

VGCA Gun Show Displays – Spring 2026



There were two educational displays at the VGCA Spring 2026 show. Taking first place was the 4-H Trigger Time shooting club's display titled "Evolution of the Sporter Air Rifles in Competition" (*shown above with four members of the trigger time team*). It included numerous examples of their precision air rifles used in competitions at the regional, state, and even national level.

Accepting their \$300 cash prize for First Place was Miss Lexi Strand (*far right*). Lexi has been a champion shooter for Trigger Time for several years and has given more than one update on the team's achievements during VGCA Membership Meetings.



The

second display was Paul Veneziano's (*far left*) extensive, multi-table display of World War I guns and accessories. While he has presented this same display in the past and it was thus not eligible for an overall award, it did include a particularly rare piece that was recognized as the Best Military Firearm displayed at the show – a U.S. WWI Model 1903 Springfield rifle with a Warner & Swasey Model

1908 Sniper Scope.

The Model 1908 scope was an experimental rifle telescope designed by Ambrose Swasey, a co-founder of the Cleveland, Ohio firm of Warner & Swasey. It was an unusual prismatic construction which had the advantage of allowing a wide field of view at the relatively high magnification of 6x. The Model 1908

Warner & Swasey sight was constructed of black painted brass and steel and weighed in at a fairly hefty 2 ¼ pounds (*below*). The scope had a cross-hair reticle and three stadia lines for estimating distances. A



dovetail base was fastened by three screws to the left side of a standard Springfield M1903 service rifle and the telescopic sight had a corresponding dovetail mount. A spring-loaded plunger held the mount to the base in one of two positions or allowed the scope to be quickly and easily removed from the rifle. The telescope was offset to the left side of the receiver so that the rifle could be loaded via stripper clips and so the original open sights could also be used. A total of 2,075 of the M1908 W&S optics were procured by the U.S. Army.

Well done, everyone!

