



# VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

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**President**  
**Show/Reservations Manager**  
**Membership**

Rob Becker  
Andrew Woodard  
George Dungan

Phone: 703-441-1211  
Cell: 301-613-5718  
Phone: 571-243-6387

[rpebecker@verizon.net](mailto:rpebecker@verizon.net)  
[ajw055570@aol.com](mailto:ajw055570@aol.com)  
[george@eccominv.com](mailto:george@eccominv.com)

Website: [www.vgca.net](http://www.vgca.net)  
Facebook: @VirginiaGunCollectorsAssoc

Twitter: @VAGunCollectrs  
Instagram: @vaguncollectors

## January 2025 VGCA Newsletter



### **PRESIDENT'S NOTES**

Happy New Year Everyone!

So much has happened in the VGCA over the last couple of months! In this newsletter you will find write-ups on our field trips, the National Museum of the Marine Corps (Triangle, VA) and the Institute for Military Technology (Titusville, FL), both of which occurred in November. We also had a very successful Holiday Potluck Dinner and Swap Meet in

December. On the same day as our Potluck, member Francis Torres set up his photo booth and took professional and extremely detailed photographs of several firearms which will soon be featured on our social media (if they haven't been already).

And I am happy to say that 2025 is shaping up to be just as busy, if not more so!

We have speakers lined up for our first few Membership Meetings with topics including the Winchester Winder Musket, the Winchester Model 94, and Competition Guns of the North-South Skirmish Association. Our first field trip will be a tour of the Manassas Battlefield on March 29<sup>th</sup>, guided by our very own Jim Burgess. Our spring gun show is scheduled for April 5-6, and we are looking forward to sponsoring a display at the NRA Annual Membership Meetings in Atlanta, Georgia over April 24-27. And that is just during the first few months – it should be an exciting year!

We will start 2025 with a membership meeting on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. I hope to see you there! Cheers!

***Rob Becker, VGCA President***

# ★ December Meeting: Holiday Potluck & Swap Meet

VGCA activities on Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup> started early in the afternoon when member Francis Torres (*at right, explaining his camera set-up*) brought in his light booth to one of the small NRA meeting rooms and started photographing guns brought in by several members. These photos will be featured on both VGCA's social media accounts as well as Francis' Instagram account "Cinematic Arms". Over the course of the afternoon, Francis photographed about 30 guns, including this beautiful set of reproduction flintlock dueling pistols (*below*).



At 5 p.m., dinner was served (*at right*)! There was a wonderful spread of honey-cured ham, chicken strips and tacos, not to mention the great side dishes and of course, the desserts! With nearly 50 members, guests, and family in attendance, there wasn't much in the way of left overs! This was our biggest turn-out for the Holiday Party in the last several of years, possibly since before the COVID pandemic.

After dinner, President Rob Becker held a short business meeting (details on page 9).





One tradition of our annual holiday get-together is our donation to the NRA's National Firearms Museum. Accepting our check for \$2500 was Museum Director Phil Schreier (*far left*). Also present was former VGCA President and current Museum Curator Ernie Lyles.

The theme for the evening was “fellowship” – well, more accurately, “fellowship and good food!” Pictured below are some of our more active members – Alan, Louis, Andrew, and Dan!



It didn't take some members long to find the VERY full dessert table (in Bill's defense, I asked him to stand there to get his picture taken)! President Emeritus Ed Costello declared the pecan pie as particularly good!



I want to thank Francis for spending the entire afternoon taking detailed photographs of our treasures. I especially want to thank everyone who brought food. It was a great day! See you next year!

--Editor

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

# ALEXANDER HAMILTON'S PISTOLS

*By Marc Gorelick*

*Pistol photographs courtesy of Christie's*

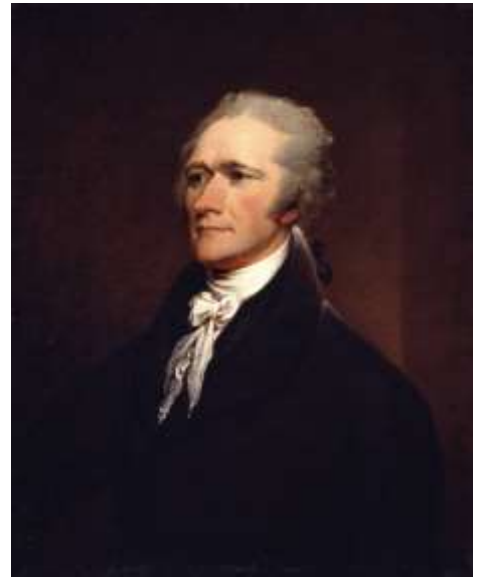
In January 2024 a pair of remarkable flintlock pocket pistols were sold by Christies at an auction in New York. The pistols were of such historical importance that the sale attracted a great deal of attention among historians and gun collectors. The matched set of pistols, which came out of the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, belonged to one of the founding fathers and architects of the United States, Alexander Hamilton. These national treasures are one of only two known surviving pistol pairs that belonged to Hamilton.



Alexander Hamilton had a great and long-lasting impact on the shaping of the early United States. His remarkable life, from abandoned orphan on the Caribbean island of Nevis to leading roles as an officer in the Continental Army during the American Revolution, and as Secretary of the Treasury during George

Washington's Presidency, continues to captivate and inspire over two centuries later – so much so that there are even Broadway musicals about him.

Hamilton was an astute and intellectually brilliant administrator, politician, statesman, soldier and financier. His ideas are credited with laying the foundation for American government and finance. He served as an artillery officer in the American army, fighting in several battles, before he became one of George Washington's closest aides as well as a senior combat commander. He commanded three battalions under the Marquis de Lafayette during the Yorktown campaign. During the siege of Yorktown, he led his troops in a successful night-time bayonet assault on the British Redoubt No. 10. Capture of this redoubt, and Redoubt No. 9 by the French, convinced British General Lord Cornwallis to surrender, leading to the end of the war and American independence. After the Revolutionary War, Hamilton served as a delegate from New York to the Congress of the Confederation in Philadelphia. He returned to New York to practice law and founded the Bank of New York. Hamilton led the Annapolis Convention in 1786 to replace the Articles of Confederation with the Constitution of the United States, which he helped ratify by writing 51 of the 85 installments of *The Federalist Papers*.



