



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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Show/Reservations Manager
Membership

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Andrew Woodard
George Dungan

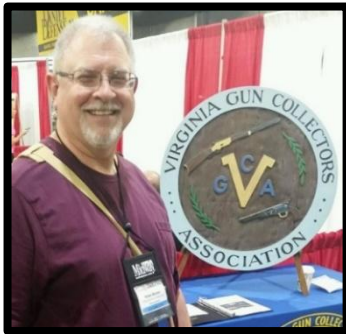
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March 2025 VGCA Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Greetings Members!

First, I would like to thank George Dungan for his excellent presentation on the Winchester Model 1894 / Model 94 in February. It was George's first presentation, and it was excellent!

Next, I would like to remind you that our next membership meeting is on Thursday, March 27th, when former VGCA President Jim Burgess will give a presentation on Competition Firearms of the North-South Skirmish Association. If you haven't made it to an N-SSA National Match (held twice a year at Fort Shenandoah), you really need to add it to your "To do" list! The next one is May 14-18, 2025.

Jim Burgess will also be leading us on our next VGCA Field Trip – this one to the Manassas Battlefields on March 29th.

Our Spring Gun Show is April 5th and 6th. Al Reid is still looking some security volunteers for both Saturday and Sunday – please contact him if you interested in helping out.

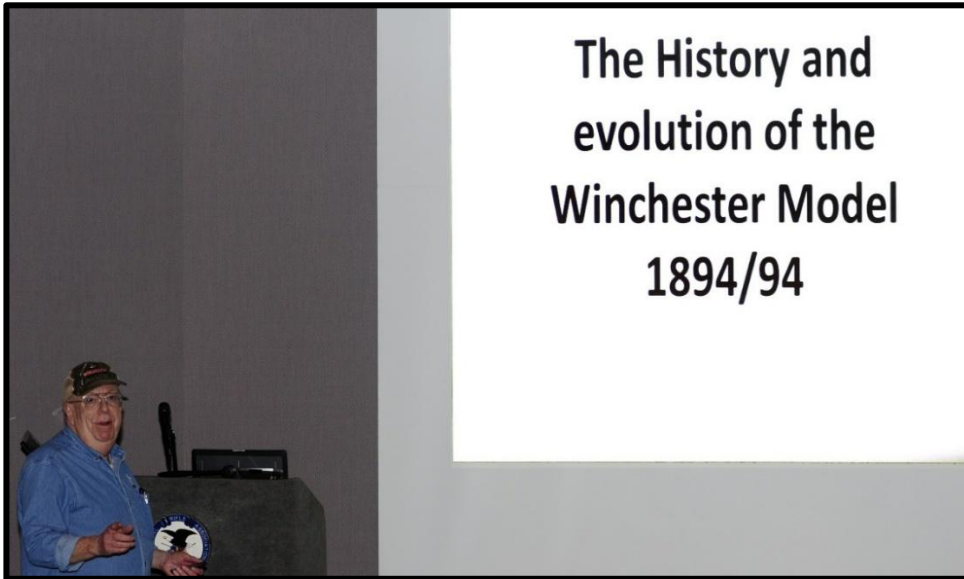
We have an upcoming election in May for our three Director positions. Please contact Matthew G. (Nomination Chairman) if you are interested in throwing your hat in the ring!

Finally, we still have two openings for presentations in the fall. Please let any of our officers or directors know if you are interested in sharing your expertise with the group!

Happy Hunting in your collecting endeavors and Cheers!

Rob Becker, VGCA President

★ February Presentation: The Winchester Model 1894/94



The February presentation on the legendary Winchester Model 1894/Model 94 was by our VGCA Vice President and Membership Chairman George Dungan (*at left*). He started by sharing his source material and favorite reference books – and emphasizing the importance of doing your research beforehand! Some of these references were:

The Winchester Book by George Madis

Winchester Model 94 – A Century of Craftsmanship by Robert C. Renneberg

The Standard Catalog of Winchester Firearms by Joseph M. Cornell

There are three primary models/versions of this famous Winchester lever action but to complicate things for the collector, Winchester was more than happy (for a fee) to make a rifle with almost any custom features that the customer wanted.

It all started with John Moses Browning's design for an modern intermediate lever action between the big bore Model 1886 and the pistol caliber Model 1892. It took seven months for Browning's patent to be approved but only two months after for Winchester to initiate production. The design combined firepower, a light weight, ease of handling, and the ability to shoot and reload quickly that made it a popular hunting gun for almost 100 years! The Model 1894 was made as both a rifle and a carbine. The rifle could be had as either a solid frame or in a take-down version with a round barrel, an octagonal barrel, or a half octagonal half round barrel. The carbine came with a solid frame and round barrel only. Winchester sub-contracted their bluing to outside vendors. Starting in 1895, the receivers were made out a nickel steel to handle smokeless powder cartridges and this alloy did not take bluing very well, which is why it is not uncommon to find these early 1894s without much finish remaining. The initial calibers offered were .32-40 and .38-55. This was expanded in 1896 to include the .25-35 and the hugely popular .30 Winchester Centerfire (.30 WCF, aka the .30-30), and in 1902, the .32 Winchester Special was added.

As already mentioned, a myriad of custom features were offered. These included but were not limited to:

Barrels - choice of round, octagonal, or half and half, lengths of 15-inches to 36-inches

Magazines – half, 2/3, 3/4, or full length tubes

Stocks – checkered or uncheckered, pistol grip or non-pistol grip, sling swivels or not

Buttplates – several options available from straight to curved

Sights – many options for front and rear sights, to include tang-mounted peep sights
Custom engraving

Confirming the original configuration of your rifle or carbine is complicated by the fact that Winchester factory records between 1904 and 1940 were lost in a fire. The rifle variant was discontinued in the 1930s. Somewhere between serial number 930,000 and 1,100,000 the model designation changed from Model 1894 to the Model 94.

As mentioned in the beginning, there are three primary models of this gun. The first is the Model 1894/94. The “sibling” models are the Model 55 (of which approximately 20,000 were produced from 1924 through 1932) and the Model 64 (approximately 75,000-100,000 made from 1933 through 1957). George is seen holding a Model 64 (*right*) which can be identified by its wider forearm and standard ½ length magazine. This example was made in 1952 and is chambered in .30-30.



One popular variant of the Model 94 is the “Trapper.” Originally made with 14- and 15-inch barrels, this was later increased to 16-inch to comply with the National Firearms Act of 1934.

George reviewed the military service of the Model 94s, which included use by the U.S. Army Signal Corps in the Pacific Northwest to prevent labor strikes from interrupting manufacture of Sitka spruce lumber used in military aircraft, the British Royal Navy for shipboard guard duty and for blowing up mines, and by French motorcycle couriers, artillerymen, and some balloon units during WWI. During WWII, Winchester Model 94s were purchased by the Canadian Pacific Coast Militia Rangers who were issued them to defend the west coast of Canada from potential Japanese invaders as well as by the British Home Guard.

By the early 1960s total production of the Model 94 had reached 2.5 million. In 1964, Winchester instituted several cost-saving measures throughout their production lines and the Model 94 was no exception. These “post-64” guns had a poor reputation for quality and sales dropped. To increase sales, Winchester introduced Commemorative issues and also several new calibers (such as .38 Special/.357 Magnum, .44 Special/.44 Magnum, .45 Colt, .38-40 Winchester, and .44-40 Winchester).

Winchester declared bankruptcy in 1989 and was subsequently purchased by the Belgian firm Fabrique Nationale Herstal. Production of the Model 94 ceased in the United States in 2006. Production of “reproductions” started in Japan by the Miroku Corporation after 2010 and are today imported into the U.S. by the Browning Arms Company (guns are marked “BACO”). To date, over 7.5 million Model 1894s / Model 94s have been produced, making it the most-produced hunting rifle in history!

