



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.ORG



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(A Non-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G 8162

President and Founder (Emeritus) Ed Johnson Home: 703-368-6560

Officers:

President	W. Addison Hurst	Office/Home/Fax: 540-882-3543	a.hurst@rstarmail.com
Vice President	Jim Burgess	Home: 703-754-7800	Jim_burgess@NPS.gov
Recording Secretary/Membership	Larry Hare	Home: 703-339-8636	Jasperandi@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Ed Costello	Home: 703 241-7915	edwardcostello@comcast.net

Board of Directors:

Ernie Lyles	Home: 540-659-6566	pris.ernie@verizon.net
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Show/Reservations Manager

Counsel to the Board

Webmaster/Security Chief

Accountant to the Board:

Newsletter Editor

Rick Nahas	Home: 703-550-8005	jet53sw@aol.com
Bill Chronister	Home: 703-361-7409	wchronister@cox.net
Rick Nahas	Home: 703-204-0138	jet53sw@aol.com
Emory Hackman, Esq.	Office: 703-288-2941	emory1biz@verizon.net
Larry Hunt	Office: 703-932-1020	ldhunt@idsscan.com
Charlie Rathell C.P.A.	Office: 1-800-559-6956	charles@rathellbard.com
Bill Chronister	Home: 703-204-0138	VGCAnews@cox.net
		wchronister@cox.net

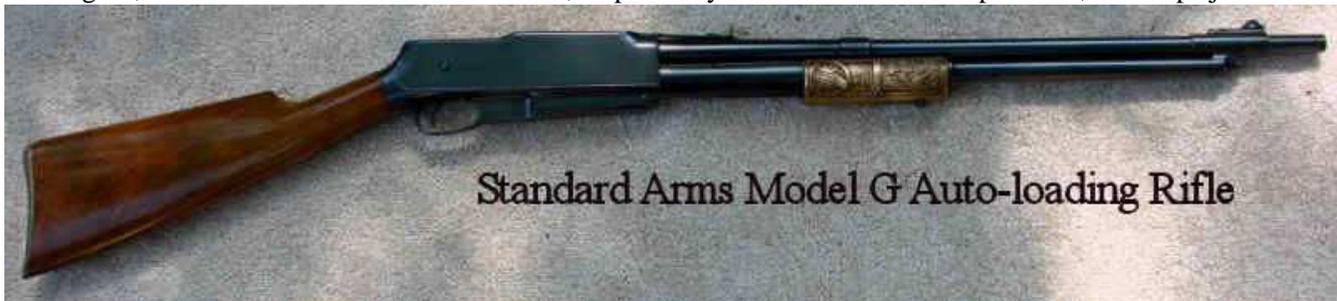


December 2007 VGCA Newsletter



President Addison Hurst opened the October 25 Meeting of the VGCA with the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence for departed members. Following this opening, Garry Baise, Republican candidate for the Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, gave a brief presentation of his candidacy including a pro-firearms position and willingness to address the illegal immigration problems in the County.

Featured Presentation at the October 25 Meeting: Larry Hare presented a very well researched and unusual talk and demonstration on "*Standard Arms Company, Wilmington, Delaware - The Genesis of the Gas Operated Semi-Automatic Rifle*", complete with a very fine collection of these unusual early long-stroke gas-operated and slide-action (pump) sporting rifles. He covered the history, design, and variations of both the Standard Arms Model G (gas-operated Semi-automatic) and the Model M (slide-action) rifles. At the time, circa 1909, there were only two competitors offering semi-automatic rifles, the two industry giants, Winchester and Remington, with their Model 1905 and Model 8, respectively. The Standard Arms products, both top eject and



