



# VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

## WWW.VGCA.NET

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

NRA Affiliate Number G8162  
CMP Affiliate Number 026160



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**Show/Reservations Manager**  
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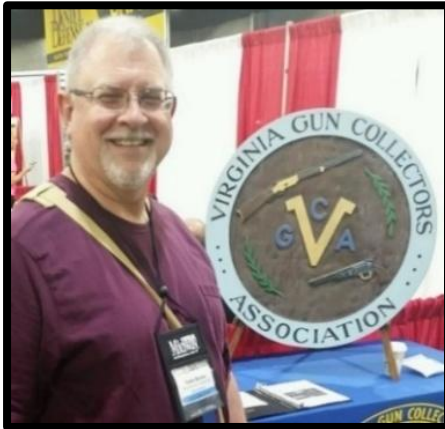
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## October 2025 VGCA Newsletter



### **PRESIDENT'S NOTES**

Greetings, Members –

Let me open by saying that the next four weeks will be busy ones for the VGCA!

First – we have our October Membership Meeting this Thursday, Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>, with Member Phil Hill giving a presentation on “Passing the Gun – Inheriting Guns.” Don’t miss it!

Next, we have our Fall Gun Show in less than two weeks, on November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>! Plan on attending – and I challenge each of our members to invite at least two friends, neighbors, or co-workers to join them. It should be a great weekend – and an excellent opportunity to increase your collection or your knowledge base – or both!

The Tuesday after our show (Nov 4<sup>th</sup>) is the Virginia general election. I cannot emphasize enough how critical this election is to the future of our liberty and our shared passion, as one party clearly supports gun rights while the other seems determined to implement gun control at every turn. I implore each of you to vote!

Finally, the week after the election we have our tour of the Smith & Wesson facilities in Maryville, Tennessee (Nov 14<sup>th</sup>). Though limited to 20 participants, this promises to be another excellent field trip for VGCA members. If you weren’t able to make it this time, we hope to return to Tennessee in 2026 to tour the Beretta Factory during that company’s 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

I hope to see you on Thursday night. Cheers!

***Rob Becker, VGCA President***

# ★ September Presentations: First - Colt Sporter Rifle Optics



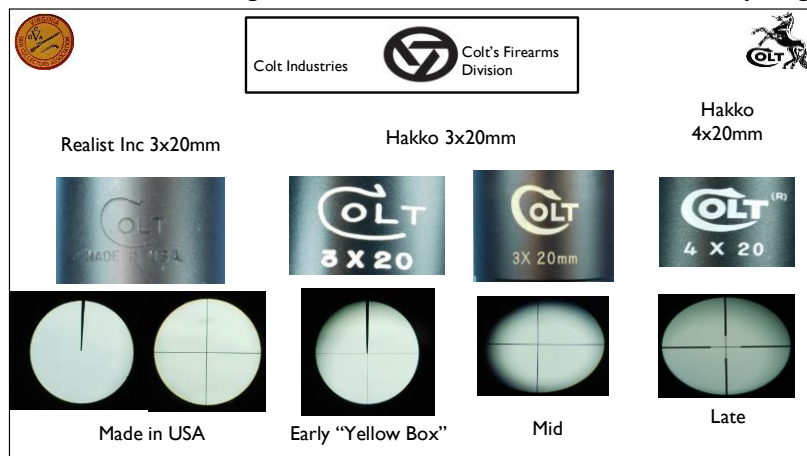
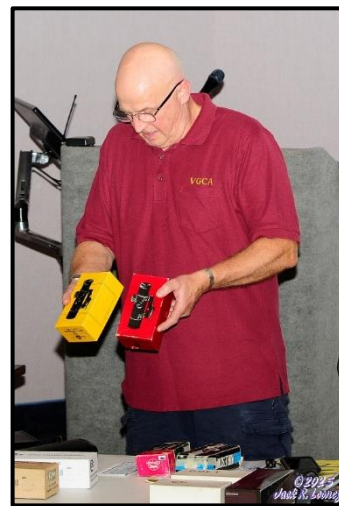
Those attending our September membership Meeting were treated to a double-header of presentations! The first was Shannon Zeigler's short presentation on early Colt optics for the AR-15 Sporter Rifle.

Shannon (*at left*) has long been known to the collector community as an expert on Imperial Japanese small arms, particularly the Type 99 rifle. However, for the past few years, he has shifted his focus to Colt AR-15s, especially the early "Sporter" models. Part of that shift in his collector interest has extended to Colt optics for those rifles and carbines – and he graciously shared what he has learned with us.

Armalite intended to offer optics as an option with their AR platform. However, their commercially produced 2.75x20 scopes were not successful.

The first successful optics designed for ARs were offered by Artillerie-Intrichtingen in the Netherlands for their AR-10s. Designed in the late 1950s, these scopes were 3x25 and manufactured by Optische Industrie De Oude Delft. Colt would later purchase and offer Delft scopes with Colt scope mounts for the Colt 601. Reticle options included either a heavy vertical post extending down from the top or fine crosshairs.

The next generation of scopes were made in the 1960s by Realist. These 3x20 optics came in a red box. The Realist scopes were followed in the 1970s by scopes made by Hakko in Japan and were also 3x20. Early Hakko production came in yellow boxes (*red and yellow boxes shown at right*) while later production were shipped in white boxes. In the 1980s, Hakko made both 3x20 and 4x20 scopes and offered them with fine or heavy duplex crosshairs.



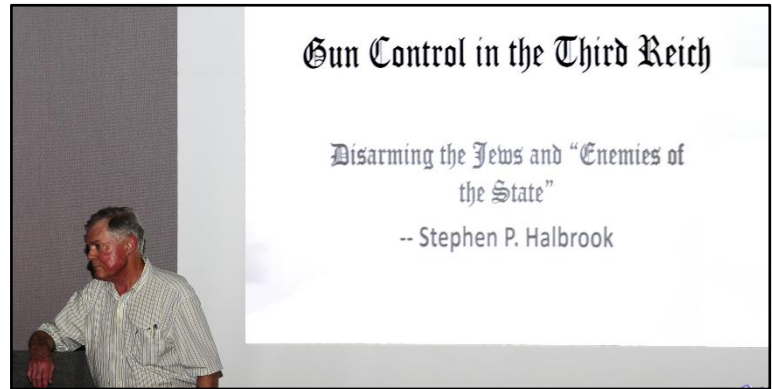
Shannon presented an excellent chart showing details of the scope markings as well as the reticles (*left*). He also brought in many examples of the various scopes as part of his presentation.

Finally, Shannon noted that Japan Optics Ltd has offered reproduction optics for the last five years or so. These 4x20 scopes were marketed for those building "retro" ARs in recent years.

Be sure to thank Shannon the next time you see him for taking the time to build and give this highly information presentation on a little-known collector area. Well done, sir!

# Second - Gun Control in WWII Europe: What History Warns Us About Disarmament

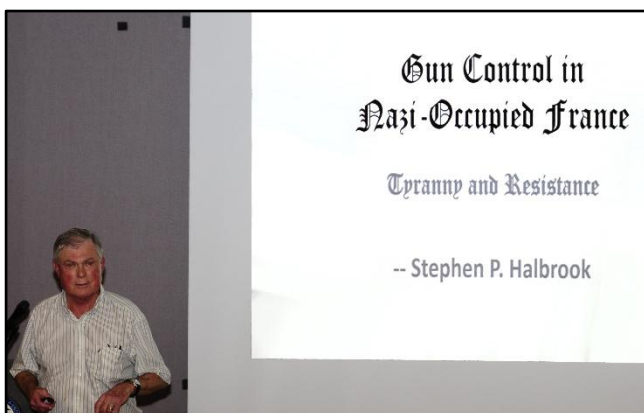
Our second presenter in September was Dr. Stephen Halbrook (*right*). Dr. Halbrook is a senior fellow at the Independent Institute and a lawyer who is renowned for successfully litigating cases involving firearms. He has argued and won three cases before the United States Supreme Court. He has written multiple briefs, including for *District of Columbia v. Heller* and *McDonald v. Chicago*. Dr. Halbrook has written several books and dozens of articles on the right to bear arms. He is a long-time VGCA member.



His topic of **Gun Control in WWII Europe: What History Warns Us About Disarmament** was broken into two parts. The first part covered **Gun Control in the Third Reich**.

In 1931, Germany passed two gun control measures. The first allowed individual German states to create a gun registry. The second allowed German states to confiscate guns during an emergency. The German Attorney General at the time noted that any gun registry must not be allowed to “fall into radical hands” as it could then be used for confiscation.

Adolf Hitler is elected Chancellor in January 1933 and just four weeks later, arsonists set fire to the Reichstag (meeting place of the German parliament) in Berlin. This act becomes the justification for Hitler to execute emergency powers. On November 9<sup>th</sup>, 1935, the Gestapo (the Nazi secret police) Directive declares that Jews “are undesirable” and will not be issued gun permits. In November 1938, using the gun registry already created, Jews in Berlin were disarmed. This was immediately followed by “the Night of the Broken Glass” on November 9/10 when Jewish businesses and homes were vandalized and burnt. It was declared that “arms in the hands of Jews are a danger to public safety.” And thus were the enemies of the Third Reich disarmed.

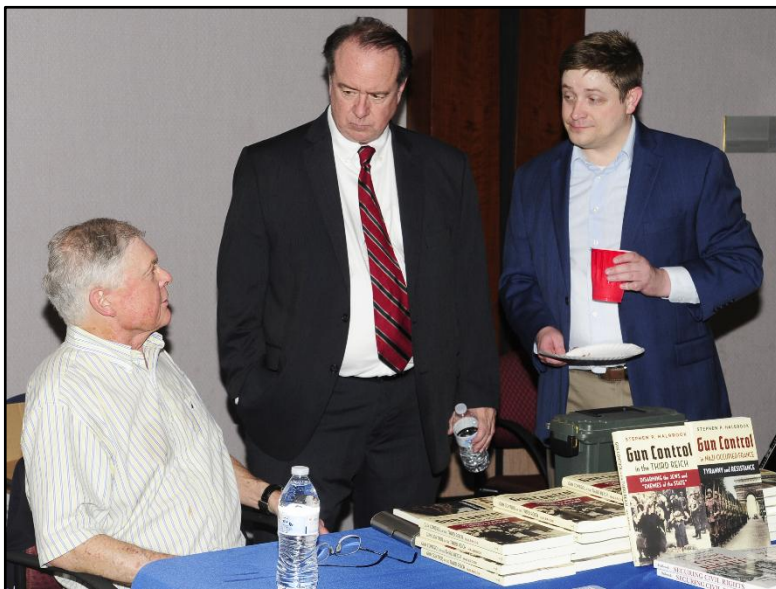


Next, Dr. Halbrook examined gun control in Nazi-occupied France. As background, in 1935, the French established a gun registry for all firearms “except hunting guns.” In 1940, the occupying German Army announced that all privately owned firearms were to be turned in within 24 hours or their owners would be shot (no announcement was ever made as to when this 24-hour period began). Gun possession became the most serious offense a Frenchman could commit under German occupation.

