



# VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.NET

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NRA Affiliate Number G8162

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President and Founder (Emeritus) Ed Johnson

**President**  
**Show/Reservations Manager**  
**Membership**

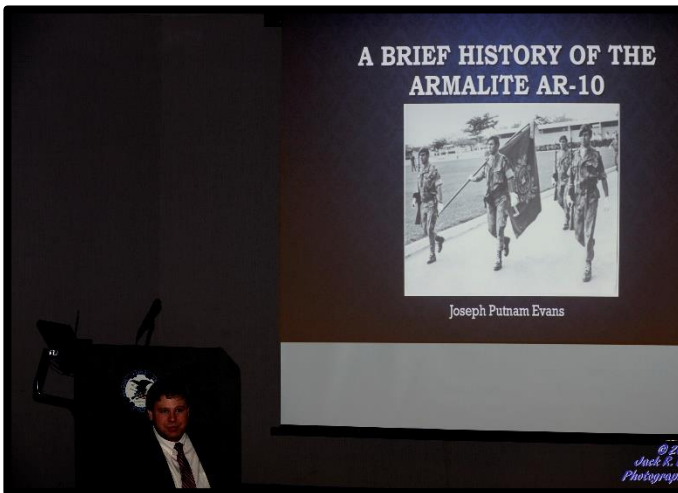
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## May 2017 VGCA Newsletter

★**April Presentations:** The Presentation for the meeting was initially to be by **Joseph Putnam Evans**, author of the new book *The ArmaLite AR-10: World's Finest Battle Rifle*. However, when that presentation looked to have a conflict, a video on Luger Pistols was scheduled as a backup. Fortunately, Mr. Evans was available for the meeting and delivered his fascinating 20-30 minute presentation on the AR-10. He provided some very interesting background on his research, which included his speaking with an international cadre of veterans who carried the AR-10 in combat operations.



7.62×51mm NATO cartridge. It was developed by famed arms designer Eugene Stoner in the late 1950s at ArmaLite, which was a division of the Fairchild Aircraft Corporation. ArmaLite was founded by George Sullivan, the patent counsel for Lockheed Corporation, as a small arms engineering company. It opened in a small machine shop in Hollywood, California. Initially, Sullivan hired several employees to develop a prototype for a lightweight survival rifle for use by downed aircrew. In October 1954, the company was incorporated as the

### **Presentation Part 1: AR-10: The AR-10** is a battle rifle chambered for the then new

ArmaLite Corporation, subdivision of Fairchild, and focused on producing small arms concepts and designs to be sold or licensed to other manufacturers. While testing the prototype of ArmaLite's survival rifle design at a local shooting range, George Sullivan and Charles Dorchester met Eugene Stoner, whom Sullivan immediately hired to be ArmaLite's chief design engineer.

When introduced in 1956, the AR-10 used an innovative straight-line barrel/stock design with synthetic composite stock and forged alloy parts. The design made it significantly easier to control in automatic fire and was over a pound lighter than other contemporary battle rifles. A few early prototypes had an all-aluminum barrel at the insistence of ArmaLite President Sullivan (called 'Sullaloy'). In 1957 tests by Springfield Armory all production AR-10s were fitted with steel barrels – nevertheless, the rifle did poorly due to biased testing criteria that favored the M-14.

In 1957, Fairchild/ArmaLite sold a five-year manufacturing license for the AR-10 to Dutch arms manufacturer Artillerie Inrichtingen. During tool-up, the Dutch made a number of significant design and engineering changes that continued throughout the production run in the Netherlands. The first batch of rifles was sold to Sudan. The rifle was tested by Portugal against the FN-FAL and the HK G3, and won the contract. However, it was not to last. Fairchild, frustrated by production delays and poor sales, did

not renew the Dutch firm's license to produce the AR-10, and in 1962, due to lack of profits, Fairchild dissolved its association with ArmaLite.

