



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.ORG



Est. 1983 (A Non-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G 8162

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January 2010 VGCA e-Newsletter



Presentation at the December 3, 2009 Meeting of the VGCA:

The Speaker for the fourth and final VGCA/NFM Special Speakers session for 2009 was Mr. **Robert Dowlut**, General Counsel of the National Rifle Association.



The genesis of this presentation was the federal suit filed by the city of Chicago claiming that the Heller case (the DC Handgun ban case) only protects people living on federal enclaves or in DC, and does not protect the citizens in the several states. The Chicago case will most likely end up in the Supreme Court. Mr. Dowlut started his presentation with comments on language and specifically the related term in the law and Constitution of “the people,” and whether it means the ‘collective of all’ in federal precedents. He then covered the various levels of how a law is struck down or held unconstitutional. He discussed where a state constitution contains a right to bear arms and the implications if a state does not have such a specified right. At present, 6 states do not have a state level right, and a few others are minimal. He reviewed a history of selected litigation and the importance of carefully selecting the right cases to establish a clear precedent under the law. After the main

presentation, he took questions from the audience, including one on whether any international treaty or agreement could jeopardize US 2nd Amendment constitutional rights. According to Mr. Dowlut, the Constitution trumps treaty and has been addressed in two Supreme Court decisions. It was a very interesting presentation and very timely. (Members are encouraged to read an article on this case in the December 2009 *American Rifleman*, pp. 16-18.)

★ UPCOMING Meetings: On January 28, 2010, for our first meeting of the new year, the speaker will be **Homer Brett**, a noted researcher of military blades and bayonets from all nations. He has written a wonderful book on this subject *The Military Knife and Bayonet*, originally published in 2001. Members may wish to bring in all bayonets and military knives. This is not a NFM-VGCA presentation so no food will be served, however soft drinks are available for everyone. Please see Addison Hurst’s *Comments from the Podium* for additional details.

***** INCLEMENT WEATHER ALERT *****

We are now in a very cold January, starting the months of winter where meetings are at risk of being cancelled for foul weather. Members are strongly encouraged to **check the VGCA Website (<http://www.vgca.org>) for Weather Alerts and Meeting Cancellations!** If the meeting is cancelled, there will be a flashing cloud with a notice when you open the page. Please inform members you know, especially those without Internet.

Comments from the Podium:

Our speaker will be a most interesting one, someone I have been trying to round up for several years, my good friend Homer Brett. Homer is a long time researcher into military blades and bayonets from all nations. He has written a wonderful book on this subject *The Military Knife and Bayonet*, originally published in 2001. This amazing book, a true classic, is a real coffee table book. I hope he can bring along a few copies (if available). His book is a must have if you have any interest in military rifles and blades. Bring in your copies, as I am sure Homer will be glad to autograph it for you. My suggestion would be to bring in bayonets and military knives and the weapons that attach to them!! It should be one hell of a show and tell and discussion. I am sure Homer will be glad to discuss what ever walks in the door. We have never done a presentation like this and I am sure if you have any military blades from any country you will learn a lot about them.

Our last show at the PWC Fairgrounds was a good show. You should know that VGCA is back in the black financially. Our next show on March 27-28, 2009 is very worthy of your support and you should make every effort to be there. There will be much more information forthcoming about the show. However, please be prepared to take flyers for the next show with you. I will have lots of the flyers at this month's meeting. The flyers need to go to gun shops, hardware stores, barber shops, auto body and parts stores and all other stores where enthusiasts go.

Our Club election of Officers is coming up. You need to consider either running for office yourself for President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer or nominating good folks who are willing to run and serve. We need new blood. We elderly folks can not last forever and need to be replaced. I have had no relief in about 26 years. I think Ed Costello is in a similar situation in terms of years in office. The election is for a two year term for the officers. Next year the Board of Directors stands for election for two years. It is your club and you need to think about keeping the club alive and vital. Contact Emory or any Board member if you are willing to run or know some one who is. Phone numbers and emails are listed in the header of this newsletter.

I am hopeful that we will again have NFM-VGCA presentations in 2010. I am waiting for Phil Schreier of the NFM to let me know about dates and speakers. I am also hopeful we can get our trip to the George Marshall and Virginia Tech museums for this spring organized. Let the board members know if you are still interested in doing this.

Let's hope and pray that 2010 is good to us and to gun owners in general. The NRA is our only hope so continue to support them in any and all ways possible. See you at the meeting.

~ Addison Hurst, VGCA President

Invitation to all members: If you wish to do a presentation at a meeting, please notify Addison Hurst or any of the board members. You can team with another member for a joint session.