Enforcement was applied somewhat inconsistently by the German Army, so responsibility soon shifted to Gestapo. Where previous French violators of gun possession were publicly executed and their names published in newspapers, this policy was subtly changed and violators simply “disappeared.”

The lesson to be taken from these examples is that gun registries are often characterized as having a simply, benign administrative function – but in truth they have been used to confiscate firearms from otherwise law-abiding citizens. Without the means to protect themselves and their property, citizens then transition to becoming subjects without the means to challenge authority.

After answering several questions, Dr. Halbrook and his publishing team remained available to sell and autograph several of his books (*right*). VGCA officers expressed an interest in having Dr. Halbrook return for another Presentation next year!



## ★ We Need Volunteers for the Fall Show

Our gun shows are only successful through the efforts and dedication of our members. If you would like to help out on any day (31 October through 2 November), please contact:

For Set-up                      Show Director Andrew Woodard at [ajw055570@aol.com](mailto:ajw055570@aol.com)  
For Security                    Show Security Manager Al Reid at [reid\\_allen@hotmail.com](mailto:reid_allen@hotmail.com)

For security, we especially need help on Sunday afternoon. Thanks!

## ★ 2025/2026 Presentation & Event List

| MEETING DATE         | TOPIC                                                         | PRESENTER       |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 23 Oct 2025          | Passing the Gun – Inheriting Guns                             | Phil Hill       |
| <b>November 2025</b> | <b>No Meeting due to Fall Gun Show (1-2 Nov)</b>              |                 |
| <b>TBD Dec 2025</b>  | Holiday Potluck Dinner and Annual Swap Meet – no presentation |                 |
| 24 Jan 2026 (Sat)    | The German MG42                                               | Shannon Zeigler |
| <b>February 2026</b> | <b>No Meeting due to Spring Gun Show (28 Feb – 1 Mar)</b>     |                 |
| 28 Mar 2026 (Sat)    | The Beretta 92 – Part 1                                       | Louie DiGaetano |

If you have any presentation suggestions or would like to make a presentation yourself in 2026 (September and October are still open) – please contact Chris Britton or any officer or director.





## ★ September Meeting Notes

The meeting was called to order by VGCA President Rob Becker at 7 p.m. VGCA President Emeritus Ed Costello led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence, with 57 members and guests in attendance and 9 more participating remotely via JITS. Guests and new members were introduced.

The big announcement of the evening was that we received confirmation that our tour of the Smith & Wesson factory in Maryville, Tennessee was approved for Friday, 14 November 2025. S&W has limited the tour to 20 participants. A sign-up sheet was passed around to those interested in attending (VGCA members and immediate family only).

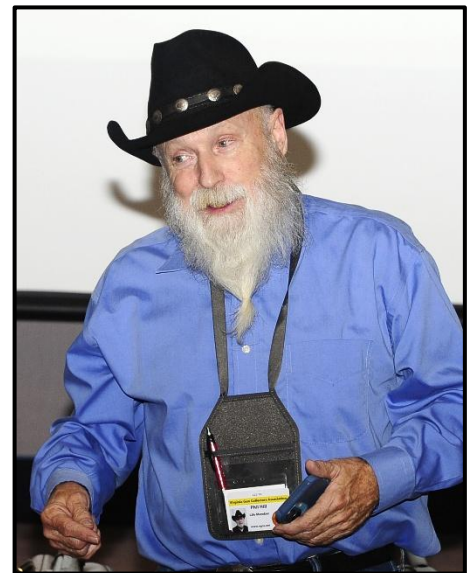
Gun Show Director Andrew Woodard updated everyone on our fall gun show. The show will be on 1-2 November 2025. There are still 45 tables available. A sign-up sheet for security volunteers was also passed around.

Rob Becker announced that VGCA membership dues would be going up effective 1 January 2026. Details are on page 14 of this newsletter.

Rob thanked everyone who had signed up to do a presentation in 2026. As of now, the only open meetings for which we still need a presentation (or perhaps 2-3 short 20-minute presentations) are next September and October.

Members were reminded that Virginia elections will be held on Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. This election is critical to gun owners as the current Governor has vetoed approximately 100 gun-control proposals while the Democratic candidate for Governor has promised she will sign every “common sense” anti-gun bill that reaches her desk. The choice is very clear for those serious about preserving our right and hobby. Early voting has already started in some counties. Please vote!

Member Phil Hill (*at right*) shared the accomplishments of the 4-H “Trigger Time” shooting club. They won their District Championship again, with multiple individual and team 1<sup>st</sup> places! They have also set National Civilian Marksmanship Program records! Look for them at our gun show as they will be fund raising for their next trip to the National 4-H Championships.



Member Bryan Pelton reminded everyone that there were still a few VGCA T-shirts left in sizes Medium and Large. The price has been reduced to \$10 each.



# BAD MEN OF THE OLD WEST AND THEIR GUNS: PART 1

*By Marc Gorelick and Mike Revesz*

A short version of this article by Mike Revesz was originally published in the September 2025 issue of the Pennsylvania Antique Gun Collectors Association (PAGCA) Bugle. This expanded article is in two parts because there were so many “bad men” and their guns.

In the “Old West” calling someone a “Bad Man” did not necessarily mean that he was an outlaw or criminal. According to noted western author Louis L’Amour, it also meant that he was a bad man to tangle or trifle with – a dangerous man with a gun. There are many colorful old West characters who gained their fame or infamy through use of a gun. Determining which gun or guns were truly used by each Bad Man has been the speculation of writers and researchers (and auctioneers trying to pump up prices) for over 150 years. This article presents the best guesses of these prognosticators and researchers in putting a particular gun in the hands of a famous Bad Man.

## Billy the Kid

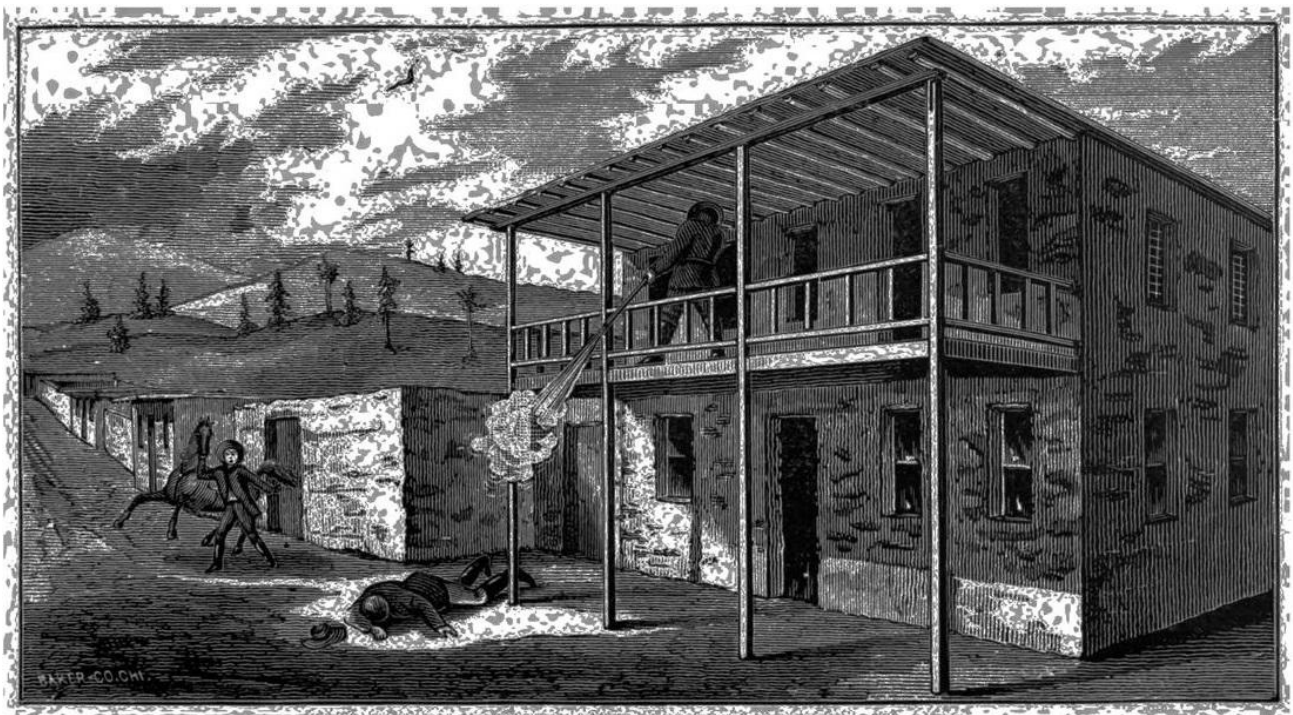


Billy the Kid, whose real name was Henry McCarty, and also known as William H. Bonney, was one of the most notorious figures of the era, and is said to have killed nine men, including New Mexico Sheriff William Brady. (There is a legend that he killed 21 men, one for every year of his life, but those deaths have never been documented.) Billy was involved in the infamous Lincoln County War. The Kid, as he was known, was a member of the group called the Lincoln County Regulators and worked for English rancher John Tunstall. Billy and the Regulators fought against the group headed by James Dolan and Lawrence Murphy, two Union Army veterans and racketeers, after the Dolan/Murphy group murdered Tunstall.

The conflict was marked by numerous revenge killings, starting with the murder of Tunstall by members of the Evans Gang, acting as deputies for Sheriff Brady, a Dolan/Murphy man. In revenge, the Regulators killed Brady and others in a series of incidents. Further killings continued unabated for several months, climaxing in the battle of Lincoln, a five-day gunfight and siege that resulted in the death of Tunstall’s partner Alexander McSween and the scattering of the Regulators. Pat Garrett was elected Lincoln

County Sheriff in 1880, and he hunted down Billy the Kid, killing two other former Regulators in the process.

In April 1881, at the age of 21, Billy the Kid was convicted of Brady’s murder and was sentenced to hang. However, he managed to escape from jail and had been on the run for three months when Garrett shot him in the chest at Pete Maxwell’s Ranch near Fort Sumner, New Mexico.