The latter part of the presentation focused on the Portuguese variant and experiences of soldiers who carried the rifle, primarily in conflicts in Africa. Its desirability was such that when Rhodesian troops defeated AR-10 wielding Angolan guerillas, they began using the captured rifles. Mr. Evans brought his Portuguese variant AR-10 for the presentation and Show and Tell. The rifle is an original Portuguese AR-10 upper and furniture and imported into the US with a semi-auto steel lower receiver. While conducting interviews for his book, Mr. Evans met an armorer who had actually serviced the original rifle. Available records indicated the rifle had fired in excess of 50,000 rounds but was still in great shape and accurate for a rifle now 60 years old.

**Presentation Part II: The History of the Luger DVD:** The Luger video was very well produced and documented, however its length (over 80 minutes), and its emphasis on the backstory of automatic pistol development and adoption in Europe, in this reviewer's opinion only, detracted from focusing on the Luger itself and its variants that make it a premier collectible firearm and the Holy Grail for many collectors. That said, it was worth the time and is well done.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** I would like to thank Mr. Bill Chronister for covering the VGCA secretary duties while I was out of town. Without his outstanding assistance, this issue of the VGCA Newsletter would not have been possible. Thanks Bill!

*--Rob Becker*

❖ **February Business:** The meeting started with Ernie Lyles having the Pledge of Allegiance and making announcements about the upcoming presentations. He then asked if any guests were present and welcomed the 3 to the meetings and to introduce themselves. Since the presentation setup was in progress, the Treasurer absent, and the Vice-President and Secretary enroute to the NRA Annual Meetings in Atlanta, he asked if there were any comments from the assembled membership. Chris Britton asked if the Board could discuss whether the policy of free show admission for all members should continue in light of declining volunteerism for the security teams, or should it revert back to the previous policy of free admission for those who volunteer for the show security teams. Ernie said he would bring it up at an Executive Committee meeting. There were no further questions.

❖ **NRA Annual Meeting News:** The National Rifle Association's 146<sup>th</sup> Annual Meetings and Exhibits was held 27-30 April in Atlanta, Georgia. With over 800 exhibitors spread over 10 acres in the Georgia World Congress Center and special presentations every day, there was something for everyone. Even President Trump attended! It was impossible to see it all in one day - or in two days!

In addition to firearm and accessory manufacturers – large and small – there were also historical displays sponsored by collector organizations from across the country. Representing the Virginia Gun Collectors Association was our very own Marc Gorelick. His display, an expanded version of the one he put together for our March Gun Show, featured John Dahlgren and the Plymouth Rifle (this display had two M1861 rifles, actually).



Entrance to this annual event is free, but restricted to NRA members. Next year's meetings will be held in Dallas, Texas. Please contact a member of the VGCA Executive Committee if you are interested in presenting a display.

### President's Comments

VGCA Members,

This month's program will be given by NRA Museum's Phil Schreier on Adventures in Curating. The NRA store and museum will stay open till 7pm. Come early and step through the galleries before the meeting. Both Phil and I will be there to answer any questions.

--Ernie Lyles

✪ **Upcoming May 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting:** Please join us for a presentation by the NRA's Phil Schreier on "Adventures in Curating." As always, get there early for social time (and pizza) at 6 p.m., with the meeting starting at 7p.m.

### Other News!

✪ **NOTE** – This month we will hold elections for the three VGCA Director positions. We have five candidates running for the three positions. They are:

#### **Bernie Breighner**

I have been involved with Firearms for over 35 years, primarily in the study of historical and military weapons from 1900 to present day. My passion led to the creation of the B3 Armament Company of Chantilly Virginia that specializes in NFA firearms, military weapons and accessories. I joined the VGCA in 2011 and became a life Member in 2012. I have made several presentations to the club as well as being a current Board Member. One of my duties as a VGCA Board member is to coordinate the monthly presentations for the club. I feel it is important for each of us to pass on the knowledge of previous generations and that the VGCA is an outstanding organization for doing this. Thank you for your consideration.

