



# VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.NET

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

NRA Affiliate Number G8162

CMP Affiliate Number 026160



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## February 2023 VGCA Newsletter



### President's Comments

To my Fellow VGCA members:

It now appears that both Father Winter and COVID are now in the rear-view mirror and it is time to look forward to our main event: the March 25th - 26th Gun Show at the Prince William County Fairgrounds in Manassas. Our Show Manager Rick Nahas tells me there are still some 11 tables available either for display or for

sales. I encourage you to consider reserving a display table -- a show-and-tell of your collection is always of interest to our members and gun show attendees!

At our January membership meeting we had a superb presentation of Japanese Rifles by our own Shannon Zeigler – great graphics and lots of information. Also in January, we announced Andrew Woodard was our VGCA Member of the Year for 2022 – a well-deserved award! Be sure to congratulate Andrew the next time you see him! More good news: at our February meeting on the 23rd, Carlos Davila will host a presentation on Browning Hi-Powers. Do rummage through your gun room and bring one (or two) of your favorite Hi-Powers for show-and-tell. Good fellowship and hot pizza are in store.

See you there,

*Ed Costello*, VGCA President

# ★ January Presentation: Collecting Imperial Japanese “Arisaka” Rifles



Stepping in at the last minute when our scheduled presenter came down with COVID, VGCA Treasurer Shannon Zeigler (*left*) shared his expertise on Imperial Japanese Rifles, covering the gamut from the Type 30 to the Type 2, at our January membership meeting.

Shannon opened by stating that he starting collecting Japanese rifles a long time ago, when they could still be found at gun shows for \$80-\$100. He was initially interested in collecting U.S. military weapons, but found those beyond his budget at the time.

He started his presentation with a list of reference books. Shannon emphasized that no matter what you collect, investing a little money in reference books can easily save you A LOT of money on guns! He also noted that while there aren't nearly as many “counterfeit” Japanese rifles as say, WWII German K98k's, there are still some out there.

Shannon presented a “Collecting Scale” depicting the range from those common Japanese rifles that are relatively easy to collect (Type 38 rifle, Type 99 rifle, Type 38 carbine, Type 44 carbine, Type 2 Paratrooper, and trainers) to hard to find weapons (Type 30 rifle and carbine, Type 38 short rifle, Type 99 long rifle, Type 99 Naval Special, rifles marked with concentric circles, pressure test rifles, Type 97 and 99 snipers), all the way to the scarce and very hard to find (Type 35 rifle, Type 4/5 rifle [M1 Garand copy], Type 100 Paratrooper, Test Type 1 Paratrooper, and the Japanese Pederson rifle).

## BACKGROUND

The Type 30 rifle and carbine were adopted in 1897 (along with the Type 30 bayonet) as replacements for the Type 22 “Murata” rifle. Combat experience gained during the 1904-1905 Russo-Japanese War led to the adoption of the improved Type 38 rifle and carbine in 1905, which continued to use the Type 30 bayonet. The Type 44 carbine, with its attached folding bayonet, was adopted in 1911. All were chambered for the 6.5x50 Semi-Rimmed cartridge.

Japanese expansionism post-WWI, to include the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sino-Japanese War starting in 1937, led to the adoption of a heavier caliber (the 7.7x58) and the Type 99 rifle to handle it in 1939. The formation of paratrooper units resulted in the development of various take-down/folding paratrooper rifles, Such as the Type 2 in 1942. Finally, in begrudging acknowledgement of the superiority of the U.S. semi-automatic M1 “Garand” Rifle, in 1944 the Imperial Japanese Navy began to reverse engineer the M1 as the Type 4 (sometimes referred to as the Type 5), chambered in 7.7mm and with a standard Mauser-style 10-round magazine.

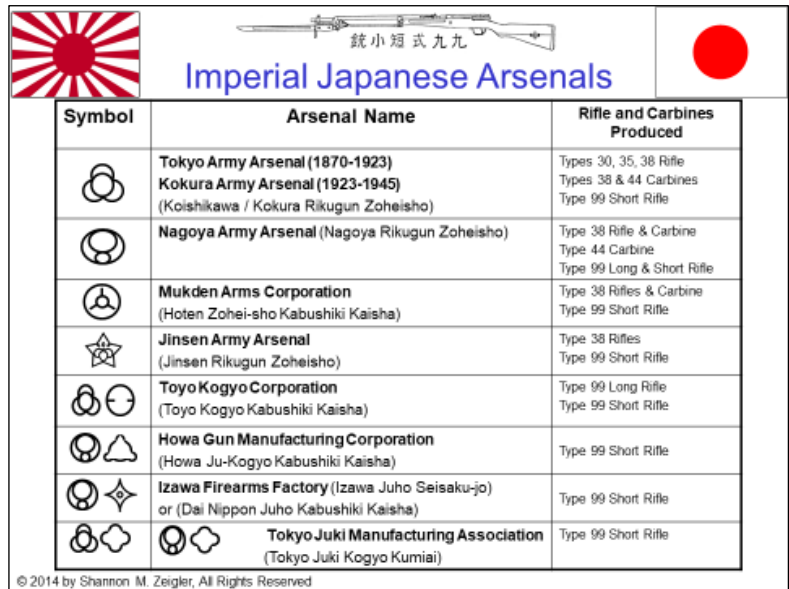
Colonel Nariakira Arisaka (1852-1915) of the Imperial Japanese Army was placed in charge of the 1890s commission tasked to evaluate potential replacements for the Type 22 “Murata” rifle. His own design, a

clip loaded, magazine fed bolt action rifle, was adopted and thereafter the Type 30, Type 38, and Type 99 rifles would be known in the West as “Arisakas.”

There were ultimately nine Japanese arsenals that produced rifles and carbines for Imperial Japan – seven were located in Japan itself while one (Mukden) was in China and another (Jinsen) was in Korea. Shannon shared a table with the arsenal stamp/symbol from each of these (right). NOTE: These tables are copywrited by Shannon Zeigler and are republished here with his permission.

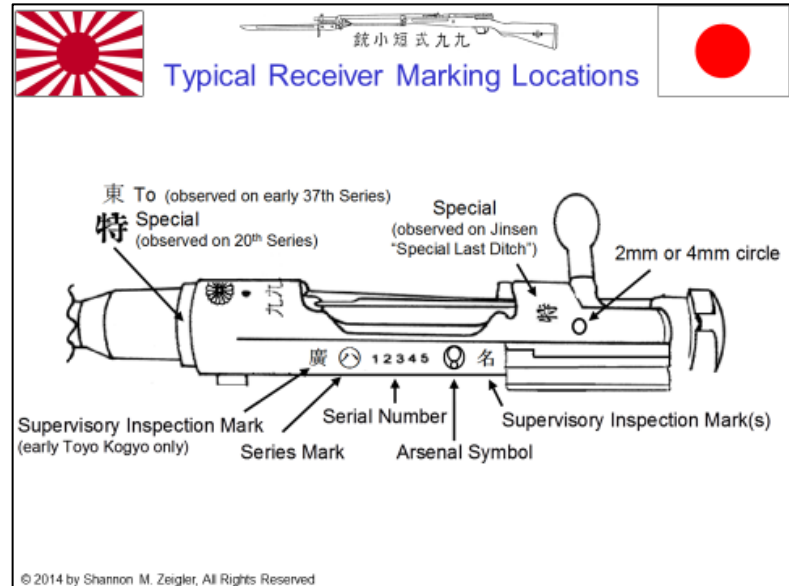
**COLLECTOR NOTES**

In addition to the arsenal stamp, Shannon explained the various other receiver and stock markings (right). Generally, Japanese rifles and carbines are marked the type designation, factory and series number, as well as various inspection/acceptance stamps. Japanese rifles (unlike their pistols) are not stamped with their date of manufacture, though the date can be roughly determined by the series number and various features. Rifles accepted for Imperial services were also marked on the receiver with a 16-pedal chrysanthemum, denoting property of the Emperor. He also pointed out a quick visual reference to differentiate between the two most common types – the Type 38 has two gas vent ports (to direct gases away from the shooter in case of a ruptured case or pierced primer) on the top of the receiver while the Type 99 only has one.