**THE ESCAPE—LIBERTY OVER MANGLED CORPSES. PAGE 121.**

*Print of Billy the Kid killing deputy Bob Olinger during his escape from jail.  
Engraving from Pat Garret's book, *An Authentic Life of Billy the Kid*, 1882*

One gun identified to Billy is the Whitney 10-gauge double barrel shotgun that he used to kill Deputy Sheriff Bob Olinger during his escape on April 28, 1881. It is serial no. 903, made about 1880, with 25 ¼ inch long brown Damascus twist pattern barrels. It has a scroll engraved action and hammers, a trigger lever release, double triggers, and a checkered walnut stock with steel buttplate. Billy stole the shotgun during his escape and broke it after killing Olinger. It was left with Olinger's body and retrieved by Pat Garrett. This shotgun was sold at a Bonham's Los Angeles, CA auction in August 2021 for \$978,312



*A Whitney 10-gauge shotgun similar to the one used by Billy the Kid to kill Bob Olinger. Photo courtesy of Collectors Firearms*

There is only one verified photograph of Billy the Kid and in it he's outfitted with a Colt Single Action Army and a Winchester Model 1873. The Winchester Model 1873 wasn't just any lever-action rifle; it was the gun known as "The Gun That Won the West." It was manufactured between 1873 and 1923 with an original chambering of .44-40 and may have been Billy's favorite.

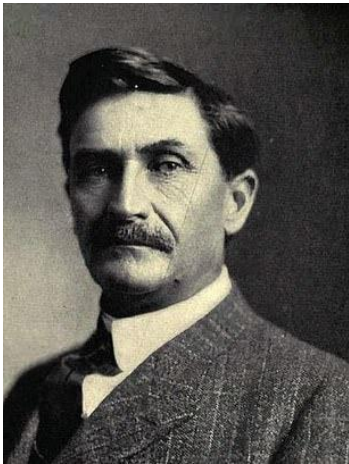
When Billy escaped he grabbed a Winchester Model 1873 and two Colt revolvers from the jail's armory. The Winchester has serial number 20181, made about 1876, with a 20-inch-long round barrel and blued finish. It was sold for \$375,312 at a Bonham's auction in Los Angeles, CA on August 27, 2021. Pat Garrett had recovered it after killing Billy at Pete Maxwell's ranch.





*A Winchester Model 1873 rifle with a 20-inch round barrel similar to the one that Billy the Kid stole during his escape from the Lincoln County jail. Photo courtesy of Tim Prince, College Hill Arsenal*

## Pat Garrett



Interestingly, there is more information regarding the gun Pat Garrett was carrying when he shot Billy the Kid than there usually is about the outlaw's own firearms. Garrett, whose full name was Patrick Floyd Jarvis Garrett, was born June 5, 1850, in Alabama. When he was 18 years old he headed west and by 1876 he was hunting buffalo in Texas. It was at this time that he killed his first man, another buffalo hunter named Joe Briscoe. Soon after, he left Texas for New Mexico Territory where he got a job as a bartender and then a ranch hand on Pete Maxwell's ranch near Fort Sumner. He was married twice. Billy the Kid was a guest at his first wedding and was reportedly romantically involved with the sister of Garrett's second wife.

On November 2, 1880, Garrett was elected sheriff of Lincoln County. He also obtained a Deputy US Marshal commission, which allowed him to pursue Billy across state lines. Garrett and his posse pursued Billy the Kid and his gang, killing several of them and capturing others, including Billy. The Kid was put on trial for Sheriff Brady's murder and sentenced to hang but escaped from jail on April 28, killing two deputies in the process. Garrett then took up the pursuit. On July 14, 1881, Garrett visited Fort Sumner and learned Billy was staying with their common friend, Pete Maxwell. Garrett went to Maxwell's house and the rest is history.



*Colt Model 1873 Single Action Army Revolver similar to the one Pat Garrett used to kill Billy the kid. Photo courtesy of Tim Prince, College Hill Arsenal/*



Pat Garrett used a Colt Model 1873 single-action revolver to kill Billy the Kid. Garrett had taken the gun from another member of Billy the Kid's gang he had arrested earlier. The Colt single action revolver is serial number 55093 made in 1880. It is .44-40 caliber, with a 7 ½ inch barrel, a one line Hartford, CT address and a crescent-shaped ejector rod head. It was sold to an anonymous buyer in Los Angeles at Bonhams auction on August 27, 2021, for a little over \$6 million.

After killing Billy, Garrett became an unsuccessful businessman, and sometime lawman, spending time in both Texas and New Mexico. He was shot and killed on February 29, 1908, supposedly by Jesse Wayne Brazel in a dispute over a land and a herd of goats.

Now part of the mythology of the American Wild West, Garrett's friendship with the Kid, their mutual respect, and the subsequent hunt, capture, escape and death have become the stuff of legend. And numerous movies. Actors have portrayed Garrett in 36 movies and TV shows and Billy in over 50.



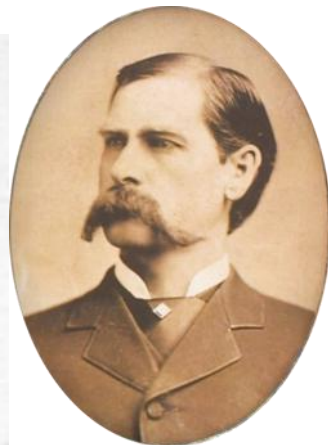
THE FINALE—THE KID KILLED BY THE SHERIFF AT FORT SUMNER. PAGE 128.

*Print of Lincoln County Sheriff Pat Garrett killing Billy the Kid at Pete Maxwell's ranch.  
Engraving from Pat Garret's book, An Authentic Life of Billy the Kid, 1882*

## Wyatt Earp

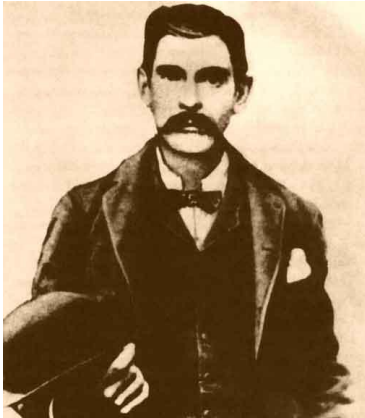


*A .44 Smith & Wesson American*



According to Earp's descendants, his preferred gun was the Colt Single Action Army (SAA) in .45 caliber. But it was not a "Buntline Special" with a 12-inch barrel. There's no evidence that a 12-inch barreled Colt Buntline existed at all before the largely fictional book about Earp's life was penned by Stuart Lake in 1931. It is speculated by some that Bad Boy Earp actually carried an 1870 .44 caliber Smith & Wesson American Model with an 8-inch barrel at the OK Corral. While it is entirely possible that a Colt SAA was the gun Earp used, it was certainly not a Colt Buntline.

## Doc Holliday



John Henry Holliday, better known as Doc Holliday, was born on August 14, 1851, in Griffin, Georgia. He was a dentist, professional gambler and gunfighter who was a close friend of Wyatt Earp. He developed a reputation as having killed more than a dozen men in various altercations. Holliday was well educated; he attended the Valdosta Institute in Georgia, where he received a classical education in rhetoric, grammar, mathematics, history, and languages—principally Latin, and also some French and Ancient Greek. He earned a degree in dentistry at the age of 20 from the Pennsylvania College of Dental Surgery. He set up practice in Georgia but he was soon diagnosed with tuberculosis, the same disease that killed his mother and his sister. Hoping the climate in the American Southwest would ease his symptoms, he moved there and became a gambler, which was recognized as a reputable profession in certain quarters at that time period. Over the next few years, he reportedly had several gun arguments. He met Wyatt Earp in Ft. Griffin, Texas and later reportedly saved his life during a saloon confrontation in Dodge City, Kansas. The two became fast friends and in 1879 he joined Earp in New Mexico and then in Tombstone, Arizona. He sided with the Earp brothers (Wyatt, Virgil and Morgan) in their feud with the outlaw Cochise County Cowboys. Tombstone City Marshal Virgil Earp deputized Holliday on October 26, 1881, and the lawmen attempted to disarm five members of the Cowboys at the O.K. Corral, which resulted in the famous gun battle, and later the Earp Vendetta Ride. Holliday figured that he would be killed in a gun fight but instead it was the tuberculosis that did him in. He died in the Hotel Glenwood in Glenwood Springs, Colorado on November 8, 1887. He was 36 years old.

Holliday was a skilled gunman and was known to have used a number of different guns. He was considered the deadliest dentist in the West. Among his preferred weapons, Holliday was known to favor the 1877 Colt Lightning, an 1880 Remington, a bowie knife, and the Colt Single Action Army. However, the only gun that was documented well enough to be confirmed as having belonged to Holliday was a cap-and-ball Colt Model 1851 Navy revolver, serial number 198418, with a 7 ½ inch long barrel. Supposedly Holliday carried it until 1874. According to records, he had been gifted the gun by his uncle, Dr. John Stiles Holliday, at the end of the Civil War. According to eyewitnesses, the gun reportedly used by Doc Holliday during the OK Corral gunfight was a double-action nickel plated Colt Model 1877

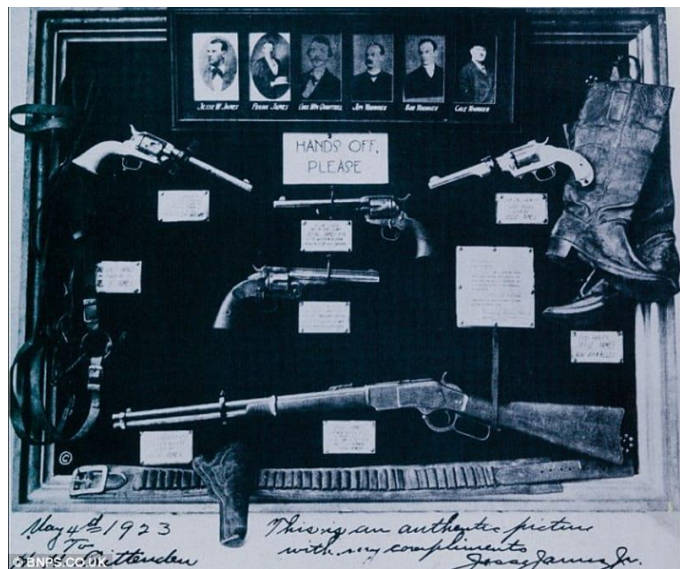


Lightning, .38 caliber revolver. However, in an interview, Holliday's niece stated that the handgun he used that day was a "self-cocker," .41 caliber, which would have made it a Colt Model 1877 Thunderer.



*A Colt Model 1877 Lightning "Sheriff's Model." Nickel plated, .38 caliber with a 3 1/2 inch long barrel. Photo courtesy of Morphy Auctions.*

## Jesse James



There's a bit more documentation on the guns used by the notorious outlaw Jesse James. Although James used an array of firearms throughout his career, his favorites were the Colt Navy .36 (percussion), the Colt Model 1873 .45 caliber Peacemaker, and the Smith & Wesson Schofield revolver. He also carried Winchester rifles and sometimes shotguns during his robberies and train heists



One gun in particular, a Colt Single-Action Model 1873 .45-caliber, got quite a bit of attention in 2013 when it went up for auction. James had reportedly used the gun to pay a medical bill to a doctor. Records show James intended to get it back, but he never paid the bill, so the doctor kept the gun along with one other. James' descendants attempted several times to get the gun back and are assumed to have finally succeeded. It was put up for auction by Heritage Auction at an estimated sale price of over \$1 million. This gun, serial number 70579, first surfaced in the early 1920s as part of a display of guns and other objects put together by Jesse James, Jr. and belonging to Jesse James' father. The gun is shown in the upper left-hand corner of the above photo.



