



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.NET

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May 2022 VGCA Newsletter



President's Comments

Greetings, Fellow VGCA Members!

First, I spoke with Phil Schreier at the NRA Headquarters the other day and he reported that the NRA National Firearms Museum re-opened to the public on May 9th. It will be open from 9 am – 4 pm every day except Christmas – good news indeed – and another sign that things are returning to normal!

Next, the NRA will host its annual meeting over the Memorial Day weekend in Houston, Texas. VGCA member Gary James will present a display of “**Guns of the Crimean War, 1853-1856**” to include 12 rifles and 6 revolvers. Vice President Rick Nahas will also be attending the meeting and will provide VGCA table covers, our banner and promotional materials, and assist Gary set up the display. This display at the NRA Annual Meeting display will provide some excellent visibility and advertising for our association. The next newsletter will include photos of the display and a report by Gary and Rick – our thanks to you both.

Finally, we look forward to seeing you at our regular membership meeting at the NRA Headquarters on Thursday May 26th when member Phil Hill will present on “**Colt Scouts, Peacemakers, and New Frontiers (.22 caliber).**” Hope to see you there!

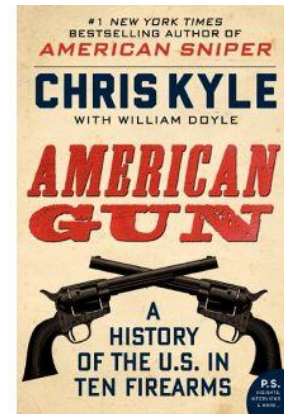
—*Ed Costello*, VGCA President

★ April Presentation

Member Bronson Armstrong (*below*) gave a different type of presentation at our April Membership Meeting. Instead of focusing on



a single firearm model and its variations, he took inspiration from Chris Kyle (of “**American Sniper**” fame) and his book “**American Gun – A History of the**



U.S. in Ten Firearms” (*at right*). After his daughter gave him a copy of the book as a present, he set out to acquire all ten guns that Chris Kyle thought were key to American history. Bronson’s multi-year quest resulted in a collection of classic American firearms, with each model playing a significant role in some era of America’s past, from our nation’s founding to present day.

The **American Long Rifle** (*at left*), sometimes called the Pennsylvania or Kentucky Long Rifle, is a flintlock rifle developed in the British colonies that would later become the United States. Intended to give colonists an advantage while hunting, the Long

Rifle and the men who knew how to use it proved devastatingly effective during the American Revolution.

The **Spencer Repeater** was the world’s first military metallic cartridge repeating rifle, with over 200,000 rifles and carbines produced between 1860 and 1869. Though successfully employed by Union forces during the Civil War (and an example famously test fired by President Abraham Lincoln on the White House lawn), the lever action Spencer did not replace the muzzle loading rifle in service.

The next two guns on this list are forever linked with American westward expansion. The first is the **Colt Single Action Army Revolver**, also known as the SAA, the Peacemaker, or the Model 1873 (*at right*). It was adopted as the standard issue handgun of the U.S. Army from 1873 to 1892. Manufactured in 30 different calibers, this “six-shooter” is perhaps best known in .45 Colt and .44/40.



The **Winchester Model 1873** repeating rifle is “the gun that won the west” and is an obvious choice for this list. Chambered in various calibers, but by far the most popular was .44/40. Twice as powerful as the contemporary .44

Henry, the .44/40 allowed the westward-looking cowboy or farmer to only have to carry one type of ammo for both his rifle and pistol. Winchester produced 720,000 Model 1873s between 1873 and 1919.

The Spanish-American War demonstrated the significant superiority of the 7mm Mauser used by the Spanish over the Americans with their various models of the .30/40 Krag-Jorgensen rifle. A new rifle was needed for the U.S. Army, and that rifle was the **Springfield Model 1903**. Initially chambered in .30/03, that round was modernized in 1906 with a lighter and faster spitzer bullet and the new round was designated the .30/06. The .30/06 is arguably the most popular American hunting caliber of the 20th Century! The Springfield (so named because it was first developed and manufactured at the Springfield Armory) copied many of the features of the Mauser. So many, in fact, that Mauser sued the U.S. government for patent infringement and the U.S. was forced to pay Mauser \$250,000 in royalties. The M1903 would serve U.S. forces in both World Wars and over 3,000,000 would be built.

The next gun on the list was designed by John M. Browning, possibly the greatest firearms designer in history. The semi-automatic **Model 1911 Pistol** was adopted by the U.S. Army as its official sidearm on 29 March 1911 and served in that role for over seven decades. Though the Beretta M9 was adopted to replace the M1911A1 on 14 January 1985, Browning's design would continue to serve the U.S. military into the 1990s. Chambered in .45 Automatic Colt Pistol (.45 ACP), the M1911 and its derivatives remain a popular civilian handgun to this day.

The static trench warfare of World War I called for new technology to restore lethality to infantry attacks. Rolling artillery barrages, tanks, and even poisonous gas were all used in attempts to give the initiative to offensive operations, but they weren't enough. The individual infantryman needed more firepower than a bolt-action rifle could give him – he needed a “trench broom.” Enter U.S. Army's Brigadier General John Thompson and his idea for a “Submachine Gun” (SMG). Chambered in .45 ACP and fully automatic, the **Thompson SMG** was developed too late for the “war to end all wars” but served proudly and effectively during WWII and Korea. The “Tommy Gun” is probably one of the most recognizable firearms in the U.S., if not the world. Bronson's Thompson was a Model 1928 made by Auto-Ordnance in the 1960s.

As good as the bolt-action Springfield M1903 rifle was, in the mid-1920s the U.S. Army wanted to field a semi-automatic rifle. After extended development at the Springfield Armory led by designer John C. Garand, the final result was the **M1 Rifle** adopted in 1936. Originally designed for the .276 Pederson caliber, Army Chief of Staff General Douglas MacArthur nixed the idea of a new caliber due to the extensive inventory of .30/06 ammunition already on hand combined with a very limited Army budget. The M1 Rifle, often referred to simply as “the Garand,” gave U.S. forces a significant firepower advantage over our enemies during WWII and would be called “the greatest battle implement ever devised” by no less than General George S. Patton.