| Symbol | Arsenal Name  | Rifle and Carbines Produced  |
|--------|---|--|
|        | <b>Tokyo Army Arsenal (1870-1923)</b><br><b>Kokura Army Arsenal (1923-1945)</b><br>(Koishikawa / Kokura Rikugun Zoheisho) | Types 30, 35, 38 Rifle<br>Types 38 & 44 Carbines<br>Type 99 Short Rifle  |
|        | <b>Nagoya Army Arsenal</b> (Nagoya Rikugun Zoheisho)  | Type 38 Rifle & Carbine<br>Type 44 Carbine<br>Type 99 Long & Short Rifle |
|        | <b>Mukden Arms Corporation</b><br>(Hoten Zohei-sho Kabushiki Kaisha)  | Type 38 Rifles & Carbine<br>Type 99 Short Rifle                          |
|        | <b>Jinsen Army Arsenal</b><br>(Jinsen Rikugun Zoheisho)   | Type 38 Rifles<br>Type 99 Short Rifle                                    |
|        | <b>Toyo Kogyo Corporation</b><br>(Toyo Kogyo Kabushiki Kaisha)  | Type 99 Long Rifle<br>Type 99 Short Rifle                                |
|        | <b>Howa Gun Manufacturing Corporation</b><br>(Howa Ju-Kogyo Kabushiki Kaisha)   | Type 99 Short Rifle  |
|        | <b>Izawa Firearms Factory</b> (Izawa Juho Seisaku-jo)<br>or (Dai Nippon Juho Kabushiki Kaisha)                            | Type 99 Short Rifle  |
|        | <b>Tokyo Juki Manufacturing Association</b><br>(Tokyo Juki Kogyo Kumiai)  | Type 99 Short Rifle  |

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Shannon went in to additional detail on each of the individual models of rifles and carbines – with more information than can be covered in this brief synopsis. Some examples include the Type 30, noteworthy for its “hooked safety” and complicated bolt design. The Type 30s were used extensively and are typically found in not the greatest condition. More than 500,000 Type 30s were manufactured.

Another interesting example is the Type 44 carbine. Developed for cavalry use, it features an attached folding bayonet and compartment in the butt stock that holds segments of a cleaning rod. These cleaning rod segments are very scarce and could add a couple of hundred dollars value to the carbine if present. Less than 92,000 Type 44s were made between 1911 and 1942.

One more example - when the Type 99 rifle was initially adopted, it was produced with a long barrel and was similar to the Type 38 rifle in overall length. Only 38,000 of these Type 99 “Long Rifles” were

produced before production switch to the “short rifle” in early 1941. Over 2.5 million short rifles were produced.

As WWII progressed and the Japanese found it harder and harder to transport raw materials to the home islands, short cuts were made in manufacturing the Type 99. These became known as the Type 99 Substitute. Some of the first features to be dropped were the intricate anti-aircraft rear sight, the nominally effective monopod, and the noisy (and unpopular) dust cover. Later, the rear sight would become a simple fixed peep sight, the protective wings on the front sight would be dropped, as would the cleaning rod, the steel buttplate (replaced by a wooden one), and ultimately, even the sling swivels. These “last ditch” Type 99s make a fascinating collection by themselves, with different factories making changes at different times.

Shannon concluded his presentation by showing the differences between the Type 38 and the Type 99 dust covers and cleaning rods. He also showed the progression of Japanese muzzle covers, from early bronze to later bakelite.

This was an excellent presentation enjoyed by all present. Please thank Shannon for filling in the next time you see him!



## ★ Next Membership Meeting: February 23<sup>rd</sup>

“The Browning Hi-Power” by Carlos Davila and

“2023 Las Vegas Antique Arms Show Report” by George Dungan

**Location: NRA HQ Conference Room**

Our February VGCA Membership Meeting will be at the NRA Headquarters. The Conference Room will open at 6 p.m. and, following some pizza and refreshments, the meeting will start at 7 p.m. See you then!

## **SIGN UP FOR THE VGCA VISIT TO THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE US ARMY**



The VGCA is planning to visit the National Museum of the United States Army on Saturday, March 11, 2023 in the morning. The 185,000 square foot museum is a joint effort of the U.S. Army and the Army Historical Foundation, the Museum is an enduring effort to tell the Army’s story and honor the accomplishments, sacrifices and commitment of American soldiers. Entry is free but tickets must be reserved in advance. Walk-up tickets will not be available so we are signing up VGCA members to reserve tickets in advance. Family

members are welcome, so bring your spouse, children or partner to the museum.

The museum is located at 1775 Liberty Drive, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060, just off Fairfax County Parkway (Rt. 286). Museum docents provide free guided tours at 10:15 so we plan to be at the museum by 10:00am.

Come to the next VGCA meeting at the NRA HQ on February 23 to sign up. We will need your name, phone number, e-mail address and the number in your party.



# ★ January Meeting Notes

The January 26<sup>th</sup> VGCA meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by VGCA President Ed Costello. The first order of business was to announce that Andrew Woodard had been selected as the 2022 VGCA Member of the Year. Voted on by the members, Andrew was recognized for his work to make our membership meetings available to a larger audience by broadcasting them on the internet, as well as for his continued work organizing and executing table set up for our gun shows. Ed Costello presented him with a framed plaque (*right*) and a check for \$100!

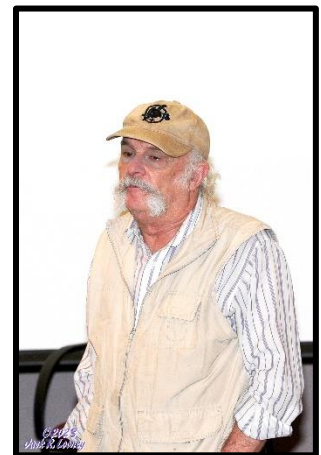


VGCA Vice President George Dungan announced that we are looking for volunteers to assist with the club's recruiting table at



future Chantilly Gun Shows. He also encouraged those present to take some show flyers (*left*) for our upcoming Spring Gun Show and pass them out to family and friends. Remember, the VGCA's annual operating budget comes from the entry fees paid by people who attend our gun shows, so please encourage everyone you know to come out in March!

Treasurer Shannon Zeigler gave a financial update. He announced that the VGCA has money (fortunately!) and that recent expenditures included \$5000 to build our new website (vgca.net) and a \$2500 donation to the NRA's National Firearms Museum.



Show Manager Rick Nahas (*right*) stated that we have 39 available tables for our March 25-26 Spring Gun Show (NOTE – as of this newsletter publication, the number of available tables is down to 11). Rick emphasized the need to get customers to attend our shows – in other words, please bring a friend!

Rick also gave a brief report on the annual Shooting, Hunting, and Outdoor Trade (SHOT) Show and the NRA National Gun Collectors Show / Las Vegas Antique Arms Show, both held earlier in January in Las Vegas, Nevada. SHOT Show consisted of over 600,000 square feet of booths spread out through two casinos and showcasing the latest developments in firearms and shooting/hunting/outdoor accessories. The Antique Arms Show, formerly sponsored by NRA-affiliated collector organizations but now sponsored by Morphy's Auctions, consisted of 1,000 tables of collectible firearms and bladed weapons. It also happens to be the longest continuously running event in Las Vegas!

Finally, VGCA Director Matthew G announced he is still looking for speakers/presenters for our membership meetings this year. If you want to show some of your expertise, please contact him at [matthewofmclean@gmail.com](mailto:matthewofmclean@gmail.com).

# ★ Membership Chairman's Report

**Membership Chairman's Report February 2023** – Please welcome the following new member to the Virginia Gun Collectors Association.

- **Perry Hecker** of Manassas

**New Applications for Membership:** Since the last Newsletter, there have been three new applications for membership.

- **Robert Beich** of Haymarket sponsored by **Jimmy Stoner** and **Jim Burgess**
- **Gary Hoover** of Chantilly sponsored by **Joe Roberts**
- **Lillard Hudson** of Woodbridge sponsored by **Bruce Buchner**
- **Thomas Kanavarus** of Brambleton sponsored by **Ian Wulf**

Thanks to the applicants for their interest in the Virginia Gun Collectors Association and to their sponsors for promoting the Association and keeping the membership growing.

If there are any comments or questions on any applicant, please notify any Officer, Director, or the Membership Chair. **George Dungan, Membership Chair** can be reached at [george@ecominv.com](mailto:george@ecominv.com) or 571-243-6387.

