** ★

NOTE: Anyone bringing in items for Show-n-Tell, please hold them up so the members can see it. This will also help your Volunteer Photographer get a decent photograph of the special item you brought to show, and people who could not attend the meeting can see it clearly in the newsletter. Thank you!

Member 1 (at right) shared a M1863/67 Milbank-Amsler Trapdoor conversion. The original Model 1863 percussion rifle was converted by Ostschweiz in 1867 to fire the new 10.4x38 (.41 Swiss Rimfire) round. These conversions, along with The 1867 Swiss Peabody rifles procured from the U.S., served as interim cartridge rifles until the Vetterli rifles were adopted.



Speaking of Swiss rifles, Member 2 (*right*) brought in a beautiful private series Swiss K31. The K31 served as the primary Swiss battle rifle from 1933 through 1958. Over 528,000 of these straight pull bolt actions were made during this time. This example was made for private sale in 1958 with parts left over from military production and was used in rifle competitions in Switzerland (a popular pastime there). It features diopter precision target sights and has several stickers on the stock indicating the matches it was used in from 1983 to 2003 (*inset far right*). There is an inlaid nameplate on the right side of the stock with the name “Paul Bruhwiler” – a former owner. Member 2 was intrigued by this rifle when it came up for sale on line, and after getting a “thumbs up” from our resident VGCA Swiss expert (Member 1 above!), quickly purchased it. One of the features that sets this rifle apart from other K31s is the beautiful wood used in the stock!



Member 3 brought in Danish Cavalry Model Remington Rolling Block (*at left*). Chambered in .45 Rimfire, it features a compartment on top of the stock that holds 10 extra rounds.

Member 3 also shared a Danish Navy Model Rolling Block, also chambered in .45 Rimfire. Remington produced 40,000 Model 1867s for Denmark in 1867-1868, after which Denmark went on to produce over 31,000 rifles and 7,000 carbines more under license to Remington. This one was made in 1867.

Member 4 brought in a very nice World War I era No.1 Mark III (*at right*) – also known as the Short Magazine Lee Enfield (SMLE – pronounced “smelly”). This example still retains the magazine cut-off lever (which would allow the soldier to use the rifle as a single shot and keep the loaded magazine in reserve – a theoretical tactic that was not used much in practice) as well as the long range volley sights on the left side of the rifle (intended for extreme long-

range unit-

level suppressive fire – another theoretical tactic with limited application). Both of these features were later eliminated from production in the No. 1 Mark III* and taken off of older weapons when they went through refurbishment. Thus it is not common to find them still intact. This example was made by Birmingham Small Arms in 1915 and has a yet unidentified unit stock disc (*pictured at left – possibly representing the 10th Battalion of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment (?)*) that is dated December 1915.



Member 5 gave us a peek at one of the U.S. Army surplus Model 1911 pistols (*right*) recently offered for sale by the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP). The CMP sold 8,000 of these semi-automatic pistols in 2018 and has been delivering them over the last several months – Member 5 received his in August. This example (designated by CMP as a “Service Grade”) is a WWI-era frame with a straight main spring housing, not an arched housing like the later M1911A1s. The slide and .45 ACP barrel are 1945 vintage, with the barrel stamped “SA”

indicating it has been through a “re-arsenal” refit/repair. It is an excellent example of the long-serving, Browning-designed U.S. military sidearm.





Member 6 brought in a Hudson H9 (at left). Announced at the 2017 Shot Show in Las Vegas, the Hudson H9 is a striker-fired Model 1911 chambered in 9mm Parabellum (9x19) with a proprietary 15-round double-stack magazine. It features a threaded barrel, a low bore axis and is relatively heavy due to its steel frame. It was also expensive at nearly \$1200. At the 2018 Shot Show, Hudson announced a lighter, aluminum-framed version for \$200 less than its steel predecessor – but, unfortunately, Hudson subsequently went bankrupt.