Though it may be hard to recall in this day and age when polymer-framed, high-capacity, semi-automatic pistols are all the rage, but there was time in the U.S. when service handguns were steel and wood and had cylinders. For most of the 20th Century, the 6-shot **.38 Special Police Revolver** was king! Whether it was the Smith & Wesson K-frame Hand Ejector (introduced in 1899) or the Colt Police Positive Special (introduced in 1907) and their respective derivatives, these revolvers served as the primary law enforcement sidearm around the world for over 80 years. The reasons are many – the .38 Special round is fairly powerful yet low recoiling and has a reputation for accuracy while the guns themselves simply defined reliability.

The final selection on this list is Eugene Stoner's ageless design, the **M16 Rifle**. Adopted in 1964, the M16 (and its variants M16A1 through M16A4 and the M4 carbine) is chambered in the light caliber 5.56x45 NATO (aka the .223 Remington) and has been the longest-serving battle rifle in U.S. history, with its replacement just being identified last month as the SIG MCX Spear. The M16 is a select fire weapon (meaning it can be fired semi-automatic or full auto, with some variants [M16A2] limited to a 3-round burst) made with advanced aluminum alloys and plastic furniture. When combined with its smaller, lighter ammunition, it is obvious that weight-savings was a priority. The military is constantly adapting to new tactics and only a very versatile platform could continue to serve the military as long as the M16 family has.

Bronson has acquired an impressive collection of classic American firearms, with each example in fine condition. Based on the audience participation, his presentation was enjoyed by all! The next time you see him, thank him for sharing his collection with us!



★ **Next Membership Meeting: May 26th** **Topic: "Colt Scouts, Peacemakers, and New Frontiers (22 caliber)"** **by Phil Hill**

Location: the NRA HQ Conference Room

Our May VGCA Membership Meeting will be at the NRA Headquarters and will be available via webinar for those who cannot attend in person. The Conference Room opens at 6 p.m. with pizza available at approximately 6:30 p.m. and the meeting starting at 7 p.m. Hope to see you then!



★ **April Meeting Notes**

The April 28th VGCA meeting was called to order by VGCA President Ed Costello at 7:01 p.m. Members of the Trigger Time 4H Shooting Club led those present through the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 40 members and guests in attendance with another 12 participating via webinar. The following items were mentioned during a short business meeting.



Member Phil Hill announced a continuation of the raffle that he held at our Gun Show to benefit the Trigger Time 4H kids. He raffled an Otis Elite Cleaning Kit with the money raised (\$1900!) designated to help Trigger Time attend the 4H Air Rifle Championship this June in Grand Island, Nebraska.

Our Treasurer Shannon Ziegler gave a quick financial update. He noted that our income from the March Gun Show was less than normal for our spring show. Several factors contributed to this – fewer tables in the layout meant better social distancing, but also fewer table sales. Lower than average attendance also was a factor. Altogether, the club made about \$2500, which will go toward our operating budget for the year.

Rick Nahas, our Show Director, announced that we have already sold 100 tables for our November Gun Show with 44 still available.

George Dungan, the Membership Chairman, provided a membership report. The VGCA has 428 Life Members and 58 Annual Members, for a total of 486. There are also 14 applicants for membership this month!

Former President Ernie Lyles reported that the NRA's National Firearms Museum, closed for two years as a result of the COVID pandemic, will re-open on-or-about 9 May 2022. Good news indeed! He also announced that the NRA is looking to hire a documents curator.

Director Matthew G. is still looking for anyone interested in making a presentation at a membership meeting in 2022. If interested, please contact him at matthewofmclean@gmail.com. We still need presenters for our June, August, September, and October meetings.

★ Membership Chairman's Report

Membership Chairman's Report May 2022 – Please welcome the following new members to the Virginia Gun Collectors Association.

- **David Simerson** of Milford, PA
- **Ashley Lamac** of Matamoras, PA
- **Eric Rebels** of Bangor, PA
- **Ted Bullard** of Warrenton
- **Paul Augsburger** of Linden
- **Mark Anderson** of Gainesville
- **Ken Fisher** of Manassas
- **Michael Plaughter** of Woodbridge
- **Henson Doan** of Springfield
- **Justin Jenkins** of Manassas
- **Bill Bailey** of Purcellville
- **Patrick Hyland** of Winchester
- **Al Crosby** of Stafford

New Applications for Membership: Since the last Newsletter, there have been six new applicants for membership.

- **Finn Blakesley** of Fredericksburg *sponsored by Bruce Buchner*
- **Gregory Richard** of Vienna *sponsored by Joe Wagner*
- **Ryan Via** of Hillsboro *sponsored by Joe Wagner*
- **James Strand** of Bristow *sponsored by Phil Hill*
- **Troy Blackwood** of Reston *sponsored by George Dungan*
- **David Breeden** of King George *sponsored by William D. Chronister*

Thanks to the applicants for their interest in the Virginia Gun Collectors Association and to their sponsors for promoting the Association and keeping the membership growing.

If there are any comments or questions on any applicant, please notify any Officer, Director, or the Membership Chair. **George Dungan, Membership Chair** can be reached at george@eccominv.com or 571-243-6387.

Notice to New Member Sponsors: VGCA will be discontinuing hard copy versions of the VGCA Newsletters at a future date. *Please make sure your prospective applicants include a legible email*

address and *telephone contact number* if at all possible. Without an email address new members will NOT receive any newsletter or VGCA announcements.

Membership Numbers: There are currently 428 Life members, and 72 Annual Members, for a total of 500 members in the Virginia Gun Collectors Association, Inc.

Recruiting: Membership in the VGCA is a great way for people with an interest in the history, development, and use of firearms to broaden their knowledge and pass what they know on to others. It also offers the opportunity to network with individuals who have similar interests. To help facilitate new membership we have a recruiting table at every Chantilly gun show and also at our VGCA gun shows. If you would like to volunteer to work a shift at one of these events please contact Marc Gorelick at gorelickmarc13rarius@hotmail.com.

George Dungan, Membership Chair



★ NRA NATIONAL FIREARMS MUSEUM REOPENS!

By Marc Gorelick

After a long, dry two-year hiatus, the NRA National Firearms Museum (NFM) reopened to the public on May 9th. The museum was initially closed because of COVID-19 concerns.



The NFM, located on the ground floor of NRA headquarters at 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030, resumed normal public hours of 9:00AM to 4:00PM, 7 days a week.