**Notice to New Member Sponsors:** VGCA will be discontinuing hard copy versions of the VGCA Newsletters at a future date. *Please make sure your prospective applicants include a legible email address and telephone contact number* if at all possible. Without an email address new members will NOT receive the newsletter or VGCA announcements.

**Membership Numbers:** There are currently 416 Life members and 97 Annual Members for a total of 513 members in the Virginia Gun Collectors Association, Inc.

**Recruiting:** Membership in the VGCA is a great way for people with an interest in the 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 recruiting table at every Chantilly gun show and also at our VGCA gun shows. If you would like to volunteer to work a shift at one of these events please contact George Dungan at [george@ecominv.com](mailto:george@ecominv.com). We would like to thank the following members who worked our table at the last Chantilly Gun Show: Bruce Buchner, Joe Roberts, Rick Hanson, Louie DiGaetano, William Melancon, and Jerry Keathley.

**Membership Renewals:** Thank you to everyone who has renewed so far. Membership renewals are due by the end of the year if you are not already a Life member. You may either renew annually or upgrade to life membership. The form below can be used for mail in renewals or you can renew in person with George Dungan at a VGCA meeting or the Chantilly gun show.

*George Dungan*, Vice President and Membership Chair

**Annual Membership Renewals:** Annual Membership renewals of \$30.00 were due by January 1, 2023. 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, Membership Chair** at [george@ecominv.com](mailto:george@ecominv.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-2022\_Oct)**  
**VGCA, Inc., P.O. Box 2318, Merrifield, VA 22116-2318**

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 2023 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@ecominv.com](mailto:george@ecominv.com) or call me at **571-243-6387**.

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# AUSTRIAN FRUWIRTH PINFIRE POCKET PISTOL

*By Tim Prince and Marc Gorelick)  
Photos by Tim Prince, College Hill Arsenal*



When one mentions the name Früwirth, Civil War firearms historians think of the Früwirth-made Austrian Model 1851 Cavalry carbine or Model 1849 Jaeger rifles that were imported into the US to arm both Union and Confederate armies. Many knowledgeable gun collectors think about the innovative Früwirth designed Model 1869/1872 bolt action carbine that equipped the Austrian Gendarmerie and Tirolean Landesshutzen. However, these, and many more guns were the products of a remarkable family of Austrian gunmakers whose gunmaking history went back to the 1600s.

This is a stunning Austrian single shot, tip-down barrel pinfire pocket pistol that was made by Ferdinand Früwirth, one of the more famous of the Vienna gunmakers of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Früwirth (also known as Fruhwirth and sometimes Fruewürth) gunmaking family of Vienna, Austria can trace their roots to gunmaker Joseph Früwirth (1722-1797). It is believed that Joseph was from Moravia (now in the Czech Republic) and was the son of Georg Früwirth (1680-1760), who was himself a second generation Moravian gunmaker. Joseph worked as an apprentice and gunsmith for the Prince of Esterhazy at Fortchenstein Castle. He became a journeyman in 1753 and became a master gunsmith in 1757. That year he married the daughter of gunsmith Christoph Ries, a well-established Vienna gunmaker, who worked circa 1732-1757. When Ries died in 1757, Joseph took over his business in Vienna. In 1758 Joseph was named a gun and gun-wrench maker to the Royal and Imperial Court. His son Johann (1766-1824) began his apprenticeship in 1783, became a master in 1788 and took over Joseph's business circa 1789. When Johann



died in 1824 his widow took over the management of the business until his son Ferdinand (1813-1867) took over the business in 1834.



Ferdinand Früwirth became a master gunmaker in 1834, allowing him to take over his father's shop. Ferdinand was active in the gunmaking business until 1867. It was he who made under contract many of the Austrian Model 1851 cavalry carbines and .71 caliber Model 1849 Jaeger rifles that were imported into the United States during the Civil War, and that occasionally show up at auctions or on the market. As an aside, the guns are interesting in their own right because they originally used the System Augustin Tube Lock. This had a semi-enclosed flash pan and "tube" for a more reliable ignition system but was short lived, and in 1854 the system Lorenz and its accompanying family of Model 1854 arms was developed and adopted using the much less complex percussion lock system. Large quantities of the M1851 carbine and M1849 Jaeger rifle were converted to percussion in Liège, Belgium, prior to shipment to America. Ferdinand almost certainly also made the pinfire pocket pistol described here.



Ferdinand's son, Ferdinand II (b. 1842), would continue the family business until his death in 1892. He would be instrumental in a number of innovative developments and improvements in Austrian rifle design during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and is responsible developing the Früwirth M1869/72 carbine.

This gorgeously decorated Früwirth pistol is 7 inches in overall length with a 3.35 inch long round barrel that is opened by actuating a traditional underlever release like that found on pinfire shotguns of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century produced by Casimir, and later Eugene Lefauchaux. The pistol's action is typical of single-shot English and European pocket pistols of the late 18<sup>th</sup> through mid-19<sup>th</sup> centuries with a concealed trigger that folds down when the single action hammer is brought to full cock. The pistol has a nominally 10.5mm bore (.41 inch) at the muzzle and measures 12mm (.47 inch) inches at the breech, indicating it is a 12mm (.47 caliber) pinfire pistol. Much confusion surrounds these early metallic cartridge weapons as the "caliber" was often defined by the case diameter rather than the bullet diameter.



The pistol has a richly browned Damascus patterned barrel and a frame that is gracefully and deeply engraved with chiseled foliate scrolls and themes. The frame was left in the white and contrast was created by blackening the relieved portions of the engraving. The top of the receiver and bottom are engraved with equal quality and the serial number **3149** is present on the bottom of the frame, just behind the barrel release. The only other markings are either internal or concealed and these include the **FF** maker's mark of Ferdinand Früwirth on the upper face of the inner right side of the frame, the last two digits of the serial number, **49**, on the upper face of the locking lug inside the frame, and a raised **{Austrian Double-Headed Eagle}** in a depressed oval under the barrel, concealed by the release lever. This mark, which is commonly found on Austrian military arms to indicate royal (government) ownership, may well indicate that this gun was

made for a member of the Austrian royal family or their household. The quality of the work and the engraving certainly suggests the gun was made for a very wealthy client. In addition to the fine browned Damascus barrel and relief engraved frame, the pistol is enhanced with a lovely one-piece smooth ivory bag-shaped grip.



This Früwirth pinfire pocket pistol is in exceptional condition. The barrel retains about 92%+ of the original brown, which is thinning and shows some light wear and minor loss along the points of contact and where it has been handled. The engraved frame remains crisp with clear, sharp engraving. The action of the pistol works perfectly with the hidden trigger deploying as it should when the hammer is cocked and returning to its concealed location when the pistol is fired. The underlever and barrel locking mechanism work perfectly as well. It functions smoothly and locks up tightly. The bore of the pistol is in fine mostly bright condition as well with the 14-groove rifling remaining crisp and clear. The smooth ivory grip has a wonderful rich cream patina with some darker swirls tending towards a golden brown and is in excellent shape.



*Note FF stamp for Ferdinand Früwirth*



*Austrian double headed eagle stamp denoting royal government ownership.*





# CMP UPDATE

*By Marc Gorelick, CMP Liaison*

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

## CMP SANCTIONED MATCHES IN VIRGINIA – 2023

The Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) sponsors (or sanctions) matches with affiliated and organizations. This year there are 10 CMP sanctioned matches in Virginia and nine of them are close by.

The Fairfax Rod and Gun Club will be holding EIC Service Pistol, Service Revolver & .22 Rimfire Pistol EIC Matches on April 23, May 28, June 25, August 27 and September 24, 2023. The location of the range is: 7039 Signal Hill Road, Manassas, VA. Match Begins: 2PM.

**EIC Service Pistol:** EIC competitors fire a service pistol, as defined by the CMP Competition Rules, over the Pistol National Match Course of fire: 10 shots slow-fire standing, 50 yards; 10 shots timed-fire standing, 25 yards; 10 shots rapid-fire standing, 25 yards.

**Service Revolver:** Service revolvers fired at 50 yards, 20 shots, slow fire; 25 yards, 2x5 shots, timed fire; 25 yards, 2x5 shots, rapid fire.

**.22 Rimfire EIC Pistol:** EIC competitors fire a .22 rimfire pistol, as defined by the CMP Competition Rules, over the Pistol National Match Course of fire: 10 shots slow-fire standing, 50 yards; 10 shots timed-fire standing, 25 yards; 10 shots rapid-fire standing, 25 yards.