Hamilton served as the first U.S. Secretary of the Treasury in George Washington's cabinet where he envisioned a central government led by an energetic president, a strong national defense, and an industrial economy. He successfully argued that the implied powers of the Constitution provided the legal authority to fund the national debt and assume the states' debts. He created the First Bank of the United States. He persuaded Congress to establish the Revenue Cutter Service, the forerunner of the U.S. Coast Guard, and establish the United States Mint. He advocated in support of the Jay Treaty under which the U.S. resumed friendly trade relations with Britain. His views became the basis for the Federalist Party, which opposed the Democratic-Republican Party led by Thomas Jefferson. Hamilton and other Federalists supported the Haitian Revolution,

and Hamilton helped draft the constitution of Haiti. After he resigned as Secretary of the Treasury (to be with his ailing wife who had suffered a miscarriage) he fought for the abolition of the international slave

trade. During the Quasi War with France (1798-1800), President John Adams appointed him Major General in the army. When Jefferson and Aaron Burr tied for the presidency in the Electoral College during the election of 1800, despite philosophical differences with Thomas Jefferson, Hamilton endorsed Jefferson over Burr, whom he considered unprincipled and “a dangerous man, and one who ought not to be trusted with the reins of government.” Jefferson won the Presidency after 35 ballots and Burr became Vice-President. When Burr ran for governor of New York in 1804, Hamilton again campaigned against him, arguing that he was unworthy. Taking offense, Burr challenged Hamilton to a duel and on July 11, 1804, in Weehawken, New Jersey, Burr shot Hamilton in the stomach. Hamilton died the next day in New York.

Made by one of France’s leading gunmakers, Jean-Louis Jalabert, this small type of pistol is known as pocket pistols or *pistolets du voyage* because they were made for civilians to easily carry, one in each coat pocket. The maker’s name, *Jalabert-Lamotte*, is engraved on the lock plates and the pistols can be dated to the six-year period between July 1798 and Hamilton’s death in July 1804. Their maker, Jean-Louis Jalabert (1766-1846) was born in Saint-Etienne in southeastern France. St. Etienne had been a center for the production of weapons, including firearms, swords, and other edged weapons from the sixteenth century. Jalabert was taught gunsmithing by his father, Christophe Jalabert, a noted gunsmith, and later studied both the production of firearms and their decoration in Paris. Jalabert returned to Saint Etienne in the 1790s and married Marie-Anne Lamotte on July 27, 1798. Since she came from a well-established family of gunmakers with an established sales network, Jean-Louis thereafter signed his works with both of their last names, a not unusual practice in France. Jalabert-Lamotte specialized in hunting and luxury arms, like these pistols, and with his skilled training, technical inventions, and the sales network of the Lamotte family, he became one of the most significant arms makers of his time.



The .69 caliber flintlock pistols are both 9 1/16 (24.3cm) inches long with 4 3/4 inch (12.1cm) long barrels. They have walnut stocks and the grips are crisply checkered with steel mounts. The trigger guard front extensions are modeled in the form of a faceted vase, the steel pommel buttons are chiseled in the form of

a flower with gilt recesses. They have two-stage steel barrels, the breech halves are blued and faceted, and further chiseled, engraved, and inlaid in gold with vases issuing floral and leafy bouquets. The forward halves of the barrels are polished and have brass muzzle rings. The lock plates are engraved *Jalabert / Lamotte* and the underside of the trigger guards are engraved with Hamilton's initials, *A.H.*



The pistols were among Hamilton's most personal possessions and their provenance is well documented. Hamilton may have purchased the pistols or received them as a gift. According to a Christie's news release, "Their fine craftsmanship and French origins would have been of particular appeal to Hamilton, who appreciated artistic excellence and whose house, the Grange, featured a number of furnishings in the French taste." The Lamotte family of gunsmiths exported their wares internationally, particularly to Egypt, Morocco, Turkey, and America and living in New York City, Hamilton would have had ready access to imported goods. Another possibility is that the pistols were given to Hamilton by a friend or acquaintance from his previous military or political

life. Hamilton was a close personal friend of the Marquis de Lafayette and other French officers and notables from during his army and government service. His friendship with Lafayette, which was formed during the Revolutionary War, continued throughout their lives. In the early 1790s, Alexander and his wife Elizabeth actively supported French refugees from the terror of the French Revolution, and while

Secretary of the Treasury he enjoyed a close relationship with Charles-Marucice de Talleyrand-Périgord, the exiled diplomat and statesman who fled France after the execution of Louis XVI.

Hamilton had married Elizabeth Schuyler in 1780, the daughter of General Philip Schuyler, a member of a prominent New York family, and after his death Hamilton's pistols remained in the family. After Elizabeth's death in 1854 the pistols were bequeathed to Hamilton's grandson, Brigadier General Schuyler Hamilton (1822-1903). Then they were passed down to his grandson, Schuyler Van Cortlandt Hamilton (1882-1951), who sold them to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1950. The Met auctioned them at Christie's at their Important Americana auction on January 18-10, 2024, where these national treasures sold for \$819,000.





The only other known surviving pair of Alexander Hamilton's pistols, a matched pair of full-size .58 caliber horse pistols carried by him during the Revolutionary War and also bearing his initials **A.H.** were made in London by Nicholson. They were a gift from Major General Philip Schuyler (1733-1804), Hamilton's father-in-law. They were sold at auction by Rock Island Auctions on May 14, 2021, for a hammer price of \$1,150,000.



## ★ December Meeting Notes

The meeting was called to order by VGCA President Rob Becker at 5:05 p.m., followed by the Blessing from Ed Costello. After dinner, a short business meeting was conducted starting at 5:40 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Jim Burgess followed a moment of silence in commemoration of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Guests and new members introduced themselves. There were 47 members and guests in attendance.

