



# VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.ORG



Est. 1983 (A Non-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G 8162

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## December 2008 VGCA Newsletter



### Presentation at the October 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting:

The VGCA/NRA National Firearms Museum presentation for the October Meeting was provided by the newly appointed Director of the NFM, Jim Supica, previously of Lenexa, Kansas. Mr. Supica should be familiar to many of our membership since he has owned and operated the Old

Towne Station Catalog for many years, and more recently, several internet firearm collector-oriented web sales and auction sites such as

[www.armsbid.com](http://www.armsbid.com) and the late *Armchair Gun Show* site. You may have

also become familiar with Jim from his many editorial and firearm

historical contributions to such publications as the *Standard Catalog of*

*Smith & Wesson* (co/authored with our own Rick Nahas), the *American*

*Rifleman Magazine*, *Shotgun News*, *Flaydermans Guide*, and the *Blue Book*

*of Gun Values*.

Jim introduced himself by recounting his collecting philosophy, and the history of his business that converted his love of firearms and history into a mail order catalog business in 1991, and then grew into a very successful enterprise over the subsequent years. Jim has decided to liquidate his firearms businesses, and relocate to the Washington Metro area to assume the challenging job of Director of the NFM. This region is going to be quite a culture (or at least traffic) shock. Jim discussed some of his ideas

for the firearms museum. Examples of some areas of future development would be NFM education, communications, increasing traffic through the NFM, initiating an outreach to the media for such things as providing technical assistance, expanding the existing website (including adding a photo/description of the NFM collection pieces for general reference usage), and creating a volunteer program to interpret the NFM collection to various visitors and groups. Jim also would like to review the donation process to supplement the museum's limited operating funds. These are only a few of Jim's many ideas for the NFM and he seemed to be very open to suggestions.

Jim concluded his presentation by displaying many special and unique Smith & Wesson revolvers from his personal collection. Please note that Jim Supica admitted that he has been, and still is an "ACCUMULATOR" and did not apologize for it. A few members of the VGCA have also been accused of this practice and it's nice to know that we are not alone. Jim displayed the following historically significant firearms: A S&W Russian model revolver owned by Rankin of Lawrence, KS; Another S&W revolver owned by William Sweeny, who was an

employee of Wild Bill Cody; S&W Schofield serial no.1 (which was refurbished and then sold to Wells Fargo, sometime in it's service life. It had the cropped barrel, etc. and had been well used. Apparently, no one thought that it was anymore special than any other old S&W service revolver); A S&W Double Action .44 engraved/gold plated revolver; A S&W revolver attributed to the Jesse James gang; and A very special S&W .38 Service revolver shipped to one T. Roosevelt in May of 1898.

► **Presentation for the December 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting:** The third and final NRA/NFM and VGCA presentation of 2008 will be a presentation by legal gun rights experts on the recent Supreme Court Case of Dick Heller vs. the District of Columbia. This should be a fascinating, and very, very topical presentations that should not be missed by any gun owner, hunter, enthusiast, collector or self-defense devotee. Please try to attend.

**Correction/clarification of October Issue:** Phil Schreier was out at the Whittington Center in Raton, New Mexico to help set up the NRA's *Frank Brownell Museum of the South West*, a satellite facility of the National Firearms Museum (NFM). He has not changed jobs or location, and he continues to be one of the Senior Curators at the NRA HQ National Firearms Museum here in the Nations' capital.

**\*\*\* 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 the meeting is cancelled, please inform members you know, especially those without Internet.

**October 23<sup>rd</sup> Business Meeting:** Ed Costello was away, however Addison informed the attendees about the current status of the club treasury after the Fall Gun Show. Addison also stated that the leadership was looking at several potential changes, including going to just one show a year and perhaps teaming with another collecting organization. The members in attendance were requested to ensure that their email addresses are current. A number of eNewsletters are bouncing because of an address changes, or security filter settings. If you have not received your e-mailed Newsletter, please check your address, followed by personal or ISP spam filter settings. A member can always employ an alternative source and obtain our most recent eNewsletter by going to our website at <http://www.VGCA.org>. Larry Hunt does an excellent job of maintaining this site and keeping it current. The VGCA welcomed new members Guy Hall and Kenneth Santiago. We also recognized fellow collectors and enthusiasts - PACA member Terry Popkin, and Peter Cobb from Massachusetts. Welcome and thanks for coming.

**Announcements: Election of VGCA Board of Directors** - Now that THAT election has passed, members should seriously think about the election for **3 seats on the VGCA Board of Directors**. Please consider if you would like to run or nominate a candidate. The following six members have said yes to being nominated for the Board of Directors either directly by voice phone call, e-mail message, or by silent acquiescence. If anybody has additional nominees, or wishes to self-nominate, please speak quickly and notify Emory Hackman make a nomination from the floor at the December 4 meeting (last chance!). The nominees (I = incumbent) to date are: **Rick Nahas (i), Ernie Lyles (i), Bill Chronister (i), Larry Hunt, John Freitch, and Kelly Cook**. Further announcements will be made at the December 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. **Dues for annual membership** are payable in January 2009 and will increase to \$30.00 per year. Get them in now to avoid being removed from the VGCA roles.