*A Colt Model 1873 Single Action Army in .45 caliber. Photo courtesy of Tim Prince, College Hill Arsenal*



*A Smith and Wesson 2<sup>nd</sup> Model Schofield. Photo courtesy of Tim Prince, College Hill Arsenal*

It is reported that after Bob and Charley Ford murdered James, his mother, Zerelda, playing on the sympathies of tourists, would charge for tours of the James farm and Jesse's grave. Reportedly, she would also offer to sell old, rusted, often inoperable guns that she claimed belonged to Jesse before he died, when in reality she had bought them second-hand, leading to a proliferation of people and believing that they owned a gun that had once belonged to Jesse James the notorious outlaw.

**PART 2 WILL BE IN A SUBSEQUENT VGCA NEWSLETTER**



## ★ **Next Membership Meeting: Thursday, Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>** **“Passing the Gun – Inheriting Guns” by Phil Hill** **Location: NRA HQ Basement Auditorium**

Our October VGCA Membership Meeting will be in the basement auditorium of the NRA Headquarters. The room will open at 6 p.m. with pizza (we are asking for a \$5 donation per person for the pizza) arriving shortly thereafter and the meeting starting at 7 p.m. We hope you can make it!



## ★ **How to watch the October Meeting from Home**

JITSI is our new free service, replacing our previous Webinar “Go to meeting.” You can join via your phone through the app or via your browser on the computer. Neither requires an account. All you need to join a JITSI meeting is a link, like the one below. Simply click the link.

Click the following link to join the meeting: <https://meet.jit.si/vgca-october2025meeting>

You will be asked to enter your name. You can enter your actual name or use a pseudonym. It will then prompt you to allow access to camera and microphone, which you also do not need to gain access to the meeting. Then click “Join” – it is as simple as that!

Just want to dial in on your phone? Dial-in: +1.512.647.1431 PIN: 2626643487 followed by #. Click this link to see the dial in phone numbers for this meeting <https://meet.jit.si/static/dialInInfo.html?room=vgca-october2025meeting>



## ★ **Hampton Roads Military Society**

The Hampton Roads Militaria Society (HRMS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to assist collectors and historians in the collection & preservation of militaria of all sorts and periods, preserve and honor our military past, and honor the veterans of all our conflicts. They generally meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, but this can vary. The HRMS is a sister organization to the VGCA and VGCA members are welcome to participate as guests in their meetings and tours. Upcoming meetings (at Rescue Squad No. 8 at 1243 Bayne Drive in VA Beach) are:

**11 Nov 2025 “MBA Vietnam projects funded DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency)” by Doug McDougal**

**9 Dec 2025 Potluck Dinner and Auction**

**13 Jan 2026 “Battle of Little Bighorn” by Tom Graham**



## ★ S&W Factory Tour Update

Our tour to the Smith & Wesson Factory in Marysville, Tennessee is on schedule for 9 a.m. on Friday, 14 November 2025.



**Smith & Wesson®**

Per S&W, we are limited to a maximum of 20 participants (VGCA members & immediate family only). We had 20 people sign up by the September Membership Meeting,

There will be a lot of walking involved that includes stairs, so if anyone has mobility restrictions, please let us know. Safety glasses will be provided and each guest must wear fully enclosed shoes. Anyone wearing open toe or open heel shoes will not be permitted in the warehouse for safety reasons.

Everyone will go through metal detectors entering and exiting the building. Shoes with steel shanks, belts, watches, phones, etc. will have to be removed from your person. Anyone with medical metal replacements will be wanded by security.

Photography is only allowed inside the Rotunda and outside the facility. Anyone caught taking photos or video will be made to delete them and then escorted out of the facility.

This should be a wonderful experience for the 20 lucky VGCA members! Look for a future article on this field trip in a future newsletter.



## ★ Important Update: VGCA Membership Dues Going Up in 2026

The VGCA Executive Committee recently approved an increase in membership dues for next year. Effective on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, Annual Membership costs will increase to \$40 (from the current \$30) per year and Life Memberships will increase to \$250 (from the current \$150). These increases in dues, the first in over 30 years, are necessary to help cover the increased costs associated with membership.





## ★ We need your help with our Newsletter!

Do you love history and firearms, are reasonably organized, have a decent command of the English language, possess fair computer skills, and can dedicate a few hours each month to the VGCA? Then you may be just the person to take over as our newsletter editor! Rob Becker will continue as our editor through the December 2025 issue but is looking for some relief. If you think this is something you would be willing to take on – in whole or in part - please contact any of the officers or directors.

## ★ VGCA Social Media Accounts ★

Our Instagram account

[@vaguncollectors](https://www.instagram.com/vaguncollectors)

has **879 followers** as of **20 Oct 2025!**

Follow us for a regular dose of interesting gun-related content!

Our VGCA youtube.com channel

[@vgca-viriniaguncollectorsasso](https://www.youtube.com/vgca-viriniaguncollectorsasso)

Troy Blackwood started this effort on 11 Mar 2025. We have **22 videos** and **75 subscribers** as of **20 Oct 2025**.

The VGCA Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/VirginiaGunCollectorsAssoc/>

has **1833 followers** as of **20 Oct 2025**.

## ★ VGCA Secretary Bruce Buchner Celebrates Birthday at Chantilly!

Several VGCA members were on hand at the Chantilly Gun Show Recruiting Table to wish Secretary Bruce Buchner a Happy 74<sup>th</sup> Birthday! Though his birthday wasn't until October 1<sup>st</sup>, about 15 show attendees were happy to sing "Happy Birthday" to Bruce and to help him eat his cake!



# VGCA GUNS OF DISTINCTION: DOUBLE BARREL WHEELLOCK PISTOL MADE FOR EMPEROR CHARLES V

*By Marc Gorelick*

This double-barreled wheellock pistol (puffer) was crafted by German gunsmith Peter Peck, and decorated by the swordsmith and etcher, Ambrosius Gemlich, for Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor, in 1540, is one of the oldest surviving European multi-shot pistols. It is part of the collections at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. (Note: Wheellock pistols were often called puffers.)



*Right side of Peter Peck/Charles V double barrel wheellock pistol. Photo courtesy Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Public Domain.*

Peter Peck of Munich (1503-1596) was a well-known watchmaker who became a gunsmith making guns for nobility and royalty, including the Electors of Saxony and the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V. It was not unusual during the 1500's for watchmakers to also make guns as many of them also made the wheellock firing mechanisms that were then in use. The skills that went into watchmaking were entirely suitable for making the delicate and intricate wheellock mechanism. Although the earliest wheellocks are of Italian construction, German gunsmiths were primarily responsible for the development of the mechanism and the majority of its production. The arms-making centers of Augsburg and Nuremburg were the largest producers of wheellocks and Germany exported both whole guns and wheellock mechanisms throughout Europe.

Despite its intricate mechanism and expense (its cost basically limited it to the wealthy classes and, for military purposes, the cavalry) the wheellock was a significant improvement over the matchlock: a) Once primed and spanned (wound up), with the dog lying against the pan cover, it was ready to fire instantly. b) It was far less susceptible to dampness and wind than the matchlock. c) When the trigger was pulled firing was almost instantaneous, even faster than the later flintlock. d) It could be carried loaded, primed and ready to fire in almost any position, unlike the earlier matchlock. The introduction of the wheellock also ushered in new era of highly decorated firearms for the wealthy, nobility, and royalty. This double-barreled pistol with two locks is an example of a richly embellished wheellock made for royalty.

Emperor Charles V (reigned 1519-1556) was a noted firearms enthusiast, and the ornate decoration on this gun reflects his imperial position as Holy Roman Emperor and king of Spain. Although Peter Peck was the primary action and gunmaker, the decoration and etching was done by the renowned swordsmith and etcher Ambrosius Gemlich of Munich and Landshut, who was active about 1520–1550. Gemlich, who was also a gunsmith, was known for his calendar swords (see the VGCA newsletter Guns of



Distinction article about a Gemlich-made combination hunting knife and wheellock pistol from 1529). Gunmaking at that time was often a collaborative effort, with different craftsmen, such as barrel-makers, stock-makers, action-makers and engravers, contributing to the whole.



*Wheellock actions of Peter Peck/ Charles V double barrel wheellock pistol. Note the engraved Pillars of Hercules and motto PLUS ULTRA on the back wheel and the crowned two-headed eagle on the forward wheel. Photo courtesy Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Public Domain.*

The .46 caliber double-barreled pistol fires via the use of two wheellock mechanisms, one for each barrel. The pistol's wheellocks are noted as being particularly precise, as Peck worked as a watchmaker in addition to being a gunsmith. This gun is 19 3/8 inches (49.2 cm) long and weighs 5 pounds, 10 ounces. The upper barrel is 10 inches (25.4 cm) long and the lower barrel is 7 5/8 inches (19.4 cm) long. It is made of steel, gold, cherry wood, ivory and staghorn. It is stamped on the breechblock and barrel with the double P mark of Peter Peck. It has two triggers, one for each lock and barrel.



*Left side of Peter Peck/ Charles V double barrel wheellock pistol. Photo courtesy Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Public Domain.*



The pistol is elaborately embellished. The cherry wood stock is inlaid with ivory and staghorn, its metalwork is engraved and sheaved in gold – it has finely etched and gilded barrels and locks, while the gun's distinctive straight spirally grip is intricately carved. Etched on the wheel covers are the crowned double-headed eagle (Charles' symbol as Holy Roman Emperor) and an image of the Pillars of Hercules, which is a symbol of the Crown of Spain. The pistol is also inscribed with the Latin motto **PLUS ULTRA**, which means **More Beyond**, a motto of Charles V and the national motto of the Kingdom of Spain. On the reverse side of the two wheellocks, the ivory inlay of the gun has been carved to form a relief image of hunters and hunting dogs chasing game in an aristocratic hunting scene.

While some have opined that Charles V commissioned a pistol with two barrels and two wheellocks to reflect his status as the sovereign of two empires (Spain and the Holy Roman Empire), there are similarly-dated double-barrel and action wheellock pistols from Bavaria, Saxony and other parts of Germany. (See photos below. Note that they are of a slightly later date and have one trigger, whereas the earlier Charles V pistol by Peter Peck has two triggers, one for each action/barrel.



*Double barrel wheellock pistol made in Saxony, Germany dated 1580-1600. Made of Steel, copper alloy, pyrite, leather, fruitwood, and staghorn. Length is 22 ¾ inches. Photo courtesy The Art Institute of Chicago, (CC0) Public Domain*



*Steel German double barrel wheellock pistol 1568-1589. Collection of Skokloster Castle, Sweden. Photo Skokloster Slott, CC BY.*





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 publicly recognizing a member in good standing who selflessly went above and beyond for the club or for collecting during 2025. **All VGCA members except elected Board members are eligible to receive the award. Elected Board members are NOT eligible to receive the award.**

All members who attend the October and December meetings, or the November Gun Show, 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 2025). 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 2026 meeting and presented with his/her award.

