



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.NET

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February 2020 VGCA Newsletter

President's Comments

Hello VGCA Members

The beginning part of 2020 has been a challenging time for gun owners in Virginia. We have been continually under assault since the new state legislature took office in January. The Virginia Citizens Defense League (VCDL) has taken a leading role in protecting our rights. As a result, the Board of Directors voted to send money to the VCDL. We think it's a very appropriate use of VGCA funds to help fight these impending gun laws in Virginia. We will also look at possibly contributing to other organizations that are helping fight this new legislation.

I also wanted to mention last month's member meeting. Yeah - over 102 members and guests present! It was our largest meeting in several years. Big thanks to Addison, Ed and Bill for a great presentation. We are working to get the Kalashnikov-Stoner interview video to play at an upcoming member meeting.

Hope to see you at our February meeting!

—*Bernie Breighner*, VGCA President



IT IS TIME TO ELECT VGCA OFFICERS!



WE WANT YOU!

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 helping run the VGCA and would like to “throw your name in the hat” for one of these positions, please contact Emory Hackman or one of the current officers or directors. We will need a short biography and photograph for the ballot and newsletter. Ballots will be sent out in May and the results announced in June. Good luck!



★ January Presentation ★

The Kalashnikov-Stoner Visit – May 1990

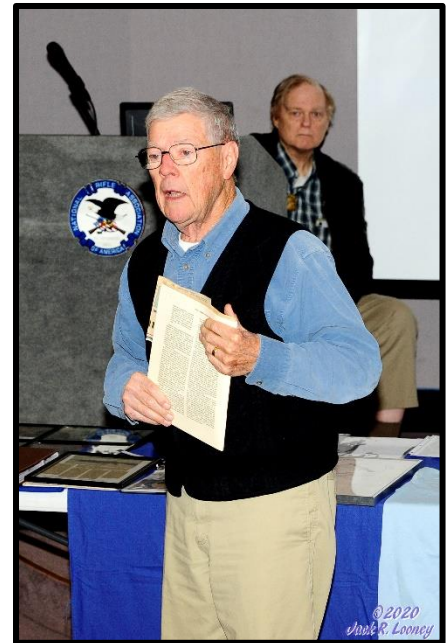
VGCA charter members Ed Costello (*at right*), Addison Hurst (*below*) and Bill York shared the story of how Mikhail Kalashnikov came to the United States and met with Eugene Stoner – and the role that the VGCA played in getting the designers of opposing quintessential Cold War small arms together. This role is also probably the most controversial action ever taken by the VGCA.

It all started when Dr. Ed Ezell, the Smithsonian Institution's military historian/weapons expert, noted author, and VGCA member, traveled to the Soviet Union in 1988. While there, he met Mikhail Kalashnikov, the man who designed the AK47 rifle. At



the time, the Smithsonian had a program to document in film great innovators in technology.

Dr. Ezell started to formulate a plan to bring Kalashnikov to the United States to take part in this program. Following a presentation by Dr. Ezell to the VGCA in the fall of 1989, the VGCA officers authorized \$2000 to sponsor Kalashnikov's visit.



Kalashnikov, his daughter, and an interpreter, arrived in May 1990. Ed Costello shared several stories of taking Kalashnikovs shopping and out to eat prior to his meeting Stoner. It was interesting to contrast Kalashnikov - a hero and celebrity in the Soviet Union for his work as a weapons designer, but relatively penniless - to Stoner – a virtual unknown in his own country but who received a commission on each M16 produced and was a wealthy man. The two men got together at NORVA Rod and Gun Club at Star Tannery, Virginia and were interviewed by Dr. Ezell over the course of several days. Ultimately, there were 13 interview sessions and over 18 hours of video recorded (unfortunately, computer issues prevented the replaying of portions of those videos during the January presentation).

Stoner and Kalashnikov are seen at right holding each other's most famous weapons.



Addison Hurst, Bill York, and others shared stories and anecdotes of the Kalashnikov visit as well as several subsequent visits by VGCA members to Russia as guests of the Kalashnikov family. Though Mikhail Kalashnikov passed away in 2013, several members remain in contact with his daughter.

I mentioned that the VGCA hosting Kalashnikov was a controversial act. Some members viewed the designer of the weapon that killed many U.S. soldiers in Viet Nam and many allied soldiers around the world as unworthy of our time and treasure. Action was actually taken to initiate a lawsuit against the VGCA officers, though it was subsequently dropped.

It was great presentation followed by an associated Show-n-Tell that featured many variants of the both Kalashnikov and Stoner designs. Our sincere thanks go to Ed, Addison, Bill, and the others who made it possible!

