



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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March-April 2019 VGCA Newsletter

President's Comments

VGCA Members,

We had a very successful spring 2019 gun show. Attendance was very strong and we had a great assortment of firearms for sale and display.

I want to thank all of our volunteers who assisted in getting the show set up on Friday and providing security throughout the weekend. Special thanks to Rick Nahas for all of his hard work in getting the show up and running.

We were a bit short staffed on security personnel and many members volunteering to take on additional shifts. The success of the show depends upon our volunteers, I hope we get a few more members on security for the fall show.

--Bernie Breighner, VGCA President

★ February Presentation ★

The StG 44 "Sturmgewehr"

For our February Membership meeting, Bernie Breighner (*right*) gave a presentation on the StG 44 "Sturmgewehr" - the world's first assault rifle. The "Sturmgewehr" (literally translated as "Storm Rifle" or "Assault Rifle") was actually a series of weapons developed by the German Army during WWII. The series consisted of the Mkb 42, the MP 43/1, the MP 43, the MP 44, and finally the StG 44.



German development of an “Assault Rifle” dates back to World War I. Late in that war, the Germans determined that most infantry weapons engagements occurred at 300 meters range or less. This meant the primary German cartridge (the 7.92x57 – or 8mm Mauser) was more powerful than necessary, and its heavy recoil delayed follow-up targeting and shots. To address this issue, the Imperial German Army actually fielded the world’s first sub-machinegun – the MP18i. Employed by “Sturmtruppen” (literally storm troopers) late in the war to attack and clear trenches, the MP18i was chambered in 9x19, aka the 9mm Luger.

Designed by Hugo Schmeisser and manufactured by Bergmann Waffenfabrik, the MP18i was a machined steel and wood stock classic, utilizing the fairly complex and delicate detachable 32-round “snail drum” originally designed the Artillery Model Luger P08 pistol. The MP18i was followed by the MP18ii, which used more robust 20-, 30-, and 50-round detachable box magazines. The MP18ii was further developed post-war into the MP28.

While an important step the Assault Rifle story, the MP18 was strictly a short-range weapon limited by its pistol caliber. In 1938, police in Madgeburg, Germany developed a true intermediate round (something between full power rifle caliber and pistol caliber), the 7.92x33 caliber. A comparison between the 7.92x57 and the 7.92x33 is as follows:



Caliber	Bullet Weight	Velocity	Muzzle Energy
7.92x57	154 grain FMJ	2800 fps	2815 foot pounds
7.92x33	123.5 grain FMJ	2313 fps	1390 foot pounds

Standard German small arms at the start of WWII were well made but labor intensive pieces of hardware.

- Pistol: P08 “Luger”
- Rifle: K98k “Mauser”
- Sub-machinegun: MP38
- General Purpose Machinegun: MG34

As the war progressed, Germany needed to produce better weapons faster and cheaper. The following small arms made extensive use of stamped and welded parts instead of forged and machined components and generally replaced their pre-war predecessors.

- Pistol: P38
- Rifle: G41 (though the K98k remained standard)
- Sub-machinegun: MP40
- General Purpose Machinegun: MG42

In late 1940, prototypes of new weapons chambered in the 7.92x33 round were developed by Walther (factory code “ac”) and Haenel (factory code “FXO”). The Walther and Haenel factories were located only about 5 miles apart - and Hugo Schmeisser also lived in the same area (it is speculated that he influenced both designs). Designated a “Machinenkarabiner” (Machine Carbine), these prototypes were the Mkb 42(w) and the Mkb 42(H) respectively. The Mkb 42(w) could fire either semi-automatically or full-auto from a closed bolt while the Mkb 42(H) fired full-auto only from an open bolt. Small numbers of each type were produced and tested.

Both Mkb variants had good points and bad. The best features were combined into a single design designated the MP 43/1 (MP for “Maschinenpistole”). The MP 43/1 was produced and tested in brigade

strength on Eastern Front in early 1943. Employment of the MP 43/1 was later curtailed by Hitler. His thought process being that a new weapon in a new caliber would be too disruptive to the supply chain. He later allowed a one-for-one replacement of MP 40 submachineguns with the next variant – the MP 43. When full rate production was authorized, the weapon became the MP 44. Finally, Hitler came to embrace the MP 44 as a “wonder weapon” and renamed it the “Sturmgewehr 44.”



Bernie holds one of two examples present during the meeting. Interestingly, both were MP43s manufactured in 1944!

Production Numbers

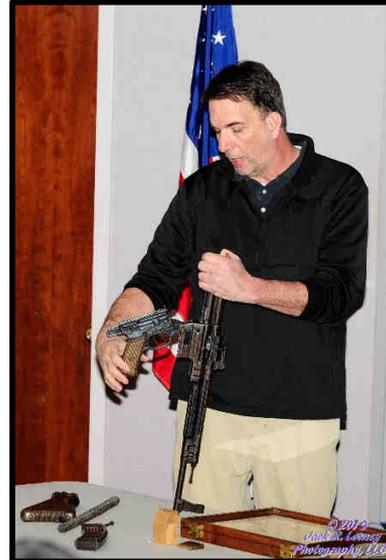
Mkb 42 (w)	~500
Mkb 42 (H)	~2,000
MP 43/1	10,000
MP 43	20,000
MP 44 / StG 44	300,000



One of the most famous accessories for the StG 44 was the “Krummlauf” curved barrel. There were actually two variants – one with a 30-degree curve (*above*) and another with a 90-degree curve. They were designed to shoot around corners (with corresponding optics to also see around corners) as well as to engage infantry at very close range from inside an armored vehicle (eliminating blind spots). Pushing bullets through a curved barrel had predictable effects on the barrel life – barrels lasted about 100 rounds.



Another unusual (for the time) accessory was the Zielgerät 1229 “Vampir” night vision system (*above*) introduced in February 1945. Consisting of an Infrared light (illuminator), optics, and a large (~30 lbs) battery pack, the Vampir was one of the very first night vision device deployed in combat.



