



# VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

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## May 2023 VGCA Newsletter



### President's Comments

To my Fellow VGCA members:

Our next big event is our May elections, when we will select our next three Directors. We have four outstanding candidates this year and have included their bios in this newsletter. You should receive your ballot – via Constant Contact if you have given us an email address and via “snail mail” if you have not – by the end of the month. Please take the time to vote

and help select our next Board of Directors.

We had a superb Presentation at our April Membership Meeting when former VGCA President Bernie Breighner talked to us about Eugene Stoner's early firearm designs before the M16. This meeting marked a couple of milestones for us: first, with 76 participants, it was our most attended membership meeting since the pandemic; and second, it was our first remote presentation broadcast into the NRA facilities (Bernie was in Florida). I want to thank Andrew Woodard and Matthew G. for making this happen! Bernie's presentation was followed by another tremendous selection of Show-n-Tell items.

Our May meeting will be Thursday the 25th in the NRA Headquarters Conference Room, where we will hear the “Guns of the Fenians” presented by Ken Smith-Christmas. I hope to see you there!

*Ed Costello*, VGCA President

# ★ April Presentation: The Eugene M. Stoner Designs & Guns Before the M16

Member and former VGCA President Bernie Brieghner gave a presentation describing Eugene Stoner's firearms designs prior to the famous AR15/M16. Developed last November at the Institute of Military Technology in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Stoner's birth, this presentation was a comprehensive and detailed as is possible today, though several of these designs/prototypes have yet to be discovered (if they still exist at all).

Bernie began with some background information on Eugene Stoner (*right*). Born on November 22, 1922, Stoner served in the U.S. Marine Corps as an



aviation ordnanceman in the Pacific and northern China during World War II. During this time, he designed several guns though none survive. M-1 and M-2 were started in 1943 and based on the M1 Carbine. Influenced in part by the M1941 Johnson Light Machinegun (*at left*), the M-3 was designed in 1944 and chambered in .30/06. It featured a rotary bolt. The M-4 was another design chambered in .30/06, this one primer activated.



After the war, Stoner went to work for Whittaker, an aircraft equipment company, where he gained experience working with high grade aluminum. He continued to design firearms "on the side" and in approximately 1951-1952 he completed M-5 in his garage. Chambered in .30/06, it featured a trigger design similar to the M1 Garand, used a long stroke piston system with a rotary bolt, and had an aluminum receiver. The M-6 was similar to the M-5, but mounted a scope and was fed via a cut-down M1918 BAR magazine. Not much is known about the M-7, except that it was in .30/06 and was apparently never photographed.

The next experimental rifle, the M-8, was the first to incorporate the direct impingement gas system. Developed in 1953, had an inline recoil system similar to the M1941 Johnson LMG and the German paratrooper select-fire FG-42. This was the first fully automatic Stoner design and it is fully transferable as it was registered before 1968.

Stoner left Whittaker in October 1954 to join ArmaLite as Chief Engineer. ArmaLite was a division of the Fairchild Engine and Airplane Corporation. It is at ArmaLite that Stoner's firearms designs gained the "AR" prefix ("AR" stands for ArmaLite, not for "Assault Rifle" as many mistakenly believe). ArmaLite had already designed the AR-1, AR-2, and AR-3 prior to Stoner's arrival. These were light weight bolt actions that made extensive use of aluminum and fiberglass to capitalize on the characteristics of materials typically used in aircraft construction.

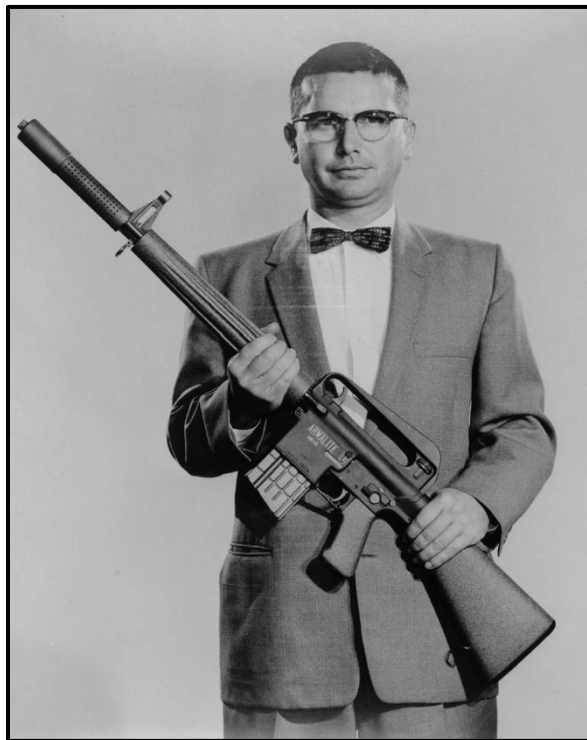
Stoner's designs at ArmaLite started with the AR-4 (never built) and the AR-5. The AR-5 was a light weight, bolt-action, take-down carbine chambered in .22 Hornet and designed as an aircrew survival weapon. It was adopted by the U.S. Air Force as the MA-1 in 1956, though not built in any numbers.

The AR-6 was never built, which brings us to the AR-7 (*right*). This small and ultra light (so light at 2.5 pounds that it could actually float when taken apart and stored in its plastic butt stock) semi-automatic rifle was



chambered in .22 Long Rifle and also intended as a survival/backpack gun. The design was completed in 1959 and ArmaLite started to manufacture the handy little rifle as the AR-7 "Explorer". ArmaLite sold the design to Charter Arms in 1973 and it was produced by different companies through the years. Henry Repeating Arms started manufacturing the AR-7 in 1997 and they still produce it today.

The AR-8 was a design only and was never built. The AR-9 was aluminum shotgun prototype for which no details exist.



Stoner's next accomplishment, the AR-10 (*an early version held by Mr. Stoner, at left*), is another familiar design that can be recognized as a fore-runner of the AR-15/M-16. It was the first firearms design to use 7075 series aluminum, which continues to be used in firearms to this day. It utilized the in-line recoil system and adapted the front sight base of the M1941 Johnson. Chambered in the T65 cartridge (predecessor of the 7.62x51 NATO round), the barrel consisted of a steel liner inside an aluminum body. Everything was designed to make the gun as light as possible. The AR-10 was followed by the AR-10A, which continued to utilize a one-piece bolt/buffer system. With the AR-10B the buffer system became a separate assembly contained within the butt stock, like the AR-15 today. The second prototype of the AR-10B was tested by the U.S. Army and the barrel burst at 5,564 rounds. Development continued, though the Army had lost interest. ArmaLite made a 47 AR-10s in all before selling a 5-year manufacturing license to the Dutch firm Artillerie Inrichtingen (AI). AI discovered several

manufacturing and production issues with the prototype ArmaLite AR-10s which had to be resolved before production could begin. As a result, by the time production of the AR-10 was ready to begin, it faced competition from the FN/FAL and the German G-3.

AI produced three major variants of the AR-10 – Sudanese model, the Transitional model, and the Portuguese model. Though several countries bought samples to test, AI's only major customers were Sudan (bought approximately 2,500 AR-10s in 1958), Cuba (Batista ordered 100 Transitional rifles in 1958, but it was Castro who took delivery and paid for them in 1959), and Portugal (purchased 4,000-5,000 in 1960). The latter rifles were used by Portugal's paratrooper battalions and saw extensive service in counter-insurgency operations in Angola and Mozambique.

Stoner continued to develop new rifles, with the next being the AR-11. Chambered in .222 Remington, the only example was destroyed in testing while trying to increase the velocity of the .222 round.

The AR-12 was an experimental AR-10 with a stamped steel receiver instead of a machined aluminum one and initially featured a direct gas impingement (DI) system, but this was changed to a short-stroke gas piston system after ArmaLite sold the production rights to the DI to Colt Firearms. More in line with the business of ArmaLite's parent company Fairchild, the AR-13 was a multi-barrel machine gun for aircraft that used a hyper-velocity round based on a necked-down .50 BMG case. The AR-14 was intended as a semi-automatic civilian hunting version of the AR-10.

In 1958, Stoner oversaw the making of XAR-1501, the experimental prototype that was the first AR-15. It was a scaled down AR-10 chambered in .222 Special, a higher velocity variant of the .222 Remington cartridge. This round would later be adopted in 1963 as the 5.56 NATO and produced commercially as the .223 Remington. Several

prototypes/development examples were made.

Serial number 000001, made in 1958, utilized a 25-round detachable box magazine. Serial number 000004, also made in 1958, was made for Colt and had a new front sight base and moved the charging handle from under the carry handle to the rear of the upper receiver. Colt completed their first example on December 24, 1959. Designated the Model 01, it was marked ArmaLite AR15 and carried serial number 000100 (photo at right). The serial number was selected because Colt wasn't sure how many AR-15s ArmaLite had made, but knew it was less than 100. These early AR-15s used a 20-round aluminum magazine (called a "waffle mag" for the criss-crossing reinforcement ribs stamped into the magazine body).



