



# VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

## WWW.VGCA.NET

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

NRA Affiliate Number G8162  
CMP Affiliate Number 026160



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

Rob Becker  
Andrew Woodard  
George Dungan

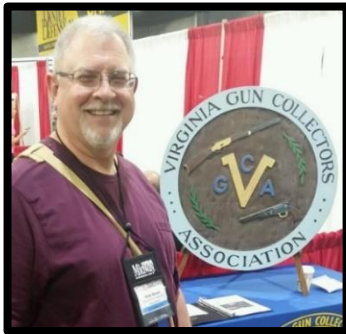
Phone: 703-441-1211  
Cell: 301-613-5718  
Phone: 571-243-6387

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

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

Twitter: @VAGunCollectrs  
Instagram: @vaguncollectors

## February 2025 VGCA Newsletter



### PRESIDENT'S NOTES

It is hard to believe that as I write we are almost seven weeks into 2025 – and the spring calendar for us collectors is rapidly filling up.

It starts with our next membership meeting on Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, when VGCA Vice President George Dungan will give a presentation on Winchester's classic Model 94. I hope to see you

there – but if you can't make it in person, please plan to participate via webinar!

March means The Baltimore Antique Arms Show on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, our membership meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup>, and Jim Burgess' guided tour of the Manassas Battlefields on the 29<sup>th</sup>. April is just as busy with our Spring Gun Show on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> and the National Rifle Association Annual Meetings in Atlanta, Georgia on the 24<sup>th</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>. Remember, due to our Spring Gun Show, there is no membership meeting in April.

We still need presenters for some of our membership meetings. If you are interested in sharing some knowledge on a particular firearm or firearm-related topic, please contact Matthew G. or any of the other VGCA officers or directors.

On a personal note, I am looking for a replacement as newsletter editor. If you have any interest in this area – or even taking over a feature of newsletter like summarizing the presentation or writing up Show-n-Tell items – please let me know.

Best of Luck in Your Collecting Endeavors this spring! Cheers!

***Rob Becker, VGCA President***

# ★ January Presentation: The Winchester Winder Musket

Our January presentation was by VGCA President Rob Becker, who explained that the origins of this presentation goes back over three decades to a missed opportunity at a gun show. In the early 1990s, while stationed in Oklahoma, Rob saw a beautiful Winchester single shot rifle labeled a “Winder Musket” for \$500 at an Oklahoma State Fairgrounds gun show. Though he enjoyed shooting single shots and already owned a few, five “Benjamins” was significantly more than he had ever spent on a gun before and he passed it by. He almost immediately regretted this decision and looked for it at subsequent shows, but never saw that rifle again. He constantly thought about that missed opportunity and the hole in his collection and finally, just a few months ago, found another example in nice condition and at the right price (but still over three-times the amount of that first one!).

What is a Winder Musket? Its origins date to the turn of the twentieth century. Though victorious in the recently concluded Spanish-American War, U.S. army marksmanship and naval gunnery left something to be desired, as was noted with some concern in after action reports. An increasing percentage of the American population (approaching 50%) now lived in urban vice rural environments and as a result, had a corresponding decreasing exposure to firearms and the need to rely on shooting ability to put food on the table. During any large-scale mobilizations for future wars, new recruits would have to be taught how to shoot from a more basic level than ever before. The conclusion was that civilians would need to be trained before they were drafted. In response, Congress authorized the Civilian Marksmanship Program in 1903, followed by the Department of Civilian Marksmanship in 1916. The U.S. Army established Camp Perry and its associated ranges in 1907. Marksman was one of the first 14 Badges of Merit offered by the Boy Scouts of America in 1910. There was the need for a standard training rifle.

Enter Charles Blish Winder, Jr., an officer in the Ohio National Guard (*at right*). Ultimately retiring as a colonel, Winder was a competitive shooter and life-long advocate for marksmanship training. He won the Leech Cup for long range marksmanship in 1903 and won a gold medal in the 1908 Olympics in the “Team Military Rifle” event. In 1904, Winder started developing a “service weight” .22 caliber rifle for use in marksmanship training.



The rifle that would ultimately bear his name was based on the John Browning-designed Winchester Model 1885

single-shot falling block rifle and had the following design characteristics:

- Model 1885 “High Wall” action - for its strength and ruggedness
- Large shank 28-inch round barrel - for enhanced accuracy
- “Plain” (non-set) trigger - for simplicity and durability
- Chambered in .22 rimfire - for its low cost and low recoil
- Full length forearm retained by barrel band(s) - similar to the standard Army service rifle
- Sling swivels designed for 1 ¼” M1907 leather sling - used to enhance steadiness

Collectors recognize three main variations.

Variation 1 was produced from October 1904 until December 1911, with a total of approximately 9302 produced. These Model 1885 “High Wall” rifles had a 28-inch barrel chambered in .22 rimfire. From a database of currently documented examples, the breakdown in caliber is .22 Long Rifle (95.4%), .22 Long (4%), and .22 Short (0.6%). Distinguishing features include two barrel bands retained by springs, a cleaning rod under the barrel, and one of two types of rear sight mounted several inches in front of the receiver. See each example below:

## Winder Musket – Variation 1



With Buffington Hotchkiss rear sight (above) and Krag-Jorgensen Model 1901 rear sight (below)



A series of changes resulted in what has become known as the Variation 2. Approximately 6539 were produced from December 1911 through December 1917. The changes include a reduction to a single barrel band retained by a spring, elimination of the cleaning rod, the addition of a finger groove in the forearm, and moving the Krag-Jorgensen Model 1901 rear sight to immediately in front of the receiver. Caliber distribution is .22 Long Rifle (75.4%) and .22 Short (24.6%) – no examples of Variation 2 have been observed in .22 Long. A photo of a Variation 2 is shown below.

## Winder Musket – Variation 2



The most produced model of the Winder Musket was the Variation 3, the vast majority of which were produced for the U.S. Army for use during World War I. Production started in January 1918 and of the

approximately 12,735 produced, with about 11,300 were delivered to the U.S. Army at the Springfield Armory. At Springfield, these rifles were stamped with “US” and an flaming ordnance bomb behind the hammer and then delivered to Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) units and National Guard armories. Variation 3 rifles retained the “High Wall” receiver with its larger diameter barrel shank, but it was cut down to a “Low Wall” profile. This is believed to be an Army requirement meant to make it easier to load the .22 Short cartridge, as 99.92% of the U.S. marked Winder Muskets were chambered in that caliber (the remaining 0.08% were in .22 Long Rifle). In addition, the barrel band spring was replaced by a screw.

## Winder Musket – Variation 3



Other than the receiver profile, the most significant change with the Variation 3 is the receiver-mounted Lyman No. 53 peep sight. Collectors should note that the Variation 3 barrels are NOT drilled and tapped for a barrel-mounted rear sight. After WWI ended in November 1918, the remaining Army contracts were cancelled. This variation would remain the primary training rifle for ROTC and guard units until 1923, when they would be replaced by the Springfield Model 1922, itself based on the Model 1903 service rifle. Surplus Winder Muskets were then sold to the public via the Department of Civilian Marksmanship.