★ January Meeting ★

★ **January Business:** VGCA President Bernie Breighner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. After reciting the U.S. Pledge of Allegiance and observing a moment of silence for those defenders of our nation who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, Bernie welcomed the large crowd to the January meeting. There were 102 members and guests in attendance – the largest VGCA meeting in recent memory (*see picture below*)! Guests were introduced by their sponsors/hosts or introduced themselves.



The big announcement of the evening was to congratulate Mr. Jim Burgess on his selection as the VGCA Member of the Year for 2019! Jim, a recognized expert on Civil War firearms and past President of the VGCA, was selected by the membership for his notable contributions to our association over the past year. Additional details are in the article below. Jim received a plaque and a \$100 Gift Certificate.

Bernie reminded our annual members that dues were due on January 1st.

Treasurer Shannon Zeigler provided a quick update on VGCA finances and reminded everyone that our operating budget is provided by the money we make at our gun shows. The next VGCA Gun Show is March 28th and 29th at the Prince William County Fairgrounds. Shannon handed out show flyers for members to distribute.

Show Director Rick Nahas announced that there are only 20 open tables for our March 2020 Gun Show and that the Executive Committee was considering a second spring gun show in May (since this membership meeting, the Executive Committee has met and approved the second spring show – dates are 16-17 May 2020).

Bernie provided an update on gun control efforts by the Virginia General Assembly. Four bills have recently passed the Senate. They are:

- “Red Flag” Law (loss of firearms due to determination that a person is a threat to himself or others)
- Limit on Handgun purchases to one per month
- Universal Background Checks on all firearms sales
- Jurisdictions allowed to restrict firearms at local events

These bills are expected to pass the House of Delegates and be signed into law by the Governor. Other bills have been introduced but not acted upon – yet. Bernie noted that several VGCA members participated in Lobby Day down at Richmond on January 19th and that the pro-gun rally was very well attended. The Officers and Directors will discuss contributing to the Virginia Citizens Defense League (VCDL) and/or National Rifle Association Institute for Legislative Action (NRA-ILA). This session of the Virginia General Assembly represents the greatest threat to gun owners in Virginia in at least a generation. Members were asked to contact their Delegate and Senator early and often and let them know where you stand!

TJ Parmele asked that members “like” us on Facebook. This represents a tool that we can use to get information out quickly to our membership (such as new legislation for example).

Dave Litchfield passed around a sign-up sheet for a trip to the American Armour Museum in Danville, VA. Details below.

Steve Gomes introduced Mr. Frank Cambria as his incoming replacement as Show Security Manager.



★ 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.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE VGCA 2019 MEMBER OF THE YEAR, Mr. JIM BURGESS!

Implemented in 2017, 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. All VGCA members (except sitting Board members) are eligible to receive the award.

Previous winners were Dave Litchfield (2017) and Jack Looney (2018).

Voting took place during the October and December membership meetings, as well as during our November Gun Show. VGCA President Bernie Breighner was proud to announce the winner at our January Membership meeting – and that winner was Mr. Jim Burgess!



For years, Jim (*at left above*) has volunteered to orchestrate the display judging at VGCA gun shows. He has given presentations to the membership and has freely offered his expertise on Civil War era firearms to those who have sought his council. Recently, Jim has assisted Addison Hurst at our show Evaluation Table (a unique feature of VGCA gun shows). You will often find Jim volunteering to recruit new members at the VGCA table during Chantilly Gun Shows. He richly deserves this award!

The next time you see Jim, thank him for his efforts on behalf of the VGCA and congratulate him on being our 2019 Member of the Year!



★ **Upcoming February 27th Meeting:** Join us for a presentation on the “The Philippine Scouts” by Nelson Hufano. Social time begins at 6 p.m. (with pizza!) in the NRA Headquarters Conference Room, followed by the meeting at 7 p.m.

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! Go to <https://www.aaftankmuseum.com/about> for info on the contents of the museum, entry fees, food, etc.

Dates: 10-11 April 2020 (Museum is open 10 AM to 4 PM on both days)

Cost: Adults: \$15.00; Seniors: \$12.00; Veterans: \$10.00. (Additional group discount may be available - will announce final plan before the trip)

Coordinator: Dave Litchfield; 703-624-8696, litchfdave@gmail.com

Plan is to have members travel to Danville on Friday, 10 April or Saturday, 11 April (Danville is “a bit of a hike” from NORVA and traveling the day prior is recommended).

We have had 36 members express interest in this tour to date. Dave will have the sign-up roster at our February Membership meeting and will solicit volunteers to drive so we can put together some car pools. Dave will ask permission before sharing attendee’s email/phone numbers to other attendees (no personal info will be shared without your express permission). Lodging, dining, traveling are all left up to individual members.