#### **Wes Chappell**

I have resided in the Northern Virginia area for 30 years. I am an Electronics Engineer and am retired from the U.S. Air Force. I have been shooting and collecting for over 40 years. I have been working in the firearms industry for the past 26 years. Currently, I am a manager at Sharp Shooters Small Arms Range (formally Gilbert Small Arms Range). I am life member of the NRA and the VSSA.

I would like to see the VGCA expand its youth shooting and firearms education programs. I want to explore expanding our membership among the transient population (military, government).

#### **Marc Gorelick**

I have been active in the VGCA for many years and am a collector of post U.S. Civil War martial arms and Swedish Mausers. I have been on the Board of Directors for five years, where I have served on the Rules, By-Laws, Contributions and Show Committees and have been working to improve the VGCA Website. I have written articles for the website and newsletter, have given presentations at meetings, and put on displays at shows. I worked for affiliation with the CMP. I championed member benefit reforms including free entry to the show. If elected I look forward to devising and implementing new initiatives to

grow membership, increase interest in and knowledge of gun collecting, enhance the VGCA experience for members, and promote the VGCA as a premier gun collecting organization in the mid-Atlantic region.

### **Phil Hill**

I am an active firearms collector and Life Member of VGCA and VSSA. I am also a Life Member of NRA (Benefactor) and licensed NRA instructor. I am the former VGCA Show Director that automated show registration and reporting process many years ago. I turned the reigns over to Rick Nahas, our current show director. As an active membership recruiter, I have been working with Dave (former president) to increase club membership and awareness of our mission.

If elected, I would like to develop a junior member program. This would be new energy for the club. We fund several programs, so why not make them junior members?

### **T.J. Parmele**

My name is TJ Parmele. I'm a life member of the NRA, have been involved with the VA Citizens Defense League (VCDL), am a member of the Ohio Gun Collector's Association, a certified NRA Pistol and Gun Safety Inside the Home Instructor, served on the VA Gun Collector's Association Board of Directors, and owner of NOVA Armament, LLC in Herndon. I recently upgraded my membership to Life Member here in the VGCA.

Family History is what spiked my interest in firearms. I traced some WWII bring-backs my grandfather had and found out some astonishing stuff. I learned about some of the things he faced in WWII that he never spoke of except in letters to my grandmother. This drove my interest in firearms. As for what I collect, I don't really have a particular niche or interest. I like to call it myself a victim of the bright and shiny movement. One day it might be revolvers chambered in semi-auto cartridges. The next, it could be all COMBLOC variants of the 7.62x25 Tokarev round. Another is trying to get a variant of all Makarov designs, and another is to try and find some oddball stuff.

Along the way, I've met some incredibly dedicated people in the gun-collecting community. The Board of Directors I have served with here is an incredibly diverse and talented set of individuals who want nothing more than to enjoy this incredible hobby and expand this organization.

It would be an honor to serve a second term. If I don't win, just consider me a very active volunteer.

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Look for your ballot to arrive before the end of May. For those of you with an email address, you will receive an email (probably from [rpebecker@verizon.net](mailto:rpebecker@verizon.net)) with a link to Survey Monkey for voting electronically. Everyone else will receive their ballots via "snail mail." Remember, vote for no more than three candidates.

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★ **Membership Report:** Please welcome three (3) new Annual Members. Welcome aboard and also a thanks to those new members who had tables at the March show.

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

Congratulations and we hope to see you at the Monthly Membership Meeting on May 25, 2017.

★ **New Member Applications:** The VGCA has received Membership Application from flowing individual for your review. His information and sponsors name is published below for the review of the

VGCA membership. If there are any comments, please notify an Officer or Director before the June Membership Meeting.