Bernie described many StG 44 accessories, noting that ammo pouches were extremely varied in quality and materials (above left), as well as demonstrated disassembly (above center & right)

In summary, the StG 44 was an excellent design for the time. The Germans were never able to make enough of the weapons or its 7.92x33 ammunition, and the magazines were not the most reliable (generally, only 25 rounds were loaded in what was supposed to be a 30-round magazine). Despite its rather limited use post-WWII in East Germany and Yugoslavia, it still appears on battlefields today – 5,000 former East German MP 44s were recently captured in a warehouse in Syria! However, the lasting

legacy of the StG 44 is the concept of a lightweight, select fire weapon chambered in an intermediate power round with a 30 round detachable magazine. Such a concept is as valid to today's infantryman as it was in 1944.

Bernie provided a superb presentation on a historically significant weapon. Thank you sir!



☛ **Upcoming April 25th Meeting:** Our April meeting will include the second part of author/historian Anthony Vanderlinden's superbly presentation on the **FN Mauser**. You won't want to miss it! Social time begins at 6 p.m. (there will be pizza) in the NRA Headquarters Conference Room, followed by the meeting beginning at 7 p.m.



☛ **February Business:** President Bernie Breighner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Jim Burgess led us with the U.S. Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence to remember those in harm's way and for those who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our country. There were 76 VGCA members and guests in attendance and the guests were introduced to the membership by their sponsors/hosts.

The Spring VGCA Gun Show will be 23-24 March 2019. As of this date, there are only two tables available for rent or display. Bernie reminded us that the Prince William County Fairgrounds are for sale, so our future show dates are only confirmed through November of this year.

Bill Chronister, our membership chairman, said that he had Membership Badges for the new annual members that were listed in the January VGCA Newsletter, as well as the new Life Members.

Marc Gorelick asked for volunteers to help man the VGCA Recruiting table at the upcoming April Chantilly Gun Show. NOTE: the April Chantilly show will be before this newsletter is published. See article in this newsletter seeking volunteers for the June Chantilly show.

Shannon Zeigler gave a treasurers update. The VGCA has opened an account with Burke & Herbert Bank. We will be moving all of our finances to that bank and severing ties with the Bank of America.



★ Other News! ★

★ **Membership Chairman's Report – March-April 2019:**

Membership Chairman's Report April 2019 - New Members: Please welcome new Annual Members.

- **Ronald Alan Atkinson** of Centreville, VA was sponsored by **John Isoldi**
- **David A. Happ** of Bethesda, MD was sponsored by **David Litchfield**
- **Adrian Hayes** of Arlington, VA was sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**
- **Clay D. Laurie** of Potomac Falls, VA was sponsored by **Joe Roberts**
- **Ken Morgan** of Woodbridge, VA was sponsored by **Matt Gminski**
- **Steve Papovich** of Elkwood, VA was sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**
- **Victor Pinte** of Fairfax, VA was sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**

- **William Robitaille** of Fairfax, VA was sponsored by **David Litchfield**
- **Gregory Sanders** of Fincastle, VA was sponsored by **Chris Britton**
- **John E. Wormley, Jr.** of Woodbridge, VA was sponsored by **Jim Burgess**
- **Cameron Cowherd** of Ft. Myer, VA was sponsored by **Chris Britton** and **David Litchfield**

Gentlemen, welcome aboard. For those who did not pick up their IDs at the March VGCA Gun Show, your Annual IDs will be available at the April 25, 2019 Membership Meeting. If unable to attend, it will be mailed to your home address on your membership application. Congratulations and welcome aboard.

New Applications: We have a new group of VGCA Membership Applicants. They applied at the February Membership Meeting, the VGCA Gun Show, by mail, and at the April Chantilly Gun Show. The applicant's information and sponsor's name is published below. If there are any comments or questions on any applicant, please notify an Officer or Director, and the Membership Chair before May 22, 2019.

- **Adam C. Duncan** of Fairfax, VA is sponsored by **Cameron Cowherd** and **Dave Litchfield**
- **R. Scotty Gerbich II** of Huntly, VA is sponsored by **Forrest Fleming**
- **John Hemmis** of Washington, DC is sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**
- **Charles Bradford Howard III** of Springfield, VA is sponsored by **Addison Hurst**
- **Michael Johnson** of Keswick, VA is sponsored by **Dean M Schlemmer**
- **Erik A. Pelikan** of Clifton, VA is sponsored by **Forrest Fleming**
- **Paul J. Warwick** of Ashburn, VA is sponsored by **Tim Messick**
- **Dennis M. "Mike" Dean** of Boyd Tavern, VA is sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**
- **Darrell Goff** of Fairfax, VA is sponsored by **Joe Roberts, Jr.**
- **Bruce Gundry** of Blacksburg, VA is sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**
- **Scott Hatfield** of Fairfax, VA is sponsored by **Marc Gorelick** and **Bill Chronister**
- **Robert Lamoureux** of Manassas, VA is sponsored by **Allan Rupp**
- **Chew C. Leung** of Arlington, VA is sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**
- **Eileen Mackrell** of Reston, VA is sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**
- **Nico Pampaloni** of Lessburg, VA is sponsored by **Joe Roberts** and **Marc Gorelick**
- **Charles D. Throckmorton IV** of Fairfax, VA is sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**
- **Clayton Vieg** of Springfield, VA is sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**
- **Darnell Williams** of Stafford, VA is sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**

For questions, please email **Bill Chronister, Membership Chair** at vgca_membership@cox.net or call me at 703-204-0138.



VGCA Has Another Successful Show!

The Virginia Gun Collectors Association hosted our Spring Show on March 23rd and 24th at the Prince William County Fairgrounds. Over the course of the weekend, we saw almost 1100 enthusiastic attendees come through the doors, looking for bargains from our members and commercial vendors! Most table-holders reported brisk sales. Happy vendors and happy attendees are the true definition of a successful show!



Show set up begins with the delivery of over 160 8-foot tables (left) which volunteers then move into place (right)...



...before assembling and labeling them so the vendors know where to set up.



A group photo of our Spring Show set up volunteers!