If interested or you have questions, please contact Dave Litchfield.

★ Other News! ★

★ Membership Chairman’s Report – February 2020:

New Members: Please welcome new Annual Members.

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

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



CMP UPDATE

By Marc Gorelick, CMP Liaison

NEW CMP IMPROVEMENTS AND PROGRAMS

The Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) is much more than a source for surplus U.S. firearms, parts, ammunition and accessories. It is constantly seeking ways to evolve and improve or introduce new programs in order to support firearms safety, marksmanship, training and competition for US Citizens with an emphasis on youth. Some of the improvements or new programs that were introduced during the past year or will be introduced this year include:

- The CMP's North Store at Camp Perry, Port Clinton, Ohio will be moved from its location on Camp Perry Building 2500 to Building 3, next to the CMP Headquarters, the CMP Armory, the National Match Welcome Center and the Post Exchange (PX). Store hours are Thursday through Saturday, 8:30am-4:00pm.
- The CMP website at www.thecmp.org has been updated with a new design and layout, and improved navigation and search functions.
- The CMP Smallbore Department will offer match sanctioning for smallbore to include Outdoor 3-Position and Prone matches, and indoor 3-Position 50-foot matches.
- New Pistol events have been added to the 2020 National Match schedule. These include a 2-Man Team Event and a 4-Man Team event. A new "Triple Crown Award" has been added.
- An Unknown Distance Range has been added at the CMP Marksmanship Park in Talladega, Alabama. It has over 100 steel targets out to 625 yards.
- A new Rimfire Sporter Small Arms Firing School (SAFS) has been added to the 2020 National Match schedule and will take the place of the old Rimfire Sporter Clinic. It will be given every year the day before the Rimfire Match by members of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit and participants will be able to learn more about Rimfire Sporter in the classroom and the firing line before competing in the match. The SAFS is scheduled for July 18.
- The CMP has updated its rulebooks for Pistol, Rifle, Games, Smallbore and Long Range matches.
- The Small Arms Firing School remote clinics that are held around the country will have a number of new locations. The SAFS remote clinic name was changed to "Rifle/Pistol Marksmanship 101."
- The Garand Collectors Association donated \$10,000 to the CMP to be used for additional scholarships for student-athletes.
- The CMP auctions rifles, rifle parts and accessories on its auction site, http://thecmp.org/cmp_sales/guns-on-auction/. The auction program is an extension of the CMP ESTORE. Everyone who is registered in ESTORE is automatically registered for the auction program.

Remember, the VGCA is a CMP affiliated club. The VGCA's Affiliation number is 026160.



★ VGCA March Gun Show Update ★

The Executive Committee approved a change to the set up procedures for the VGCA March Gun Show. Set Up will now begin at 1:00 p.m. (vice the previous set up time of 2:00 p.m.). Also, VGCA members who help as a set up volunteer will be allowed to start setting up their tables AFTER set up is complete and AFTER they check-in and receive their show package and vendor badge.



★ Attention: Accurate Powder Recall ★

Accurate Powder Recall Notice: General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems Canada Valleyfield, Inc. (GD-OTS), has determined a potential defect relating to certain lots of Accurate 2495, 4064 and 4350 propellants manufactured for Western Powders, Inc. prior to October 1, 2016 and packaged under the Accurate brand name in 1 lb. and 8 lb. canisters, may be defective.

The use or storage of this product may result in combustion, fire damage and/or possible serious injury or property damage. Some signs of degradation include, but are not limited to, container lid deformation, discoloration of the containers in the lid area, presence of red fumes when the container lid is opened, or the presence of a strong acidic odor.

GD-OTS and Western Powders, Inc. are recalling the following powders packaged under the Accurate brand in 1 lb. and 8 lb. containers:

- <https://westernpowders.imgus11.com/public//4db82ac28a10c7b57b637c810c1a283e.jpg?r=1012647124>
- <https://westernpowders.imgus11.com/public//de51dc6d775b1a1faf881ae7020e92d8.jpg?r=681447720>

The Lot Number is located either in a box on the back of the label:

- <https://westernpowders.imgus11.com/public//53efc1e24ec8fd6111462ace4a719b80.jpg?r=433402919>

OR as a sticker on the bottom of the container.