- **Chaim Smith** of Falls Church, VA is sponsored by **John Babey** and **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](mailto:vgca_membership@cox.net) (note underscore between *vgca* and *membership*) and to Larry Hare, Newsletter Distribution at [LaurenceHare@gmail.com](mailto: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!!!

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## Show-n-Tell



In keeping with the subject of the second part of the presentations, **Member 1** showed his German Imperial Navy 1904 'Carrying Trial' model Parabellum (Luger) pistol. As a trials piece, it is a very rare and unique specimen of what was to later become the Kriegsmarine (Navy) Luger.

**Member 2** showed a Birmingham Small Arms (BSA) ShtLE MkIII dated 1939. During the wind-up to WW2, the British Army ran a program to refurbish MkIII rifles using reclaimed parts. Specimens were then re-dated to include the year of the rebuild. This example, originally dated 1915, was re-stamped to the rebuild year, 1939.

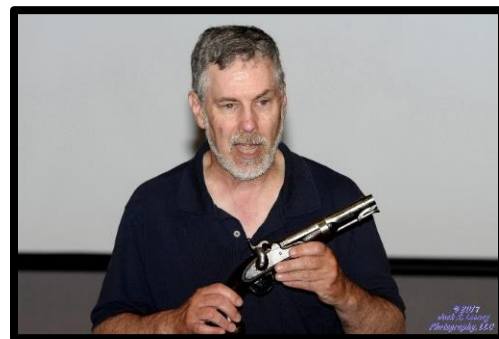




**Member 3** brought a Model 1940 Winchester shotgun, a successor to the maligned Model 1911 (at left). He also showed a very uncommon non-cataloged Marlin Model 47 .22 rifle (at right). These rifles made from 1928-1930 were high quality incentive guns that were available only to those who bought 100 shares of Marlin stock.



**Member 4** presented a very nice example of a US Model 1842 Navy Pistol.



**Member 5** returned to the Luger theme with a Swiss Model 1906/24 Luger manufactured in Switzerland by Waffenfabrik Bern in 7.65x21 Parabellum or .30 Luger. They have distinctive wooden grip panels with a smooth border and are marked Waffenfabrik Bern on the toggle.

**Member 6** presented his original Portuguese AR-10 rifle that was imported into the US with a semi-auto steel lower receiver. Available records indicated the rifle had fired in excess of 50,000 rounds but was still in great shape and accurate for a rifle now 60 years old.



**Member 7** brought a Mauser produced (42 Code) 1941 German Luger in 9x19mm.

**Member 8** had an all matching 1936 dated German Luger, also in 9x19mm.



**Member 9** displayed an Imperial German DWM manufactured 1913 dated Luger and a Stoeger .22LR Luger. The Stoeger pistols were made from 1969 to 1985.



**Member 10** presented his early 1965 made Colt SP1 AR15 Sporter. For those licensed collectors, these early SP1 Rifles are now becoming eligible for Curio and Relic purchases as they are now over 50 years old.



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### 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](mailto:rpebecker@verizon.net).

### ✦ Museum

## THE WALTERS ART MUSEUM

*By Marc Gorelick*

Just a short drive from northern Virginia, the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, Maryland is internationally renowned for the breadth and beauty of its collection of art. Located in Baltimore’s Mount Vernon Cultural District, the collection presents an overview of world art from pre-dynastic Egypt to 20th-century Europe, and counts among its 35,000 treasures ancient Egyptian mummy masks; Greek sculpture and Roman sarcophagi; medieval ivories and Old Master paintings; Art Nouveau jewelry; medieval armor and 19th-century European and American masterpieces.