VOLUNTEERS

We simply could not make the show happen without our volunteers! Assisting with set up on Friday morning were:

Rick Nahas (Show Director)	Joe Roberts	Larry Hare
Steve Gomes (Show Security)	Andrew Woodard	Dave L. Murphy
Jim Burgess	Peter O'Connor	Ed Costello
Steve Vaughn	Bob Chapman	Lynn Jones
Rich Valenzi	George Dungan	Rick Jones
Jim Lindsey	Emory Hackman	Kelly Cook

Show Security was provided by:

Friday

Benjamin Henry	Bob Chapman	Craig Weston
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Saturday

Steve Gomes	Dan Helm	George Kirschbaum
Bill Ludwig	Steve Vaughn	Rich Valenzi
George Duncan	Nelson Hufano	Jim Burgess
Keith Webster	Kasev Sundar	Samuel Brevard (walk-in)
Chris Britton	Carl Warhurst	

Sunday

Steve Gomes	August Przybilla	Jim Burgess
George Duncan	Tor Johnson	Paul Blemberg (walk-in)

George Kirschbaum
Nelson Hufano
Joe Roberts
Keith Webster

Dan Helm
Steve Vaughn
Tim Messick

Rich Valenzi
Ed Lyon (walk-in)
Joe Wagner (walk-in)

A special "Thank You!" goes to members Jack Looney and Wes Chappell for providing overnight security on both Friday and Saturday nights. They kept our treasures safe!

DISPLAYS

One of the features that distinguishes the VGCA Gun Shows from all the many other gun shows in northern Virginia are the educational displays. This time there were five such displays – and all were excellent! Judging was tough, with the point differences between 1st and 2nd overall as well as between the Judges Choices being extremely small! Awards were as follow:

1st Place: "The Flare Guns of G.S. Shpagin" by Rob Becker

2nd Place: "The Jenks Mule Ear" by Marc Gorelick

3rd Place: "Remington Rolling Block Rimfires" by Michael Alsop

Judges Choice: "Ruger Standard & Mark Series Pistols" by Steven Vaughn and Rich Valenzi

Judges Choice: "UD 42 Marlin Gun" by Gary Latta



A picture of those involved in the displays at our March Show – From left to right, Gary Latta, Rich Valenzi, Bernie Breighner, Mark Gorelick, Michael Alsop, Steve Vaughn, and Rob Becker



A Judge's Choice award went to Gary Latta's display of the UD-42 (above), a rare and little-known sub-machinegun of WWII



Another Judge's Choice award went to this impressive display of Ruger Standard and Mark Series Pistols (above) by Steve Vaughn and Rich Valenzi



This superb presentation of Remington Rolling Block Rimfires (above) by Michael Alsop earned 3rd Place in the eyes of the Judges



Marc Gorelick contributed this impressive display of the Jenks Mule Ear Carbines and Rifles (above). It garnered a well-deserved 2nd Place in the judging.



Rob Becker's display of the Flare Guns of G.S. Shpagin (above) covered almost four decades of WWII and Cold War production from countries across the globe. In extremely close scoring, it was judged as the 1st Place winning display at the March VGCA show

The next time you see him, please thank Jim Burgess for organizing the judges and tabulating the results!

To encourage people to take the time and effort to display their collections, the VGCA offers display tables free of charge to our members. The VGCA also offers a one-time stipend of \$100 to members building their first

displays (those backboards and gun racks don't just build themselves, you know!). Finally, winning displays receive cash prizes! If interested in learning more about displays or in asking for help in putting one together, please contact any VGCA officer or Director.



A portrait of long-time VGCA members! From left to right: Fred Schieck, Rick Nahas (our Show Director – demonstrating his keen fashion sense in the Lynx skin hat!), Ed Costello, and photo-bombing behind Ed is Geoff Leighton!

THE VGCA NEEDS YOU!



VGCA ELECTIONS ARE UPON US CONSIDER RUNNING FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear VGCA members,

It is that time of the year again and it will soon be time to hold elections for the Directors to the Board of Directors will soon be here. There are three Director positions that are available. Although the elections will be held in May, people often decide if they want to run at the April meeting. If you want to contribute to the VGCA, now is the time to consider stepping up to the plate. If you want to be a Director contact Emory Hackman, Chair of the Nominating Committee at emory1biz@cox.net or come to the membership meeting on Thursday, April 25, where you can stand up and throw your hat into the ring for one of these positions.

CMP NEWS

Marc Gorelick, CMP Liaison



Registration for the **2019 CMP National Pistol and Rifle Matches** opened March 1. The National Matches will be from **July 7 to August 9** at the **Camp Perry** National Guard Training Base in Port Clinton, Ohio, where they have been held since 1907. Returning to the CMP schedule is a series of individual and team long range events. These matches will be fired at 1,000 yards and are open to match rifles, service rifles and Palma rifles. There will be small-bore and rimfire sporter matches, adult and junior pistol events and a series of vintage and modern military rifle matches, including John C. Garand, President's Rifle, Hearst Doubles, and Vintage Sniper events. Many pistol and rifle clinics will be held, including a Small Arms Firing School where participants will be instructed by some of the top military shooters in the country on competition technique and firearms safety. And the CMP will be open. All events are free and open to the public. For more information, including dates and registration go to the CMP website at <http://thecmp.org/competitions/cmp-national-matches>.

The **Fairfax Rod and Gun Club** will host one of the CMP's regional **Small Arms Firing School (SAFS)** events Saturday and Sunday, June 22-23 at its facilities in Manassas, VA. The regional SAFS program started in August 2018 and is designed to train beginners in rifle essentials and competition basics in a closely monitored setting, using the talents of qualified CMP staff, trainers and members of the US Army Marksmanship Unit. Participants learn through classroom and hands on training and apply what they learned in a true M-16 rifle match. Registration opened March 1 but classes are limited so persons should sign up as early as possible. No previous marksmanship knowledge or experience is needed. For more information visit the CMP website at <http://thecmp.org/training-tech/small-arms-firing-school-training/>. It appears that the Fairfax Rod and Gun Club followed the VGCA's example and recently became affiliated with the CMP.

Two local area youths were awarded the CMP's prestigious **Junior Distinguished Badges** for their outstanding performance in 3-position air rifle competition. The CMP awards the badges, as part of the Excellence in Competition Award Program, to school-age 3-position air rifle shooters who attain a series of high rankings in designated major junior air rifle championships. Congratulations to Arielle Kimm of Aldie, VA and Anna Frazier of Annandale, VA. And on a related note, the **2019 CMP National 3-position Air Rifle Championships** will be held June 27-29 (junior sporter matches) and July 13-15 (precision matches) at the Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center in Camp Perry. For additional information go to the CMP website.

