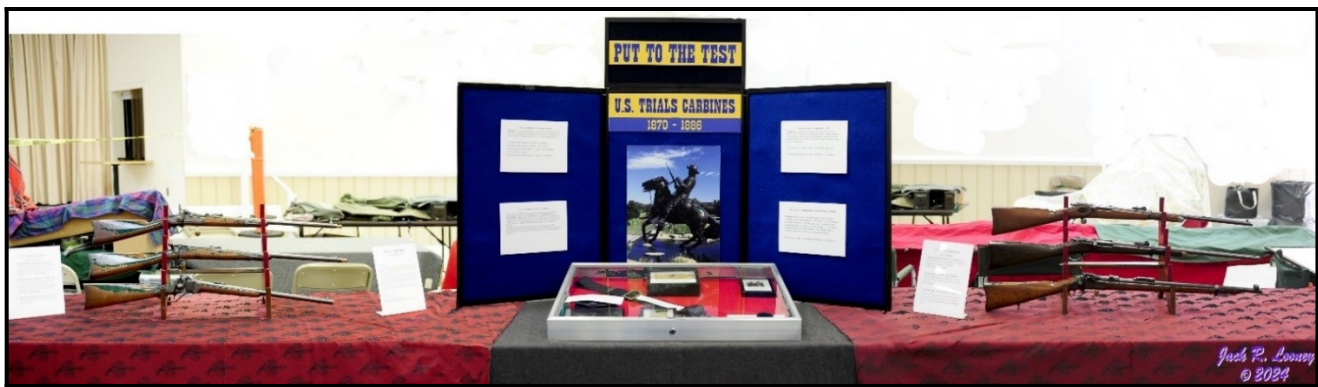


VGCA Gun Show Displays – Fall 2024

Though I thoroughly enjoy talking to the customers and venders as well as looking at the guns for sale myself (I did buy a French Berthier M-16 carbine that you may see in a future display – thanks Bryan!), my favorite part of our shows are the displays. This show was no exception as there were some truly world-class museum quality firearms on display. Judging was tight, but the winners were:

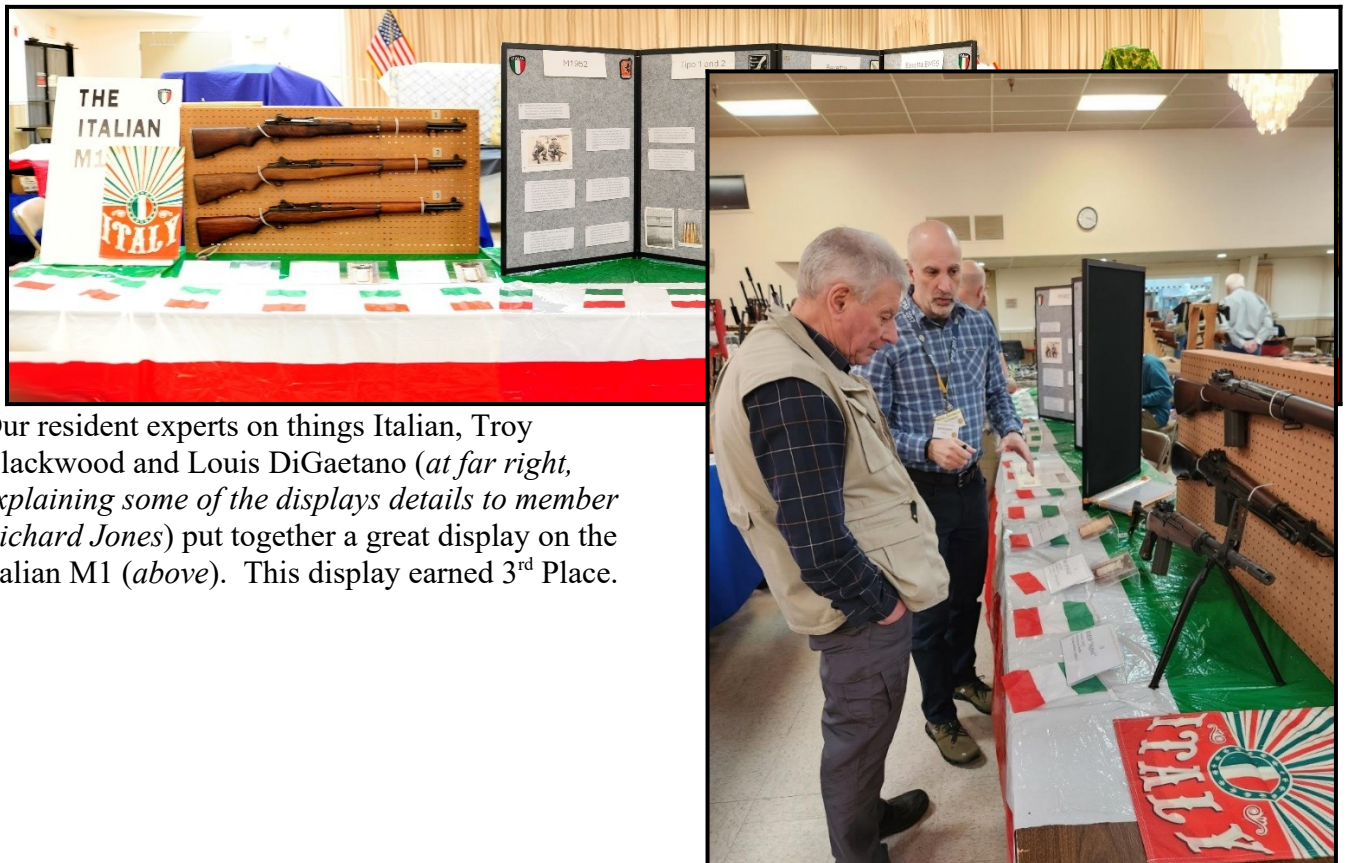
1 st Place	Put to the Test – U.S. Trials Carbines 1870-1886	John Vagnetti
2 nd Place	John Dahlgren's Plymouth Rifle – Arming the Union Navy	Marc Gorelick
3 rd Place	The Italian M1	Troy Blackwood and Lou DiGaetano
Non-Judged	Weapons and Equipment of WWI	
Best Antique Firearm	U.S. Navy Model 1861 "Plymouth" Rifle No. 637	Marc Gorelick
Best Military Firearm	Winchester-Hotchkiss Carbine (1 st Model)	John Vagnetti



John Vagnetti's (*far left, receiving his well-deserved 1st Place award from VGCA President Rob Becker*) display of U.S. Trials Carbines (*above*) was a phenomenal collection of rare pieces in beautiful condition. His Winchester Hotchkiss 1st Model Carbine (*below*) took "Best Military Firearm" and was in absolutely mint condition!



Marc Gorelick's display of U.S. Navy "Plymouth" Rifles and accessories (*above and at right*) was also world-class and garnered 2nd Place in our judging. His Model 1861 No. 637 (*bottom rifle below*) was among the first 700 delivered without gradations on the rear sight leaf. Most were sent back to be the manufacturer to be fixed, but this one was probably already issued to a ship and is one of the very few that never received the upgrade!



Our resident experts on things Italian, Troy Blackwood and Louis DiGaetano (*at far right, explaining some of the displays details to member Richard Jones*) put together a great display on the Italian M1 (*above*). This display earned 3rd Place.



Our last display is Paul Veneziano's (*left foreground*) "Weapons and Equipment of World War I." This extensive multi-table display has been exhibited before and is thus ineligible for judging, but it remains a crowd pleaser!