



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.ORG

Est. 1983 (A Non-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G8162



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December 2012 VGCA Newsletter



Presentation from the October 25th Meeting: Lt.Col. Bernie Breighner, USAF Ret., and a collector of Class III, Sniper Rifles, and other weapons, covered the Mk11 Mod 0 Sniper Rifle based on the Knight's SR-25. Bernie started with a brief overview of the original AR10 in 7.62x51 NATO that was developed by Eugene Stoner at Fairchild/Armalite in the 1950's. While it lost out to the Springfield M14 as

the US main battle rifle, it was sold to the Netherlands and some African countries. He showed a number of illustrations of the original AR10 variants. The Knights SR-25 is based upon much of the Stoner design and included updates for reliability and durability, as well as suppressor compatibility features and mission specific improvements. It was designed to be a long range, highly accurate semi-automatic rifle that from day one was to accept a suppressor with a predictable and repeatable point of impact so that removing and then replacing the suppressor would not change the POI. The original SR-25/Mk11 Mod 0 Sniper Rifle utilized a 24" Remington 5R barrel with a 1-11.25" twist. To ensure repeatability, all the components – upper, lower, and suppressor were made by Knights and numbered to the rifle. Improvements to a second variant included reducing the barrel to 20" with no loss of accuracy and decreased weight. The U.S. navy version used a free-float rail system fore end and used a "Boots" Obermeyer barrel optimized for the M118LR round. The suppressor achieves a 30db sound reduction (about the equivalent of a car door closing.) Bernie had many accessories and the original manual as well many photos of the rifle in use. Knights has sold version to a number of countries including Australia and Israel. The Mk11 Mod 0 Sniper Rifle has been superseded by the new M110 Sniper Weapons System (M110 SWS) in 2007.

❖ December Meeting Change! Due to scheduling conflicts, we have moved the December 6th Annual Meeting at NRA-HQ Conference Center to **December 13th, 2012 in the NRA-HQ General Purpose Room.** Please make a note and tell any members you speak to. We will have the Second VGCA Holiday pot luck dinner. There will be a ham, so bring in a dish to share. Assorted wraps, entrees, salads, drinks, and delicious desserts including pumpkin pies, are needed. Last time the food went fast, everyone got good helpings (and seconds ☺), and in the end, there was little to carry home – which equals SUCCESS! After the dinner we will have nominations for the Board of Director slots, an expanded Show and Tell, and a Swap Meet. So, bring eats, ca\$h to spend or hardware to trade.

2013 Presentation Volunteers Needed: We will still need presenters for 2013. Call one of the Association officers now to request your preferred month for 2013. There are 9 potential presentation dates (January, February, April, May, June, August, September, October and December) in 2013, but some are spoken for. We do not have meetings in March and November (gun shows) or in July. Shorter and direct works best; and it does not require slides. If you wish, there are members who will assist you in creating a PowerPoint presentation.

❖❖❖ INCLEMENT WEATHER ALERT ❖❖❖: We are approaching the winter season. During the winter months meetings may be cancelled for bad weather. **Check the VGCA Website (<http://www.vgca.org>) for Weather Alerts and Cancellations!** If the meeting is cancelled, there will be a flashing cloud with a notice when you open the homepage. Please inform members you know, especially those without Internet access.

Notes from the Podium – President's Message

We have had an active and interesting October and November within the VGCA. Rick Nahas and I drove down to Anniston, Alabama on 9 October and shopped for rifles at the Civilian Marksmanship Program outlet store. The store stocks M-1 rifles in various grades and cost categories from cheap shooters to very expensive rare rifles and sniper versions. The inventory varies between all 4 of the manufacturers: Springfield Armory, Winchester, Harrington & Richardson and International Harvester and all the various grades that CMP offers for sale.

The outlet also offers .22 target rifles, drill and parade rifles returned from veteran organizations and college ROTC programs all over the US, bayonets, surplus and new ammunition, slings, and other military accessories, depending on what has been received, processed and released for sale. You can go to the CMP website to review how to qualify to buy guns from them, mail order applications for purchase, and current inventory for sale. The staff is extremely customer friendly and the process works like a Swiss watch from entry to selection, approval, payment and departure. There are plenty of technical experts to educate and assist you in selecting a rifle.

It is best to arrive on Wednesday morning before the store opens, so you can get in line for entry at opening time, and catch the new inventory for the week on display. If you wait for Thursday, you'll only have the left overs to choose from.

After our visit to the CMP store, Rick and I proceeded to drive north into Kentucky and make our way to the Knob Creek Shooting Range to join up with John Morris and Ed Costello for the big Fall machine gun shooting weekend. The weekend is a combination massive Class 3 shooting event and large gun/ammo/militaria sales show. We helped man John's sales tables and enjoyed our time under his rock hard management. John allows no lollygagging by his sales staff and took pride in critiquing every sale each one of us made for three days. John is an excellent judge of prospective customers and proved to be a great instructor to us. To his credit we had a fine time and he took good care of his staff.

