



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

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Est. 1983 (A Non-Profit Organization)

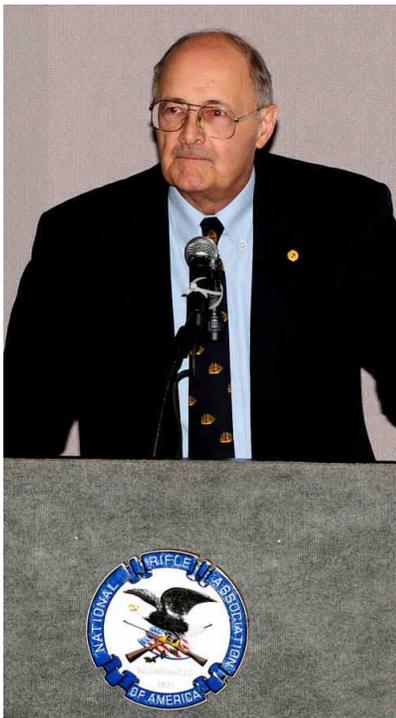
NRA Affiliate Number G 8162

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December 2009 VGCA e-Newsletter



Presentation at the October 22, 2009 Meeting of the VGCA: For the third of the VGCA/NFM presentations, National Firearms Museum Director, **Jim Supica** introduced **John Hamilton**, the author of numerous historical subjects such as Ames Swords, Japanese Swords, Percussion Schutzen Rifles, and the Freemason movement. Mr. Hamilton has also been involved in various roles supporting several museums. His presentation this night was on the history and development of the German and American Schutzenfests or Shooting Festivals. However, due to confusion of the subject of the presentation and some of his noted published works in the last newsletter, the show & tell tables were well stocked with various edged weapons. At any rate, The Schutzen movement began in Germany as early as the 15th century (1400s) and consisted of crossbow contests using rather elaborate suspended vogel or "bird" targets, sometimes representing an Eagle and suspended from a vertical pole. The Schutzenfests frequently coincided with religious holidays. Eventually, these events evolved into elaborately choreographed events that included Schutzenmeisters (Master of Ceremonies), Schutzen-tonys (young folks who marked the targets), and a group of judges to score the targets. Each town also created their own, unique uniforms for the Schutzenfest. Schutzenfests were very much a family / town social event that also included significant quantities of food, beer, and other beverages. The Schutzenfest movement migrated to the new world with each of three main waves of German immigration in the 1800's, morphing from a somewhat pious event in Philadelphia, PA, in 1846 to an event with a more political theme, and eventually evolved to one with a laid back family oriented activity. The presentation was well illustrated with period photographs and drawings of the events, weapons and participant.

★ UPCOMING Meetings: **Phil Schreier of the NFM** recently just Addison Hurst with a preview of the Fourth and final VGCA/NFM Special Speakers session for 2009 that will be presented at the Thursday, December combined November/December meeting of the VGCA. If you remember, last December 2008, we had **Alan Gura**, the attorney in the precedent setting Heller v. District of Columbia Supreme Court decision that struck down the District's blanket handgun ban as unconstitutional (covered in the January 2009 VGCA Newsletter). He was joined by NRA General Counsel **Bob Dowlut**, and noted Second Amendment scholar and researcher **Steve Halbrook** in a panel discussion on that case and strategic litigation to protect Second Amendment rights. Well the anti-gunners are at it again. The city of Chicago has filed a federal suit claiming that Heller only protects people living on federal enclaves or in DC, and does not protect the citizens in the several states. Phil Schreier recently witnessed a presentation by Bob Dowlut regarding the amicus brief he filed in the Chicago federal case. (From Page 1)

Due to the timeliness and brilliant presentation, Phil arranged for Mr. Dowlut to reprise it for us. There are now six states that still have no state guaranteed right to keep or bear arms. This is must see presentation. Addison is going to invite Alan and Steve to come and add their comments on this situation resulting from the Heller case. The Chicago case will most likely end up in the Supreme Court and is vitally important to all of us. Members are encourage read an article on this case in the December 2009 *American Rifleman* magazine on pages 16-18 before the meeting. As is customary for the NFM Speaker Series, refreshments will be served.