As arms collectors we should be concerned, even if this is happening in another country. The Lithgow Small Arms Factory Museum has started an on-line petition to the NSW government to reverse this unjustified and ill-informed regulation that will destroy firearms collections of Museums. They need 10,000 signatures. To find out more, go to <https://www.thepetitionsite.com/691/098/077/reverse-unjustified-and-ill-informed-regulation-that-will-destroy-firearms-collections-of-museums/>.



★ Another Great Weekend of Recruiting at the April Chantilly Gun Show!

The VGCA Executive Committee would like to extend a special “thank you” to those VGCA members who graciously volunteered to “staff” our table at the latest Chantilly Gun Show (April 12-14, 2019). They are:

FRIDAY

Marc Gorelick
Matt Dirisio
Allan Rupp
Kasev Sundar

SATURDAY

Marc Gorelick
Michael Auer
Gabe Leyva

SUNDAY

Marc Gorelick
Joe Roberts

Special thanks go out to Joe Roberts for bringing in and displaying his Mannlicher-Carcano in 7.35mm with an “SA” Finnish marking.

The VGCA table at Chantilly has been almost solely responsible for doubling our new annual members this past year (11 more potential new members were signed up during the April show!) - and that simply would not have happened without the support of our volunteers. Remember, volunteering to staff this table means you get in to the Chantilly show as an exhibitor **for free** – no small consideration now that the show entrance fee is \$16.00 per day! All you have to do is give a few hours of your time to tell folks about the Virginia Gun Collectors Association, what we do, and the benefits of membership. Please contact Marc Gorelick or any other VGCA officer or director if you are interested in volunteering at future shows. The next Chantilly Gun Show is on June 7-9, 2019.

PLEASE HELP!

VOLUNTEERS WANTED TO MAN THE VGCA TABLE AT THE NEXT CHANTILLY SHOW

The VGCA has a promotional table during the Nations Gun Show at the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly, VA, June 7-9. Volunteers are needed to man the table Friday (3 - 8 p.m.), Saturday (9 a.m. – 5 p.m.), or Sunday (10 a.m. – 5 p.m.). By volunteering to man the table you get free entry to the show, which normally charges \$16 for one day entry or \$22 for a 3-day pass. Volunteers get plenty of time to walk the show and hunt for bargains. You also get to meet fellow gun collector and firearms enthusiasts. If interested, please contact Marc Gorelick or any other VGCA Officer or Director.

NVRHA Annual Civil War Show



The **Northern Virginia Relic Hunters Association (NVRHA)** hosted their 47th annual Civil War Show at the Fredericksburg Expo Center, 2371 Carl D. Silver Parkway, Fredericksburg, VA 22401, on 29 & 30 March 2019. The show's scope was actually expanded last year to include arms up to WWII. At over 180 tables, this show concentrates on Civil War arms, both pristine examples as well as dug up relics, but also featured at least three book vendors (primarily U.S. military history) and weapons, accoutrements, accessories, militaria, relics, memorabilia, books, paper goods and art from the Revolutionary War to WWII. There were also judged display tables. It is important to note that display subjects are not limited to the Civil War. The NVRHA sponsors up to six different awards for he judged. There is free parking and they encourage people to bring their families. Regular admission is \$8, good for both days, but VGCA members get in free with presentation of a valid VGCA ID card. Marc Gorelick, who staffed the VGCA recruiting table at the show, noted that several VGCA members braved the 1-95 traffic to take advantage of our reciprocal agreement with the NVRHA and free admittance to the show.

The dates for next year's NVRHA show have not been announced, but the venue will remain at the Fredericksburg Expo Center (just off of I-95 by the Exit 130).

For more information about the NVRHA, go to their website at www.nvrha.com.



Marc Gorelick (above) manned the VGCA table at last month's NVRHA Civil War Show in Fredericksburg, extolling the many virtues of VGCA membership to potential new members.

★ Show-n-Tell ★

NOTE: Anyone bringing in items for Show-n-Tell, please hold them up so the members can see it. This will also help your Volunteer Photographer get a decent photograph of the special item you brought to show, and people who could not attend the meeting can see it clearly in the newsletter. Thank you!

February Show-n-Tell was a real treat as 14 members brought treasures to share!

Member 1 shared his Vz58 (*right*). Imported by Czechpoint, this is actually a semi-automatic copy of the main battle rifle of Czechoslovakia/Czech Republic. Chambered in 7.62x39, the Vz 58 is similar in appearance to an AK 47 but a very different weapon. Even the similar-appearing curved 30-round magazines (aka “banana clips”) are not interchangeable.



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Member 2 (*left*) presented a Spanish-made copy of the Winchester M1892 in .44/40 (called “.44 Largo” in Spain). Called the “El Tigre,” this lever action was manufactured by Garate Anitua & Company between 1915 and 1938. The rear sight is graduated to 1000 meters and is similar to those mounted on the M1893 Spanish Mausers. The “El Tigre” was made for both civilian and Guardia Civil (Police) use.



Member 3 shared what he referred to as one of his “bucket list guns” – a Swiss Army SIG P75 (*left*). This is a version of the SigSauer P220 and replaced the SIG P49 (aka P210) as the primary Swiss sidearm. It is marked as an actual SIG (not a Sig-Sauer), assembled in Switzerland, and bears the stamped Swiss Cross, an A-prefix serial number, and Waffenfabrik Bern proof and acceptance marks, denoting Swiss Army acceptance. Member 3 has wanted a P75 for a long time and had previously acquired the holster and magazines. Very few examples of

these 9mm pistols have been imported to the United States.



Member 4 presented a beautiful Westley Richards “Rook Rifle” cased set (*above*). Westley Richards & Company, Ltd. of Birmingham, England, has been in the business of making fine firearms for over 200 years. A Rook Rifle, originally called a “Rook and Rabbit Rifle,” is a single-shot small caliber rifle meant to hunt small game (a rook is a type of raven). A Rook Rifle is light (so it could be carried on a walk in the country) and accurate and powerful enough for its intended prey. Popular between 1870 and 1910, they are generally found in black powder calibers from .22 to .38. This example, based on the Martini action and made in 1898, is chambered in .32/40. The .32/40 is on the heavier end of calibers for a Rook Rifle and is somewhat unusual, being an American cartridge. Rook Rifles were eventually replaced by rifles chambered in .22 Long Rifle.