Winchester would continue to make the Winder Musket in small numbers until 1923, assembling a few hundred from parts on hand. These non-U.S. military contract rifles would be listed as the Model 87 in Winchester catalogs and while, like the military contract rifles, the majority were chambered in .22 Short (81.2%), a number of .22 Long Rifle (17.2%) and .22 Long (1.6%) have been documented.

There was a total of four Winder Muskets brought in by VGCA members for this meeting. All were Variation 3s, with three of them “US” marked. Rob’s personal Winder Musket was not martially marked, and he speculates that it is among those assembled post-WWI as the barrel band is retained by both a spring and a screw. A possible explanation for this is that the available parts included a wood stock cut for the barrel band spring, but the only available barrel band was one made for the cross screw.

Rob listed several sources for the information in his presentation, but the most comprehensive was the article ***The Model 1885 Winder Musket*** by Bert Hartman published on [surplused.com](http://surplused.com). The photos of the different variations shown in his presentation and copied above are from Mr. Hartman’s article.





# ★ January Meeting Notes

The meeting was called to order by VGCA President Rob Becker at 7:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mike Hardesty and a moment of silence. Guests and new members introduced themselves. There were 61 members and guests in attendance, with 3 more participating via webinar.



We began with a presentation by Trigger Time 4H shooting team (*above*) on their activities during 2024. They presented a series of slides depicting their activities each month during the year. They have won a series of individual and team local, regional, and national honors that reflect highly on their 75 members and coaches. VGCA has proudly provided financial support to Trigger Time’s activities over the years.

The result of the voting for the 2024 VGCA Member of the Year was revealed to be ... Carl Warhurst (*at far right*)! He received an award certificate and a \$100.00 gift certificate redeemable at our next gun show. Carl was honored for providing the ice for our social hour drinks for over two decades, and for volunteering for security at our gun shows. Congratulations - and thank you, sir!



Annual VGCA members were reminded that their renewals are due. See Bruce Buchner (Membership Chairman George Dungan was out of town) if you need to renew.

Show Director Andrew Woodard provided an update on our Spring Gun Show, noting that there are 30 tables available for rent.

We still have openings in our presentation schedule. If you are interested in giving a presentation at a future membership meeting (one of our future vacancies is shown on page 8 of this newsletter), please contact VGCA Director Matthew G.

Rob Becker noted that our three Director positions will be up for election in May. It is not too early to think about running for office. If you are interested, contact one of our current officers or directors.

We continue to look for someone to take over as newsletter editor. Rob Becker has been doing it for almost 8 ½ years and is asking for some relief. Please let him know if you have any questions about this rewarding job!

Member (and National Park Service Ranger) Jim Burgess has graciously offered to lead a tour of Manassas Battlefields on Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. See details on page 8 of this newsletter.

Director Troy Blackwood gave a short update on the status of our Social Media presence.

And finally, Rob gave a quick “State of the Association” update. His slide on how well we met (or didn’t meet) our 2024 organizational goals is shown below.

## VGCA Goals for 2024



- Grow Membership by ~7% per Year**
  - 2024 – 535 Total Members ●
  - Actual number of members 538
- Conduct two VGCA-Sponsored Tours per Year (one local and one out -of-state)** ●
  - 01 Nov 2024 – Institute of Military Technology
  - 16 Nov 2024 – National Museum of the Marine Corps
- Expand Social Media Presence** ● ↑
  - Facebook / Instagram / Reddit
- Maintain Up-to-date and Relevant Web Site**
  - Post newsletters within a month of publication ●
  - Post next three Membership Meeting dates and scheduled presentations ●
  - Post Tour information ●
- Increase Attendance at Membership Meetings**
  - 2024 – Average 75+ in person for remainder of the year, 10+ on Webinar ●
  - Actual Average for Aug, Sep, and Oct Meetings – 53 in person + 8 on Webinar
- Execute two Gun Shows per Year**
  - Increase show attendance to 850+ in October ●
  - Actual attendance was 574 (a significant drop from Fall 2023 show)



★ **Next Membership Meeting: February 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**Presentation: “Winchester Model 94” by George Dungan**  
**Location: NRA HQ Basement Auditorium**

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

**Congratulations to the “Iceman”!**

2024 VGCA Member  
of the Year

**Carl Warhurst**



**Reminder – Elections for the Three  
VGCA Director Positions  
will be held in May**

Please contact one of our current officers or directors if you are interested in running for office or have any questions.

# ★ 2025 Presentation & Event List ★

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

If you have any presentation suggestions – or would like to make a presentation yourself in 2025 – please contact Matthew G. at or one of the VGCA officers or directors.



## Did you know...

That the Model 1885 single shot falling block rifle was the first patented design that John Moses Browning sold to Winchester? This was in 1883, and he would sell many more patents to Winchester over the next 19 years.



## ★ First Field Trip of the New Year

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





# ★ We need your help!

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



## HAMPTON ROADS MILITARY SOCIETY

The Hampton Roads Militaria Society (HRMS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to assist collectors and historians in the collection & preservation of militaria of all sorts and periods, preserve and honor our military past, and honor the veterans of all our conflicts. They generally meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, but this can vary. The HRMS is a sister organization to the VGCA and VGCA members are welcome to participate as guests in their meetings and tours. Upcoming meetings (at Rescue Squad No. 8 at 1243 Bayne Drive in VA Beach) are:

- 11 Feb 2025** “The Counterinsurgency Course at Oberammergau” by Nelson Voke
- 11 Mar 2025** “Enfield Update” by Paul Bracy
- 08 Apr 2025** “Small Mortars” by Doug McDougal
- 13 May 2025** “Navy China and Silver” by Eric Hinckley
- 10 Jun 2025** “The Lafayette Escadrille (U.S. Army Air Corps in WWI)” by Mark Hesse
- 08 Jul 2025** “The Army Inspector General” by Nelson Voke (served as an IG for a time during his career)
- 12 Aug 2025** **Topic TBD** by Chris Galosi



# VGCA GUNS OF DISTINCTION: HEINRICH BARELLA SHOTGUN

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



The word opulent doesn't begin to describe the ornate luxurious decoration bestowed on this 16-gauge side by side shotgun by one of the most exclusive European gun makers of his time, Heinrich Barella.