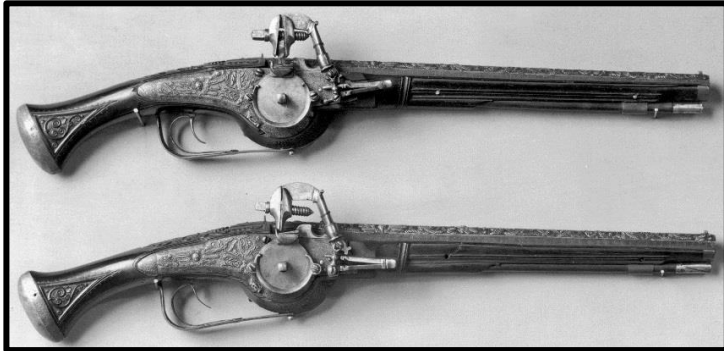
While not the sole focus of the museum, and certainly not as big as other weapons collections, the Walters’ arms and armor collection is one of the finest, in terms of artistic design, in the world. The Walters' collection of weaponry ranges from prehistoric times to the 19th century and spans many cultures. Major holdings are European, Turkish and Japanese, and include medieval armor, swords and daggers, crossbows, spears, halberds, wheellocks, flintlocks and muskets. All are artistic masterpieces and the guns are no exception.



*Kentucky type long rifle made by John Spitzer, Virginia, about 1810. Courtesy of Walters Art Museum.*



General admission to the Walters Art Museum is **free**. The Walters Art Museum is located at 600 North Charles Street in Baltimore. It is open **Wednesday–Sunday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Thursdays 10 a.m.–9 p.m.** It is closed Mondays and Tuesdays, and on holidays:



*Matched pair of Imperial Austrian wheellock pistols. Mahogany, steel and silver, 1630-1640. Courtesy of Walters Art Museum.*



*Detail of jeweled Turkish rifle Sultan Mahmud I (1730-54) Courtesy of Walters Art Museum*

## ★ Gun Show

# THE SHOW OF SHOWS

## Gun Show Review

*By Marc Gorelick*

The Show of Shows, sponsored once a year in February by the Ohio Valley Military Society (OVMS) at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville, Kentucky, can be called the Mecca of militaria shows. It is the largest militaria show on the east coast of the United States, with over 1,965 sales tables and over 750 dealers. While it is primarily a militaria show and not a gun show, there are more than enough antique and historical firearms, accessories and accoutrements to satisfy most gun collectors. The show attracts dealers and collectors from all over the United States and many countries. You can hear many European accents, as well as Japanese, Chinese, Australian, New Zealand and South American accents.



Whatever your area of collecting, whether it be U.S. or foreign, antique or modern guns, edged weapons, medals, armor, ordnance, uniforms, or memorabilia, there is something there for most collectors. While a good number of items for sale are rare or priced for the most discriminating collector, there are still large numbers of bargains to be had. And there are many items that are rarely, if ever seen at local shows. The number of aisles and tables can be daunting (almost two miles of aisles) and to do the show properly can take more than one day. So wear comfortable

shoes. As the OVMS likes to brag about the Show of Shows, “When I walked into the hall, I could almost see the curvature of the earth!”

There were also tables for museum displays and space for a military vehicle display. Seventeen veterans, including two Medal of Honor winners, on “veteran’s row” at this year’s show. Each of these veteran guests, whether from World War II, Korea, or Vietnam, had a unique story to tell. One, Lt. Col. Richard Cole, was Jimmy Doolittle’s co-pilot during the famous Doolittle Raid on Japan in April 1942. I spoke to one vet who served on a U.S. Navy destroyer at the D-Day landings in Normandy. It appears that his ship may have provided fire support when my father went ashore with the 4<sup>th</sup> Division.