Member 5 brought in two interesting pieces. The first was an Argentine M1891/31 Engineer Carbine (*left*). Chambered in 7.65x53, this bolt action carbine started as a M1891 cavalry carbine. It is one of 5,043 that were subsequently modified in 1931 to an engineer's carbine. Modification allowed use of a modified Model 1879 Rolling Block bayonet. Called the "Little Mule," this gun was known for its stout recoil!

The second piece shared by Member 5 was a Steyr M1905 pistol (*at right*). Designed by Ferdinand von Mannlicher and chambered in 7.63x21 Mannlicher, this early single action blowback operated semi-automatic pistol carries 10 rounds in grip. The magazine is integral to the frame and is loaded from the top via stripper clips (which are VERY scarce). This particular example also has an Argentine connection as it is one of around 10,000 M1905s purchased by Argentina's Army. Argentina continued to field the M1905 long after it was replaced in other militaries by more modern designs.



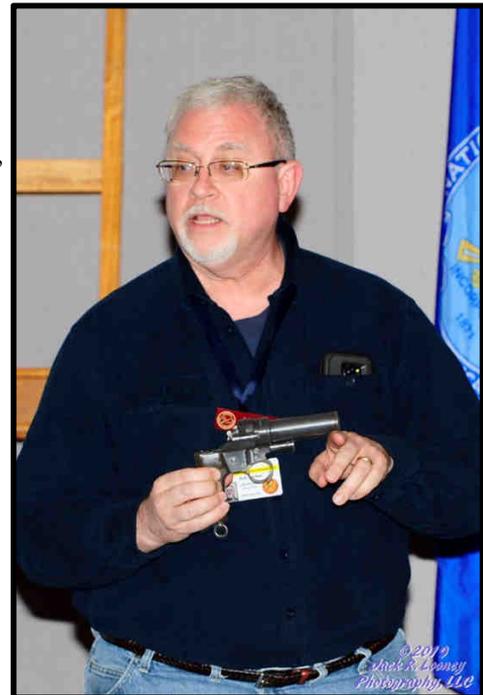
Member 6 brought a recently purchased Colt M1892 Army (right). This was the first swing-out cylinder double-action revolver purchased by the U.S. Army. Chambered in .38 Long Colt, the M1892 Army was made from 1892 until 1908. Sometimes referred as the “New Army and Navy” revolver, the caliber was found wanting



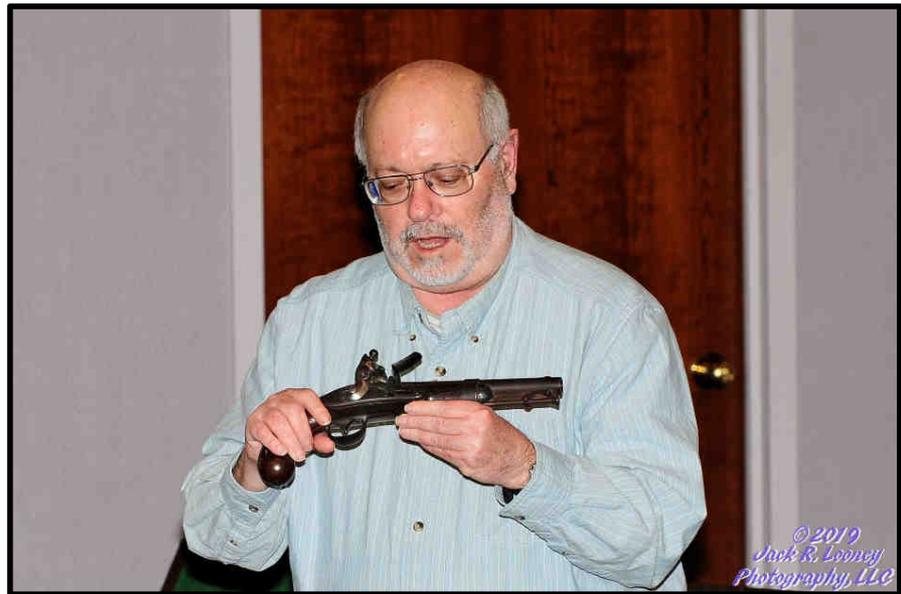
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during combat operations against the Filipino rebels and it was quickly replaced in the field by refurbished Colt Single Action Army and new M1909 Colt New Service revolvers – both chambered in the man-stopping .45 Colt caliber. These were later replaced by the Browning-designed M1911 in .45 ACP, arguably the most famous sidearm in the history of the U.S. Army. This example in its original finish was made in November 1901.

Member 7 also shared a recent acquisition – this one a Vz 30 Flare Gun (right) picked up at the Ohio Valley Military Society “Show of Shows” in Louisville, KY. The Vz 30 is a single shot, single action chambered for 26.5mm (~1 inch) flares and was made for the Czechoslovakian military. It employs a side-swinging breech face and the hammer must be cocked before it can be loaded or unloaded. The extractor is manually operated via the rod under the barrel. Approximately 25,000 were made between 1930 and 1945 (production continued under German occupation). This excellent condition example was made in 1939 and will be part of the VGCA Display of WWII Flare Guns at the NRA Annual Meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana in April.



Member 8 brought in an antique Model 1836 Flintlock Pistol (*right*). It is a .54 caliber single-shot made under contract for the U.S. Army by Robert Johnson of Middletown, Connecticut. This pistol is a modification of the Model 1826 pistol and is the last flintlock pistol produced for the U.S. military. It was standard issue during the Mexican War and many were converted to percussion for use during the Civil War. This example is original and has not been converted to percussion and restored to flint.



Johnson’s factory in Middletown, Connecticut had 27 employees and used six water wheels for power. On June 27, 1836, Johnson received a contract to produce 3,000 Model 1836s at \$9.00 each. In 1840 he got a second contract for 15,000 more. This pistol, manufactured in 1841, is from the second contract. Production of percussion pistols began the next year.