George concluded by noting that while it is tough to put a value on many Model 94s due to the long list of custom options, these same variables make it a challenging and fascinating rifle to collect! Be sure to thank George the next time you see him for this excellent presentation on a classic American firearm!



THE WALTHER P5

By Marc Gorelick

Photos courtesy of Joh. Springer's Erben, Vienna, Austria (unless otherwise credited)

Although it is not as well known in the United States as the Walther PP, PPK, PPS, P22, or the more recent PDP, the Walther P5 holds an important place in the evolution of the Walther product line. Primarily used by police and a few specialized military units, the P5 never gained the popularity or sales numbers of other Walther pistols, even in Germany, much less in the U.S., yet it gave good service to those organizations that did adopt it.

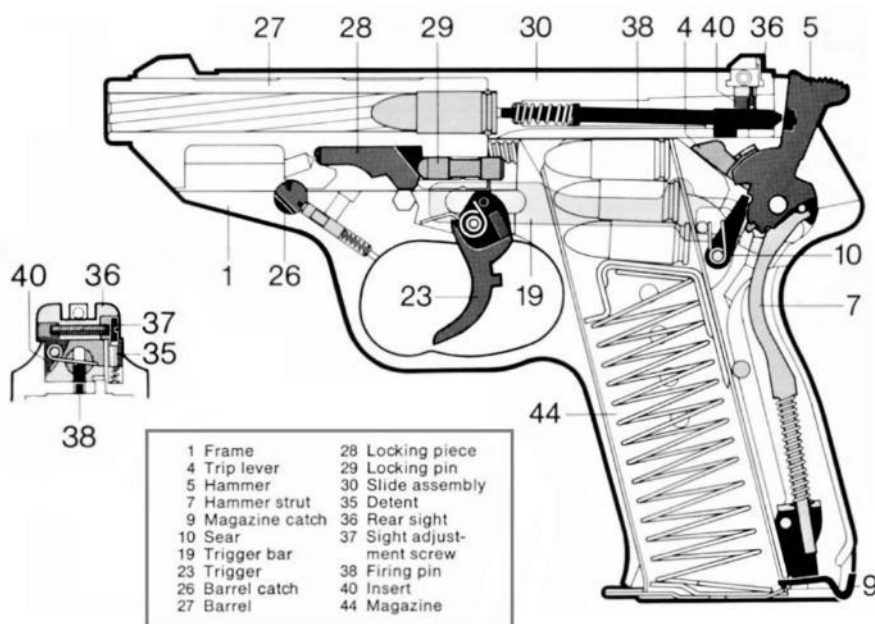


Walther P5, s/n 001047. This is a standard size first series gun. Walther started the P5 serial numbers at 001001 so this example is one of the earliest P5s produced. As an early gun it has the heel magazine release rather than the later thumb button magazine release to the rear of the trigger.

Carl Walther GmbH Sportwaffen was founded by Carl Walther in 1886 in Zella Mehlis, Thuringia. Walther originally manufactured hunting and target rifles in his small shop but in 1888 he married Minna Georgine Pickert, daughter of Christian Friedrich Pickert, of the established revolver manufacturer "Arminius Waffenerk." Although business increased, it wasn't until 1908 that Carl's son, Fritz Walther,

steered the company towards manufacturing semiautomatic pistols, for which they are famous today. Walther Models 1 to 5 and 7 to 9 were chambered in .25 ACP and .32 ACP. Model 6 was in 9mm but wasn't successful. Walther introduced the popular PP (*Polizeipistole* or Police Pistol) models in 1929 and introduced the first PPKs (*Polizeipistole Kriminalmodell* or Police Pistol Detective Model) in 1931. The PP line of pistols were the first mass-produced pistols with stamped parts, which lowered production costs. They were known for their dependability and high production quality with lower relative manufacturing costs. In 1938 the German government chose the Walther P38 design to replace the Luger P08 as the Wehrmacht's service pistol. Besides having a similar performance to the Luger, it was simpler, more dependable, cheaper to produce and was produced in about half the time as the more complex Luger. During World War 2 Walther operated a factory in the Neuengamme concentration camp where it used slave labor. After the war, Walther's facilities wound up in the Soviet sector (later East Germany) and with little more than a collection of designs and patents, Fritz Walther re-established the company in Ulm, West Germany. In 1957 the company resumed production of the P38 (renamed the P1) to equip the new West German Army. Over the company's lifetime Walther has manufactured air pistols and air rifles, target pistols and target rifles, numerous models of semi-auto pistols, semi-automatic rifles (including the G41, G43 and MKb42(W) during World War 2), two models of submachine guns, and a semi-automatic shotgun designed in 1918 and produced from 1921 to 1931.

Developed by Walther in the mid-1970's to equip the West German police forces with a new modern sidearm, the P5 is a recoil-operated, locked-breech, semi-automatic pistol chambered in 9x19mm. The P5 was a further development of the Walther P38 and uses many of the same design principles of that gun. It has a similar locking system, a reinforced aluminum alloy frame, dual recoil springs, an improved extractor, a shortened barrel and the slide length was increased. New design features include the double action/single action trigger mechanism and firing pin safety that utilizes an innovative pivoting firing pin that moves forward only when the trigger is pulled. In addition, the slide-mounted safety/decocker/slide stop was moved from the slide to the frame. The barrel does not tilt when the gun is fired, but rather moves straight back approximately 5mm, resulting in improved accuracy since the barrel is kept parallel with the frame during and after firing.



Following the West German police requirements for a pistol that could be safely and rapidly brought into action, Walther dispensed with the manual safety. It designed the P5 so that it could be safely carried with a round in the chamber and the hammer down. This was accomplished by the rotating firing pin and a small recess in the pistol's hammer for the firing pin. The firing pin only moves into alignment with the hammer surface when the trigger is pulled.

Left – Diagram of the P5's internal layout/mechanism and parts. Courtesy of Walther.

Even though the gun was produced to meet a stated requirement of the German police, and it had a good reputation for accuracy and reliability, the P5 had only lackluster sales within Germany. Between 1976

and 1979 the only German police departments to procure it were the Baden-Württemberg police and Rhineland-Palatinate police. Apparently, its high price limited sales and pistols like the SIG Sauer P225 generally outbid the Walther P5. The German police also adopted the SIG Sauer P225 (P6 in German police parlance) and the Heckler & Koch P7.



Walther P5, s/n 001047. Right side. Note the lack of markings on this side. Note also the enlarged trigger guard which was designed for a hand wearing a glove.

The P5 had some success internationally. It was the standard issue sidearm for the Netherlands police, who purchased about 50,000 pistols. It remained in service until 2013 when it was replaced by the Walther P99Q. The Dutch guns were fitted with Hogue grips and sometime around 1997 the Dutch modified the hammer/firing pin safety system. Those guns that had the improved safety modification can be identified by the small hole that was drilled on the top of the slide just in front of the rear sight. Dutch police guns' serial numbers ranged from 50,000 - 100,000 and 500,000 – 504,000. They have the letter “N” in front of the serial number on the slide and are the only P5’s with this prefix. It appears that most Dutch Police P5’s were destroyed after they were removed from service and only a few came into the civilian market, making them a rare collectible.

The British Ministry of Defense purchased less than 3,000 Walther P5 Compact models. Most were issued to the Royal Irish Regiment as a Personal Protection Weapon (for soldiers while on plain clothes duty or off duty in Northern Ireland). Serial numbers ranged from 170001 to 1729xx. The British Army designated them as the Pistol L102A1. The main features that differentiate them from commercial or German Police guns are: The UK guns have a phosphate finish instead of traditional blued finish,

"L102A1" model markings on the left side of the slide, and the NATO stock number 1005-99-978-4952 on the right side of slide. It appears that only a few British guns were imported into the U.S. making them a rare collectible also. An unknown number were used by the U.S. Army, 39th Special Forces Detachment "Detachment A" which was part of Berlin Brigade during Cold War. Some were used by various US police agencies, and some were used by Nigeria and elements of the Portuguese Army.