Stoner would continue to develop firearm designs for ArmaLite, to include the AR-16, a forerunner to the AR-18 chambered in 7.62x51 NATO and made in approximately 1960. This was followed by the "Golden Gun," a light weight 12-gauge shotgun available in either black or gold anodized finish. Finally, in 1961, there was the AR-18, a scaled down version of the AR-16 chambered for the 5.56x45 NATO cartridge. Intended to be a less expensive alternative to the AR-15/M16, the AR-18 used a stamped steel receiver instead of a machined aluminum receiver in the case of the AR-15/M16. Though manufacturing rights were sold to companies in Japan and the United Kingdom, the AR-18 was never adopted by any military (though features of the AR-18 can be found in many later designs. A semi-automatic civilian version was designated the AR-180 and was made in small numbers. Eugene Stoner left ArmaLite in 1961 and shortly thereafter, Fairchild sold the company.

Bernie concluded by noting that Stoner was a great innovator. His designs pioneered and advanced the use of aircraft-grade aluminum and other light weight material in firearms designs that are still in use today. The M16 and the M4 carbine would become the longest-serving rifle designs in U.S. Army history. Eugene Stoner will be remembered as one of the greatest firearms designers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century!

Thank you Bernie for an exceptional presentation!

# ★ Next Membership Meeting: May 25<sup>th</sup> “NRA Annual Meeting” by Marc Gorelick and “Guns of the Fenians” by Ken Smith-Christmas Location: NRA HQ Conference Room

Our May VGCA Membership Meeting will be in the Conference Room at the NRA Headquarters. The room will open at 6 p.m. and, following some pizza and refreshments, the meeting will start at 7 p.m. Hope to see you then!



## Did you know?

The Elite Shooting Sports (ESS) indoor range in Manassas, Virginia was recently sold to Prince William County to replace their outdated training range. ESS will now be used exclusively for law enforcement training and was closed to the public on April 24, 2023.

## ★ April Meeting Notes

The April 27<sup>th</sup> VGCA meeting was called to order by VGCA President Ed Costello. Member Jim Burgess led those assembled through the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 65 members and guests present, as well as 11 others participating on-line via webinar.



Vice President and Membership Chairman George Dungan announced that the VGCA currently has 421 Life Members and 100 Annual Members, for a total of 521.

Secretary Rob Becker gave a quick update on the results of our March Gun Show. We had approximately 1000 attendees over the weekend, making this our largest spring gun show in several years and reversing on on-going downward trend in attendance. By all accounts it was a success, but we need to keep this momentum going. Please bring friends, family, neighbors, etc., to our fall gun show (4-5 Nov 2023).

Director Marc Gorelick gave a quick update on the National Rifle Association (NRA) Annual Meeting at Indianapolis, IN over Apr 14-16, 2023. In addition to the hundreds of vendors displaying their firearm and associated wares, there were 17 organizations with educational firearm displays. The competition was fierce, but Marc did manage to garner a silver medallion for one of his Jenks carbines. He will provide more details about award and the firearm that earned it at a future VGCA membership meeting. He also presented a gold star to President Ed Costello to go on the VGCA plaque – denoting that we had supported the NRA annual meetings with a display.

It was announced that elections for the three Board of Director positions will be held this May. Marc Gorelick, one of our current Directors is not running for re-election. In addition to the other two current Directors who are running for re-election (Ian Wulf and Matthew G.), Andrew Woodard and Clayton Vieg have also decided to run. Electronic ballots will be sent via Constant Contact to those members with email access and hard copy ballots will be mailed to those members without email by the end of May. Remember – vote for no more than three candidates! Winners will be announced at the June Membership Meeting and take office on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

# Trigger Time 4-H Shooting Sports Club Provided an Update to VGCA Members

By Rob Becker, VGCA Secretary



The VGCA and the Trigger Time 4-H Shooting Sports Club have a long history together – we have supported Trigger Time with air rifles and other equipment donations through the years and they have helped us by selling tickets at our gun shows and tearing down tables/cleaning up afterward. Last summer, with some financial support from both the VGCA and several of its individual members (take a bow, Phil Hill!), the Trigger Time 4-H-ers were able to participate in the 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships in Grand Island, Nebraska. Not only did the Trigger Time shooters do well (actually, very well!), that exposure kindled an interest in returning, and doing much more! Toward that end, Trigger Time members and coaches gave an update of their recent and planned activities during the April VGCA Membership Meeting (*above*).

In addition to 4-H matches, Trigger Time took part in the American Legion North Region 2023 postal and State Qualification Matches, finishing 19<sup>th</sup> in the nation and qualifying to go the National Championship at Camp Perry, Ohio in June. Among their other matches this winter/spring, they participated in the Civilin Marksmanship Program Junior Olympics Three Position Air Rifle (3PAR) State Championship, where one of their members qualified for the Junior Olympics!

One of the Trigger Time premier shooters shared a Crossman Challenger 2021 Air Rifle (*at right*). This 3PAR competition pellet rifle is a PCP (Pre-Charged Pneumatic) .177 caliber, has a two-stage trigger, a pressurized resevoir good for approximately 200 shots, bipod, and Diopter sights – no scopes for these young eyes!



Please join me in wishing these shooters all the best in their future competitions!



# ★ Membership Chairman's Report

**Membership Report May 2023** – Please welcome the following new member to the VGCA.

- **Pierre Karam** of Ashburn sponsored by **Stanley Pryga** and **Carlos Davila**
- **Ed Strazzini** of Deltaville sponsored by **Bruce Buchner**
- **Michael Valentine** of Fairfax Station sponsored by **Charlie Tamez**
- **Paul Aucoin** of Reva sponsored by **Ian Wulf**
- **Cody Johnson** of Chesapeake sponsored by **Jonathan Twiford**
- **Robert Candido** of Alexandria sponsored by **George Dungan**
- **Efrain Perez** of Woodbridge sponsored by **Bruce Buchner**
- **David Wolff** of Oakton sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**
- **Rick Ramsey** of Haymarket sponsored by **Keith Simmons**
- **Daniel Bescher** of Onancock sponsored by **Keith Simmons**
- **Glen Ruh** of Alexandria sponsored by **Keith Simmons**
- **Jock McKay** of Alexandria sponsored by **Keith Simmons**
- **Gary Viands** of Rileyville sponsored by **Keith Simmons**
- **Frank Gutierrez** of Sterling sponsored by **Keith Simmons**
- **Peter Kalis** of Falls Church sponsored by **Keith Simmons**

**New Applications for Membership:** We have four new applications for membership.

- **Michael Jacobs** of Centreville sponsored by **Joseph Wagner**
- **Phil Spadano** of Alexandria sponsored by **Louie DiGiatano**
- **Thaun Trang** of Bristow sponsored by **Louie DiGiatano**
- **Rudy Denke** of King George sponsored by **Craig Peters**

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](mailto: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 the newsletter or VGCA announcements.

**Membership Numbers:** There are currently 422 Life members and 114 Annual Members for a total of 536 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 membership 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 George Dungan at [george@eccominv.com](mailto:george@eccominv.com). Thank you to all who helped staff the VGCA table at the last Chantilly show!

**Membership Renewals:** If you are unsure about your membership status email [george@eccominv.com](mailto:george@eccominv.com).

*George Dungan*, Vice President and Membership Chair



# WE WANT YOU TO VOTE!

Elections for our three VGCA Director positions will be held starting in May 2023. Ballots will be distributed via Constant Contact (for those members with email) and USPS (for members without email). Please follow the instructions and vote before the deadline.

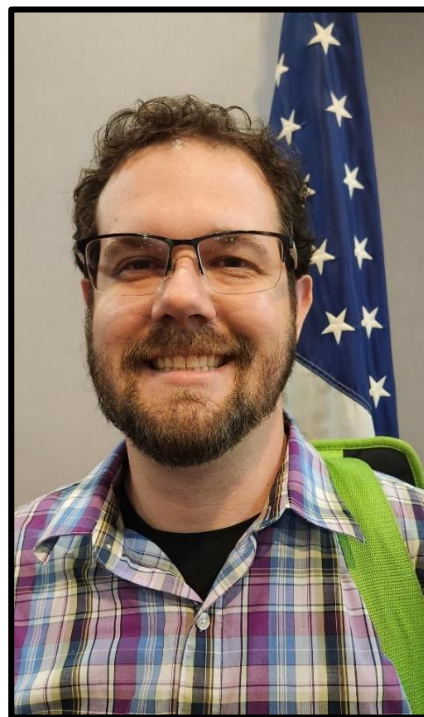
## Meet Your Candidates for VGCA Directors

### Matthew G.

My name is Matthew G. and I've been a VGCA member for about 8 years. I was invited to join VGCA by a fellow club member, after setting up next to him at gun shows for years. I have enjoyed my time in the club and have been a life member since 2019.