- <https://westernpowders.imgus11.com/public//a7cf4f5d390e5dfe6c4f178d2706f2b7.jpg?r=1207205599>
- <https://westernpowders.imgus11.com/public//cb2f6085e70459aed99c27b7f824cab1.jpg?r=46514206>

What you should do:

- 1) Immediately fill the container with water, which will render the product inert and safe for disposal.
- 2) Notify Western Powders, Inc. and 406-234-0422, or customerservice@westernpowders.com
<mailto:customerservice@westernpowders.com>. We will provide you with instructions to photograph the bottle showing the lot number and provide refund information.
- 3) DO NOT load ammunition with affected powder

NOTE: This recall does not extend to loaded ammunition. Performance of ammunition with propellant showing no signs of degradation will not be altered, provided recommended storage conditions are followed. It is recommended that loaded ammunition be checked regularly for deterioration. Safety is our first concern. If you have any questions regarding this recall, contact us at: 406-234-0422 or customerservice@westernpowders.com
<mailto:customerservice@westernpowders.com> Please allow at least two business days for a response.



★ **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!

With over 100 people at the meeting and the presentation on the designers of two very iconic firearms, we also had a very large selection of associated Show-n-Tell items. We even ran out of table space! Just a portion of the items are shown at right.



Member 1 brought in several rare pieces in honor of Eugene Stoner. The first was an original Dutch AR10 made in 1959. Chambered in 7.62x51 NATO, the AR-10 was the initial Stoner direct gas impingement design before the design was “scaled down” to accommodate the 5.56x45 cartridge (aka – the M16/AR15). One interesting feature of the AR10 is that the safety lever positions are different from the M16/AR15 that most of us are used to. Included with that AR10 was a original “waffle” magazine – called that because of the pattern of reinforcing ridges pressed into the body of the magazine, giving rigidity while allowing thinner/lighter gauge steel to be used.



The next item shared by Member 1 was another original – this one a Colt 601 (*at left*). This is the first M16 adopted by the U.S. military (in this case, the United States Air Force) and is easily identified by its green furniture and triangular shaped charging handle. Though made by Colt, it has Armalite markings as well. Stoner worked for Armalite, a division of the Fairchild Aircraft Factory Company. Armalite sold the design rights to Colt in 1959. This example has a rare 3x Delft scope (made in the Netherlands for Colt) mounted on the carry handle. The magazines initially issued with the Colt 601 were also 20-round “waffles.”

Member 1 also shared a Knight’s Armament SR25 (*at right*). The SR25 was Stoner’s last design and like the AR10, was chambered in 7.62x51. In 2005, a modified version of the SR25 won the U.S. Army Semi-Automatic Sniper Rifle competition and is currently issued to Army snipers as the M110 Semi-Automatic Sniper System.



Member 2 (*at left*) brought in some memorabilia commemorating the Kalashnikov-Stoner Meeting. The first was a tee-shirt designed by Mrs. Member 2. The other item was one of two plaques (also designed by Mrs. Member 2) signed by Kalashnikov, Stoner, and others who were at the May 1990 meeting. One went to General Kalashnikov and this one was intended for Mr. Stoner. Unfortunately, Stoner had to leave NORVA before the plaque was fully signed and he passed away before it could be presented.

Member 3 brought in AK buttstock that was autographed by Kalashnikov during a visit to the U.S. circa 2000 (*unfortunately, no photo is available of this rare and valuable artifact*).

Member 4 shared two precision rifles made by Knights Armament Company (KAC). The first was an Enhanced Match Rifle (*below left*). The Enhanced Match Rifle is a civilian version of the SR25/Mk11 U.S. military sniper rifle. It is chambered in 7.62x51 and features the same 20-inch barrel as the military model. The upper and lower receivers are closely fitted and serial numbered to each other. The trigger is a crisp two-stage target trigger.



The second KAC rifle displayed was their SR15 Match Rifle (*above right*). This rifle features military markings of “M-4 Snipr R.A.S. – PN: 99167” and is one of only 18 sold to the public. “R.A.S.” stands for Rail Adapter System and “PN” for Part Number. It has a hand-lapped Kreiger 20-inch stainless steel barrel with a 1-7.7 twist, a flat-top upper receiver, a KAC two-stage trigger, chromed bolt and bolt carrier group. When sold, these rifles were guaranteed to shoot better than 1 MOA.

Member 5 brought in a semi-automatic version of the Hungarian AK63 (*at right*) with an underfolder butt stock. In Hungarian service, the AK63 replaced the AMD65 in 1977. The AMD65 featured a forward vertical hadgrip that was easily damaged in service and was more expensive to manufacture than the AK63. Both the AK63 and earlier AMD65 are chambered in 7.62x39. Member 5 purchased this James River Armory made example (which utilized a Hungarian parts kit and the necessary 922(r) U.S. made compliance parts, including a semi-automatic receiver) at Camp Perry, Ohio during the National Matches in 2014.