Member 7 shared that he had been looking for a Winchester Model 1897 “Trench/Riot Gun” for quite a while when he found this retired state police gun at a Maryland gun show in the early 1980s. It had definitely seen better days and featured a dented barrel, a broken stock, and generous amounts of rust. He got the scattergun for a very good price on the last day of the



show – and then the work began. The dent was eliminated by cutting the 12 gauge barrel to 18 ¼ inches. The broken stock was “fixed” by cutting the stock to the pistol grip – still keeping the overall length over 26 inches. A refinish took care of the rust. An added heat shield completed the makeover of this Winchester originally made in 1944 (see above). Though not an actual “Trench Gun,” it is a “genuine” Winchester Model 1897 “A1”!

Member 8 collects Ruger .22 Pistols. He had been looking for a rare early variant with a 5 ¼ inch tapered bull barrel, micro sight, and two-piece bolt. Finding one on Gunbroker that was advertised as having the more common 5-inch barrel, he compared the pictures to known samples, measuring and re-measuring different barrel proportions. Taking a gamble that the gun was

misidentified, he won the auction and anxiously awaited its arrival. Diligence and research paid off, and Member 8 found himself the owner of a 1953 Ruger Mark I with a 5 ¼-inch barrel (*above*)! Nicely done sir – nicely done!



In keeping with the night's theme, Member 9 brought a cartridge conversion rifle from "across the pond." It was a Snider Mark II Short Rifle (*at left*). In the late 1860s, the British Army found itself in the same position as the U.S. Army – needing to take advantage of the obvious superiority of breech-loading cartridge rifles, but saddled with a large inventory of percussion muzzle-loaders and limited funds. A conversion was the answer. The system selected was designed by an American named Jacob Snider and consisted of a side-hinged breechblock firing a .577 centerfire

round (480-grain bullet over 60 grains of black powder for a muzzle velocity of ~1300 fps). Conversions of Pattern 1853 Enfields began in 1866. The Snider Mark I and Mark II were conversions of existing rifles. By 1869, all suitable 1853s had been converted, and new Snider rifles were manufactured from 1869 through 1874. These were designated Marks III and IV. In 1874, the Martini-Henry single-shot lever action was adopted by the British Army and the Sniders were distributed throughout the Commonwealth. This example started out as a Pattern 1853 made in 1864 and was converted in 1868 or 1869. From the "DC in a Diamond" cartouche on the stock, it was issued by the Dominion of Canada at some point in its history.

★ In Review ★

The “In Review” section to the newsletter includes VGCA member reviews of guns shows, books, and museums. If you would like to submit a review, please send it to the editor at rpebecker@verizon.net.

Museum

A TRIP TO THE MUSEUM: **WOOLAROC MUSEUM & WILDLIFE PRESERVE** **COLT and WINCHESTER COLLECTIONS**

Marc Gorelick, VGCA



Hidden away in the rugged Osage Hills of northeastern Oklahoma, is perhaps one of the most comprehensive collections of Colt and Winchester firearms today. Woolaroc was established in 1925 as the ranch retreat of Oklahoma oilman Frank Phillips, founder of Phillips Petroleum. The ranch is a now 3,700 acre wildlife preserve with a rustic lodge, and is home to many species of native and exotic wildlife, such as buffalo, elk and longhorn cattle. The museum itself had its humble beginnings in 1929 and many of the items in it were donated by members of the Phillips family. Phillip Q. Phillips, assembled a world-class collection of Colt handguns and Winchester rifles which is the centerpiece of the museum's firearms exhibits. The museum's firearms

collection is based on three world-class collections – the Phillip Q. Phillips collection, the Waldo Wilson collection, and the Russell Straight Winchester collection.



A display case of Colt pistols in the Woolaroc Museum.