My background in guns includes over 10 years working at local gun shows for a variety of dealers and over 8 years in the auction business. I currently work for 2 local gun shops, which helps me add to my collection. Besides collecting, I like to refinish and repair guns. I also handload for 5 calibers.

My collecting focus is primarily on post-1968 domestically-produced Ring of Fire handguns as well as many different 22 rifles including the Marlin Model 60 and derivatives of that common Marlin design. I presented on the topic of Ring of Fire "Saturday Night Specials" at a monthly meeting as well as set up an informational display at one of our VGCA gun shows.



I have been the presentation coordinator for VGCA for this past term, during which time I've scheduled presenters to come and talk to the club during our monthly membership meetings. I have helped some presenters on the technology side of things with photography and PowerPoint presentations. I like helping the club as well as attending monthly board meetings. I look forward to having the opportunity to help the club coordinate presentations in the future if I am reelected.



## Clayton Vieg

I became aware of VGCA when visiting the VGCA booth at the Dulles Gun Show and joined in 2019. As a longtime gun collector, I believe in and support VGCA's mission and want to be a part of such an organization.

I belong to several other gun-related organizations: NRA (since 1976; Life Member since 2000; Benefactor member since 2011); Virginia Citizens Defense League (VCDL); Virginia Shooting Sports Organization (VSSA); Gun Owners of America (GOA); Garand Collectors Association (GCA); and Glock Sport Shooting Foundation (GSSF). I am also a strong supporter of the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) and was formerly a member of the Texas State Rifle Association (TSRA).

My collecting interests include 20th Century American, German, and Russian (incl. USSR) military small arms, with a focus on WWII-era small arms.

What I hope to accomplish if elected as a Director for VGCA:

- I would like to see VGCA's membership grow and would therefore support any practical and reasonable efforts in support of that goal.
- I would also like to see VGCA develop closer relationships with other gun collecting organizations in the United States and internationally, with an eye on supporting and sponsoring joint projects, etc.
- As an educational organization, I would like to develop means of educating other collectors and the public about gun collecting in general and, in particular, aspects of history where firearms played important roles (e.g., technological developments spurred on by the Civil War; WWI; WWII, etc.).
- Finally, I strongly believe that VGCA should work together with other organizations, both Federal and in Virginia, to support the right to keep and bear arms as guaranteed in the Constitutions of the United States and of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

I do not believe that VGCA should attempt to duplicate the functions of other organizations with a primary focus on gun owners' rights, etc. – after all, we are a GUN COLLECTING organization and that should stay our primary focus. However, we unfortunately do not live in a vacuum and thus cannot afford to act as if there are no threats to the practice of our beloved hobby and passion.

The anti-gun majority elected to the Virginia General Assembly in 2019 (along with an anti-gun Governor at the time) came close to enacting bans targeting certain firearms that our members lawfully collect and maintain; they also enacted certain legislation impacting on members' abilities to acquire firearms and to transport them in and through certain areas. Only determined efforts by gun owners in the 2021 statewide elections prevented further damage to the legitimate interests of Virginia gun owners. Advocates of "gun control" do not see gun collectors as being any different from any other people who (lawfully) own and use firearms and will not hesitate to take actions that infringe on our rights as citizens of the United States and residents of the Commonwealth, in spite of Constitutional guarantees to the contrary. We must stand with other pro-gun advocacy organizations such as NRA, GOA, VCDL, VSSA, etc. to defend our rights.



## Andrew Woodard

I was born in Virginia and have lived in Manassas for over a decade now.

I bought my first gun in 2009, a Savage-Springfield Model 120 single shot .22 cal. Since then I've gotten my Curio & Relic Federal Firearms License and expanded my collection quite a bit. I went to my first VGCA gun show Nov. 2017 and quickly recognized that this was something different from the usual. I joined the club in 2018 and since attending my first meeting was hooked. This is a community with a wealth of knowledge and some really unique items.

Every month is a guessing game wondering what will be brought in for show and tell, along with the excellent presentation topics and related display items.

My personal collecting focus is mostly on military rifles and handguns, along with a smattering of commercial items and modern sporting guns too. My favorite is my US M1917 rifle in 30-06 which I actually purchased from another club member. I handload for nearly all the calibers I use. I also hunt deer and have used my handloads on nearly all that I have harvested.

I joined the VGCA Board as Show Setup Director in 2019. In that current role I have attended nearly every Board meeting since my appointment, so I am quite familiar with the group and the meeting procedures. Beyond my listed duties I help bring virtual meeting capability to our monthly membership meetings, have reviewed the list of life members to identify the deceased, participate in the gun show Committee, and placed nearly all the road signs for each show since I joined the Board.

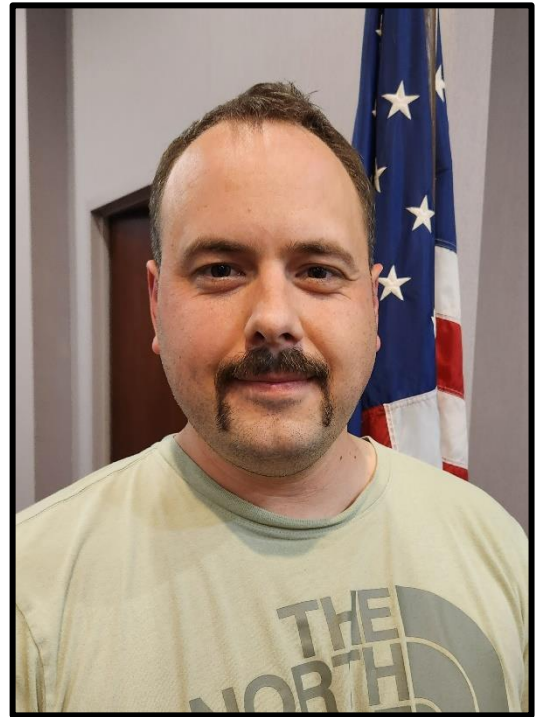
I think that the key to having a successful organization is an ample supply of volunteers who can assist with their time, talents, and treasure. The club currently has a very dedicated but small, for our number of members, group of folks who keep things running. If elected as a Director one of my main goals will be to increase the number of new volunteers. Beyond this I will work to ensure the club's stability and growth over my term.



## Ian Wulf

My name is Ian Wulf and as a Director, I have been the social media coordinator for the past two terms. My first impressions with firearms were in Boy Scouts, the TV show "Tales of The Gun" and the Army Ordnance Museum back when they were at Aberdeen, MD. I am a collector of older SP-1 Colts, modern military firearms, and Lee Enfield rifles. I found the club through Shannon Ziegler about 10 years ago, at which time I was one of the youngest members. During my time in the club, I've enriched my collection as well as my knowledge on a variety of topics at our monthly meetings and learning from fellow VGCA members.

My goal is to have an Instagram account for the club up and running. We've had one in the past, but it is no longer in use. It would be great to have members assist with social media like Facebook and Reddit. I truly believe that social media is vital to the club to attract the next generation of collectors.



I'm running for another term as Director (and the club's social media coordinator) and I'd appreciate your vote!

# VGCA Tours National Museum of the United States Army

*By Bruce Buchner and Rob Becker  
Photos by Bruce Buchner and Jack looney*

On March 11th, 2023 VGCA members visited the new National Museum of the U.S. Army at Fort Belvoir, VA. About twenty members (*some seen at right*) participated in the tour of the museum, which is located at 1775 Liberty Drive just off the Fairfax County Parkway. Several of the museum's docents helped guide the VGCA members and their guests through the facility, which just opened on Veteran's Day in 2020.





Some of the more interesting firearms on display include the Giradoni air rifle that was carried on the Lewis and Clark Expedition, Civil War Henry and Spencer rifles, and an early gas trap M1 Garand (*above and inset*). Other major exhibits on display include an LCVP landing craft or Higgins boat that is one of only six Normandy invasion landing craft known to still exist NS "Cobra King", an M4A3E2 Sherman tank that was the first tank of General Patton's Third Army to reach the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne when they were besieged in Bastogne during the battle of the bulge. There was an FT-17 tank that shows scars from German machine guns during her service in the WWI Meuse-Argonne campaign and a 12-pounder "Napoleon" cannon that fought at Gettysburg.



The "Napoleon" was a light and highly mobile smooth-bore muzzle-loading artillery piece of French design (*above right*) adopted by the U.S. Army in 1857. Over 1100 were manufactured for the U.S. Army (most between 1861 and 1863) while another 500 were manufactured for Confederate forces.