The NRA NFM collection is one of the world's finest museum collections dedicated to firearms. The National Firearms Museum has about 2,500 guns on display in the 15,000 square foot facility. It has been located in Fairfax, Virginia since the NRA moved there from Washington, DC in 1998. The thoughtfully organized and museum collection provides a glimpse into the firearms that built our nation, helped forge our freedom, and captured our imagination. The exceptional exhibits contain historically significant firearms that are true national treasures.

For more information on hours and locations of the NRA National Firearms Museum, the NRA National Sporting Arms Museum at Bass Pro Shops, and the Frank Brownell Museum of the Southwest visit NRAMuseums.com.

NRA Museum Director (and VGCA member) Phil Schreier and NRA 1st Vice President Willes Lee take down the "CLOSED" Sign and open the museum on May 9.



ENGLAND'S HOLY TRINITY OF GUNMAKERS: *Boss & Co., Holland & Holland, and Purdey*

By Marc Gorelick

In the British shooting world the phrase “the Holy Trinity” is not a religious reference, but rather a tribute to three of the top gunmakers in the world; Boss & Co., Holland & Holland, and Purdey. While there are other custom gunmakers who produce superb guns, none have quite the reputation and cachet of these three firms. There are many reasons for this, including their long history, strong heritage and tradition, their innovation over the years, and the superlative quality of the bespoke guns that they produce. They are at the pinnacle of today’s English custom gunmakers. In fact, both Purdey and Holland & Holland hold royal warrants.



*Top – Boss & Co. 12 gauge, SxS sidelock shotgun, circa 1890.
Middle – Holland & Holland SxS double Royal rifle, .300 H&H Magnum.
Bottom – Purdey & Sons 12 gauge, SxS Deluxe shotgun, made 1920
Photos courtesy of Joh. Springers Erben, Vienna, Austria*

Although the British firearms industry has faced tough times during the last century, these three names have not only survived but continue to receive orders from the world’s wealthy and elite. This is not only a testament to a demand for the finest quality guns but also a testament to the cachet of owning a Purdey, Holland & Holland or Boss & Co rifle or shotgun. At the beginning of the 1900s there were nearly 100 custom gunmakers in Britain, but due to thriving overseas competition (and onerous British gun control laws) only a few remain today. These three firms have not only survived, but survived without sacrificing their traditional quality.

Although top-end gunmakers in Germany, Ferlach in Austria or Breccia in Italy produce high quality alternatives to the British made guns, the names of Purdey, Holland & Holland and Boss & Co still carry weight. They all represent true luxury, in every sense of the word, offering traditional unmatched quality, an impeccable personal service and attention to detail.

The guns that these three firms produce are not only sporting weapons, but also works of art in metal and wood, with each gun typically taking between 600-1000 hours to craft. The engraving portion alone can take up to six months to a year to complete. The guns are developed in a similar fashion to the finest custom British or Bangkok custom-made suits, with customers being able to order a gun to their exact specifications down to the smallest detail.

No matter the firm, each gun goes through five processes, passing through the hands of expert craftsmen, such as the Barrel Maker, Actioner, Stocker, Engraver and lastly, the Finisher. The potential for bespoke engraving is boundless, incorporating detailed game scenes, personal designs as well as precious metal inlays. These craftsmen have spent years learning their trade, and many of the engravers, such as Brad Tallett, are acknowledged to be among the finest engravers in the world. Highly embellished guns signed by Tallett or other famous engravers who work for the one of the “Holy Trinity” are highly sought after and clients may have to wait several years if they want to secure a particular artist for their commission.



Boss & Co “1812 Edition” ambidextrous side lever O/U shotgun. Photo – Boss & Co.

When it comes to having a bespoke shotgun made, the personalized service is second to none. Clients are exactly measured and their shooting habits and styles studied so that the guns are made not only to their measurements but also their characteristics. They can not only choose the wood for the stock of their gun but also make it their own by specifying personalized engraving, as well as other decoration, and finishes.



Boss & Co Round body O/U shotgun. Photo – Boss& Co.

Boss & Co. can lay claim to being one of the longest established British gunmakers, dating back to 1773 when William Boss began his gun making apprenticeship in Birmingham. In the late 18th century William moved to London to work for the famous Joseph Manton, and William's son Thomas Boss (1790–1857) followed in his father's footsteps, serving his apprenticeship under the great master himself. Completing his apprenticeship with Manton in 1812, Thomas Boss set out on his own to produce only the very highest quality of gun and this policy of perfection continues to this day with Boss & Co being the "builders of only the best guns." Founded in 1812, Boss & Co. is London's oldest gunmaker and has been privately-owned since its inception, focused only on building the most beautiful, innovative and finely-crafted shotguns and rifles. Though the smallest of London's "Holy Trinity" in terms of production, Boss & Co is entirely focused on producing custom quality firearms. It has traditionally been a leader in the fields of technical innovation and decoration. Boss perfected the single trigger for double guns in 1893 and the firm is now regarded as the leading manufacturer of single trigger guns. The Boss Hammerless Ejector, introduced in 1897, has been in continuous production, virtually unaltered, since that day. Boss is also famous for introducing the elegant and slender round body action in the 1890's, with many other gunmakers copying the concept. Introduced by Boss master engraver John James Sumner, the Boss "Rose and Scroll," engraving depicting tiny roses set amongst scrolls, is famous among aficionados of fine guns. Where other gunmakers have branched into lifestyle accessories or fashionable clothing lines, Boss continues to be singularly focused on hand-crafting the finest and most innovative firearms in the world – just as it always has done. Still privately owned, Boss & Co continues to make "Best Guns Only" by hand, using traditional methods and has even set up an apprenticeship program to train and pass on the skills to a new generation of Boss & Co gunmakers.

Holland & Holland is the youngest of "The Holy Trinity." The firm was founded by Harris Holland, a tobacco wholesaler in London and an avid shooter in 1835. He took on his nephew Henry as an apprentice in 1861. Henry became a full partner in 1867 and the firm's name was changed from H.Holland to Holland & Holland in 1876. By 1883, Holland & Holland was winning all the rifle categories in *The Field* magazine's prestigious rifle trials and setting new standards of excellence.