There are three main versions of the Walther P5 (this does not include the eight small variations in the standard commercial model which were made as the result of minor technical improvements or the guns produced for various police and militaries). The three main versions are the standard or full size P5, the P5 Compact, and the P5 Lang, also known as the P5L. About 110,000 of all versions were produced, mostly between 1977 and 1993 (a few small special orders are said to have been completed by the beginning of the 21st century). They take a single stack, 8-round magazine and spent cases are ejected to the left. The standard P5 is 7.1 inches long with a 3.5-inch-long barrel and weighs 1.75 pounds. All standard size P5's have the magazine release on the heel of the grip.



Walther P5 Compact, s/n 154875. The gun has wooden aftermarket grips. This specimen has a thumb button magazine release. Note the low contoured hammer and that the barrel's muzzle doesn't protrude outside the slide.

The P5 Compact is shorter and lighter than the standard P5 with lower profile sights and hammer. It is 6.7 inches long with a 3.1-inch-long barrel and weighs 1.65 pounds. One of the quickest ways to tell the difference between the P5 and the P5 Compact is that the end of the muzzle will protrude from the front of the slide of the P5 while the end of the muzzle of the P5 Compact is not readily visible. Another way is that the P5 Compact will say "P5 Compact" on the left side of the slide. While early production compacts have the heel magazine release the majority have a thumb button magazine release on the trigger guard to

the rear of the trigger. Production of the P5 Compact started in 1988 at serial number 150,000. The first few hundred had wooden grips and those manufactured after serial number 150,800 had plastic grips.

The P5 Lang is the scarcest of the three versions. This target model has an extended barrel that is 5.94 inches long, and its shape is reminiscent of its forbearer, the P38. The small number of P5 Langs were produced in the late 1980's. Because they are relatively rare they bring high prices on the collector market.



Photo above – Left side of Walther P5 Lang (P5L), s/n 029. It has a heel magazine release and wooden grips. Sold at auction by Joh. Springer's Erben in Vienna, Austria on September 21, 2023, for \$3,299 US (3,000 Euros).

Photo below – Right side of Walther P5 Lang (P5L), s/n 029. The P5 Lang had its own serial numbers.



Walther manufactured about 400 cutaway pistols for use in training. There are three variations of cutaways. Walther also produced a barrel that was specifically made to shoot the 9x19mm blue colored plastic training ammunition. This special barrel (with a blue band) can be easily installed in any P5 except the Compact, and the blue plastic training ammunition can be loaded in standard P5 magazines. The barrel has a caliber of 8.2mm which is smaller than the caliber of the ammunition. It is believed that this is done to overcome cycling problems because the weaker 9mm training rounds did not produce enough pressure to cycle the action. The smaller diameter of the PT barrel produced a better gas seal allowing enough pressure to build-up to cycle the weapon. These cutaways and training barrels are quite rare and are highly sought after by Walther P5 collectors.

Magazines for the P5 and P5 Compact are exactly the same size and dimensions, and they both hold eight 9x19mm rounds. The only difference is that P5 Compact magazines have a half-moon-shaped cut in the front of the body that is used to release and secure the magazine by the thumb release.



Magazine for full size Walther P5 pistol with heel magazine release. Note the smooth front.



Magazine for Walther P5 Compact with thumb button magazine release. Note the slot cut in the front of the magazine for the catch. Photo private collection.

Disassembly of the P5 is simple and comes directly from the P38. The slide is retracted a little until the barrel catch can be rotated. The slide and barrel can then be slid forward off the frame once the trigger is pulled.

The P5 proved to be an accurate and reliable pistol. While it is certainly one of Walther's lesser-known handguns, the P5 is a well-made, well-designed duty pistol, with comfortable ergonomics that filled a niche in the evolution of Walther pistols.





★ February 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 Troy Blackwell and a moment of silence. Guests and new members introduced themselves. There were 51 members and guests in attendance, with 14 more participating via webinar.

Rob Becker reminded everyone that elections for the three VGCA Directors will be held in May. Together with the four VGCA Officers, the three elected Directors form the VGCA Executive Committee. Per our by-laws, the Directors “shall assist in and supplement the work of the Executive Committee.” Each Director shall also be responsible for one of the following areas:

- Regular monitoring, maintenance, and posting to our Social Media accounts
- Scheduling presenters for our monthly membership Meetings
- Bringing and setting up the audio-visual equipment for our monthly Membership Meetings (to include establishing the webinar link)

Anyone with questions or interested in running for Director please contact one of our current Officers or Directors. As of now, only one of our current Directors has confirmed that he will run for re-election.

Rob also announced that now is the time for annual members to renew their membership. If you have not already done so, please contact Membership Chairman George Dungan.

Andrew Woodard gave an update on our Spring Gun Show, stating there were 14 tables still available for the 5-6 April show (**NOTE: there are NO tables available as of 19 March**).



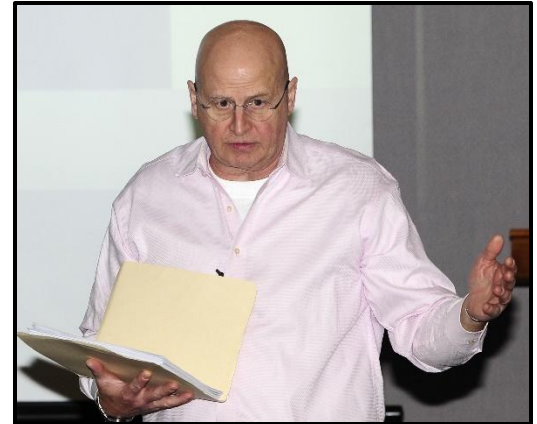
Member Rick Nahas gave a brief description of the NRA’s Antique Arms Show held in Las Vegas every January and sponsored by Morphy’s Auctions. There were several displays, including Rick’s display of Smith & Wesson Model 53s. Chambered for the bottlenecked centerfire .22 Jet cartridge, these six-shot revolvers were made from 1960 through 1972. Rick’s display garnered two awards – one for the Outstanding Exhibit for Contemporary Arms and the other for Outstanding Exhibit of Smith & Wesson Firearms (*at left*). Congratulations sir!

Bryan Pelton updated the group on our Tee-Shirt Sales. The price on the remaining inventory (in sizes Small through Large) is now \$10 each! If you are interested, they will be at our membership table during our Spring Gun Show.

Rob gave an update on upcoming calendar events, emphasizing the Manassas Battlefield Tour on March 29th (see notice on page 13), that there will not be an April membership meeting (due to our show in April), and that our May meeting will be on Saturday, May 17th.

As always, we are looking for security volunteers for our show, as well as anyone interested in putting out and/or collecting our street signs the weekend of the show. Please contact any officer or director if you are interested in helping.

Finally, Treasurer Shannon Zeigler (*right*) gave a detailed update on our organization’s finances. In a nutshell, since the COVID-19 pandemic started in 2020, our income has dropped while our expenses have risen. Especially over the last couple of years, we have been operating in the red as the costs of executing gun shows at the Prince William County Fairgrounds climbed past the point of being sustainable and fairly large one-time expenses – such as significantly revamping/updating the VGCA website – came due. Shannon did note that we have almost turned this situation around last year by moving our show to the Dale City VFW and we should be back “in the black” in 2025. Key to this recovery is getting more people to attend our gun shows.



NOTE: the VGCA goals for 2025 briefed at the January membership meeting were not included in last month’s newsletter due to space and are now attached (below).