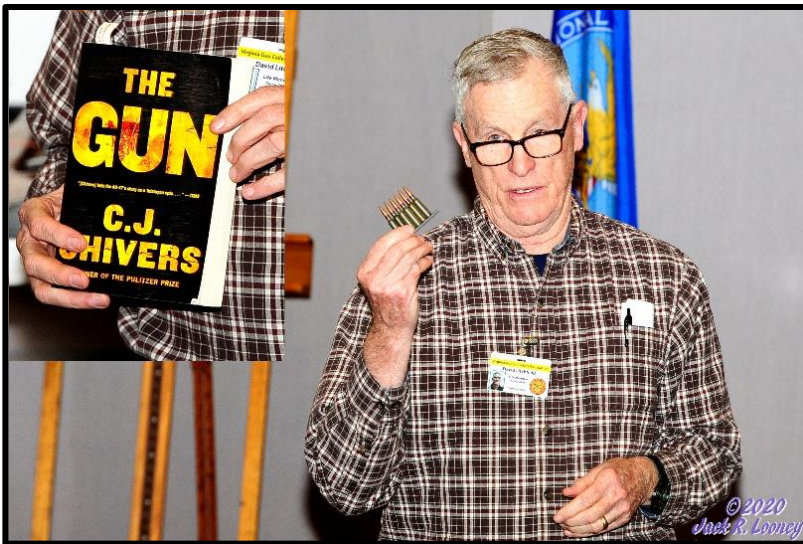


Member 6 shared a “pre-ban” Chinese semi-automatic AK47 (*at right*). Frequently called a “Spiker” because of its folding spike bayonet, this is a semi-automatic version of the Chinese AK that was often encountered by U.S. troops in Vietnam. Imported in the 1980s (exported by Polytech), it is chambered in 7.62x39.

Member 6 also shared a Colt 653 (*image taken from internet shown below*). This select-fire M16 variant, chambered in the standard 5.56x45 NATO, was never adopted by the U.S. military but was available as a Commercial-Off-The-Shelf (COTS) item and marked “M-16A1”. It features a 2-position collapsible stock and other early production features (tear-shaped forward assist, no case deflector, etc.). This example, with its “fun switch” allowing full automatic fire, is a transferable NFA firearm.



Member 7 (*at left*) brought a Spanish “Destroyer Carbine.” So named because of its rollmarked warship on the top of the receiver, this handy bolt action carbine fed via a 5-round single stack detachable magazine and was designed for use by the Spanish National Police. The Destroyer carbine was initially manufactured by Gaztanaga y Compania (later by Ayra Duria S.A.) and chambered in 9mm Bergman-Bayard (aka 9mm Largo or 9x23). It was used from 1935 until 1969.

