



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.NET

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

NRA Affiliate Number G8162



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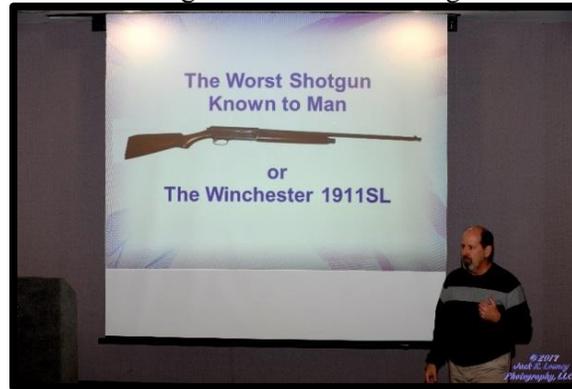
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March-April 2017 VGCA Newsletter

☛ **February Presentation:** John Schumacher gave a fascinating presentation on the Winchester 1911SL shotgun. Any presentation that starts with “the worst shotgun known to man” is guaranteed to get your attention!



John’s interest in the Winchester 1911SL began while researching a family heirloom. In 2002, John inherited a 1911SL that had been in his family since ~1917-20. He discovered through internet research that the Winchester 1911SL was not well thought of – being described as “dangerous,” “hazardous,” a “widow-maker,” - and John’s personal favorite – “the skull-plugger!” The reasons behind these unkind monikers required a little deeper research.

In the early 1900s, John Browning designed the superlative semi-automatic Auto-5 shotgun. Winchester turned down an opportunity to purchase the rights to this revolutionary design, which John Browning then sold to FN in Belgium. Sales of the Auto-5 soon took off, and Winchester – losing market share – had to respond with semi-automatic shotgun of their own. Unfortunately for them, Browning had patented many of the individual parts in his shotgun, and it took Winchester designer Thomas Crossley Johnson 10 years to develop a shotgun that did not infringe on Browning’s patents. The resulting 1911SL (SL for “Self-Loading”) was available in 12, 16, 20, and 28 gauges and approximately 83,000 were made between 1911 and 1925.

One of the design features of the Auto-5 that Browning had patented was the bolt charging handle. Smith had to come up with an alternative way to manually operate the bolt to load and unload his shotgun without violating this fairly broad patent. His solution was...unique, and prone to misuse (often with deadly consequences). To charge the 1911SL, one loaded the tube magazine under the barrel, similar to other repeating shotguns. Once the mag was loaded, the shooter rested the shotgun butt against his thigh, gripped the barrel about 2/3rds of the way toward the muzzle (the barrel was conveniently knurled at the spot for a better grip), pulled the entire barrel rearward and released it to load a round. In practice, the butt was often placed on the ground and the barrel pushed down from muzzle, often with the user’s head looking down the bore. Complicating matters were the cardboard-hulled shotgun shells in use at the time, which often swelled when wet, got jammed in the chamber, and required

additional leverage to extract. Add the 1911SL's propensity for slam-fires, and you get a picture of potential for disaster! John's presentation enthralled the group and was well received. Well done indeed!

John (at right) is demonstrating the correct technique to load or unload the Winchester 1911SL



✪ **February Business:** Ernie Lyles called the February meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. sharp and led us through the pledge of allegiance. There were 46 members and guests in attendance.

We started the meeting by having the host members introduce our three guests.

Rick Nahas provided an update on the status of our March Gun Show – all the tables have been sold!

Joe Roberts made an appeal for volunteers to help with show security. We have 11 volunteers and need at least 9 more. VGCA will pay two members \$100 each per night to provide over-night security. Cots and blankets provided!

Shannon Zeigler provided a treasurer's report – the VGCA is in good financial standing! He encouraged the membership to talk up our show with friends and family – the more money we make on our shows the more we can provide in support of other organizations.

Bill Chronister gave a membership update. He reminded our annual members that tonight was their last opportunity to renew their membership before they would be dropped from our membership rolls.

Rob Becker asked for members to submit reviews of museums, gun shows, and firearms-related books that can be published in the newsletter. He also asked that you contact him if you are not receiving the newsletter via e-mail or snail mail – and to please fill out the Show-n-Tell Fact Sheet whenever you bring in something for all of us to enjoy!

Ernie announced that the Executive Committee had approved a one-time stipend of \$100 for first-time displayers at our Gun Shows. These funds are to off-set the costs of building a display frame and backboard. He also announced that several members of the Executive Committee had volunteered to act as mentors to members who are interested in putting together a display.