Comments from the Podium:

My comments on the show: We had over 1300 paid attendees. It was not a record gate, but was good. While the economy is bad, the dealers I talked to seemed to be happy. The assessment and informal appraisals of guns brought in by the public was almost out of control, and had long lines. The public loved it and many shook both Emory's and Jim Burgess' and my hands many times. At times, the excellent PA was used to page members with expertise to assist in the evaluations. I think the Washington Post ad was very effective. As a collectors' club, we need to carve out a niche in the crowded gun show market, and features such as this may help us do that by setting us apart from the other shows. I never would have believed that this idea would be so popular, but it was! Many of the public were from out of state, but they came to the show for the free service. Many asked if we would continue doing this — I assured them we would. I would very much like to recognize and thank Jim and Emory for their most kind assistance. We will continue with the Post ad (huge exposure to 1.5 million at a minimum). The public relations benefit for VGCA was huge. I referred many folks to our usual list of usual suspects who happen to be experts in various fields. The public loved this.

- Big thanks to Jim Burgess for heading up the display judging program. He came up with a great form and it worked well. A big thank you is also extended to the folks who displayed this time — the displays were World Class — as I hoped you noticed if you were at the show. Also, we owe a big thank you to the judges.
- A giant thank you is due to Rick Nahas. He managed a very difficult job in coordinating and arranging the show, fitting 8 foot tables into a plan that originally was designed for 6 foot tables. He did a fantastic job and you should thank him personally the next time you see him. He puts up with an incredible quantity of BS and does so with a sense of humor. How he does this consistently is a mystery to me. He loves the club.
- It can not be overstated what a great job Larry Hunt and his security staff did at the show. Larry and the group simply made our show as safe as it could be. Best security ever. Many thanks to all those who donated their time and wore the orange vests..., you are invaluable to us.
- I also want to congratulate the safety volunteers who man the gate and ensure that all firearms are inspected, unloaded, and tied before entry to the exhibit hall. Well done.
- Ben Van Scoyoc, the manager of the NFM museum and store, asked that I let you know that the museum and store will remain open on December 3, (our meeting date) until 7 PM for your convenience. He has lots of gift items in the store so consider an early arrival for this for Christmas shopping. All purchases benefit the NRA.
- Lastly, I should like to mention that since we have not had time to offer to the membership our proposals to re-structure the board, we should hold the normal election of the officers as we have always done — by mailing ballots out to all members. After the Holidays, the board will offer to you our plan. In the meantime, please consider nominating anyone you think qualified — send the names to any board member. It is essential that we have a rich slate of candidates for the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, both to provide a choice and to allow incumbents a well-deserved break if they choose not to run. Ballots will be sent out in January or February.
- Please welcome our newest life member, Lance Simons — the greatest BBQ chef — other than Ed Johnson — to ever cook at “Hog Heaven” at the NORVA Property! He is also the best building contractor ever. He can construct anything extremely well and he is 1000% honest — this makes him special. Make him welcome. If you need to contact him, call me, Lee Turner or Ed Costello.

In closing, while we are not a big show, we had fun, made expenses and enjoyed each other's company. We increased the PR factor with the public, the show was safe, and nothing was reported stolen. It was great fun. Hope to see you on Dec 3rd.

~ Addison Hurst, VGCA President

Invitation to all members: If you wish to do a presentation at a meeting, please notify Addison or any of the board members. You can team with another member for a joint session. The purpose is to educate, share camaraderie and gain knowledge. After the December 3rd meeting 2009 is over, but 2010 is available and allows ample time to gather up your courage and prepare a presentation.

October 22, 2009 Business Meeting: Three new members were voted into the flock: Thomas Paddock, Sponsor Al Edge; Mark Galvin, Sponsor Bob Tarcza; Allan Fehlings, Sponsor Bob Tarcza. Welcome to all, and hope to see you at the shows and meetings. Guests were also recognized and introduced.

Special Clearance Offer!!! →

We have received inquiries about the VGCA baseball caps worn by some of the members, that were available in the past. There are still approximately 42 hats remaining in the Club inventory and they are being priced to move. The hats will be sold for \$10.00 each, and are a great way to support and represent the club. The hats are a dark navy blue with an embroidered and sewn VGCA logo – no cheap decals or transfers on these hat and are size adjustable with a small buckle. They will be available for purchase at the upcoming meetings and will be offered until sold out. See Ed Costello for more information.



Upcoming Election of VGCA Officers: As mentioned in last month's newsletter, and in Addison's *Notes from the Podium* above, it is nearing the time for the election of the VGCA Officer positions. In the last issue, we informed the membership that the Officers and Board of Directors

of the VGCA are considering ideas to increase member involvement and participation and to provide for new blood by re-structuring Officers and Board of Directors positions. This task, however, will not be completed before we need to have our elections. Election season is rapidly advancing. In the meantime, the Officers and Board would like the members to think long and hard about what you would like to see from the club, what directions we should take as an organization and who you believe would best serve and lead the club. To have a vibrant organization, we need to have enough member interest in assisting with club leadership. While the last election of Officers was not a contested election, it is not a forgone conclusion, nor can we assume, that all of the current officers will be running again and we need, as does any organization and government with elected leaders, to have interested individuals who are willing to serve. A nomination committee will soon be formed. However if you wish to run or would like to nominate a member for an Officer position please contact Emory Hackman at the contact points listed in the Masthead. We will also be soliciting and will accept nominations from the floor. **Consider if you would like to make a nomination (always good to check with the member you are nominating first), or if you would like to make a run yourself.** It is time to help out, be heard, and be counted.