VGCA Goals for 2025



Grow Membership by ~7% per Year

2025 – 575 Total Members / Establish Renewal Invoice for Annual Members via Constant Contact
2033 (50th Anniversary) – 1000 Total Members

Conduct two VGCA-Sponsored Tours per Year (one local and one out -of-state)

2025 – Tour of Manassas Battlefields (29 Mar 2025), S&W Factory (TBD), and Virginia Museum of the Civil War (TBD)

Expand Social Media Presence

Facebook – 2200 Followers (currently 1819)
Instagram – 1000 Followers (currently 445)
Reddit – create account

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

2025 – Average 75+ in person, 10+ on webinar
Have one Saturday Meeting – scheduled for 17 May 2024
Have Membership Meeting in July – scheduled for 24 Jul 2025 – Show-n-Tell “Guns of the Old West”

Execute two Gun Shows per Year

Increase show attendance to 850+ in April

Execute VGCA Picnic / “Shutzenfest”

Date (possibly 6 or 13 Sep 2025) & Location TBD



★ **Next Membership Meeting: March 27th**
Presentation: “N-SSA Competition Firearms”
by Jim Burgess
Location: NRA HQ Basement Auditorium

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



VGCA Director Elections

Elections for our three Director positions will be held in May. Per the VGCA By-Laws, Director duties are as follow:

The Directors shall assist in and supplement the work of the Executive Committee. Directors will participate in the tasks assigned by the Executive Committee. They shall function as members at large of the Executive Committee.

The duties to be assigned to the new Directors will be:

- Coordinating Presentations for the Membership Meetings
- Organizing and executing our Social Media Accounts
- Organizing and executing our Audio-Visual Requirements at Membership Meetings

Only one (possibly two) of our incumbent Directors will be running for re-election. Please contact one of our current officers or directors if you are interested in running for office or have any questions. We will be asking for nominations from the floor at our March Meeting.



★ 2025 Presentation & Event List ★

MEETING DATE	TOPIC	PRESENTER
27 Mar 2025	North-South Skirmish Association Competition Firearms	Jim Burgess
29 Mar 2025	Battlefield Tours of 1 st and 2 nd Manassas (details below)	Jim Burgess
5-6 Apr 2025	VGCA Spring Gun Show	
April 2025	No Membership Meeting due to our Spring Gun Show	
17 May 2025 (Saturday, 2pm)	TBD	
26 Jun 2025	24,	
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 other VGCA officers or directors.



★ First Field Trip of the Year

We will conduct our first field trip of 2025 – to the Manassas Battlefield on **Saturday, March 29th**. We will meet at the Visitors Center at **6511 Sudley Road, Manassas at 9:30 a.m.** 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 (probably at the nearby Cracker Barrel), 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 membership meetings, or you can send an email to Rob Becker at 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.

★ Did You Know...

...there was once a company called the Winchester Pictures Corporation? The company was a subsidiary of RKO Radio Pictures and its claim to fame was releasing the 1951 horror movie *The Thing From Another World*. Winchester Pictures Corporation was run by Howard Hawks, whose father had “Winchester” in his name. The company had nothing to do with nor any relationship with the firearm manufacturer, despite the image of two crossed lever actions in the company’s logo.



Looking for Security Volunteers!

At last count, we still need 6 or 7 security volunteers at our Gun Show over Saturday, April 5th and Sunday, April 6th. If you can help, please contact Al Reid at reid_allen@hotmail.com.

VGCA GUNS OF DISTINCTION: LANGENHAN M1893 TARGET PISTOL

By Marc Gorelick

Photos courtesy of Joh. Springer's Erben, Vienna Austria

According to German records, the extensive Langenhan family has been in the gun making business since 1819. Local records show that Johann Gottlieb Langenhan (1791-1883) was a master gunmaker who worked for a Guild Master named Simon. Johann taught his son Valentin Friedrich Langenhan (1819-1886) who opened his own gunsmith business in Mehlis, Thuringia in 1842, first making percussion pistols and later revolvers for the Royal Saxon Army, (clones of S&W 1 ½ revolver), and teshings (small bore hunting rifles). One of his sons, Ernst Hermann, moved the business to Zella St. Basili (later Zella Mehlis) in 1894. By 1912 the firm had expanded and produced cast steel barrels, precision air guns, umbrella guns, zimmerstutzen, kipplauf hunting rifles, teshings, target pistols, stalking rifles (pirschbuschsen), and bicycles.

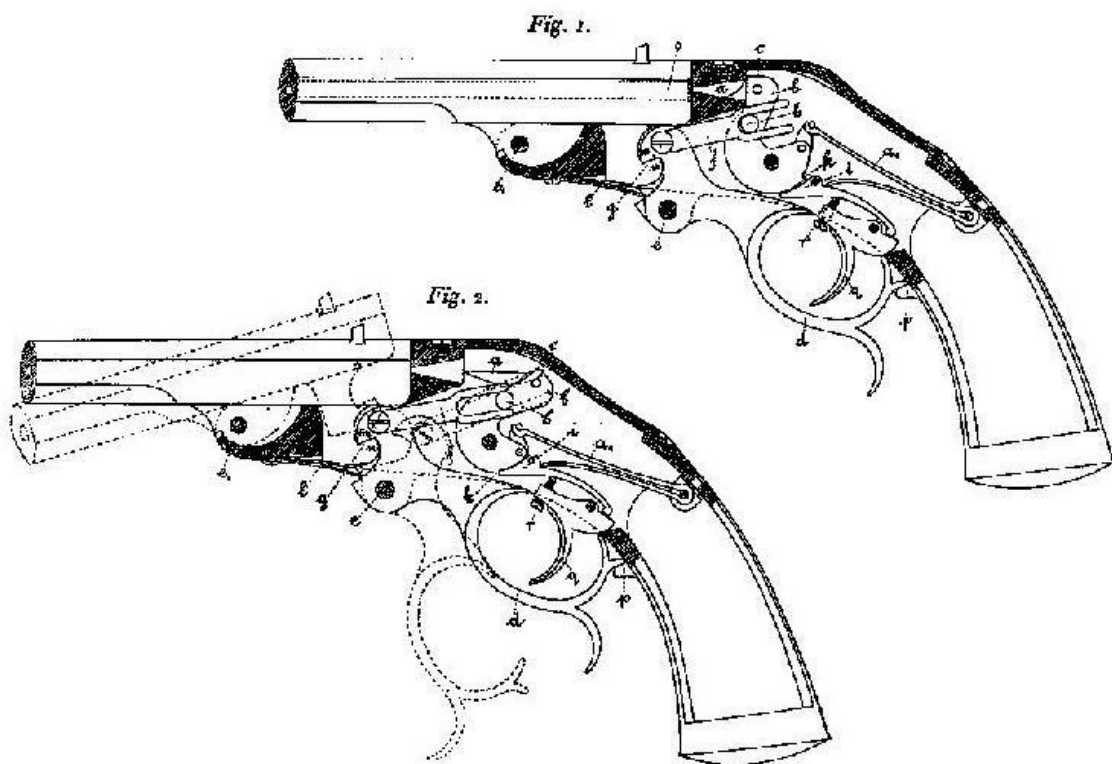


One of Langenhan's products was a small-bore single-shot scheibepistole (target pistol) patented in 1893. The Model 1893 gallery pistol was made in several calibers: .22 short, .22 long, .22 long rifle, 6mm Flobert, and 7mm (K20). It was based on German patent 73855 of March 22, 1893, for a system of opening the action and extracting the spent cartridge by tilting down the barrel. In this system, the triggerguard serves as a lever for opening the action, tilting down the barrel and tilting the chamber up. The extractor pushes the spent cartridge out and an internal cocking lever is moved rearwards cocking the internal hammer. When the barrel is tipped back up into the locked position, the triggerguard/lever is closed, and the pistol is ready for firing.

