



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.ORG



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(A Non-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G 8162

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December 2005/January 2006 Newsletter

Program for December 1, 2005 Meeting: Phil Schreier of the NRA Museum introduced Mr. Paul Chapman of the Dallas Gun Collectors Association, who gave a presentation on the "Guns of the Texas Rangers." Mr. Chapman has one of the largest and most extensive private collections of Texas Ranger items in the world. While the presentation did cover some of the Texas Ranger-owned duty and personal weapons he has acquired over the years, it was more focused upon the modern Texas Rangers and their recent history and the speakers personal friendships and relationships with these officers and their unique, near legendary organization. Most of the stories he told were of individual who are now retired and many who have passed on. These are the stories of the border lands and Texas, which through their expert telling do not seem that far removed from the Rangers of the Old West.

The Texas Rangers have 117 sworn officers to cover all of Texas. (...and for those who have never tried driving across Texas, unless really pushed, it is a more than one day drive.) To be considered for a Texas Rangers officer corps job, an applicant requires 8 years of prior law enforcement experience as well as 60 credit hours of college. That said, for each vacancy, there are over 200 applicants. After basic training and entering on duty, Rangers attend annual in-service training throughout their career.



He had a whole case of Ranger guns and accoutrements and equipment. The handguns were a mix of the standard duty weapons, guns of famous Rangers, and the aptly named "barbeque guns", or fancy presentation pieces that were sometimes also a carry gun. The Rangers have a policy of being able to carry what you qualify with, as well as being issued Sig-Sauers. As a result, many were Colt Government Model 1911 types. The

fancy guns can be engraved, highly polished, or inlaid, and may sport stag or ivory stocks inlaid with Mexican silver peso coins or items made from the silver coins or gold pieces. These types of fancy firearms are popular with officers on both sides of the border and I have seen them carried by Mexican officers at more formal occasions. He also covered the issue of the badges, which sellers often tout as being original (most are not), and what a genuine badge could reasonably fetch. At the conclusion, Phil Schreier announced that the guns were being donated to the NRA museum, making it the largest collection of Texas Ranger items and guns outside of Texas.

➤ **UPCOMING for the January 26 meeting:** Jim Burgess will be doing a Civil War presentation, including North/South Skirmish Association information. You may remember his fine display at a recent show in Bealeton. Addison has agreed to bring an Allin conversion, a Peabody conversion, and other items. Jim encourages all to bring in their Civil War guns and accoutrements and he and others will discuss all arms brought in. *The meeting begins at 7:00PM, and food will available shortly after 6:00PM.* (Contrary to what transpired in the Harry Turtledove ‘what if?’ novel, Guns of the South, AK-47s will not be covered in this program.)

December 1 Business Meeting of the VGCA: Addison opened the meeting after a short break following the meeting and began with a report from Larry Hare, Membership Chairman on new membership candidates. The list will follow the meeting notes. Ed Costello reported the VGCA lost \$2376.00 last year and has \$44,000.00 in the treasury. This was attributed primarily to the new show location startup costs. Last months reported attendance decline at the new venue, due to torrential rains and new location, may also have aggravated the situation.

The January election of VGCA Officers was covered and nominations were solicited from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor. Additionally, there were no nominations received via any other means. The candidates are Addison Hurst, President; Jim Burgess, Vice President; Ed Costello, Treasurer; and Larry Hare, Secretary.

Issues from the Fall 2005 PWC show were discussed, including various rule infractions and interpretations and concealed carry by members. These will be further discussed and considered in Executive Board meetings.

The drawing for the engraved Kimber Government Model 1911A1 was held, and was won by life member Col. E. Phillips Grier. Congratulations on a fine stroke of luck.

The issue of having lavalier (collar) microphones for the meetings was reported and will be researched. Also on the PA front at the shows, it was reported that the next PWC show will have a fully operational fairgrounds public address system. Guests were recognized and introduced. Hal House, of McLean, VA, a former pilot, and Bob Brown, a Confederate Arms enthusiast of Leesburg, VA introduced themselves to the members and gave brief overviews of their fields of interest. We welcome them and hope they enjoyed the presentation.