According to the CMP website, Fairfax Rod and Gun Club will also hold CMP sanctioned High Power (HP) Rifle Matches during 2023 on April 1, April 15, May 13 and May 20.



**HP matches consist of: Reduced Course 50 Shot Rifle:** Competitors fire a service rifle, as defined by the CMP Competition Rules matches, over the high power rifle National Match Course of fire: 10 shots standing slow-fire, 200 yards; 10 shots rapid-fire sitting, 200 yards; 10 shots rapid-fire prone, 200 yards (reduced 300 yard target); 20 shots slow-fire prone, 200 yards (reduced 600 yard target).

*Photo left – CMP*

The Fairfax Rod and Gun Club is located at 7039 Signal Hill Road, Manassas, VA. For more information about the EIC Service Pistol, Service Revolver and .22 Rimfire Pistol matches contact the match director: Charles Nothom at [cnucknothom@gmail.com](mailto:cnucknothom@gmail.com). For additional information about the High Power Rifle matches contact the match director: Danny Gray at [dtgray@verizon.net](mailto:dtgray@verizon.net).

The tenth 2023 CMP sanctioned match in Virginia took place on January 31. It was the Virginia Military Institute Multi-Service Championship / WV CMP 3PAR State Championship and the sponsoring affiliate was Greenbrier East High School JROTC. The type of match was 3-position air rifle.

## CMP PLANS SALE OF SURPLUS AMMO



The CMP announced that it has obtained a large quantity of .30 caliber carbine, .22 caliber pistol, M2 ball, and .22 Long Rifle surplus ammunition that will soon become available to CMP customers. Currently, the items are in the cataloging and assessment stage by staff members and the CMP plans to make it available in the spring. The ammunition will also support CMP Matches for the next several years and the CMP will provide discounted surplus ammo to competitors attending CMP events. All sales will include set limits to remain in compliance with guidelines specified in the Memorandum of

Agreement between the Department of the Army and the CMP. Details on sales to affiliated clubs and individuals are pending and will be forthcoming when finalized.

Commercial ammunition sales are currently available on the CMP E-Store to qualified individuals. Register for an account or browse the CMP E-Store at: <https://estore.thecmp.org>. You can also sign up for CMP Sales E-Mail Updates at: <https://thecmp.org/news-media/emailarchives/email-signup/>.

As of this writing, the CMP E-Store has Lapua .308 caliber 155 grain, Creedmoor 10mm Auto Match 180 grain XTP, Federal Blazer .40 caliber S&W 165 grain FMJ, and Armscor .22LR 36 grain HVHP. Go to the CMP E-Store website for further details and ordering information.

## CMP FIREARMS AUCTIONS



The CMP auctions rifles, rifle parts and accessories on its auction site. The auction program is an extension of the CMP E-Store. Everyone who is registered in the E-Store is automatically registered for the auction program. Go to the CMP website at: <https://cmpauction.thecmp.org/> for additional information. At the time that this article was written the CMP had M-1 Garands, M1911A1 pistols and an M84 sniper scope on auction. CMP sales terms and conditions apply.

*Photo – The CMP*

# VGCA GUNS OF DISTINCTION: PRINCE ALEXANDER I OF BULGARIA'S PRESENTATION SMITH & WESSON RUSSIAN MODEL 3 BY LUDWIG LOEWE

*By Marc Gorelick*

*Photos courtesy of Joh. Springers Erben, Vienna, Austria*

In the past it was a common diplomatic practice to give highly decorated presentation guns to heads of state, high level officials and royalty. These presentation pieces included not just one-of-a-kind custom pieces that were destined for the museum, but also more utilitarian guns that were richly decorated. The Smith & Wesson Third Model Russian revolver was an international favorite and provided a level of accuracy that made it the choice of target shooters. Among the foreign firms that manufactured the Smith & Wesson Third Model Russian was Ludwig Loewe in Germany. While many of their Russians were destined for the Russian Government, Ludwig Loewe also made revolvers with custom decoration that were presentation pieces. One such is this Smith & Wesson Third Model Russian that was given to Prince Alexander I of Bulgaria.



Prince Alexander I of Bulgaria was born in 1857 as Prince Alexander Joseph von Battenberg, second son of Prince Alexander of Hesse-Darmstadt and Countess Julia Hauke, a court lady of his aunt, the Russian Tsarina Maria Alexandrovna. As a second son, he opted for an army career and because of his connections to the Russian court, took part in the Russian-Ottoman War of 1877/78 in Bulgaria, serving on the staff of Russian Grand Duke Nicholas. He later transferred to the Garde du Corps, the personal bodyguard regiment of the German Kaiser. The autonomous Principality of Bulgaria was created as a result of the Berlin Congress in 1878 and Alexander was proposed as its first Prince. Alexander's participation in the campaign against the Turks and his close relationship to his uncle, Tsar Alexander II of Russia, were factors in his favor and he was unanimously elected Prince by the Bulgarian National Assembly on 29 April 1879. As Prince he led the Bulgarians in the annexation of Eastern Roumelia and

to victory over an invading Serbia in the Serbo-Bulgarian War of 1885. Although Alexander was very popular in Bulgaria, Russia was dissatisfied at the liberal tendencies under his reign. In August 1886 Russian Czar Alexander III (his cousin) fomented a coup, in the course of which Prince Alexander was forced to abdicate and was exiled to Russia. A successful Bulgarian counter coup briefly reinstated Alexander, but strong Russian opposition forced the prince to abdicate again.

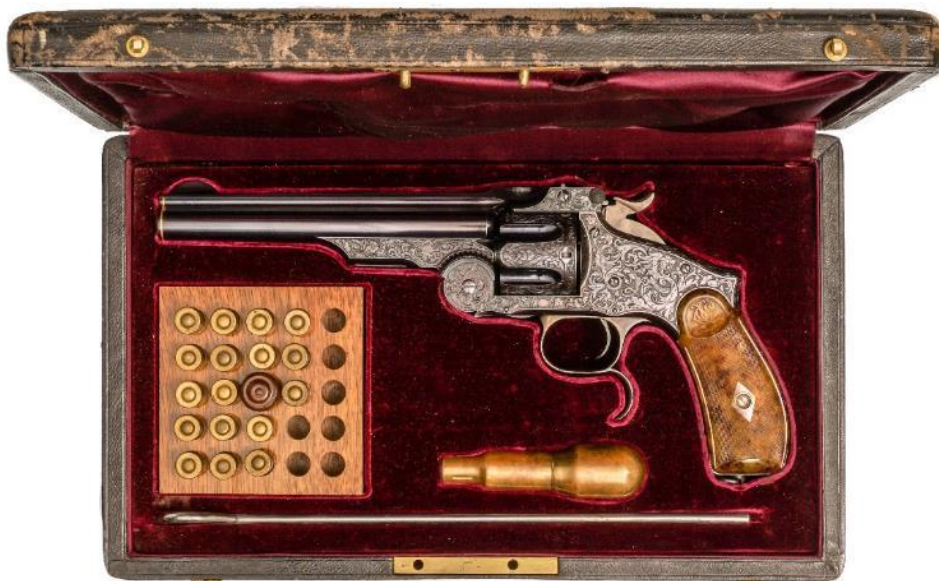


Besides his troubles with Russia he also had problems with the German court. In 1883 he became engaged to Princess Victoria of Prussia, daughter of the future Kaiser Frederick III and his wife Victoria of Great Britain. However, her grandfather, Kaiser Wilhelm I, and Chancellor Otto von Bismarck were against the engagement for political reasons and the couple were forbidden to marry. For years Victoria fought in vain against the ban but Bismarck opposed the marriage and in 1888 the engagement was dissolved for reasons of reason of state. In 1889 Alexander married 24 year old Austrian actress and opera singer Johanna Loisinger in Menton, France. After the marriage Alexander took the title of Count of Hartenau, moved to Austria, and joined the Imperial Austro-Hungarian Army. He died in 1893.



