



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.ORG

Est. 1983 (A Non-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G8162



President and Founder (Emeritus) Ed Johnson Home: 703-368-6560

President	David Litchfield	Cell: 703-624-8696	litchfd@comcast.net
Show/Reservations Manager	Rick Nahas	Cell: 571-215-8761	jet53sw@aol.com
Show Security/Safety	John Frietsch	Cell: 540-409-1271	johnfrietsch@peoplepc.com
Membership	Larry Hare	Cell: 540-946-2050	LaurenceHare@gmail.com

May 2012 VGCA e-Newsletter



Presentation at the April 26th Meeting: The speaker at the meeting was **Mr. Jeff Brooks, Army PEO Ammo**. He is the Program Executive Officer Ammunition, a Senior Executive Service position that directs all Army and joint service ammo acquisition programs. Mr. Brooks started off with a short bio and proceeded to show where his operation, which is tasked with developing projects for production and adoption by the military, fits in the overall Department of Defense and within the Ammunition Enterprise. His area of oversight includes small arms ammunition, all .30 caliber ammunition, tank ammo and 155mm artillery rounds. It also includes mortar rounds, and the new software that is increasingly integrated into munitions in the form of 'smart' rounds, bombs (the Army buys for all the branches of the Service), non-lethal man-portable air-defense systems (MANPADS), and non-standard ammo such as foreign rounds for Iraqi personnel. They also buy robots and explosive ordnance disposal items, and also procure, field, maintain, and replenish stocks of the products under their purview. He then addressed one of the largest aspects of his program,

the "Modernization" program. He described the modernization of 155mm rounds into 'smart' rounds designed to increase accuracy and minimize collateral damage. As an example, mines are no longer 'place and forget,' but are all remotely attended to maximize effects on a target, but minimize non-target injuries. He then covered the modernization of the current M855 5.56mm NATO U.S. military round into the new M855A1 round. This round dramatically improves performance on hard targets, soft targets, and range over the current round. In addition, it has reduced flash and the projectile is totally lead-free. Unfortunately, in response to a question from the audience that many were going to ask, there are no plans to make the round or components available to the civilian market. A question and answer period followed and capped off what was a very informative and fascinating presentation, and a great look into the development cycles and improvement of small arms (and some larger arms) ammunition. At the conclusion, Dave Litchfield presented Mr. Brooks with the VGCA speaker's gift.

★★★ **Special Notice - Request for Interested Members to Serve as Director of the VGCA:** The election of Dave Litchfield as President of the VGCA has left his position on the Board of Directors vacant. According to the Bylaws of the Association, a vacancy due to the departure of a Director may be filled by a majority vote of the remaining Officers and Directors. This appointment will be to complete the current term which expires in January 2013 with the next election for Directors. An appointed Director may run for a Director slot in the January 2013 election if they so choose. The responsibilities of a Director are to assist in the running and governance of the Association. A Director may serve on and/or monitor committees to assure timely progress in the Association's programs and special activities, and complete tasks as directed by the President. Due to the importance of this position and the increased activities of the Association, **the Association leadership would like to ask if any members would be interested in filling out this vacancy, and commit to assuming the duties of a Director. These duties also include attending the monthly meetings AND the meetings of the Officers and Directors when they are scheduled.** If you are interested, or know someone who would be interested, please let one of the Officers or Directors know prior to or at the next meeting on May 24th, 2012. Interest will also be solicited from

the floor at the meeting. The current Officers and Directors will convene soon after the meeting and select the new Director from the list of those interested. We have a lot of activities in progress and a lot of ideas for the near future, so this is an important appointment, and we welcome interest.

Upcoming for May 24th Meeting: The presentation will feature **Lt.Col. Rick Lindsey**, who will cover the French *PGM Sniper Rifle*. He will also bring in his PGM which is extremely rare, especially in the US to illustrate the talk and demonstrate key features of this exemplary precision rifle that has accrued a very positive and notable service record. Please note: VGCA will provide assorted beverages; AND, **pizza WILL also be provided**, so **plan accordingly to kick in at least \$5.00 to help defray the pizza costs**. If members wish to contribute snacks or additional food, please place them with the pizza.



Future Meetings and Speaker Topics (Tentative listing - changes will be noted in future Newsletters):

- **June 28:** Bill York, *Radom Pistols/Book*;
- **July: No Meeting;**
- **August 23:** Jim Burgess, *Civil War Rifles*;
- **September 27:** Kent Jefferies, *Federal Air Marshal Service*;
- **October 25:** Lt.Col. Bernie Breighner, USAF Ret., *Collector Class III, Sniper Rifles, other weapons*;
- **November: No Meeting;**
- **December 6:** Annual VGCA Holiday Pot Luck Dinner, BoD Candidate Nominations, extended Show & Tell/Swap Meet.