The Show of Shows is well worth attending, even if only once in a lifetime. The drive can be daunting, 9 to 11 hours from Northern Virginia, but there is some magnificent scenery along the way in the West Virginia mountains and there are plenty of things to do in Kentucky, such as the Bourbon Trail tours of distilleries. Or if you don’t want to drive, you can fly. The Louisville airport is practically next door to the Expo Center. The show is four days and OVMS members get in for free. Thursday morning is only for dealers and OVMS Life members. Thursday afternoon the hall is open to all OVMS members. Friday and Saturday it is open to OVMS members and the public, and Sunday is dealer pack out and OVMS members. As you can imagine, there is a lot of buying, selling and trading between dealers. While some of the dealers complained that sales and foot traffic was lower at this show than in previous years, both are expected to pick up next year. The Show of Shows will once again be on the same weekend in the same facility as the huge National Gun Day show. This will generate large public cross-traffic for both shows.

The Show of Shows is sponsored by the OVMS, one of the oldest militaria collecting clubs in the country.



The primary endeavor of the OVMS is to promote the study of military history and collecting of historic military artifacts. The OVMS has over 3,000 members in 49 of the 50 states and in 17 countries. Besides the Show of Shows, the OVMS also sponsors two smaller militaria shows (400 tables) in Wilmington, Ohio and the MAX show (1,000 tables) in Monroeville, PA.

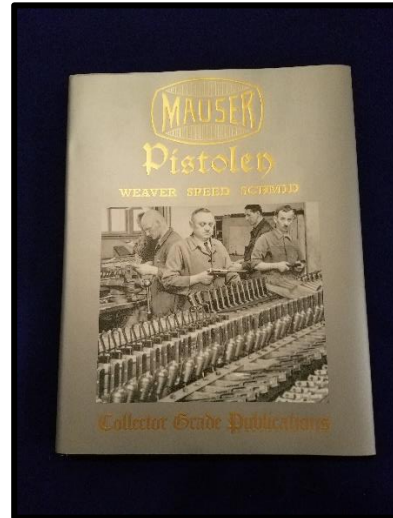
# Mauser Pistolen

## Development and Production, 1877-1946

By W. Darrin Weaver, Jon Speed, and Walter Schmid

*Reviewed by Rob Becker*

While the Mauser name will be forever linked to bolt action rifles, the firm did design and produce a fair number of handguns as well. For example, the Mauser C96 was the first commercially successful semi-automatic pistol design with approximately 1,000,000 produced. From that design through the production of the P08 Luger (the topic of the April meeting video presentation) and including handguns before, between, and after these two, Mauser supplied pistols to militaries and civilians around the world. *Mauser Pistolen* by Weaver, Speed, and Schmid provides an excellent overview of this handgun legacy.



Published by “Collector Grade Publications” (a publishing company familiar to most gun collectors), *Mauser Pistolen* covers the period from 1877 through the end of the post-WWII French occupation in 1946 and provides a good general background on the subject. Its 386 pages contain a comprehensive record of Mauser handgun development and production. The book is well documented with over 450 illustrations, all in black-and-white. While the book covers everything from relatively unknown design room prototypes to mass produced legends, the sheer number of subjects prevents any highly detailed examination. For example, P08 Luger production (produced by Mauser from 1930-1942) is covered in the 30 pages of chapter 21. My point is, *Mauser Pistolen* is an excellent general reference for all Mauser handguns, but a collector focusing on one particular model of Mauser pistols may be better served looking for a book (or books) devoted to that one model. That said, this book still gets my highest endorsement for any anyone interested in handguns from the period covered.

*Mauser Pistolen* is available from several sources on-line for approximately \$60.00

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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 2017

- ☞ May 26-29, 2017 – Hillsville, VA – VFW Hall – *Pulaski Gun Show*
- ☞ May 27-28, 2017 – Norfolk, VA – Norfolk Scope – *Showmasters*
- ☞ June 3-4, 2017 – Richmond, VA – Kmart at Midlothian - *Showmasters*
- ☞ June 9-11, 2017 - Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters and C&E*
- ☞ June 17-18, 2017 - Harrisonburg, VA – Rockingham County Fairgrounds – *C&E*
- ☞ June 23-24, 2017 – Stanardsville, VA – Greene County Fairgrounds – *Greene County Fair Outdoor Show*
- ☞ July 1-2, 2017 – Fredericksburg, VA – Expo and Conference Center – *SGK*