The Woolaroc's Colt collection is significant in that it includes several of the very first revolving cylinder repeating weapons made in the United States and traces the development of Colt firearms into the post-World War II era. The encyclopedic collection has the full catalog of Colt's named revolvers from the 1830s to 1980s all on display in one room. It is impeccably organized, and reads like a litany of nearly every version of Colt revolvers: On display are many variations and models of the Paterson, Walker, Dragoon, the 'boxy' 1850s & 'curvy' 1860s Army and Navy, Root's Side Hammer, Single Action Army, Double Action Army, New Service, Police Positive, Colt 1900, '03, '06 & 1911s until the 1980s, and the 'Snake Guns' of the 1950s and '60s. The museum also has examples of experimental, prototype and cutaway Colts of almost every generation, including a rare 'patent' gun. Many of the prototypes which were used by the Colt factory in the development of new models of weapons are on display.



Colt Patterson Number 5, .36 caliber, 1836. Photo – Woolaroc Museum



In addition, there are many fine examples of engraved and decorated guns from both the great artists of the 19th century, such as Young, Nimschke, and Helfrich, as well as mid-20th century artists such as A.A. White, Rudolph Kornbrath and Waffen Bock (*see the engraved Colt Python at left*).

The Waldo Wilson collection features semi-automatic pistols based on the designs of John Moses Browning. The examples on display were made by manufacturers such as Singer (of sewing machine fame), Union Switch and Signal, Ithaca Arms, Remington Arms, Remington Rand, North American Arms, and of course, Colt, under contracts from the United States Government. John Browning's designs for Colt's semi-automatic pistols are displayed in a fascinating incremental evolution from the Colt M1900 through the M1911. Many of the early Browning designed Colt automatics and 1911s on display are extremely rare experimental models, prototypes, limited runs, test guns, and low serial numbers. For instance, these include a Colt Model 1909 Automatic Pistol serial number 13, one of 23 pistols made for military trials and tested by the US Army Ordnance Dept. at Ft. Myer, Virginia in

1910. In addition, there is an extensive exhibit of the Colt Woodsman, the little brother of the 1911, which is shown in all its models, both factory and custom decorated.



Some rare Colts: Top left – Colt Model 1909, S/N 13. Top right – Colt Model 1910 S/N 5. Bottom left – Colt 1911, S/N 4. Bottom right – Colt 1910, S/N 6. Photos – Woolaroc Museum.

In 1981 Russell Straight generously donated his extensive Winchester collection to the Woolaroc Museum. The Russell Straight collection contains examples of Winchester firearms of every type, age and caliber, from the very first models through the mid-20th century. The Winchester exhibit is adjacent to the Colt displays.

But the Woolaroc is more than just a gun museum. It is a cultural and art museum. It presents one of America's most unique displays of Native American art and artifacts. Material from about 40 different tribes is displayed to tell the story of man's cultural development in the New World. Artifacts of early man trace the prehistoric civilizations in Oklahoma. Baskets, pottery and Navajo blankets show the Native American civilization of the Navajo, Apache, Hopi and Pueblos located in Arizona and New Mexico. And many artifacts of the Plains tribes are prominently displayed.

As expected in a “western” museum, the focus of the Woolaroc’s art collection is the American West. The collection includes a broad representation of paintings by many of the "Old Masters" of western art, such as Frederic Remington, Charles M. Russell, William R. Leigh, Frank Tenney Johnson and Thomas Moran. More contemporary artists such as Wilson Hurley, John Clymer, Clark Hulings, and Bettina Steinke are also represented, as are five of the original six Taos Society Artists: O.E. Berninghaus, E.I. Couse, Herbert Dunton, Bert Phillips, and J.H. Sharp.



A gallery in the museum. Photo – Woolaroc Museum

Illustrating the history of Oklahoma and the American West in three dimensions is the sculpture collection which also includes pieces by many of the great western artists, including Remington and Russell. The 12 bronzes that were entered in the 1927 Pioneer Woman contest, created by the best sculptors of the day, are prominently displayed. Heroic-sized sculptures by Bryant Baker and Jo Mora are located both inside and outside the Museum. And works by contemporary sculptors such as Harry Jackson, Joe Beeler and John D. Free also grace the Woolaroc collection.