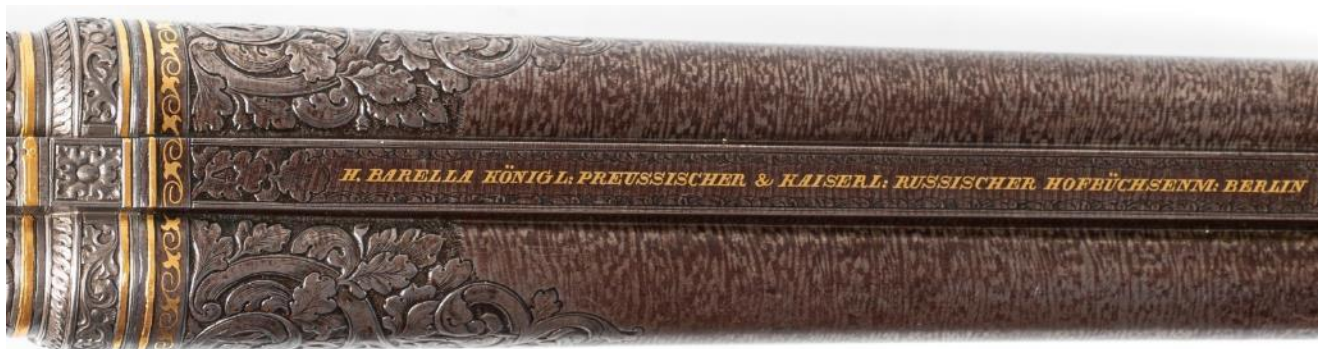
Heinrich Friedrich Wilhelm Barella was born in Soest, North Rhine - Westphalia on Jan. 3, 1819. His grandfather had immigrated to Germany in 1760 from Milan, Italy, where the family was well connected, educated and well to do, and married a local woman. Young Heinrich developed an interest in technology and mechanics and when he was in his late teens he

entered the Royal Foundry in Magdeburg, Saxony where he served a four-year apprenticeship. By the age of 24 he had attained the rank of "Master Gunsmith" and the following year, 1844, he opened his first gun shop in Magdeburg "H. Barella Gewehrfabrik." About 1860 Heinrich was recognized by the Royal Prussian court for the high quality of his products and opened a second shop in Berlin on Laubenstrasse 9. He eventually closed his original Magdeburg shop and moved to Berlin permanently. He changed locations in Berlin several times and finally moved his shop to Mohrenstrasse 61 to be close to the Royal Court. In the early 1860's he developed a "quick loading" conversion of muzzle loaders to breech loaders using a combustible paper cartridge. He also made pin fire guns and by 1868 had embraced self-contained metallic cartridges. He also developed a break action (kipplauf) gun with an underlever and single bite lock up.



In the mid-1860's Barella was made gunmaker to the Prussian Royal Court, and in 1871, after German unification, he was made gunmaker to the Imperial Court in Berlin. By this time, he was

marking his products with variations of “*H. Barella, Königl. Hofbüchsenmacher*” indicating that he was a gunmaker to the royal court. He was reported to have also had the Kings of Italy and Romania, as well as the Tsar of Russia, as royal customers. Barella did not have any children, but his great-nephew Matthew took over the business when Heinrich died in 1893. The business operated until 1931, when it folded like so many small German gunmakers because of the depression. The well-known German gunmaker, Heinrich Lieou was an apprentice to Heinrich Barilla.



This heavily decorated Heinrich Barella 16-gauge side by side shotgun has 30.7 inch (78 cm) long barrels of browned twist Damascus steel with Belgian proof marks. It has a flat rib between the barrels with an inlaid gold inscription "*H. Barella Königl: Preussischer & Kaiserl: Russischer Hofbüchsenm: Berlin*" indicating that Barella was gunmaker to the royal Prussian and Russian courts. The barrels are decorated with inlaid gold cords and borders at the muzzle and breech. The bright rounded action has deep full-coverage broad scroll and oak leaf floral engraving and chiseled scenes of a gundog with a bird on the left side, a pair of roe deer on the right, rocaille designs on the action bottom, and a fox's head on the tang. The under-break lever (below the triggerguard) is relief engraved with a floral scroll design. Except for the Damascus pattern on the barrels there is not a metal part that is not covered with engraved decoration.



The walnut stock is richly carved, including the forearm which has a carved coat of arms with crest and helmet. Embedded in the forearm is a silver medallion with the initials “AK” under a baronial crown. The forearm has a lever fastener. The entire buttstock has deep relief carvings of leaf arabesques and blossoms, on the right side is a rocaille and on the left side, behind the sloping smooth cheekpiece is an intricately carved wood scene of red deer. The gun has an elaborate carved horn finger rest and the bright steel butt plate has floral engraving and a trap for two spare cartridges. The trap cover is decorated with an engraved red deer buck.

This shotgun was most probably made in 1877 (that date is engraved on the bottom of the buttplate) and has a technically interesting design. It is a break action design that is locked by a longitudinal movable bolt controlled by the underlever. The firing pins, which have to be cocked individually and manually, are arranged in-line with coil springs and have short cocking travel. There is a cocking indicator and a double trigger with a set trigger in the front blade.





When this shotgun was sold at auction in November 2020 by Joh. Springer in Vienna, Austria for about \$10,000. However, Barella firearms have gone for as high as \$40,000.



**Our Instagram account  
@vaguncollectors  
gained its 500th follower on 15 Feb 2025!  
Follow us for a regular dose of interesting gun-related content!**



**Remember – our May Membership Meeting  
will be on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>**

In effort to boost attendance at our membership meetings, we made it a goal to have at least one meeting on a Saturday this year. This should benefit our members who are still in the ranks of the employed and find it difficult to participate during the work week as well as give attendees the opportunity to tour the National Firearms Museum or shoot at the NRA Range beforehand. Start time will be 2pm for social hour, with the meeting starting at 3pm.



# ★ Membership Chairman's Report – Feb 2025

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

- **Nick Demchesen** of **Newport News** sponsored by **Rhys Franklin**
- **Robert Frost** of **Woodbridge** sponsored by **Keith Simmons**
- **Charles Humphries** of **Arlington** sponsored by **Membership Table**
- **Minh Vu** of **Sterling** sponsored by **Bruce Buchner**
- **Albert Wille** of **Pittsburgh** sponsored by **Membership Table**

Please welcome the following new members to our organization:

- **David Kaplan** of **Front Royal**
- **Gary O'Neilin** of **Springfield**
- **Stephen Pratel** of **Alexandria**
- **Kenneth Lan** of **Fairfax**
- **Ethan Dahlby** of **Aldie**

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

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

**Membership Numbers:** There are currently 444 Life members and 101 Annual Members for a total of 545 members in the Virginia Gun Collectors Association, Inc.

**Recruiting:** Thank you to everyone who has worked our membership tables in the past and those of you who have signed up new members. Your efforts bring more knowledge to our organization through the new members who have an interest in gun collecting. Membership in the VGCA is a great way for people with an interest in 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 Membership Table at every Chantilly gun show and also at our VGCA gun shows.

**Membership Table at upcoming gun shows:** The next gun shows at the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly is the weekend of April 11th and as always, we will have a VGCA Membership Table there. If you are willing to engage with the general public to spread the word about our organization and sign up potential new members, please contact Bruce Buchner at buchnerb@cox.net.