UPDATE: The date is set for the VGCA Trip to George C. Marshall Foundation and Virginia Military Institute: It is happening! The visit will be **Saturday, June 16**. Transportation will be via carpools. Those who have signed up should be getting more info as it becomes available. If you are interested in attending, the points of contact are **Joseph Roberts** (jroberts0540@verizon.net) or **Addison Hurst** (a.hurst@rstarmail.com). Please contact them as soon as possible since we need to give a head count to the museum, and also ensure there are enough drivers and available seating well in advance. Additional details will be provided at this meeting. All who have signed up should verify that the points of contact have adequate contact information (email, home, work and cell numbers) to keep you up to date as planning is still ongoing.

Notes from the Podium – President’s Message: 2012 is shaping up to be one of our best years for the VGCA. Our March Show and the Member & Spouse Dinner were successes. Our plans to visit the VMI and Marshall Gun Collections in Lexington, VA, followed by trips to visit Springfield Armory, Smith & Wesson and Colt and the Smithsonian Gun Collection are offering interesting outings for us all. Make sure you sign up for these trips. Also, make sure you sign up for your tables for the Fall VGCA Gun Show on November 3-4 soon, as we are selling out rapidly. We'll be in both buildings again, and Sam Hatfield is returning with his electronic shooting gallery making for an exciting venue for young and old. I look forward to seeing you at our monthly meetings. My good friend and our new VGCA member, Lt.Col. Rick Lindsey will be our guest speaker on 26 April. You don't want to miss seeing his unique French PGM Sniper rifle, one of only several in the US.

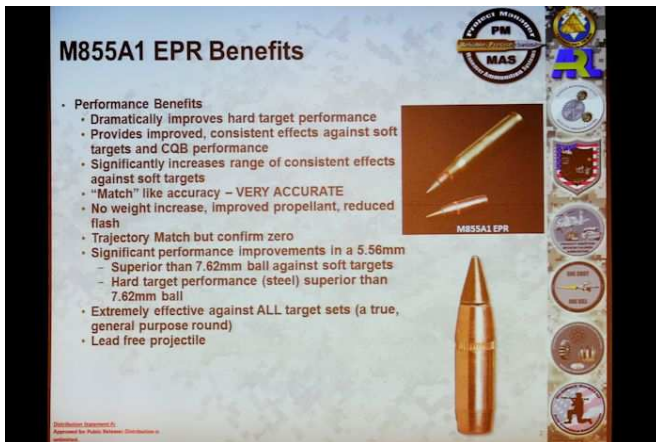
Happy Collecting to all, *Dave Litchfield*, President, VGCA

Business Meeting for April 26th: An announcement that the *Friends of the NRA* will hold their dinner in Waterford, VA on Friday evening, October 5, 2012. After the Opening remarks, introductions, and Pledge of Allegiance, **Dave Litchfield** provided an overview of the new agenda for the monthly meetings. This agenda template is designed to make sure that the presentations are tight and that there is adequate time for members to be heard to surface issues and concerns, enable discussions and also allow time to conduct vital Association business, have a Show and Tell, and get folks out earlier. If you have any suggestions to improve the agenda or any other issues, feel free to approach Dave Litchfield or any of the Officers or Directors. Dave announced that **Gary Hoskinson** will be the point of contact for the VGCA name badges (not the photo IDs, but the small brown name pins. Treasurer **Ed Costello** provided a financial report and a report on the March show. Suffice to say we are in the black and made money.

New Members: Membership Chair **Larry Hare** presented Applications for Membership in the VGCA from **Forrest “Rick” Lindsay** (he goes by Rick and will be our May speaker), sponsored by Dave Litchfield, and **Louis Holt**, a life member of the NRA and the Single Action Shooting Society. Mr. Holt was sponsored by Jim Burgess and Addison Hurst. After introductions and self introductions, the two were voted into the Association. Welcome aboard.

Show & Tell for the April 26th Meeting: The evening started with member **one** displaying and asking for information on a family heirloom Civil War revolver from his family in Missouri. It was identified as a Colt Model 1860 Army, and was in very good shape. In keeping with the evening’s presentation on ammunition, a **second** member showed an inert 25mm automatic cannon round and a small linked set of 20mm steel cased cannon rounds. Due to the steel cases, the chamber of the gun is fluted to assist in the extraction of the fired casing. A **third** member showed a rare bayonet from the Model or 1815 U.S. rifle. A **fourth** member displayed a US Springfield Rifle Model of 1888 Trapdoor in .45-70 with unit markings. He purchased this rifle at the Timonium show after getting expert advice and assessments by two Association members who collect the Trapdoor rifles. A **fifth** member displayed a very large 30 pound bar shot from Morris Heights, NJ. This type of shot was used to destroy the rigging and masts of sailing vessels. Of interest, was metallurgical testing of the components of the piece revealed the half-hemisphere ends of the shot were cast iron, but the bar connecting the two end pieces was wrought iron for strength and durability. The **sixth** and final piece was an RWS Diana Model 54 Air King air rifle in .177. This powerful and accurate air rifle uses a sliding action, previously used on low powered match air rifles to negate the felt recoil to the shooter. The recoil effect on a scope mounted to the action is not reduced and these powerful spring airguns can be very hard on scopes.