Meeting Show and Tell: Another interesting evening... Jim Vaughan presented 2 British percussion rifles. The first exhibited a Brown Bess type of stock with an 1853 lock and was probably a volunteer rifle. The second was an 1858 2 Band Enfield for Artillery troops, with a W.W.Greener-made lock from 1853 and a massive Naval Cutlass Bayonet. Marc Gorelick showed a recently acquired Erfurt-made 1888 Commission Carbine with all matching parts and an “S” or spitzer conversion, but with the original Mannlicher clip system. Yours truly presented a Finnish converted Remington-made M1891/24 Civil Guard Mosin Nagant with a SIG barrel. These were also called “Lotta” rifles after the Lotta Svard, the women’s auxiliary of the Finnish Civil Guard who paid for the rebarreling. Larry Hare showed an 1858 Remington percussion revolver that had been converted to .38 cartridges, and later again was converted to .22 rim fire. These may have been Remington factory conversions. Chris Smith covered a very early Remington Rifle Model of 1903 with a December 1941 barrel and early finger groove S stock. He also showed a much later Remington M1903 (Modified) which he built from a barreled action. Guest Bob Brown showed a First Model Griswold & Gunnison Confederate percussion revolver. The G&G was a brass-framed copy of the Colt navy and sported a twisted iron barrel. Lastly, Addison Hurst told an engaging close encounter with a bear story that was the impetus for his outfitting a

Remington 870 Police Magnum shotgun with ghost ring sights and a Surefire tactical light. A few heartless members mentioned the less than beautiful lines of the shotgun, but ugly is as ugly does. I did notice that there were over 130 years of Remington firearms represented. Good show.

VGCA Welcomes New Members: Larry Hare announced that the following gentlemen were voted into the club during the December 2005 regular meeting: Tom Prendergast, Joe Kester, and Dan Kovalcik. Welcome aboard gentlemen! A note to members sponsoring new member candidates: You or the prospective member must be present to be voted on. Keep it in mind and let them know.

The JANUARY 2006 Election of Officers: Ballots have gone out and members have been receiving them. Please note they must be received back before the January 26 meeting. Hopefully the lack of a challenge is an endorsement of the hard work of the current cadre of officers. *Note: With the recent January 8, U.S. Postal Service rate hike, add a \$.01 cent stamp to the post card, or put it in an envelope at the new \$.39 first class rate to ensure your vote is counted.* NO hanging chad or whining in the VGCA!!!

Weather alert: Remember to check the VGCA website, <http://www.vgca.org>, for late breaking notices on meeting cancellations.

Member Research Requests

(The following new feature will be added when space permits and demand dictates. We have a lot of people with a real wealth of information. Members may email such requests to VGCANews@cox.net, or to my personal email address on the masthead.)

** If anyone has a collection of English Sporting Flintlock Rifles, or Fowling pieces, circa 1820~1840, I am looking for the chance to photograph three or four of them, particularly the lock, trigger/guard, and butt stock. (If this goes as far as publication you will receive full credit for the firearm, if you wish.) Please contact Jack Looney at (703) 534-3286 or Rifleman-1st.45-70@att.net

** I am seeking specifics (numbers, use, etc.) on a dummy (non-gun) US training rifle from the WWI era. The piece very closely resembles an early US Rifle Model of 1903 in appearance and weight. The receiver is marked US Training Rifle Company, Philadelphia, PA. Please contact Bill Chronister at (703)204-0138 or wchronister@cox.net.