Those present were reminded to vote for the VGCA Member of the Year for 2024. This is the last opportunity to vote, and the winner will be announced at the January Membership Meeting.

It is time for Annual Members to renew. Membership Chairman George Dungan is out of town, but Bruce Buchner is available to take renewals.

Rob reviewed the upcoming presentation schedule (details on page 20). The first several months of 2025 have presentations scheduled, but if you are interested in giving a presentation in the latter part of next year, please contact Matthew G. In addition to the scheduled presentation, the Trigger Time 4H Shooting Club will give an update to the VGCA at our January Membership Meeting.

Member (and National Park Service ranger) Jim Burgess has graciously offered to lead a tour of Manassas Battlefields next March (details also on page 20).

Show Director Andrew Woodard noted that there are 30 tables available for rent at our spring Gun Show.

Phil Schreier (*in the middle*) and Ernie Lyles (*far left*) accepted the annual VGCA donation to National Firearms Museum. This year, the VGCA gave \$2,500.00 to the NRA Museum Director and NFM curator, with the funds specifically designated to support the museum.



Happy holidays to all!



★ **Next Membership Meeting: January 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Presentation: “Winchester Winder Musket” by Rob Becker**  
**Location: NRA HQ Basement Auditorium**

Our January VGCA Membership Meeting will be in the basement auditorium of the NRA Headquarters. The room will open at 6 p.m. with pizza (we are asking for a \$5 donation per person for the pizza) arriving shortly thereafter and the meeting starting at 7 p.m. We hope you can make it!



## **VGCA Visits Institute of Military Technology**

*By Rob Becker*

At the end of October, a total of 22 VGCA members, family, and friends traveled south to Titusville, Florida. There they connected with Bernie Breighner, former VGCA President and current employee of Knight’s Armament Company, who had graciously set up a tour of the Institute of Military Technology. It started on the evening of October 31<sup>st</sup> with an informal gathering at the Titusville Courtyard Marriott’s rooftop Space Bar overlooking the Cape Canaveral Space Center (*below, with Bernie in the orange shirt at the back*). It was a fun evening with some adult beverages being consumed.





The next morning, the group (*below*) assembled in front of the Institute of Military Technology (IMT). IMT is the small arms (and some not-so-small arms) collection of Mr. C. Reed Knight, Jr. Started in 2009, IMT's mission is to Preserve, Educate, and Motivate by collecting and displaying historically significant items to help honor the history and evolution of arms and armed forces. IMT focuses on armament innovations as well as the technical and mechanical advancements, with an emphasis on those developments that took place in the United States. IMT is a private institution and as such, not open to the public. Being able to see this incredible collection is by invitation only.



After signing in, we met IMT's Museum Curator, Joe Fink. Joe would be our tour guide for most of the day. Joe has what most of us would consider the perfect job. He said he spends one third of time cataloging artifacts (mostly firearms) for the museum, one third of his time conducting tours, and the final third perusing auction sites looking for future museum acquisitions. How great is that!?!

The tour began in the Hall of U.S. Arms (*below*). This huge room featured American small arms – and some crew serviced weapons – dating back to the Revolutionary War. There were military muskets,



rifles, shotguns, handguns, machine guns, cannons, prototypes, trials guns, and various production models. We spent almost the entire morning in this one area and at one point, Mr. Knight himself joined

us. A quick review of a collection of European cartridge conversions and early breechloaders (including Ferguson rifles from the Revolutionary War serial numbers 1 and 2!) in the Reception Hall and then we were off to lunch. Mr. Reed joined us at Sonny's BBQ, an apparent favorite of the Knights Armament folks. After some excellent barbeque, it was back to IMT!



The afternoon included the Hall of Modern Arms (*above*) with its recreation of Eugene Stoner's office / desk and early Armalite and Stoner 63 prototypes, the Culp Gallery (with Colt AR15 serial number 1 and the first Colt M16 made), and the International Hall of Arms. Mr. Knight (*on the left, in the maroon shirt*) shared innumerable stories of his friend Mr. Stoner. That experience alone was worth the trip!



In recognition of his efforts to preserve American military firearms history and for graciously allowing us to see it, Mr. Charles Reed Knight, Jr. was presented with an Honorary Membership in the Virginia Gun Collectors Association (*left*).

Unfortunately, for security purposes, we were unable to take many pictures inside the firearms portion of this peerless collection. However, we finished our tour checking out the armored vehicles where pictures were allowed. I guess the risk of someone stealing a 35-ton M4 Sherman medium tank (*right*) is much lower!





One of Reed Knight's many ventures is that he has a McLaren sports/racing car dealership. It was an interesting juxtaposition to see these luxury lightning bolts parked next to armored fighting vehicles (*above left*) which themselves were designed for anything but speed (*M7 Priest with 105mm cannon, above right*)!

A hallway lined with muzzle-loading cannons connected the firearms collection to the tank park. VGCA Director Ian Wulf (*right*) was impressed!



We ended a busy day with a group dinner as our last official function. Many stuck around Titusville for the weekend, taking in the sights, checking out the local gun shops, and even trying to watch a SpaceX Falcon 9 launch (unfortunately postponed at the last minute by a helium issue). All-in-all, it was a fantastic VGCA trip!



# VGCA's Second Field Trip in November – the National Museum of the Marine Corps

*By Rob Becker*

On Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, members and family of the VGCA made their second field trip of the month, this one to the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Virginia. It all started with 12 of us watching the film “We, the Marines” shown in the Medal of Honor Theater. Narrated by Academy Award-winning actor and Marine, Gene Hackman, the film follows the journey of Marines from boot camp to training, deployment, and finally homecoming and is well worth price (\$7 per person for a group of 10 or more – we had 12). After the movie, most of those attending posed for quick picture in the main hall (*below*) before starting our tour of the museum.