The Woolaroc Museum also displays several other collections such as the saddles and gear of cowboys and several carts and wagons. There is a large display of ranch memorabilia, including old photographs. And as is fitting for a museum located in a nature reserve, there is also an exhibit dealing with the American Bison and its impact on the New World culminating in its near extinction.

The museum and nature preserve embody the natural environment, cultural heritage, history and early values that made America great. It is a diverse and unique experience to be enjoyed by the entire family.



Woolaroc is located at 1925 Woolaroc Ranch Road, Bartlesville, OK 74003, on Oklahoma State Highway 123, about 12 miles southwest of Bartlesville and 45 miles north of Tulsa, Oklahoma. The phone number is (918) 336-0307. Admission is \$12 for guests ages 12 -64, \$10 for ages 65 and older. Children 11 and younger are free. It is open year round. The regular schedule is 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday and closed Monday and Tuesday. During the summer it is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

on Tuesday through Sunday and closed only on Monday from Memorial Day through Labor Day. It is closed Thanksgiving and Christmas day. For additional information, the website address is:

<https://woolaroc.org/pages/museum-and-art>.



★ Another Successful Weekend at the September Chantilly Gun Show!

The VGCA officers and directors would like to extend a special “thank you” to those members who graciously volunteered to represent the VGCA at our table during the last Chantilly Gun Show (September 27-29, 2019). While the rest of us were scouring the show for deals (or perhaps operating sales tables at the show), these volunteers were busy recruiting for us! They are:

FRIDAY

TJ Parmele
Alan Rupp
Marc Gorelick

SATURDAY

King Von Schilling
Monte & Nancy Hand
Bill Chronister
Marc Gorelick

SUNDAY

Jim Burgess
Joe Roberts
John Elliott
Marc Gorelick

Special thanks go out to Marc Gorelick for continuing to organize the table and scheduling the volunteers. Also, “thank you!” to King Von Schilling for bringing in and displaying several collectible Colt revolvers and pistols, Jim Burgess for displaying a Model 1874 Sharps Sporting Rifle in .44 caliber, and Marc Gorelick for displaying a Swedish CG-63 Match Rifle in 6.5x55. These contributions helped to set our table apart from others at the show and sparked many conversations with potential new members.

The VGCA table at Chantilly has been almost solely responsible for doubling our new annual members this past year (one more potential new member was signed up during this show). Since January, we have directly signed up over 30 new members at Chantilly, with many others picking up applications there and joining at a VGCA meeting or at our show. This growth simply would not have happened without the support of our volunteers. Again – thank you!

Please contact Marc Gorelick or any other VGCA officer or director if you are interested in volunteering at future shows. The next Chantilly Gun Show is on November 22-24, 2019.



★ 2019 Presentation List ★

The following presentations are scheduled for our remaining 2019 membership meetings:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PRESENTATION</u>	<u>PRESENTER</u>
October 24 th	History of the VGCA	Dave Litchfield
November	No membership meeting scheduled due to our Fall Gun Show	
December 12 th	Holiday Pot Luck and Annual Swap Meet	No presentation



TAKE THE TIME TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 5! YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT!