Upcoming Events and Shows

VIRGINIA

- **January 14-15 - Richmond C&E Showplace Gun Show** - Richmond, VA (The Showplace - Mechanicsville Turnpike), 9-5, 10-5, Admission: \$7. An approximately 600 table show, specializing in mostly modern firearms, but with a fair amount of Militaria and collectible C&R rifles
- **Jan 28 - 29 - Fredericksburg Expo Center at Central Park, Fredericksburg, VA.** Southeastern Gun & Knives, Ltd – NEW SHOW!! Contact: Southeastern Guns & Knives, Ltd., P.O. Box 6601, Portsmouth, VA 23703, (757) 483-5385. <http://www.guns-knives.com/Fredericksburg.html>.
- **Feb 18 - 19 - Hampton, Hampton Convention Center** Southeastern Gun & Knives, Ltd
- **February 3-5 - Chantilly Expo Center** - The Nation's Gun Show at Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly, VA. Contact: C&E Gun Shows (888) 715-0606 or Showmasters (540) 951-1344.
- **February 17-19 – Chantilly, VA** - The Nation's Capital Militaria Show at Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly, VA. Contact: C&E Gun Shows (888) 715-0606 or Showmasters (540) 951-1344.
- **Mar 25 - 26 - Manassas VA. Prince William County Fairgrounds, the Virginia Gun Collectors Association (VGCA)** www.vgca.com. Version 2.0 coming up. Hopefully no rain.

MARYLAND

- **March 18-19 - Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, MD.** [Maryland Arms Collectors Association](#). Contact: Ed Kemp, 5755 Windsong Ct., New Market, MD 21774. (301) 865-6804. A great show!

PENNSYLVANIA

- **Jan 21-22 and March 25-26 - Monroeville, Expo Mart/Radisson Inn P.G.C.A** (412) 854-4625. I have heard this is a good large show, but have never been there personally.
- **Feb 25-26 York, York Fairgrounds, [Appalachian Promotions](#).** A good show overall. Often have varminting rifles and equipment (Unertl and Lyman target scopes) or C&R hunting and military guns.
- **May 6-7 Harrisburg Farm Show Complex, [Mid-Atlantic Arms Collectors](#)** Large good show that always has some treasures, but get there early, wear good shoes as the concrete is a killer. 2-way radios a plus.

Upcoming events at the Potomac Arms Collectors Association (PACA) – from Jim Vaughn

The **January 19** PACA meeting will feature PACA and MACA member, Mr. Chris Murphy speaking on weapons of the Mexican-American War. As usual, members are encouraged to bring related weapons for show and, if desired, tell. Future presentations for 2006 currently include:

- **April 20** - Mr. Dale Garbutt, President of the Japanese Sword Collectors' Society, on Japanese swords;
- **May 18** - PACA member Mr. Richard Marsden on Fort Ligonier during the French and Indian War.
- **June 15** - PACA member and MACA President Mr. Richard Berglund on the U.S. Model 1841 (Mississippi) Rifle and related bayonets;
- **September 21**- Mr. Richard Hoover on the second Siege of Vienna by the Turks in 1683; and
- **October 19** - Mr. Phil Schreier, Senior Curator at the NRA Museum, on Roosevelt's Winchesters.

Websites of Interest to Collectors and Shooters.

The United Kingdom National Rifle Association supported Historic Arms Resource Centre

(<http://www.rifleman.org.uk/>) - I have just finished browsing this website. It is for the small bore or miniature rifle leagues in the UK. It is a wealth of information on the various British and Commonwealth training rifles, both the .22LR and the dotting versions. I encourage any members who collect United Kingdom rifles, .22 trainers, or training non-guns to take a look.

Closing: There are a few new additions to the newsletter based upon requests. We have the member research section, where members can find out about items they have, or gather research to document their collection, websites of interest, and the upcoming events section. These sections will be present when there is space and/or material.

I have created a new email address specifically for any VGCA Newsletter related matters or submissions. That new address is VGCANews@cox.net. I have put it in the masthead along with my own email. Feel free to email comments, photos, etc. for inclusion in the newsletter. It is broadband so I can get most photo sizes if you are willing to upload them. I would also like to recognize and thank our photographer, Jack Looney, who provides the pictures of the show and the meetings. He is great at macro photography and faithfully documents the events.

For issues of non-receipt of the newsletter, either via email or the hard-copy that is mailed, please contact Larry Hare at the numbers on page one.

Bill Chronister