### MARYLAND 2017

- ☞ None Found in May or June

### PENNSYLVANIA 2017

- ☞ 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*
- ☞ June 17-18, 2017 – Harrisburg, PA – PA Farm Show Complex - *C&E*
- ☞ June 17-18, 2017 - Washington, PA – Washington County Fairgrounds – *ARH Sport Shop*
- ☞ June 24-25, 2017 - York, PA – Fairgrounds, Memorial Hall - *The Gun Shows*

### SPECIAL NOTE – OHIO - 2017

- ☞ July 15-16 2017 – Wilmington, OH – The Roberts Centre – *Special Guests: Ruger Owners and Collectors (Members and invited guests only)*

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## **PACA INVITATION TO VGCA MEMBERS** **COME TO THE AUCTION!**

The Potomac Arms Collectors Association (PACA) has extended an invitation to VGCA members to attend an auction meeting on Thursday June 15, 2017. Come and buy antique, classic and modern firearms, edged weapons, historical items of all kinds, accessories, accoutrements, books, papers, and collectible and historical items of all kinds. Or bring items from your collection that you want to sell. There are bargains to be had. If you bring something to sell (PACA suggests no more than two items) please bring a tag identifying the item and the minimum acceptable bid. Anything between \$5 and \$1,000. Or just bring money. Any firearm sales must comply with all applicable state and federal laws.

*Please wear your VGCA ID to be welcomed.*

**WHERE:       The Knights of Columbus Hall**  
**9707 Rosensteel Ave**

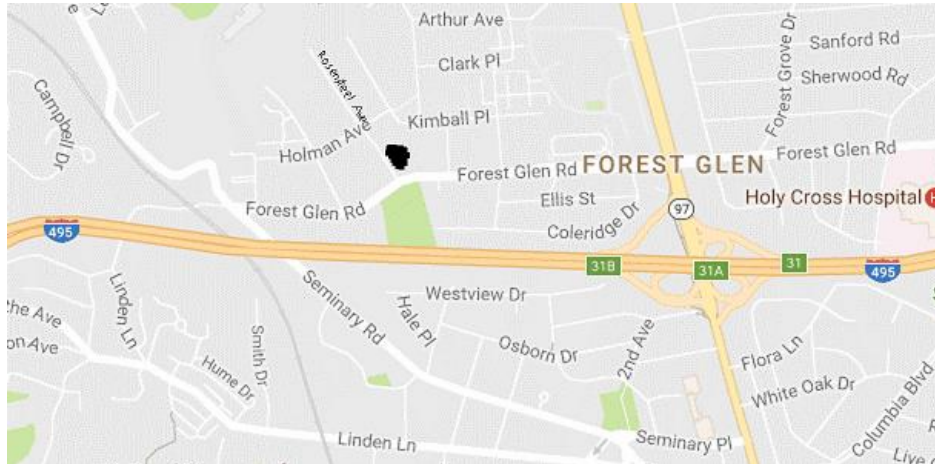
**Silver Spring, MD 20910**

Just off the Beltway Exit 31

Take Georgia Ave (Rt. 97) north past Forest Glen Rd. Make the first U-turn possible and go south on Georgia Ave. Make a right on Forest Glen Rd (Rt. 192). Go to Rosensteel and turn right. Park in the Knights of Columbus parking lot on the right.

**DATE:** Thursday, June 15, 2017

**TIME:** 7:30PM



*VGCA members are also invited to attend regular PACA meetings normally held the third Thursday of the month.*

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**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](mailto:copo6970@yahoo.com)

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The e-mail address for any Newsletter related matters or a submission is [Newsletter@vgca.net](mailto:Newsletter@vgca.net) or you can read the editor directly at [rpebecker@verizon.net](mailto: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.