The tour was completely self-guided, and our members quickly split into two groups – those who took their time and those who REALLY took their time! I was in the latter group, and we didn't eat lunch at the museum's recreated Tun Tavern – inspired by the original Tun Tavern in Philadelphia where the Marine Corps was founded on November 10, 1775 – until almost 2 pm.

Before leaving the main hall, a dilapidated relic (*right*) caught my eye. It was a Bofors 75mm light field howitzer originally captured by the Japanese in the Dutch East Indies in early 1942. It was then one of six such howitzers sent to Guadalcanal in late 1942 to bombard the Marines at Henderson Field, before being captured by the Marines during a counterattack. Note the battle-damage in the recoil system below the barrel. This is just one of many such stories documented in this museum.



The story of the Marine Corps is one that revolves around combat, and the museum is organized chronologically to reflect the relevant wars, battles and weapons. Exhibits and associated dioramas reflect the actions, uniforms, and conditions experienced at the time. For example, the environment in the Korean War exhibit is cooled down to remind the museum guests of the brutal winter conditions experienced by Marines during that war.

VGCA members Marc Gorelick and Mike Hardesty (*right*) check out a Hotchkiss revolving cannon from the early 1900s. This hand-cranked brass and steel masterpiece consists of five 37mm barrels and had a rate of fire of 43 rounds per minutes.



The Viet Nam exhibit included a Marine armed with an M79 “Thumper” (*below*). The M79 was a single-shot 40mm grenade launcher That would eventually be replaced by an M203 grenade launcher mounted on an M16. Behind the Marine manequine is an M50 “Ontos” armored vehicle. Developed in the 1950s as a light, easily deployed anti-tank vehicle, it was armed with six 106mm recoilless rifles and a .30 caliber Browning machinegun. It saw service in Viet Nam before being retired in 1969. “Ontos” means “the thing” in Greek!



This Soviet 122mm field gun (*right*) was captured on February 20, 1969 by Company C, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 9<sup>th</sup> Marines. It is the largest artillery piece captured during Viet Nam and was one of twelve captured or destroyed during Operation Dewey Canyon.





This display of U.S. M16s and Eastern Bloc AK family of small arms of the Cold War (*above*) was a “crowd pleaser.” Included was the M110 Semi-Automatic Sniper System (SASS) chambered in 7.62x51 NATO (*center top*) and the Soviet Dragunov SVD in 7.62x54R (*center bottom*).



The M198 155mm howitzer (*left*) - being checked out by members Dan Helm and Mike Hardesty - has a range of 19 miles. It was developed in 1982 to replace WWII-era artillery for the USMC. This particular example, nicknamed “Damn Yankees” by its crew of Battery F, 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines, fired the first U.S. shot of Operation Desert Storm. This occurred on Jan. 21, 1991, during the Battle of Khafji on the border between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. “Damn Yankees” was retired in 2009 and replaced by the M777.





Shown here is a Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) All-Terrain Vehicle (M-ATV) (*left*). Intended to replace M1114 HMMWVs (Humvee), it was designed to provide the same levels of protection as the larger and heavier previous MRAPs, but with improved mobility to handle the poor roads and difficult terrain of Afghanistan. This M-ATV still has the battle damage from when it hit an improvised explosive device (IED) while delivering supplies in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

A display of the weapons from the Global War on Terrorism (*right*) included some unusual examples. Note the British Martini-Henry rifle dating from the 1880s in the upper right.



This F/A-18 Hornet and some of its associated ordnance (*at right*) was an impressive sight, filling an entire room!



The Amphibious Assault Vehicle (AAV) symbolizes the Marine Corps core mission. A direct descendant of the WWII-era Landing Vehicle, Tracked (LVT), the AAV has been in service since the 1970s. Equally at home on land or in the sea, the AAV can carry up to 5 tons of troops and equipment and has seen numerous upgrades to its weapons and armor over the years.

The National Museum of the Marine Corps may not get the attention it deserves because it is local and so accessible to most of us. That is a shame as its fairly recent expansion to include exhibits on the Cold War, Desert Storm, and the most recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan are well worth the visit. Admission is free and it is open every day except Thanksgiving and New Years. Plan to spend at least 3 to 4 hours if you go.



# ★ Recruiting at Chantilly Gun Show Finished the Year Strong

*By Bruce Buchner*

The VGCA closed out our 2024 recruiting efforts at the Nation's Gun Shows in Chantilly with two successful recruiting efforts in just five weeks. For the 22 to 24 November show, we want to thank the following volunteers:

Chuck Schafer  
King Von Schilling  
Allan Rupp  
Troy Blackwood  
Mike Jambrosic  
Rick Medley  
Chris Britton  
Rob Becker  
Dan Helm  
Glen Ruh  
Edward Land  
Elijah Sauder

All together we signed one new member at that show.

For the December 27 to 29 show, our membership table volunteers included:

George Dungan  
Chris Britton  
Keith Simmons  
Mike Jambrosic  
Chuck Schafer  
Dave Herbeck  
Dov Kawamoto  
PJ Warwick  
Joe Wagner

Their efforts resulted in three new members – and ensured the VGCA exceeded its membership goal for the year!

The membership table at the gun show is our biggest single recruiting tool and serves to educate the public on who we are and what we do. We also use it to publicize our gun show. It's important for the health of our organization so come on out and volunteer a few hours of your time to help out. Watch for future emails asking for volunteers.



# ★ 2025 Presentation & Event List ★

MEETING DATE	TOPIC	PRESENTER
23 Jan 2025	The Winchester Winder Musket	Rob Becker
27 Feb 2025	The Winchester Model 1894/Model 94	George Dungan
27 Mar 2025	North-South Skirmish Association Competition Firearms	Jim Burgess
29 Mar 2025	Battlefield Tours of 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Manassas (details below)	Jim Burgess
5-6 Apr 2025	VGCA Spring Gun Show	
April 2025	<b>No Membership Meeting due to our Spring Gun Show</b>	
17 May 2025 (Saturday)	<b>TBD</b>	
26 Jun 2025	<b>TBD</b>	
24 Jul 2025	Special Show-n-Tell Meeting – Guns of the Old West	

If you have any presentation suggestions – or would like to make a presentation yourself in 2025 – please contact Matthew G. at [matthewofmclean@gmail.com](mailto:matthewofmclean@gmail.com) or one of the VGCA officers or directors.

