



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.NET

Est. 1983 (A Not-for-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G8162

CMP Affiliate Number 026160



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January 2020 VGCA Newsletter

President's Comments

Happy New Year to all VGCA members!

2020 promises to be a challenging year for Gun rights. As I am writing this, the Virginia legislature has just banned concealed carry in the capital area. It is the start of an all-out assault on our rights and freedoms as Americans and Virginians. I urge all of you to call, write, or email your delegate or state senator and let them know how you feel. The vote will be close - all of us together can turn the tide. Many of us will be attending the NRA protest on January 13th and the VCDL lobby day on January 20th. Please attend if you can to show support for our gun rights!

Switching to a happier topic, the presentation topic for January is the Gene Stoner and Mikal Kalashnikov meeting in VA at the NORVA gun club. Many of our current and former VGCA members were present and helped facilitate this historic event. Please bring guests who are interested in history of firearms. These are two of the most iconic and influential gun designers of the 20th century. Really looking forward to the presentation and as always, bring Stoner or Kalashnikov themed items for the show and tell. I am always amazed by the depth and scope of our members' collections.

One last note, since we are in the winter months and if bad weather requires it, I will make the decision to cancel the member meeting as early as possible. We will communicate this through Constant Contact with an email to all the members. Will also try to update the website.

Please plan to attend the January meeting, it should memorable! I look forward to seeing you there!

—*Bernie Breighner*, VGCA President





★ December Meeting ★

In fine VGCA tradition, our December meeting consisted of an outstanding Pot Luck dinner, a special “Swap Meet,” our regular business meeting, and some Show-n-Tell. If you were not able to attend, you missed a treat! The dinner “fixin’s” were as good as I can ever remember and the Swap Meet was large and seemed very active! Unfortunately, your newsletter editor was enjoying himself so much by stuffing his face and talking to friends that he totally forgot to take any pictures

★ **December Business:** VGCA President Bernie Breighner called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. After reciting the U.S. Pledge of Allegiance, Bernie welcomed everyone to annual Holiday Pot Luck Meal and Swap Meet (*at right*). There were 65 VGCA members and guests in attendance. Guests were introduced by their sponsors/hosts.



Bernie announced that this was a big year for the VGCA. We hit 500 members for the first time! He asked for the Treasurer’s Report.

Treasurer Shannon Zeigler announced that there was a 7% increase in attendance at our November Gun Show over the same show last year. Due to various measures to cut costs taken by the VGCA Officers and Executive Committee (primarily, reducing print advertising), the show resulted in a 29% increase in profit over the previous year. We were reminded that the show profits provide the bulk of the VGCA’s operating budget.

On behalf of the VGCA, Bernie (*at left*) presented a donation of \$2500.00 to Phil Schreier, curator of the National Firearms Museum.

Show Manager Rick Nahas announced that there are only 23 open tables for our March 2020 Gun Show. He also stated that the Prince

William County Fairgrounds have confirmed the dates for both of our shows in 2020. Bernie thanked Rick for executing a very smooth show in November – it was the most organized VGCA show that he could recall!

On a more serious note, the newly elected Democrat majority in the Virginia Assembly have proposed several new gun control laws. Bernie reminded those assembled that though the VGCA is not-for-profit organization, we can still advocate for or against legislation in our chartered role to educate the public.

He asked everyone to consider supporting the Virginal Citizen's Defense League (VCDL) and their Lobby Day in Richmond on Monday, 20 January 2020. Visit their website at vcdl.org for more details.

Marc Gorelick asked for volunteers to support the VGCA recruiting table at the next Chantilly Gun Show (27-29 Dec 2019). He also announced that tonight would be the last night to vote for the VGCA Volunteer of the Year Award. The winner will be announced at the January Membership Meeting.

Upcoming Tour of the AAF Museum

ATTENTIONAL ALL MEMBERS! We are planning a tour of the American Armoured Foundation (AAF) Museum in Danville, Virginia (website is aaftankmuseum.com). With 150 tanks, armoured vehicles, and artillery pieces plus thousands of other weapons, this promises to be a great trip for anyone interested in military heavy metal! The tour is tentatively planned for this April with more details becoming available in the near future (exact date, travel arrangements, cost, etc.). If interested, please contact Dave Litchfield (litchfdave@gmail.com). Dave will also have a sign-up roster at our January and February Membership meetings.



PLEASE HELP!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE VGCA TABLE AT THE NEXT CHANTILLY GUN SHOW

The next Chantilly show at the Dulles Expo Center is coming up (February 14-16) and we are looking for a few volunteers for the VGCA promotional table. This is an opportunity to spend a few hours with fellow gun collecting enthusiasts, meet new people, help the club, and get free admission into a big show!

Our objective is to have two or more folks assigned throughout each day. This gives everyone the opportunity to walk the show while others are promoting the club. If you want, you can work more than one day and shift.

Remember - volunteers who help us at the table get into the show for free. This is significant benefit when the admission price keeps going up. It is now \$16 for 1-day and \$22 for a 3-day pass. Volunteers are needed for Friday (3 - 8 p.m.), Saturday (9 a.m. - 5 p.m.), or Sunday (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.). If interested, please contact Marc Gorelick or any VGCA Officer / Director.

