



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.ORG

Est. 1983 (A Non-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G8162



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June 2012 VGCA e-Newsletter



Presentation at the May 24th Meeting: Noted gun expert and writer Townsend Whelan once said, “*Only accurate rifles are interesting.*” **Lt.Col. Forrest “Rick” Lindsey** demonstrated this very well in his fascinating presentation on the French PGM Ultima Ratio Intervention Sniper Rifle, a bolt action precision rifle fielded by many elite military units and tactical teams around the world. They are in service in Afghanistan. These rifles are very rare in the U.S., both because of the price and also because the French government will not allow export for the civilian market of the .308 Winchester (7.62X51 NATO) version since the .308 is designated a “war round,” a designation that according to the website may soon apply to its big brother, the PGM .336LM PSR. However, this has also led to its being available to the civilian market chambered in 7mm-o8, .260 Remington, .300 Savage, and 6.5X45 Lapua. It is built upon an aluminum alloy chassis, and is available with a number of barrel profiles. The subject rifle had the “Intervention” long range barrel that features a finned aluminum barrel jacket buffered by oil which serves to dampen vibration as well as facilitate transfer of barrel heat to the fins. Rick’s rifle had the optional wooden furniture option

in place of the standard synthetic material. The attached bipod is fully adjustable with a friction action for infinite positioning. The rifle also features a user quick change barrel by loosening four 5mm hex nuts. Other available barrels include short fluted barrels for police uses, as well a longer target barrels and a fully suppressed barrel. The rifle also has a special scope in angled mounts to permit shooting well beyond 800 yards. In addition to this rifle and the .338 Lapua Magnum model, PGM also makes the .50 Caliber Hecate II (restricted to LE and military only). I have seen a number of fascinating rifles at our meetings, but this one has really caught my attention. It has that distinctive French innovation that has served since the French-provided Charleville muskets of the American Revolution, to the 1886 Lebel, the WW2 MAS bolt actions and later semi-autos, to the FAMAS bullpup assault rifle. Unfortunately, the scarcity of the PGM and that special mythical material called *unobtainium* preclude my satisfying this need for extreme accuracy. A personal thanks goes to Rick for his time and presentation.

★ **Upcoming for June 28th Meeting:** Our Speaker will be VGCA Member **Bill York**, covering *Polish Radom Pistols* and his newly published book on these fine small arms. Bill would like to extend an invitation to the membership to bring in for discussion, and the evening’s Show and Tell, any examples of small arms of World War I, specifically with an emphasis on Nagant type revolvers, Ruby pistols, and other German, French, Austrian, Russian, and other small caliber pistols or revolvers used during that time period in Poland.

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

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

★ **Special Announcement:** The election of Dave Litchfield as President of the VGCA left his position on the Board of Directors vacant. According to the Bylaws of the Association, an interim Director to complete the term ending in January of 2013 was chosen by a unanimous vote of the remaining Officers and Directors. Please welcome **John Frietsch** as your new Director on the Board of Directors of the VGCA. Congratulations Mr. Frietsch. We have a lot of activities in progress and a lot of ideas for the near future, so this is an important appointment.

Business Meeting for May 24th: **Dave Litchfield** kicked off the meeting with a series of announcements and recognition and welcome of a large number of guests. He covered the need for members to make a contribution for when we have food to cover the costs of the pizza and beverages and thanked those who had donated the nice vegetable platters and fruit trays for the evening (great melon slices!). He provided an update for the VMI trip and also mentioned that some of the participants were planning on staying overnight if others wanted to make a weekend of it. Name tags for members, (not ID cards, but the plastic name tags) are still available for purchase. Additionally, some new ideas for show admission, to include a weekend rate, were discussed. Dave also asked for volunteers to bring in the drinks for the meetings (you will be reimbursed) and for a coordinator to work in planning the Annual Members (and Spouses) dinner. He also again encouraged members who had an interest in making their interest known in filling the vacant Director position. **New Members:** Larry Hare, Membership Coordinator, had a number of new applications for membership in the VGCA. The Candidates were: **Ray Kaderli**, sponsored by Dave Litchfield; **Wayne C. Robinson**, sponsored by Addison Hurst; **Allan Rupp**, sponsored by Larry Hare; **John R. Ganson**, sponsored by Emory Hackman; **Bernie Breighner**, sponsored by Dave Litchfield; and **Harry Rensel**, sponsored by John Courtright. As all candidates or their sponsors were present, all were voted into the Association. Welcome gentlemen!