October 22, 2009 Show and Tell: Bob Sears started off the Show and Tell with his Springfield Armory made M1922 .22 Hornet rifle, "The Woodworth Rifle." This was the first .22 Hornet rifle and was owned by Al Woodworth. Marc Gorelick showed his newly acquired S&W Model of 1899 Navy revolver in .38 Long Colt. 1000 were made and it was one of the earliest S&W swing out cylinder models. In keeping with his small bore area of interest, Larry Hare displayed a Webley Mark VI revolver converted by Parker-Hale to a single-shot police trainer. Moving up in bore, Ed Costello presented the "dart penetrator" from a 105mm sabot round. These projectiles were about 30mm in diameter with a tungsten core making them extremely heavy for their size. When fired from a 105mm gun, the hyper-velocity projectile would punch through tank armor. In the vein of the blade theme of one of the books published by the evening's speaker, Jack Looney showed a modern *Cold Steel* made rendition of the Gurkha kukri knife. This blade theme was also kept by Ben Sims who had 2 Ames swords, an 1840 Dragoon "Wrist Buster" and a light cavalry saber. Ed Johnson followed with his USMC 1859 Army Model

sword that was made for the U.S. Marine Corps. A favored accessory of a sharp-dressed man was an antique Cane Sword with a French rapier blade from the **Kelly Cook** collection. **John Morris** again fascinated the audience with another incredibly rare curiosity, a projectile from an 1890 Sims-Dudley Dynamite gun. The 4.5 pound projectile was fired from the cannon with a nitro-cellulose gelatin mixture rather than dynamite. It may be the only surviving example of this dead end path of artillery research. **Addison Hurst** had a number of military edged tools and weapons – A model 1904 Hospital Corpsman knife, a Case WWII pilots survival machete, another variation of the same tool, but with a folding blade, a rare WWII M3 Trench Knife by Imperial, which was issued with the original configuration M1 carbines in lieu of a bayonet, and a Model 1910 Bolo knife – as Crocodile Dundee said, “That’s a knife.”

***** Fall VGCA Gun Show *****

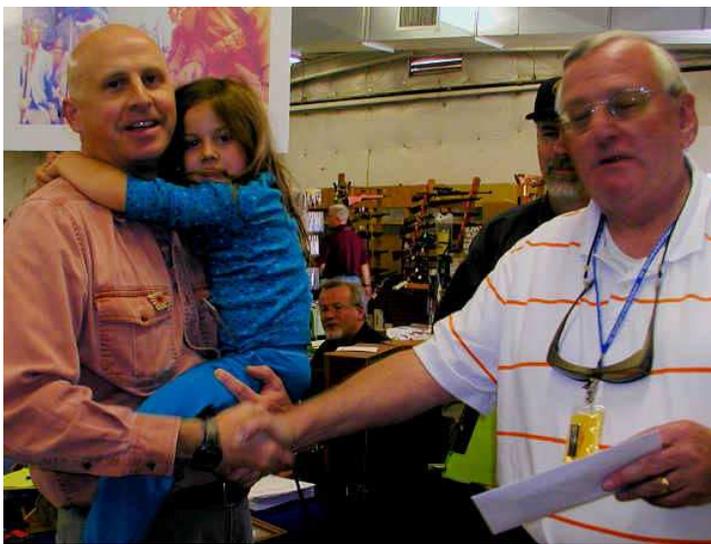
The Historical and Educational Display Awards for the Fall Gunshow went to the following members:

- ☛ **1st Place Award** went to **Shannon Zeigler** for his unusual display of the *Rifles and Carbines of Siam*. This was a selection of some very unusual and uncommon rifles used by Siam (Thailand). Shannon also took a 2nd Place with this display at the October Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society show in Allentown, PA.
- ☛ **2nd Place Award** went to **Dave Litchfield** for his comprehensive display of Walther pistols and accoutrements in *Collecting Walther Pistols*.
- ☛ **3rd Place Award** went to **Jim Vaughan** for his well presented display of the *Weapons of the War of 1812*.
- ☛ **The Judges’ Choice Award** was presented to **Sonny Laine** for his comprehensive *US Rifleman’s Supplemental Equipment*.