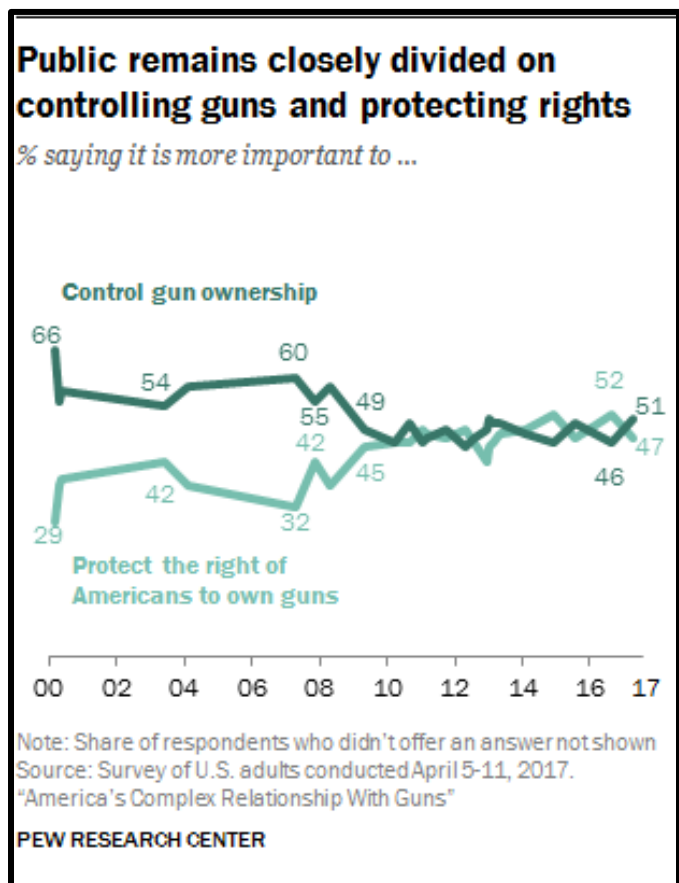
Marc Gorelick, VGCA



All American citizens have the duty to exercise their right to vote and determine who will represent them. For those who believe in preserving our rights, in particular the 2nd Amendment, the right to keep and bear arms, the upcoming election on November 5 is particularly important. You will have to take the time to vote if you want to see your 2nd Amendment rights preserved. The anti-gun people are pulling out all the stops to get their candidates elected in Virginia. Preserving your liberty costs only a little time and effort on your part. If you don't vote you are letting someone else determine your future and rights.

Whether it is a local, state or federal election, it is up to each and every one of us to help preserve the Constitution and our rights and freedoms. Every vote counts and upcoming elections are critically important. If you don't vote and those who would attack the Constitution and take away your rights and property get into office, then you will only have yourself to blame.

Per the Pew Research Center, public opinion between restricting gun ownership and preserving the right to own a gun is almost evenly divided (*see chart at right*).



★ 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 or shows.

VIRGINIA – 2019-2020

- Oct 19-20, 2019 – Roanoke, VA – The Berglund Center – *Showmasters*
- Oct 19-20, 2019 – Virginia Beach, VA – Virginia Beach Convention Center – *SGK*
- Oct 26-27, 2019 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fredericksburg Expo & Convention Center – *SGK*
- Oct 26-27, 2019 – Woodstock, VA – Moose Lodge – *Sporting Shows Unlimited*
- Nov 2-3, 2019 – Manassas, VA – Prince William County Fairgrounds – *VGCA (our show!)*
- Nov 2-3, 2019 – Weyers Cave, VA – Weyers Cave Community Center – *Sporting Shows Unltd*
- Nov 9-10, 2019 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex – *Showmasters*
- Nov 16-17, 2019 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex – *Capital of the Confederacy Civil War Show – MK Shows*
- Nov 16-17, 2019 – Woodstock, VA – Shenandoah County Fairgrounds – *C&E Gun Shows*
- Nov 22-24, 2019 - Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- Nov 30-Dec 1, 2019 - Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK*
- Dec 7-8, 2019 - Fishersville, VA – Augusta Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- Dec 14-15, 2019 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fredericksburg Expo & Convention Center – *SGK*
- Dec 21-22, 2019 – Dale City, VA – Dale City VFW Post 1503 - *Showmasters*
- Dec 21-22, 2019 – Salem, VA - Salem Civic Center - *C&E*
- Dec 27-29, 2019 - Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- Jan 4-5, 2020 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex – *Showmasters*
- Jan 11-12, 2020 - Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK*
- Jan 11-12, 2020 – Weyers Cave, VA – Weyers Cave Community Center – *Sporting Shows Unltd*
- Jan 25-26, 2020 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fredericksburg Expo & Convention Center – *SGK*
- Jan 25-26, 2020 - Fishersville, VA – Augusta Expo Center – *Showmasters*