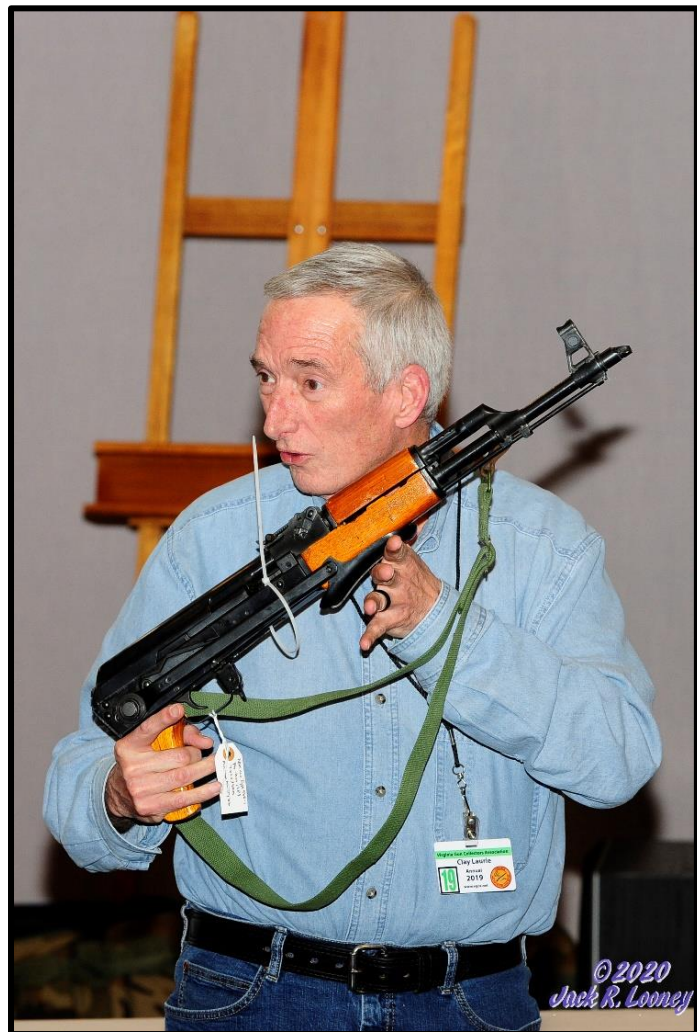


Keeping with the Kalashnikov/Stoner theme, Member 8 (at left) brought in a semi-automatic AK74 amdein the U.S. from a parts kit. Chambered in the light 5.45x39 Russian caliber, this represented a design development by the Soviets to adopt a smaller, lighter round (which means a soldier can carry more rounds for the same amount weight) similar to the 5.56x45 used in the M16.

Member 8 also brought in several books, to include “The Gun” by Pulitzer prize-winning *New York Times* reporter C.J. Chivers. It is an excellent book that tells

the story of the AK47. Other show-n-tell items were the book “Kalashnikov” by Mikhail’s daughter Elena Kalashnikova and an AKM manual.

Member 9 shared another Chinese semi-automatic AK variant – this one a Norinco Type 56S-1. Also chambered in 7.62x39, it features an underfolding stock. Though different company names were stamped on these rifles at different times (including Polytech), it is believed that all were made at factory /66\. This example was an early pre-ban import.



Member 10 brought both a Stoner and a Kalashnikov. The first was a Colt M16A1 (*below left*). This diminutive carbine was used by U.S. special forces in Vietnam. With its short 10-inch barrel and aluminum collapsible stock, it was distinctive enough in appearance and sound to draw the attention of enemy snipers, earning the nick-name “Dead Man’s Gun.”



Member 10 also brought a Chinese AK47 (*above right*). This is example is the “real McCoy” - a transferable select fire Type 56 brought back from Vietnam. Like many captured weapons brought back from that war, it was originally in poor condition. This milled receiver example was restored.

Member 11 proudly displayed his modern reproduction of the AR180 (*at right*). With a Nodak Spud lower receiver and a complete upper by Brownells, this semi-automatic short stroke gas piston is a fairly faithful rendition of another Eugene Stoner design, though this one uses a standard AR15 lower. The original AR18 (select fire) was developed as an alternative to the AR15/M16. Never actually adopted by any military, the AR18 (the AR180 was a semi-automatic version for civilian use), it nonetheless influenced other designs, including the British SA80, the Belgian FN F2000, the Japanese Howa Type 89, and the German Heckler & Koch G36.





Member 12 brought two 7.62x39 AK variants to share. The first was a Century International Arms Wasir 10 (*left*), a version of the Romanian AKM (technically, the AK47 has a machined receiver while the stamped receiver version is referred to as the AKM47). In order to meet U.S. import restrictions, the Wasir 10 is built in Romania to accept only a 5- or 10-round single-stack magazine. It is then modified in the U.S. to accept a regular double-

stack AK magazine, with the appropriate number of U.S. made parts added to insure compliance with U.S. law.

The second rifle was not a rifle at all, but rather a AK-style pistol called a “Draco” (*at right*) This example features a 12.25-inch barrel.



Member 13 shared what he called “the original assault weapon” – a reproduction medieval Flail (*above*)! A flail is a weapon consisting of a striking head attached to a handle by a flexible rope, strap or chain. The primary advantage of a flail was the ability to get around an opponent’s shield. Requiring space to swing, its chief disadvantage was that it was difficult to use in close quarters. Fortunately, this weapon was zip-tied for our safety!



Member 14 explained that he couldn't afford to collect a lot of AKs or ARs, so he shared some of his collection of much less expensive AK magazines (*left and below*). He had everything from the original heavy gauge Soviet "slab side" magazine (too heavy) and the light aluminum "waffle" mag (too fragile) to the Eastern European standard steel (just right) and bakelite magazines (both standard and "high top"). He had "flat back" Chinese mags – including an "all stamped" version that did not have reinforced welded feedlips, a Romanian cut-away trainer, and 40-round mags for the RPK squad automatic weapon. He



had the rare Bosnian two ridge mag as well as the even more rare one ridge and Fluer de Lis magazines with their unique leaf springs (*seen at right – far right*).

Member 14 brought another excellent book on the Automat Kalashnikov, this one called "AK-47 – the Grim Reaper" by Frank Iannamico.



Member 15 shared a special medallion minted at St Petersburg Mint in honor of Kalashnikov's 90th Birthday (*at left, upper left*) and several tomes on the legendary rifle and its designer. The one pictured at left was printed in Russian!