Ms. Christy Austin from U.S. Law Shield gave a short presentation on the firearms legal protection plan that her firm offers. They now have lawyers on retainer in 15 states. They also offer gun law seminars almost every Saturday at Elite Shooting Sports.

✪ **Upcoming April 27th Meeting:** Please join us for video presentation on “Parabellum - the Story of the Luger and the First Self-loading Pistols.” As always, get there early for social time (and pizza) at 6 p.m., with the meeting starting at 7p.m.

✪ **March VGCA Show news:**

Though the number of attendees was down from previous shows, those that did come to our March Gun Show at the Prince William County Fairgrounds came prepared to buy! Most vendors reported good sales and all seemed happy with the outcome. Like all things worth doing, this show could not have happened without the efforts of the many member volunteers. First – we need to thank those that helped with set-up on Friday.

Friday Show Volunteers:

Eric Lyles	Lee Turner	Lynn Jones	Emory Hackman
Marc Gorelick	Dave Clark	Richard Jones	Larry Hare
Rob Chapman	Jim Burgess	Kelly Cook	Rick Nahas

Many people contributed, but the show just could happen without our security volunteers. A special thanks goes out to those individuals who volunteered for one 5-hour shift and then worked extra hours – some of them all day!

Show Security Volunteers:

Roy Anderson	Jim Burgess	Jim Frigiola	TJ Parmele (night security)
John Babey	Mark Disilvestro	Tor Johnson	Jeff Clements (night security)
Chris Britton	John Frietsch	George Kirschbaum	Joe Roberts (Chief of Security)
Bill Troy	David Weston	Al Miller	
Carol Troy	Chuck Pellerin	Richard McCommack	

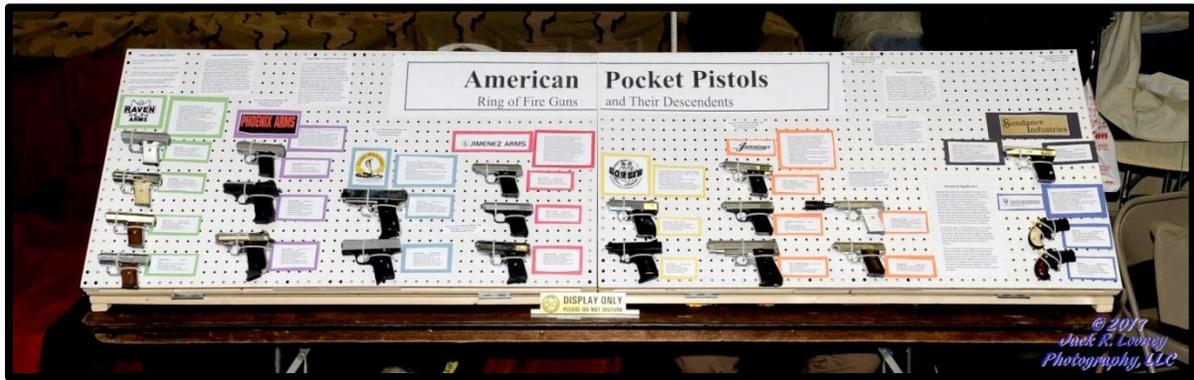
What sets our show apart from the many others in northern Virginia are the educational displays. We were particularly blessed during this show with displays by both long-time “veteran” displayers and two members displaying for the first time. All the displays were excellent and the judges (led once again by Jim Burgess) had their work cut out for them. The judged displays ranked as follow:



Judge’s Choice Japanese Type 89 “Knee Mortar” & Type 99 Machine Gun by Shannon Zeigler



Judge’s Choice Colt SP1 Rifles by Ian Wulf



3rd Place

American Pocket Pistols

Member's Name withheld by request



2nd Place

John Dahlgren and the Plymouth Rifle

by Marc Gorelick



1st Place

The Lee Enfield in World War II

by Rob Becker



The display winners were recognized on Sunday afternoon. From left to right, Ian Wulf, Marc Gorelick, Ernie Lyles (VGCA President), Name Withheld on Request, Rob Becker, and Shannon Zeigler

President's Comments

VGCA Members,

We had a successful gun show last month even though we had a glitch in our email blast before the show. We will do our best to not let it happen again. Everyone needs to keep in touch for our June meeting because I was notified by the NRA that they need the auditorium on our regular meeting night, so the date of our June meeting will be changing. We are checking with Anthony Vanderlinden, our scheduled June speaker, to see what other date works for him. Hope to see everyone at this month's meeting to watch a video on the "Parabellum - the Story of the Luger and the First Self-loading Pistols."