All in all, it was a good time for all concerned and if you didn't get to be part of this tour, a future visit is highly recommended.

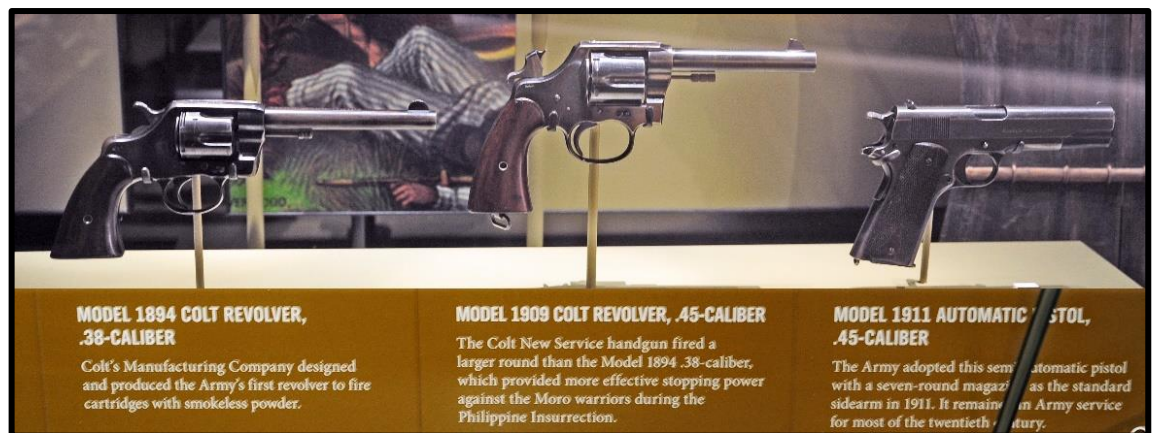
The museum is open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., every day except December 25<sup>th</sup>. Entrance is free, but it is recommended that you reserve a timed-entry ticket in advance. Walk-up tickets are available. Group tickets for 10 or more people are also available.

The Museum's website is [Thenmusa.org](http://Thenmusa.org)

*A special thanks goes out to Mr. Jack Looney for his great photographs that follow!*



A display of Colonial/Revolutionary War-era firearms and accoutrements (*above*) in the Colonial Warfare (1607-1835) exhibit.



A display of U.S. Army sidearms (*above*) from around the turn of the last century, to include the John Browning-designed classic Model 1911 (*far right*).



A diorama of U.S. “Doughboys” (*left*) in the Nation Overseas Gallery (1898-1918). Doughboy was a popular nickname for American infantrymen during World War I of unknown origin, but whose use can be traced back to Mexican-American War of 1846-1848 and which remained in use until the early 1940s. Note the French Chauchat machinegun being employed by the soldier in front.

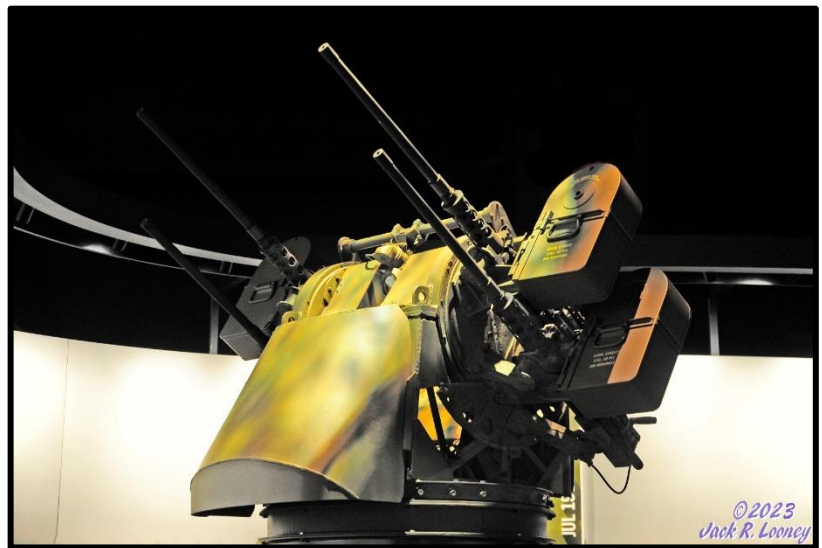
The Global War (1919-1945) Gallery “portrays the U.S. Army’s role in the Allied victory during World War II.” Depicted here (*at right*) is a 40mm Bofors anti-aircraft cannon. Note the formation of model B-17 bombers flying overhead. During WWII, American airmen were part of the U.S. Army Air Forces. The U.S. Air Force did not become an independent service until 1947.



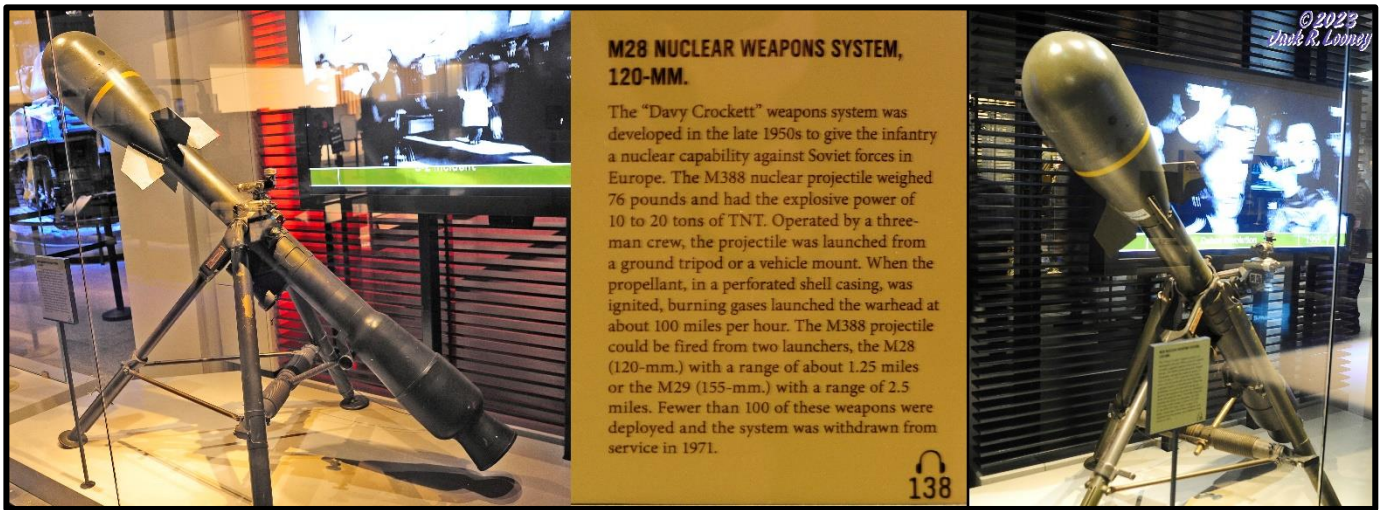


Two American G.I. classics (*left*) – an M2 .50 caliber machinegun (another John Moses design) mounted on ¼ Ton 4x4 Willys Jeep. The Jeep was developed right before the U.S. entered WWII and almost 650,000 were produced during the war. Replacing horses and mules in U.S. service, Army Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall is quoted as saying the jeep was "America's greatest contribution to modern warfare."

If one .50 caliber heavy MG is good, then four must be better, right? The M45 Quad mount (*right*) utilized four M2 HB (heavy barrel) machineguns and was the primary mobile anti-aircraft system of the U.S. Army in Europe during WWII. Though designed and intended for use against aircraft, the M45 was frequently used against ground targets as well, where it earned the nicknames of "Meat Chopper" and "Krautmower".



The M3 with M2 sniper scope (*left*) was an early attempt at creating a night vision capability. Deployed right the end of WWII (replacing the first T3 variants), it consisted on an M2 select-fire carbine with an infrared spotlight (on top), television type cathode ray scope to "see" the target, and associated battery pack carried in a backpack. Ungainly and heavy, it had a range of approximately 100-120 yards. The M3 with the M2 sniper scope saw service during the Korean War and into Vietnam.



**M28 NUCLEAR WEAPONS SYSTEM,  
120-MM.**

The “Davy Crockett” weapons system was developed in the late 1950s to give the infantry a nuclear capability against Soviet forces in Europe. The M388 nuclear projectile weighed 76 pounds and had the explosive power of 10 to 20 tons of TNT. Operated by a three-man crew, the projectile was launched from a ground tripod or a vehicle mount. When the propellant, in a perforated shell casing, was ignited, burning gases launched the warhead at about 100 miles per hour. The M388 projectile could be fired from two launchers, the M28 (120-mm.) with a range of about 1.25 miles or the M29 (155-mm.) with a range of 2.5 miles. Fewer than 100 of these weapons were deployed and the system was withdrawn from service in 1971.