★ **Upcoming January 23rd Meeting:** Join us for a presentation on the “The Kalashnikov Visit with Stoner - 1990” put together by Ed Costello and Addison Hurst. Bring your ARs and AKs for Show-n-Tell! Doug Wicklund will be opening the National Firearms Museum until 6:30 p.m. Social time begins at 6 p.m. (with pizza!) in the NRA Headquarters Conference Room, followed by the meeting at 7 p.m.

★ Other News! ★

★ Membership Chairman's Report – January 2020:

New Members: Please welcome new Annual Members.

- **Bruce Buchner** of Lorton, VA was sponsored by **Bill Chronister** and **Kelly Cook**
- **Dan Feirman** of Vienna, VA was sponsored by **Bill Chronister**
- **Jeff Fraser** of Woodbridge, VA was sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**
- **Gregory Gordon Landreth** of Springfield, VA was sponsored by **Jim Burgess**
- **Craig Metzger** of Bristow, VA was sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**
- **John J. Podolny** of Burke, VA was sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**
- **Stan Pryga** of Aldie, VA was sponsored by **John Elliott**
- **Mark Randall** of Alexandria, VA was sponsored by **Jim Burgess**
- **Laurence Readal** of Alexandria, VA was sponsored by **Phil Hill**
- **Walter L. Rhinehart** of Vienna, VA was sponsored by **Robert Sears**
- **Keith R. Simmons** of Oakton, VA was sponsored by **Kelly Cook**
- **Jeffrey T. Stillman** of Manassas, VA was sponsored by **David Litchfield**
- **Kevin Vasquez** of Falls Church, VA was sponsored by **Clay Laurie**
- **Jack Becker** of Ruther Glen, VA was sponsored by **Rob Becker** and **Shannon Zeigler**

Congratulations and welcome aboard! Your Annual Membership ID will be available at the January Meeting. If you cannot attend or there is a weather cancellation, the ID will be mailed to your home.

New Applications for Membership: For December, we had 11 new applicants for membership who all applied at the December 27-29, 2019 Nations Gun Show in Chantilly. The applicants' information and their sponsors' names are published below:

- **James Howard Arthur** of Amherst, VA is sponsored by **Richard Nahas**
- **Craig Ashby** of Fredericksburg, VA is sponsored by **Keith Simmons**
- **Mitch Ballweg** of Woodbridge, VA is sponsored by **Marc Gorelick** and **David Litchfield**
- **Robert W. Carter** of Woodbridge, VA is sponsored by **Jim Burgess**
- **Timothy Darner** of Jefferson, MD is sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**
- **Thomas Harris** of Sterling, VA is sponsored by **Keith Simmons**
- **Lee R. Panella** of Manassas, VA is sponsored by **Marc Gorelick** and **David Litchfield**
- **Allen Reid** of Great Falls, VA is sponsored by **King von Schilling**
- **Todd Sanitra** of Jeffersonton, VA is sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**
- **Ron Stocks** of Leesburg, VA is sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**
- **Robert Parks Taylor** of Lexington, VA is sponsored by **King von Schilling**

If there are any comments or questions on any applicant, please notify an Officer or Director, and the Membership Chair before June 22, 2019. For questions, please email **Bill Chronister, Membership Chair** at vgca_membership@cox.net or call me at 703-204-0138.

New Member IDs: Prospective members are announced in the VGCA Newsletter for member review. If there are no issues, the membership is effective 30 days after publication in the newsletter. Membership IDs are prepared and brought to the Monthly Membership Meeting following the month of Newsletter publication. If the new member is not present, the ID is mailed to their mailing address a few days after the meeting. If you did not get an ID or renewal sticker please let me know by e-Mail or the phone number above. Make sure you provide your full mailing address and contact info so I can verify the mailing address and get an ID or renewal sticker to you. Please send an E-mail to **Bill Chronister, Membership Chair** at vgca_membership@cox.net.

Annual Membership Renewals and Life Membership Upgrades: Remember, this is the *2020 Annual Membership Payments* season. So far 15 current Annual members have decided to upgrade to Life Membership. They will be recognized in the January Newsletter. I will accept payments at the December 12 Annual Holiday Potluck and Swap meeting. If you cannot make it, please send your payment by mail. A renewal form is in this newsletter.

LAST CHANCE!!! Annual Membership Payments are OVERDUE!!!
Payments will be accepted at the January 23 Membership Meeting or by mail no later than January 31, 2020. Do NOT delay since January meetings may be subject to winter weather cancellations. There will be NO FURTHER extensions.

Annual Membership renewal dues of \$30.00 were due by January 1, 2020. If you are an Annual Member in good standing, you may upgrade to Life Membership for \$150. You may pay by sending a Check for \$30 or \$150 (Please, NO USPS or other Money Orders) and the completed renewal form below to the address on the form. Payments in person require a **completed renewal form so your payment is credited to you**, and a CHECK (preferred) or EXACT cash, as we will not have change.

We now accept PayPal! For members wishing to renew by PayPal please use our PayPal ID: vgca.1983@gmail.com or follow this link: <https://www.paypal.me/VGCAInc>. Be sure to include "2020 Annual Membership Renewal" in the comments section for accounting purposes. As a PayPal user, you know PayPal charges a 3.9% fee for transactions. Please make payment total \$31.17 (for Life \$155.85) to cover the 3.9% fee if you choose that option. If you choose the Friends and Family option neither party will be charged the transaction fee.