Photos of the April Meeting

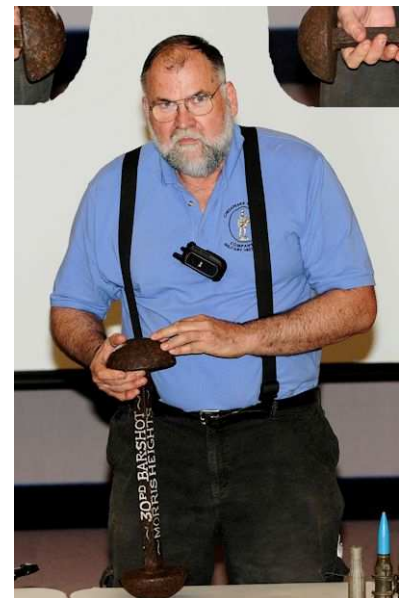


Top Left: From the presentation, a slide listing the benefits and improvements of the new M855A1 round.

Top Right: The Colt 1860 Army revolver originally owned by the member’s family in 1860’s Missouri.

Lower Left: Linked steel-cased practice rounds of 20mm cannon ammo. Due to the steel case, a fluted chamber was used to aid extraction.

Lower Right: the 30 pound bar shot. Note the half-round end pieces and the wrought iron connecting bar.



Upcoming Events and Shows

PLEASE NOTE: There are sometimes changes in schedules or errors on websites. Members are strongly encouraged to *verify before driving to a show*. These dates have been published online, but are not guaranteed. **Yellow** = Collector organizations.

VIRGINIA 2012

- May 19-20, 2012 - Richmond, VA – Showplace - *C&E Gun Show*
- May 26-27, 2012 - Harrisonburg, VA - Rockingham County Fairgrounds – *C&E Gun Show*
- June 8-10, 2012 - Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center - Nation's Gun Show – *C&E Gun Show*
- June 23-24, 2012 - Fredericksburg, VA - Expo Center - *SGK, LTD*
- July 7-8, 2012 - Richmond, VA – Showplace - *C&E Gun Show*
- July 21-22, 2012 - Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center - *C&E Gun Show*
- July 27-29, 2012 - Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center - Nation's Gun Show – *C&E Gun Show*
- August 4-5, 2012 - Dale City, VA - VFW Post 1503 - *Old Dominion Shows*
- August 18-19, 2012 - Roanoke, VA - Roanoke Civic Center – *Showmasters*
- August 25-26, 2012 - Richmond, VA - Raceway & Fairgrounds – *Showmasters*

MARYLAND 2012

- June 16-17, 2012 - Timonium, MD - Timonium Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- July 7-8, 2012 – Frederick, MD - Frederick Fairgrounds – *Silverado Productions*
- July 14-15, 2012 – Upper Marlboro, MD - Show Place Arena (P.G. County) – *Silverado Productions*

PENNSYLVANIA 2012

- June 2-3, 2012 – Lebanon, PA - Lebanon Expo Center - *Eagle Arms*
- June 2-3, 2012 - Tarentum, PA - Pittsburgh Mills Galleria - *Pennsylvania Gun Collectors Association*.
- June 9-10, 2012 - Harrisburg, PA - Farm Show Complex – *Mid-Atlantic Arms Collectors*.
- June 23-24, 2012 - York, PA - York Fairgrounds (Toyota Arena) – *Appalachian Promotions*
- June 30-July 1, 2012 - Allentown, PA - Rodeway Inn - *Eagle Arms*
- July 14-15, 2012 - Allentown, PA - Agricultural Hall - *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*.
Contact: FDHAS, 3491 Linden St., Bethlehem, PA 18017. 610-997-8613 after 6pm.
- August 11-12, 2012 - Poconos, PA - Split Rock Lodge - *Eagle Arms*
- August 18-19, 2012 - Monroeville, PA - Convention Center - *C&E Gun Shows*
- August 25-26, 2012 – Philadelphia, PA - Greater Philadelphia Expo Center (Oaks) – *Eagle Arms*

OHIO 2012

- July 21-22, 2012 – Wilmington, OH – Roberts Centre - *Ohio Gun Collectors Association*. **OGCA MEMBERS ONLY**. <http://www.ogca.com/index.htm>

"The great enemy of the truth is very often not the lie: deliberate, continued, and dishonest; but the myth: persistent, persuasive, and unrealistic."

~ President John F. Kennedy

The e-mail address for any Newsletter related matters or submissions is VGCANews@cox.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 VGCA Newsletter Editor