## ★ First Field Trip of the New Year

We will conduct our first field trip of 2025 – to the Manassas Battlefield on Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. Starting at 9:30 a.m. and guided by VGCA President Emeritus Jim Burgess, we will tour the sites of the First Manassas battlefield (July 21, 1861) in the morning, break for lunch, and then tour the sites of Second Manassas (August 28-30, 1862) in the afternoon. We should finish around 4 p.m. If you are interested in participating, a sign-up list will be available at future membership meetings or you can send an email to Rob Becker at [rpebecker@verizon.net](mailto:rpebecker@verizon.net).



## ★ We need your help!

Do you love history and firearms, are reasonably organized, have a decent command of the English language, possess fair computer skills, and can dedicate a few hours each month to the VGCA? Then you may be just the person to take over as our newsletter editor! Rob Becker will continue as our editor through the January 2025 issue but is looking for some relief. If you think this is something you would be willing to take on, please contact any officers or directors.

# VGCA GUNS OF DISTINCTION: COPY OF A PERCUSSION TARGET RIFLE

*By Marc Gorelick  
Photos courtesy of Joh. Springer's Erben, Vienna Austria*



This unique high-quality piece is a modern replica of a 19<sup>th</sup> century European Schuetzen percussion target rifle. A Schuetzen is a type of rifle used in European long-range competitions. The word Schuetzen comes from the German word Schütze which can be translated as “shooter.” The earliest usage was to denote units of marksmen or sharpshooters back in the days of muzzleloading firearms.



The .47 (12mm) caliber heavy octagonal barrel is 31.5 inches (80 cm) long. The barrel is browned and with diagonal stripes engraved in it, a countersunk muzzle, and with deep lead rifling. There is an adjustable rear sight with a brass cover on the barrel and a diopter rear sight.



The browned percussion lock would seem strange to American shooters with its backwards or counter directional hammer and blue tempered nipple shield. It has double triggers with a needle set trigger and the heavy brass trigger guard has finger grooves. The massive walnut full stock is heavily decorated with inlaid brass furniture and a heavy square brass buttplate. The barrel is held to the stock with two keys (wedge fasteners) and the walnut ramrod has a brass tip. There are three spare nipples in receptacles on the underside of the buttstock.



Presumably a one-of-a-kind, this striking hand-made muzzle loader was recently offered at auction by Joh. Springers Erben in Vienna, Austria with a starting price of 2,800 euros.



# January 2025 Legislative Update

*By Al Reid*

Happy New Year to all. Many will be excused for believing that with a new Federal Government soon to be taking power that many of the issues we have previously had to contend with over the last few years will magically go away. While this may be true in some cases, it needs to be remembered that there are elements within our society, regardless of SCOTUS decisions, the Constitution and a history of their control measures being fruitless, who will continue to attempt to deny or INFRINGE upon the Rights of the Citizens of this country.

Many of us were happy that a raft of anti-gun laws brought forward by one such organization in this State were vetoed by the Governor last year. Numerous experts said at the time that they were dead and buried. Scarcely a week into the New Year this same organization is advancing 17 such anti-gun bills in the Virginia Senate. Essentially, the same bills as last year with minor word changes. We can only hope that these bills will also be vetoed. If nothing else this proves that we need to be constantly vigilant and aware of what is happening in our environment. Complacency and the belief that all will be well in our world is severely misplaced and plays right into the hands of our adversaries. They will never stop while gun owners tend to regard a win as the end of the problem.

The potential for Concealed Carry reciprocity throughout the country, if signed, will be a significant step forward. With that said it will place a significant burden of responsibility for those CCW citizens wanting to avail themselves of this right. I doubt whether the passing of this as a National Law will be as simple as many people believe. States will still stipulate how CCW is conducted. Citizens will need to research the laws in each State (as you do now) but include all states you travel through. Any minor infringement in some states (and maybe Counties) could potentially land you in serious trouble.

The national numbers for CCW permits have dropped quite a bit in the last year or so. While this may be used by our adversaries as proof of their efforts, this is definitely not the case. The simple fact is 27 States now allow Constitutional Carry and the majority of citizens in these states see no need to spend money on a CCW Permit.

There is potential for SCOTUS to hear three firearms related cases in the upcoming future. If this does occur, there is hope that their findings (hopefully in support of) will be very clear and unambiguous in support of 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Rights. There is a degree of confidence that SCOTUS is becoming weary of their findings being ignored by lesser courts and States. We can only silently or loudly cheer if this is the case.







# ★ Membership Chairman's Report – Jan 2025

Since the last newsletter we have had the following applicants to the VGCA:

- David Kaplan of Front Royal sponsored by Troy Blackwood
- Gary O'Neilin of Springfield sponsored by Chris Britton
- Stephen Pratel of Alexandria sponsored by Dave Litchfield
- Kenneth Lan of Fairfax sponsored by George Dungan
- Ethan Dahlby of Aldie sponsored by George Dungan

Please welcome the following new members to our organization:

- Marcus Trigg of Springfield
- Oscar Reaz of Sterling
- Todd Sigety of Alexandria
- Jonathan McDonald of Manassas Park
- Michael Pirnie of McLean
- Franklin Rhys of Smithfield
- Brian Jones of California
- Joseph Fink of Casselberry, FL

If you know of anyone who would be interested in joining our organization, please invite them to a meeting or to our upcoming VGCA Gun Show. **If you sponsor a candidate, either at one of our membership tables or elsewhere, please make sure that you fill in and sign the Sponsor page.**

**Notice to New Member Sponsors:** VGCA has discontinued hard copy versions of the VGCA Newsletters. *Please make sure your prospective applicants include a legible email address and telephone contact number* if at all possible and **make sure that your name is on the sponsorship form.** Without an email address new members will NOT receive the newsletter or VGCA announcements.