--Ernie Lyles

Other News!

✪ **Membership Report:** Please welcome our four (4) newest Annual Members. This brings the membership rolls of the VGCA to 371 Life/Honorary Memberships and 24 Annual Memberships. Welcome aboard - and a special thanks to those new members who had tables at the March show!

- **Anderson Reid Albano** of McLean, VA is sponsored by **David McKenzie**
- **Roy Anderson** of Manassas, VA is sponsored by **David Litchfield**
- **Mark Wayne DiSilvestro** of Alexandria, VA is sponsored by **David Litchfield**
- **Kim Walton** of Fairfax, VA is sponsored by **Larry Hare** and **David Litchfield**

We hope to see you all at the Monthly Membership Meeting on April 27, 2017!

✪ **New Member Applications:** The VGCA has received Membership Applications from following individuals for your review. Their information and sponsors names are published below for the review of the VGCA membership. If you have any comments, please notify an Officer or Director before the May Membership Meeting.

- **Chris D. Christov** of Herndon, VA is sponsored by **David Litchfield**
- **David Hunt** of Centreville, VA is sponsored by **John Isoldi**
- **Gary Latta** of Woodbridge VA is sponsored by **David Litchfield**

IMPORTANT: Verification of VGCA Members' e-Mail and Postal Mailing addresses: The number of emails that are bouncing have increased, as have returns of hard copy newsletters. This will impact members receiving their VGCA Newsletters and will potentially affect their receipt of their ballot for the upcoming VGCA Director Elections to be held in May. Under the December 2015 VGCA Bylaws revision, electronic ballots will be e-Mailed to members in good standing who receive the Newsletter by e-Mail. Paper ballots are sent to members in good standing who do not have an email address of record. If you have not received your newsletters or have changed either your USPS mailing address or your e-Mail address, please provide this information ASAP to Membership Chair, Bill Chronister at vgca_membership@cox.net (note underscore between *vgca* and *membership*) and to Larry Hare, Newsletter Distribution at LaurenceHare@gmail.com. As ballots are time sensitive, tracking down returned mailings will not be possible. NOTE: While convenient, using work e-Mail addresses may affect your receipt of newsletters or ballots due to enhanced security, or restrictions on attachments often used in corporate systems. Thanks!!!

✪ **VGCA IS NOW AFFILIATED WITH THE CMP** - *By Marc Gorelick*

The Virginia Gun Collectors Organization is now affiliated with the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP). Affiliation with the CMP provides more benefits for the VGCA and its members. Only eight other gun collecting organizations are affiliated with the CMP. Some of the benefits of affiliation for the VGCA and VGCA members are:



- VGCA members will be able to buy firearms, parts and ammo directly from CMP, often at discounts, and not have to belong to another club or organization.
 - It is a benefit that we can promote to attract/recruit new members!
- We can tie into their activities – for instance speakers, workshops, etc.
- As a CMP affiliate club we can purchase .22 ammo, pellets and BBs in volume at their cost. *This can be used to support youth shooting at a reduced cost.*
- We can take advantage of the CMP affiliate rifle purchase plan for .22 rifles, pellet guns and air rifles for shooting. *This can also be used to support youth shooting at a reduced cost.*
- VGCA members in good standing who are US citizens may qualify for the M-1 Garand Sales Program (which can include other weapons).
- Club Rifle Sales Program
- Members can enter the Sanctioned CMP Games Matches.
- VGCA can use the CMP brand – a promotional plus in many respects.

Editor's note: The VGCA owes a debt of gratitude to Director Marc Gorelick. Marc did the vast majority of the coordination required to make this CMP affiliation possible. Thank you Marc!

★ NRA 2017 - ATLANTA!

Mark your calendar for the NRA Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia later this month. If you attend, be sure to visit booth 461 in “Collectors Row” to show your support for the VGCA display. This year the VGCA will be represented by Board Member Marc Gorelick and the display will be about *John Dahlgren and the Plymouth Rifle*. If you saw this award winning display at the March 2017 VGCA show you will know why we are so happy that it is representing us at this national event. The NRA National Meeting and Events is April 28-30, 2017 at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta. For more information, visit www.nraam.org.

★ NOTE – All members running for election as a VGCA Director – you need to send a 1-2 paragraph biography to rpebecker@verizon.net no later than 12 May 2017 so that it can be included in the May VGCA Newsletter.