Announcements, etc.

- **Gary Hoskinson** was inadvertently left off the table set-up crew list recognition for the Spring 2012 VGCA Gun Show. A delayed thanks for your help since the volunteers make it happen.
- **Chestnut Firearms**, 4701 US Highway 29, Blairs, VA 24527 has just purchased tables for the Fall 2012 VGCA Gun Show. Of special interest is that the owner also holds small 50+ table gun shows in Blairs and only charges \$25.00 per table. If you buy 2 tables, you get third one free. Of special note, there is a \$2.00 Admission. Location: Dana's Garden Spot (Former 84 Lumber Building) in the Blairs, VA area. He welcomes all VGCA members to come to his show. While quite a drive for many, this might be a nice road trip and stop. The next show will be September 7-8, 2012. That is a Friday and Saturday (no Sunday).

Show & Tell for the May 24th Meeting: The presentation topic often influences the Show and Tell, and this was no exception. **Member 1** presented that one rifle for which he had always been looking. Here, in stunning condition, was a pre-WWI Rock Island M1903 Springfield rifle with a barrel dated 1913. It had P.J. O'Hare National Match sight covers, and also the highly desirable N.R.A. and the Ordnance bomb marking on the floor plate that identified it as an NRA sales model that was made available for NRA members for high power shooting. **Member 2** showed his newly acquired Hy-Score pellet pistol. This was a unique design from the late 1940s that used a piston that was concentric to the barrel for its power. It was made up into the 1960s and is a hard hitter in spite of its age. **Member 3** showed his CMP M1 Garand rifle. It was one of the rifles returned by Greece that appeared to have not been issued to a Greek soldier, and originally manufactured in 1955 at Springfield and numbered in the 5.8 million range. **Member 4** showed his Steyr Professional rifle in .308 that was used as a police and military sniper rifle in Austria and Europe. **Member 5** presented a North Vietnamese copy of an M1911 Colt Automatic Pistol. Largely handmade, it is totally unmarked. **Member 6**, a noted fan of .22 rifles, brought a very nice Winchester Model 62A pump action that was made in 1947. **Member 7** presented his Colt 3rd Issue Woodsman Match Target pistol. Made in 1963, the pistol included all the accessories, brush, box, manual, and tools (except a screwdriver). **Member 8** brought a number of items: an original steel frame Ruger Bearcat, a special order 1894 Winchester rifle with set triggers, a Savage 99T lever action with cartridge counter made in 1935, a WW2-era Remington Arms M1903 (Improved) rifle, and a WW2 Remington M1903A4 sniper rifle used in the Korean War. **Member 9** displayed inert examples of a Hughes 30mm round, an experimental 45mm armor piercing sabot round with a tungsten dart, and 30mm Test Round #143 for the A-10 Warthog. **Member 10** finished with his civilian made sporting version of the German 1888 Commission Rifle with set triggers in the original 8X57 Mauser with the J bullet. This piece had vivid case coloring on the action and magazine.

Photos from the May Meeting



Top: The French PGM Ultima Ratio Intervention in 7.62X51 NATO. Note the finned barrel shroud and the wooden furniture.

Center Left: A pristine 1913 NRA Sales Model Rock Island Model of M1903 Springfield Rifle.

Center Right: Rick Lindsey delivers his presentation on the PGM Sniper Rifle.

Bottom: A very nice Special Order Winchester 1894 Saddle Ring Carbine with set trigger and tang sight.

Next Page: German 1888 Commission Rifle with set triggers in the original 8X57 Mauser with the J bullet.