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

- Writing articles or books about guns to further collecting.
- Volunteering for show set-up or security, or other duties before or during the shows.
- Volunteering other services to the VGCA, such as setting up trips, administering club programs or representing the VGCA.
- Giving presentations at meetings.
- Promoting the VGCA or gun collecting as a whole.
- Putting on displays at our shows and other shows to promote collecting.
- Recruiting new members to the VGCA.

**Remember – Only those members in good standing who attend the October and December meetings, will be able to vote for the Member of the Year Award for 2025.**

**Come to the meetings and vote for your choice.**



Since the last newsletter we have had the following people apply for membership in our group:

- **Earl Roberts of Fairfax** sponsored by **Bruce Buchner**
- **Charles Dusek of Fairfax** sponsored by **Bruce Buchner**
- **Pat Berney of Vienna** sponsored by **Mike Jambrosic**
- **John Parker of Bunker Hill** sponsored by **Bruce Buchner**
- **Thomas Breighner of Clifton** sponsored by **Matthew Gminski**
- **Lorrie Bethel of Fairfax** sponsored by **Bruce Buchner**
- **Valentine Stutz of Woodbridge** sponsored by **Bruce Buchner**
- **Eric Adams of Herndon** sponsored by **Keith Simmons**

**Notice to New Member Sponsors:** Please ensure your prospective applicants provide a legible email address and telephone contact number if possible. Also, please make sure your name is clearly written on the sponsorship form. Without a valid email address, new members will not receive the newsletter or VGCA announcements.

**Recruiting:** Thank you to everyone who has worked our membership tables in the past and those of you who have signed up new members. Your efforts bring more knowledge to our organization through the new members who have an interest in gun collecting. Membership in the VGCA is a great way for people with an interest in the history, development, and use of firearms to broaden their knowledge and share what they know with others. It also offers the opportunity to network with individuals who have similar interests. To facilitate new memberships, we have a Membership Table at every Chantilly gun show, as well as at our own VGCA gun shows.

**Membership Renewal: Dues for 2025 are now past due. If you wish to continue receiving the Newsletter, getting into the VGCA gun shows for free, and other benefits that come with membership please update your dues payment.** You can renew annually for \$30 or \$150 for life. Please use the form below to renew and either mail it in or bring it to a meeting and give it to either George Dungan or Bruce Buchner. If you are unsure of your membership status email [george@eccominv.com](mailto:george@eccominv.com) and I will let you know. Dues will be going up starting 1 January 2026.

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# CMP UPDATE

*By Marc Gorelick, CMP Liaison*

*The VGCA is a CMP Affiliated club. The VGCA club number is 026160.*



## CMP M1 GARAND ADVANCED MAINTENANCE CLASS – REGISTRATION OPENED

The Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) announced that registration for the 2026 Advanced Maintenance Class (AMC) has opened!

Designed for those who wish to take their passion for the venerable M1 Garand to the next level, the AMC, held in Anniston, Ala., on select dates from March through October, offers students a rare opportunity to receive unparalleled training from CMP's knowledgeable Custom Shop staff while building their very own M1 Garand rifle. After hand-picking parts from the CMP's inventory of receivers and other M1 components, students will participate in one-on-one training from experienced CMP armorers on headspace, barrel installation, component function, maintenance and more. The AMC schedule includes timeslots for individuals as well as designated days for "Buddy" classes for those who wish to attend with a friend or relative.

The AMC is a three-day class that includes the following:

- **Day One:** Classroom instruction, rifle assembly, and a facility tour
- **Day Two:** Classroom instruction and final rifle assembly
- **Day Three:** Test-firing at the **CMP Talladega Marksmanship Park** – participants may also bring other firearms and ammunition to make full use of the all-day range pass.

**Registration opened on Oct. 17, 2025, and will remain open through Dec. 19, 2025.** Once the AMC registration period ends, those selected will receive official notification via email on Jan. 9, 2026. Please note, submitting a registration does not guarantee selection.

The AMC continues to be one of the CMP's most sought-after programs, combining expert instruction, hands-on experience and the tradition of one of America's most iconic rifles.

For more information about the AMC, including the 2026 dates, prices and registration details, please visit <https://thecmp.org/training-tech/advanced-maintenance-class/>.

## CMP RIFLE SCOPES FOR SALE

The CMP is offering high quality service rifle competition scopes for sale through the CMP e-Store. These include a number of different high-quality optics designed for service rifle and pistol competition, or just everyday shooting. The CMP also has spotting scopes and reflex red dot scopes for pistols. Manufacturers include Hi-Lux, Phenom, Malcolm, and Konus. For additional information, see below and go to CMP e-Store website at <https://shop.thecmp.org/browse/Shooting?f=Optics>.

## Hi-Lux XTC 1-4X34 Service Rifle Scope

Many competitors choose the Hi-Lux XTC 1-4x34—a scope designed for Service Rifle competition.



The Hi-Lux XTC14X34 is a purpose-built Service Rifle optic engineered for CMP and NRA High Power "Across the Course" competition. Designed around the fixed stages of 200, 300, and 600 yards, the XTC14X34 delivers the clarity, precision, and adjustability that competitive shooters demand. Clear glass. Repeatable 1/4-MOA adjustments. 30mm tube. A reticle built to bracket the aiming black. It doesn't make the shot for you—it supports the skill and dedication required to earn it. The normal price is \$475 but the CMP special price is \$375. That is \$100 off for CMP email list subscribers.

## M40 MK2 3-9X40 Rifle Scope with Stainless Steel Internals, Green Anodized Finish, Accu Range Reticle, 1" Tube

Inspired by the original USMC M40 sniper rifles of the Vietnam era, the Hi-Lux M40 3-9x40 MK2 is purpose-built for competitors in CMP's Vintage Sniper Match, specifically within the Vietnam War class. Developed in collaboration with distinguished shooters, this second-generation M40 integrates field-tested feedback to deliver unmatched authenticity, precision, and reliability on the firing line. The CMP price is \$449.

## Malcolm 8X Gen II Rifle Scope with Competition Micrometer Mounts, 03A1 Bases (CMP Vintage Sniper Legal)



The Malcolm 8X Vintage Sniper Competition (VSC) rifle scope is the embodiment of years of constructive feedback and improvements to the Malcolm 8X. The Malcolm 8X VSC rifle scope is purpose built for vintage sniper matches on the 1903A1 Springfield and M70 rifles. The CMP price is \$799.



## ★ In Review ★

The "In Review" section of the newsletter includes VGCA member reviews of gun shows, books, and museums. If you would like to submit a review, please send it to the newsletter editor at [rpebecker@verizon.net](mailto:rpebecker@verizon.net)

# THE HISTORY OF RIMFIRE CARTRIDGES IN AMERICA 1852-2022, by Lou Behling

*Book Review by Marc Gorelick*



A brief review like this doesn't do justice to the scholarship and the artistry embodied in this two-volume set. One can easily say that these weighty tomes are the gold standard of reference books on cartridges. And they will prove to be the definitive references about American rimfire cartridges. It is useful for collectors at all levels and providing scholars with well-researched details. The book is also easy to use, a plus when doing research. If you could have only one book about American rimfire cartridges, this would be it.

Author Lou Behling is well known in collector circles for his expertise in the history of cartridge development. In

this monumental two-volume work he has provided a comprehensive study of American rimfire cartridges. This set is encyclopedic in the breadth and depth of information provided. In its 916 pages over 2,000 cartridge examples are described and 52 cartridge companies are discussed — many of them lesser-known firms not previously described in such detail. The two-volume set is divided by cartridge caliber: Volume 1 covers .10 to .46 caliber and Volume 2 covers up to 1 inch caliber. For the reader's ready reference, the first chapter of each volume includes a cartridge index that points to the beginning page number and images for each caliber. In Volume 2 this is followed by a list showing the page where each manufacturer is discussed.

This is a two-volume set useful for collectors at all levels and providing scholars with well-researched details. The book is easy to use and calibers range from .10 to 1 inch Gatling.





# ★ Show-n-Tell ★

**NOTE: For anyone bringing in items for Show-n-Tell - please hold the item up so the members in attendance can see it. This will also help your photographer get a sharp picture and allow people who cannot attend the meeting to see it clearly in the newsletter. We also ask that you provide a Fact Sheet (copies of the one below will be provided at the meeting) to assist the newsletter editor in accurately describing your item. Thank you!**

## VGCA Show-n-Tell Fact Sheet

Manufacturer: \_\_\_\_\_

Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Action Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Caliber: \_\_\_\_\_

Years of Production: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Produced: \_\_\_\_\_

Year this example was manufactured (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Significance: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Question(s) for members: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Where acquired (optional): \_\_\_\_\_ When acquired (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

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A message from your VGCA Photographer--

I ask those who bring items in for Show-and-Tell to PLEASE hold the item UP and in view of the audience so that they can be seen clearly, and so that I might be able to get a decent picture for the newsletter. PLEASE stand behind the tables and simply hold the item at chest or waist level, face forward, stand still, and give me a five or six seconds to grab a decent photograph of the Show-and-Tell item.

If you do not want your Show-and-Tell item to be shared with other VGCA members, just tell me in advance and I will not attempt to take a photo of it.

I do photography for the VGCA and its' members, not for myself, and not for any personal gain. Your assistance in documenting your items will be a great help. I spend an average of five hours editing the pictures for the newsletter and not having a clear view of the subject has been a great and constant frustration for me.

Your help will assist in making a better newsletter for all VGCA members. Thank you!

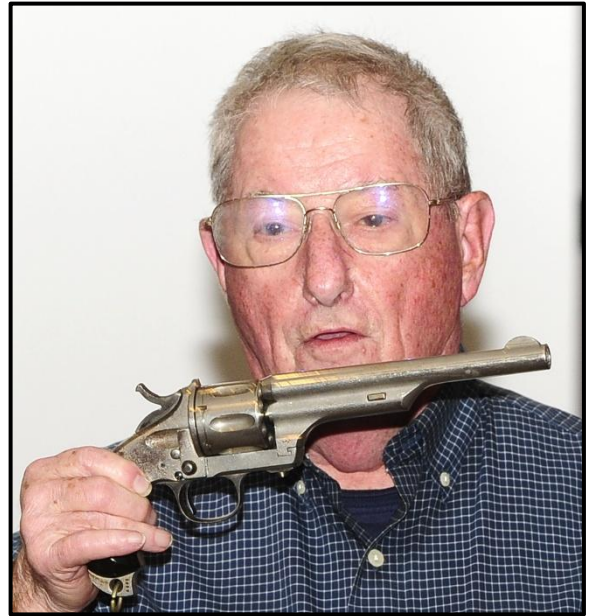
*Jack Looney*

# September Show-n-Tell



Member 1 brought in an 1873 Evans New Model Carbine (*left*) chambered in .44 Evans Long. It is unique in having a 26-round helical magazine in the buttstock (+2 additional rounds in the action) that feeds rounds entirely through mechanical action without springs. 15,000 were produced in Maine from 1873 to 1879. A key investor was the Merwin & Holbert and until recently, this was the most produced firearm in Maine.