Show-n-Tell

Our first member brought in a 12 gauge Winchester 1911SL. It is an early version (made in 1913) with a one piece stock – later production had laminated stocks that were more durable. Often found well-worn or in poor condition, this example is in excellent shape. For collectors that intend to shoot their 1911SLs, be aware that there are 3 fiber buffers – 2 inside the forearm and 1 in the butt stock – that wear out and often need to be replaced. The 2 in the forearm require a special tool to replace, which is not mentioned anywhere in the original owner’s manual!



Member #2 brought in a post-war nickel-plated FN Hi-Power pistol. This semi-automatic 9mm pistol was the last creation of John Browning and has the distinction of being manufactured by both the Allies (Inglis in Canada) and the Axis (captured FN factory in Nazi-occupied Belgium) during WWII. This example was made by FN in 1952, and has been part of the member’s collection since 1978!

Member #3 brought in a Birmingham Small Arms (BSA) Martini Mark 2 in .22LR. This beautiful rifle is a single-shot target gun and though it is very accurate, it is far too heavy to be used to hunt small game. In the words of its owner, to carry this rifle in the field, you “would need a caddy – or a good set of wheels!”

Many of these fine rifles were imported from England by John Appleton in Front Royal after firearms were all but banned in their country of origin.



Member #4 brought in three revolvers from his collection. The feature that connects them is that they are all very easy to disassemble.



The first is the Japanese Type 26 revolver. This is a double action only (DAO) break-top that copied features of several different European and American (primarily Smith & Wesson) designs. It is chambered in a unique 9mm caliber. It can be disassembled without any tools!

The next revolver is the Russian M1895 “Nagant.” This double action/single action was chambered in 7.62x38r and was produced from 1895 through WWII. It could be taken apart for maintenance with the use of one simple screwdriver.

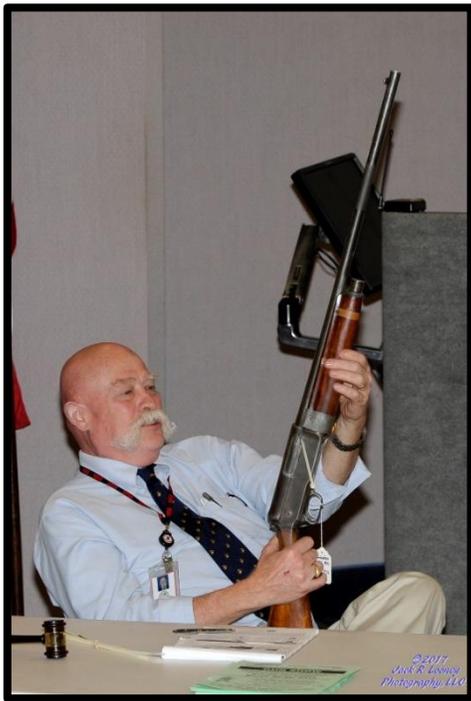


The last revolver presented is an American design - the Maltby & Henley of New York (it is not known whether M&H were the manufacturer or just the retailer). Chambered in .32 Centerfire Short, this DAO has a modular design and disassembles via three screws. An unusual feature is its thumb-wheel safety, which locks the hammer.

Member #5 took the opportunity to tell us about a recent experience he had examining several police department firearms of historical interest. These included a pristine MP44 (the original “assault rifle”) and a beautiful Haenel MP41 German Police sub-machinegun. This police department also had four Thompsons – two early M1921s, a WWII production M1 with phosphate finish, and an extremely rare semi-automatic Thompson. This member reminded us that being known as “the guy who likes old guns” can pay dividends if we are patient!

Member #6 shared a mystery with the group in the form of an unusual M1 carbine receiver. The mystery is that this parkerized receiver is marked only with “W XP 071”. A witness mark bears evidence that there was once a barrel mounted. Was this a Winchester tool room prototype? We may never know...





Member #7 shared his experiences with the Winchester 1911SL. This shotgun was fairly popular in western Massachusetts up through WWII. It was well made, handled well, and pointed nicely. Many of these shotguns started to get beat up and worn out after Winchester introduced “Super-X” shotgun shells in 1930 – the 1911SL just wasn’t meant for those powerful loads. This member contends that the 1911SL was NOT the worst shotgun ever made – that distinction belongs to the Winchester Model 40. It was only produced for one year and had the nasty habit of firing out of battery!

Member #8 shared his 1911SL (at left). Also an early version made in 1913, this one is in rough shape with several old repairs. It is intriguing because it is, in the words of its owner, “beat.”