★ 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: **THE WALLENBERG COLLECTION AT LÄCKÖ SLOTT**

By Marc Gorelick

During Sweden’s “Age of Greatness” (approximately 1560-1720) hunting was a form of entertainment for the nobility. For princes and noblemen, hunting game in the forests was considered useful practice for warfare. Special rooms were furnished in castles and large country houses, where weapons and armor were displayed for visitors. For the upper classes, hunting weapons were important status symbols that combined advanced technology in firing mechanisms with expensive materials and artistic design. This carried over to their firearms and other weapons used in war and many of the private weapons used by the nobility in the hunt were the same that they used on the battlefield.



Lacko Slott. Photo by author

The current Läckö Slott, or Läckö Castle, situated on the shore of Lake Vanern, was built by Swedish Field Marshal Count Jacob Pontusson De la Gardie on the site of an earlier castle after the Swedish crown granted him the site and surrounding lands in 1615. He embarked on an ambitious building program which was continued by his son, Count Magnus Gabriel De la Gardie when he took over the castle in 1654 and the large, magnificent castle we see today is largely a result of their efforts.

Läckö Slott, like many Swedish castles, has its armory which contains a substantial array of firearms. On display are wheel-lock guns richly inlaid with precious metals and mother of pearl, matchlock muskets with carved stocks, and pistols with stocks of polished ebony and ivory.



Lacko Slott Armory. Photo Oktod AB.

Count Magnus De la Gardie fell out of favor with the King Charles XI and the castle was confiscated and much of the original furnishings and property (including the armory, was sold. The current gun collection on display was created by the diplomat and industrialist Axel Wallenberg (1874-1963). After his many years abroad he started to build a magnificent collection of the finest examples of wheel-lock guns from the 16th and 17th centuries. Wallenberg enhanced his collection when he acquired several exquisite weapons when the collection belonging to the Dukes of Saxe-Weimar was sold in 1927. On two separate occasions Axel Wallenberg donated large parts of his collection of firearms to the Swedish Army Museum. These weapons are displayed to the public for the first time Läckö Castle's armory.

Although not large, the collection contains some of the finest examples of the gunmaker's art and decorated arms in the world. The display cabinets in the armory are well lit and the guns are numbered with corresponding descriptions in booklets attached to each display case.



Wallenberg Collection – Italian Wheellock Pistol, 1625, caliber 14.9mm



Wallenberg Collection - Saxon Wheellock Pistol, Dresden 1603. Right side above, left side below.



Wallenberg Collection - Gold decorated Wheellock Rifle 1670, caliber 15.5mm



Wallenberg Collection – Indian Matchlock Musket, 1700, Extensive Gold Inlay Decoration

Läckö Castle with its medieval foundations and well-preserved splendor is famous for its superb location on an island in Lake Vanern and its magnificent baroque interior decorations, especially the painted ceilings in its 240 rooms. There is a small gift shop in the castle, a café and a restaurant nearby, and is surrounded by a nature preserve. There is lodging, camping nearby and a guest harbor below the castle walls. Operas and classical music concerts are performed in the castle courtyard during the summer and the fishing harbor of Spiken, with its many eateries, is close by.

The castle is open May 1st – September 30th. At other dates entrance is by request. It is usually open from 10am to 6pm. Guided tours take about 45 minutes to an hour and are about 80-120 Swedish kronor per adult (depending on dates). Under 26 years old is free. Some of the tours are in English. Parking costs 30 kronor.

Läckö Slott is 23 kilometers north of Lidköping in Västergötland. During the summer bus 132 runs three times a day from Lidköping to the castle. Additional information is available on the website: <http://www.lackoslott.se/Default.aspx>. The phone number is +46 510 48 46 60.



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



The VGCA officers and directors would like to thank the members who volunteered to represent the VGCA during the most recent Chantilly Gun Show (February 14-16, 2020). They are:

FRIDAY

Monty Hand
Nancy Hand
King Von Schilling
Claus Marzen
Marc Gorelick

SATURDAY

Clay Laurie
Sidney Rodda
John Elliot
Jim Burgess
Marc Gorelick

SUNDAY

TJ Parmele
Joe Roberts
Jim Burgess
Marc Gorelick

Special thanks go out to Marc Gorelick for organizing the table and scheduling the volunteers. Also, a big “Thank You!” to those members who provided unique and/or interesting arms to display on the table:

- Jim Burgess - Winchester 94 Saddle Ring Carbine and VGCA Commemorative Lever Action Henry Rifle in .22LR
- Jack Looney - 1878 Sharps-Borchardt Military Musket in .45/70 and 1867 Werndl-Holub Austrian Army Rifle in 11mm
- Joe Roberts - Al Woodworth’s .22 Hornet
- Marc Gorelick – U.S. Model 1836 Johnson Flintlock Pistol .54 cal

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 over the last two years (eight additional new members were signed up during this 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 April 24-26, 2020.