Throughout its history, Holland & Holland was a firearms and ammunition innovator and its guns were noted for strength and reliability. For instance, in 1885, the firm was granted patents for its Paradox gun, a shotgun with rifling in the front two inches of the barrel and in 1908 the company patented the detachable lock feature with small lever for sidelock shotguns. Holland & Holland was also responsible for the last major development in the evolution of the sidelock side-by-side gun when its assisted-opening mechanism was patented in 1922. The famous self-opening Royal side-by-side and over-under guns have been hugely influential in gun-making throughout the world. In 1989 French luxury goods company Chanel acquired Holland & Holland and although the company still produced high quality custom guns it also had a strong emphasis on expensive sporting clothing. In the 1990s, Holland & Holland started on a major expansion program and opened gunrooms in Dallas and Moscow while the flagship store, located in London's Mayfair on Bruton Street, was renovated and expanded. The Beretta Holding group acquired Holland & Holland from Chanel in February 2021. A hand-built Holland & Holland shotgun can cost between £60,000 and £245,000. A Royal double rifle starts at £153,000 and can cost over £245,000. A bolt action rifle in .375 H&H Magnum lists for a mere £50,000. Prices can double with luxury engraving, and there can be a waiting period of 2–3 years between ordering and delivery.



Holland & Holland Royal SxS Game Gun with Deluxe game scene engraving. Photo – Holland & Holland

James Purdey & Sons was founded by James Purdey in London, England, in 1814 (the year before the Battle of Waterloo) but the firm's origins can be traced back to the mid-1700s, when James Purdey's father, also named James Purdey, began making barrels for several gunsmiths near the Tower of London. James the younger followed in his father's footsteps and became an apprentice, first to Thomas Keck Hutchinson in 1794 at age 14, and then worked from 1805 to 1814 for renowned gunsmith Joseph Manton. James the Younger was always at the forefront of advances in the design and building of his guns. Over the years he took out patents for a number of technical innovations, many of which were adopted by other gunmakers. This included adopting the Beesley action. This tradition of innovation has lasted throughout the firm's history. James Purdey & Sons has been known, throughout their 200 or so years of existence, for producing high-quality rifles and shotguns. Typical prices for a Purdey custom built and handmade shotguns begin at £90,000. Like the others, the decoration of Purdey guns ranges from the simple and understated, through the quintessential Purdey "rose and scroll" to the most ornate engraving, carving, chiseling and inlaying of scenes. In 1946, after 132 years of Purdey family ownership

the company was sold to Hugh Seely, 1st Baron Sherwood. James Purdey & Sons Ltd was sold in 1994 to Compagnie Financière Richemont SA, a Swiss luxury goods holding company. Today, Purdey also sells an extensive line of men's and ladies' luxury apparel and accessories, in addition to high-quality custom-made guns.



Purdey & Sons SxS shotgun, custom engraving. Photo – Purdey & Sons



Purdey & Sons SxS shotgun, custom engraving. Photo – Purdey & Sons

It has been said that when you buy a gun from one of “The Holy Trinity” that you become part of an exclusive club. You are buying a tradition, a heritage, an heirloom, a legacy, a reputation and a bit of firearms history. A custom gun by Boss, Holland & Holland, or Purdey is a timeless piece of art and can be the keystone of any collection.



GUNS OF DISTINCTION

CUSTOM PERAZZI MX8 SHOTGUN

By Marc Gorelick

Photos courtesy of Joh. Springer's Erben, Vienna, Austria

Perazzi Armi of Brescia, Italy is known for its high-end custom shotguns. Founded in 1957 by 25-year old Daniele Perazzi, the family owned firm produces some of the most exquisite shotguns in the world and the example shown is an exceptional example of the quality and beauty of its products. The guns are made to order and the customer visits the factory to get the gun fit to exact specifications, select their wood, a custom order the piece's engraving. Perazzi shotguns are true works of art as well as being extremely shootable. Perazzi shotguns have been used by many Olympic medal winners.



This shotgun is a Model MX8 over/under in 12 gauge. It has a straight stock made from a hand-picked walnut root walnut with fine checkering and a beautiful oil finish. It weighs 7.7 pounds and the overall length is 46 ½ inches. The 29 ½ inch long barrels have ½ and full chokes and a ventilated rib. It has a single trigger and its proprietary Perazzi detachable trigger assembly.



On the right side of the action is a devil with ram's horns and goat beard with the serpent from the Garden of Eden. All metal parts are engraved and the engraved scenes are surrounded by Chinese dragons.

This shotgun is a true “high-art gun” that features exquisite engraving that is second to none. All Perazzi shotguns are hand engraved by master artisans. This example is signed “Fausti” and dated 1996. This may very well be the world famous engraver Giacomo Fausti, who established a prestigious engraving atelier called Creative Art in Gardone, Val Trompia, Italy.



On the left side are hand engraved scenes representing Greek mythology.



The underside of the action is decorated with an engraving of a naked Artemis, the Greek goddess of the hunt. The triggerguard is also engraved.

This Perazzi shotgun was offered by illustrious firm of Joh. Springer of Vienna, Austria for a mere 37,500 euros or \$44,020.

★ Another Successful Weekend for VGCA Recruiting at the Chantilly Gun Show

Last month's Gun Show at the Chantilly Expo Center saw another successful weekend of recruiting for the VGCA. Thanks to the following VGCA members who volunteered their time to support the association:

Chris Britton
Bruce Buchner
Bill Chronister
Marc Gorelick

Rick Hansen
Nelson Hufano
Michael Irvin

Allen Reid
Sidney Rodda
Allan Rupp

King von Schilling
Charlie Tamez
Joe Wagner

Long time repeat volunteer Joe Roberts was scheduled to help man the table but had to call in sick. We hope you are feeling better, Joe!

A Shout Out to the members that displayed some of their treasures on the VGCA table as a way to entice potential new members (a little "bait" never hurts!).

On Friday, Bill Chronister displayed his Swiss match .22 rifle (see the Show-n-Tell on page 19 for details on this particular rifle).

On Saturday and Sunday, Marc Gorelick displayed his recently acquired Winchester-Lee Sporter straight pull (*at right*) in 6mm Navy (.236 cal.). Winchester only made 1,700 civilian sporters so Marc sharing his was quite a treat!

Thanks to everyone's efforts, three prospective new members were recruited. Good job!



A special thanks goes out to VGCA Director Marc Gorelick for organizing this effort.

★ DOES ANYONE RECOGNIZE THIS SYMBOL?