December 3, 2009 Business Meeting: The business meeting started with a call by the President for any new member applications. **Larry Hare**, Membership Chair, presented two new member applications. The prospective members introduced themselves and some of their areas of interest. **Jack Staton**, sponsored by Al Edge, is a collector of Napoleonic swords. **Steve Gomes**, sponsored by Ernie Lyles, conducts historical research and is interested in Arisakas, Krags, and Carbines. Both were unanimously voted into the VGCA by the membership present. Welcome aboard gentlemen. Treasurer **Ed Costello** provided a positive financial report. **Lee Turner** updated the membership about the youth skeet shooting training and activities of the 4H Trigger Time group with whom he works. They are always appreciative of donations for their endeavor and Lee had offered to match any VGCA contribution. Before the issue could be discussed, **Rick Nahas** also offered to match any VGCA donation. The Association, in keeping with its prior support of youth shooting activities and the Trigger Time group, made a donation to the group. This was a very worthy cause to ensure youth are exposed to positive activities and experiences with firearms. **Emory Hackman**, Election Committee, provided the membership with the results of the officer candidate search and asked for any additional nominations from the floor (see Announcement below and in Addison's comments). President **Addison Hurst** also congratulated **Rick Nahas** on his masterful stewardship

and hard work coordinating the gun shows, including selling tables, and all the other details that ensure success. A hearty hand was delivered by all in recognition of Rick's work.

☆☆☆ **Upcoming Election of VGCA Officers:** As mentioned in Addison's *Comments from the Podium* above, it is time for the election of the VGCA Officer positions. The Officers and Board ask that members think long and hard about what you would like to see from the club, what directions we should take as an organization, and who you believe would best serve and lead the club. Not all of the current officers will be running and we need, as does any organization with elected leaders, to have individuals who are willing to serve. **The January 28 meeting will be the last chance for nominations from the floor.** If you wish to run or would like to nominate a member for an Officer position, please contact Emory Hackman at the contact points listed above, or nominate them from the floor at the meeting. **Nominations will be formally closed, the candidates will be announced at the meeting and the ballots and Candidate statements will be sent a few days later. Please carefully review the ballots and return them ASAP.**

December 3, 2009 Show and Tell: Show and Tell kicked off with **Ed Costello** displaying a second year production, vintage 1904, US-marked Browning A-5 with 20" barrel. He relayed how this "rusty old gun" had survived a fire during its long service life. **Larry Hare** went on to share his long sought 3rd variation Mk III Webley Air Rifle. The .22 caliber pellet rifle was made from 1947 until 1975 – a long production run for this high quality British gun. **Addison Hurst** showed a varmint rifle made from a Springfield M1903A1 action. This heavy barreled traditional varmint rifle had a Unertl 15X Programmer scope, which was state of the art when it was made and is superb on this accurate rifle. **Bob Sears** showed some rare fine-adjusters for the M1903 Springfield rear sights that were used in match shooting. These tools, made by P.J. O'Hare allowed micro-adjustments of the sight for precision zeroing. He also discussed other micrometers, verniers, and other fine adjusting sights, adding his unique combination of history and personal experiences as only he can. **John Morris** displayed a Howard F. Brown-owned 1/12th scale model of a Consular Fortification Cannon that was used in Algiers. The cannon acquired its name from an incident where the Dey of Algiers, wishing to make a strong diplomatic point, strapped a French Consul onto the original cannon's muzzle and fired the cannon. This last historical anecdote closed the December meeting of the VGCA.

Announcements Section

Special Clearance!!! → There are VGCA baseball caps remaining in the Club inventory and they are priced to move. The hats are \$10.00 each, and are a great way to support and represent the club. The hats are dark navy blue with an embroidered and sewn VGCA logo – no cheap decals or transfers on these hats. They are adjustable with a small buckle. They will be available for purchase at the upcoming meetings and will be offered until sold out. See **Ed Costello** for more information.



Special Announcement "Lost and FOUND" – We are still seeking information from members or someone who knows the person who brought a Civil War firearm to the Assessment and Appraisal Table at the Fall Show and found a part was missing. The missing part was found!!! If you are the person, or know the person, you may claim the part by giving a description of the part and identify the firearm it was from to **Robert Bloomfield**, contact cell: 571-431-2015 or by e-mail at robert.d.bloomfield@lmco.com (LMCO.COM).

Obituary Notice: O.H. McKagen, a Charter member of VGCA, passed away November 19, 2009, at age 93. Until his health deteriorated, O.H. was an active black powder and cast bullet shooter and authored numerous articles appearing in *The Gun Report* and other publications. He was a former member of Fairfax Rod & Gun Club and, in conjunction with the late Ellis Lea, initiated the now popular black powder cartridge rifle silhouette matches or "ram bashes" there. His collecting interests included U.S. military and Mauser rifles. He managed VGCA gun show table reservations for a number of years until he passed the job on Jim Burgess, who now owns and shoots a muzzleloading, percussion rifle that O.H. built.