Failure to pay Annual Dues by January 31, 2020 will result in your being dropped as a VGCA member. To re-join, you must complete the entire new member process. For questions, please email **Bill Chronister, Membership Chair** at vgca_membership@cox.net or call 703-204-0138.

Please detach and return with your payment

Membership Renewal Request (AMR-NL#Final-Jan 2020)
William Chronister, P.O. Box 2318, Merrifield, VA 22116-2318

VGCA Use Only	
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Please complete and return this renewal form with your payment. Indicate Annual, Life or that you do not wish to renew your membership by checking the appropriate box below. This form must accompany payment in person or by mail. *Please Print Clearly.*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

- Enclosed is a check for \$30.00 for CY 2020 VGCA Annual Membership dues.
- I wish to upgrade to Life Membership in VGCA. Enclosed is a check for \$150.00.
- Remove my name from the VGCA membership roster.

Make all checks payable to VGCA (Please - NO CASH or Money Orders). If you have any questions contact William Chronister, Membership Chair at (703) 204-0138 or by e-mail at vgca_membership@cox.net.

Please detach and return with your payment

VGCA ANNUAL MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The **VGCA Member of the Year Award** recognizes the member who the membership believes has done the most during the past year for the club and/or gun collecting. The annual **Member of the Year Award** is a way for you, the membership, to publically recognize a member in good standing who selflessly went above and beyond for the club or for collecting during 2019. All VGCA members (except sitting Board members) are eligible to receive the award.

Voting took place during the October and December membership meetings, as well as during our November Gun Show. And the winner of the VGCA 2019 Member of the Year. . .

. . . will be announced at our January meeting!

Your Club Needs You!

We are still looking for volunteers to help in the following areas (please contact any officer or director if interested):

- **VGCA Website update and maintenance** – we are looking for a dedicated individual to assist with updating and maintaining the VGCA website. This is the first impression that the general public gets of the VGCA. Please contact Ian Wulf (ic.wulf@gmail.com) or Wes Chappell (wesley@chappellfam.com) if interested.
- **Gun Show Road Sign Director** – Road signs have historically been an important element of advertising for our gun shows. We need someone to coordinate volunteers to put out and pick up our signs.



If you have the time and the expertise/interest, please consider volunteering!



★ NRA Seeking Volunteers ★

There are and will continue to be Virginia Legislature committee hearings on gun control issues. The NRA is keeping up on them but needs volunteers to attend these meetings in Richmond, sit through the hearings, and offer input whenever possible. The NRA will notify VGCA Member George Dungan (our new Legislative Actions POC) of the hearings as soon as they get word, but we would like to have a list of people that we can email who may be willing to attend. Nobody will be expected to go to every hearing but it would be good if some can go whenever possible. Please contact George (gearge@ecominv.com) if interested.



CMP UPDATE

By Marc Gorelick, CMP Liaison

JROTC AIR RIFLE REGIONALS IN FEBRUARY, NATIONALS IN MARCH

The Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) will hold the 2020 JROTC Regional Air Rifle Championships February 6-8 and February 14-16 at the CMP's South Competition Center in Anniston, AL, the Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center at Camp Perry, OH, and on the CMP's mobile range in Chandler, AZ. The three position events showcase high school junior ROTC athletes from around the country who use precision Olympic style air rifles and classic sporter air rifles to fire pellets at state-of-the-art electronic targets in prone, standing and kneeling positions. The JROTC competition is one of the most participated shooting competitions in the United States. Each year, thousands of JROTC Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force cadets compete in these competitions. The public is invited attend and the matches have been made spectator-friendly with large LED screens placed around the range to display each shooter's target. The winning teams will advance to the National JROTC 3-Position Air Rifle Championship will be held at Camp Perry, OH on March 19-21. The CMP administers thousands of dollars for teams who qualify for the Regionals, with additional funds for teams then who qualify for the National events. In addition to the JROTC Air Rifle events, the CMP will hold 3-Position Air Rifle Regionals on March 26-28 at Camp Perry and on April 2-4 at Anniston, AL and Sandy, Utah. For additional information about the JROTC Air Rifle Matches go to the CMP website at <http://thecmp.org/air/rotc-air-rifle-national-championship/>.

VGCA Members who wish to purchase or bid on surplus firearms, air rifles, targets, ammunition, parts and accessories, or take part in CMP competitions, or CMP education programs should visit the CMP website at <http://thecmp.org>. The VGCA is a CMP affiliated club and our CMP Affiliation Number is 026160.



★ ATTENTION MEMBERS: Have you the authored a book/magazine article, or published research on Firearms, Gun Collecting, History, or related subjects?

The VGCA is fortunate to have a diverse membership with a large amount of expertise, experience, and knowledge! If you are - or know any member who is - a published author or researcher, please know that the Virginia Gun Collectors Association, Inc. wants to feature your works on the VGCA website, at gun shows, in the VGCA newsletters (see the FOR SALE section of this newsletter), and/or at VGCA meetings. We also invite you to consider giving a presentation on your works at one of our meetings. If you have any questions or wish to be included, please direct any information, including titles, publishing information, or contact information to: Bill Chronister, Membership Chairman at vgca_membership@cox.net or at home on 703-204-0138.