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

*George Dungan*, Vice President and Membership Chair

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

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

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**Please detach and return with your payment.**  
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**Membership Renewal Request (AMR-2023\_Oct)**  
**VGCA, Inc., P.O. Box 328, Manassas, VA 20108**

Please complete and return this renewal form with your payment. Indicate Annual, Life or that you do not wish to renew your membership by checking the appropriate box below.

Please Print Clearly

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

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

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

- Enclosed is a check for \$30.00 for CY 2024 VGCA Annual Membership dues.
- I wish to upgrade to Life Membership in VGCA. Enclosed is a check for \$150.00.
- Remove my name from the VGCA membership roster.

Make all checks payable to VGCA (Please - NO CASH or Money Orders). If members have questions, please email **George Dungan, Interim Membership Chair** at [george@eccominv.com](mailto:george@eccominv.com) or call me at 571-243-6387.

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# CMP UPDATE

*By Marc Gorelick, CMP Liaison*

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

## CMP RESUMES M1911/M1911A1 PISTOL SALES



The Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) announced on January 28 the resumption of surplus U.S. Army M1911/M1911A1 pistol sales! These historic firearms, cherished for their role in U.S. military history, are once again available to qualified US Citizen customers.

**Pistol Availability:** The CMP currently holds a substantial inventory of a variety of Pistol Grades, many ready to ship to consumers, and expects to fulfill a significant quantity of orders.

**Free Shipping:** Those purchasing a CMP M1911 pistol will receive free shipping and handling (a \$25 value).

**Updated Process:** Given the quantity of on-hand pistols, the CMP reorganized its sales fulfillment structure and the CMP staff is ready to process orders in a timely manner without the

use of the Random Generated Number (RGN) process, as in past M1911 sales. Additional details on fulfillment information and sequencing follows below and on the CMP website at: <https://thecmp.org/sales-and-service/1911-information/>.

**Round Four Orders Fulfilled First:** The CMP will prioritize fulfilling existing orders from Round Four and will honor the pricing of those orders. Starting on January 27, 2025, the CMP M1911 customer service representatives will contact Round Four individuals to confirm order details.

**New Orders Now Accepted:** Effective January 28, the CMP started accepting new applications on a first-come, first-served basis. Again, the CMP does not anticipate having more “rounds” or using RGN numbers as in the past.

**Limitations:** A lifetime limit of two pistols per customer remains in effect. Customers who have not previously purchased a pistol may now submit an order for up to two pistols.

**Upgrades for Round Four Customers:** Existing Round Four applicants making their first purchase may also upgrade their order to include two pistols.

**CMP 1911 PRICING:** All existing Round 4 orders currently in-house will be processed at the previous price. CMP has priced the 1911 type pistols at fair market value in accordance with CMP’s enabling legislation. **NOTE: Of the pistols received from the army, 98% of these pistols are “mix-masters”, this could include the slides and frames. Pistols may contain commercial parts.**

- **Service Grade - \$1300.**
- **Field Grade - \$1200**
- **Rack Grade - \$1100**
- **Range Grade - \$1150**
- **Auction Grade – Price** will to be determined by auctioning the pistol.

To view M1911 Pistol Grades as well as additional info on eligibility requirements, ordering, order forms, and other specifics, please visit the CMP’s website at <https://thecmp.org/sales-and-service/1911-information/>.

The CMP staff is also available to directly answer any questions pertaining to the CMP M1911 Program. Please send inquiries to the following CMP e-mail address: [cmp1911@thecmp.org](mailto:cmp1911@thecmp.org).

CMP 1911 staff will reach out to customers when their order is ready to process. At that time, customers will indicate the pistol grade and quantity with CMP 1911 staff.

The CMP encourages all interested individuals to submit their applications promptly. Don’t miss out on this opportunity to own a piece of history!



## ★ 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: THE NATIONAL NAVY UDT-SEAL MUSEUM

**By Marc Gorelick**

*Photos by the author unless otherwise stated.*



Just a short drive south of Titusville, Florida, where, in October 2024, VGCA members toured Reed Knight’s Institute of Military Technology (see the January 2025 issue of the VGCA Newsletter), is Fort Pierce, home of the National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum. It is appropriate that this museum, which honors American heroes is in Fort Pierce, for the museum sits on the site of the original training facility of the original Navy combat divers of World War 2, the Frogmen. This museum is definitely well worth visiting.



The National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum (also called the Navy SEAL Museum) is the only museum dedicated solely to preserving the history and heritage of the Navy SEALs and their predecessors, the Frogmen and Underwater Demolition Teams (UDT) of World War 2, as well as the lesser known Amphibious Scouts and Raiders, Naval Combat Demolition Units (NCUDUs), Special Services Unit One, and other special warfare units. The Navy SEAL Museum is home to one of the most unusual collections of artifacts, weapons, equipment and exhibits of any museum. Its comprehensive collection is a window into the fascinating secret world of Naval Special Warfare, its history, development and accomplishments.

The museum actually starts on the outside before you enter the building. Surrounding the building are numerous boats and vehicles used by SEALs, as well as other exhibits and memorials. These include the

original training obstacles dating from the founding of the joint Army and Navy Amphibious Scout and Raider School in 1942. The school that operated on the museum grounds trained combat divers to locate obstacles, map lines of attack, disarm mines, and demolish natural and man-made beach blockages. The obstacles were used to give trainees an idea of what they would encounter in France, Italy, North Africa and the Pacific. The men who trained using these obstacles were involved in amphibious assaults from North Africa to Normandy, Southeast Asia (Burma) and the Pacific. Inside the building is an entire section devoted to the history of the World War 2 predecessor units.



On the grounds surrounding the main museum building are numerous small combat craft used by the SEALs. These include several small combat craft that the SEALs used during the Vietnam War, such as Patrol Boat Riverine, or “PBRs”, that provided SEALs the capability to operate in the shallow canals and rivers of Vietnam during their earliest deployments. They served as insertion and extraction platforms

and provided fire support. PBRs were replaced with boats specifically designed for SEAL operations. These were the Light SEAL Support Craft (LSSC) and Medium SEAL Support Craft (MSSC).

Also on the grounds are four different SEAL Delivery Vehicles (SDV) (or Manned Combatant Submersibles for Maritime Special Operations). Three of the SDVs are small free-flooding submersibles that can transport up to six combat-equipped SEALs. Free-flooding means that the SEALs are surrounded by sea water during the entire mission, where they breathe compressed air from the SDV’s internal life-support system or from tactical underwater breathing apparatus. These SDVs on display span the contemporary developmental period: Mk 8, Mod 0, Mk 9, Mod 0, and Mk 7, Mod 6. The fourth vehicle, called the Button, is a 31-foot-long dry submersible with a lock-out chamber.