This Model 1893 is chambered in .22 long rifle and is in excellent condition. It has a blued barrel and the receiver has retained beautiful case hardening patterns and colors. The receiver has a thin-line engraved border as well as an engraved floral design. The old German and Austrian proof marks of 1903 are still mostly sharp and clear. The 10.7 inch (272mm) long rifled barrel is octagonal by the action, then round and then octagonal at the muzzle. The total length is 15.75 inches (400mm), and it weighs 2.58 pounds. The pistols were made in several variations with different contoured barrels (such as octagonal/round and all octagonal), different sights, grips and single or double set triggers.



FRIEDR. LANGENHAN IN ZELLA ST. BLASII (THURINGEN).
 Spannebelverschluss für Kippenrevolver.



Zu der Patentschrift
 № 73855.

PROTOK. DRUCK DER REICHERZWEIGEL

Drawing from Langenhan's 1893 German patent number 73855 showing the operation of the target pistol. Note that when the triggerguard is pushed down and forward, the rear of the barrel is tipped up, exposing the chamber for loading and cocking the internal hammer.

Telegramm - Adresse: **ERNST STEIGLEDER** o Gewehrfabrik o **BERLIN NW 7, Dorotheenstr. 54** Fernruf Amt Zentrum Nr. 7319
STEIGLEDER, BERLIN 7 und Gewehrfabrik **SUHL i. Thür.**

Präzisions - Scheibepistolen

Nr. **392. Selbstspanner-Scheibepistole**, Spannbügel mit Fingerhaken, Federvisier mit Stellschraube, Perlkorn. Arabeskengravierung, eingesetzte Garnitur, Fischhautschaft, Expreßzüge, Kal. 22, Winchester short und long, ganze Länge 43 cm, mit Abzug Mk. **70,-**

Nr. **393.** Genau wie Nr. 392, jedoch mit Stecher mit 2 Abzügen Mk. **84,-**

Nr. **394.** Genau wie Nr. 392, jedoch Schaft mit Daumenlage Mk. **85,50**

Nr. **395. Selbstspanner-Scheibepistole „Hera“**, D. R. G. M. Kasten im Gesenk geschmiedet, alle Systemteile aus bestem Stahl maschinell hergestellt und auswechselbar, Spannbügel mit Fingerhaken, fein gefalzter Lauf mit Expreßzügen, guillochiert, Schweizer Supportvisier, Support-Perlkorn, Arabeskengravierung, eingesetzte Garnitur, Signalstift, dreifacher Stecher, halbarabische Schäftung mit Daumen- und Zeigefingerauflage, geschnitzte Verzierung, Fischhaut, Ringschraube an Eisenkappe, Kal. 22, Winchester short und long, ganze Länge 47 cm Mk. **93,-**

German retailer's advertisement from 1922 showing some of the variations in Model 1893 target pistol. Note the different barrels and triggers. The top and bottom pistols have double set triggers while the middle pistol has a single trigger. The bottom gun also has a Swiss style adjustable rear sight. Also note that the wooden grips of the two bottom pistols have a groove for the shooter's thumb. According to one European gun pundit, the reason for the exaggerated thumb rest was because "in those days it was normal practice to aim and shoot with your arm bent while resting your elbow against your hip, instead of aiming and shooting with your arm fully stretched in a straight line."

On the eve of World War 1 Langenhan employed about 300 people. During the war it manufactured weapons for the Kaiser's army, including a 7.65mm (.32ACP) blowback semi-automatic pistol, which was accepted by the army as a substitute standard weapon. It was basically a scaled-up and modified Browning/FN 1900 but had a peculiar design and was inherently unsafe. In the Langenhan version the breechblock was a separate component that was retained only by a locking stirrup and screw at the rear of the slide. When the gun was fired the screw could loosen and sometimes fall out from firing vibration possibly resulting in the breechblock being blown back into the firer's face. After the war a scaled down version in 6.35mm (.25ACP) was produced that was much safer. This was followed by an even smaller "vest pocket" model. These guns were made until 1929. Langenhan employed almost 400 people just before World War 2 and during the war made guns, including machine guns, for the army. When the Soviets army marched into town in 1945 the firm was shut down and dissolved under the new Communist regime.

This Langenhan Model 1893 Target Pistol was offered at an auction in March 2019 by Joh. Springer's Erben, in Vienna, Austria with a starting price of about \$800 (700 euros). It sold for over \$2,000 (1900 euros).

Remember – our May Membership Meeting will be on Saturday, May 17th

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.



Our Instagram account
[@vaguncollectors](#)
has 552 followers as of 15 Mar 2025!
Follow us for a regular dose of interesting gun-related content!

Check out the new VGCA youtube.com channel
[@vgca-viriniaguncollectorsasso](#)
Troy Blackwell started this effort on the 11th of March and by the 17th we already had 56 subscribers. Check it out when you get a chance!



Reminder – if you are an annual member, you must have renewed for 2025 to get in our April Gun Show for Free. Renewals will be available at the show.



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:

- 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



★ Membership Chairman's Report – March 2025

Please welcome the following new members to our organization:

- 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

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 107 Annual Members for a total of 551 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: We still need a couple of volunteers for our VGCA Gun Show the weekend of April 5th. 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 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 or call me at 571-243-6387.

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Please detach and return with your payment.

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 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.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR THE 2025 NATIONAL MATCHES AT CAMP PERRY

Registration for the Civilian Marksmanship Program's (CMP) 2025 National Trophy Pistol and Rifle Matches is officially open. This year's National Matches are set for July 9 to Aug. 9. The annual National Matches, held at the Camp Perry National Guard Training Base in Port Clinton, Ohio, since 1907, is conducted through a partnership between the CMP and the Ohio National Guard. The series showcases a variety of indoor and outdoor events, with spectators welcome to witness this century-old tradition, free of charge. Along with a multitude of rifle and pistol competitions for adults and juniors of all experience levels, the National Matches feature a variety of educational clinics for shooters as well as opportunities to buy at the CMP North store and from some of the leading industry vendors.



The Rimfire Sporter Rifle Match features .22 caliber competition in open sights (O-Class), telescopic (T-Class) and tactical/unlimited (TU) classes. New for 2025, the National Rimfire Sporter Rifle Match will include an "M-class" to give competitors the option to use U.S. military rimfire training rifles during competition. Also, for the first time, the match will be fired completely on electronic targets on the Camp Perry Petrarca Range. The National Smallbore events will be fired on the same electronic targets as Rimfire Sporter – also on Camp Perry's Petrarca Range. The schedule includes three-position and prone events,

complete with an F-Class category.

The National Pistol events include a mix of traditional matches like the President's Pistol, National Trophy Individual and National Trophy Team events, along with a series of 900 Aggregate matches for .22, .45 and Center Fire Pistol. The GSSF GLOCK National Challenge will be returning to the schedule in 2025 along with the Service Revolver EIC Match.

Except for the National Trophy Infantry Team Match, the National Trophy Rifle series will be held completely on electronic targets for the first time. The CMP's National Long-Range series features six days of individual and team competitions. All Mid/Long Range matches are open to Match Rifle, Service Rifle, Palma Rifle, F-Open, F T/R or AR Tactical categories. They will be held on Camp Perry's 1,000-yard Viale Range. The Mid-Range Match, consisting of slow-fire prone at 600 yards, will be conducted on two days instead of only one.

For air rifle and air pistol competitors, the National Matches Air Gun events will be offered within the Camp Perry Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center's 80-point indoor electronic target range.

Small Arms Firing Schools (SAFS) will be held for rifle, pistol and smallbore rifle. Participants in SAFS clinics are trained by some of the top military instructors in the country on firearm safety and competition basics. All firearms and ammo are provided for the live-fire portion of the clinic. Other clinics during the National Matches include a Rimfire Sporter Rifle Clinic, the CMP Junior Rifle Clinic and, for more experienced competitors, the CMP Advanced Highpower Clinic. Most clinics include both classroom and live-fire training on the range.