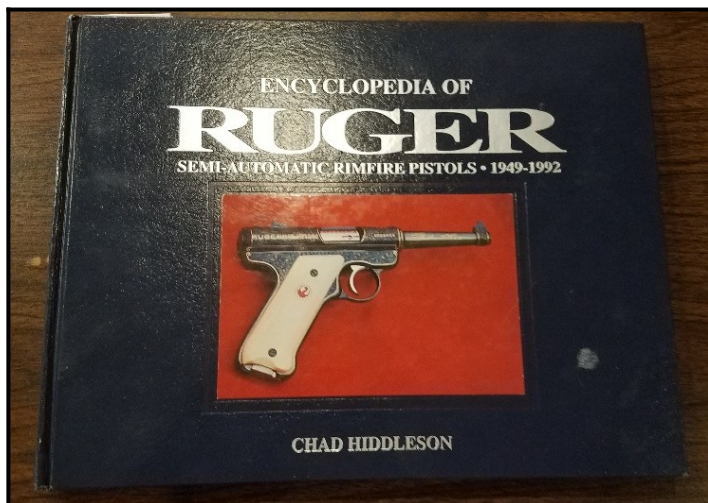
★ Show-n-Tell ★

NOTE: Anyone bringing in items for Show-n-Tell, please hold them up so the members can see it. This will also help your Volunteer Photographer get a decent photograph of the special item you brought to show, and people who could not attend the meeting can see it clearly in the newsletter. Thank you!



Member 1 (*above*) shared a Canadian Ross Mark II*** Rifle. Chambered in .303 British, various models of the Ross straight pull bolt action were used by Canadian forces in the early days of WWI. The Ross had a peacetime reputation of being an accurate target rifle, but its tight tolerances and weak extraction did not hold up to the rigors of trench warfare and they were replaced by the No.1 Mk III Lee Enfield in 1916 (though some Canadian snipers continued to use the Ross through the end of the war). The Ross did use a stripper clip, but use something called a Harris Loader. The Mark III was stronger than the Mark II, but the bolt could be reassembled incorrectly and then would not lock into the receiver (not good!). Manufactured between 1905 and 1916, this example was made in 1909 and was one of 20,000 Ross rifles sold to the U.S. These rifles were used by the U.S. Army for stateside training due to insufficient stocks of American M1903 and M1917 rifles. Interestingly, the serial number is only stamped on the wood stock. Member 1 noted that when he purchased this Ross it also came with a well-stamped bayonet.

Member 2 (*right*) brought in an M1 Garand – but one with an unusual background. In 1941, prior to U.S. entry into WWII, several M1s were provided to England under the Lend-Lease Act (at the time, the Royal Army was desperate for small arms after having evacuated their troops at Dunkirk but were forced to leave the bulk of their weapons behind). Because they did not fire the standard .303 British round, a red band was painted on the handguard with the caliber noted as “30”, “300”, or “306” hand-painted on the band. These rifles were not used in front-line service and are often encountered in very good, original, as-manufactured condition. A distinguishing feature is that each rifle was proofed in England prior to export back to the United States starting in the late 1950s, with the appropriate proof-marks on the barrel. This example, with some traces of the original red band, is serial number 390,521 (which is in the generally accepted 300,000-600,000 serial range of Lend-Lease M1s) and was manufactured in about November 1941.



Member 3 provided a matrix of Ruger Semi-Automatic .22 pistol features, which was an update to the matrix he provided at the October 2019 VGCA membership meeting. He also brought a book (*shown at left*) on the same subject – “Encyclopedia of Ruger Semi-Automatic Rimfire Pistols – 1949-1992” – by Chad Hiddleson.



IT IS TIME ONCE AGAIN TO ELECT VGCA OFFICERS

WE WANT YOU!

photograph for the ballot/newsletter. Ballots will be sent out in May and the results announced in June.

In even numbered years (like 2020), the VGCA holds an election for its four officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary). If you are interested in running for one of these positions, please contact Emory Hackman or one of the current officers or directors. We will need a short biography and



IN PASSING: HERBERT G. HOUZE

By Marc Gorelick

The world of gun collecting lost an icon with the death of Herbert G. Houze. He died on August 24, 2019 and his death at the age of 72 left a gaping hole in the firearms collecting community.

Houze was born on April 18, 1947, in Brockville, Ontario, Canada and after finishing his military service he moved to the U.S. where he completed his master's degree at Vanderbilt University. During the 70's he became Curator of Weapons and Military History at the Chicago Historical Society, and was Advisor to the Douglas Arms Collection at the Royal Military College of Canada, and Consultant to the Nunnemacher Arms Collection. In 1983 he became Curator of the Winchester Arms Museum, which he transformed into the Cody Firearms Museum. He left the museum in 1992 to devote himself to research and writing but in 2016 was named Curator Emeritus of the Buffalo Bill Center of the Cody Firearms Museum. He was also a visiting or guest curator for several other exhibits.