*Mark V Special Operations Craft (SOC). Photo – US Navy UDT-Seal Museum.*

One of the coolest boats on display is a Mark V Special Operations Craft (SOC). You can climb a staircase into it. This is an 82-foot long, 52-plus ton, fast (50 knots) boat operated by Special Boat Teams that was used as a medium range insertion and extraction platform for special operations forces and sometimes for coastal patrol and reconnaissance. It could carry four Combat Rubber Raiding Craft, which could be launched from the stern ramp and could also launch and recover SEAL Delivery Vehicles and unmanned aerial vehicles. The MK V SOC accommodated five crew members and sixteen fully equipped SEALs in specially designed seats that could be used in either a sitting or standing position. The boat has five mounts for weapons systems, including single or twin mount M2 .50 caliber machine

guns, M240 7.62mm belt-fed machine guns, MK19/MK47 40mm grenade launchers, M134 7.62mm miniguns, a MK88 chain gun and MK48 25mm guns. In addition, FIM-92 Stinger missiles were also carried. The Mark V at the museum is one of 20 boats built. The boat and its truck/trailer could be driven directly onto a C5 transport plane for delivery to operations anywhere in the world. This boat was brought into service in August 1996 and took part in multiple operations in more than 25 countries before being decommissioned and donated to the museum.



*Interior of the Mark V Special Operations Craft.*

Inside, the Navy SEAL Museum is full of informative and impressive displays, many of which are interactive, as well as eye opening. Many of the pieces of equipment have interesting histories, which are explained in the signage. One of the first displays is a large interactive scale model of Osama bin Laden’s Abbottabad compound. The model, donated to the museum by 60 Minutes, depicts the compound known to locals in Abbottabad as the “Waziristan Haveli” at the time of the SEAL Team 6 raid. “Haveli” means “mansion” in Pashtun. Bin Laden is believed to have moved in around January 2006 and was killed by SEALs on May 2, 2011.



Also on display is a Sikorsky UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter that was flown by 160<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Aviation Regiment (SOAR) “Night Stalkers.” This helicopter flew on missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Columbia, Poland, Okinawa, and the Horn of Africa, and was shot down three times during its service life. On January 25, 2012, a Navy SEAL team raided a compound 12 miles north of the Somali town of Adow, killing nine Somali pirates and freeing their hostages, U.S. citizen Jessica Buchanan and Danish citizen Poul Hagen Thisted. The Black

Hawk on display (*see photo*) was part of the operation and flew the two freed hostages out to safety.

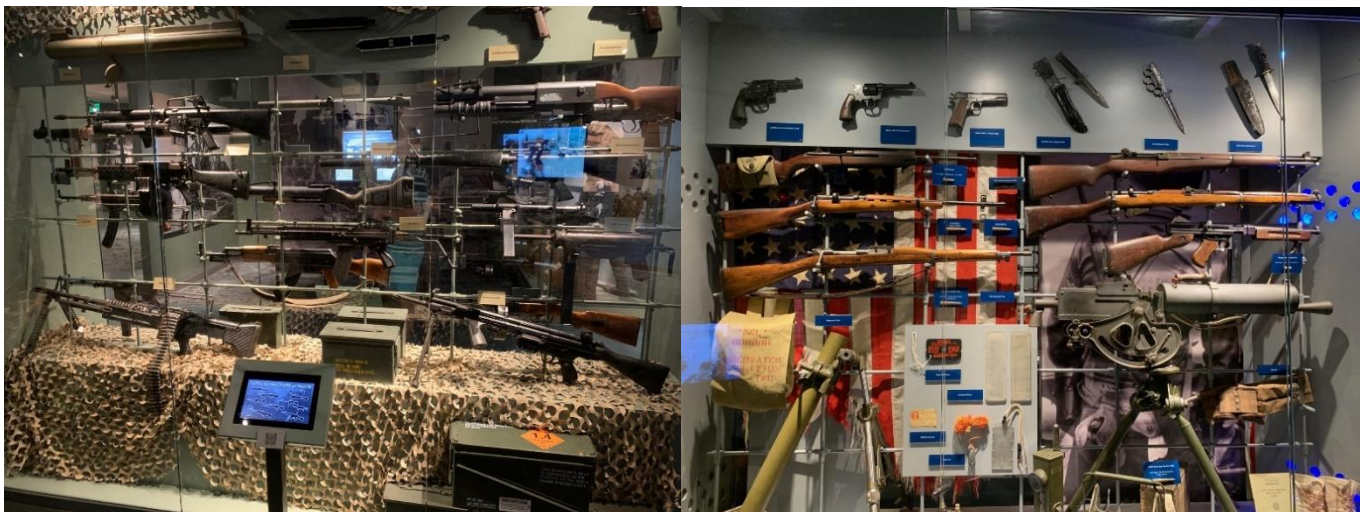
Many of the displays and exhibits reveal little known facts about the SEALs. Much of the equipment on display is eye opening. An example is the *Maersk Alabama* lifeboat and a Mk 11 Mod 0 sniper rifle from SEAL’s rescue of Captain Richard Phillips. This rifle is a SR-25 made by Knight’s Armament. You can

still see the bullet holes in the lifeboat as well as shells and a ScanEagle UAV like the one the destroyer *USS Bainbridge* used to surveille the lifeboat.

The museum has three land vehicles that the SEALs used during Desert Storm, a 1987 Model 998 HMMWV High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HUMVEE), a Light Tactical All-Terrain Vehicle (LATV) that saw action in Jalalabad, Afghanistan, and a Desert Patrol Vehicles (DPV), also called a Fast Attack Vehicle. DPVs operating during Desert Storm were usually armed with one M2 .50 caliber heavy machine gun, two M-60 7.62mm machine guns, two AT-4 anti-armor rocket launchers and individual SEAL weapons. Navy SEALs were the first Americans to enter Kuwait City during Operation Desert Storm.



*Display of modern SEAL weapons. You can see them from both sides. Note the interactive signage pads.*



*Photo left – Display of SEAL & VC/NVA weapons from the Vietnam War.*

*Photo right – Display of US weapons from World War 2 used by Scouts and Raiders, UDT and others.*

Of course, the museum has plenty of small arms (and crew-served weapons) and specialized equipment on display. The museum has a varied and unique collection of weapons dating from the earliest days of

Naval Special Warfare during World War 2 to today. SEALs have the reputation of using the best weapons available. If they couldn't buy it, they made it. In addition to primary weapons used through the decades, the museum's collection contains many one-of-a-kind and handmade or custom weapons that were designed for special situations or missions. The displays feature not only guns (and other implements) used by the SEALs and their World War 2 predecessors, but also firearms used by our enemies, both in World War 2 (there are display cases full of Japanese weapons), during the Cold War, and today. Many of the weapons are part of interactive displays that allow visitors to learn more about each historic weapon of interest and some, like a Chinese-made AK-47 that was recovered in Vietnam, have an interesting history.

Although the cases could have better lighting, on the plus side, many of the display cases holding firearms are two-sided so that you can see both sides of the guns.