A member of the Alaska Gun Collectors Association hoping that one of our members may be able to help him to identify this stock disc recently contacted me. It is mounted on the foregrip of a New Model Evans repeating rifle, circa 1878. The bottom two letters may be a WV, or perhaps a stylized MA. If you know – or have an educated guess – as to the meaning of this symbol, please pass it along to Rob at rpebecker@verizon.net



★ Show-n-Tell ★

NOTE – 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!

VGCA Show-n-Tell Fact Sheet

Manufacturer: _____

Model: _____ Action Type: _____

Caliber: _____

Years of Production: _____ Total Produced: _____

Year this example was manufactured (if known): _____

Significance: _____

Question(s) for members: _____

Name (optional): _____

Where acquired (optional): _____ When acquired (optional): _____

Member 1 (*at right*) shared his Syrian contract MAS 49. The MAS 49 was a development of the semi-automatic MAS 44 fielded by the French Navy immediately after WWII. Adopted by the French Army in July 1949, the MAS 49 replaced a myriad of long guns in French service, including the MAS 36, the Lee-Enfield, the M1903 Springfield, the M1917, and the Mauser K98k. Chambered in 7.5x54 French, it operated via a direct gas impingement system and utilized a 10-round detachable magazine. 20,600 MAS 49s were produced for the French before production shifted to the MAS 49/56 (with an integral grenade launcher). In 1953, Syria took delivery of 6,000 MAS 49s (serial numbers between 33,000 and 39,000 – *see below – last two digits blocked*). The Syrian contract rifles differed from the French MAS 49s in that they carried a spike bayonet under the barrel similar to the French MAS 36.





Member 2 brought in two Peabody-Martini Target Rifles from 1880 (*above*) – a Long Range Creedmoor chambered in .44/100 and a Medium Range Creedmoor in .40/70. These beautifully crafted single shot falling block rifles were “heavy hitters” in target matches of their day. The Creedmoor moniker comes from the noted rifle range on Long Island and “Creedmoor” was added to the names of target rifles made by several different manufacturers, to include Sharps, Ballard, and Remington. Though of excellent quality, fine accuracy, and popular on the ranges of England, Germany, and Switzerland at the time, the Peabody-Martini never really caught on in the U.S. According to Major Ned Roberts and Kenneth Waters in their book *The Breech-Loading Single-Shot Rifle*:

Unchanging crisp trigger pulls with short striker fall and consequently quick lock time, a mortised buttstock with through-bolt threaded into the receiver, excellent extraction, closely fitted smooth-working action parts, and a solid rear receiver wall which protected the shooter from blow-backs contributed to both accuracy and safety. However, the trigger was positioned too far forward, making it extremely awkward for a shooter to hold this rifle in the conventional manner with thumb wrapped around the small of the stock.

The original .44/100 cartridge was 2 5/16” Berdan-primed case loaded with a paper-patched 550-grain bullet over 100 to 115 grains of black powder. This was a potent long-range combination and there are period range records in England of perfect scores out to 800 and 900 yards. Modern rifles certainly have no monopoly on accuracy!



Member 3 (*above*) shared his Swiss Eidgenössischer Kleinkaliber Schützen Verband (EKSV) rifle. EKSV rifles are converted military rifles, match rifles, and .22 Rimfire conversion units intended for use in Swiss 50-Meter indoor smallbore EKSV competition. This particular rifle was initially built in 1902 as a standard issue InfanterieGewehr 1896 (abbreviated as G1896) in 7.5x55 Swiss caliber. It was later modified to shoot the GP11 round with a spritzer bullet a designated the G1896/11. Later still, this rifle was modified by noted Swiss gunsmith Robert Flückinger of Zurich to accept the extra long .22 cartridge Nr.7. While the Nr.7 is not identical to either the U.S.-made .22 Long or .22 Long Rifle cartridges, these U.S. rounds can be used safely in this gun. Ejection of spent .22 cases is handled via a modified extractor on the bolt and a spring-loaded, folding ejector fitted into a standard G1896/11 magazine follower. This rifle was fitted with a new .22 RF Hammerli match barrel with a #9 Lienhard sight fine-adjusting rear sight for EKSV Match use.

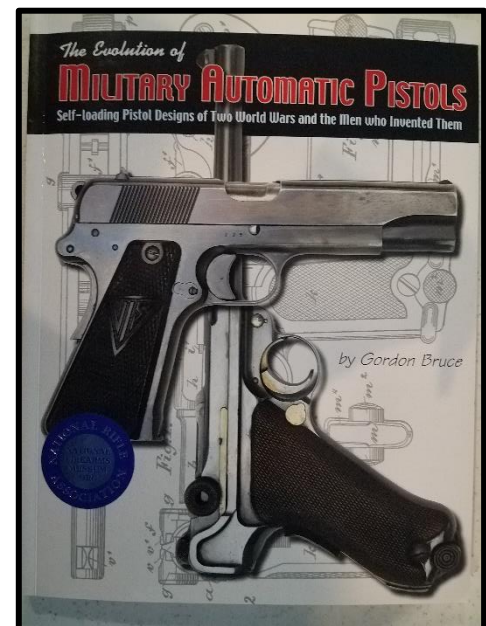
Member 3 purchased this interesting piece right at the beginning of the COVID pandemic.



Member 4 brought in a U.S. Model 1917 rifle (*at left*), which he referred to as “the Rodney Dangerfield of U.S. firearms – because it gets no respect.” The M1917 has an interesting backstory. In 1910, the British War Office considered replacing the Mark III Short Magazine Lee-Enfield (SMLE) with a new rifle in a new caliber (.276 Enfield). Just as development and trials were finishing up in 1913, the war clouds over Europe dictated that beginning production of a new rifle and new ammunition was just not feasible. The design was modified for the standard .303 British caliber and in January 1916, three factories in the U.S. (Winchester, Remington, and Eddystone) were contracted to produce what would become the Pattern 14 (or P-14) rifle. After producing over 1.2 million rifles for the British, production of the P-14 was just winding down when the U.S. entered WWI in April 1917. Rather than retool these three factories to produce M1903 rifles – with the corresponding delays that would entail - the decision was made to convert the P-14 design to fire the standard U.S. .30/06 round and issue the new rifles (designated the Model of 1917) as a substitute standard. Also

known the “American Enfield,” the M1917 entered mass production and almost 2.2 million were produced by the end of the war. So many were made so quickly that the “substitute standard” actually represented about 75% of the front line rifles used by U.S. forces in France during the war. The M1917 actually had a couple of advantages over the M1903. It had a rear aperture peep sight and held 6 rounds instead of only 5 in the magazine (a by-product of the magazine being designed for 5 rounds of the rimmed .303 cartridge). This example was made at Eddystone in 1917.