BREAKING NEWS! The Prince William County Fairgrounds management has confirmed that they will host both our spring and fall Gun Shows for next year. The PWC Fairgrounds are for sale and the future of our gun shows there has been uncertain, so this is good news!

MARYLAND – 2019-2020

- Oct 19-20, 2019 – Timonium, MD – Timonium Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Nov 9-10, 2019 – Frederick, MD – Frederick Fairgrounds - *Silverado*
- Nov 9-10, 2019 – Easton, MD – Talbot County Community Center – *Eastern Shore Arms Collectors*
- Mar 21-22, 2020 – Timonium, MD – Maryland State Fairgrounds – *Maryland Arms Collectors Association (the Baltimore Antique Arms Show)*

PENNSYLVANIA – 2019-2020

- **Oct 19-20, 2019 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds – *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society***
- **Oct 19-20, 2019 – Franklin, PA – Rocky Grove Fire Hall – *Rocky Grove VFD***
- **Oct 19-20, 2019 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center – *Showmasters***
- **Oct 19-20, 2019 – Quarryville, PA – Solanco Fairgrounds – *SLCF-SA***
- **Oct 26-27, 2019 – York, PA – York Fairgrounds-Memorial Hall - *Appalachian Promotions***
- **Oct 26-27, 2019 – Sellersville, PA – Forrest Lodge VFW Hall and Club – *Jaeger Arms***
- **Nov 2, 2019 – Plymouth Meeting, PA – LuLu Shriners – *Pennsylvania Antique Gun Collectors***
- **Nov 2-3, 2019 – Lebanon, PA – Lebanon Valley Expo Center – *Eagle Arms***
- **Nov 2-3, 2019 – Kittanning, PA – 592 Pony Farm Road - *Pony Farm and Trap Gun Club***
- **Nov 3, 2019 – Waynesboro, PA – Renfrew Museum and Park – *Renfrew Museum (18th & 19th Century PA-KY Longrifle Show and Sale)***
- **Nov 7, 2019 – Greencastle, PA – Allison-Antrim Museum – *Allison-Antrim Museum (Antique and Vintage Arms Show)***
- **Nov 9-10, 2019 - Leesport, PA – Leesport Farmers Market – *Appalachian Promotions***
- **Nov 9-10, 2019 – Tarentum, PA – Pittsburgh Mills – *Pennsylvania Gun Collectors Association***
- **Nov 16-17, 2019 – Hermitage, PA – Hickory Post VFW - *LR Gun Shows***
- **Nov 16-17, 2019 – Split Rock, PA – 100 Mossywood Road - *Eagle Arms***
- **Nov 16-17, 2019 – Stroudsburg, PA – Jackson Township Volunteer Fire Co – *Jaeger Arms***
- **Nov 17, 2019 – Portland, PA – William Pensyl Social Hall – *Portland Hook & Ladder Co. #1***
- **Nov 23-24, 2019 – Wind Gap, PA – Plainfield Fire Company – *Eagle Arms***
- **Nov 23-24, 2019 – Carlisle, PA – Carlisle Expo Center – *Eagle Arms***
- **Nov 23-24, 2019 - Philadelphia, PA – National Guard Armory – *Appalachian Promotions***
- **Nov 23-24, 2019 – Thompson, PA – Thompson Volunteer Fire Company – *Jaeger Arms***
- **Nov 30-Dec 1, 2019 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center – *Showmasters***
- **Dec 7-8, 2019 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds – *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society***
- **Dec 14-15, 2019 – Harbor Creek, PA – Harbor Creek Fire Dept Social Hall – *IRSporting Events***
- **Dec 14-15, 2019 - Harrisburg, PA – PA Farm Show Complex – *C&E Gun Shows***
- **Dec 20-22, 2019 – Oaks, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Arms***
- **Dec 28-29, 2019 – Allentown, PA - Econo Lodge – *Eagle Arms***
- **Dec 28-29, 2019 – York, PA – York Fairgrounds-Memorial Hall - *Appalachian Promotions***
- **Jan 11-12, 2019 – Matamoras, PA – Best Western Inn at Hunt's Landing – *Westchester Collectors Club***