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What Cold War (1947-1991) exhibit would be complete without a display of the Davy Crockett weapons system? Designed to launch an M388 nuclear projectile with an explosive yield of about 20-tons TNT, the 120mm M28 (*above*) only had a range of 1 ¼ miles! The same warhead fired from the 155mm M29 had a range of 2 ½ miles. Developed as part of the Battle Group Atomic Delivery System (BGADS) program, the M388 was one of the smallest nuclear warheads ever developed. Davy Crockett, named for the American frontiersman killed at the Battle of the Alamo, was fielded in 1961 and was in service until the last warhead was deactivated in 1971.



Named for General Omar Bradley, the Bradley Fighting Vehicle (*left*) mounts a 25mm M242 Bushmaster chain gun, two BGM-71 TOW (Tube-launched, Optically tracked, Wire-guided) anti-tank missiles, and an M240 coaxial machinegun. The “upside down V” on the side of the hull was an Allied identification symbol used during Operation Desert Storm in 1991, much like the “Z” seen currently painted on Russian vehicles fighting in Ukraine.



We are looking for speakers/presenters at our membership meetings in 2023 and currently have two open dates (June and September). If you have any suggestions – or would like to make a presentation yourself – please contact one of the VGCA officers or directors.





# CMP UPDATE

*By Marc Gorelick, CMP Liaison*

*The VGCA is a CMP Affiliated club. The VGCA club number is 026160.*

## NATIONAL MATCHES COMING



Held annually since 1907 at Camp Perry, in Port Clinton, Ohio, the National Matches include the CMP National Trophy Pistol and Rifle Matches, the Pistol, Rifle and Smallbore Small Arms Firing Schools, the National Games Rifle Matches, the National Smallbore Matches, the National Air Gun Matches and the National Mid and Long Range Matches. These matches are conducted by a partnership of the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) and Ohio National Guard.

Since their inception at Sea Girt, NJ in 1903, the National Matches have become a huge, national shooting sports festival with well over 4,500 annual participants. School students and competitors range

from beginners to many of the world's best.

This year the National Matches start on July 7 and end on August 5. Below is a schedule of events:

- National Smallbore Matches: July 7-16
- National Rimfire Sporter Match: July 8
- First Shot Opening Ceremony. Monday July 10
- National Pistol Matches: July 10-16
- National Air Matches: July 13-16
- National Highpower Championships: July 17-20
- Rifle School and Clinics: July 21-23
- National Rifle Matches: July 24-28
- National Games Matches: July 27-31
- National Mid-Range & Long Range Matches: July 31-August 5

It should be noted that the Trigger Time 4-H Youth Shooting organization that the VGCA supports will be competing in the National Matches.

Of particular interest to collectors of military long guns is National Games Matches, July 27-31, which is for marksmen using classic military rifles. The CMP inaugurated the John C. Garand Match in 1998 and, with it, an exciting new concept in target competition. The Garand Match is a unique competition where shooters fire older "as-issued" military rifles over a course of fire that makes target shooting attractive to the average shooter. The availability of surplus M1 and other older military rifles make target shooting accessible to thousands of shooters, many of whom do not participate in traditional target competitions. The Garand Match allows shooters to reenact military and marksmanship history and features camaraderie and a relaxed, fun-filled, yet challenging experience.

In response to the growing popularity of the Garand Match, the CMP established other competitions of the same type that now include the Springfield Rifle Match, Vintage Military Rifle Match, Rimfire Sporter Match, M1 Carbine Match, Vintage Sniper Rifle Team Match and Modern Military Rifle Match. Together, these matches have come to be known as “CMP Games Matches.”



The month-long series also includes a variety of clinics like the Pistol, Rifle, and Smallbore Small Arms Firing Schools, a Rimfire Sporter Clinic, CMP/USMC Junior Clinic, National Matches Junior Camp as well as the CMP Advanced Highpower Clinic. Outside of competition, the National Matches hosts Commercial Row, where industry vendors sell a variety of supplies and other necessities, while the CMP North Store, located on the grounds of Camp Perry, provides even more buying opportunities with a lineup of military surplus rifles, ammunition, memorabilia and equipment needs.

*Shooter using a US Krag-Jorgenson at the 2013 Springfield Vintage Military Rifle Match. Photo – The CMP.*

Housing for the National Matches is currently available on the grounds of Camp Perry. Accommodations include four-person huts, cottages, barracks, RV spaces and camp sites. For Camp Perry housing info go to <https://cplcc.com/national-matches>. If base housing is full, numerous hotels are available in the surrounding Port Clinton, Fremont and Sandusky areas.

The CMP encourages all marksman to participate in the Historic National Matches at Camp Perry. The National Matches are also open to the public for free. Spectators are welcome to observe firing on the Camp Perry ranges at any time, with ample parking on-site. They are required to stop by the CMP National Match Welcome Center prior to heading out to the ranges and are encouraged to participate in the many activities and attractions offered during the National Matches. For additional information, including instructions and forms for registering, see the CMP website at: <https://thecmp.org/cmp-national-matches/>. For more detailed information contact the CMP Competitions Department at [competitions@thecmp.org](mailto:competitions@thecmp.org) or (419) 635-2141, ext. 724 or 714.



*CMP photo left - Vintage Sniper matches includes M-1Cs and M-1Ds as well as bolt action snipers.  
CMP photo right – Madelyn Schnelle – A young Garand competitor and silver medal winner.*



# VGCA GUNS OF DISTINCTION: BOSS & CO. SIDELOCK “BESTGUN” SHOTGUN

**By Marc Gorelick**

*Photos courtesy of Joh. Springers Erben, Vienna, Austria*



Boss & Co is London’s oldest gunmaker and a company that has been privately-owned since its inception in 1812. A member of London’s “Holy Trinity,” Boss & Co. is known throughout the shooting world for the quality of its “Best Guns.” Throughout its over 200 years of existence Boss has been singularly focused on hand-crafting the finest and most innovative firearms in the world. *(Note: In the shooting world the term “the Holy Trinity” is not a religious reference, but a testament to three of the greatest British gunmakers; Holland & Holland, Purdey and Boss & Co.)* Boss makes only one grade of gun – “Best Guns.”



The founder of the company was Thomas Boss, who was an apprentice and journeyman to Joseph Manton, one of leading gunmakers of the era. Thomas established a name for himself as a top gunmaker who worked mostly as an outworker, a position that saw him finishing guns for the best-known gunmakers of the time. In 1812 he established his own firm of Boss and Co., which soon earned a reputation as one of the leading gunmakers in London, producing innovative top quality custom firearms. Eventually, the firm passed into the hands of John Robertson in 1890. Robertson, a master gunmaker in his own right, was an innovator and, while continuing the tradition of quality, unleashed a number of new concepts and designs on the market. The Robertson era of Boss & Co. was a time when the company became known for quality, beauty and innovation that included the Boss Single-Trigger, the Boss Ejector, and the Boss Over and Under. Another Boss & Co trademark that can be attributed to this period is the Boss signature “Rose and Scroll” engraving. The “Rose and Scroll” design, introduced by Robertson, was the creation of master engraver John Sumner, the third of four generations of engravers who all worked on Boss & Co guns.

Today, the company still makes “Best Guns Only” by hand, using traditional methods. From a 3,000 square foot facility in Kew, London, Boss & Co produces O/U guns in 12, 16, 20, 28 and 410 gauges, O/U double rifles in 500, 470, 375, 5.650R and 22 Hornet calibers, as well as side-by-side shotguns, and

double rifles in 600, 375 and 303. All guns, gauges and styles are created by hand and on-site and the custom guns are beautiful artistic masterpieces that are made to the customer's exact measurements and desires. As a 1920s leaflet for the company said, as true then as it is today: *"The owner of a Boss & Co gun has the satisfaction of knowing that he has the best that money can buy, and that no one has a better gun."*



This fine Boss & Co. side by side 12 gauge shotgun dates from the 1890's, after John Robertson became owner of the company and bears some of the features that he introduced. The fine browned rose Damascus barrels are 30 inches (76cm) long, London nitro proofed, with a concave rib, choke cylinders and Boss Patent Ejectors. The gun has bar-action sidelocks, intercepting sears, an automatic sliding tang safety with the word "Safe" inlaid in gold, and double triggers. The grained walnut stock has a straight diamond-shaped hand, drop points, a checkered butt, engraved steel corners, an engraved gold stock oval on the bottom of the buttstock. The fore-end has an Anson-push-rod mechanism. A Robertson-era feature is the fine Boss "Rose and Scroll" engraving that decorates the gun. The shotgun comes with a second set of 12 gauge steel barrels, 26 inches (66cm) long, with Birmingham proofs that are chocked 1/8 and 3/8.