**Membership Numbers:** There are currently 442 Life members and 96 Annual Members for a total of 538 members in the Virginia Gun Collectors Association, Inc.

**Recruiting:** Thank you to everyone who has worked our membership tables in the past and those of you who have signed up new members. Your efforts bring more knowledge to our organization through the new members who have an interest in gun collecting. Membership in the VGCA is a great way for people with an interest in history, development, and use of firearms to broaden their knowledge and pass what they know on to others. It also offers the opportunity to network with individuals who have similar interests. To help facilitate new membership we have a Membership Table at every Chantilly gun show and also at our VGCA gun shows.

**Membership Table at upcoming gun shows:** The next gun shows at the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly is the weekend of January 31<sup>st</sup> and as always, we will have a VGCA Membership Table there. If you are willing to engage with the general public to spread the word about our organization and sign up potential new members, please contact Bruce Buchner at buchnerb@cox.net.

**Membership Renewal: Dues for 2025 are due. If you wish to continue receiving the Newsletter, getting in to the VGCA gun shows for free, and other benefits that come with membership please get current on your dues.** You can renew annually for \$30 or \$150 for life. Please use the form below to renew and either mail it in or bring it to a meeting and give it to either George Dungan or Bruce Buchner. If you are unsure of your membership status email [george@ecominv.com](mailto:george@ecominv.com) and I will let you know.

*George Dungan*, Vice President and Membership Chair

**Annual Membership Renewals:** Annual Membership renewals of \$30.00 are due by January 1, 2024. You may upgrade to Life Membership for \$150 (only \$120 over the cost of renewing your annual membership, plus no more annual dues requests). Failure to renew by the January Membership meeting may result in your being dropped as a *member in good standing*. **Members dropped for non-payment of dues will have to go through the new member process to re-join the Association.**

Dues may be paid by mail by sending a Check for \$30 (please, NO USPS or other Money Orders) and the completed membership renewal form above to the address on the form. VGCA will also accept payments in person (CHECK or EXACT CHANGE preferred – I have NO CASH for change) with a completed renewal form. If members have questions, please email **George Dungan, Interim Membership Chair** at [george@eccominv.com](mailto:george@eccominv.com) or call me at 571-243-6387.

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**Please detach and return with your payment.**  
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## **Membership Renewal Request (AMR-2023\_Oct)**

**VGCA, Inc., P.O. Box 328, Manassas, VA 20108**

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.

Please Print Clearly

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- Enclosed is a check for \$30.00 for CY 2024 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 members have questions, please email **George Dungan, Interim Membership Chair** at [george@eccominv.com](mailto:george@eccominv.com) or call me at 571-243-6387.

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# CMP UPDATE

*By Marc Gorelick, CMP Liaison*

*The VGCA is a CMP Affiliated club. The VGCA club number is 026160.*

## CMP SALES AND ORDERING INFORMATION CHANGES



The Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) has changed its surplus rifle sales limits. Effective January 7, 2025, the CMP will allow CMP customers to purchase up to 12 surplus rifles of any type per calendar year. This limit does not include .22 caliber rifles. The CMP has also imposed a 2,000 round limit on the purchase of surplus ammunition. However, there is no limit on the purchase of commercial ammunition.

The CMP has further advised that it strictly enforces the limits referenced above. The CMP, at its discretion, reserves the right to ban from all future sales any attempts made by customers to circumvent these limits.

For additional information about ordering surplus rifles, ammunition or other items from the CMP, go to the CMP website at [https://thecmp.org/cmp\\_sales/ordering-information/](https://thecmp.org/cmp_sales/ordering-information/).

## CMP 7.62mm NAVY VERSION M1 GARAND RIFLES STILL AVAILABLE



The CMP has advised that it still has US Navy M1 Garand 7.62mm Mod-0 and Mk2 Mod-1 rifles available for sale. These rare collectible versions of the M1 Garand will only be available for purchase for a limited time. There are two versions of the U.S. Navy 7.62mm M1 Garand and this is a rare opportunity for U.S. martial arms and Garand collectors to get either, or both of them.

### **CMP Mod-0 - 7.62 NATO version of the M1 Garand - \$900**

These rifles were conversions of the M1 Garand to 7.62 NATO using a chamber bushing to convert the barrels from 30.06 Springfield. CMP categorizes these rifles as unserviceable due to the likelihood of “bushing ejection”. These rifles are in stock and ready to ship.

### **CMP MK2Mod-1 - 7.62 NATO version of the M1 Garand - \$1200**

The MK2MOD1 was a purpose built 7.62 NATO caliber rifle, built without the problematic “barrel bushing”. The Mod1 has a 7.62 NATO chamber without the barrel bushing and is safe to use with 7.62 NATO ammunition. These rifles are in stock and ready to ship.

For additional information about the rifles, ordering information and forms, go to the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/sales-and-service/m1-garand/#7.62NATOM1Garand>. Customers must fill out the *CMP MOD-1 / MOD-0 Disclaimer Affidavit* and submit it with their order.

### **CMP AMMUNITION PRICE REDUCTION**



The CMP has reduced its price for Remington or Winchester .22 caliber surplus ammunition. It has dropped the price for a brick of 500 rounds 25%, from \$40 to \$30. Other deals include: .30 caliber carbine ammunition, 110 grain FMJ, 240 rounds in 10-round stripper clips in bandoleers for \$132; and Federal 12-gauge clay target shot shells, 2 3/4 inch, 250 round case for \$110 + shipping and handling. For additional information about CMP ammunition sales and what is available, go to the CMP website at:

<https://shop.thecmp.org/browse/Ammo>.