Member 1 also shared a Merwin & Holbert Pocket Army .44/40 revolver. Subsidiary Hopkins & Allen produced 20,000 M&H Pocket Army revolvers under contract from 1883 to 1887. A key innovation was a rotating barrel design which allowed the user to rotate the barrel 90 degrees in order to pull the barrel and cylinder forward to remove the fired cartridge cases. During the twisting motion, the empty case could be extracted. Any intact cartridge would remain in the chamber due to the additional length of the bullet. The tight machining tolerances would create a vacuum when the barrel and cylinder were pulled forward, literally causing the assembly to 'snap back' closed when released. In addition to this unique case extraction system, pressing an additional lever control when the frame was 'open' for extraction allowed the owner to completely remove the barrel.

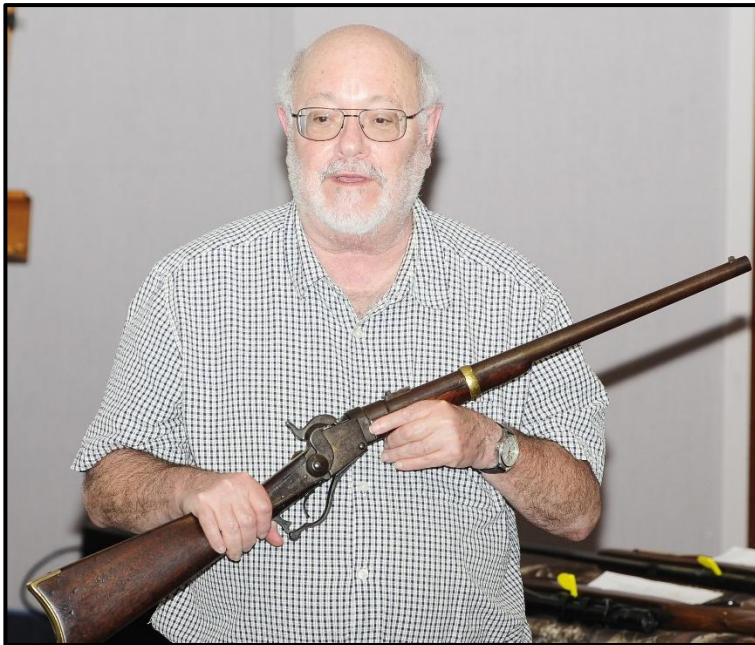


Member 2 displayed a Bug-A-Salt pump action insect control weapon (*left*). When cocked and fired, it propels a charge of salt crystals to take out flies and other small insects. Using regular table salt as projectiles, the Bug-A-Salt holds enough "ammo" for 50-60 shots and has an advertised range of 24 inches!



Member 3 displayed a Steyr Hahn Model 1912 semi-automatic pistol (*right*) chambered in 9mm Steyr (9x23). Also known as the Steyr M1912, this pistol was developed in 1911 by the Austrian firm Steyr Mannlicher. The design was based on the rotating barrel locking mechanism of the Roth–Steyr M1907 but replaced the external striker with a spur hammer ("Hahn") and simplified disassembly to allow for field stripping under adverse conditions. The M1912 features an 8-round internal box magazine loaded via stripper clips. It was developed for the Austro-Hungarian

Army and adopted in 1912 as one of the three standard Austro-Hungarian military handguns of World War I, alongside the Roth-Steyr and FEG Frommer STOP.



Member 4 brought in an 1863 Starr carbine (*left*). In January 1858, Ebenzer Starr submitted his design for a single-shot, breech-loading rifle to the Washington Armory for evaluation. During testing, the rifle was noted to have no misfires, and its accuracy was considered better than average. Testers commented that if the gas seal could be improved, the weapon would be better than its rival, the Sharps carbine.

The design was adopted as the Model 1858 carbine. Between 1861 and 1864, 20,601 were produced by the Starr Arms Company of Yonkers, New York. Its effectiveness in the field was negatively impacted by frequently being supplied

with the wrong ammunition (.54 Sharps). The Model 1858 was designed to fire paper or linen cartridges. In 1865, the government ordered 3,000 Starr carbines chambered to use a metal cartridge – the .56/52 Spencer cartridge. These proved to be successful, and an additional 2,000 were ordered. The Starr carbine was one of three guns that started the Civil War as a percussion gun and ended the war as a cartridge gun.

Although the Starr carbine had proven to be effective during the Civil War, it was not successful during the trials of 1865 by the U.S. Army trials board, and no further rifles were ordered.

The Starr M1858 carbine had a .54 caliber barrel that was 21 inches in length. The weapon had an overall length of 37.65 inches and a weight of 7.4 lbs. A bayonet could not be fitted.

Member 5 displayed a Savage 1907 semi auto pistol (*right*). The Savage Model 1907 is a semi-automatic pocket pistol produced by the Savage Arms, from 1907 until 1920. It was chambered in .32 ACP and, from 1913 until 1920, in .380 ACP. Although smaller in size, it is derived from the .45 semi-automatic pistol Savage submitted to the 1906-1911 US Army trials to choose a new semi-automatic sidearm. After several years of testing the Savage pistol was one of two finalists but ultimately lost to the Colt entry, which became famous as the Colt Model 1911.

Though the design appears to have an external hammer, it is actually a striker-fired gun; the "hammer" is actually a cocking lever. Model 1907s made from 1913 until 1917 had a collared barrel and a loaded chamber indicator, allowing the shooter to tell by touching the shell ejection port whether a cartridge was chambered. The Model 1907 uses no screws (even the grip panels snap into place) and is simple to field strip. The grips were made from gutta-percha, though some early production examples had metal grips. In 1912 the Model 1907 underwent a major design revision modifying almost every major component.



In a notable innovation, the pistol uses a staggered ("double stack," or "double column") detachable box magazine which allows for a 10-round capacity in .32 ACP caliber and a nine-round capacity in .380 ACP caliber. While the introduction of this type of magazine design is commonly associated with the Browning Hi-Power, its use in the Savage Model 1907 predated the patenting of the first prototype of the Hi-Power by over a decade, and its production by almost 30 years.

Advertised with the slogan "Ten shots quick!", the Model 1907 was very popular because, despite its small size, it had a 10-round double-stack magazine. The advertising included a number of early celebrity endorsers, including William "Buffalo Bill" Cody, Bat Masterson, and the Pinkerton Agency. Much of the advertising in the popular press played on the ability of an otherwise defenseless woman to use the Savage to subdue burglars and "tramps".

Although the Model 1907 was designed for civilian use, the French government purchased over 40,000 .32 ACP Model 1907s between late 1914 and 1917 for the French military in World War I. These military "contract" pistols are recognized by the presence of a loaded chamber indicator and a lanyard ring, or mounting holes in the grip for a lanyard ring; lanyard rings were not available on civilian pistols. A much smaller contract of 1,150 pistols in the same configuration were purchased by Portugal, which are distinguished by grips bearing the lesser arms of Portugal instead of the standard Indian head.



Member 5 also brought in a Zastava M76 rifle (*right*). The Zastava M76 is a military semi-automatic designated marksman rifle chambered in 8mm Mauser (7.92x57) developed and manufactured by Zastava Arms in Yugoslavia. Production began in the mid-1970s and it quickly became the standard designated marksman rifle in the Yugoslav People's Army and its successor, the Serbian army. It was designed to fulfill the same role as the Soviet Dragunov SVD, though its design shares more with the AK than the SVD. During the Yugoslav Wars of the 1990s, it was used by several sides; it saw action in Croatia, Bosnia, North Macedonia and Kosovo. Being derived from the AK design it is simple and reliable, and like other Zastava AK-derivatives, it is of high-quality manufacture. Accuracy is typically around 1.5 MOA.

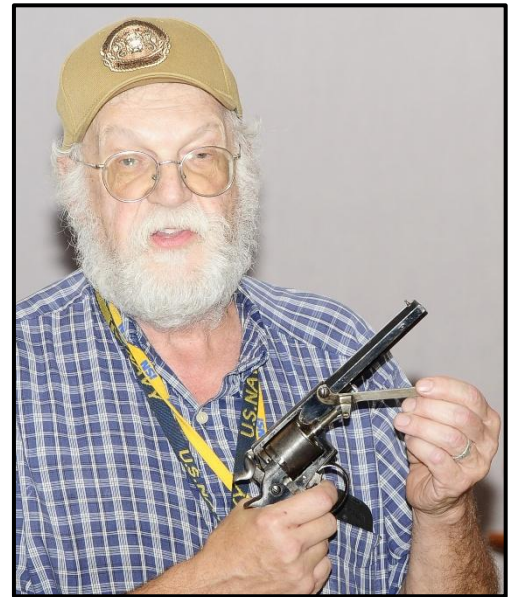


Instead of the Dragunov's separate gas piston, the M76 has an AK-type piston attached to the bolt carrier. The receiver is a milled forging like that of the original AK-47 to give greater rigidity when firing a full-power round and it is longer than the normal AK receiver to suit the 7.92×57mm Mauser chambering. The AK-type rotating bolt, bolt carrier, barrel and other parts are also enlarged and stronger for handling the bolt thrust full-power rounds produce. Feeding is via a 10-round steel box magazine, which has a follower that holds the bolt open after the last shot. Fire is semi-automatic only, so the AK-47-type safety on the right side of the receiver has only 2 settings - 'safe' and 'fire'. The barrel has a tapered profile with a Dragunov-type combination slotted flash suppressor and front sight housing. A standard AKM bayonet can be fitted to the bayonet lug below the foresight. Like the Dragunov, but unlike the AK-47, the M76 features a 4-position (0, 1, 2, 3) operator-adjustable gas regulator enabling more propellant gas to be vented to the piston in marginal operating conditions or less propellant gas when using a suppressor. The M76 has the reputation of a reliable and capable weapon and the recoil is described as being modest.

To mount aiming optics, a side-rail is permanently attached to the left wall of the receiver which accepts an alloy sliding dovetail rail mount with a clamping lever to which can be attached various telescopic sights and night optics. The typical telescopic sight used is a ZRAK ON-M76 4× 5°10' scope originally produced in the ZRAK factory in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina which is positioned centered over the receiver and bore axis.



Member 6 brought in a beautiful British Tranter revolver (right) in 80 Bore (80 projectiles to the pound of lead) or approximately .442 Rimfire. Tranter adapted their earlier percussion revolvers to rimfire metallic cartridges and made about 800 from 1863 to 1869. This example was made in 1864 and retailed by "Rigby of Dublin". The Tranter was one of the first large caliber cartridge revolvers with a solid frame.