Standard Arms Model G Auto-loading Rifle

using a lockup similar to the Savage 1899, were chambered in favorite Remington rimless cartridges, the .25, .30, and .35 Remington. For a very brief period, a .32 Remington was also offered. The rifles were machined to extremely close tolerances and offered with special order features like engraving. At a cost of \$37.50, this rifle was very expensive for its day. The rifles both featured a takedown feature, but required a special tool for that task, which proved to be a disadvantage if the tool was lost. In spite of the precision machining, the auto rifles were afflicted with cycling problems, due to close tolerances and fouling from the ammunition of the time. This was compounded by being hard to clean, not intuitive to disassemble, and the aforementioned reliance on the special tool. The slide-action rifles had their own disadvantage with a noisy action. The top ejection allowed dirt to enter the action and precluded scope mounting, although scopes were not common at this period. Instead, tang sights were popular and available. About 8000 Standard Arms rifles were produced in less than 5 years, with actual parts

production ceasing in 1912. Assembly continued for a while longer and Model M slide action rifle were assembled using modified Model G parts. During their short life, the rifles were apparently used by the Delaware State Penal System, as evidenced by DPS rack numbers on some examples. Larry's talk was augmented by a short technical analysis of the rifle by Bob Sears, who had started Larry's fascination with Standard Arms when he sold him a Model G rifle.



Presentation for the December 6 Meeting: Back by popular demand after his first presentation, Anthony Vanderlinden will return with a presentation on Fabrique Nationale (FN) during the Second World War. For those who missed his first talk, this should again be a very interesting topic.

***** INCLEMENT WEATHER ALERT *****

We are now approaching the winter season, and meetings are at risk of being cancelled for foul weather. Members are strongly encouraged to **Check the VGCA Website (<http://www.vgca.org>) for Weather Alerts and Meeting Cancellations!** If you see the meeting is cancelled, please inform any members you know, especially if they do not have Internet access.

Selected Notes from the November 12, 2007 VGCA ExComm Meeting: The Executive Committee met on November 12 to discuss club business, including new membership dues and the Club's Spring and Fall gunshows. The following three points were decided and additional issues will be discussed with the membership at the December 6th meeting.

- As previously mentioned in the June 2007 VGCA Newsletter, Annual and Life VGCA membership dues will go up to \$25.00 (from \$20.00), and \$125.00 (from \$100.00) respectively in January 2008. Membership dues will increase slightly again in 2009 to \$30.00 for Annual membership, and \$150.00 for Life. Our costs of operating have increased over the years and it's been a very, very long time since we've raised our dues as have most other collector organizations.
- There has been much discussion on the subject of free gunshow admittance. Previously, this was a general membership benefit, however it was decided by the ExComm that free show admittance will be restricted to the following categories: All military personnel "in uniform," law enforcement personnel with official credentials, and all table renters and their support personnel, i.e. 2 passes for the 1st table, and one additional pass for each additional table. The final category for free admission, a group always deserving of special thanks and recognition for their dedication and support, is the Gunshow Volunteers – the Security and Setup personnel. All others will have to pay admission.
- For future gunshows, the Show setup will be on Friday as was the practice at Hugo's in Bealton so that more members, especially those working types, can assist with this task, grab a three-day weekend, and gain free admission to the show.

Last Chance!!! Election time for officers is growing near.

If you have not already done so, it is now time to consider and submit nominations for **President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer**. Call **Emory Hackman**, Nominating Committee Chair at (703) 288-2941 with any nominations you can think of, including yourself. All nominations are welcome.

October 25 Business Meeting: The business meeting was shortened without a Treasurer's report and Gunshow report due to the absence of **Ed Costello** and **Rick Nahas**. These topics will be covered at the upcoming November/December combined meeting. **Emory Hackman** will also report for the Nominating Committee and nominations for Club officers. **Addison Hurst** recognized a guest, Richard Miller, a retiree from the U.S. Navy, and a former member of the All Navy Shooting Teams. We offer welcome and hope to see him again. **Larry Hare** announced new membership applications. **Richard Feirman** was voted into the VGCA in absentia during the October meeting, due to the presence of numerous sponsors. The VGCA welcomes Richard aboard.