Herbert Houze was perhaps best known as one of the world's foremost scholars in the field of firearms. He wrote 15 books and about 115 articles on the subject and many of his books are essential references that are in the libraries of both serious collectors and people who are just interested in arms, armor, art and history. His books include:

The Sumptuous Flasks: European and American Decorated Powder Flasks of the Sixteenth to Nineteenth Centuries (1989)

Winchester Repeating Arms Company: Its History & Development from 1865 to 1931 (1994)

Colt Rifles and Muskets from 1847 to 1870 (1996)

Winchester Bolt Action Military and Sporting Rifles 1877 to 1937 (1998)

Samuel Colt: Arms Art & Invention (2006)

Arming the West (2007)

Colt Factory Engravers of the Nineteenth Century (2012)

I have at least one of his books in my library. He was also an expert on Faberge and antique jewelry and was in demand as a lecturer. The gun collecting world will miss him.

★ In Review ★

The “In Review” section to the newsletter includes VGCA member reviews of guns shows, books, and museums. If you would like to submit a review, please send it to the editor at rpebecker@verizon.net.

Museum

A TRIP TO THE MUSEUM: **AMERICAN ARMoured FOUNDATION** **TANK AND ORDNANCE MUSEUM**

Marc Gorelick and Samuel S. “Rett” Bevard, VGCA



Virginia is host to one of the finest armor museums in the United States. The American Armoured Foundation (AAF) Tank and Ordnance War Memorial Museum (to give it its official title) is a private museum located in Danville, Virginia, just north of the North Carolina border. It contains one of the most comprehensive collections of U.S. armor in the world as well as extensive collections of small arms, crew served weapons, uniforms, headgear, and artillery. There are also numerous other exhibits of interest to gun collectors and military historians.

The AAF Tank Museum is a living memorial dedicated to the tank and cavalry soldiers of the world. It got its start in the private collection of William Gasser. In 1981 Glasser established the museum as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization and donated his private collection to it. The museum’s mission is to collect, restore, display, and preserve as many armor and cavalry artifacts as possible and to preserve the memories of the men and women so that present and future generations will have available to them a significant part of military history to learn from and explore. Its purpose is to educate the public as to the sacrifices made by so many military men and women and it fulfills its mission and purpose very well.



Photo: AAF Tank Museum

The heart of the museum are the three large tank galleries that contain most of the vehicles. They showcase a superb collection of over 120 tracked or wheeled pieces of equipment that range from the earliest through the Iraq War. The vast majority of vehicles were used by the United States, but there are a few foreign armored fighting vehicles (AFVs). Some of the U.S. tanks are very rare, such as, an M-1917 "Special Tank," the first American tank produced, an M4 Sherman with a bulldozer blade, and an M-103A2 Heavy Tank with its 120mm main gun that was developed during the Cold War to counter Soviet heavy tanks. They also have armored personnel carriers, armored cars, half-tracks, scout cars and a number of all-wheel-drive support vehicles. Also on display are a large number of artillery pieces and other equipment.



German Panzer IV Display above. Photo: AAF Tank Museum

The curator (Mr. Gasser) and staff have gone to the time and expense to stage several of the tanks in different settings, such as fields, forest, desert, and snow to replicate the environments that the vehicles fought in. These dioramas are well done and bring what would normally be a static display to life. For instance, the display of a German Panzer 4 tank from World War 2 has a complete crew of mannequins dressed in authentic SS tanker uniforms. Other displays show crew repairing their vehicles. The signage for each vehicle display cannot be improved on. Pretty much every vehicle has an information sheet in front of it. On the whole, the signage gives not only identifies the vehicle but gives full technical specifications and quite a bit about the vehicles use and history. The large galleries have excellent lighting and a lot of space around the vehicles which provides good viewing and excellent photo opportunities from many angles.



Many museums have a special exhibit or center piece item which they display at or near their entrance. The AAF Tank Museum has an impressive artillery display that rivals that of any other military or firearms museum. It has two, full-size, stuffed horses pulling a full-size, wooden limber (circa late 1800's) and a wooden gun carriage which is mounting an authentic Colt's Gatling gun. Seated on the limber are the teamster and his helper wearing US Army uniforms. This display should make a very positive impression on any firearms collector.

Colt Gatling Gun. Photo: MGorelick



Left - US M103A2 Heavy Tank. Right - Swedish STRV74 Tank. Photos: MGorelick



Left - M1917 Special Tank. Right - M56 Scorpion Airmobile Self Propelled 90mm Anti-Tank Gun

The many other collections of military artifacts are displayed in another part of the museum with more traditional size rooms and galleries. There are three rooms that display the firearms collection. Although these collections are behind Plexiglas they are impressive in scope and number of items. The first room is about 16' x 16' and three of the walls are completely covered with over 80 neatly hung military rifles from the World Wars forward. The second display is in a large room, one wall of which is covered with numerous sub-machine guns from around the world and various other weapons. The third display room is considerably larger than the first, about 25' x 25', and the floor and three walls are filled with well over 150 Class III weapons (*see photo above - MGorelick*). Just about any machine gun you could name is in that room in addition to many mortars and anti-tank weapons (including a Russian Sagger ATGW) and an early cannon from medieval times. Collectively, there are about 187 Class III weapons in the museum. Unfortunately, in the larger rooms some of the weapons are far from the viewer and the lighting and signage could also be improved.