Member 4 also shared a copy of the book *The Evolution of Military Automatic Pistols – Self-Loading Pistol Designs of Two World Wars and the Men Who Invented Them* by Gordon Bruce (*at right*). His review says it was an excellent resource on early semi-auto pistols and their designers.



Member 5 had a Japanese Carcano – that’s right, a Japanese Type “I” (letter “I” for Italian) that is a hybrid Arisaka-Carcano made in Italy for the Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN). The origin of this rifle is based on the intense inter-service rivalry between the Imperial Japanese Army (IJA) and the IJN before (and even during) WWII. The IJA controlled the small arms arsenals and in the late 1930s told the IJN that they had no spare production capacity to support naval requirements. The IJN was forced to look elsewhere for its rifles. The Navy contracted with Italy to make a rifle chambered in the 6.5x50 Japanese cartridge and utilized the Carcano action, but that replaced the Carcano’s Mannlicher-style magazine/en block clip design with a Mauser-style box magazine that could be reloaded via standard Japanese stripper clips. The Type I had sights similar to the Japanese Type 38 Arisaka rifle, as well as a bayonet lug that could take the Japanese Type 30 Bayonet. Surviving records show 60,000 rifles were ordered, but serial number analysis indicates double that number were probably produced between 1938 and 1939. Three factories produced the Type I, with this example made by FNA Brescia. This rifle was a recent acquisition from Gunbroker and was acquired for below market value. The auction site’s ad said the rifle had been refinished, but after reviewing the provided pictures, Member 5 didn’t think so and took a gamble. The gamble paid off as this rifle – like many Type Is – appears to be close to mint. The moral of the story – trust your eyes!



The Type I is on the left, with a Japanese Type 38 for comparison on the right. The Type I and Type 38 are similar in dimensions, though the Type I is slightly shorter in OAL.

Member 6 brought in one of the rifles featured in the night's presentation – his own M1 “Garand” Rifle (*at right*). This particular battle rifle was purchased at Chantilly about six years ago for \$500. That was an incredibly low price for an M1 even back then and there was a reason – the barrel was “a sewer pipe!” Member 6 had the barrel replaced by VGCA member Larry Babcock and he now has a Springfield M1 rifle made in approximately August 1943 (based on the receiver serial number) for a total investment of about \$750! Well done sir!



Member 7 brought in the German Thieme & Schlegelmilch “Nimrod” Drilling (*left*) he shared with the membership at the February meeting with some follow-up information. In February, Member 7 stated that he did not know the caliber of the rifle barrel centered under the two 16 Gauge shotgun barrels – it certainly was not in 7x57 Rimmed like he thought at the time of the purchase! A chamber cast has been made (*below*) and though there is a little guess-work involved on exactly where the chamber actually ends (and Member 7 is looking for a any help he can get in that area), it does appear that the caliber is 9.3x75 Rimmed Nimrod. Thanks for the follow-up!

9.3x75R Nimrod

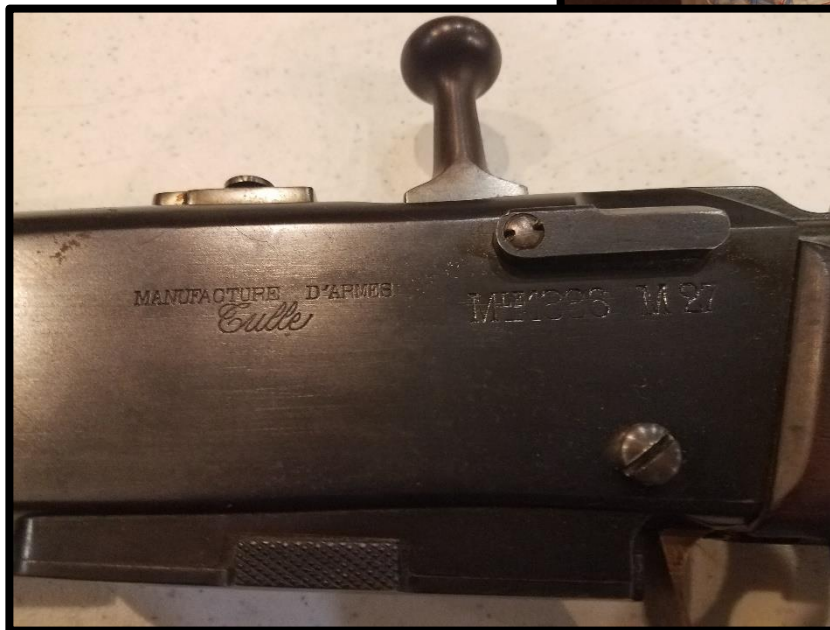
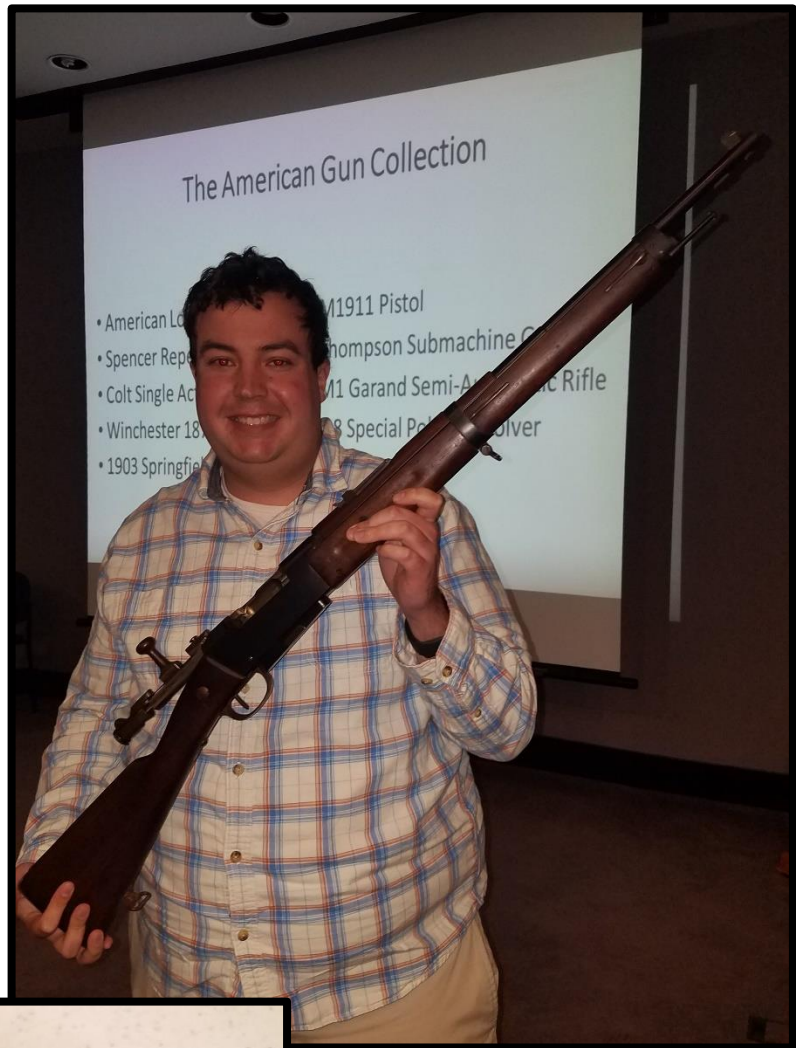
Historical Notes: The Thieme & Schlegelmilch Nimrod Gewehrfabrik (Nimrod Rifle Factory) was founded in Suhl, in 1882, by Heinrich Schlegelmilch and his friend Thieme. Thieme & Schlegelmilch introduced the 9.3x75R Nimrod circa 1905 to duplicate the ballistics of older and popular black-powder 9.3 cartridges before smokeless loads were developed for them. It didn't last much past 1910. The 9.3x75R was in many older firearms, thus presenting cross-size problems, according to 9.3x75Rmm aficionado Victor A. Schaeferkoetter. An interesting piece of trivia, the word "nimrod" means a "mighty hunter."