Looking to Buy: 1. Ruger Mark II or Mark III Standard Model Automatic Pistol .22LR in Stainless Steel only with 6" barrel and fixed sights (Models KMKII6 or KMKIII6). 2. Smith & Wesson Model 617 Revolver with 4"

barrel and 6 shot (not 10-shot) cylinder. Round butt and 3T's also a plus, but not required. If you have one you wish to sell, Contact **Bill Chronister** at the email or phone on the Newsletter masthead.

Upcoming Events and Shows

Words to the Wise: There are sometimes changes in schedules by gun show promoters or errors on websites. Members are strongly encouraged to verify before driving to a show. Historical events and lectures, re-enactments, auctions (national, international, and local estate auctions) are all welcome.

VIRGINIA 2010

- ☉ January 2-3, 2010 - Virginia Beach, VA - Convention Center - *SGK, LTD*
- ☉ January 2-3, 2010 - Roanoke, VA - Roanoke Civic Center - *Showmasters*
- ☉ January 9-10, 2010 - Richmond, VA - Showplace - *C&E Gun Show*
- ☉ January 16-17, 2010 - Dale City, VA - VFW Post 1503 - *Old Dominion Shows*
- ☉ January 15-17, 2010 - Winchester, VA - Winchester Sportsplex Indoor Sports & Events Center
www.Vagunandknife.com
- ☉ January 23-24, 2010 - Hampton, VA - Convention Center - *SGK, LTD*
- ☉ January 23-24, 2010 - Salem, VA - Salem Civic Center - *C&E Gun Show*
- ☉ January 30-31, 2010 - Fishersville, VA - Augusta Expoland - *Showmasters*
- ☉ February 6-7, 2010 - Richmond, VA - Raceway & Fairgrounds - *Showmasters*
- ☉ February 12, 13 & 14, 2010 - Chantilly, VA - Dulles Expo Center - *C&E Gun Show / Showmasters*
- ☉ February 20-21, 2010 - Norfolk, VA - Norfolk Scope Arena - *C&E Gun Show*
- ☉ February 27-28, 2010 - Doswell, VA - Meadow Event Park - *SGK, LTD*
- ☉ February 27-28, 2010 - Harrisonburg, VA - Rockingham County Fairgrounds - *C&E Gun Show*
- ☉ **March 27-28, 2010 - Manassas, VA - Prince William County Fairgrounds - Virginia Gun Collectors Association**

MARYLAND 2010

- ☉ February 12, 13 & 14, 2010 - Timonium, MD - Timonium Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*
- ☉ February 20-21, 2010 - Upper Marlboro, MD - Show Place Arena - *Silverado Promotions*

PENNSYLVANIA 2010

- ☉ January 16-17, 2010 - Matamoras, PA - Hunt's Best Western Inn - *Mid-Atlantic Arms Collectors*
- ☉ January 30-31, 2010 - Lancaster, PA - Lancaster Farm and Home Center - *Lancaster Muzzle Loading Rifle Association*. Contact: Jim Klippinger (717) 293-1802, 27 Red Leaf Lane, Lancaster, PA 17602.
- ☉ January 30-31, 2010 - Allentown, PA - Rodeway Inn - *Eagle Arms*
- ☉ January 30-31, 2010 - Philadelphia, PA - (Center Oaks) Greater Philadelphia Expo Center - *Mid-Atlantic Arms Collectors*
- ☉ February 5-6, 2010 - Lewisburg, PA - Country Cupboard Inn - *18th Century Artisan Show* - Contact: John Getz, Phone: 570-658-7263
- ☉ February 6-7, 2010 - Bloomsburg, PA - Columbia Mall Events Center - *Eagle Arms*
- ☉ February 6-7, 2010 - Monroeville, PA - Convention Center - *C&E Gun Shows*
- ☉ February 13-14, 2010 - Allentown, PA - Agricultural Hall - *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*. Contact: FDHAS, 3491 Linden St., Bethlehem, PA 18017. 610-997-8613 after 6pm.
- ☉ February 13-14, 2010 - Dillsburg, PA - 245 West Siddonsburg Road - *Central Pennsylvania Antique Arms Association*. Contact: Andy Kramer (717) 691-1085, 607 Inared Court, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.
- ☉ February 20-21, 2010 - Carlisle, PA - Carlisle Expo Center (across from Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*
- ☉ February 27-28, 2010 - York, PA - York Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*

NEW YORK

- ☉ February 27-28, 2010 - 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.

Address for any Newsletter related matters or submissions 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 at the numbers on page one.

V/R, Bill Chronister, Newsletter Editor

December Meeting Photos



Left: Ed Costello and the Browning A-5 Combat Shotgun

Above: Addison Hurst and the M1903A1 based varmint rifle and Unertl Programmer Scope.



Center Row: Bob Sears Sight Adjusters. The P.J.O'Hare is the brass version and is shown installed on the sight.



Right: John Morris' Howard K. Brown model of the infamous Consul Cannon named for an unfortunate Consular Officer