The CMP North Store, located on the grounds of Camp Perry, provides buying opportunities with a lineup of military surplus rifles and other items.

Housing for the National Matches is currently available on the grounds of Camp Perry. Accommodations include four-person huts, cottages, barracks, RV spaces and camp sites. If base housing is full, numerous hotels are available in the surrounding Port Clinton, Fremont and Sandusky areas. All events are open to the public and free.

For additional information, including the schedule and information about registering, go to the CMP at <https://thecmp.org/cmp-national-matches/>.

CMP AUCTION – A GARAND OPPORTUNITY



Each week, the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) posts new items on the CMP Auction Site. Many items are highly collectible pieces of American military history. A fairly rare auction item is coming soon on the CMP's Auction Site -- an **M1C Garand Springfield Triple Set** with consecutive serial numbers 3373302, 3373303, 3373304. These rifles will be available **beginning March 17, with bids accepted until March 29**. Go to the CMP on-line auction website at <https://cmpauction.thecmp.org/detail.asp?id=9102> for more information.

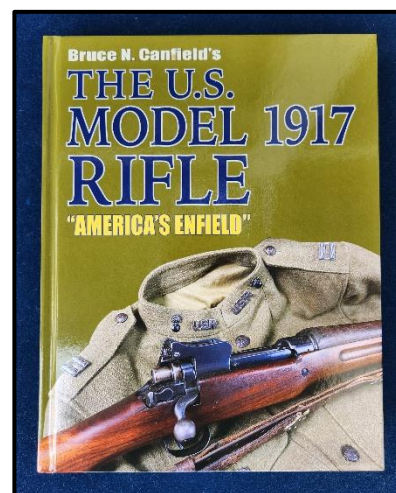
Watch the CMP auction site for additional opportunities.

★ 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

A BOOK REVIEW: The U.S. Model 1917 Rifle “America’s Enfield” by Bruce N. Canfield

To collectors of American small arms, especially from the 20th century, the name Bruce Canfield will be familiar. He has written no less than 16 books and innumerable magazine articles (he is a field editor for *The American Rifleman* and a contributing editor for *Man at Arms*) on different weapons and I daresay that if you are reading this review, you probably have at least one or two of his books in your reference collection. I am about to describe another one for you to consider.



In writing *The U.S. Model 1917 “America’s Enfield”*, Mr. Canfield has tackled what is probably the “red-headed stepchild” of American small arms. Adopted as a wartime expedient measure to meet the demands of the U.S. entry into World War I, the M1917 rifle would be issued in larger numbers and serve with more American front-line troops in Europe than the venerable Model 1903 “Springfield.” Indeed, there was consideration given to adopting the M1917 as our standard rifle after the war as it was superior to the Springfield in a couple of areas – it had a superior receiver-mounted rear sight, its magazine held an extra round, and there were a lot more of them. However, as an adaptation of the British-designed Pattern 14 rifle, the M1917 suffered from the stigma of not being invented in the United States. Nearly 1.5 million M1917s were placed in storage after the Great War and thus were available to serve during World War II.

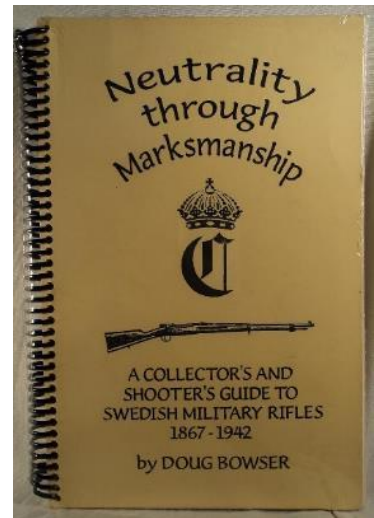
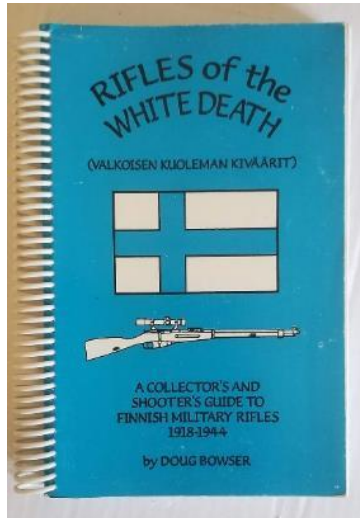
Mr. Canfield covers all this history in great detail in what is without a doubt the definitive work on the subject. In addition, he has chapters dedicated to the three factories that produced the M1917, the different components, modifications, variations, accessories, component markings, and inspection stamps. There are two sections that will be especially interesting to collectors. The first is a table from the Winchester factory polishing shop ledgers that daily recorded the last serial of each receiver that through that workspace. While this is not a table of when rifles were completed and shipped, it does indicate when receivers were completed and can help date Winchester M1917s. The second section is a massive list (49 pages) of all M1917 serial numbers that are mentioned in government documents. It represents only a fraction of those rifles produced (mine was not listed) but you may get lucky!

This book contains 299 pages of great data, with over 400 color and 200 black-and-white photographs and deserves a place on your bookshelf. It is currently available from multiple sources on-line for just under \$50.00.



Well-Known Gun Author DOUG BOWSER Recently Passed

Author of Rifles of the White Death and Neutrality through Marksmanship



The gun collecting community lost an icon when Douglas MacArthur Bowser, a noted gun author, collector and competitive shooter passed away on February 28, 2025, at Kings Daughters Medical Center in Brookhaven, Mississippi. He was 83 years old, being born on February 25, 1942.

Bowser was an authority on foreign bolt action military rifles and probably best known in the Curio & Relic gun collecting community for his two seminal works: ***RIFLES OF THE WHITE DEATH: A COLLECTOR'S AND SHOOTER'S GUIDE TO FINNISH MILITARY RIFLES 1918-1944***, about Finnish Mosin-Nagants, and ***NEUTRALITY THROUGH MARKSMANSHIP: A COLLECTOR'S AND SHOOTER'S GUIDE TO SWEDISH ARMY RIFLES 1867-1942***, about Swedish Rolling Blocks and Mausers. These two books were, for many years, the “go-to” references for American collectors and shooters of these rifles and many collectors depended on them to steer them right. Despite being overtaken by bigger and newer books with more details and information, Bowser’s pioneering books are still extremely useful and have withstood the test of time. Bowser also authored is ***MR. GARAND'S RIFLE: A COMPREHENSIVE SHOOTER'S GUIDE TO THE M1 GARAND RIFLE***. Besides being a well-known gun author, for many years Bowser was a partner in the Great Southern Arms gun store in Mississippi that specialized in surplus military rifles, including Finnish Mosin-Nagants, Swedish Mausers, British Lee-Enfields and German K98s.



★ 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!

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): _____

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.