Well done and all deserve a hand for a lot of hard work, patience and making their collection available for our inspection and appreciation. (Photos of the Displays and Award Presentations are on the Photo Page)

→→→→ Special Announcement “Lost and FOUND” – We are seeking information from members or someone who knows the person who brought a Civil War firearm to the Assessment and Appraisal Table for review and found a part was missing. The missing part was found later!!! If you are the person, or know the person, you may claim the part by giving a description of the part and identify the firearm it was from to Robert Bloomfield, contact cell: 571-431-2015 or by e-mail at robert.d.bloomfield@lmco.com (LMCO.COM).

Fall 2009 VGCA Gun Show Photos



Shannon Zeigler – First Place Award
Rifles and Carbines of Siam (above left)



Dave Litchfield – Second Place Award
Collecting Walther Pistols

**Fall 2009 VGCA Gun Show Photos
(Continued)**

Shannon Zeiglar – First Place Award – *Rifles and Carbines of Siam*



Dave Litchfield – Second Place Award – *Collecting Walther Pistols*



Note: The above images are just illustrative parts of the larger display in order to show details and display techniques.

Fall 2009 VGCA Gun Show Photos
(continued)



Jim Vaughan – Third Place Award
Weapons of the War of 1812 (Center)



Sonny Laine – Judge's Choice Award
US Rifleman's Supplemental Equipment (Lower)



October 22 Meeting Photos

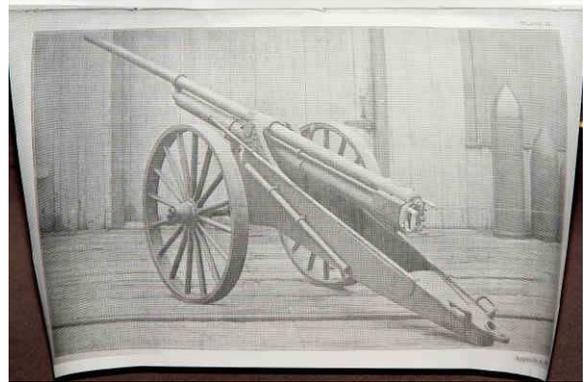


Speaker John Hamilton and 1827 Schutzen target. ← →



John Morris's Experimental dynamite gun projectile - an incredibly rare find. ←

Prototype dynamite gun - a dead branch of artillery development. →



L>R: Larry Hare's Webley Police Trainer, Addison Hurst's U.S. Hospital Corpsman's Knife, Ben Sims' 1840 Ames Dragoon Sword.

Obituary Notice

O.H. McKagen, a Charter member of VGCA, died on Thursday, November 19, at age 93 from cancer. Until his health deteriorated, O.H. was an active black powder and cast bullet shooter and authored numerous articles appearing in *The Gun Report* and other publications. He was a former member of Fairfax Rod & Gun Club and, in conjunction with the late Ellis Lea, initiated the now popular black powder cartridge rifle silhouette matches or "ram bashes" there. His collecting interests included U.S. military and Mauser rifles. He managed VGCA gun show table reservations for a number of years until he was able to unload the job on Jim Burgess, who now owns and shoots a muzzleloading, percussion rifle that O.H. built.

Upcoming Events and Shows

Words to the Wise: There are sometimes changes in schedules by gun show promoters or errors on websites. Members are strongly encouraged to verify before driving to a show. Historical events and lectures, re-enactments, auctions (national, international, and local estate auctions) are all welcome.

VIRGINIA

- November 28-29, 2009 - Hampton, VA - Convention Center - *SGK, LTD*
- December 5-6, 2009 - Richmond, VA - Showplace - *C&E Gun Show*
- December 12-13, 2009 - Harrisonburg, VA - Rockingham County Fairgrounds - *Showmasters*
- December 12-13, 2009 - Fredericksburg, VA - Expo Center - *SGK, LTD*
- December 19-20, 2009 - Salem, VA - Salem Civic Center - *C&E Gun Show*

MARYLAND

- December 12-13, 2009 - Parkville, MD - Tall Cedars Bldg., Putty Hill Shopping Center - *Appalachian Promotions*

PENNSYLVANIA

- December 5-6, 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.
- December 12-13, 2009 - Harrisburg, PA - Farm Show Complex - *Mid-Atlantic Arms Collectors*
- December 18-20, 2009 - King of Prussia, PA - Valley Forge Convention Center - *valleyforgegunshow.com*

**Suppose you were an idiot.
And suppose you were a member of Congress....
But then I repeat myself.
- Mark Twain**

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