### **CMP SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) announced that it will award over \$300,000 for the 2025-2026 school year through its annual scholarship program. Every year, high school athletes involved in shooting programs can apply for a CMP scholarship. One-time scholarship amounts of \$1,000, \$3,000 and \$5,000 will be awarded along with four select four-year recurring \$5,000 scholarships (\$5,000 a year for a total of \$20,000). The deadline to apply for any CMP scholarship is March 31, 2025. For additional information, including requirements and application forms, go to the CMP website at:

<https://thecmp.org/youth/cmp-scholarship-program/>.

### **CMP AUCTION SITE**

The CMP Auction Site is available for those who are interested in rare or unique items. The CMP is now posting 15 new items on the site each week. They go live on Monday and remain open for bidding for almost two weeks, but that may change. Items include not only rifles but also parts, equipment, and books. For additional information go to the CMP auction website at

[https://thecmp.org/cmp\\_sales.guns-on-auction/](https://thecmp.org/cmp_sales.guns-on-auction/).

### **TALLADEGA MARKSMANSHIP PARK STORE SALES**

The Talladega Marksmanship Pak store in Talladega, Alabama, currently has over 200 surplus military rifles in stock, including M1 Garand and M1917 rifles. It also has TISAS 1911 pistols for sale and has recently received a shipment of new Sig Sauer pistols. Go to the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org> for more information about the Talladega Marksmanship Park and its store.



# ★ Show-n-Tell ★

**NOTE: For anyone bringing in items for Show-n-Tell - please hold the item up so the members in attendance can see it. This will also help your photographer get a sharp picture and allow people who could not attend the meeting to see it clearly in the newsletter. We also ask that you provide a Fact Sheet (copies of the one below will be provided at the meeting) to assist the newsletter editor in accurately describing your item. Thank you!**

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## VGCA Show-n-Tell Fact Sheet

Manufacturer: \_\_\_\_\_

Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Action Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Caliber: \_\_\_\_\_

Years of Production: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Produced: \_\_\_\_\_

Year this example was manufactured (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Significance: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Question(s) for members: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Where acquired (optional): \_\_\_\_\_ When acquired (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

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A message from your VGCA Photographer--

I ask those who bring items in for Show-and-Tell to PLEASE hold the item UP and in view of the audience so that they can be seen clearly, and so that I might be able to get a decent picture for the newsletter. PLEASE stand behind the tables and simply hold the item at chest or waist level, face forward, stand still, and give me a five or six seconds to grab a decent photograph of the Show-and-Tell item.

If you do not want your Show-and-Tell item to be shared with other VGCA members, just tell me in advance and I will not attempt to take a photo of it.

I do the photography for the VGCA and its' members, not for myself, and not for any personal gain. Your assistance in documenting your items will be a great help. I spend an average of five hours editing the pictures for the newsletter and not having a clear view of the subject has been a great and constant frustration for me.

Your help will assist in making a better newsletter for all VGCA members. Thank you!

*Jack Looney*

## ★ Upcoming Events and Shows ★

PLEASE NOTE: VGCA members are strongly encouraged to verify shows before driving to an event. These dates were confirmed when this newsletter was written but are not guaranteed. Shows highlighted in **yellow** are shows with a collector focus.

### VIRGINIA – 2025

- Jan 18-19, 2025 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fredericksburg Fairgrounds – *SGK*
- Jan 18-19, 2025 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center – *C&E Gun Shows*
- Jan 25-26, 2025 – Fishersville, VA – Augusta Expo – *Showmasters*
- Jan 31-Feb 2, 2025 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- Feb 8-9, 2025 – Virginia Beach, VA – Virginia Beach Convention Center – *SGK*
- Feb 15-16, 2025 – Doswell, VA – Meadow Event Park – *SGK*
- Feb 15-16, 2025 – Harrisonburg, VA – Rockingham County Fairgrounds – *Showmasters*
- Mar 8-9, 2025 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fraternal Order of Eagles (**new location!**) – *SGK*
- Mar 8-9, 2025 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center – *C&E Gun Shows*
- Mar 29-30, 2025 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK*
- **Apr 5-6, 2025 – Dale City, VA – Dale City VFW – VGCA (our spring gun show!)**

### MARYLAND – 2025

- Feb 1-2, 2025 – West Friendship, MD – Howard County Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Feb 14-16, 2025 – Jarrettsville, MD – Jarrettsville Gardens – *Izaak Walton League, Harford Co.*
- Mar 8-9, 2025 – Easton, MD – Easton Vol. Fire Dept – *Shore Gun Shows Promotions*
- **Mar 22-23, 2025 – Timonium, MD – Maryland State Fairgrounds – Maryland Arms Collector Association**
- Apr 5-6, 2025 – Frederick, MD – Frederick Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*

### PENNSYLVANIA – 2025

- Jan 18, 2025 – Greencastle, PA – Greencastle Sportsman's Assoc Club – *Izaak Walton League, Franklin County*
- Jan 18-19, 2025 – Trevoise, PA – Radisson Philadelphia Northeast – *Eagle Shows*
- Jan 25-26, 2025 – Gettysburg, PA – Allstar Events Complex – *Eagle Shows*
- Jan 25-26, 2025 – Leesport, PA – Leesport Farmers Market – *Appalachian Promotions*
  
- Jan 25-26, 2025 – Quarryville, PA – Solanco Fairgrounds – *Lancaster Muzzle Loading Rifle Association*
- Feb 1-2, 2025 – Allentown, PA - Parkview Inn - *Eagle Shows*
- Feb 1-2, 2025 – Cresco, PA – Barrett Administrative Rec Complex – *Tall Timber Tactical*
- Feb 7-9, 2025 – Oaks, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Shows*
- **Feb 8-9, 2025 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds – Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society**
- Feb 15-16, 2025 – Bloomsburg, PA – Bloomsburg Fairgrounds – *Eagle Shows*
- Feb 15-16, 2025 – Clintonville, PA – Clintonville V.F.D. – *Clintonville V.F.D.*
- Feb 15-16, 2025 – Hermitage, PA – Hickory VFW 6166 – *Canon's Gun Room*
- Feb 22-23, 2025 – Ellwood City, PA – Wurtemberg Perry VFD – *Wurtemberg Perry VFD*
- Feb 22-23, 2025 – Trevoise, PA – Radisson Philadelphia Northeast – *Eagle Shows*