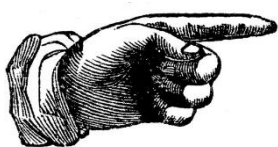
Prince Alexander's Smith & Wesson Russian, made by Ludwig Loewe is an exact copy of the guns made in the U.S. It is a single action, break top revolver, chambering the .44 Russian cartridge and has a 6 ½ inch long barrel. Manufactured around 1880, it has beautifully marbled tortoiseshell grips with fine

checkering and the manufacturer's monogram. It is signed in gold inlay "Ludw. Loewe and Co Berlin" on the barrel top rib. The revolver is engraved on the frame and on the cylinder, on the trigger guard with its finger rest as well as on the barrel with ornate foliate scroll in bas-relief, interspersed with grotesque masks and mythical creatures. It has an inlaid gold band around the muzzle and an intricate gold inlay floral design on the frame between the hammer and the grip.



The first-class engraving of this Smith & Wesson .44 caliber Russian revolver corresponds exactly to a second known example, which can be seen in the collection of the Hermitage in St. Petersburg, Russia.

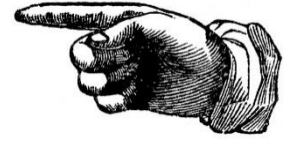
The original leather-covered wooden case is lined with dark purple velvet and silk. It contains a cleaning rod and turncrew, as well as 17 original .44 S&W Russian cartridges. This revolver was sold at a recent Joh. Springers auction for \$20,000 (18,000 euros).



We are looking for speakers/presenters at our membership meetings in 2023 and currently have two open dates (June and September). If you have any suggestions – or would like to make a presentation yourself – please contact one of the VGCA officers or directors.



We are also looking for volunteers to help with our March Gun Show set up and Show Security.



If interested in Set Up on Friday, 24 Mar 2023, please contact Andrew Woodard at: [ajw055570@aol.com](mailto:ajw055570@aol.com)

If interested in Show Security on either Saturday or Sunday of the Show, please contact Frank Cambria at: [ftcambria@yahoo.com](mailto:ftcambria@yahoo.com)

## ★ In Review ★

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

# ***A TRIP TO THE MUSEUM: REVISITING THE VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF THE CIVIL WAR***

*By Marc Gorelick*



Five years ago the VGCA newsletter published a review of the Virginia Museum of the Civil War in New Market, Virginia. (See *January 2018 issue*) Since then there have been some changes to the exhibits so it is worth taking another look at this museum that is focused on one of the most seminal events in American History.



One of the best collections of Civil War guns on the east coast resides in the Virginia Museum of the Civil War. Both the museum, and the New Market Battlefield State Historical Park are operated by the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) and the weapons on display are part of the large VMI collection. But the museum is about more than guns.

The museum, just off US Route 81, first opened in 1970 and has evolved over the years. It tells the story of the Civil War with an emphasis on the eastern theater fighting between the Union Army of the Potomac and the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. It has a heavy focus on the fighting in the Shenandoah Valley and, of course, the Battle of New Market and the role of the VMI cadets. During the early years, although the exhibits had firearms, they were mostly arms that were used by participants, especially the VMI cadets, in the Battle of New Market on May 15, 1864. That changed over the years and the museum now houses one of the country's best collection of Civil War small arms.



Although not very large, the museum is divided into several sections. The Raeburn Civil War Art Gallery contains artwork about the war by well-known artists who participated in the war, either working for a

publication or as soldiers. One such artist whose works are displayed is Julian Scott who served as a drummer in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Vermont Infantry and won the Medal of Honor for his actions at Lee Mills, Virginia during the Peninsula Campaign in April 1862. Besides the paintings and prints, the gallery also has sculptures by the well famous artist, John H. Rodgers. This section also contains the theater where visitors can watch the Emmy Award winning film *Field of Lost Shoes*.

The main attraction in the museum for history and firearms enthusiasts is the Virginia Room, which is on two levels. The upper level chronicles the war from beginning to end in an objective and comprehensive manner. It does this through descriptive signage, exhibits of artifacts and dioramas.

The galleries in the lower level of the Virginia Room display over 125 firearms and other weapons (including some very rare pieces), possessions, uniforms, flags and other artifacts that belonged to participants in the war, including many of the 247 VMI cadets who fought in the Battle of New Market. The displays tell the stories of those young men. The galleries are divided into a number of sections that cover various aspects of the war, including the attempts at body armor, and advances in medical



technology, transportation and ordnance. The lower level is also where the museum was making changes. For instance, new displays were being built that highlight the important role of African-Americans on both sides of the Civil War. Black enlistments in the Union Army began in July 1862 and ultimately about 200,000 blacks, many of them former slaves, fought against the Confederacy. One display, still under construction, highlighted the courage of African-American soldiers at the Battle of New Market Heights, east of Richmond, on September 29, 1864. Fourteen black soldiers earned the Congressional Medal of Honor during that little known battle. Another display, in an updated medical exhibit, highlighted the career of Major Alexander T. Augusta, a Union surgeon and the highest ranking African-American in the Civil War. And a third display, also under construction at the time of my visit, described the role of black sailors in the Union Navy.

A few of the many pistols in the collection. The two on the lower right are scarce Volcanic pistols, precursors to the lever action Henry and Winchester rifles.



*Display case of breechloading carbines and revolvers.*



*Second Model Maynard carbine with cartridge. The Maynard copper cartridge had a small hole in the rear through which a spark from a percussion cap ignited the powder charge. Invented by Dr. Edward Maynard, a dentist who also invented the Maynard Tape primer, the reliable cartridge could be reloaded about 100 times.*

For Civil War firearms enthusiasts, the lower level of the Virginia Room is the heart of the museum. In 2016 Martin Kaminsky donated his collection of over 100 Civil War firearms to VMI. Almost all makes and models of gun used during the war are displayed in the Kaminski Gallery. The exhibit is extremely well organized and traces firearms development during the Civil War, from the improvised and obsolete guns used early in the war to the latest breechloaders and repeating arms used by the war's end. The

exhibit highlights the technological advances and the numerous attempts at rapid-firing, breech-loading designs in small arms. The items are well lit and the easy-to-read descriptive signage is comprehensive without being overpowering and is just right for both neophytes and those who know what they are looking at. Items in a number of the display cases are visible from both sides, which is a plus when examining the contents.



The Virginia Museum of the Civil War's collection includes many rare rapid-fire weapons. Prominently displayed is the Confederate Williams Rapid Fire Cannon, (*see photo to left*), possibly the first machine gun type weapon used in combat. Invented by Confederate Captain David R. Williams, the light artillery piece fired a one-pound, 1.57 inch shell. The breech loading mechanism was operated by a hand crank. As the crank was advanced a cam mechanism closed the breech and automatically released a hammer, which struck a percussion cap. The gun could fire up to 20 rounds per minute and had an effective range of 800 yards. About 40 were manufactured and this is one of only four known to still exist. A battery of Williams

Guns saw service at the Battle of Seven Pines, VA and others were used in the western theater.



The museum is also home to one of only three known surviving examples of the Agar "Coffee Mill" Gun. The Federal Government purchased about 60 of these hand cranked machine guns. Designed by Edward Nugent, and marketed by Wilson Agar, the gun fired a .58 caliber cartridge that was pre-loaded into a re-usable metal chamber or tube that had a percussion cap at the rear end. As the crank was manipulated, a brass hopper fed the loaded tubes into the firing mechanism one at a time where they were automatically fired. The gun could fire up to 120 rounds per minute with an effective range of 800 yards. Although President Lincoln endorsed the weapon, the Ordnance Department disliked it on the grounds that it would waste ammunition, the high rate of fire would overheat the barrel, and the range was no better than a Springfield rifle-musket.

*Photo left – The hand-cranked Agar "Coffee Mill" machine gun could fire 120 rounds per minute using special ammunition.*



*Photo left – Ammunition for the Agar “Coffee Mill” Gun. The powder and bullet were put into a tube with a percussion cap at the rear end.*

The museum sits on the New Market Battlefield State Historical Park, which, besides the 300-acre battlefield includes the Bushong Farm that figured prominently in the battle where Confederate General John C. Breckenridge defeated Union General Franz Sigel. All areas of the battlefield park are within easy walking

distance of the museum over relatively flat, open ground.

The Virginia Museum of the Civil War is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. most days of the year. A ticket to the New Market Battlefield State Historical Park includes admission tickets to the Virginia Museum of the Civil War. Adult (age 13-64) tickets cost \$10, seniors (65+) \$9 and youth (6-12) \$6. Children five and under are admitted free. A discount is available for current and retired members of the military. The museum has a well-stocked gift shop but no cafeteria. Snacks and drinks are available from machines in a separate building. Or there are eateries in nearby historic New Market.