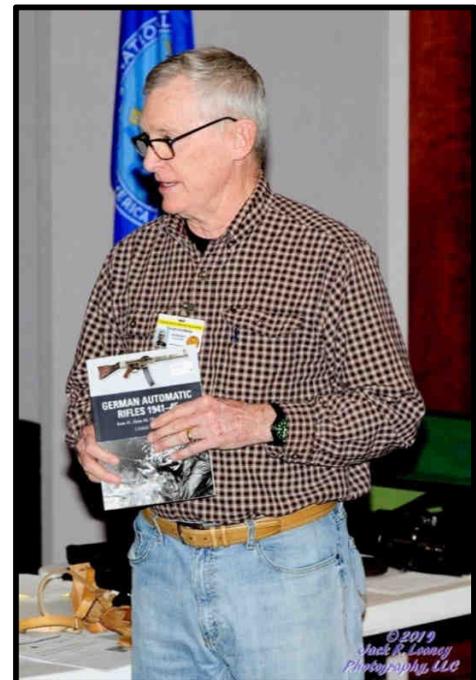
Member 9 presented a Walther Model 8 semi-automatic in 6.35mm (.25 ACP). This example (*at left*) is a 2nd variant of the Model 8 and was made from 1927 until 1933 or 1934. It is estimated that total 2nd variant production is only 24,000-40,000 (there were ~84,000 1st variants made). This example (*in the smaller photo at the upper right*) has the “Crown over N” proof and came with a custom shoulder holster (*main photo at left*). It was apparently a private purchase and carried as the personal sidearm of a German officer during WWII.



Member 10 brought in not one, but two Beretta pistols – a Model 1934 and a Model 1935 (*above*). The M1934 is a blowback operated semi-automatic pistol chambered in 9mm Corto (.380 ACP). Beretta produced the M1934 from 1934 until 1959. This example was made in 1939 for the Royal Italian Army.

The M1935 is a similar compact blowback operated semi-automatic pistol, but chambered in the smaller 7.65mm (.32 ACP). The M1935 was produced by Beretta from 1935 until 1959. This example was made in 1935 and was issued to the Royal Italian Air Force.

Member 11 (*right*) noted that while not everyone can afford a transferrable fully-automatic StG 44, we can all enjoy learning about them. He shared a book titled “German Automatic Rifles 1941-45” by Chris McNab. This book is available in both paperback (~\$19.00) and Kindle editions (~\$10.00) and can be found at multiple sources on line. It is also for sale in the NRA Museum Gift Shop upstairs!





Member 12 shared three different Enfields. The first was an Enfield .410 Musket. This single shot smoothbore variant of the Enfield No 1 Mk III rifle was modified in India for use as a police/prison guard weapon. The reduced firepower was justified in case it fell into the hands of a prisoner. Sealed wooden crates with 180-rounds of .410 lead round ball ammunition (designated MK-1-Z) have been available at recent area gun shows.

The second Enfield (*pictured above*) is a Standard Small Arms (SSA) “Peddle Scheme” No 1 Mk III*. SSA was formed shortly after WWI began in 1914 in order to accelerate Short Magazine Lee-Enfield (SMLE) rifle production through extensive use of subcontractors. SSA functioned as both the contracting agent and the final assembly point. The first rifles were not completed until 1916 and only about 200,000 SSA rifles were produced. Finally, in 1918, the War Department took over SSA and reorganized it as the Nation Rifle Factory. SSA rifles are thus a scarce and highly-sought variant.

The last Enfield presented was an Irish Contract No 4 Mk 2. The final variant of the Lee-Enfield line of rifles, many of these rifles intended for Ireland were never delivered and were imported into the U.S. still wrapped in the original factory preservative. This example was one of those “mummy wrapped” rifles.



In the category of It-has-the-look-and-feel-of-the-real-thing-but-is-a-lot-less-expensive-to-own-and-shoot, Member 13 offered the Umarex Legend MP40 BB Gun! The Umarex Legend MP40 (*left*) does indeed have the same weight and feel of the actual article (one VGCA member who owns both the Umarex and the real McCoy says you could not tell the difference if you held them while blindfolded). It is CO2 gas-operated and fires .177 steel BBs from a 52-round magazine – and best of all, it is select fire – so you can shoot it either semi-automatically or at full-

auto! All this at a cost of about two Benjamins (which is the same as just the transfer fee for a real MP 40). Check out the Umarex line of legendary replicas at umarexusa.com or one of the Umarex retailers (such as pyramydair.com).



Member 14 noted that you do not always have to be wealthy to afford a full-auto gun. His MP 43 (*above*) is a reactivated DEWAT (a registered Deactivated War Trophy). A DEWAT is a weapon covered by the National Firearms Act (typically a machinegun or destructive device) that has been rendered unserviceable and has been registered with the BATFE. DEWATs can be reactivated (aka “REWATs”) through the submission of the appropriate paperwork, work by an approved manufacturer, and the payment of the \$200 transfer tax. Member 14 purchased his MP 43 DEWAT and had it reactivated for about 15-20% of the cost of a similar transferable gun (DEWAT cost + cost of a new barrel + \$200 transfer tax). That is something to think about . . .

Member 14 also shared this collection of German cartridges from WWII (*right*). Pertinent to the night’s presentation, note the 7.92x33 ammunition on 5-round stripper clips in the upper left and upper right. The large rounds in the middle are “intermediate” rounds for aircraft-mounted cannons.



★ In Review ★

The “In Review” section to the newsletter was initiated 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

A TRIP TO THE MUSEUM: LITHGOW SMALL ARMS FACTORY MUSEUM

Marc Gorelick, VGCA

If you are visiting Australia and have the time, then a visit to the Lithgow Small Arms Factory (SAF) Museum is worth a day-trip. Lithgow is a small town (pop. 13,095 in 2016) nestled in the Blue Mountains about 93 miles west of Sydney, New South Wales. The privately-run museum is on the site of Australia’s famed Lithgow Small Arms Factory.