There are also interesting galleries that tell the story of the SEAL predecessor organizations during World War 2. The displays here illustrate an aspect of US military history that is all but forgotten, except in old war movies. There are numerous fascinating descriptions of operations that I never knew happened. One of these was the UDT operations in support of the little-known allied invasion of Borneo and Balikpapan in June/July 1945.

*Display of Japanese weapons from World War 2 (left)*

*Japanese Type 96 Light Machine Gun. Note the blood-stained Japanese prayer flag behind it (right)*



Besides the many US and foreign small arms and crew served weapons on display there were many interesting munitions and specialized pieces of equipment.

One example was a Special Atomic Demolition Munition (SAMD). These were

developed during the Cold War in case the Soviets invaded Western Europe. Specially trained SEAL teams would infiltrate behind Soviet lines and detonate the nuclear SADMs to destroy high value infrastructure targets such as power plants, bridges, rail lines and dams. If they were not killed in the nuclear explosion the SEALs were expected to exfiltrate to a friendly or unoccupied NATO country. By any standard, these were high risk missions.

The museum has a large, well-stocked gift shop and there is an obstacle course outside for those who are foolish enough to want to try to relive their youth.



*Chinese AK-47 captured during a SEAL Team One mission in January 1968. Bravo Two Platoon was on patrol to locate Viet Cong who were firing on Navy PBRs. SEALs Keith Jewett and Roy Keith discovered a VC bunker containing weapons, explosives and documents but VC in the bunker opened fire and mortally wounded Keith. Jewett hit the dirt two feet from the bunker entrance and fired back but his weapon jammed. He threw three grenades into the bunker and finished off the VC with his pistol, including the VC who killed Keith. This AK-47, and bandolier, which belonged to the VC who shot Keith, were recovered from the bunker.*

The National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum is located at:

3300 N. Hwy. A1A

North Hutchinson Island

Fort Pierce, FL 34949

The phone number is (772) 595-5845

The website address is <https://www.navysealmuseum.org/>.

The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00AM to 4:00PM, and Sunday 12:00 noon to 4:00PM. It is closed on Mondays. Parking is free.

**Admission:**

Adults (13 years and older): \$16.00

Children ages 6 – 12 years: \$8.00

Children age 5 and under: FREE

Seniors (65+), Veterans, First Responders: \$13.00





# ★ Show-n-Tell ★

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

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## VGCA Show-n-Tell Fact Sheet

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

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

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

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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A message from your VGCA Photographer--

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

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

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

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

*Jack Looney*



Member 1 (*at left*) brought in a Kilgore GR52 U.S. Coast Guard No. 160 Rescue Line Throwing Pistol. Based on the British Schermuly Pistol Rocket Apparatus, this model by Kilgore Corp., is based on the standard Kilgore Model B flare pistol.

This Coast Guard Approval Number 160/040-4-0 has very early 3 digit serial number, so date of manufacture was probably late 1940s or early 1950s (possibly 1952).

This line thrower is designed to fire a 1.5-to-2-inch diameter rocket to carry a line ship-to-ship or ship-to-shore.

Firing was initiated by a small black powder cartridge, which both ejected and ignited the rocket motor. There are four rivets

attaching the rocket launching barrel to the flare gun barrel which precludes the use of standard 1.5" flares. The handle on top of the barrel is to hold it while firing, not because of recoil, but the 5 ½ lb. gun plus the rocket would have been hard to handle at sea. Member 1 has yet to find a Schermuly rocket or its actual specifications. If anyone knows of one available for purchase or loan or even the specifications, please let him know.

Member 2 (*right*) shared an antique Belgian Francotte Leige "best quality" .40 caliber target pistol, cased with all accessories. It was made in the 1870s. It has 10-inch fluted octagon steel barrel with a hooked breech and an excellent bore, fixed sights and weighs 2lbs 6oz. It has a full coverage scroll-engraved action and metal parts that retain 95% of the original case color and bluing. The wood is very good with excellent checkering and minor handling marks. The walnut presentation case has a red lining with individual places for the pistol and each of the accessories.

This gun is numbered "1" and may originally have been part of a matched pair. Per Member 2, "it has an amazing trigger!"





Member 3 (*left*) presented a Winchester M1885 Winder Musket, which was the topic of the night's presentation. It has a falling block action and is chambered in .22 short. This model is also known as the M87, or 3D model (Low Wall altered). It was specifically produced for US Army gallery practice and is "US" marked. There were 12,750 of these produced from 1904 to 1920. This example was produced in 1918. Member 3 acquired it 40 years ago, in 1985!

He also displayed a mold (*right*) for a .30 caliber round ball for use by the U.S. Krag Jorgenson rifle. The balls were used with a crimped brass blank cartridge for short-range in-door target practice. These molds were usually issued with a set of reloading dies.



Member 4 (*right*) shared a Springfield-Sharps Model 1870 Type 1 experimental trials rifle in .50/70 caliber. About 700 of this variation were produced by the Springfield Arsenal and issued in 1871-72 for Army field trials. These trials included the Trapdoor, the Remington Rolling Block and others and were an attempt to convert the Army's extensive percussion weapons inventory to metallic cartridge breech loaders. For example, at the end of the Civil War the Army had over 50,000 Sharps percussion carbines in stock. The Sharps action was very strong and easily adaptable to the most powerful cartridges of the day.



This Type 1 was made from on-hand Model 1863 action and fitted with new Springfield-made parts, including a 35-inch 3-groove barrel with bayonet lug, stock, fore end, furniture, two-barrel bands, and a single shoulder 1868-style ramrod. It is marked with Master Armorer Erskine S. Allen's "ESA" cartouche and a "US" on the butt plate. The Type 1 rifles still had the Lawrence Pellet Primer magazine while the Type 2 had a new-built action without it.



Member 5 (*left*) brought a Beretta Olympia Italian Carabinieri Cold War era training rifle chambered in .22 long Rifle. It has a unique action that can be used in either semi-automatic (for training to use the M-1) or manual bolt-action mode (for training to use the Carcano rifle). The Olympia rifles were produced from the 1950s through the 1970s. This example was made in 1956 and is in the highest grade of the three grades offered. Member 5 noted that spare magazines are VERY expensive.



Member 6 (*left*) brought in a Winchester 94 chambered in .30/30 Winchester (aka .30 Winchester Center Fire – or .30 WCF). It is a “Trapper” Centennial model and was produced in 1994, on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this iconic rifle.

Note: VGCA Vice President George Dungan will give a presentation on the Winchester Model 94 at our February membership meeting.

Member 7 shared a Sako Tikka T3x Arctic (*right*) – the civilian version of the Canadian C-19 rifle produced for the Canadian Rangers. This bolt action rifle in 7.62x51 NATO is a variation of the Tikka Compact Tactical Rifle (CTR) but with iron sights. Canadian military production of the C-19 was initiated by Colt Canada in 2017. The procurement program stipulated the rifles had to be produced by a Canadian manufacturer and could not be totally identical to commercial rifles. 6500 C-19s were produced and issued to the Rangers starting in November 2018. Civilian production of the T3x Arctic began in Finland 2017. Member 7’s example was made in 2024.