**October Show and Tell:** **Jim Morris** showed his S&W Model 76 9mm sub-machinegun 1973 DC, apparently a fairly rare and desirable example of this genre. **Tom Ring** presented a beautiful, exquisitely detailed, and accurately crafted reproduction of the rare German K98 take-down paratroop rifle that Tom had produced himself. This was truly a finely finished work, and not a "bubba" mutant by any means. It clearly shows how Tom is a uniquely talented craftsman and true gunsmith in every sense of the word. **Charles Rathell** shared his beautifully preserved and rather uncommon US Navy marked, 1942 production S&W Victory Model Revolver. **Another member** displayed a S&W Model 77 .22 caliber pellet rifle manufactured by S&W for a few short years in the early 1970's. It just goes to show that not all S&Ws were or are powder burners. **Shannon Zeigler**, recently returned from Iraq, was fortunate enough to observe, handle, and examine many interesting arms while deployed. Unfortunately, however, he was not allowed to bring them back. Not to be empty handed, Shannon did manage to liberate several interesting scopes, among them was a German Zfk. 43 CZ scope, a Chinese military export scope

for the Romanian PPS sniper rifle, and a indigenous Iraqi scope calibrated for the 7.62 x 39mm round. **John Morris**, as always, is no light weight when it comes to powder burners and he proved this again during the S&T with a 3 barreled Nordenfelt MKI, gravity hopper fed, British battery gun chambered for the Martini-Henry 577-450 cartridge. It is a very uncommon example of this type of weapon, especially since it appears that many of the originals were scrapped to salvage their solid bronze receivers.

### October 2008 VGCA Meeting



Jim Supica displays a Schofield ↑



Upper Right: You cannot say the members were not interested. Inspecting the Supica Schofields.  
Lower Left: Jim Morris' S&W Model 76 sub-machinegun.  
Lower Right: Close-up of the Bill Ring K98k Take-down replica.

**Interesting Factoid:** According to FBI figures for the week of November 3 to 9, the Bureau received more than 374,000 requests for background checks on gun purchasers -- a nearly 49 percent increase over the same period in 2007. Just coincidence??

**Request for Information (RFI):** Larry Hunt would like to start a feature on the VGCA web page "Know Your Gun's History." He would like articles with photos from VGCA members about their collections. He suggests 2-3 pages in length. He would like to get our members more involved in the club and to share their knowledge. He would also like members to help him gather data in an attempt to build [VirginiaMuzzleLoaders.com](http://VirginiaMuzzleLoaders.com), [VirginiaGunCollectors.com](http://VirginiaGunCollectors.com) and [GunCollectors.com](http://GunCollectors.com). Larry can be reached at his e-mail address or number listed on the masthead of the newsletter. This is a great opportunity to contribute to what will surely become a resource for as well as provide visibility for the club.

**Acknowledgement:** Many, many thanks to Larry Hare for the notes and draft reports of the October meeting, and to Jack Looney for the wonderful photos. The Outer Banks puppy drum surf fishing was very hot and more than made up for my missing the meeting. – Bill Chronister, Ed.

### Upcoming Events and Shows

***Words to the Wise:** Lately there have been some changes in scheduling by promoters or errors on 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.*

This e-Newsletter includes an expanded gun show list. Collector organization shows are highlighted in yellow. It would appear Virginia is not lacking for gun shows. Also note the scheduling and instances of more than one show in a given weekend. Enjoy this potentially endangered species while you can.

### VIRGINIA

#### 2008

- ⊕ November 21-23, 2008 - Chantilly, VA - Dulles Expo Center - C&E Gun Show / Showmasters
- ⊕ November 29-30, 2008 - Virginia Beach, VA - Convention Center - SGK, LTD
- ⊕ December 6-7, 2008 - Dale City, VA - VFW Post 1503, 14631 Minnieville Rd. – Old Dominion Show
- ⊕ December 6-7, 2008 – Richmond, VA – Showplace - C&E Gun Show
- ⊕ December 13-14, 2008 - Fredericksburg, VA - Expo Center - SGK, LTD
- ⊕ December 13-14, 2008 - Harrisonburg, VA - Rockingham County Fairgrounds – Showmasters
- ⊕ December 20-21, 2008 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center - C&E Gun Show
- ⊕ December 27-28, 2008 - Fishersville, VA - Augusta Expoland – Showmasters
- ⊕ December 27-28, 2008 - Virginia Beach, VA - Convention Center - SGK, LTD