In addition to the tanks and firearms, there are several other interesting and very extensive collections of other military items in the 330,000 square foot museum. There are over 2200 military hats, caps and

helmets from around the world. There are over 400 mannequins wearing general officer and naval uniforms from different countries and periods. According to the museum signage, many of the uniforms are documented to famous Allied and Axis general officers from World War 2, including some of the premier American and German armor officers. There are tens of thousands of pennants, banners, flags, pins, patches, medals, posters, photographs, and presentation pieces. There is an extensive collection of military radio and optical items, a collection of military bicycles, radio controlled tanks as well as a special scale battlefield area where they are operated.



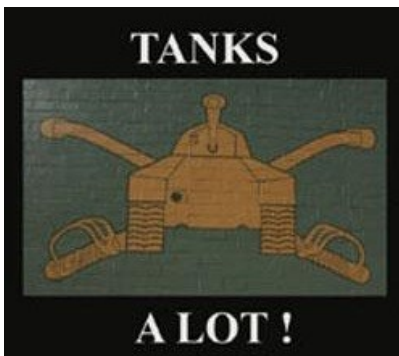
The museum contains a large gift shop that has numerous items and books for sale. There are also a large number of scale model tanks, many radio controlled for sale. Many are produced by some of the leading international model manufacturers. There is no café or cafeteria but there are drinks and snacks for sale in the lobby. Food may be brought in from outside and eaten in their eating area but cannot be taken into the museum facility.

M4 Sherman Dozer Tank. Photo: AAF Museum

The AAF Tank Museum is big and there is a lot to see. The average visitor spends 2 ½ to 4 hours touring the facility. However, if you examine all the displays and read all the signage in the exhibits your

visit could take most of a day.

There are special programs and events, including private and group tours that must be scheduled at least a week in advance. There are also vehicle rides on non-event weekends, and a program where visitors can climb on and inside tanks and other AFVs. In addition, visitors can rent radio controlled tanks and “play” on the 6,000 spare foot radio controlled battlefield. These must also be scheduled in advance. The museum does have some rules for entry including no weapons – visitors must pass through a metal detector. Visit the website for a complete list. One thing to keep in mind is that there is no heat or air conditioning in the museum facility. This could be problematic for some during the summer or winter. So plan your visit accordingly.



The AAF Tank Museum is located at:

3401 US Highway 29 (Business)

Danville, Virginia 24540.

The phone number is: (434) 836-5323.

Museum hours are:

January-March Saturday Only / 10am–4pm

April-December Friday-Saturday / 10am–4pm

The last admission is at 3:15pm

For additional information visit the museum’s website at:

<https://www.aaftankmuseum.com>.

NOTE – the VGCA is attempting to put together a trip to visit the AAF Tank Museum this spring. Please contact VGCA Director Dave Litchfield if interested.



★ Thanks to Those Who Volunteered at the December Chantilly Gun Show!

The VGCA officers and directors would like to extend a sincere “thank you” to those members who volunteered to represent the VGCA at our table during the most recent Chantilly Gun Show (December 27-29, 2019). They are:

FRIDAY

Jim Burgess
TJ Parmele
King Von Schilling
Marc Gorelick

SATURDAY

Jim Burgess
Clay Laurie
Chris Britton
Marc Gorelick

SUNDAY

Joe Roberts
Keith Simmons
Marc Gorelick

Once again, special thanks go out to Marc Gorelick for organizing the table and scheduling the volunteers. Also, a big “Thank You!” goes to the following members for providing unique and/or interesting arms to display on the table:

Jim Burgess - Joslyn Carbine
Joe Roberts - North Vietnamese SKS

These contributions helped to set our table apart from others at the show and spark conversations with show participants and potential new members.

The VGCA table at Chantilly has been largely responsible for doubling our annual members this year (eleven additional potential new members were signed up during this show)! Since January of 2019, we have directly signed up about 50 new members at Chantilly, with many others picking up applications there and joining at a VGCA meeting or at our show. This growth simply would not have happened without the support of our volunteers. Again, on behalf of the entire organization – thank you!

Please contact Marc Gorelick or any other VGCA officer or director if you are interested in volunteering at future shows. The next Chantilly Gun Show is on February 14-16, 2020.



“Gun Control Legislation is Coming to Virginia

– what can I do?”

The newly elected Virginia Assembly is primed to support the gun control initiatives of Governor Ralph Northam. In response, over 130 counties, cities, and townships have declared themselves Second Amendment Sanctuaries. You may be asking yourself – what can I do to support my rights as a Virginia gun owner?

George Dungan, our VGCA Legislative Actions POC, makes the following recommendation:

“Without reservation, I would recommend contributing to the National Rifle Association – Institute for Legislative Action (NRA-ILA). There is not much that can be done now to prevent these proposed laws from being passed, but this legislation will be opposed in court, and the NRA-ILA is definitely the most capable organization to lead that fight.”