SPECIAL NOTE – 2019-2020

- **Nov 9-10, 2019 – Tulsa, OK – Tulsa Fairgrounds (Expo Square) – *Tulsa Arms Collector Association – aka Wanenmacher's (world's largest gun show – over 4200 tables!)***
 - **Nov 23-24, 2019 – Wilmington, OH – The Roberts Centre – *Ohio Gun Collector's Association***
 - **Feb 19-23, 2020 – Louisville, KY – Kentucky Expo Center – *Ohio Valley Military Society***
-

FOR SALE:

The "For Sale" section of the Virginia Gun Collectors Association (VGCA) Newsletter is provided as a service exclusively to the members of the VGCA. The VGCA, its officers, and directors are not responsible for any listings made in any VGCA Newsletter. We are not responsible for the accuracy (condition, value, etc.) of any listings. All buyers, traders, and sellers agree to comply with all local, state, federal, and international laws in regards to items sold via the VGCA Newsletter. It is their duty and responsibility to ensure the quality and value of the transaction and that all such laws are followed at all times. Buy, sell, or trade at your own risk.

If you would like to list an item (or items) in the VGCA Newsletter, please send your description, price, and contact information to rpebecker@verizon.net. I must receive your material no later than the second Sunday of the month for it to be included in that month's newsletter. Unless other arrangements are made, items will be listed for one issue of the Newsletter.

FOR SALE:

- ★ WWII Walther P38 in 9mm – stacked AC/43 & Waffenamt 359. Matching numbers and excellent bore. \$795
- ★ Star Super B in 9mm Luger (Spanish copy of 1911). Matching numbers and excellent bore. \$595
- ★ Walther Model 8, 25acp. 8-shot magazine, 2nd variation, WW2 German officer bring back, w/ rare, reduced size, custom C96 Broomhandle-type holster. EC. \$1495
- ★ Smith and Wesson 1912 in .38 S&W New Departure or Lemon Squeezer, 5-shot revolver, rare 4-inch barrel, sharp nickel plating, minty bore, pearl grips and original factory letter. EC. \$749
- ★ LC Smith 20ga. 1940's classic field grade Featherweight SxS sidelock, 28-inch barrels, excellent bores and casehardening (80%), 2-3/4 inch chambers, extractors, DT VGC+. \$2150

If interested, call 571-308-4978 or send email to jrbzn13@aol.com

FOR SALE:

- ★ After more than two and a half years of research, VGCA member Bill Vanderpool has recently published his book “**Guns of the FBI**”. This book is available at GunDigest.com or can be purchased directly from Bill by calling 703-626-2975. He is more than happy to sign a copy for you. Cost is \$50.00.

FOR SALE:

★ VGCA member Charlie Pate has four books that he has authored for sale, at discounted prices to VGCA members. These include:

- “**U.S. Handguns of World War II**” - \$45.00
- “**The Smith & Wesson American Model**” - \$55.00
- “**U.S. Military Arms Inspector Marks**” - \$45.00
- “**The Colt Model 1860 Army Revolver**” - \$60.00

If interested, please contact Charlie at usarmsresearch@gmail.com

The e-mail address for any Newsletter-related matters is Newsletter@vgca.net - or you can reach 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 Rob Becker or Bill Chronister