On October 22, Rick and I led a delegation from Northern Virginia, including Jim Frigiola, Mike Goldschmidt, John Courtright and Harry Rensell up to Springfield, Massachusetts to visit the Smith & Wesson firearms production facility and the Springfield Armory National Historic (SANH) site. Dr. Jack Ganson joined us on location. Bill York brought in 7 members of the Ye Olde Connecticut Gun Guild who proved to be great additions to our group. These two tours were very interesting, each in a different way. The S&W tour allowed us to stand within inches of men and women making S&W products in all stages from the huge stamping machines banging out frames from steel round stock, to final boxing of Thompson Center and S&W M&P 15 rifles. We were picking up parts, asking questions and trying to figure out how to get a free sample out of the plant.

The SANH site is a walk back into the history of US government arms manufacturing from 1795 to 1967, with original production equipment, plans, photos and a large selection of historic weapons, including many M-1 rifles.

Finally, we successfully executed our Fall 2012 VGCA Gun Show at the PWC Fairgrounds on November 3-4. We had strong attendance numbers, and combined with our Spring 2012 Show, produced our best financial gain for a number of years. I want to give a very large THANK YOU to **Rick Nahas**, **Dennis Gerdovich**, and **Emory Hackman** of the Show Committee, to **Addison Hurst** and **Jim Burgess** for operating the Evaluation Table, to **Jim Burgess** for leading the judging of the Historical Displays, and to **John Frietsch** and the many set up and security volunteers all of whom made the show a success. Our next meeting, set for **Thursday, December 13**, will be the Annual Meeting and include a Pot Luck Holiday Dinner where we ask all attendees to bring a finger food, vegetable, salad, or desert dish to share. We will have an expanded Show & Tell and a SWAP Meet, so bring in your personal hardware and assorted items that night. (Please see announcement on Page 1. Editor)

~~ Happy Collecting, *Dave Litchfield*

Business Meeting for October 25th Meeting: President **Dave Litchfield** started the evening by recognizing guests. He also announced that the next day was **Bob Sears'** 85th birthday. **Larry Hare** presented one new application for membership. Major **Thomas Dysinger** of the U.S. Army applied for membership, but was deployed to Afghanistan before he could be present at a meeting where a formal vote would be taken by the membership. As his sponsor(s) were present, his application was heard and he was voted in unanimously by those in attendance. Welcome aboard! The membership heard a request to VGCA from Lanz Simons to assist a 4H muzzle loading team. VGCA later made a \$250.00 donation to encourage youth shooting development. Announcements were made about the setup times for the Fall gun show. Dave then gave a briefing on his recent trips to CMP-Anniston and the VGCA field trip to New England (please see Presidents Message above for details.)

* * * 2012 Fall VGCA Gun Show * * *

The Historical and Educational Display Awards for the 2012 Fall Gun Show were again outstanding. They covered firearms innovation, military historical and technological development, and in one case reflected recent current events and sacrifices made by our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Congratulations and thanks to all who presented displays that exemplify one of the core tenets of the VGCA – advancing the knowledge of firearms, history and the hobby of gun collecting.

- **1st Place Award:** The award went to **Bernie Breighner** for his great display of *The Knight's SR-25 Mk11 Mod 0 Sniper Rifles*. These rifles are used with great success by the US Special Operations Command, the US Army, Navy, and Marines in locations like Afghanistan and Iraq. Designed for use with a matched suppressor, this display had some of the very small number of ex-military Mk11 Mod 0 rifles with a combat history that have been released to civilian collectors and buyers. The display was augmented by accessories and photos of the rifle in use in the field by elite US forces.
- **2nd Place Award:** This award went to **Ernie Lyles** for another of his displays of unique and unusual firearms and technology. His display, *The Dardick Magazine-Fed Revolver*, focused on firearms technology that used triangular cartridges called "trounds" which were fed from a magazine into a cylinder and then revolved into place for firing. It also contained rare documentation related to the design, development and patenting of the gun and also included manuals and sales literature from the revolver's initial commercial release.
- **Judges' Choice:** The Judges Choice Award recognized **Wayne Robinson** and **Wayne Miller** for their comprehensive display of U.S. Military Jeeps of different eras and period appropriate gear, weapons, and uniforms. These two individuals have devoted significant energy and time to create a very detailed and historically accurate educational display.

Recognition and thanks to the Fall 2012 VGCA Gun Show Volunteers. Putting on the gun show is a lot of work. VGCA thanks and wishes to recognize those individuals whose efforts ensure an enjoyable, professional, and educational show experience.