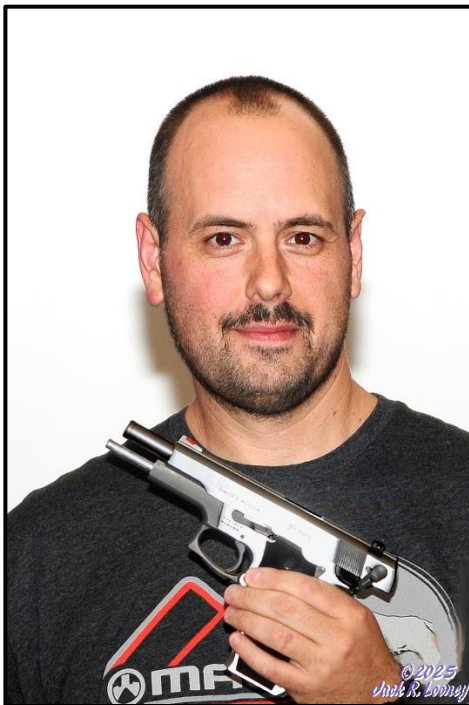


Member 7 displayed two Winchester Model 88 lever action rifles (*at left and below*). Described in early ads as "the bolt-action rifle with a lever," Winchester produced the Model 88 from 1955 to 1975. It was a play on three rotating locking lugs at the front of the bolt that engaged shoulders machined into the steel receiver. The front-locking design virtually eliminated bolt compression and receiver stretch during firing.

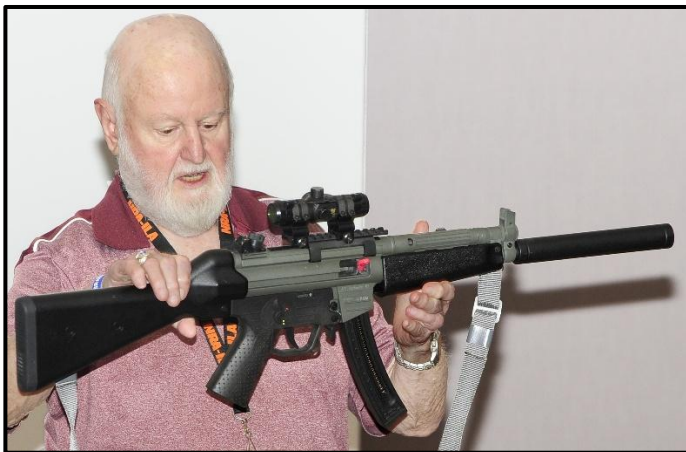
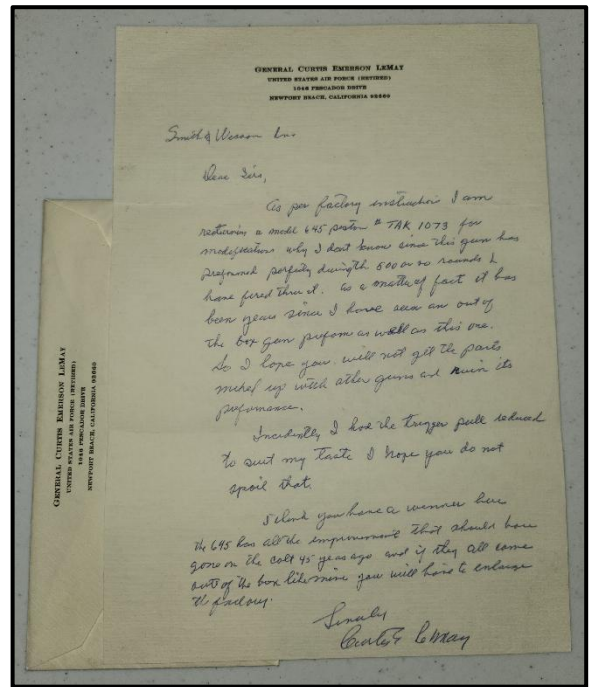


Upfront breech locking was a first in Winchester lever-action centerfire rifles, but the idea was not new, as it had appeared on the Remington Model 760 slide action introduced in 1951. The Model 88 was priced at \$136 versus \$104 for the Model 760, \$69 for the Winchester Model 94 and \$112 for the Savage Model 99. At the time, the Remington rifle was made in .270 Win., .280 Rem. and .30-06 and was very popular with hunters. Winchester had not offered a quick-shooting rifle capable of handling the .30-06 since production of the Model 1895 ended in 1931. Winchester needed a rifle in comparable calibers and the shorter .308 Winchester and other calibers based on the .308 (i.e. the .243 Win. and the .358 Win.) were chosen for the Model 88.

Of the two examples shared by Member 7, the first was in .308 Winchester and was made in 1959. It was acquired from Cabela's in 2022. The second was in .358 Winchester and was made in 1958. His father purchased it from a Pittsburgh gun shop in 1959 and it has been in his family ever since.

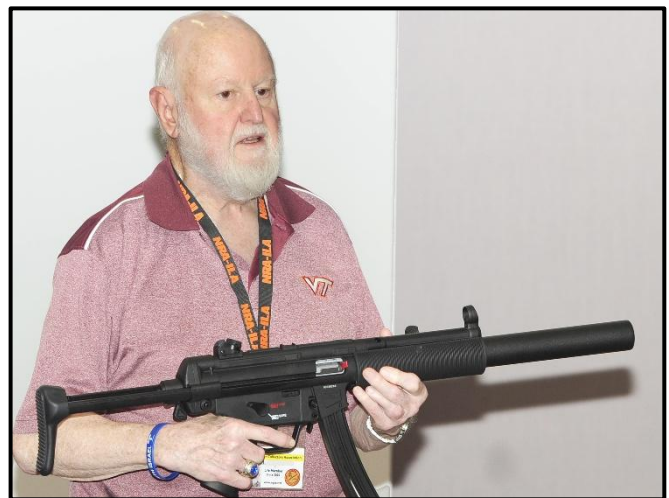


Member 8 brought in a special Smith & Wesson Model 645 semi-auto pistol SA/DA in .45 ACP (left). The pistol was owned by USAF General Curtis LeMay and was accompanied by a signed letter General LeMay to S&W when they asked to make some modifications. Member 8 acquired this pistol last year.

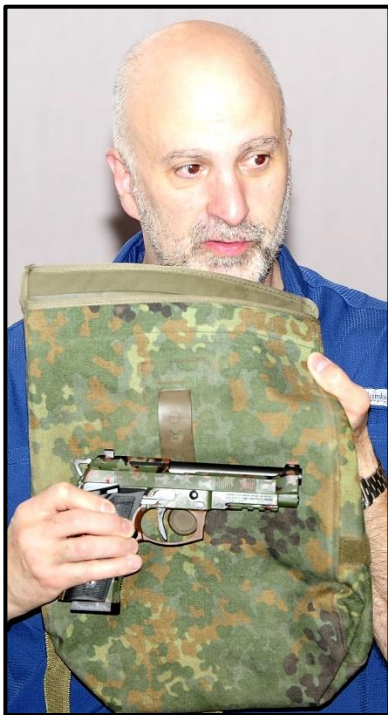


Member 9 brought in two .22 LR versions of the infamous Heckler & Koch MP5. The first was a reproduction MP5 made by German Sport Guns and marketed as the GSG-522 (left). It was equipped with faux suppressor to meet the US requirements for minimum barrel length.

The second MP-5 variant in .22 LR was actually made for H&K in Germany by Umarex. It features a collapsible stock and also came with a faux suppressor. Member 9 purchased it in September 2025 from H&K.





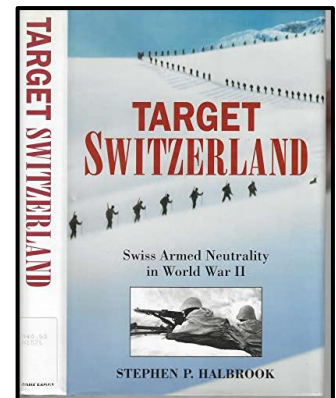


Member 10 displayed a Beretta 92x1 (*at left and right*). What makes this Model 92 chambered in 9mm Parabellum (9x19) unique is



that it came in German camo with Vertec grips. Member 10 stores it in a German gas mask case with the same camo pattern (*left*). This variant operates in single action only and only 1,000 were produced in 2025.

Member 11 brought a book entitled “Target Switzerland” written by our presenter Stephen Halbrook (*right*). This book provides an objective, year-by-year account of Switzerland's military role in World War II, including her defensive strategies, details of Nazi invasion plans, and Switzerland's moral, material and humanitarian links to the Allies. Swiss neutrality in World War II has been criticized in recent years, but the country was entirely surrounded by Axis powers and managed, as revealed here, to render considerable assistance to the Allies.



Member 12 brought in a Beretta Veterli bolt action training rifle (*left*). These single shot rifles are chambered in .22 Rimfire and were produced in 1935. They were sold to Italian shooting ranges to promote civilian marksmanship training. Member 12 acquired this example online earlier this year.





Member 13 shared an ArmaLite AR-180 (*left*) made at Cost Mesa. Chambered in 5.56 NATO, 30,000 were were produced from 1968 to 1983. The AR180 was a semi auto civilian version of the AR-18. Overall, the new AR-18 rifle is much more conventional than previous ArmaLite designs, although it uses the relatively new (at the time) stamped steel construction. Despite being pioneered by the Germans during WWII in weapons such as the MP 44, and later adopted for the Soviet AKM, the use of stamped and welded sheet metal components was still uncommon in the

manufacture of military rifles in the West in the early 1960s, which had, until then, largely retained the use of traditional machined forgings. Compared to the smooth lines of the AR-15, which had demonstrably finer tolerances in parts fit, the AR-18 faced criticism over its stamped and welded construction. However, the rifle proved to be both reliable and very accurate at all ranges up to 460 metres (500 yards). Its simple construction promised significantly reduced production costs, and allowed it to be license-produced locally on less advanced machinery, potentially reducing dependence on foreign manufacturers.

The AR-18's action is powered by a short-stroke gas piston above the barrel. The bolt itself is of similar configuration to the AR-15 with seven radial locking lugs engaging corresponding recesses in the barrel extension, and the extractor in place of the eighth lug. Unlike the AR-15, the cocking handle fits directly into a recess in the bolt carrier and reciprocates with it during firing, allowing the firer to force the breech closed or open if necessary. The recoil springs are housed within the receiver, allowing the use of a side-folding stock with a hinging mechanism (which proved to be less than adequately rigid). A dovetail is spot welded to the receiver in front of the rear sight for a proprietary ArmaLite quick-detachable scope mount.