★ 2020 Presentation List ★

The following presentations are scheduled for our upcoming membership meetings:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PRESENTATION</u>	<u>PRESENTER</u>
January 23 rd	The Kalashnikov Visit of 1990	Ed Costello/Addison Hurst
February 27 th	The Philippine Scouts	Nelson Hufano
March	No membership meeting scheduled due to our Spring Gun Show	
April 23 rd	Guns of the FBI	Bill Vanderpool
May 28 th	Colt Walker Revolvers	Charlie Pate
June 25 th	Gun Buying Lessons Learned	VGCA Members
July	No membership meeting scheduled due to summer break	
August 27 th	Engraved Colt Pistols	Phil Hill
September 24 th	My Favorite Gun	VGCA Members
October 22 nd	German Weapon Markings and Proofs	Dave Litchfield
November	No membership meeting scheduled due to our Fall Gun Show	
December TBD	Holiday Pot Luck and Annual Swap Meet	Show-n-Tell Only

★ Upcoming Events and Shows ★

PLEASE NOTE: 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*. These dates have been published as of this writing, but are not guaranteed. If you have a favorite show you would like to tell other members about, please email the Editor with a short review, including the show content, i.e., modern, new, collectible or antique, and I will include it as room permits. **Yellow** = Collector organizations or shows.

VIRGINIA – 2019-2020

- Jan 25-26, 2020 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fredericksburg Expo & Convention Center – *SGK*
- Jan 25-26, 2020 - Fishersville, VA – Augusta Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- Jan 25-26, 2020 – Salem, VA - Salem Civic Center - *C&E*
- Feb 1-2, 2020 – Virginia Beach, VA – Virginia Beach Convention Center – *SGK*
- Feb 1-2, 2020 – Roanoke, VA – The Berglund Center – *Showmasters*
- Feb 14-16, 2020 - Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- Feb 22-23, 2020 – Harrisonburg, VA – Rockingham County Fairgrounds – *C&E*
- Feb 22-23, 2020 – Doswell, VA – Meadow Event Park – *SGK*
- Feb 29-Mar 1, 2020 – Lynchburg, VA – River Ridge Mall (Old Macy's Bldg) - *Showmasters*
- Feb 29-Mar 1, 2020 – Woodstock, VA – Moose Lodge – *Sporting Shows Unlimited*
- Mar 7-8, 2020 - Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK*
- Mar 7-8, 2020 - Dale City, VA – Dale City VFW Post 1503 – *Showmasters*
- Mar 7-8, 2020 – Salem, VA - Salem Civic Center - *C&E*
- Mar 14-15, 2019 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fredericksburg Expo & Convention Center – *SGK*
- Mar 21-22, 2020 – Roanoke, VA – The Berglund Center – *Showmasters*
- Mar 21-22, 2020 – Weyers Cave, VA – Weyers Cave Community Center – *Sporting Shows Unlt*
- Mar 28-29, 2020 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex – *Showmasters*

BREAKING NEWS! The Prince William County Fairgrounds management has confirmed that they will host both our spring and fall Gun Shows for next year. The PWC Fairgrounds are for sale and the future of our gun shows there has been uncertain, so this is good news!

MARYLAND – 2020

- Mar 21-22, 2020 – Timonium, MD – Maryland State Fairgrounds – *Maryland Arms Collectors Association (the Baltimore Antique Arms Show)*
- Mar 27-29, 2020 – Edgewood, MD – Edgewood American Legion – *American Legion Post 17*
- Mar 28-29, 2020 – West Friendship, MD – Howard County Fairgrounds – *MD Sportsman*

PENNSYLVANIA – 2019-2020

- Jan 25-26, 2020 – Conneaut Lake, PA – Conneaut Lake Sportsman Assn – *L&R Sporting Events*
- Jan 25-26, 2020 – Gettysburg, PA – Allstar Events Complex – *Eagle Arms*
- Jan 25-26, 2020 – Promised Land, PA – Promised Land Vol Fire & Ambulance – *Jaeger Arms*
- Feb 1, 2020 – Hummelstown, PA – Hummelstown Field & Stream Assoc - *Hummelstown Field & Stream Assoc*
- Feb 1-2, 2020 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center – *Showmasters*

PENNSYLVANIA – 2019-2020 (continued)

- Feb 1-2, 2020 – Lancaster, PA – Lancaster Farm & Home Center – *Lancaster Muzzle Loading Rifle Association (LMLRA)*
- Feb 1-2, 2020 – Wind Gap, PA – Plainfield Fire Company – *Eagle Arms*
- Feb 1-9, 2020 – Harrisburg, PA – Farm Show Complex – Great American Outdoor Show – *NRA*
- Feb 7-9, 2020 – Oaks/Phoenixville, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Arms*
- Feb 8-9, 2020 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds – *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*
- Feb 15-16, 2020 – Bloomsburg, PA – Bloomsburg Fairgrounds – *Eagle Arms*
- Feb 22-23, 2020 – Sellersville, PA – Forrest Lodge VFW Hall & Club – *Jaeger Arms*
- Feb 22-23, 2020 – Waynesboro, PA – 10205 Fish & Game Road – *Waynesboro Fish & Game*
- Mar 7, 2020 – Willmore, PA – St. Bartholomew Hall – *St. Bart's Church*
- Mar 7-8, 2020 - Allentown, PA - Econo Lodge –*Eagle Arms*
- Mar 7-8, 2020 – East Berlin, PA – 1808 Fish & Game Road – *East Berlin Fish & Game*
- Mar 7-8, 2020 - Harrisburg, PA – PA Farm Show Complex – *C&E Gun Shows*
- Mar 7-8, 2020 – St Thomas, PA – St Thomas Twp Volunteer Fire Dept – *Issak Walton League*
- Mar 13-15, 2020 – Oaks/Phoenixville, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Arms*
- Mar 14-15, 2020 – Quarryville, PA – Solanco Fairgrounds – *SLCFSA*
- Mar 15, 2020 – Portland, PA – William Pensyl Social Hall – *Portland Hook & Ladder Co. #1*
- Mar 21, 2020 – Pittsburgh, PA – Castle Shannon Volunteer Fire Dept – *CSVFD*
- Mar 21-22, 2020 – Kittanning, PA – 592 Pony Farm Road - *Pony Farm Trap & Gun Club*
- Mar 21-22, 2020 – Lake Harmony, PA – Split Rock Resort – *Eagle Arms*
- Mar 28-29, 2020 – Gettysburg, PA – Allstar Events Complex – *Eagle Arms*
- Mar 28-29, 2020 – Stroudsburg, PA – Jackson Township Volunteer Fire Co. – *Jaeger Arms*
- Mar 28-29, 2020 – West Middlesex, PA – 268 Gilkey Road - *Hidden Valley Sportsmen's Club*