In Review

“In Review” is a relatively new section to the newsletter (started in August 2016) and includes VGCA member reviews of guns shows, books, and museums. If you would like to submit a review, please send it to the newsletter editor at rpebecker@verizon.net.

★ Museum

THE MUSEUM OF THE ARDENNES

5 RUE CHAMONT LA ROCHE BELGIUM

Report by Bill and Carol Troy

As the eastern and western frontiers of Hitler's Third Reich crumbled in late 1944 and the Allies stood poised to strike into Germany, Hitler attempted one last major counter-offensive in the west, trying to push through the Ardennes and recapture the port of Antwerp. He hoped this would smash the morale of the western allies and pave the way for negotiations allowing the Germans to shift their full attention to the east to combat the “eastern hordes” of Soviet Russia.

The Museum of the Battle of the Ardennes is situated on the main street of the little town of La Roche, covers this complex German counter-offensive. It offers several dioramas, a handful of vehicles and lots of weapons and uniforms used during the operation. Of course there are a number of Tommy Guns and at the front door a large diorama depicting the meeting of British and American troops in the town. La Roche was heavily damaged during the battle when allied bombers destroyed a key bridge in the town to stall the German advance. Parts of the town were never rebuilt and the ruins of a number of houses and buildings on the hillsides still stand today. The museum’s displays state that the town blames the Germans for the damage to the town, not the Allies.



One of the weapons cases with an Auto Ordnance M1928A1 S/N AO12925 and an M1



A winter scene - notice the M1 Thompson on the left hand soldier



Another diorama showing soldiers with M1 Thompsons amid the rubble of La Roche



Left above: Plaque thanking the US 2nd and 3rd Armored Division troops who liberated La Roche.
 Center above: Plaque commemorating the meeting of British and American troops in La Roche.
 Right Above: A newspaper clipping showing Bob Reid with a TSMG during the Battle of the Bulge.



Display showing the citizens of La Roche hiding in their cellar during the battle.



Ruins from the Allied bombing in Dec 1944



The bridge destroyed by Allied bombing help slow the German advance has been rebuilt

✪ Gun Show

NORTHERN VIRGINIA RELIC HUNTERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CIVIL WAR SHOW

Report by Marc Gorelick

If you are looking to find a multitude of guns from many eras at the annual Northern Virginia Relic Hunters Association (NVRHA) show in Fredericksburg, VA then don't bother going. However, if your interest is the Civil War and the times just before and after, or if you are a relic hunter, then this show is worth attending by the antiquarian, historian or collector of Civil War weapons, accessories, accoutrements, memorabilia and relics. This collector club show's hours were Friday, April 7, from 12noon to 7PM, and Saturday, April 8 from 9AM to 4PM. It was held at the Fredericksburg Expo Center just off I-95. Thinking traffic from Arlington would be better on Friday rather than Saturday, I got on the road Friday about 11:00AM. That was a mistake as I-95 was stop and crawl for most of the way south. When I arrived I was pleasantly surprised with the amount and variety of items. Although there was space for 350 tables, and NVRHA table plan showed about 237 tables. It may be that more tables would be set up on Saturday as people were still setting up while I was there. The number of tables compares favorably with the VGCA show. It was admittedly a small, local show, however there well designed and fascinating displays, as well as many items of interest for sale – military effects, memorabilia, equipment, books, paper goods, art, original photographs, and antique weapons and ammunition. There were a number of out-of-state dealers, including Vin Caponi (antique guns) from New York, and a number from the Carolinas. All table holders I spoke to were friendly and willing to talk to the public, as were the NVRHA officers. The displays were informative – one about Confederate pikes and another about African-Americans serving in the Confederate Army, stand out. If you are a Civil War collector or buff, this show is worth attending. It can be done fairly quickly and there are plenty of eateries and shopping in the area. However, if you are only interested in guns, then the show is not for you.

The NVRHA was organized in 1972 to promote the study and preservation of the American Civil War through the location, identification and preservation of military and related historical artifacts. It has between 150-200 members and meets the first Tuesday of every month at the NRA Headquarters. Like the VGCA, the NVRHA meetings feature expert speakers and informative presentations. The membership includes quite a number of published authors. More information about the club can be found on its website – www.nvhra.com.