The magazines were of a brand new proprietary design and were different than those of the AR-15. The original magazines made by ArmaLite and Howa were of gray anodized aluminum alloy with black plastic followers and came in 5- and 20-round capacities (the 5-round magazine, like that of the Colt AR-15 Sporter, was just a full-size 20-round magazine blocked to only hold 5 rounds). Gunsmiths have been able to convert AR-15/M16 magazines to feed in the AR-18, though they require modified followers or they will put strain on the bolt catch.

This example was made in 1969 and purchased on Gunbroker in 2015.



# ★ Upcoming Events and Shows ★

PLEASE NOTE: VGCA members are strongly encouraged to verify shows before driving to an event. These dates were confirmed when this newsletter was written but are not guaranteed. Shows highlighted in **yellow** are shows with a collector focus.

## VIRGINIA – 2025-2026

- Oct 25, 2025 – Woodstock, VA – Shenandoah County Fairgrounds – *Bear Run Firearms*
- Nov 1-2, 2025 – Dale City, VA – Dale City VFW Post 1503 – *VGCA (Our Show!)*
- Nov 1-2, 2025 – Harrisonburg, VA – Rockingham County Fairgrounds - *Showmasters*
- Nov 8-9, 2025 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fredericksburg Fairgrounds – *SGK*
- Nov 15-16, 2025 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex – *Showmasters*
- Nov 21-23, 2025 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- Nov 29-30, 2025 – Fishersville, VA – Augusta Expo – *Showmasters*
- Nov 29-30, 2025 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK*
- Dec 6-7, 2025 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fraternal Order of Eagles – *SGK*
- Dec 6-7, 2025 – Virginia Beach, VA – Virginia Beach Convention Center – *SGK*
- Dec 20-21, 2025 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center – *C&E*
- Jan 2-4, 2026 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- Jan 10-11, 2026 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK*
- Jan 10-11, 2026 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex – *Showmasters*
- Jan 17-18, 2026 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fredericksburg Fairgrounds – *SGK*
- Jan 24-25, 2026 – Virginia Beach, VA – Virginia Beach Convention Center – *SGK*
- Jan 24-25, 2026 – Fishersville, VA – Augusta Expo – *Showmasters*

## MARYLAND – 2025-2026

- Oct 25-26, 2025 – West Friendship, MD – Howard County Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promo*
- Nov 1-2, 2025 – Easton, MD – Talbot County Community Cntr – *Eastern Shore Arms Collectors*
- Nov 8-9, 2025 – Frederick, MD – Frederick Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Dec 6-7, 2025 – West Friendship, MD – Howard County Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promo*

## PENNSYLVANIA – 2025-2026

- Oct 25-26, 2025 – Lake Harmony, PA – Split Rock Resort – *Eagle Shows*
- Oct 25-26, 2025 – Matamoras, PA – Best Western Hotel at Hunt's Landing – *Westchester Collectors Inc.*
- Oct 25-26, 2025 – State College, PA – C3 Sports & Events Center - *Showmasters*
- Nov 1-2, 2025 – Quarryville, PA – Solanco Fairgrounds – *Eagle Shows*
- Nov 1-2, 2025 – York, PA – York Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Nov 8, 2025 – St. Thomas, PA – St. Thomas Sportsmen Assoc – *St. Thomas Sportsmen Assoc*
- Nov 8-9, 2025 – Sellersville, PA – Forrest Lodge VTW245 – *Jaeger Arms*
- Nov 15-16, 2025 – Allentown, PA - Parkview Inn - *Eagle Shows*
- Nov 15-16, 2025 – Hermitage, PA – Hickory VFW 6166 – *Canon's Gun Room*
- Nov 15-16, 2025 – Leesport, PA – Leesport Farmers Market – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Nov 16, 2025 – Portland, PA – William Pensyl Social Hall – *Portland Hook & Ladder Comp #1*
- Nov 22-23, 2025 – Harrisburg, PA – PA Farm Show Complex – *C&E Gun Shows*
- Nov 29-30, 2025 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center - *Showmasters*
- Dec 6-7, 2025 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds – *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*

## **PENNSYLVANIA – 2025-2026 (continued)**

- Dec 6-7, 2025 – Gettysburg, PA – Allstar Events Complex – *Eagle Shows*
- Dec 13-14, 2025 – Harrisburg, PA – PA Farm Show Complex – *C&E Gun Shows*
- Dec 13-14, 2025 – Trevoise, PA – Radisson Philadelphia Northeast – *Eagle Shows*
- Dec 14, 2025 – Mount Bethel, PA – Mount Bethel Volunteer Fire Dept – *Mount Bethel VFD*
- Dec 19-21, 2025 – Oaks, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Shows*
- Dec 27-28, 2025 – York, PA – York Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Jan 10-11, 2026 – Matamoras, PA – Best Western Hotel at Hunt's Landing – *Westchester Collectors Inc.*

## **SPECIAL EVENTS / SHOWS – 2025-2026**

- Nov 2, 2025 – Woodbridge, VA – Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton VFD Firehall – O-W-L / Belvoir Militaria Show – *Fort Belvoir ASMIC* – Free admission – No Guns
- Nov 8-9, 2025 – Tulsa, OK – Expo Square (Tulsa Fairgrounds) – *Wanenmacher* – World's Largest Gun Show – 4200+ tables!
- Nov 22-23, 2025 – Hamilton, OH – Spooky Nook/Champion Hill – *Ohio Gun Collectors Association*
- Nov 22-23, 2025 – Ladson, SC – Exchange Park Fairgrounds – *South Carolina Arms Collector Association*
- Nov 28-29, 2025 – Nashville, TN - Franklin/Cool Springs Marriott Hotel – *Tennessee Military Collectors Association*
- Feb 7-8, 2026 – Columbus, OH – Kasich Hall, Ohio State Expo – *Ohio Gun Collectors Association*

**NOTE: OGCA Gun Shows are not open to the public – they are restricted to members and invited guests only. Several VGCA members are also members of OGCA and can sponsor you if you are interested in attending.**

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## **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 and is intended for listing firearms and firearm related items. 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 regard 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](mailto: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. Items will be listed for one issue of the Newsletter.

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## VGCA Logo Available at Lands' End

### Here's how to order your apparel:

1. Go to the VGCA store on Lands' End business:  
<https://business.landsend.com/store/vgca>
  - a. It must be the URL shown above. **Do not** go to the regular Lands' End website. It will not show our logo options.
2. Above the photo on the home page click on "Men" or "Women"
3. On the drop-down menu select what you are interested in. For example, Men>Activewear >Tops gives you 19 different styles and fabrics of men's shirts. When you have selected an item click on it and select your color, size and quantity. Then on the lower right-hand corner of the screen click on the blue "Apply Logos" button.
4. On the next screen click on the VGCA logo to choose it and it will open the "select a Location" menu showing where you can have the VGCA logo embroidered. Choose a location and then scroll down to the "Apply Logo" button in the lower right corner and click it. It will return you to your garment page.
5. If you are satisfied with your garment, color, size and logo location click on the "Add to Bag" button in the lower right corner.
6. Then you can then go to checkout or continue shopping. When you checkout it will show an additional \$8.95 for embroidery.



If you have any questions, you can reach Bruce Buchner at 703-339-8212 or [Buchnerb@cox.net](mailto:Buchnerb@cox.net)

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### FOR SALE:

★ **FINNISH MOSIN-NAGANT** is authored by VGCA member Matt DiRisio and published by Wet Dog Publications. The list price is \$99.95. It is 584 pages long with over 1,500 color and black and white photographs.

For ordering information go to the Wet Dog Publications website at:

<https://www.fnbrowning.com/book-finnish-mosin-nagant>.

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### FOR SALE:

★ After more than two and a half years of research, VGCA member Bill Vanderpool has 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.

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### FOR SALE:

★ VGCA member Charlie Pate has four books that he has authored for sale, at discounted prices for 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](mailto:usarmsresearch@gmail.com)

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### FOR SALE:

★ VGCA member Larry Babcock has published a companion piece to his earlier book **M1 Garand Photo Essay**. This second book, titled **M1 Garand Photo Essay Volume II** covers all new material, to include the M1C and M1D sniper rifles as well as a myriad of M1 accessories. Best of all, both books are offered at a discount to VGCA members. Volume I is normally priced at \$69 and volume II lists for \$49, VGCA members can buy them directly from Larry for \$60 and \$40 each respectively - or \$90 total if you buy both. Look for Larry Babcock set up near the VGCA recruiting table at the next Chantilly Gun Show or order from him directly at [larrybab@comcast.net](mailto:larrybab@comcast.net) / or text to 703-856-2561.

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### FOR SALE:

★ Mossberg Model 9200 Crown Turkey. 12-gauge with 3" chamber 24-inch barrel with Modified Choke (same as Full Choke when used with steel shot). Also includes a second 24-inch slug barrel with rifle sights. \$499.



Contact Jack via email to [looney.house@verizon.net](mailto:looney.house@verizon.net) or text to 703-999-9458.

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### FOR SALE:

★ 1968 Winchester Model 70 chambered in .270 Winchester. Excellent condition. Accepting offers.



★ Four boxes of Freedom Munitions 10mm X-DEF 200gr  
List price is \$29.65 each - Asking \$25 each



Contact Steven Philippy at [dhhilliard54@duck.com](mailto:dhhilliard54@duck.com) or 703-927-9210.

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### WANT TO BUY:

★ Browning lever action Gold Medallion, short action, blue or silver.  
Also: Browning lever action with pistol grip and take down. Prefer .308 but any considered.  
Call King at (703) 576-7016, if there is no answer leave name and number with a brief description.  
Thank you, King von Schilling

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**WANT TO BUY:**

★ Seeking a Bagnold Sun Compass, used during WWII by British desert troops. It was mounted on their vehicles. Must be complete and in working order. Contact Jack via email to [looney.house@verizon.net](mailto:looney.house@verizon.net) or text to (703) 999-9458.



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**WANT TO BUY:**

★ VGCA Life Member and Federal Firearms License dealer Colonel Ed Cercone, USMC, is seeking to enhance his collection and is looking for the following firearms in pristine condition and preferably with correct box. Ed can be reached at [Lkcercone@aol.com](mailto:Lkcercone@aol.com) or at (703) 323-6358. Mirror finish pieces are most desired.

S&W Model 56 KTX - 38

S&W Model 73

S&W Model 59 Blue or Nickel

S&W Model 39-2 Alloy 7.65 mm

S&W Model 39 Steel Frame

S&W Model 39 Alloy Blue or Nickel

S&W Model 66 Combat 2 1/2" 357 mag

S&W Model 66 No Dash 2 1/2" 357 mag

S&W 386 SCS Airweight

Beretta Model 1934 (7.65) With High Polish Finish or Italian Air Force Production or

Model 1935 possibly with a high polish finish in 7.65

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The e-mail address for any Newsletter-related matters is [Newsletter@vgca.net](mailto:Newsletter@vgca.net) - or you can reach the editor directly at [rpebecker@verizon.net](mailto: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 George Dungan.