The Canadian Rangers, the Canadian military's official presence in the northern reaches of the country, have carried World War II Lee Enfield No.4 rifles since 1947. In the extreme cold of the Canadian arctic, the Lee Enfield is tough enough to survive and reliable enough to continue feeding and functioning. However, in 2015 after 70 years of service the rifles were showing their age, and stocks and spare parts were growing scarce. The Canadian government

requested a replacement. The rifles are mainly used for self-defense against large North American carnivores, including polar bears, and for personal survival as regional surveillance missions are often conducted for extended periods in remote areas, requiring the Rangers to hunt for food. The C-19 and Arctic both have iron sights with the rear sight (*detail at left*) being a



rotary drum protected by "ears" and a semi-hooded front adjustable post. The rear sight drum features six apertures calibrated for 100–600 meters and can be adjusted with gloved hands. While equipped with a Picatinny rail, there is no current requirement for optical sights, and the choice of whether to use optics remains with individual Rangers.

Member 8 brought in a custom-made 100-round magazine for his Beretta PM-12 (*shown at right*). This magazine is one of two prototypes made by a Beretta collector and has been loaned to Member 8. It is essentially a Glock Beta C magazine grafted onto a 40-round PM-12 mag. It requires a special tool to load and while it is a very cool looking range toy, it is pricey at an estimated cost of \$750!



Member 9 (*left*) brought in a Russian TAZ 17-01 .22 Long Rifle training rifle made by the Tula arsenal. It features sights similar to those on the Mosin-Nagant rifles and carbines and was produced from 1956 to 1970.

Member 9 also brought in a Vector Arms V-93 (*right*). The V-93 is an H&K-93 clone. The HK-33 is a .223 based variant of their very successful G-3 7.62 NATO battle rifle. It was designed during the 1960s primarily for export and proved amazingly popular the world over. The HK-93 was the semi-automatic version of the HK-33 and was imported to the United States from 1974 until 1989 when the first Pres. Bush banned the importation of any “assault weapons”. The import ban led the way for a host of enterprising individuals to begin making homegrown US-made duplicates, such as the Vector V-93. The Vectors have a very good reputation for quality, approaching that of the original Heckler and Koch rifles, which turned out to be why there won’t be any more of them.



While HK had let the patents expire on all these weapons (the HK91, 93 and 94), they have none-the-less set about suing all the small American clone makers based on what is in essence a “Look and Feel” issue. None of the cottage industry clone manufacturers has nearly enough resources to fight HK in court, despite cases with excellent precedents in their favor (Colt vs Bushmaster, etc.). Vector was forced to shut down its production of these fine rifles.



Member 10 shared his HK-91 / G3 rifle which was converted to select fire in 1986 when it was still legal to do so. Chambered in 7.62x51 NATO, this gun started out as a semi-automatic HK-91 and was originally purchased from HK’s American sales office in Alexandria, Virginia. Member 10 waited 2 ½ years to get it converted and properly papered. As part of the conversion, it was given a genuine G3 barrel.

Member 11 brought in two Krag carbines, the first of which is a Model 1895 Norwegian Krag-Jorgenson cavalry carbine (*right*). Chambered in 6.5x55, these carbines are distinguished by a pistol grip stock, angled sling swivels and even a scalloped, asymmetric trigger guard. 5843 of these produced by Kongsberg Vapenfabrikk from 1894 to 1906. This example was made in 1899.



Member 11's second Krag was a Danish Model 1889/23 Danish Krag-Jorgenson carbine (*above*). This model features a 24-inch barrel chambered in 8x58 Rimmed. Approximately 4600 of these were made from 1911 to 1916 by Haerens Tojhus. This example was made in 1913.





Member 12 shared his Steyr M1895 Stutzen straight pull carbine in 8x50R (*left*). This is a carbine version of the M1895 Steyr rifle produced by FEG in Budapest.

Unlike most examples, this one is still in its WWI configuration and managed to avoid the updates / modifications of the 1920's and 1930's. This rifle actually qualifies as an antique as it was proofed in 1897. It was purchased on Gunbroker.com in December of 2024.

Member 13 brought in a Beretta model 1919 semi auto pistol (*right*). They were the first Beretta pistol chambered in 6.35mm (.25 ACP) and were produced from the early 1920's to the mid 1950's. These guns are notable as Agent 007's sidearm appearing in the first five James Bond novels. The Beretta would be replaced by a Walther PPK in 7.65mm (.32 ACP) in the later novels.

This example was made in 1926 and was acquired as a gift from Member 13's father-in-law in 1999.





Member 14 displayed a Lee-Enfield MKIII rifle (*above*). The bolt action Lee-Enfield chambered in .303 British with its charger-loaded 10-round magazine, would serve England and the Empire for over five decades. This particular rifle was manufactured in 1918 and at some point was issued to the Princess Victoria's Regiment, the Royal Irish Fusileers, as indicated by the "RIF" stamp on its left side (*see inset above*). This rifle was purchased by Member 14 two years ago.

Member 15 shared a Winchester Model 1885 Winder musket chambered in .22 Short that was made in 1918 and displays the "US" property stamp and the flaming bomb ordnance acceptance mark. He acquired it in 2009. Our apologies – we did not get a photograph of this rifle.

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## ★ Upcoming Events and Shows ★

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

### VIRGINIA – 2025

- Mar 8-9, 2025 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fraternal Order of Eagles (new location!) – SGK
- Mar 8-9, 2025 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center – C&E Gun Shows
- Mar 15-16, 2025 – Farnham, VA – Farnham VA Convention Center – Richmond County VFD
- Mar 22-23, 2025 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex - Showmasters
- Mar 29-30, 2025 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – SGK
- Apr 5-6, 2025 – Dale City, VA – Dale City VFW – VGCA (our spring gun show!)
- Apr 11-13, 2025 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – Showmasters
- Apr 26-27, 2025 – Fishersville, VA – Augusta Expo – Showmasters
- May 3-4, 2025 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex - Showmasters
- May 17-18, 2025 – Virginia Beach, VA – Virginia Beach Convention Center – SGK

### MARYLAND – 2025

- Mar 8-9, 2025 – Easton, MD – Easton Vol. Fire Dept – Shore Gun Shows Promotions
- Mar 22-23, 2025 – Timonium, MD – Maryland State Fairgrounds – Maryland Arms Collector Association
- Apr 5-6, 2025 – Frederick, MD – Frederick Fairgrounds – Appalachian Promotions
- May 10-11, 2025 – Crownsville, MD – Anne Arundel Fairgrounds – Appalachian Promotions