The battlefield and museum are located at 8895 George Collins Parkway (Rt. 305), New Market, VA 22844. Directions - Take Route 66 west to Route 81 South. Get off Route 81 at exit 264. Go right on Route 211, West Old Cross Road and make an immediate right turn on Route 305, George Collins Parkway. Go north on Rt. 305 to the Virginia Museum of the Civil War and New Market Battlefield. You will pass the New Market Battlefield Military Museum, which is a private museum with numerous firearms. It is also well worth a visit and was reviewed in the October 2017 issue of the VGCA Newsletter. For further information call the Virginia Museum of the Civil War at (866) 515-1864, or visit the website at <https://www.vmi.edu/museums-and-archives/virginia-museum-of-the-civil-war/>.



**WE WANT YOU!**

Elections for our three VGCA Director positions will be held in May 2023. If you are interested in helping to guide the Virginia Gun Collectors Association into the future and would like to run for a Director position, or if you just have questions, please contact the Chairman of the Nominating Committee (Matthew) at [matthewofmclean@gmail.com](mailto:matthewofmclean@gmail.com)

# ★ Show-n-Tell ★

**NOTE – 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!**

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

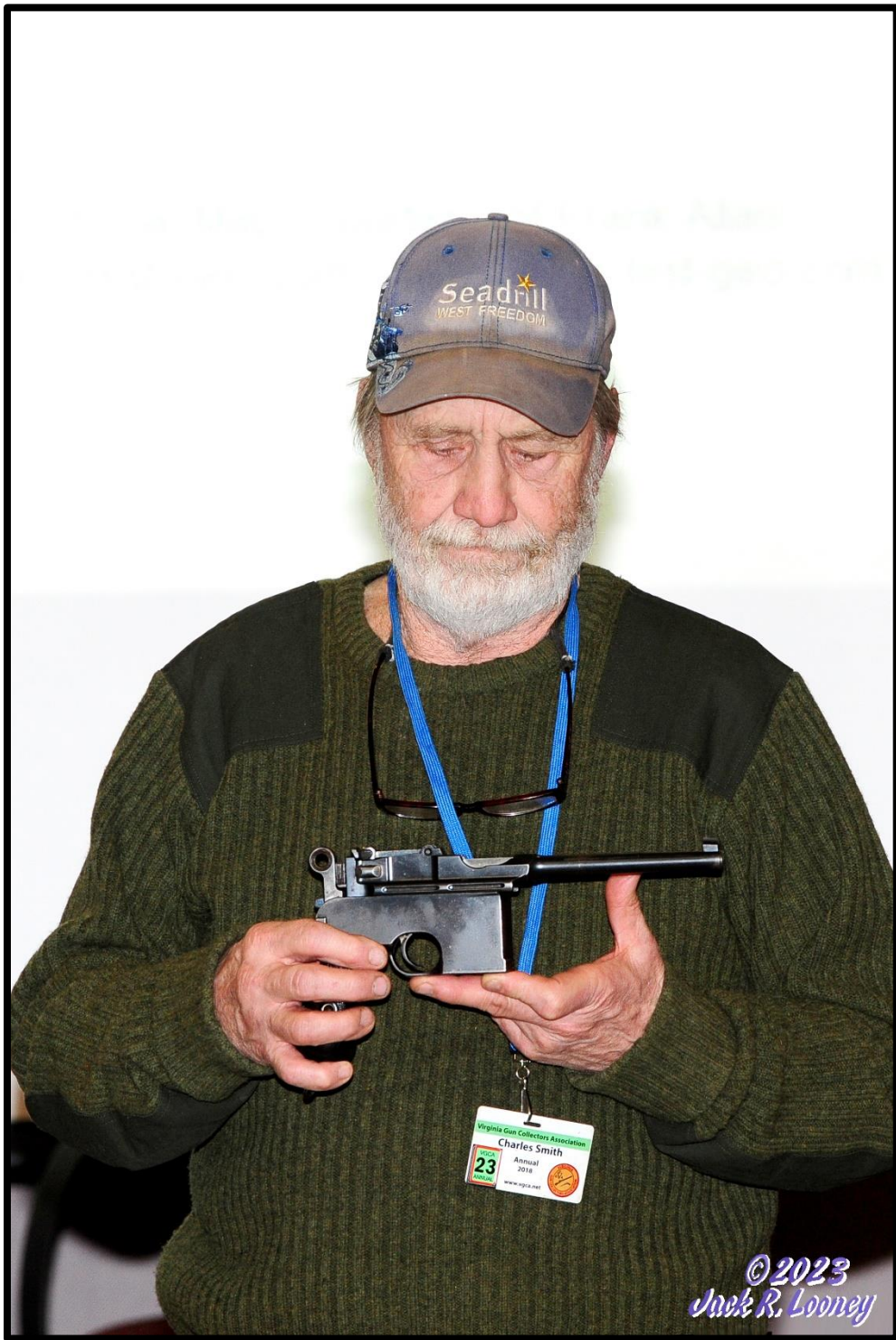
Question(s) for members: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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Member 1 brought in a nice Mauser C96 pistol (*above*). Manufactured for the Italian Navy, this “broomhandle” has an early production large ring hammer and “slab” (flat) sides. The 1899 Italian Navy contract was for 5,000 pistols chambered in .30 Mauser and was the first large military order for C96 pistols. This example was made in approximately 1900.





Member 2 (*above*) shared two recent acquisitions from the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) rifles sales. The first was an Expert Grade M1. This features a Springfield receiver with a 1.6 million serial number made in approximately June 1943. It has been rebarreled with a modern Criterion barrel and is a good match shooter.

The second rifle is a Rack Plus Grade M1 made by Winchester. Also with a serial number in 1.6 million range, this is known to collectors as a “Win-13”. A “Win-13” is from the last Winchester contract for 40,000 M1s. This example has a Winchester barrel that gauges 1 at the muzzle and 3 at the throat and wears new CMP wood.

See Marc Gorelick’s “CMP Update” article on pages 12 and 13 of this newsletter for more details on what is currently available.



Member 3 (*above*) brought in a very nice condition MAS 36. Chambered in 7.5x54 French, the MAS 36 was adopted prior to WWII as the French Army's "substitute" rifle for secondary troops (front line infantry were to be armed with the semi-automatic MAS 44). A spike bayonet is stored in the tube under the barrel and the MAS 36 does not have a manual safety. This example does not have a serial number and may have been intended to be a trainer.

Member 4 (*right*) shared a Lorenz Model 1854 Jägerstutzen. Manufactured by Ferdinand Frürwirth (FerdFrürwirth) of Austria between 1854 and 1860, the Lorenz was a single shot percussion short rifle/carbine in caliber 13.9mm (.548 caliber). The Austrians issued a Jägerstutzen rifle designed for sharpshooters, with a 1,200 schritt (“schritt” means “step” or “pace” in German) rear sight. These Jägerstutzen had a 28 inch, octagon to round barrels, affixed with wedge keys and a sliding leaf rear sight that utilized a slide track similar to the US M-1 Garand infantry rifle. It was fitted with a broad flat socket mount saber bayonet approximately 26.5” long.