- ⊙ **A note from the Security Chief:** We had a good show with the largest turnout for a fall show in nine years. The crew, as usual, gave of their time and energies and kept their eyes focused and dedicated to the task at hand. Here they are in alphabetical order: **Bill Alexander, Julian Aylor, Chris Britton, Jim Burgess, Vernon Cochran, Ed Costello, Norman Danford, Bob Eganhouse, Fred Fees, Jim Frigiola, Steve Geis, Dennis Gerdovich, Guy Hall, Larry Hare, Jim Hoffman, Gary Holderman, Gary Hoskinson, Karl "1911" Karash, George Kirschbaum, George Lever, Dave Litchfield, Bill Ludwig, Harrison McConnell, Al Miller, Chip Miller, Penny Peyton, Steve Philippy, Lindsay Schaff, Tom Schwieger, Lantz Simons, King von Schilling, and Bill York.** I would also like to mention that Chip Miller and George Lever are not even VGCA members; yet seem to be dedicated to our club more than some of our own members. If you think that odd, yet are not volunteering for assignments; then please volunteer the next time sign-up sheets are passed around the meeting. Your help would be greatly appreciated and will take the burden off those who DO volunteer. Gun shows are the means by which we raise our funds to give to the NRA-NFM, various 4-H shooting clubs, and provide pizza at the meetings where only half of the cost is paid by donations. Please consider volunteering, particularly younger members.

I am letting my term on the board of directors expire and will not be running again. I would like to thank the VGCA for the last three years in Security, as it has been an important function for our gun shows, and has

presented some challenges. The greatest is being north of Winchester up near the Cross Junction/Reynolds Store area and the drive time is substantial. It is not too far from the WV line on RT 522 and it would seem prudent that they find a person who lives closer to the PWCFG than do I. The Board, always a class act, had offered to accommodate me in a hotel room for the weekend. The problem with that is I have about a dozen birds (who I refer to as the "tiny tyrants") and I can't go away for three days. The logical solution was to resign as the Security Chief and let them find a replacement. Thanks again; and see you around. ~ *John Frietsch*

- ⊙ **Friday Morning Table Setup Crew:** Thanks go to **Rick Nahas, Bart Leggett, Chris Britton, Larry Hare, Dave Litchfield, Richard Pripeton, Joe Roberts, Dennis Gerdovich, Ed Costello, Delmas Whitacer, and Tom Schwieger** for their fine efforts to set up the tables on Friday morning for the upcoming show, and the arriving vendors and table holders.
- ⊙ **Front Gate and Cleanup Group:** VGCA wishes to thank the **4H Trigger Time Shooting Club** for their efforts in manning the gate and admission table and also for their hard work to clean up the show hall and break down all the tables and chairs. Thanks for the help.

Announcements, etc.

**Dues for annual membership are due in January 2013 and are \$30.00 per year. Get payment in now to avoid being dropped from the VGCA membership roster. Payments may be sent to:
Larry Hare, P.O. Box 102, Afton, VA 22920**

- **Upcoming 2013 Elections for the VGCA Board of Directors:** During the meeting in December we will be opening the floor for nominations to fill the full 2013-2014 terms on the Board of Directors. As provided in the Association Bylaws, ballots will be mailed in January and the results tabulated and announced at the February Meeting. Consider who you wish to fill these positions. The incumbents are **Jim Burgess, John Frietsch** and **Marc Gorelick**. John Frietsch will NOT be running for a new term. If you wish to nominate one the current Board member(s), another member, or yourself, give it serious consideration. Contact Emory Hackman of the Election Committee, or one of the Association Officers for nominations, or have a member nominate you at the December Annual Meeting.
- **VGCA Members and Spouses Banquet:** The City Tavern at the Old Town Inn in Manassas, Virginia has been reserved for Saturday night, April 6, 2013 from 6-10 PM for the banquet. The evening will start at 6-6:30 PM with cash bar, 6:30-7 PM announcements and recognition, 7-8 PM dinner, followed by the auction at 8 PM led by Ernie Lyles as the auctioneer. Cost is \$25.00 per attendee. We will recognize 2 or 3 members who have made significant contributions to the VGCA. Richard Pripeton will collect names and payments. POC is (Cell) 571-243-2727; (e-mail) richard.fl370@gmail.com.
- **Obituary - Gilbert Burnside "Gil" Hebard:** For you longtime pistol shooters, I saw an obituary for Gil Hebard on the internet. Selected excerpts of a longer obituary follow. **Gilbert "Gil" Hebard**, 94, of Knoxville, TN died Sunday morning, Oct. 28, 2012, at his home. Mr. Hebard founded the nationally known ***Gil Hebard Guns*** in 1950. He was well-known in his industry for earning National Rifle Association competitive pistol marksmanship titles in the 1970s and 1980s. The champion shooter also authored a reference about competitive target shooting, "*Pistol Shooters Treasury*" in 1960. *Gil Hebard Guns* produced a popular and informative annual catalog from the 1950s until 2005.