Meeting Show and Tell: As is customary, the meeting was followed by a Show and Tell. However, every so often, there is one piece that really commands attention and the interest of the assembled crowd. In this instance it was **Roger Sherman** who started off with a rare piece of history and a fine example of the gunmakers art that he recently acquired. Roger showed a French First Empire Guard Officer's Pistol, made at the request of Napoleon Bonaparte for one of his trusted officers. The pistol, a Boutet Versailles Model XII, .64 caliber flintlock with polygroove rifling was made around 1810. It is one of what was a pair, and in beautiful shape at 90+% condition. It is engraved on the lock and barrel with a gold overlay at the breech. This absolutely beautiful piece fascinated members no matter what their own collecting interest. **John Morris** shared an 1843 vintage brass Chinese cannon cast by Chang Ming (sp?). After extensive research with Chinese scholars, he discovered the old style Chinese characters are the name of the gun – "Big Mouth." **Bill Chronister** showed two new Ruger limited production 5.5" barreled stainless steel Acusport Bisley SA Revolvers, one in .357, and the other a .45ACP/.45 Colt convertible. The perfect configuration for a field gun. **Addison Hurst** closed the evening with two rarities. The first was an M3 carbine with Infra-red sniper scope and case. The second was a one-of-a-kind U.S. Krag carbine in .22RF! The unmarked barrel is 28" long with an eccentric bore to permit firing with the original centerfire firing pin. This may be the rifle referenced by Brophy as a single example in existence.

Upcoming Events and Shows

Words to the Wise: Lately there have been some changes in scheduling by gunshow promoters or errors on some websites. Members are strongly encouraged to check before driving long distances for a show. These dates have been published as of this writing, but are not guaranteed.

If you have a show you would like to tell other members about, please email the Editor with a short review, including the items displayed, i.e., modern, new, or antique, and I will include it if room permits.

VIRGINIA

- ☉ December 1-2, 2007 - Dale City, VA - VFW Post 1503 - *Old Dominion Shows*
- ☉ December 1-2, 2007 - Richmond, VA - The Showplace - *C&E Gun Show*
- ☉ December 8-9, 2007 - Harrisonburg, VA - Rockingham County Fairgrounds - *C&E Gun Show*
- ☉ December 15-16, 2007 - Fredericksburg, VA - Expo Center - *SGK, LTD.*
- ☉ December 15-16, 2007 - Salem, VA - Salem Civic Center - *C&E Gun Show*
- ☉ December 29-30, 2007 - Virginia Beach, VA - Convention Center - *SGK, LTD.*
- ☉ January 26-27, 2008 - Hampton, VA - Convention Center - *SGK, LTD.*

MARYLAND

- ☉ December 22-23, 2007 - Pikesville, MD - Pikesville Armory - *Appalachian Promotions*

PENNSYLVANIA

- ☉ December 1-2, 2007 – Allentown, PA – Fairgrounds - Agricultural Hall - *The Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*. Contact: FDHAS, 3491 Linden St., Bethlehem, PA 18017. (610) 997-8613 after 6 pm.
- ☉ December 8-9, 2007 – Harrisburg, PA - Farm Show Complex - *Mid-Atlantic Arms Collectors*
- ☉ December 14-16, 2007 – King of Prussia, PA - Valley Forge Convention Center - *valleyforgegunshow.com*
- ☉ December 22-23, 2007 – Allentown, PA - Allentown Days Inn - *Eagle Arms*
- ☉ December 29-30, 2007 – Alburtis, PA - Alburtis Community Center - *Eagle Arms*
- ☉ March 7-9, 2008 – King of Prussia, PA - Valley Forge Convention Center - *valleyforgegunshow.com*

"Laws that forbid the carrying of arms disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes. Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they serve rather to encourage than to prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than an armed man."

-- Thomas Jefferson, quoting 18th century criminologist Cesare Beccaria in "On Crimes and Punishment", 1764

Address for any Newsletter related matters or submissions is VGCAnews@cox.net. Feel free to email items for inclusion in the newsletter. For changes of address or non-receipt of the newsletter, either via email or the mailed hard-copy, please contact Larry Hare at the numbers on page one.

V/R, Bill Chronister, Newsletter Editor