



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.NET

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

NRA Affiliate Number G8162



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April 2016 VGCA Newsletter

✪ **VGCA Meeting of February 25, 2016:** VGCA member Marc Gorelick gave an outstanding and informative presentation on the **Historical Breechloading Smallarms Association (HBSA)**. The HBSA was founded in Britain in 1973 by a group of academics, students of arms and collectors concerned with the threat to the preservation of privately owned historical firearms, which represent an irreplaceable part of the United Kingdom’s social, industrial, military and sporting heritage. It is a national organization with branches and membership groups that provide a regional presence in Wales, Northern England, the Borders and South West. The HBSA is the primary body for collecting, researching, preserving, shooting, and all aspects of historical breech loading small arms within the United Kingdom.

The fundamental aims of the HBSA are to encourage the preservation of breech loading firearms and ammunition and to foster the study of all aspects of the subject, from the aesthetics of sporting guns and the engraver’s art to the functional aspects of firearms used by the soldier, target shooter and the sporting shooter. The HBSA considers that the private collection and use of historical arms and ammunition is essential to facilitate historical research, and to achieve preservation of these heritage artefacts for future generations.

As well as advising on care and conservation, and acting as a forum for the exchange of information, the HBSA pursues the study of historical small arms through a combination of lectures, research reports and shooting activity. Monthly lectures are held in London and other venues. It has close relationships with the Imperial War Museum in London and the Royal Armouries in Leeds. – It is acknowledged as a specialist group – and has access to arms and documents held in certain reserve collections. The HBSA maintains close links with other European collecting organizations



through the Federation of European Societies of Arms Collectors (FESAC). The HBSA encourages members to use and research the functionality of the historical firearms that they own and collect. In other words, to shoot the historical guns in the various collections. To facilitate that objective, the association runs a broad program of shooting competitions throughout the year. For instance, the “Siege of Ladysmith” Competition’s aim is to evoke Boer War battle shooting, so the rifle used must be a service rifle of a type that was actually used in that war with “as issued” iron sights. Many of these competitions take place at the National Shooting Centre at Bisley in the UK. To celebrate its 40th Anniversary, on September 20, 2013 the HBSA held a historic machine gun demonstration shoot at Bisley. The video that you are about to see was taken at that event and shows 27 different historic machine guns, and other battle weapons, being fired. While some of the guns used, such as the Garand, Thompson, BAR

and M-16 are familiar to many of us, and have been shot by many of us, others have rarely been seen on this side of the Atlantic, and few of us have had the pleasure of shooting any of them.

These include the 5-barrel, hand-operated Nordenfält .45 caliber Naval Machine Gun that was adopted by the Royal Navy in the 1880's, the Lewis Light Machine Gun, the Sten gun, the Bren gun, the German MP-43 and MP-40 Machine Pistols, and the MG-34 Machine gun, the UK SA-80 and L1A1 rifles, the Czech Skorpion VZ-61 Sub-machine gun and the ZB-30 light machine gun, which led to the Bren gun.

There are a range of Soviet guns from World War 2, including the DT-Series machine gun, the RPD Light Machine Gun, the PPSH-41 Sub-machine gun, and the PPS-43 Sub-machine gun. And the Soviet post-World War 2 AKM. German pistols are the C96 broom-handle Mauser and a pair of Luger pistols, including the PO8 Lang Artillery Model. There is a silenced, Mini-Uzi and a silenced H&K MP-5. There is even a Portuguese 9mm Indep Lusa sub-machine gun with a polymer body. It was so new in 2013 that it had just gone into mass production.

♣ **February Business:** The business meeting this month began with Jim Burgess leading us the pledge of allegiance. Larry Hare than introduced then welcomed two new members to our club, Raymond Rossomango, sponsored by Marc Gorelick and Robert Bennett, sponsored by Larry Hare. This was followed with reports on the numerous aspects of the upcoming gun show including reports from Shannon Zeigler and Rick Nahas.

♣ **Upcoming April 28th Meeting:** The presentation at the April meeting will be Richard Jones from the UK, Editor of Janes Small Arms Review, world recognized authority on small arms, and former Director of the UK Pattern Room. The topic will be Soviet/Russian small arms development since 1945, alluding to past connections in history with designs/concepts, etc.

Acting President's Comments

Another successful gun show is behind us. Details on how successful we were will be reported at our next meeting on Thursday, April 28. Success stories like this don't just happen. It requires considerable logistics, coordination/teamwork and, most importantly, volunteers. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will likely see the names of the individuals who helped with the show. These are the people who deserve the utmost praise for keeping our boat afloat. VGCA would likely cease to exist if we could not continue to put on successful shows.