★ Book

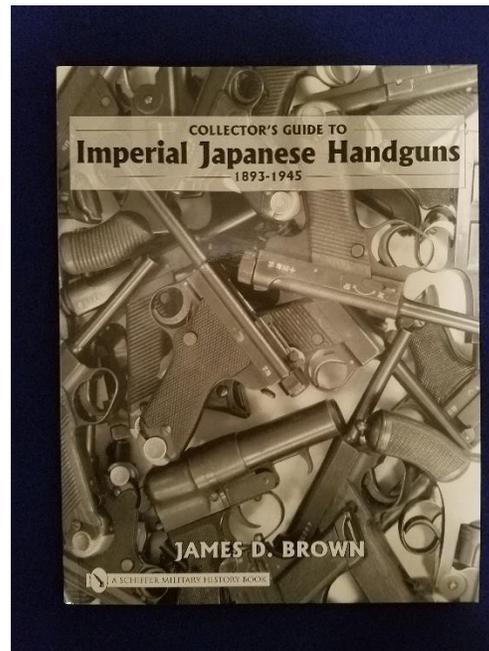
Collector's Guide to Imperial Japanese Handguns 1893-1945

By *James D. Brown*

Schiffer Publishing, Ltd, 64 pages

Review by Rob Becker

Though not a large book at only 64 pages, this soft cover volume does cover the topic of Imperial Japanese Handguns (both types and their variants) fairly well. Starting at chapter one with the Type 26 revolver (like our 4th member presented at the February Show-n-Tell) and continuing through the various Nambu, the Type 94, and several obscure pistols like the Hamadas and the Inagakis, it finishes with the Imperial Japanese flare guns (which is why this book appeals to me). Though the photographs are in black-and-white, they cover the subject well, to include some accessories such as shoulder stocks and holsters. Best of all, it is available on the internet for around \$20.00. At that price, you cannot afford not to include this book in your reference library!



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 2017

- April 21-23, 2017 - Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters and C&E*
- April 29-30, 2017 – Manassas, VA – PWC Fairgrounds – *SGK*
- April 29-30, 2017 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center – *C&E*
- May 6-7, 2017 – Doswell, VA – Farm Bureau Center at Meadow Event Park – *SGK*
- May 12-13, 2017 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK*
- May 26-29, 2017 – Hillsville, VA – VFW Hall – *Pulaski Gun Show*
- May 27-28, 2017 – Norfolk, VA – Norfolk Scope – *Showmasters*
- June 3-4, 2017 – Dale City, VA – Dale City VFW – *Showmasters*
- June 9-11, 2017 - Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters and C&E*

SPECIAL NOTE

- **May 17-21, 2017 – Winchester, VA – Ft Shenandoah – The Spring National Matches of the North-South Skirmishers Association. (Be sure to check out the antique and reproduction guns, parts, etc. on Sutler's Row. Details can be found at www.n-ssa.org)**

MARYLAND 2017

- **None Found in May or June**

PENNSYLVANIA 2017

- **April 28-29, 2017 – Dover, PA – Dover Union Fire and Hose Company - *The Hunters Gun Show***
- **April 28-29, 2017 - Philadelphia, PA – National Guard Armory - *The Gun Shows***
- **April 28-29, 2017 - Monroeville, PA - Monroeville Convention Center - *Showmasters and C&E***
- **May 6-7, 2017 – Wind Gap, PA – Plainfield Fire Company – *Eagle Arms Productions***
- **May 7, 2017 – Brodheadsville, PA – West End Fire Company - *Local***
- **May 20-21, 2017 - Oaks, PA – Oaks Expo Center - *Eagle Arms Productions***
- **May 27-28, 2017 - Gettysburg, PA – All Star Conference Center - *Eagle Arms Productions***
- **June 3-4, 2017 – Allentown, PA – Econolodge Conference Center – *Eagle Arms Productions***
- **June 9-11, 2017 – Waynesboro, PA – Waynesboro Fish & Game – *Local-WFG Club***
- **June 10-11, 2017 – Bloomsburg, PA – Bloomsburg Fairgrounds – *Eagle Arms Productions***
- **June 10-11, 2017 – Leesport, PA - Farmers Market - *The Gun Shows***

SPECIAL NOTE – OHIO - 2017

- **May 20-21, 2017 – Wilmington, OH – The Roberts Centre – *OGCA Annual Display Show and Banquet (Members and invited guests only)***

Want-To-Buy: Member Kim Walton is interested in buying Newton and Meeker rifles. If you have one to sell, please contact him at (210)-602-0506 or copo6970@yahoo.com

The e-mail address for any Newsletter related matters or a submission is Newsletter@vgca.net or you can read 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 Larry Hare.