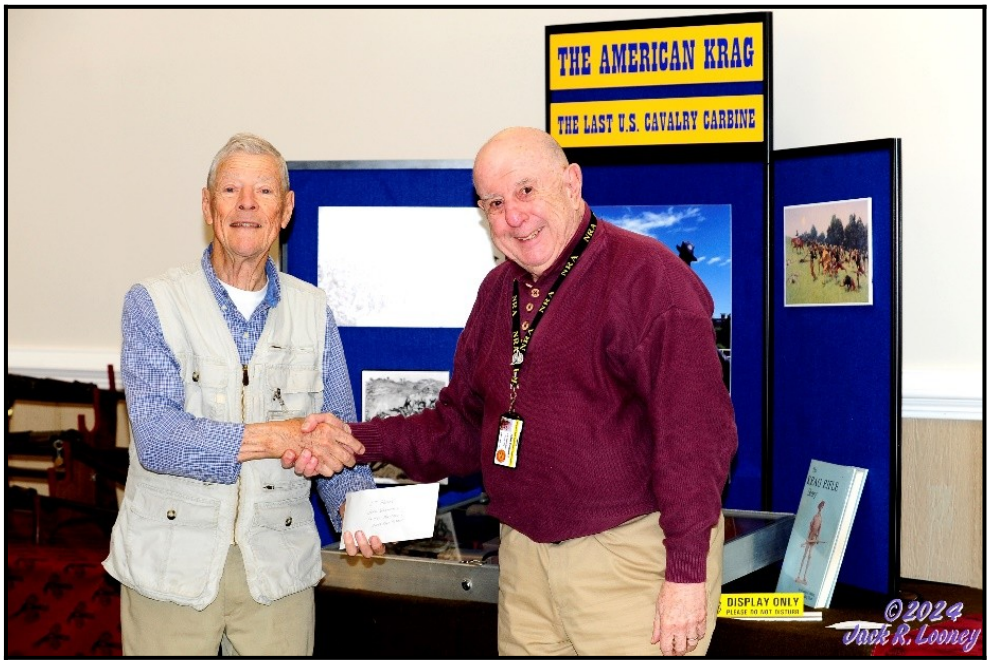
VGCA Gun Show Displays – Spring 2024

My personal favorite parts of our gun shows are the educational displays created by our collectors. I always learn something and this show was no exception! Judging was organized by Jim Burgess with himself, Bryan Pelton, and Rob Becker serving as the judges. The results are posted on the next few pages.

Winning 1st Place and its associated $300 prize was John Vagnetti's display of "The American Krag: The Last U.S. Cavalry Carbine." John (*shown at far right receiving his prize from VGCA President Ed Costello at near right*) displayed six superb carbine variants of the U.S. Army's Krag-Jorgensen rifle (*below*).



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John's M1899 (*right, middle*) Krag carbine also

won the Top Military Firearm Award. It is one of 5,150 built featuring a Model 1898 rear sight. However, the sight was calibrated using Kynoch ammunition which was loaded with cordite and generated unsafe pressures. After cracking several bolts, the ammunition was withdrawn from service and the sights replaced and destroyed. This carbine remains unmodified and is quite rare!



A well-deserved 2nd Place (and $200) went to Louie DiGaelano (*near left*) and Troy Blackwood (*far left*) for their extensive display on the "Evolution of Italian Military Centerfire Handguns." There display included a story board with a timeline of key Italian military handgun milestones (below) as well as a comprehensive display of the sidearms themselves, including some rare pieces.





This display contained several rare pieces, including the Mauser C96 with shoulder stock (*above, left center*), one of 5000 ordered for the Italian Royal Navy in 1899.

3rd Place was awarded to Mickey McIntire's display of "Pinfire Cartridge Weapons."
Mickey (*near right and receiving his $100 award from VGCA President Ed Costello*) had a truly fascinating display of, as he put it, "the underappreciated cartridge firearm option of the 1840s-1870s." His display not only contained a myriad of both pinfire handguns (*bottom left*) and long guns (*below*), but displayed examples of the pinfire ammunition itself.









Mickey's cased M1854 LeFaucheux pinfire revolver (*right*) attributed to the Boissier family of Paris, France also won the Top Antique Award.



Our final display was Paul Veneziano's extensive, multi-table display of World War I guns and accessories. While he has presented this same display in the past and it is thus ineligible for judging, it did garner the People's Choice Award, as it is always a crowd pleaser!