*Photo above, detail of Boss Rose and Scroll engraving on bottom of action and triggerguard.*



For a gun that has been used for about 130 years it is good condition and recently sold at a Joh. Springers Erben auction for over \$8,200 (7,500 euros).

*Photo left, detail of engraving on Anson push rod. Note the rose pattern on the banded Damascus barrels.*



## ★ In Review ★

*"In Review" 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).*

# **GUN SHOW REVIEW: NRA ANNUAL MEETING 2023 IN INDIANAPOLIS**

***Text and photos by Marc Gorelick***

The NRA Annual Meetings are more than a gun show and the meeting recently held in Indianapolis was no exception. Spread over three days (April 14-16) the event was held in the Indiana Convention Center and featured 14 acres (600,000 square feet) of manufacturers exhibits (large and small), different gun, hunting and shooting related businesses, and collector organizations. In addition, there were major speakers, including celebrity appearances, information sessions, training, auctions, NRA members meetings, fund-raising events, and other seminars. In fact, the major elephant in the room was Republican politics with many political speakers, including Presidential hopefuls. Some 77,246 people attended the event which reportedly brought in \$38-\$40 million to Indianapolis.



Despite the fact that modern guns constituted the vast majority of the firearms being exhibited, the focus of this review is the Collector section. Official NRA-affiliated gun collector clubs have been exhibiting their finest collectible arms at the NRA Annual Meetings since 1954. In 1960, the NRA Gun Collectors Committee established a perpetual trophy to recognize the best of those displays and a special medallion

for the best individual arms shown. The collector exhibits give people attending the show an unparalleled opportunity to view and appreciate some of the finest privately owned arms and accouterments in this country.

The VGCA was one of 17 NRA-affiliated collector organizations that put on displays this year and the competition for prizes was fierce with many world class displays of historically important guns and other weapons. The exhibitors were among the pinnacle of arms collecting associations in the country; their displays are museum quality or above, and the items that they display are often truly rare as well as being beautiful works of art. Various prizes were awarded including:

**Gun Collectors Committee Trophy** - This perpetual trophy is awarded annually for the display judged best of show, regardless of which display category the exhibit was entered in.

**Best Educational Group Awards** – There are four award categories for the Best Educational Group Awards. They are for exhibits that are predominantly comprised of: Antique Arms (pre-1898); Classic Arms (1898 - 50 years prior to the meeting year); Contemporary Arms (50 years prior to the meeting year - current production) and a Combined Arms category for those exhibits that have arms represented from any of the other three categories. Two plaques of equal merit from each of the four categories are annually presented for outstanding displays that best inform the general public and fellow collectors of the historical, technical and cultural aspects of firearms and related items.



**Best Arms Awards** - A maximum of ten sterling silver medallions are awarded annually for firearms that are judged on their individual quality, condition, originality, collector importance and historical value. These medals are numbered and should stay with the firearm, even if its ownership changes. *The photo on the left is of the silver medal from the VGCA display.*

**Certificates of Recognition** - A maximum of ten certificates laminated on wooden plaques are awarded for unique items displayed which do not qualify for a Ten Best Arms Award.

**Best Miniature Arms Awards** - A maximum of three medallions are awarded each year for the best individual miniature arms. (No miniature arms were displayed this year.)

There is also a special award for the best exhibit related publication.

The VGCA display this year was about the U.S. Navy Jenks “Mule Ear” Carbines and Rifles and featured five variations of the Jenks breechloading percussion firearm invented by William Jenks of South Carolina. They were used by the U.S. Navy from 1841 to the close of the Civil War. Some of the variations displayed were exceedingly rare and included one of only three known examples of a Jenks muzzleloading side-hammer prototype, and a Merrill alteration of a Jenks carbine (only 240 submitted to the Navy). Rare accessories and accouterments included a Jenks rifle bayonet (only 12 believed to exist) and a Jenks tool made by Ames Manufacturing Company.

The VGCA display had a trial run at the VGCA Gun Show in March where it won First Place. At the NRA Annual Meeting one of the Jenks carbines won a silver medal for being one of the best arms at the show. That medal will stay with the gun.

At this time I would like to recognize VGCA member Rick Nahas who was of immense assistance, and also member Clayton Vieg, who graciously spelled me when I had to be away from the exhibit.

Besides the VGCA display, there were a number of others that stood out in a field of remarkable exhibits and individual guns.



The big winner was the Ohio Gun Collectors Association's (OGCA) the display of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Semiautomatic pistols. Largely the collection of OGCA member Leonardo Antaris, the display presented every single variant, some experimental, and several highly embellish presentation pieces of every semiautomatic pistol put into production in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Two unique presentation pieces were highlighted - one given to the Ottoman Sultan and the other to Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany. The display also had a built in television monitor that showed pistols in action and being disassembled and assembled. The OGCA display won six awards: the top prize silver bowl, three silver medals for individual guns, best grouping award, and best publication award.



Another notable showing was the combined exhibit of the American Society of Arms Collectors and the Maryland Arms Collectors Association - Arming the Scots 1600-1800. This large history-themed award-winning display had a plethora of claymores, one extra-long two-handed sword at least six-feet long and numerous beautiful Scottish pistols.





The Historical Firearms Collectors Association, a Texas-based group, had a comprehensive display of U.S. Trials Rifles from 1865 to 1885. The many examples included an ultra-rare Model 1875 Lee Vertical Action rifle. Only 143 were made at Springfield Armory for U.S. Army trials.



The Kentucky Rifle Association's exhibit focused on General (later President) William Henry Harrison, the battles of Tippecanoe and the Thames, and the weapons in those battles. Many of the arms, uniforms and accoutrements were documented to people who fought with Harrison, with some belonging to Harrison, including his sword, hat, spurs and his battle flag with the motto, "*Strike for Our Country's Good.*" There was also an original portrait of Harrison by the famous painter Remington Peale.

The theme of the Remington Society of America's single booth display was the handgun designers of E. Remington and Sons. Shown were handguns guns designed by the likes of Beals, Rider, and Smoot. This display was also at the MACA Baltimore Antique Arms Show in March.

The Ruger Collectors Association had a display of prototype magnum revolvers but that was accidentally knocked over, reportedly by a careless driver on a rented scooter.



The Smith & Wesson Collectors Association display focused on the .44 magnum Model 29 revolver. It highlighted early production models, rare variations and special custom engraved pieces.



The Texas Gun Collectors Association had an award-winning one-gun display. This piece was a factory presentation Model 1873 Army revolver given to Major General Emory Upton of Civil War fame. The gun was accompanied and supported by plenty of provenance documentation and biographical information.

*Left – Major General Emory Upton’s presentation Colt Model 1873 Army revolver.*

The Winchester Arms Collectors Association’s exhibit featured the Winchester Model 1895. Designed by John M. Browning, Model 1893 has been called the “*Last of the classic lever action rifles.*” It contained numerous variations, including examples of experimental and prototype rifles.

VGCA member Wally Ustupski was there for the Polish Hunting and Shooting Collectors Club Hubertus with his comprehensive display of Radom pistols and rifles.



The Harrington and Richardson Collectors were there but I can't comment on their display because they never finished setting it up. By 5PM on Sunday their booth was a disorganized clutter of power tools and boxes, with only a few pieces on display. This can be a lesson about the 7-P's of the British SAS – "Proper Planning and Preparation Prevents Piss Poor Performance."

There was also an impressive non-judged display of Second World weapons that included two 75mm howitzers and a 20mm anti-aircraft gun, as well as small arms.

It can safely be said that the NRA Annual Meeting and Exhibits is the largest gun show in the United States. And it is free for NRA members. Whether you are a shooter interested in modern guns or a collector it is well worth attending, and I recommend that you go at least once in your lifetime. For collectors who are thinking about displaying at a show, the collectors section offers numerous examples of award winning displays ranging from one-booth, one-gun displays, such as the Texas Gun Collectors' display of Emery Upton's pistol, to displays that are 30 to 40 feet long containing numerous weapons, accessories, accoutrements and related items (including uniforms and paintings). The next NRA Annual Meeting and Exhibits will be held in May 2024 in Dallas, Texas.



Photo on the left is the VGCA display during set up on Thursday, April 13, before the crowds came in on Friday. Compared to some of the others it was a relatively simple display, yet it won an award as well as many complements from the NRA Awards Committee, other displayers and the public. Two-page handouts are on the small table at the left and the rarer and more valuable pieces are in the lighted glass case. Those thinking of representing the VGCA by displaying at an NRA Annual Meeting should first display at a VGCA show. There are several VGCA members who displayed at the NRA who can provide advice and assistance.