### PENNSYLVANIA – 2025

- Feb 22-23, 2025 – Ellwood City, PA – Wurtemberg Perry VFD – Wurtemberg Perry VFD
- Feb 22-23, 2025 – State College, PA – C3 Sports & Events Center - Showmasters
- Feb 22-23, 2025 – Treose, PA – Radisson Philadelphia Northeast – Eagle Shows
- Mar 1, 2025 – Wampum, PA – Chewton VFD Hall – Ellwood Wampum Rod & Gun Club
- Mar 1-2, 2025 – Matamoras, PA – Best Western Inn at Hunt's Landing – Westchester Collectors Inc.
- Mar 1-2, 2025 – York, PA – York Fairgrounds – Appalachian Promotions
- Mar 8-9, 2025 – East Berlin, PA – East Berlin Fish & Game – East Berlin Fish & Game
- Mar 8-9, 2025 – Lander, PA – Lander Volunteer Fire Department – Lander Fire Dept
- Mar 8-9, 2025 – Morgantown, PA – Morgantown Expo Center – Eagle Shows
- Mar 15-16, 2025 – New Castle, PA – Scott Township Vol Fire Dept – Scott Township VFD
- Mar 15-16, 2025 – Reeders, PA – Jackson Township Vol Fire Comp – Jaeger Arms
- Mar 16, 2025 – Portland, PA – William Pensyl Social Hall – Portland Hook & Ladder Comp #1
- Mar 22-23, 2025 – Allentown, PA - Parkview Inn - Eagle Shows
- Mar 22-23, 2025 – Sellersville, PA – Forrest Lodge VTW245 – Jaeger Arms
- Mar 29, 2025 – Wampum, PA – Possum Hollow Sportsman's Club – Possum Hollow Sportsman's Club
- Mar 29-30, 2025 – Gettysburg, PA – Redding Auction Hall – Central PA Antique Arms Assoc
- Mar 29-30, 2025 – Harrisburg, PA – PA Farm Show Complex – C&E Gun Shows
- Mar 29-30, 2025 – Lake Harmony, PA – Split Rock Resort – Eagle Shows
- Mar 29-30, 2025 – Lewis Run, PA – Lewis Run VFD Station 6 – Lewis Run VFD

### PENNSYLVANIA – 2025 (continued)

- ⇒ Mar 29-30, 2025 – West Middlesex, PA – Hidden Valley Sportsmen’s Club - *Hidden Valley Sportsmen’s Club*
- ⇒ Apr 4-6, 2025 – Oaks, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Shows*
- ⇒ Apr 11-12, 2025 – East Greenville, PA - East Greenville Fire Hall – *Pennsylvania Antique Gun Collectors’ Association*      **NOTE: DATE CHANGE!**
- ⇒ Apr 12-13, 2025 – Quarryville, PA – Solanco Fairgrounds – *Eagle Shows*
- ⇒ Apr 12-13, 2025 – Slatington, PA – Slatington Market Place – *Jaeger Arms*
- ⇒ Apr 12-13, 2025 – Union City, PA – Union City VFD Social Hall – *UCVFD*
- ⇒ Apr 12-13, 2025 – Washington, PA – Washington PA County Fairgrounds – *ARH Sport Shop*
- ⇒ Apr 19, 2025 – Harborcreek, PA – Gem City Gun Club – *Gem City Gun Club*
- ⇒ Apr 26-27, 2025 – East Stroudsburg, PA – VFW Post #2540 – *Jaeger Arms*
- ⇒ Apr 26-27, 2025 – Matamoras, PA – Best Western Inn at Hunt’s Landing – *Westchester Collectors Inc.*
- ⇒ Apr 26-27, 2025 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center - *Showmasters*
- ⇒ May 3-4, 2025 – Morgantown, PA – Morgantown Expo Center – *Eagle Shows*
- ⇒ May 10-11, 2025 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds – *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*
- ⇒ May 17-18, 2025 – Sellersville, PA – Forrest Lodge VTW245 – *Jaeger Arms*
- ⇒ May 18, 2025 – Portland, PA – William Pensyl Social Hall – *Portland Hook & Ladder Comp #1*
- ⇒ May 31-Jun 1, 2025 – East Stroudsburg, PA – VFW Post #2540 – *Jaeger Arms*

#### **SPECIAL EVENTS / SHOWS – 2025**

- ⇒ Feb 20-22, 2025 – Louisville, KY – Kentucky Expo Center – *Ohio Valley Military Society – Show of Shows (Militaria Show)*
- ⇒ Feb 22-23, 2025 – Louisville, KY – Kentucky Expo Center – *National Gun Day Promotions*
- ⇒ Mar 8-9, 2025 – Ladson, SC – Exchange Park Fairgrounds – *South Carolina Arms Collector Association*
- ⇒ Mar 15-16, 2025 – Wilmington, OH – The Roberts Centre – *Ohio Gun Collectors Association*
- ⇒ Mar 22-23, 2025 – Timonium, MD – Maryland State Fairgrounds – *Maryland Arms Collector Association*
- ⇒ Mar 28-29, 2025 – East Greenville, PA - East Greenville Fire Hall – *Pennsylvania Antique Gun Collectors’ Association*
- ⇒ Apr 5-6, 2025 – Tulsa, OK – Expo Square (Tulsa Fairgrounds) – *Wanenmacher – World’s Largest Gun Show – 4200+ tables!*
- ⇒ Apr 24-27, 2025 – Atlanta, GA – Georgia World Congress Center – *NRA Annual Meetings*
- ⇒ May 10-11, 2025 – Wilmington, OH – The Roberts Centre – *Annual Display Show - Ohio Gun Collectors Association*
- ⇒ Jun 21-22, 2025 – Cleveland, OH – I-X Center – *Ohio Gun Collectors Association*
- ⇒ Jul 11-13, 2025 – Cody, WY – Annual Winchester Arms Collector Association show – *WACA*
- ⇒ Jul 19-20, 2025 – Wilmington, OH – The Roberts Centre – *Remington Society of America (RSA) and Ruger Owners & Collectors Association (ROCS) Show - Ohio Gun Collectors Association*
- ⇒ Sep 20-21, 2025 – Ladson, SC – Exchange Park Fairgrounds – *South Carolina Arms Collector Association*
- ⇒ Oct 18-19, 2025 – Statesville, NC – Statesville Civics Center – *North Carolina Gun Collectors Association*

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

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## FOR SALE:

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

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

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## VGCA Logo Available at Lands' End

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

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



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

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**FOR SALE:**

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

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

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

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**FOR SALE:**

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

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**FOR SALE:**

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

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

If interested, please contact Charlie at [usarmsresearch@gmail.com](mailto:usarmsresearch@gmail.com)

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**FOR SALE:**

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

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**WANT TO BUY:**

✪ Browning lever action Gold Medallion, short action, blue or silver.

Also: Browning lever action with pistol grip and take down. Prefer .308 but any considered.

Call King at 703 576-7016, if no answer leave name and number with a brief description.

Thank you, King von Schilling

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**WANT TO BUY:**

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

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