Show & Tell for the October 25th Meeting: Show and Tell covered a variety of arms. **Member 1** showed his new Walther LGV 10-meter air rifle that he found at the October 2012 Annual International Air Gun Show in Roanoke, VA. In the 1950's and 1960's these precision made airguns were state of the art in 10-meter international competition and are incredibly accurate. **Member 2** displayed a Marlin Model 1894M lever action in .22 Magnum. These rifles, which are now collectible as only 12,000 were only made for 6-7 years in the 1980's, were based upon the Model 1894 center fire action with extensive modifications. Due to finicky feeding and ejection issues unless spotlessly clean, and a high cost, they were discontinued. **Member 3** presented a nice Swedish 1894 Mauser cavalry carbine made by Carl Gustaf in Sweden. These rifles have rapidly increased in value in the past 10 years. While slightly modified for scope use by a prior owner, this one was two nice to pass up for the price. **Member 4** exhibited a Yugoslavian-made AK-47 that was built on the heavier RPD receiver. These rifles are different from most basic AK's of the former East Bloc and had refinements like butt pads, heavier furniture and improved sights. These features and the quality construction ensure they are among the more accurate AK-type rifles.

Photos from the October Meeting



Left:
Bernie Breighner shows the Knight's SR-25 Mk11 Mod 0 Sniper Rifles during the evening's talk.



Right: This nice Swedish 1894 Mauser cavalry carbine in 6.5X55 Swedish caliber was made by Carl Gustaf in Sweden.

Photos from the Fall 2012 VGCA Gun Show



First Place went to **Bernie Breighner** for *The Knight's SR-25 Mk11 Mod 0 Sniper Rifles*. This display had some of the very small number of ex-military Mk11 Mod 0 rifles with a combat history that have been released to civilian collectors and buyers. The display included accessories and photos of the rifle in use in the field by US forces.



Left: Wayne Robinson and Wayne Miller showed their display of U.S. military vehicles.

Right: Hatfield Gunsmithing of Manassas had their shooting simulator.





The Second Place Award went to **Ernie Lyles** for his display on *The Dardick Magazine-Fed Revolver*. The revolver used triangular cartridges called "trounds" which were fed from a magazine into a cylinder and then revolved into place for firing. Also included was rare documentation related to the design, development and patenting of the gun, as well as manuals and sales literature.

Upcoming Events and Shows

PLEASE NOTE: There are sometimes changes in schedules or errors on websites. Members are strongly encouraged to *verify before driving to a show*. These dates have been published online, but are not guaranteed. **Yellow** = Collector organizations.

VIRGINIA 2012

- ☉ December 1-2, 2012 - Richmond, VA – Showplace - *C&E Gun Show*
- ☉ December 8-9, 2012 - Harrisonburg, VA - Rockingham County Fairgrounds – *C&E Gun Show*
- ☉ December 15-16, 2012 - Dale City, VA - VFW Post 1503 - *Old Dominion Shows*
- ☉ December 15-16, 2012 - Fishersville, VA - Augusta Expoland – *C&E Gun Show*
- ☉ December 22-23, 2012 - Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center - *C&E Gun Show*
- ☉ December 28-30, 2012 - Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center - Nation's Gun Show – *C&E Gun Show*

MARYLAND 2012

- ☉ December 15-16, 2012 - Annapolis, MD - Annapolis Armory – *Appalachian Promotions*

PENNSYLVANIA 2012

- ☉ **December 1-2, 2012 - 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 1-2, 2012 - Monroeville, PA - Convention Center - *C&E Gun Shows*
- ☉ December 8-9, 2012 - Harrisburg, PA - Farm Show Complex – *Mid-Atlantic Arms Collectors*
- ☉ December 15-16, 2012 – Philadelphia, PA - Greater Philadelphia Expo Center (Oaks) – *Eagle Arms*
- ☉ December 22-23, 2012 - York, PA - York Fairgrounds (Toyota Arena) – *Appalachian Promotions*

NEW YORK 2012

- ☉ **December 8-9, 2012 – Freeport, NY - The Freeport Recreation Center - *Long Island Antique Historical Arms Society*. Contact: Dave Gruner (631) 722-3248, P.O. Box 41, Jamesport, NY 11947**

"Americans used to roar like lions for Liberty; now we bleat like sheep for Security."
 ~~ Norman Vincent Peale *Security without Liberty is called Prison.*

The e-mail address for any Newsletter related matters or a submission 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. v/r *Bill Chronister*, VGCA Newsletter Editor