Also important to the future of VGCA is its Board of Directors or Executive Committee. Next month we will be holding an election of officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer). At our April 28 meeting we will hear the report of the Nominating Committee and take nominations from the floor for all four positions. It is critical that all members participate in this process. If you cannot attend this meeting and you or someone you know would be interested in serving as an officer, please let any Board member know by phone or email. As previously stated, I will be stepping down as Acting President and we will need some energetic member to step up into this prestigious and influential position and preside over VGCA activities for the next two years. This organization cannot run itself so please help choose the officers that will keep VGCA going in a positive direction.

As extra incentive to attend the April 28 meeting we have an outstanding speaker lined up. Richard Jones is visiting from the UK and will be discussing some exotic Soviet weaponry. Trust me, this is one you will not want to miss!

-Jim Burgess

Other News!

♣ **Continued Call of Articles for the Website:** We are making a call for articles for the website. They must be about guns or gun collecting not shooting sports or hunting. No political articles will be used. Articles may be about modern or antique firearms and may be historical and/or technical in nature. Detailed guidelines will be

available on the website. Please fact check and proofread your own work. All articles may be submitted to Marc or Richard at web@vgca.net. Official Guidelines for articles may be found on the education page of the VGCA site.

❖ February 2016 Show and Tell ❖



❖ **March 2016 VGCA Gun Show:** Our spring gun show was a lot of fun for all those in attendance. These shows wouldn't happen without the dedication of our hard working membership. If it wasn't for you overworked, sleep deprived, and dedicated volunteers there would be no show to come too. We'd like to thank the following people for being part of the Set-up crew: Chris Britton, Jim Burgess, Joseph Ramsay-Clark, Mike Cogswell, Marc Gorelick, Larry Hare, Lynn Jones, Rick Jones, Rick Nahas, Richard Pripeton, Joe Roberts, and Greg Thompson. In addition, the club would like to offer an especially big Thank You to the following members: **Rick Nahas** for managing show, **Dave Litchfield** for coordinating with Sheriff's Dept. & deploying road signs, **Kelly Cook** for deploying road signs, **Jimmy Stoner** for deploying road signs & security, **John Satanek** for managing security, **Addison Hurst** for manning our evaluation table, **Shannon Zeigler** for coordinating ticket sales & everything financial, and **Lee Turner** & Ron Smith for coordinating the 4-H clean-up crew.

Furthermore a thanks goes out to **Jim Burgess**, our head judge and completion organizer as well as the other two display judges, Richard Pripeton and Emory Hackman. Below are the results of the display table judging from the show:

- 1st Place (\$300) went to Shannon Zeigler for his display on "Key Auto-Loading Gas Systems"
- 2nd Place (\$200) went to Larry Hare for his display titled, "Firearms Designs of Andrew Burgess"
- 3rd Place (\$100) went to Rob Becker for his "Small Arms of WW II" display
- Judges' Choice Award (\$50) went to John Babey for his display, "Pearls of Wesson, 1877-1912"
- Honorable Mention was given to Kelly Cook for his display focusing on "Modified Colt Woodsman"
- Honorable Mention was given to Phil Hill for his display on "Engraved Single Action Colts"



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Upcoming Events and Shows

PLEASE NOTE: There are sometimes changes in schedules by gun show promoters or errors on websites. Members are strongly encouraged to *verify before driving to a show*. These dates have been published as of this writing, but are not guaranteed. If you have a favorite show you would like to tell other members about, please email the Editor with a short review, including the show content, i.e., modern, new, collectible or antique, and I will include it as room permits. **Yellow** = Collector organizations.

VIRGINIA 2015

- May 21-22, 2016 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway – *Showmasters*
- June 4-5, 2016 – Fredericksburg, VA – Expo and Convention Center – *SGK*
- June 10-12, 2016 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *The Nationals Gun Show*
- June 25-26, 2016 – Fredericksburg, VA – Expo and Convention Center – *SGK*

MARYLAND 2015

- April 30-May 1, 2016 – Timonium, MD – Timonium Fairgrounds – *Timonium*

PENNSYLVANIA 2015

- April 30-1, 2016 - Carlisle, PA – Carlisle Expo Center – *Eagle Arms*
- May 28-29, 2016 - Gettysburg, PA – All Star Conference Center – *Eagle Arms*
- June 25-26, 2016 - Allentown, PA – PA Rodeway Inn Expo Center – *Eagle Arms*

The e-mail address for any Newsletter related matters or a submission is Newsletter@vgca.net. Feel free to email items for inclusion in the newsletter. For changes of address or non-receipt of the newsletter, either via email or the mailed hard-copy, please contact Larry Hare. v/r Richard Pripeton, VGCA Newsletter Editor