## ★ 2023 Presentation List ★

MEETING DATE	TOPIC	PRESENTER
25 May 2023	2023 NRA Annual Meeting	Marc Gorelick
	Guns of the Fenians	Ken Smith-Christmas
22 Jun 2022	TBD	TBD
<b>NOTE: We do not meet in July due to Summer Vacation</b>		
24 Aug 2023	Displays 101	Rob Becker
	Kalashnikov-Stoner video	
28 Sep 2023	TBD	
26 Oct 2023	Broomhandles	Ed Costello

We are finalizing the presentation schedule for 2023 (still have June and September open) and are starting to work on the 2024 schedule. If you have any suggestions – or would like to make a presentation yourself – please contact one of the VGCA officers or directors.

# ★ Show-n-Tell ★

**NOTE: Anyone bringing in items for Show-n-Tell, please hold them up so the members in attendance 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!**

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## 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): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# APRIL SHOW-N-TELL



Member 1 (*left*) wanted to build the least expensive AR-15 possible. He started with a lower receiver made by Every Day Carry (EDC) Tactical, a company located in Richmond, Virginia. After waiting a quite a while, he received his lower (*see below - serial number 11!*) but quickly discovered it was a little out of spec – only certain magazines would work. This was a limitation he could live with and through frugal shopping, managed to build his AR for about \$400!



Member 2 shared his very early Colt SP1 (*right*). This example was made in approximately 1964 and has the correct early features – a “slab side” lower receiver without the raised fence around the magazine release button (*see below*), no forward assist (required by the U.S. Army but not required by the U.S. Air Force and not provided on the early commercial models), and open ended “duck-billed” flash hider (prone to breakage and getting stuck on vegetation and quickly replaced on military production with the closed “birdcage” flash hider).





Member 2 also brought in a Knights Armament Mk 11 Mod 0 (*left*). This is a designated marksman/sniper rifle with a 20-inch match barrel chambered in 7.62x51 NATO and known as the SR-25 in civilian form (with a 24-inch barrel). This model retains approximately 60% parts interchangeability with the AR-15/M16. This particular rifle was apparently originally deployed by the Arlington County Police Department.

Member 3 shared a High Standard G .380 Pistol (*right*). Primarily known for the .22 Long Rifle pistols and revolvers, High Standard was asked to develop a centerfire pistol for the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) toward the end of WWII. The contract would later be canceled but High Standard was paid for the design and development work performed. Several steel frames had already been produced before the contract was canceled and these were built into civilian pistols during 1947-1950. The G .380 is a semi-automatic pistol with a 5-inch barrel and a 6-round magazine chambered in .380 ACP - and they were only pistols manufactured in the United States in that caliber at the time. Beautifully finished, this model was reviewed General Hatcher in the September 1948 *American Rifleman* and said it had shown “excellent target accuracy in our tests.” Despite the accolades, the G .380 was not a commercial success and only about 7,400 were produced. This great example was made in 1947.





Member 4 brought in not just one, but two AR-10s (*at left*). Built from original parts kits on new semi-automatic receivers, these two examples represent two variants of the 7.62 NATO chambered battle rifle produced by the Dutch firm Artillerie Inrichtingen (AI). On the right is a Sudanese model, an early variant of which approximately 2,500 were produced starting in 1958. These served in the Sudan from 1958 until 1985. On the left is the Portuguese model, part of a production run of 4,000-5,000. Incorporating design improvements that resulted from field use of the earlier models, the Portuguese variants featured a heavier barrel with a chrome-lined chamber, wider bolt lugs, a stronger extractor, a new simplified three-position gas regulator, and a cocking handle featuring the ability to act as a forward bolt assist. These served in the Portuguese military, primarily in the paratrooper battalions, from 1960 until 1976.

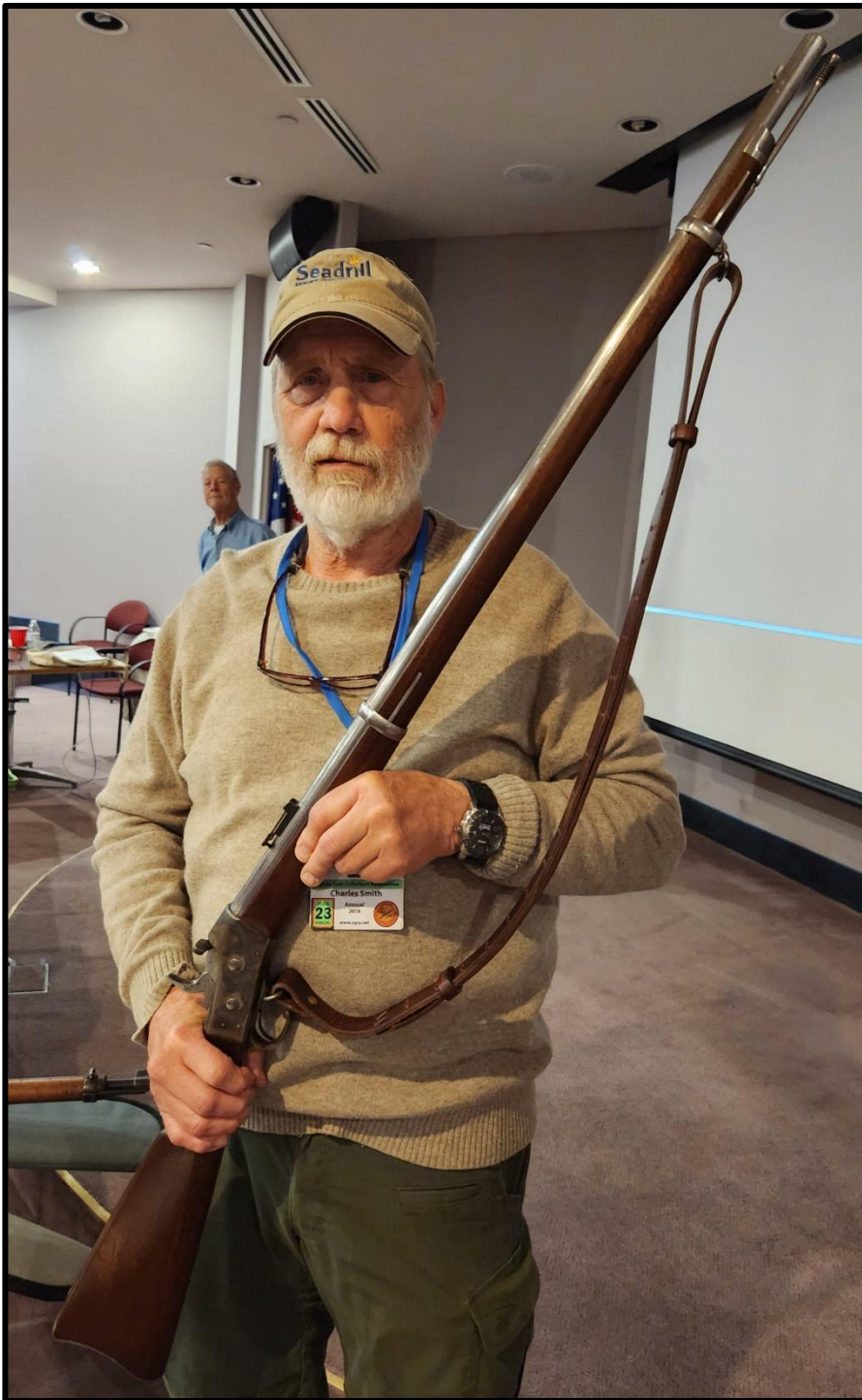
Member 5 shared what was initially described as an FN manufactured M1950 Moroccan Police Carbine (*right and detail below*). Unfortunately, FN does not have a sales record of any such carbines going to Morocco. FN historian/author Anthony Vanderlinden believes the Moroccan connection claimed by collectors has been due to an “MC” stamp on the firearm, which may in fact be a factory inspection stamp. Chambered in .30/06, this could be a Columbian police carbine. Fewer than 1,000 exist, with some chambered in 7.62x51 NATO. Threaded for a grenade-launching attachment, please contact member 5 or the newsletter editor if you have this attachment for sale or know where one is located.







Member 6 brought in a Swiss Kürbel Karabiner Luftgewehr (*above and inset at right*). This is a crank-operated spring piston air rifle in 4.4mm (.177 caliber BB) and features a brass smooth-bore barrel liner. This started as a Swiss military Model 1889 rifle barreled action and stock that was extensively modified for conversion to a civilian air rifle. The M1889 stock was shortened to K11 (carbine) length, to match the shortened barrel length and the added K11 sights. Converted by Swiss gunsmith Furter of Olten, dates of production are unknown (possibly 1950-1965), as is the total number produced (this is serial number 117). Due to the amount of wood removed from the stock to accommodate the crank mechanism, the stock is less durable and subject to cracking. This example has well-done stock repair. Such air rifle conversions were used for home indoor practice as well as informal competitions.