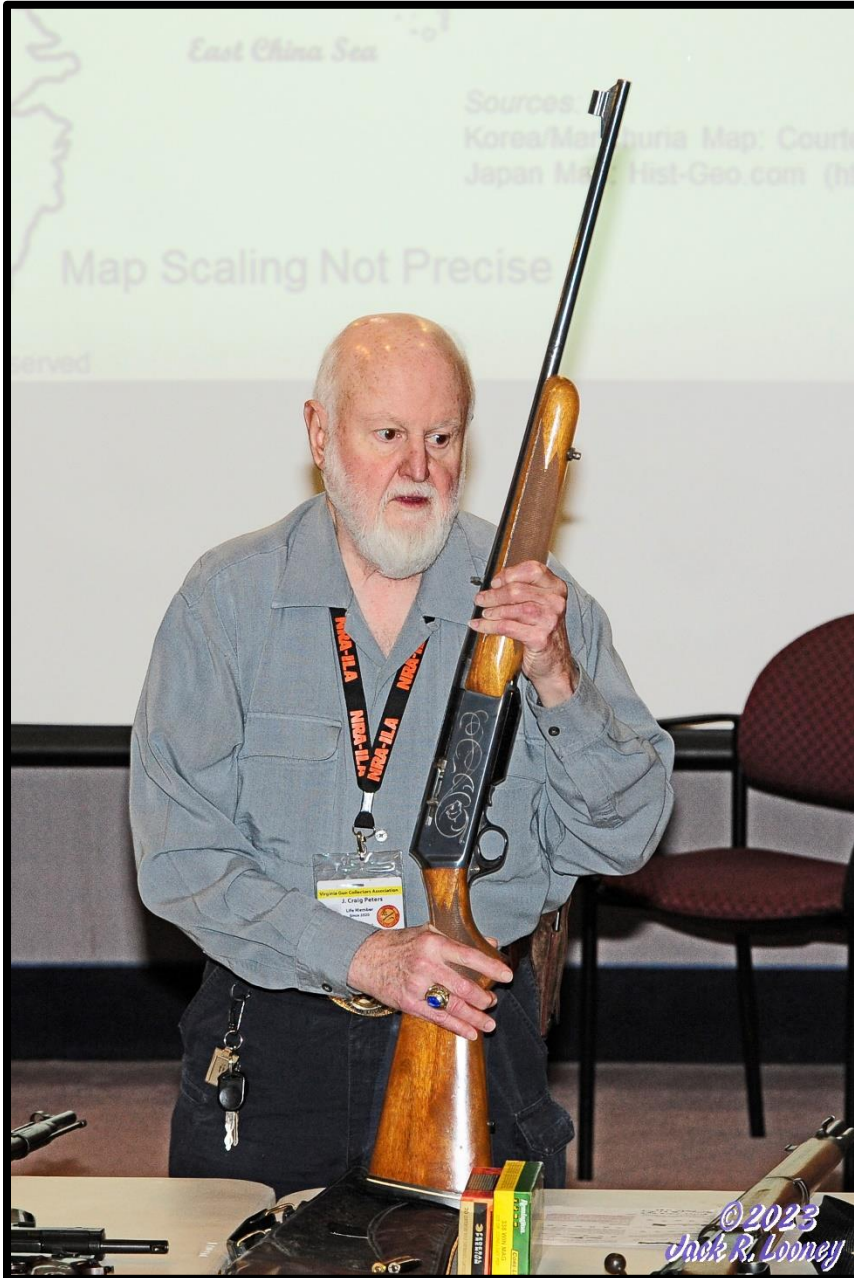


Sharpshooter Jaegers differed from rifle battalion Jaegers in that they were fitted with a Tige breech, which initially featured a spike extending from the face of the breechplug into the chamber. This French design was used to assure that the powder charge would not be crushed, providing more consistent shooting. This feature was later dropped due to cleaning issues and breakage.

The instructions for the Jäger Battalions clearly stated that unnecessary fights should be avoided. The Jägers were not supposed to do the job of the line infantry.

During the American Civil War, 6,249 Jägerstutzens were purchased by the North. Jaegers were not originally issued with ramrod channels under the barrels, as Austrian riflemen carried their ramrods separately in a hanger. The US Civil War imports were provided with ramrod channels by the importers and are known as “Export Models”. The .548 bore was not a standard U.S. caliber and accuracy suffered when used with the wrong diameter bullets (standard U.S. .54 caliber bullets measured .535 to .540). Many of those imported were later bored out to .58 caliber.

Member 4 purchased this beautiful example, which was made in 1854, in December 2022.



Member 5 (left) brought in a semi-automatic Browning BAR (not to be confused with the U.S. military's M1918 Browning Automatic Rifle, though it shares the same acronym). This Browning BAR was designed as a civilian hunting rifle and was built in many different variations and calibers over the years. From 1967 to 1977, the BAR was made in Belgium. After 1977, the parts were made in Belgium and the rifles were assembled in Portugal. The BAR has a good reputation for reliability and accuracy and continues to be made and sold today.

This example is a very nice Grade 2 chambered in .338 Winchester Magnum. It is one of the Belgian-made guns (noted for their beautiful finish) in 1971 and has a folding rear sight, which was discontinued in 1980.

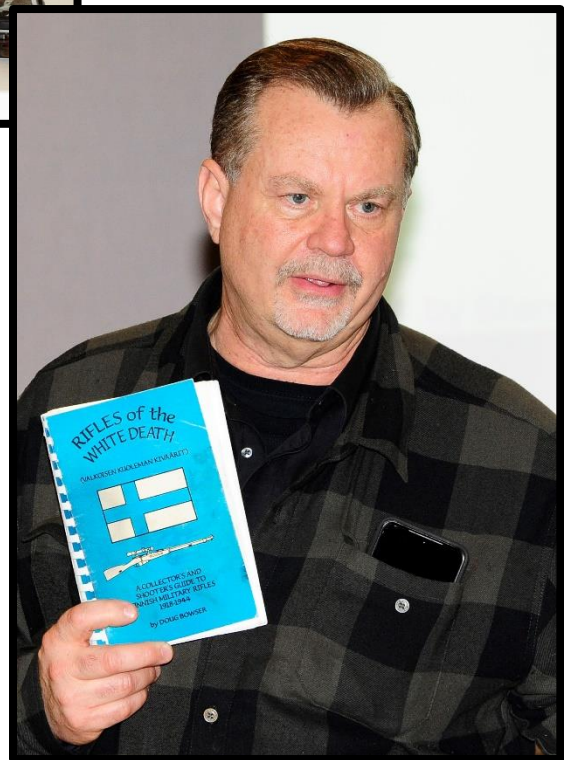


Member 6 (*left*) collects Swedish and Finnish guns and brought in three rare rifles, all sniper variants of the Mosin-Nagant and chambered 7.62x54r.

The first two were Soviet Russian PEM snipers from the 1930s. These trifles were employed against the Finns (probably during the Winter War of 1939-1940), captured by the Finns, and subsequently used against the Russians during the Continuation War (1941-1944).

The third sniper presented was by far the rarest – a Model 39/43. Based on examples of the Finnish Model 39 hand-picked for their accuracy, the privately made M39/43 mounted a German “Ajax” scope. There are probably less than 40 examples of the M39/43 in the United States, with one selling recently for over \$12,000!

Member 6 also brought in a copy of “Rifles of the white death: A Collector's and Shooter's Guide to Finnish Military Rifles, 1918-1944” by Doug Bowser (*right*). Though long out-of-print, this is an excellent reference book on the topic if you can a copy!





Member 7 shared an Italian Beretta Model 1915/17 pistol (*above*). Based on an improved Model 1915, the design was finalized in July 1917 and was officially adopted in September 1917. This was the first Beretta-designed handgun to be adopted by the Italian military - it would be the first of many!

Chambered in 7.65mm (.32 ACP), the Model 1915/17 is hammer-fired but features an internal hammer, similar to the Colt Model 1903 pistol. It has a hammer-block safety and was produced for both military and civilian sales until approximately 1927. It would serve in the Italian military through the end of WWII.

The Model 1915/17 was later replaced by the Models 1919, 1932, 1934, and 1935. Pistols with an Italian military provenance will have an acceptance mark on the rear of the frame. This example is one that was procured for the military.

Member 8 (*right*) brought in a couple of P38 pistols from his collection to share with the membership. The P38 was a double-action/single action pistol in 9mm Parabellum that replaced the Luger P08 as the standard German sidearm of the Wehrmacht.

The first example was produced by Walther in 1944 (code “ac 44”). Typical of late war production except for one distinguishing factor – the frame, though blued, is actually purple in color!  
EDITOR’S NOTE: I have read that “purple” bluing is caused either by too high a temperature of the bluing solution or an old bluing solution from which too much water has been boiled off.



The second P38 is stamped “svw 46”. The factory code “svw” was assigned to the Mauser factory during WWII. Mauser was one of three companies contracted to make P38 pistols for the German military. The Mauser factory was located in the French Occupation Zone of Germany after the war and the P38 was quickly put back into production to make pistols for the French Army. At first, the pistols were assembled from parts on hand, but by early 1946 (when this example was made) parts were produced new and no longer had waffenampts (German inspection stamps) on them. Total produced in 1946 is unknown, with estimates running from 500 to 2,500. This example does not have any import marks.

Interarms imported a batch of the French-produced P38s in the early 1980s. Marketed as the “Grey Ghosts”, these pistols had a parkerized finish and sheet metal grip panels.