Upcoming Events and Shows

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

VIRGINIA 2012

- June 23-24, 2012 - Fredericksburg, VA - Expo Center - *SGK, LTD*
- July 7-8, 2012 - Richmond, VA – Showplace - *C&E Gun Show*
- July 21-22, 2012 - Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center - *C&E Gun Show*
- July 27-29, 2012 - Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center - Nation's Gun Show – *C&E Gun Show*
- August 4-5, 2012 - Dale City, VA - VFW Post 1503 - *Old Dominion Shows*
- August 18-19, 2012 - Roanoke, VA - Roanoke Civic Center – *Showmasters*
- August 25-26, 2012 - Richmond, VA - Raceway & Fairgrounds – *Showmasters*
- September 7-8, 2012 – Blairs, VA – ([Friday & Saturday only](#)) Dana's Garden Spot (Former 84 Lumber Building) – *Chestnut Firearms (New)*
- September 8-9, 2012 - Norfolk, VA – Norfolk Scope Arena - *C&E Gun Show*
- September 15-16, 2012 - Fishersville, VA - Augusta Expoland – *C&E Gun Show*
- September 15-16, 2012 - Fredericksburg, VA - Expo Center - *SGK, LTD*
- September 22-23, 2012 - Hampton, VA - Convention Center - *SGK, LTD*
- September 22-23, 2012 - Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center - *C&E Gun Show*
- September 28-30, 2012 - Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center - Nation's Gun Show – *C&E Gun Show*

MARYLAND 2012

- July 7-8, 2012 – Frederick, MD - Frederick Fairgrounds – *Silverado Productions*
- July 14-15, 2012 – Upper Marlboro, MD - Show Place Arena (P.G. County) – *Silverado Productions*
- **September 8-9, 2012 (tentative) - Frederick, MD - Elks Lodge #684, 289 Willowdale Dr. - *Potomac Arms Collectors' Association***
- September 15-16, 2012 – West Friendship, MD - Howard county Fairgrounds – *Silverado Productions*
- September 29-30, 2012 - Annapolis, MD - Annapolis Armory – *Appalachian Promotions*

PENNSYLVANIA 2012

- June 23-24, 2012 - York, PA - York Fairgrounds (Toyota Arena) – *Appalachian Promotions*
- June 30-July 1, 2012 - Allentown, PA - Rodeway Inn - *Eagle Arms*
- **July 14-15, 2012 - Allentown, PA - Agricultural Hall - *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*. Contact: FDHAS, 3491 Linden St., Bethlehem, PA 18017. 610-997-8613 after 6pm.**
- August 11-12, 2012 - Poconos, PA - Split Rock Lodge - *Eagle Arms*
- August 18-19, 2012 - Monroeville, PA - Convention Center - *C&E Gun Shows*
- August 25-26, 2012 – Philadelphia, PA - Greater Philadelphia Expo Center (Oaks) – *Eagle Arms*
- September 1-2, 2012 - Gettysburg, PA - Allstar Sports Complex - *Eagle Arms*
- September 8-9, 2012 - Tarentum, PA - Pittsburgh Mills Galleria - *Pennsylvania Gun Collectors Association*.
- September 8-9, 2012 - Harrisburg, PA - Farm Show Complex – *Mid-Atlantic Arms Collectors*

- **September 15-16, 2012 – Lancaster, PA** - Lancaster County Convention Center - valleyforgegunshow.com

OHIO 2012

- **July 21-22, 2012 – Wilmington, OH** – Roberts Centre - *Ohio Gun Collectors Association. OGCA MEMBERS ONLY.* <http://www.ogca.com/index.htm>
- **September 15-16, 2012 – Wilmington, OH** – Roberts Centre - *Ohio Gun Collectors Association. OGCA MEMBERS ONLY.* <http://www.ogca.com/index.htm>

NEW YORK 2012

- **September 15-16, 2012 - Syracuse, NY** - NY State Fairgrounds - 1000 8" tables - SyracuseGunshow.com
- **September 22-23, 2012 – Freeport, NY** - The Freeport Recreation Center - *Long Island Antique Historical Arms Society.* Contact: Dave Gruner (631) 722-3248, P.O. Box 41, Jamesport, NY 11947

"You need only reflect that one of the best ways to get yourself a reputation as a dangerous citizen these days is to go about repeating the very phrases which our founding fathers used in the struggle for independence." -Charles A. Beard

The e-mail address for any Newsletter related matters or submissions is VGCANews@cox.net. Feel free to email items for inclusion in the newsletter. For changes of address or non-receipt of the newsletter, either via email or the mailed hard-copy, please contact Larry Hare.

v/r VGCA Newsletter Editor