General Comments: One characteristic that distinguishes the 9.3mm Nimrod case types is that they all have short necks, the result of a more gradual taper from the base to about 10 to 11 millimeters from the case mouth. Schaeferkoetter said, "The ring-type bullet I have goes 367 at the ring, the largest diameter on the bullet. The base mica, 363 and the front driving band goes 362. As with many pre-1900 American firearm bores, groove and chamber dimensions can vary a lot," Schaeferkoetter said. Handloads from Sherman Bell and Graham Wright are the best resource for starting loads. Schaeferkoetter said the load below will work without a filler, and pressures will be fine. However, velocities are erratic, more than 200 fps difference shot to shot, and accuracy is poor. Schaeferkoetter forms cases from 9.3x82R brass, trimmed to length, full length size. He uses open-cell foam filler cut to fill the remaining space in the case and hold the powder against the primer.—W.T.W.

9.3x75Rmm Nimrod Factory Ballistics

Bullet (grains/type)	Powder	Grains	Velocity	Energy	Source
		36	1,764	1,382	Victor A. Schaeferkoetter

Member 8 shared a fairly unique and rare rifle – a French Lebel rifle (*at right*) converted to 7.5x54 French caliber. After WWI, the French military realized that they had to replace the obsolete, rimmed, and heavily tapered 8mm Lebel cartridge with something more modern as a first step in upgrading their weapons. This led to the adoption of the modern, rimless 7.5x58 round in 1924. However, it was quickly discovered that 7.92x57 (8mm Mauser) ammunition, which the French used in war reparation Maxim machine guns, would load and fire in a 7.5x58 chamber, often with disastrous consequences. As a result, the shorter 7.5x54 round was adopted as the new French small arms caliber in 1929. Once the caliber was decided, then new weapons could be developed and old weapons converted. The Tulle Arsenal was tasked with converting Lebel rifles to 7.5x54. This conversion was labeled the M27 (*see the receiver markings below*). It required a lot of work – not only did the barrel and sights



need to be replaced and the tube magazine replaced by a newly designed box mag, but the bolt head and receiver had to be modified as well. In the end, this extensive conversion ended up costing about 2/3rds of what a new production rifle would cost. The whole venture was deemed uneconomical and abandoned. Only about 1,300 were produced in total and not many have survived, making this example a seldom seen item indeed. Ian McCollum at Forgotten Weapons has an excellent video on this conversion (*see the link below*)

[Converting the Lebel to 7.5mm: The M27 Lebel – Forgotten Weapons](#)

★ 2022 Presentation List ★

<u>MEETING DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>PRESENTER</u>
26 May 2022	Colt Scouts, Peacemakers, & New Frontiers (.22Rimfire)	Phil Hill
23 Jun 2022	TBD	TBD
Jul 2022	N/A – there is no VGCA Membership Meeting in July for summer break	

We are still putting together the presentation schedule for 2022. If you have any suggestions – or would like to make a presentation yourself – please contact one of the VGCA officers or directors.

★ Upcoming Events and Shows ★

PLEASE NOTE: VGCA members are strongly encouraged to verify shows before driving to an event. These dates were confirmed when this newsletter was written, but are not guaranteed.

VIRGINIA – 2022

- ⇒ Jun 17-19, 2022 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- ⇒ Jun 25-26, 2022 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center - *SGK*
- ⇒ Jul 9-10, 2022 – Richmond, VA - Richmond International Raceway – *Showmasters*
- ⇒ Jul 16-17, 2022 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center – *C&E Gun Shows*
- ⇒ Jul 16-17, 2022 – Harrisonburg, VA – Rockingham County Fairgrounds – *Showmasters*
- ⇒ Jul 22-24, 2022 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- ⇒ Jul 30-31, 2022 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center - *SGK*
- ⇒ Aug 27-28, 2022 – Richmond, VA - Richmond International Raceway – *Showmasters*

MARYLAND – 2022

- ⇒ Jul 9-10, 2022 – Timonium, MD – Timonium Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*
- ⇒ Jul 30-31, 2022 – Frederick, MD – Frederick Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*
- ⇒ Sep 3, 2022 – Parkville, MD – Baltimore County Fish & Game – *Baltimore County F&G*
- ⇒ Sep 10-11, 2022 – West Friendship, MD – Howard County Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*
- ⇒ Sep 23-25, 2022 – Ocean City, MD – Ocean City Convention Center - *Showmasters*