This display, inspired by the Australian Army 'Rising Sun' badge, shows every year of Lithgow production of the Rifle No 1 Mk III and Mk III and its accompanying Pattern 07 sword bayonet. Other rifles featured in the display are the experimental No 1 Shortened and Lightened, the 7.62 trials rifle based on the No 6, and a sectionalized SMLE of the last year of manufacture (1956). Photo – R. Shackelford*

The Boer War made it evident that Australia’s isolation from British armament sources could lead to serious problems in future conflicts. After the establishment of the Commonwealth in 1901 the new

Australian federal government resolved to make Australia independent of British armament and munition supplies. The decision was made in 1907 to establish a factory for the manufacture of small arms in Australia. Lithgow was chosen as the site of the factory because it was serviced by road and rail and had thriving iron works, coal, and limestone industries. It was also protected by its location in the western foothills of the Blue Mountains. In 1908 land was purchased and building of the new factory commenced. Six men were sent to the United States to the firm of Pratt & Whitney to learn how to make rifles using modern equipment and Pratt & Whitney sent people to Australia to assist in planning the factory. Lithgow Small Arms Factory officially opened in June 1912 and became Australia's first high precision mass production facility. It was and still is Australia's primary producer of military small arms as well as a manufacturer of civilian arms.

During its years of operation Lithgow SAF built up an impressive reference collection of long arms and machine guns from all over the world. This collection, originally accumulated for technical appraisal, developed into an in-house 'museum' cared for by SAF staff. Public access was restricted. When Lithgow SAF was folded into Australian Defense Industries (ADI) in 1989 the historical importance of the collection of small arms and other items was impressed upon ADI by a few ex-employees and community members. ADI gifted the collection to the City of Lithgow in 1995 and the museum opened its door to the public in 1996. The museum is run by volunteers as an independent trust that receives no financial assistance from the government or corporate entities.



Part of the exhibit on the first floor that contains examples of rifles, submachine guns and machine guns from the reference collection. The examples are of weapons from all over the world, many quite rare.



The Enfield exhibit includes a display of the different woods used in Lithgow SMLE production.



Among the guns in its reference collection that are on display are many rare experimental and trials guns as well as many special purpose weapons made at Lithgow and foreign weapons that were used for design purposes. For instance, the “Number 1 display cabinet” (*photo on the left*) contains first production weapons of Lithgow SAF examples of the first models. On the top shelf of the Number 1 cabinet is one of the few SMLE No 1 Mk III rifles manufactured in 1911 at the Pratt & Whitney factory in USA by Australian Factory foremen to prove the machinery destined for the Lithgow factory.

On the shelves below are the first Lithgow production weapons: the L1A1 SLR (s/n AD5900001); F88 Steyr AUG (s/n SAF8800001); F1 carbine (s/n AD6400001); and sectionalized F89 Minimi light support weapon (s/n SW950001). *Photo: Lithgow SAF Museum.*

Over the years Lithgow SAF produced many experimental and prototype weapons that are on display. For example, during World War 2 the Australian Army, then fighting in New Guinea, requested shorter and lighter weapons more suited to jungle warfare than the current production No 1 Mk III*. Lithgow SAF produced around 100 shortened and lightened No 1 weapons which proved unsuccessful during trials. After the failure of the experimental shortened No 1 development continued to meet the army’s requirements and another 100 experimental rifles, the No 6 Mk 1 and the No 6 Mk 1/1 were produced. Although these proved more successful during trials, they were never adopted by the Australian Army because the war ended before production could begin. Other experimental weapons produced by Lithgow SAF that are on display include the X1, X2 and X3, leading to the development of the F1 Carbine, and target rifles. The collection also contains rare prototypes manufactured in other countries, such as the British EM2 and a modified version of the Czech ZB vz/33 produced for the pre-Bren gun trials in Britain.



Two of the weapons on display: a prototype of the U.S. Pederson rifle, caliber .275 (top). Designed by John Pederson, it was trialed by the British who although they were impressed with it, still rejected it because they felt the waxed cartridges would be a problem in the hot, humid, tropical areas of the British Empire. Below it is a French Model 1915 Chauchat Light Machine Gun, caliber 8mm. It was described as the worst machine gun ever made and was universally condemned by all who had to use it.

On the 2nd floor of the museum is the Hayes Handgun Gallery. In 2006 former QLD gun dealer Ronald Hayes donated his amazing private handgun collection of about 800 guns to the museum. It is one of the best collections of handguns in the world in terms of the quality of the pieces and the breadth of the collection. Rarities in the collection include the Borchardt, the 1904 Webley & Scott, the Chicago Palm Pistol, the Liberator, the Dardick, the tiny Kolibri 2.7mm pistol and the Persian Luger. Among the examples on display are a number of gold plated and hand-engraved presentation masterpieces as well as cased dueling flintlocks. The exhibit tells the fascinating story of the evolution of the handgun from the

earliest days to modern semi-automatics. Featured are the technological changes and the ways different makers overcame common problems.



One of the display cases in the Hayes Gallery. The tiny gun in the bottom row center is a Kolibri. Photo – Roaming the Outback.



Smith & Wesson 29-2, .44 Magnum. Shostle engraved & ivory grips. Photo – Roaming the Outback.

Despite the beauty of the Hayes collection there is a sad story behind its being in the museum. When Australia passed its onerous gun laws several years back it made no provision for the collector. Basically, if they couldn't sell their collections to a dealer, collectors had to either donate their collections to a museum or turn them in for destruction. Hayes had offered his magnificent collection to several institutions who all declined it before Lithgow SAF Museum took it.

The museum also holds and displays extensive archives dating back to the beginning of the factory in the 1912. These include production records, photographs, managerial documents, blueprints and drawings, and items relating to the social and working history of the factory. This historic collection reveals early to modern day production processes.

The museum is located in a building of the original Small Arms Factory and is located at 69 Methven St, Lithgow NSW 2790, Australia. The phone number is (02) 6351 4452 (local) and 61 2 6351 4452 (international). The website is: <https://www.lithgowsafmuseum.org.au/>. Museum hours are: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday - 9:30am to 2:00pm; Weekend and public holidays - 10:00am to 4.00pm. Admission is \$10 (Australian) for adults, Child under 14 - \$5 (under 5 - free) and \$20 for a family. Special tours and group rates can be arranged. There is a museum gift shop that contains a number of reference books normally unavailable in the U.S.