## ★ 2023 Presentation List ★

| MEETING DATE | TOPIC  | PRESENTER           |
|--------------|--|---------------------|
| 23 Feb 2023  | Browning Hi-Power                              | Carlos Davila       |
|              | No meeting in March due to our Spring Gun Show |                     |
| 27 Apr 2023  | History of the AR                              | Bernie Breighner    |
| 25 May 2023  | Guns of the Fenians                            | Ken Smith-Christmas |
| 22 Jun 2022  | TBD  | TBD                 |

We are finalizing the presentation schedule for 2023 and still have two open months (June and September). If you have any suggestions – or would like to make a presentation yourself – please contact one of the VGCA officers or directors.

## ★ 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.

### VIRGINIA – 2023

- Mar 11-12, 2023 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fredericksburg Expo & Conference Center – *SGK*
- Mar 11-12, 2023 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center – *C&E Gun Shows*
- ~~Mar 18-19, 2023 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK* - CANCELLED~~
- Mar 25-26, 2023 – Manassas, VA – Prince William County Fairgrounds – *VGCA*
- Mar 25-26, 2023 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex – *Showmasters*
- Apr 1-2, 2023 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK*
- Apr 1-2, 2023 – Fishersville, VA – Augusta Expo – *Showmasters*
- Apr 21-23, 2023 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- May 6-7, 2023 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fredericksburg Expo & Conference Center – *SGK*

### MARYLAND – 2023

- Mar 18-19, 2023 - Timonium, MD – Maryland State Fairgrounds – *Maryland Arms Collectors Association*
- Mar 25-26, 2023 – Crownsville, MD – Anne Arundel Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*
- Apr 1-2, 2023 – Frederick, MD – Frederick Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*
- Apr 8, 2023 – Parkville, MD – Baltimore County Game & Fish - *Baltimore County Game & Fish Protective Association*
- Apr 15-16, 2023 – Timonium, MD – Maryland State Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*
- May 6-7, 2023 – Easton, MD - Easton Volunteer Fire Department – *Granite Lodge #177*

### PENNSYLVANIA – 2023

- Feb 25-26, 2023 – Allentown, PA – ParkView Inn & Conference Center - *Eagle Shows*
- Feb 25-26, 2023 – Ellwood City, PA – Wurtemberg-Perry Fire Hall – *W&P Twp Fire*
- Feb 25-26, 2023 – Kutztown, PA – Kutztown Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*



- Mar 4, 2023 – Kittanning, PA – Pony Farm Trap & Gun Club - *Pony Farm Trap & Gun Club*
- Mar 4, 2023 – Wampum, PA – Chewton VFW Hall – *Kerry Carlo*

### PENNSYLVANIA – 2023 (continued)

- Mar 4-5, 2023 – Wind Gap, PA – Plainfield Township Fire Co. – *Jaeger Arms*
- Mar 4-5, 2023 – York, PA – York Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*
- Mar 11-12, 2023 - Morgantown, PA – Morgantown Expo Center – *Eagle Shows*
- Mar 11-12, 2023 – Quarryville, PA – Solanco Fairgrounds – *Southern Lancaster County Farmer-Sportsman Association*
- Mar 11-12, 2023 – East Berlin, PA – East Berlin Fish & Game – *East Berlin Fish & Game*
- Mar 12, 2023 – Portland, PA – William Pensyl Social Hall – *Portland Hook & Ladder Co. #1*
- Mar 17-18, 2023 – Shippenville, PA – Oak Grove Events Building – *Allegheny Log Homes*
- Mar 18, 2023 – Tunkhannock, PA – Shadowbrook Inn & Resort – *J&B Hunting Fishing Fleamarket*
- Mar 18-19, 2023 – East Stroudsburg, PA – VFW Post #2540 – *Jaeger Arms*
- Mar 18-19, 2023 – Harborcreek, PA – Harborcreek Fire Dept – *L&R Sporting Events*
- Mar 18-19, 2023 – Lake Harmony, PA – Split Rock Resort – *Eagle Shows*
- Mar 18-19, 2023 – Lewis Run, PA – Lewis Run VFD Station 6 – *Lewis Run VFD*
- ~~Mar 18-19, 2023 – Muncy, PA – Lycoming Mall – *Bear Arms Promotions* - CANCELLED~~
- Mar 25, 2023 – Wampum, PA – Possum Hollow Sportsman’s Club – *Possum Hollow S Club*
- Mar 25-26, 2023 – Allentown, PA – ParkView Inn & Conference Center - *Eagle Shows*
- Mar 25-26, 2023 – Gettysburg, PA – Redding Auction – *Central PA Antique Arms Association*
- Mar 25-26, 2023 – Harrisburg, PA – PA Farm Show Complex – *C&E*
- Mar 25-26, 2023 – Lander, PA – Lander Volunteer Fire Department. – *Lander Fire Dept*
- Mar 25-26, 2023 – West Middlesex, PA – Hidden Valley Sportsmen’s Club – *Hidden Valley Sportsmen’s Club*
- Mar 31-Apr 2, 2023 – Oaks, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Arms*
- Apr 1-2, 2023 – Hermitage, PA – VFW – *Canon’s Gun Room*
- Apr 8, 2023 – Harborcreek, PA – 8865 Donlin Road - *Gem City Gun Club*
- Apr 15-16, 2023 – Kempton, PA – Kempton Community Center – *Jaeger Arms*
- Apr 15-16, 2023 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center – *Showmasters*
- Apr 15-16, 2023 – Slatington, PA – Slatington Marketplace – *Eagle Shows*
- Apr 15-16, 2023 – Washington, PA – Washington PA County Fairgrounds – *ARH Sport Shop*
- Apr 22-23, 2023 – Allentown, PA – ParkView Inn & Conference Center - *Eagle Shows*
- Apr 29-30, 2023 – Bloomsburg, PA – Bloomsburg Fairgrounds – *Eagle Shows*
- May 7-8, 2023 – Morgantown, PA – Morgantown Expo Center – *Eagle Shows*
- May 12, 2023 – Portland, PA – William Pensyl Social Hall – *Portland Hook & Ladder Co. #1*
- May 12-14, 2023 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds – *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*
- May 20-21, 2023 – Tobyhanna, PA – VFW Post 3448 – *Jaeger Arms*

### SPECIAL EVENTS / SHOWS – 2023

- Feb 22-26, 2023 – Louisville, KY – Kentucky Exposition Center – *Ohio Valley Military Society – “Show of Shows”*
- Mar 5, 2023 – New Castle, DE – Nur Shrine Center – *DE Antiques Arms Collectors Assoc. Inc.*
- Mar 25-26, 2023 - Wilmington, OH – Roberts Convention Centre – *Ohio Gun Collectors Association*
- Apr 1-2, 2023 – Tulsa, OK – Tulsa Fairgrounds – *Tulsa Arms Collector Association – World’s Largest Gun Show (over 4200 tables)*

## SPECIAL EVENTS / SHOWS – 2023 (continued)

- **Apr 29-30, 2023 – Medina, OH – Medina County Community Center – *Ohio Gun Collectors Association***
  - **May 7, 2023 – New Castle, DE – Nur Shrine Center – *DE Antiques Arms Collectors Assoc. Inc.***
  - **May 20-21, 2023 - Wilmington, OH – Roberts Convention Centre – *Ohio Gun Collectors Association - Annual Display Show – Special Guests: High Standard Collectors Association***
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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 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](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. Unless other arrangements are made, items will be listed for one issue of the Newsletter.

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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:

★ 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.

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### FOR SALE:

★ VGCA member Larry Babcock recently 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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**FOR SALE:**

- ✪ U.S. Aviator Survival Vest HMX-1. \$85.00



- ✪ U.S. 1942-dated backpack/rucksack with 1944-dated pick/mattox. \$295.00



- ✪ U.S. WWII M1A2 Gas Mask with original bag. Mask dated 02-1944. \$45.00



- ✪ **Hornady .450 Nitro Express Ammo.** 3 ¼" 450 grain DGX, 20 round box, very limited production. \$125.00

- ✪ **Cold Steel Sanburu Spear.** Three sections – head/blade, shoe/butt spike, and double taper hardwood handle. \$65.00

Prices firm. Contact Jack for details at [looney.house@verizon.net](mailto:looney.house@verizon.net)



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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

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