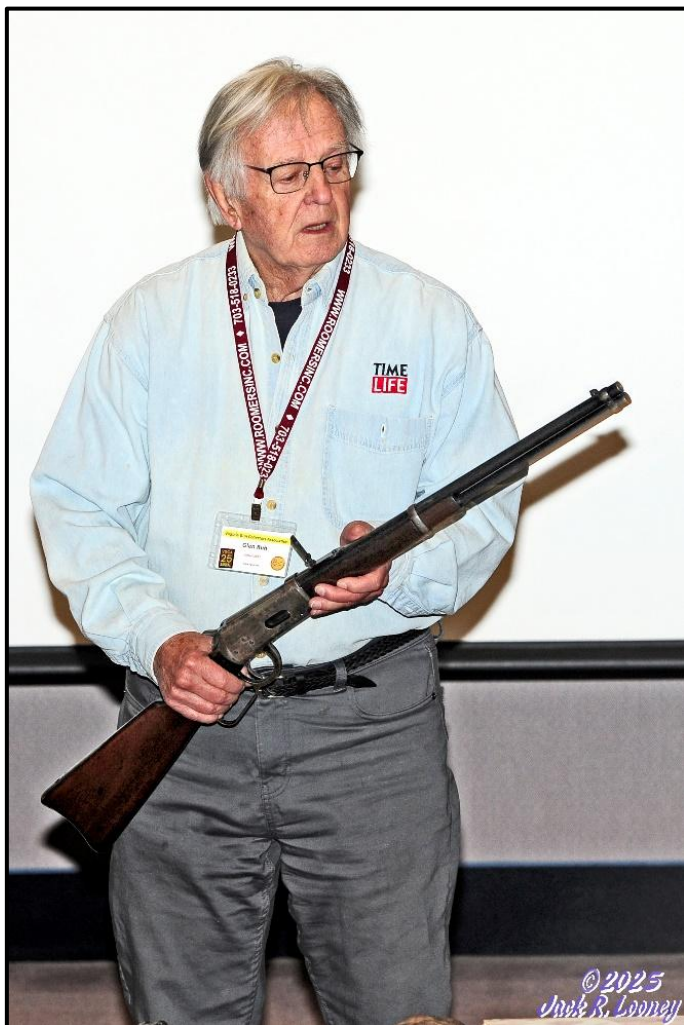
If you do not want your Show-and-Tell item to be shared with other VGCA members, just tell me in advance and I will not attempt to take a photo of it.

I do 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

In keeping with the theme of the night's presentation, Member 1 (*right*) brought in a Winchester Model 94. Calling it "just a run of mill Winchester", this carbine with its 20-inch barrel is chambered in .30 WCF (.30-30) and was produced sometime between 1943 and 1948 – probably in 1944.

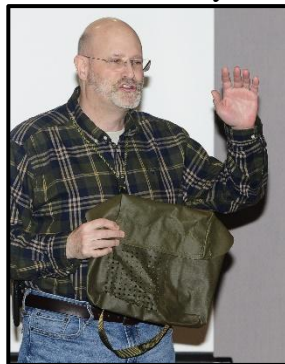


Member 2 also brought in a Winchester Model 94 (*left*). This one is a saddle ring carbine that also has a 20-inch barrel with a ladder rear sight but is chambered in .38-55. As this carbine was made in 1917, its bore diameter is between .377 and .378. When .38-55 was re-introduced in the Model 94 in the 1990s, it was made with a bore diameter of .375. current .38-55 reloading dies made by Lee are also set up for .375 bullets. Shooter beware - this can lead to accuracy issues when shooting the older guns like this one.

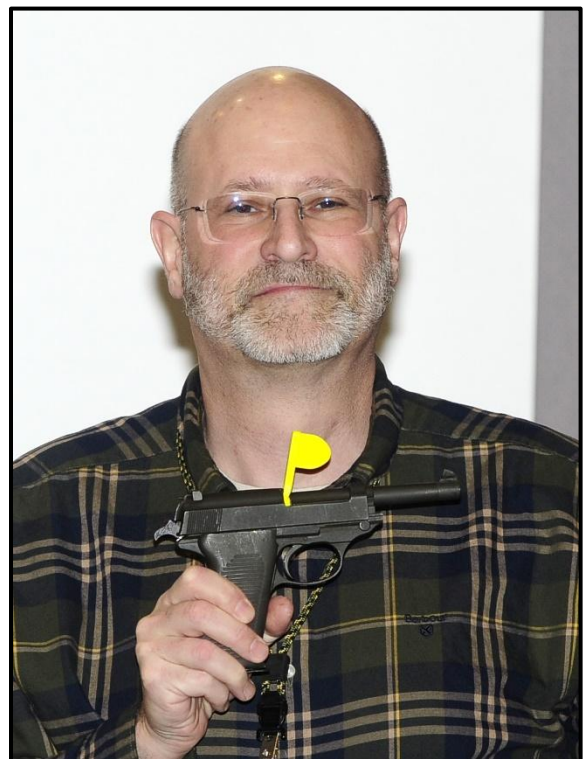
Member 3 shared a Smith & Wesson Pre-Victory Model - aka the K200, the .38 Hand Ejector, the Military & Police Model 1905 4th variation, or the British Service Revolver (*at right*). In April 1942 this revolver would become known as the Victory Model and the serial numbers would have a “V” prefix. This 6-shooter is chambered in .38/200, the then standard caliber of the British Army (roughly equivalent to the .38 S&W cartridge with a 200-grain bullet). Over 571,000 Pre-Victory and Victory Model revolvers were shipped to the Commonwealth nations during WWII. Victory Models were supplied to South Africa, Canada, Australia, and the U.S. Navy. This example was made for England in approximately 1940 and has British proof marks.



Member 4 brought in several items, including Swiss Model 1900 Luger cleaning kit made in 1937 (*below left*) and a Swiss Game Bag made of rubberized nylon (*below center*).



Member 4 also shared a “Grey Ghost” P38 pistol (*right*). The “Grey Ghost” moniker was strictly a marketing term used by MILSURP importer Sam Cummings to enhance sales of these particular surplus pistols in the U.S. The P38 was developed in the late 1930s to provide the German military with a modern replacement for the Luger P08, which it did at about half the cost of its predecessor. At the very end of WWII, French forces captured the Mauser factory in Oberdorf and kept the production lines going to supply arms to France. The last P38s produced for Germany were in the F-block of serial numbers. This example, with its aluminum grip panels and phosphate finish, was among the first made for the French and is in the G-block. French P-38s were issued to French airborne troops and to the French Foreign Legion.





Member 5 brought in a Staccato XC 9mm race pistol. This design with its double-stack magazine is based on original STI development of a high-capacity Model 1911 design. The workmanship on this competition pistol is superb and it features a 2-lb trigger pull and buttery smooth slide/frame fit. It is also, in the words of Member 5, “crazy expensive!” This example features a light under the frame to add weight and to absorb/mitigate recoil, speeding up follow-up shots.



Member 6 brought in a collection of Winchester John Wayne Commemorative pieces. It started with the John Wayne Commemorative Model 94 (*left*) chambered in .32-40. It is one of 50,000 made and Member 6 bought it new in 1981. The paperwork included options to order a custom rifle rack (*lower left*) and scabbard (*below*). At the same time, he bought some John Wayne Commemorative ammo, which was \$20 a box – VERY expensive in 1981!



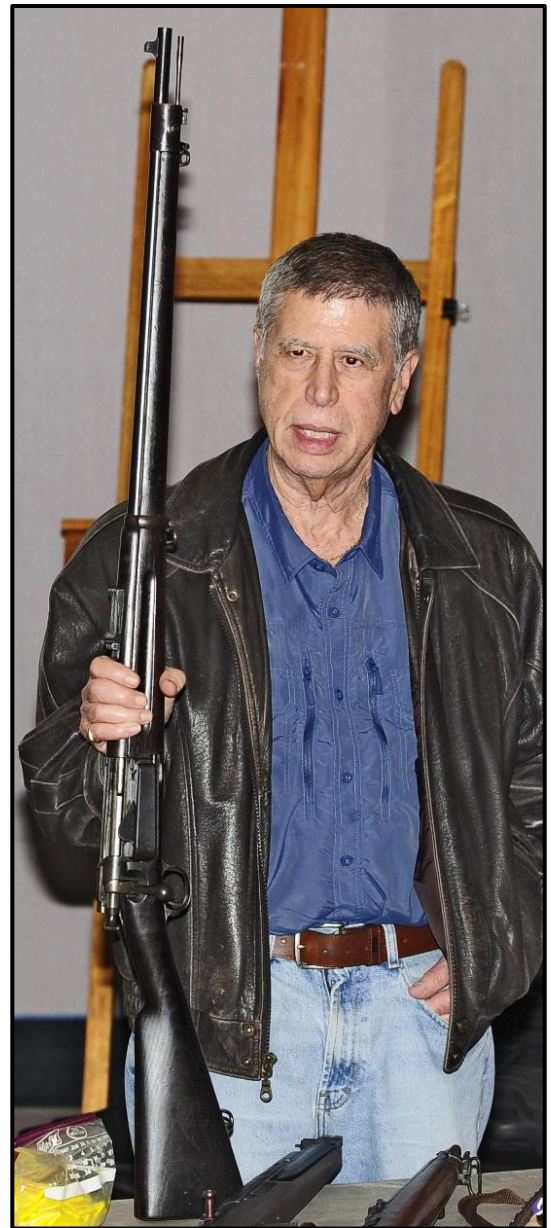
Member 7 shared his Model 1894 saddle ring carbine (*right*). Chambered in .30-30, this example was made in approximately 1911. Member 7 acquired it from his National Park Service superintendent in 2015. It had been in the superintendent's family for generations but his wife "wanted it gone." When cleaning it, Member 7 found a hollowed out compartment under the buttplate that held several kitchen matches. With an added tang sight it has been shot many times and is Member 7's "match" carbine!