Part of the Lithgow SAF Museum machine gun display (left). A display cabinet of flare/signal pistols in the Hayes Gallery (right). Photos – Roaming the Outback.

Final Salute

VGCA Member **William Dangoia**, of Fairfax Virginia passed away on March 26th, 2019. He was a life member of VGCA and a member of NORVA. Services were held on April 1st, 2019 at Holy Spirit Catholic Church. 5121 Woodland Way, Annandale, VA.



VGCA Member **Vernon Cochran**, recently of Thomas, West Virginia, passed away on April 10th, 2019. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Army, the Georgia State Police, and the Fairfax County Police. Vern was a long-time annual VGCA member who used to regularly volunteer at our gun shows with set-up and security. Formerly from Fairfax, Virginia, he and his wife moved to WV about two years ago. Services were held at the Lohr & Barb Funeral Home in Parsons on April 13th, 2019.

★ 2019 Presentation List ★

The following presentations are scheduled for our 2019 membership meetings:

DATE	PRESENTATION	PRESENTER
April 25 th	FN Mauser – Part 2	Anthony Vanderlinden
May 23 rd	Finnish Mosin Nagants	Jim R.
June 27 th	“Saturday Night Specials”	Matthew G.
July	No membership meeting scheduled for summer break	
August 22 nd	U.S. Metallic Cartridges Post Civil War – Part 1	Mark Gorelick
September 26 th	U.S. Metallic Cartridges Post Civil War – Part 2	Mark Gorelick
October 24 th	History of the VGCA	TBD
November	No membership meeting scheduled due to our Fall Gun Show	
December xx	Holiday Pot Luck and Annual Swap Meet (date is TBD) – no presentation	

★ 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 - 2019

- ☞ Apr 19-20, 2019 – Virginia Beach, VA – Virginia Beach Convention Center – *SGK*
- ☞ May 4-5, 2019 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fredericksburg Expo Center – *SGK*
- ☞ May 4-5, 2019 – Harrisonburg, VA – Rockingham County Fairgrounds – *Sporting Shows Unlimited*
- ☞ May 18-19, 2019 – Salem, VA - Salem Civic Center - *C&E*
- ☞ May 24-26, 2019 – Hillsville, VA – VFW Post 1115 – *Blue Ridge Gun Shows*
- ☞ Jun 7-9, 2019 - Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- ☞ Jun 29-30, 2019 – Harrisonburg, VA – Rockingham County Fairgrounds – *Sporting Shows Unlimited*
- ☞ Jul 13-14, 2019 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK*
- ☞ Jul 20-21, 2019 – Salem, VA - Salem Civic Center - *C&E*
- ☞ Jul 26-28, 2019 - Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*

NOTE: SGK has recently announced that they will no longer sponsor/promote gun shows at either Winchester, VA or the Prince William County Fairgrounds. Our VGCA gun show will now be the only such show at the fairgrounds this year.

MARYLAND - 2019

- ☞ Apr 20, 2019 – Parkville, MD – Baltimore County Fish & Game – *Baltimore County Fish & Game Protective Association*
- ☞ Apr 27-28, 2019 - Timonium, MD – Timonium Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*

PENNSYLVANIA - 2019

- ☞ Apr 26-27, 2019 – Gettysburg, PA – Gettysburg Fire Dept – *Militaria & Historic Arms Show*
- ☞ Apr 27-28, 2019 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center – *Showmasters*
- ☞ Apr 27-28, 2019 – Wind Gap, PA – Plainfield Fire Company – *Eagle Arms*
- ☞ May 4, 2019 – Wilmore, PA – 185 Church Hill Road – jdjm04@gmail.com
- ☞ May 4-5, 2019 – Bloomsburg, PA – Bloomsburg Fairgrounds – *Eagle Arms*
- ☞ May 18-19, 2019 – Oaks, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Arms*
- ☞ Jun 1-2, 2019 - Gettysburg, PA – All Star Conference Center – *Eagle Arms*
- ☞ Jun 8-9, 2019 – Allentown, PA - Econo Lodge – *Eagle Arms*
- ☞ Jun 8-9, 2019 - Leesport, PA - Farmers Market – *Appalachian Promotions*
- ☞ Jun 15-16, 2019 – Harrisburg, PA – PA Farm Show Complex – *C&E Gun Shows*
- ☞ Jun 29-30, 2019 – Wind Gap, PA – Plainfield Fire Company – *Eagle Arms*
- ☞ Jun 29-30, 2019 – York, PA – York Fairgrounds-Memorial Hall - *Appalachian Promotions*

➤ **Jul 6-7, 2019 - Philadelphia, PA** – National Guard Armory – *Appalachian Promotions*

SPECIAL NOTE – 2019

➤ **May 11-12, 2019 – Wilmington, OH** – The Roberts Centre – *Ohio Gun Collector's Association (Display Show and Banquet)*

➤ **Jul 13-14, 2019 – Wilmington, OH** – The Roberts Centre – *Ohio Gun Collector's Association*

➤ **Sep 18-22, 2019 – Monroeville, PA** – Monroeville Convention Center – *Ohio Valley Military Society*

➤ **Oct 11-12, 2019 – West Point, KY** – Knob Creek Gun Range – *Machine Gun Shoot and Military Gun Show*

➤ **Nov 9-10, 2019 – Tulsa, OK** – Tulsa Fairgrounds (Expo Square) – *Tulsa Arms Collector Association – aka Wanenmacher's (world's largest gun show – over 4200 tables!)*

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. The VGCA, its officers, and directors are not responsible for any listings made in any VGCA Newsletter. We are not responsible for the accuracy (condition, value, etc.) of any listings. All buyers, traders, and sellers agree to comply with all local, state, federal, and international laws in regards to items sold via the VGCA Newsletter. It is their duty and responsibility to ensure the quality and value of the transaction and that all such laws are followed at all times. Buy, sell, or trade at your own risk.

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

FOR SALE:

★ The L. C. Smith Collectors Association will conduct its 4th Annual Raffle on Apr 27, 2019. They are raffling a 1935 L. C. Smith .410 Gauge Field Grade with 26" barrels. Tickets are \$5 each or 6 for \$25. If interested, please contact VGCA member John Babey at 571-308-4978 or jrbzn13@aol.com

FOR SALE:

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

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 Bill Chronister.