## PENNSYLVANIA – 2025 (continued)

- Mar 1, 2025 – Wampum, PA – Chewton VFD Hall – *Ellwood Wampum Rod & Gun Club*
- Mar 1-2, 2025 – York, PA – York Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Mar 8-9, 2025 – East Berlin, PA – East Berlin Fish & Game – *East Berlin Fish & Game*
- Mar 8-9, 2025 – Lander, PA – Lander Volunteer Fire Department – *Lander Fire Dept*
- Mar 8-9, 2025 – Morgantown, PA – Morgantown Expo Center – *Eagle Shows*
- Mar 15-16, 2025 – Lake Harmony, PA – Split Rock Resort – *Eagle Shows*
- Mar 22-23, 2025 – Allentown, PA - Parkview Inn - *Eagle Shows*
- Mar 29, 2025 – Wampum, PA – Possum Hollow Sportsman’s Club – *Possum Hollow Sportsman’s Club*
- Mar 29-30, 2025 – Gettysburg, PA – Redding Auction Hall – *Central PA Antique Arms Assoc*
- Apr 4-6, 2025 – Oaks, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Shows*
- Apr 12-13, 2025 – Matamoras, PA – Best Western Inn at Hunt’s Landing – *Westchester Collectors Inc.*
- Apr 12-13, 2025 – Quarryville, PA – Solanco Fairgrounds – *Eagle Shows*

## SPECIAL EVENTS / SHOWS – 2025

- Feb 1-9, 2025 – Harrisburg, PA – PA Farm Show Complex – *NRA* – Great American Outdoor Show
- Feb 20-22, 2025 – Louisville, KY – Kentucky Expo Center – *Ohio Valley Military Society – Show of Shows (Militaria Show)*
- Feb 22-23, 2025 – Louisville, KY – Kentucky Expo Center – *National Gun Day Promotions*
- Mar 15-16, 2025 – Wilmington, OH – The Roberts Centre – *Ohio Gun Collectors Association*
- Apr 5-6, 2025 – Tulsa, OK – Expo Square (Tulsa Fairgrounds) – *Wanenmacher – World’s Largest Gun Show – 4200+ tables!*
- Apr 24-27, 2025 – Atlanta, GA – Georgia World Congress Center – *NRA Annual Meetings*

**NOTE: OGCA Gun Shows are not open to the public – they are restricted to members and invited guests only. Several VGCA members are also members of OGCA and can sponsor you if you are interested in attending.**

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## **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 and is intended for listing firearms and firearm related items. 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 regard 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](mailto: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. Items will be listed for one issue of the Newsletter.

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## VGCA Logo Available at Lands' End

### Here's how to order your apparel:

1. Go to the VGCA store on Lands' End business:  
<https://business.landsend.com/store/vgca>
  - a. It must be the URL shown above. **Do not** go to the regular Lands' End website. It will not show our logo options.
2. Above the photo on the home page click on "Men" or "Women"
3. On the drop-down menu select what you are interested in. For example, Men>Activewear >Tops gives you 19 different styles and fabrics of men's shirts. When you have selected an item click on it and select your color, size and quantity. Then on the lower right-hand corner of the screen click on the blue "Apply Logos" button.
4. On the next screen click on the VGCA logo to choose it and it will open the "select a Location" menu showing where you can have the VGCA logo embroidered. Choose a location and then scroll down to the "Apply Logo" button in the lower right corner and click it. It will return you to your garment page.
5. If you are satisfied with your garment, color, size and logo location click on the "Add to Bag" button in the lower right corner.
6. Then you can then go to checkout or continue shopping. When you checkout it will show an additional \$8.95 for the embroidery.



If you have any questions, you can reach Bruce Buchner at 703-339-8212 or [Buchnerb@cox.net](mailto:Buchnerb@cox.net)

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### FOR SALE:

★ **FINNISH MOSIN-NAGANT** is authored by VGCA member Matt DiRisio and published by Wet Dog Publications. The list price is \$99.95. It is 584 pages long with over 1,500 color and black and white photographs.

For ordering information go to the Wet Dog Publications website at:

<https://www.fnbrowning.com/book-finnish-mosin-nagant>.



### FOR SALE:

★ After more than two and a half years of research, VGCA member Bill Vanderpool has 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.

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### 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](mailto:usarmsresearch@gmail.com)

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### FOR SALE:

★ VGCA member Larry Babcock has published a companion piece to his earlier book **M1 Garand Photo Essay**. This second book, titled **M1 Garand Photo Essay Volume II** covers all new material, to include the M1C and M1D sniper rifles as well as a myriad of M1 accessories. Best of all, both books are offered at a discount to VGCA members. Volume I is normally priced at \$69 and volume II lists for \$49, VGCA members can buy them directly from Larry for \$60 and \$40 each respectively - or \$90 total if you buy both. Look for Larry Babcock set up near the VGCA recruiting table at the next Chantilly Gun Show or order from him directly at [larrybab@comcast.net](mailto:larrybab@comcast.net) / or text to 703-856-2561.

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### WANT TO BUY:

★ Browning lever action Gold Medallion, short action, blue or silver.  
Also: Browning lever action with pistol grip and take down. Prefer .308 but any considered.  
Call King at 703 576-7016, if no answer leave name and number with brief description.  
Thank you, King von Schilling

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### WANT TO BUY:

★ Seeking a Bagnold Sun Compass, used during WWII by British desert troops. It was mounted on their vehicles. Must be complete and in working order. Contact Jack via email to [looney.house@verizon.net](mailto:looney.house@verizon.net) or text to 703-999-9458.



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The e-mail address for any Newsletter-related matters is [Newsletter@vgca.net](mailto:Newsletter@vgca.net) - or you can reach the editor directly at [rpebecker@verizon.net](mailto: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 George Dungan.