PENNSYLVANIA – 2022

- ⇒ May 28-29, 2022 – Sellersville, PA – Forrest Lodge VFW Hall and Club – *Jaeger Arms*
- ⇒ Jun 4, 2022 – Brookville, PA – Jefferson County Fairgrounds – *Jefferson County Historical Society*
- ⇒ Jun 4-5, 2022 – Gettysburg, PA – Allstar Events Complex – *Eagle Shows*
- ⇒ ~~Jun 4-5, 2022 – Thompson, PA – Thompson Vol Fire Co – *Jaeger Arms* - CANCELLED~~
- ⇒ Jun 10-12, 2022 – Oaks, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Arms*
- ⇒ Jun 11-12, 2022 – Leesport, PA – Leesport Farmers Market – *Appalachian Promotions*
- ⇒ ~~Jun 11-12, 2022 – Spring Brook, PA – Spring Brook Fire Co. – *Jaeger Arms* - CANCELLED~~
- ⇒ Jun 18-19, 2022 – Washington, PA – Washington PA County Fairgrounds – *ARH Sport Shop*

PENNSYLVANIA – 2022 (continued)

- ~~Jun 18-19, 2022 – Wind Gap, PA – Plainfield Township Vol Fire Company – Eagle Shows - CANCELLED~~
- Jun 25-26, 2022 – Allentown, PA – ParkView Inn & Conference Center – *Eagle Shows*
- Jun 25-26, 2022 – York, PA – York Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*
- Jul 2-3, 2022 – Stroudsburg, PA – Jackson Township Vol Fire Co – *Jaeger Arms*
- Jul 9-10, 2022 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds – *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*
- Jul 9-10, 2022 – Morgantown, PA – Morgantown Expo Center – *Eagle Shows*
- Jul 30-31, 2022 – Trevoese, PA – Radisson Philadelphia Northeast – *Eagle Shows*
- Aug 5-7, 2022 – Oaks, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Arms*
- Aug 13-14, 2022 – Lebanon, PA – Lebanon Expo Center – *Eagle Shows*
- Aug 13-14, 2022 – Lewis Run, PA – Lewis Run VFD Station 6 – *Lewis Run VFD*
- Aug 20, 2022 – Greencastle, PA – Greencastle Sportsman’s Assoc. – *Izaak Walton League*
- Aug 20-21, 2022 – Harrisburg, PA – PA Farm Show Complex – *C&E*
- Aug 20-21, 2022 – Allentown, PA – Parkview Inn & Conference Center – *Eagle Shows*
- Aug 20-21, 2022 – Leesport, PA – Leesport Farmers Market – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Aug 20-21, 2022 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center – *Showmasters*

SPECIAL EVENTS / SHOWS – 2022

- Jul 16-17, 2022 - Wilmington, OH – Roberts Convention Centre – *Ohio Gun Collectors Association – featuring the Ruger Owners and Collectors Society (ROCS)*

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:

★ VGCA member Charlie Pate has four books that he has authored for sale, at discounted prices to VGCA members. These include:

- “U.S. Handguns of World War II” - \$45.00
- “The Smith & Wesson American Model” - \$55.00
- “U.S. Military Arms Inspector Marks” - \$45.00
- “The Colt Model 1860 Army Revolver” - \$60.00

If interested, please contact Charlie at usarmsresearch@gmail.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.

FOR SALE:

✪ VGCA member Larry Babcock recently published a companion piece to his earlier book **M1 Garand Photo Essay**. This second book, titled **M1 Garand Photo Essay Volume II** covers all new material, to include the M1C and M1D sniper rifles as well as a myriad of M1 accessories. Best of all, both books are offered at a discount to VGCA members. Volume I is normally priced at \$69 and volume II lists for \$49, VGCA members can buy them directly from Larry for \$60 and \$40 each respectively - or \$90 total if you buy both. Look for Larry Babcock set up near the VGCA recruiting table at the next Chantilly Gun Show or order from him directly at larrybab@comcast.net / 703-856-2561.

FOR SALE:

✪ A very nice McKeever cartridge box marked Watervliet Arsenal to include rounds of .45-70 ammo for sale (see photos). Asking price is \$325.



If interested, contact Jim Burgess at 703-

361-1339x1207 or
jim_burgess@nps.gov

FOR SALE:

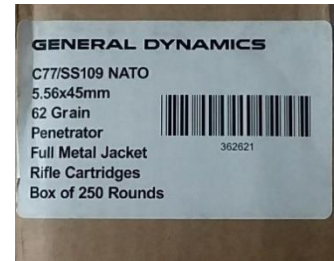
✪ Classic Winchester Model 12 20-gauge pump action shotgun. Rare 30" full choked barrel, tight action, safe queen, excellent bore, bluing and wood, 1946 production. \$1195

✪ Smith and Wesson: The original centerfire 38 caliber (.38 S&W) handgun from 1876-1877. BABY RUSSIAN 5-shot, spur trigger w/ excellent bore and rare 4-inch barrel and block letter grips. All matching numbers, nicely nickel-plated, with authenticating S&W letter. \$1795

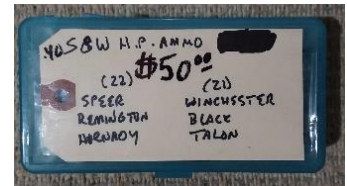
If interested, contact John at 571-308-4978

FOR SALE:

✪ **5.56x45 NATO SS109 Ammo.** General Dynamics 62grain FMJ.
Box of 250 rounds for \$160.00



✪ **.40 S&W:** Winchester Black Talon (21 rounds),
peer/Remington/Hornady (22 rounds), mixed 43 rounds total, in an MTM
plastic box. \$50.00



✪ **7.62x25 Tokarev Ammo.** Eastern Bloc surplus (dated 1984) in 72 round boxes. \$45 per box
(6 available).

✪ **Hornady .450 Nitro Express Ammo.** 3 1/4" 450 grain DGX, 20 round box, very limited
production. \$125.00

✪ **Cold Steel Sanburu Spear.** Three sections –
head/blade, shoe/butt spike, and double taper hardwood
handle. \$65.00



Prices firm. Contact Jack for details at
looney.house@verizon.net

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 George Dungan.