★ 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

- 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 – Manassas, VA – Prince William County Fairgrounds – VGCA (our show!)**
- Mar 28-29, 2020 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex – Showmasters
- Apr 4-5, 2020 - Fishersville, VA – Augusta Expo Center – Showmasters
- Apr 18-19, 2020 – Lynchburg, VA – River Ridge Mall (Old Macy's Bldg.) - Showmasters
- Apr 18-19, 2020 – Virginia Beach, VA – Virginia Beach Convention Center – SGK
- Apr 24-26, 2020 - Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – Showmasters
- May 2-3, 2020 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fredericksburg Expo & Convention Center – SGK
- May 16-17, 2020 – Winchester, VA – Winchester Sportsplex – Sporting Shows Unlimited
- **May 16-17, 2020 – Manassas, VA – Prince William County Fairgrounds – VGCA (our 2nd show!)**

GOOD NEWS! The Prince William County Fairgrounds management has confirmed that they will host both our spring and fall Gun Shows in 2020. The PWC Fairgrounds are for sale and the future of our gun shows there has been uncertain, so this confirmation is very good news indeed!

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 – Timonium, MD – Timonium Fairgrounds – Appalachian Promotions
- Mar 28-29, 2020 – West Friendship, MD – Howard County Fairgrounds – MD Sportsman
- Apr 4-5, 2020 – Frederick, MD – Frederick Fairgrounds – Appalachian Promotions
- Apr 11, 2020 – Parkville, MD – Baltimore County Game and Fish – Baltimore County G&F
- May 16-17, 2020 – West Friendship, MD – Howard County Fairgrounds – Appalachian Promo

PENNSYLVANIA – 2019-2020

- 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*
- Feb 22-23, 2020 – York, PA – York Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Feb 29-Mar 1, 2020 – Ellwood City, PA – Wurtemberg-Perry Fire Hall – *W&P Twp Fire Dept*
- 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 – Hermitage, PA – Hickory Post VFW – *L&R Sporting Events*
- Mar 7-8, 2020 – St Thomas, PA – St Thomas Twp Volunteer Fire Dept – *Issak Walton League*
- Mar 7-8, 2020 – Leesport, PA – Leesport Farmers Market – *Appalachian Promotions*
- 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 – Harborcreek, PA – Harborcreek Fire Dept – *L&R Sporting Events*
- Mar 21-22, 2020 – Lake Harmony, PA – Split Rock Resort – *Eagle Arms*
- Mar 21-22, 2020 – Split Rock, PA – 100 Moseywood Road – *Eagle Arms*
- Mar 28-29, 2020 – Gettysburg, PA – Allstar Events Complex – *Eagle Arms*
- Mar 28-29, 2020 – Philadelphia, PA – Philadelphia Nat'l Guard Armory – *Appalachian Promo*
- 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*
- Apr 4-5, 2020 – Lebanon, PA – Lebanon Valley Expo Center – *Eagle Arms*
- Apr 4-5, 2020 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center – *Showmasters*
- Apr 4-5, 2020 – Washington, PA – Washington County Fairgrounds – *ARH Sport Shop*
- Apr 18-19, 2020 – Jefferson, PA – Ashtabula County Fairgrounds – *L&R Sporting Events*
- Apr 25-26, 2020 – Allentown, PA – Parkview Inn – *Eagle Arms*
- May 2-3, 2020 – Bloomsburg, PA – Bloomsburg Fairgrounds – *Eagle Arms*
- May 9-10, 2020 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds – *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*

SPECIAL NOTE – 2020

- 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*

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
 - ★ LC Smith 12ga. with vent rib in similar condition. \$1295
 - ★ 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

FOR SALE:

★ Clarke Custom Ruger Mk II, .22 LR, 5.5" Heavy Barrel, Weaver/Picatinny rail, (2) Magazines, with Custom Thumb Lever Magazine Release, (Pistol built in 1991), \$695.00

★ Mike Ahlfeld* Custom Ruger Mk I, .22 LR, 5.5" Heavy Barrel, Weaver/Picatinny rail, (2) Magazines, (Pistol built in 1980), \$675.00 * Mike Ahlfeld is a Virginia-based custom gunsmith

Contact Jack for details at looney.house@verizon.net

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.