#### 2009

- ⊕ January 3-4, 2009 – Roanoke, VA - Roanoke Civic Center – Showmasters
- ⊕ January 10-11, 2009 – Richmond, VA – Showplace - C&E Gun Show
- ⊕ January 17-18, 2009 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center - C&E Gun Show
- ⊕ January 24-25, 2009 - Hampton, VA - Convention Center - SGK, LTD
- ⊕ January 31-February, 2009 - Fishersville, VA - Augusta Expoland – Showmasters
- ⊕ February 7-8, 2009 - Richmond, VA - Raceway & Fairgrounds – Showmasters
- ⊕ February 13-15, 2009 - Chantilly, VA - Dulles Expo Center - C&E Gun Show / Showmasters
- ⊕ February 28-March 1, 2009 - Virginia Beach, VA - Convention Center - SGK, LTD
- ⊕ March 7-8, 2009 – Richmond, VA – Showplace - C&E Gun Show
- ⊕ March 14-15, 2009 - Fredericksburg, VA - Expo Center - SGK, LTD
- ⊕ March 21-22, 2009 – Roanoke, VA - Roanoke Civic Center – Showmasters
- ⊕ **March 28-29, 2009 - Manassas, VA - Prince William County Fairgrounds – Virginia Gun Collectors Association**
- ⊕ March 28-29, 2009 - Richmond, VA - Raceway & Fairgrounds – Showmasters

## MARYLAND

### 2008

- ☞ November 22-23, 2008 - Pikesville, MD - Pikesville Armory - *Appalachian Promotions*
- ☞ December 13-14, 2008 - Parkville, MD - Tall Cedars Bldg. in the Putty Hill Shopping Center - *Appalachian Promotions*

### 2009

- ☞ January 3-4, 2009 - Westminster MD - Carroll County Agriculture Center – *Silverado Promotions*
- ☞ January 8-11, 2009 – Timonium, MD - Timonium Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*
- ☞ February 6-8, 2009 – Timonium, MD - Timonium Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*
- ☞ February 21-22, 2009 – Upper Marlboro, MD - Show Place Arena (P.G. County) – *Silverado Promotions*
- ☞ February 28-March 1, 2009 - Pikesville, MD - Pikesville Armory - *Appalachian Promotions*
- ☞ March 21-22, 2009 - Baltimore, MD - Timonium Maryland State Fairgrounds – *Maryland Antique Arms Collectors*

## PENNSYLVANIA

### 2008

- ☞ November 22-23, 2008 – Pottstown, PA – Sunnybrook Ballroom - *The Pennsylvania Antique Gun Collectors Association*, Contact: PAGCA Treasurer, P.O. Box 63, Media, PA 19063
- ☞ November 28-30, 2008 – Macungie, PA - Memorial Hall Macungie - *Eagle Arms*
- ☞ December 6-7, 2008 - Allentown, PA - Agricultural Hall - *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*. Contact: FDHAS, 3491 Linden St., Bethlehem, PA 18017. 610-997-8613 after 6pm.
- ☞ December 13-14, 2008 – Harrisburg, PA - Farm Show Complex - *Mid-Atlantic Arms Collectors*
- ☞ December 19-21, 2008 – King of Prussia, PA - Valley Forge Convention Center - *valleyforgegunshow.com*
- ☞ December 26-28, 2008 – Allentown, PA - Days Inn - *Eagle Arms*

### 2009

- ☞ January 17-18, 2009 - Carlisle, PA - Carlisle Expo Center - *Appalachian Promotions*
- ☞ February 7-8, 2009 – Greencastle, PA - Mason Dixon Auto Auction - *Appalachian Promotions*
- ☞ February 14-15, 2009 - Allentown, PA - Agricultural Hall - *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*. Contact: FDHAS, 3491 Linden St., Bethlehem, PA 18017. 610-997-8613 after 6pm.
- ☞ February 21-22, 2009 - York, PA - York Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*
- ☞ March 13-15, 2009 - King of Prussia, PA - Valley Forge Convention Center - *valleyforgegunshow.com*

*“The people have always some champion whom they set over them and nurse into greatness. This is the root from which a tyrant springs. When he first appears, he is the protector of the people. Having a mob entirely at his disposal, he hints at the abolition of debts and the partition of lands. What will be his destiny? Must he not either perish at the hands of his enemies or become a tyrant?”*  
- Plato, *The Republic*

The e-Mail for any Newsletter-related matters or submissions is [VGCANews@cox.net](mailto:VGCANews@cox.net). Feel free to email items for inclusion in the newsletter. For changes of address or non-receipt, either via email or the mailed hard-copy, please contact Larry Hare, Club Secretary/Membership Chair at the numbers on page one.

v/r Bill Chronister, Editor