Member 7 shared an unusual Springfield Model 1870 Rolling Block rifle (*left*). The M1870 was made under license from Remington Arms Company at the Springfield Armory in Springfield, Massachusetts, with 1,008 produced between 1870 and 1872. Chambered in .50/70 (.50 caliber bullet over 70 grains of black powder), these rifles were used in breech-loading trials by the U.S. Army. Following these trials the Springfield-designed “Trapdoor” was adopted as the Model 1873. Arguably an inferior design, the “Trapdoor” would continue to be built for the U.S. Army until replaced by the Model 1892 Krag rifles and carbines and long after vastly superior arms were fielded by nations around the world.

New VGCA Member 8 brought an interesting M1 Rifle for his first Show-n-Tell item (*right*). This Springfield manufactured beauty has a fairly low six digit serial number (282xxx) indicating the receiver was made in July 1941 – before the U.S. entry into WWII. Its probably original barrel is dated August 1941. It has been through at least one re-arsenal (possibly through the USMC Logistics Base at Albany, Georgia) as it has an International Harvester bolt and Winchester trigger group. The interesting aspect of this rifle is that it was a U.S. Navy Trophy gun, authorized by the USN for award as a prize at shooting competitions. It was purchased by Member 8 from USN P-3 “Orion” pilot who was a competitive shooter – a nice acquisition indeed!



Member 9 shared his nice Colt SP1 (*left*). Made in 1975, this example is somewhat newer than the SP1 that was brought in by Member 2. As a result, it shares both old and newer features. It retains the “slab side” receiver with no raised fence around the magazine release button, but it does have a “tear drop” forward assist and “birdcage” flash hider. It mounts a reproduction Colt scope on the carry handle to, as Member 9 put it, “aid aging eyes!”

# ★ 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 – 2023

- Jun 16-18, 2023 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- Jul 15-16, 2023 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK*
- Jul 15-16, 2023 – Doswell, VA – Meadow Event Park – *North-South Trader's Civil War Magazine – National Civil War and Antique Arms Show*
- Jul 15-16, 2023 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center – *C&E Gun Shows*
- Jul 21-23, 2023 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- Aug 26-27, 2023 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex – *Showmasters*
- Sep 9-10, 2023 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK*
- Sep 16-17, 2023 – Fishersville, VA – Augusta Expo – *Showmasters*
- Sep 29-Oct 1, 2023 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*

## MARYLAND – 2023

- Jul 8-9, 2023 – Timonium, MD – Maryland State Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*
- Jul 15-16, 2023 – Frederick, MD – Frederick Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*
- Sep 9-10, 2023 – West Friendship, MD – Howard County Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Sep 23-24, 2023 – Crownsville, MD - Anne Arundel Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*

## PENNSYLVANIA – 2023

- May 20-21, 2023 – Tobyhanna, PA – VFW Post 3448 – *Jaeger Arms*
- Jun 2-4, 2023 – Long Pond, PA – Pocono Raceway – *Tall Timber Tactical*
- Jun 3, 2023 – Brookville, PA – Jefferson County Fairgrounds – *Jefferson County Historical Society – Jefferson County Military Collectibles Show*
- Jun 3-4, 2023 – Lebanon, PA – Lebanon Valley Expo Center & Fairgrounds – *Eagle Shows*
- Jun 3-4, 2023 – Sellersville, PA – Forrest Lodge VFW Hall & Club – *Jaeger Arms*
- Jun 9-11, 2023 – Oaks, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Shows*
- Jun 17-18, 2023 – Washington, PA – Washington PA County Fairgrounds – *ARH Sport Shop*
- Jun 24-25, 2023 – Allentown, PA – ParkView Inn & Conference Center - *Eagle Shows*
- Jun 24-25, 2023 – York, PA – York Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*
- Jul 1-2, 2023 – Reeders, PA – Jackson Township Vol Fire Co – *Jaeger Arms*
- Jul 7-9, 2023 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds – *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*
- Jul 15-16, 2023 – Wind Gap, PA – Plainfield Township Fire Co. – *Jaeger Arms*
- Aug 5-6, 2023 – Lebanon, PA – Lebanon Valley Expo Center & Fairgrounds – *Eagle Shows*
- Aug 11-12, 2023 – Pleasantville, PA – Pleasantville Vol Fire Dept – *L&R Sporting Events*
- Aug 11-13, 2023 – Oaks, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Arms*
- Aug 19, 2023 – Greencastle, PA – Greencastle Sportsman's Assoc – *Izaak Walton League of Franklin County*
- Aug 19-20, 2023 – Allentown, PA – ParkView Inn & Conference Center - *Eagle Shows*
- Aug 19-20, 2023 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center – *Showmasters*
- Aug 19-20, 2023 – Harrisburg, PA – PA Farm Show Complex – *C&E*
- Aug 26-27, 2023 – Treose, PA – Radisson Philadelphia Northeast – *Eagle Shows*

## PENNSYLVANIA – 2023 (continued)

- Sep 2, 2023 – Brookville, PA – Jefferson County Fairgrounds – *Jefferson County Historical Society – Brookville Antique Arms and Indian Artifact Show*
- Sep 2-3, 2023 – Sellersville, PA – Forrest Lodge VFW Hall & Club – *Jaeger Arms*
- Sep 10, 2023 – Portland, PA – William Pensyl Social Hall – *Portland Hook & Ladder Co. #1*
- Sep 16-17, 2023 – Gettysburg, PA – Allstar Events Complex – *Eagle Shows*
- Sep 16-17, 2023 – Tobyhanna, PA – VFW Post 3448 – *Jaeger Arms*
- Sep 23-14, 2023 – Blossburg, PA – Blossburg Vol Fire Dept – *Bear Arms Promotions*
- Sep 23-24, 2023 – Gettysburg, PA – Redding Auction – *Central Pennsylvania Antique Arms Association – Central Penn Antique, Modern, and Military Firearms Show*
- Sep 23-24, 2023 – Morgantown, PA – Morgantown Expo Center – *Eagle Shows*
- Sep 23-24, 2023 – Washington, PA – Washington PA County Fairgrounds – *ARH Sport Shop*
- Sep 30-Oct 1, 2023 – Allentown, PA – ParkView Inn & Conference Center - *Eagle Shows*
- Sep 30-Oct 1, 2023 – Leesport, PA – Leesport Farmers Market – *Appalachian Promotions*

## SPECIAL EVENTS / SHOWS – 2023

- May 20-21, 2023 - Wilmington, OH – Roberts Convention Centre – *Ohio Gun Collectors Association - Annual Display Show – Special Guests: High Standard Collectors Association*
- Jul 2, 2023 – New Castle, DE – Nur Shrine Center – *DE Antiques Arms Collectors Assoc. Inc.*
- Sep 3, 2023 – New Castle, DE – Nur Shrine Center – *DE Antiques Arms Collectors Assoc. Inc.*

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## 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 and is intended for listing firearms and firearm related items. 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](mailto: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.

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## 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](mailto:usarmsresearch@gmail.com)

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**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.

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**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](mailto:larrybab@comcast.net) / or text to 703-856-2561.

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**FOR SALE:**

✪ **U.S. Aviator Survival Vest HMX-1.** HMX-1 is the USMC Quantico-based helicopter squadron that flies the President \$95.00



✪ **U.S. 1942-dated backpack/rucksack.** \$125.00



✪ **U.S. 1944-dated pick/mattock.** \$125.00



✪ **U.S. WWII M1A2 Gas Mask with original bag.** Mask dated 02-1944. \$35.00



✪ **Hornady .450 Nitro Express Ammo.** 3 ¼" 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



✪ **FN Shooting Mat.** New, unused with carry strap, tri-fold opens to approximately 36” x 54” \$125.00



Prices firm. Contact Jack for details at [looney.house@verizon.net](mailto:looney.house@verizon.net)

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### **WANTED and FOR SALE:**

✪ **Wanted:** Colt 2nd Generation Walker and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Model Dragoon black powder revolvers. Must be unfired, with original box and inserts and no serious handling blemishes. Call John at 703 281-2478.

✪ **For Sale:** A number of collectors antique firearms reference books, mostly dealing with flintlock arms. Some are quite scarce. E-mail me with the wanted titles and I'll let you know what I have. E-mail John at: [alphahotel62@hotmail.com](mailto:alphahotel62@hotmail.com)

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The e-mail address for any Newsletter-related matters is [Newsletter@vgca.net](mailto:Newsletter@vgca.net) - or you can reach 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 Rob Becker or George Dungan.