Member 8 brought in a beautiful and very rare Swedish M40 (*left*) that he recently acquired at the Ohio Valley Military Society Show of Shows in Louisville, KY. It was one of a batch of 5,000 K98k's purchased from Germany in 1940. Sweden rechambered them in 7.92x63mm to match their machine gun caliber and issued them to the anti-tank/machinegun crews to simplify ammunition supplies to those units. It is fitted with a muzzle brake

correctly marked with the crown proof and serial number. All numbers match and it has a unit stock disc marked "A6. No.10" for the 6th Artillery Regiment. It carries a Swedish "S.S" inspection mark from a Captain Sten Stenmo, who was stationed in Husqvarna where the conversion probably took place. Most were sold after WWII to Israel where they were rechambered to 7.62x51 NATO - and used hard. Less than 50 examples are known to survive in their original configuration. This example was produced in 1940 by J.P. Sauer & Sohn and has 95% original finish. As previously stated, it is in beautiful condition!

Member 9 shared an early U.S. Model 1892 Krag-Jorgenson rifle (*right*) chambered in the .30/40 Krag cartridge (known at the time as .30 Government). Manufactured at Springfield Armory in 1894, it is one of 1500 produced with a solid upper band and a cleaning rod under the barrel. This rifle is in great condition and is unique (as the only one known) to have its stock cartouche stamped on the right side



Member 10 brought in a special Mosin-Nagant Model 1891 (*left*). It is a Finnish Asevarikko 1 (AV1 or Weapons Depot 1) M1891 .22 Rimfire training rifle. Approximately 2500 were made in Finland from the mid-1920s through the 1940s. These are very rare in the U.S. as they were never imported in large numbers – all the ones in this country were private collector importations. This example has a Remington stock and was probably produced in the late 1920s or early 1930s. It was acquired last month at a collector sale.



Member 11 brought in a Cold War Czechoslovakian Vz 52 Carbine (*left*). While the Vz 52 may look similar to the SKS, this semi-automatic carbine is a very different design. Operated by a short-stroke gas piston, this tilting bolt design shoots the unique Czech 7.62x45 round from a 10-round detachable magazine. Its attached bayonet folds to the right. A later model designated the Vz 52/57 would be chambered in the more common 7.62x39 cartridge. After

Czechoslovakia adopted the Vz 52/57 and the Vz 58, many of the approximately 1,000,000 Vz 52s would be declared surplus and shipped to communist insurgents all over the globe. The 7.62x45 military load was corrosive and a high percentage of the Vz 52s imported into the U.S. came in pretty rough shape, but this is nice example.

Member 11 also shared an Italian Moschetto Modello 1891 TS Carbine (*right*). The M91 TS carbine was designed for “special troops” – which means it went to units that were not standard infantry or cavalry, like NCOs, artillery, engineers, alpine logistics, the Royal Navy, and Forestry Militia. Unlike the standard Carcano Cavalry Carbine, the M91 TS has a slightly longer forearm and an under-barrel cleaning rod. It also lacks the Cavalry Carbine’s attached under-folding bayonet. The M91 TS was officially adopted in 1900, although production actually started in 1898. Over 1,042,000 would be manufactured before



production stopped in 1938. This example was made in 1916 and features the “crossed rifles under a bullseye” stamp (*left*), indicating it was part of the 10 percent of production that was disassembled and reassembled and then fired to see if it met accuracy standards – and it did.

Proving the popularity of the type, Member 12 shared not one but two Winchester Model 1894s. The first one (*right*) is chambered in .30 WCF (.30-30) and was made in 1912. The express leaf rear sight was broken when he purchased it at the original Green Top many years ago for \$45!



Member 12's second Model 1894 was the oldest one brought in for Show-n-Tell, having left the Winchester factory in November 1894! Chambered in .38-55, this one had its magazine tube cut down to only hold four rounds in order to be compliant with the hunting regulations in Maine.

The last item shared by Member 12 was a leather scabbard made by Member 12 himself for his .30-30 at the top of this page. Well done, sir!



★ 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 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 Post 1503 – 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*
- Jun 13-15, 2025 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- Jun 21-22, 2025 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK*

MARYLAND – 2025

- **Mar 22-23, 2025 – Timonium, MD – Maryland State Fairgrounds – Maryland Arms Collector Association**
- Apr 5-6, 2025 – Frederick, MD – Frederick Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Apr 19, 2025 – Parkville, MD – BCGF Pavillion – *Baltimore County Game & Fish Association*
- Apr 26-27, 2025 – Timonium, MD – Timonium Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- May 10, 2025 – Easton, MD – Talbot Agriculture & Education Center – *Talbot Outdoors*
- May 10-11, 2025 – Crownsville, MD – Anne Arundel Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*

PENNSYLVANIA – 2025

- 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 – CANCELED~~
- Mar 29-30, 2025 – Lewis Run, PA – Lewis Run VFD Station 6 – *Lewis Run VFD*

- 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*

PENNSYLVANIA – 2025 (continued)

- ~~Apr 26-27, 2025 – Matamoras, PA – Best Western Inn at Hunt’s Landing – Westchester Collectors Inc. - CANCELED~~
- 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*
- Jun 6-8, 2025 – Oaks, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Shows*
- Jun 21-22, 2025 – Washington, PA – Washington PA County Fairgrounds – *ARH Sport Shop*
- Jun 27-28, 2025 – Allenwood, PA – Warrior Run Area Fire Dept Social Hall – *Williamsport Area Cartridge Show*
- Jun 28-29, 2025 – Allentown, PA - Parkview Inn - *Eagle Shows*
- Jun 28-29, 2025 – York, PA – York Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Jul 5-6, 2025 – Reeders, PA – Jackson Township Vol Fire Comp – *Jaeger Arms*
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SPECIAL EVENTS / SHOWS – 2025

- 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*
- May 14-18, 2025 – Winchester, VA - Fort Shenandoah – *151st National Skirmish – N-SSA*
- 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*
- Jul 19-20, 2025 – Doswell, VA – Meadow Event Park – *North South Trader Shows – National Civil War and Antique Arms Show*
- 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*
- Nov 22-23, 2025 – Ladson, SC – Exchange Park Fairgrounds – *South Carolina Arms Collector 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.

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. 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.

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

FOR SALE:

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

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

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

FOR SALE:

✪ After more than two and a half years of research, VGCA member Bill Vanderpool has published his book **Guns of the FBI**. This book is available at GunDigest.com or can be purchased

directly from Bill by calling 703-626-2975. He is more than happy to sign a copy for you. Cost is \$50.00.

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

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 / or text to 703-856-2561.

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 there is no answer leave name and number with a brief description.

Thank you, King von Schilling

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 or text to 703-999-9458.



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