SPECIAL NOTE – 2020

- Feb 19-23, 2020 – Louisville, KY – Kentucky Expo Center – *Ohio Valley Military Society*
- Mar 14-15, 2020 – Wilmington, OH – The Roberts Centre – *Ohio Gun Collector's Association*
- Apr 4-5, 2020 – Tulsa, OK – Tulsa Fairgrounds (Expo Square) – *Tulsa Arms Collector Association – aka Wanenmacher's (world's largest gun show – over 4200 tables!)*
- Apr 17-19, 2020 – Nashville, TN – Music City Center – *NRA Annual Membership Meetings*
- May 8-10, 2020 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds – *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*

LOOKING FOR:

Member Jack Looney is trying to get in touch with Gunsmith Robert (Mike) Ahlfeld. If you know Mr. Ahlfeld, or have contact with him, please inform Jack at looney.house@verizon.net or have Mr. Ahlfeld contact Jack.



FOR SALE:

The "For Sale" section of the Virginia Gun Collectors Association (VGCA) Newsletter is provided as a service exclusively to the members of the VGCA. The VGCA, its officers, and directors are not responsible for any listings made in any VGCA Newsletter. We are not responsible for the accuracy (condition, value, etc.) of any listings. All buyers, traders, and sellers agree to comply with all local, state, federal, and international laws in regards to items sold via the VGCA Newsletter. It is their duty and responsibility to ensure the quality and value of the transaction and that all such laws are followed at all times. Buy, sell, or trade at your own risk.

If you would like to list an item (or items) in the VGCA Newsletter, please send your description, price, and contact information to rpebecker@verizon.net. I must receive your material no later than the second Sunday of the month for it to be included in that month's newsletter. Unless other arrangements are made, items will be listed for one issue of the Newsletter.

FOR SALE:

- ★ Star Super Model B, 9mm Luger, EC overall. \$549
 - ★ Original Colt 1862 Pocket Navy, 5-shot .36 caliber. VGC. Includes original Colt bullet mold, Colt screwdriver and nipple wrench, original period powder flask, Eley cap tin and Taylor display case. \$2750
 - ★ Walther Model 8, 25acp. 8-shot magazine, 2nd variation, WW2 German officer bring back, w/ rare, reduced size, custom C96 Broomhandle-type holster. EC. ~~\$1495~~ Now \$1295
 - ★ Smith and Wesson 1912, .38 S&W New Departure or Lemon Squeezer, 5-shot revolver, rare 4 inch barrel, sharp nickel plating, minty bore, pearl grips and original factory letter. EC. \$749
 - ★ LC Smith 20ga. 1940's classic field grade Featherweight SxS sidelock, 28-inch barrels, excellent bores and casehardening (80%), 2-3/4 inch chambers, extractors, DT VGC+. ~~\$2150~~ Now \$1950
 - ★ Marlin Over/Under 20 Gauge, excellent bores. ~~\$750~~. Now \$695
- If interested, call 571-308-4978 or send email to jrbzn13@aol.com

FOR SALE:

★ After more than two and a half years of research, VGCA member Bill Vanderpool has recently published his book "**Guns of the FBI**". This book is available at GunDigest.com or can be purchased directly from Bill by calling 703-626-2975. He is more than happy to sign a copy for you. Cost is \$50.00.

FOR SALE:

★ VGCA member Charlie Pate has four books that he has authored for sale, at discounted prices to VGCA members. These include:

- "U.S. Handguns of World War II" - \$45.00
- "The Smith & Wesson American Model" - \$55.00
- "U.S. Military Arms Inspector Marks" - \$45.00
- "The Colt Model 1860 Army Revolver" - \$60.00

If interested, please contact Charlie at usarmsresearch@gmail.com

The e-mail address for any Newsletter-related matters is Newsletter@vgca.net - or you can reach the editor directly at rpebecker@verizon.net. Feel free to e-mail items for inclusion in the newsletter. For changes of address or non-receipt of the newsletter, either via e-mail or the mailed hard copy, please contact Rob Becker or Bill Chronister.