



# VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.NET

Est. 1983 (A Not-for-Profit Organisation)

NRA Affiliate Number G8162  
CMP Affiliate Number 026160



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## June 2017 VGCA Newsletter

**★May Presentation:** My apologies to those members that were unable to attend the May meeting in person – my limited writing skills can in no way capture the depth and details of Mr. Phil Schreier’s superb presentation on “Adventures in Curating.” I will try to share a couple of the highlights.

As a long-time curator, Phil offered several interesting “factoids” about the NRA Museum:

- From 1956-1993, approximately 800 were displayed in the Scott building in D.C. (all with their firing pins removed)
- When the NRA moved to its current facility in 1994, there was space designed to house the museum but no funds were allocated. It took a \$1 million personal check from Bill Ruger in 1997 to get things started!
- It took 3 years to replace all of the removed firing pins!



- Collection started as the NRA received guns for review in “American Rifleman”

One of Phil’s lasting memories was going to visit Mr. Ruger at his home to select the firearms for the “Ruger and his guns” display. An incredibly gracious host, they even smoked cigars together!

In his capacity as museum curator, Phil has had the opportunity to meet many celebrities and actors. Among them was Charlton Heston. Phil was invited to the actor’s California home to collect items for a “Guns of Hollywood” display – including one of Heston’s Academy Awards. Though offered the staff of Moses (from the movie of the same name), he had to decline as he had no means of getting the 8+ foot staff back to Virginia! One item Phil did acquire for the display was the sabre that Heston used in the movie “Major Dundee.” This is the blade that very nearly skewered the director Sam Peckinpah during the filming of this Civil War epic – an incredible story as told by Phil!

Another noted celebrity with a connection to the NRA collection is Tom Selleck, who has provided the museum with two of three Sharps 1874 rifles (chambered in .45/110) used in filming the classic “Quigley Down Under.”

Phil shared many stories, including his role in identifying the pistol carried by Teddy Roosevelt when he led the Rough Riders in Cuba after the stolen revolver was recovered by the FBI. In fact, Phil garnered such trust with the National Park Service, that when Sagamore Hill (TR's long-time home and a National Historic Site) was being renovated, Phil and the NRA Museum were entrusted with the care and display of Teddy Roosevelt's guns and big game trophies for three years. It is almost unheard-of for the NPS to trust a private museum with its historical artifacts!



The next time you see Phil Schreier, please thank him for one of the most entertaining presentations the VGCA has ever received – and if you get a chance, ask him about how he became the last casualty of the Spanish American War!

✪ **May Business:** Ernie Lyles brought the meeting to order at exactly 7:00 p.m. and led us through the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 40 members and 4 guests in attendance.

Our President reminded members that the June meeting would be on the 29<sup>th</sup>, not the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Elections for VGCA Directors will begin this month. Paper ballots have already been mailed to those members who do not have email addresses. For everyone else, electronic ballots will be sent before the end of May. We have 5 candidates – remember to vote for no more than three.

Rick Nahas gave us an update on the November VGCA Gun Show. We have 48 tables available.

Rick also briefed that he confirmed with Colt officials that they will host a tour of their facilities in September. We will need 10 participants for this road trip.

Rick mentioned that the Marc Gorelick represented us well at the NRA Annual Meetings with his display topic of “John Dahlgren and the Plymouth Rifle.” He also mentioned that two years ago 22 collector groups provided educational displays, last year there were 20 educational displays, and this year there were only 18. By-and-large, gun collectors are aging and gun collector organizations are dying out. He emphasized that “we” (gun collectors in general and the VGCA in particular) must continue to actively seek “young blood” in order to survive.

Bill Chronister introduced our newest membership applicant – Mr. William Tribble

### President's Comments

Fellow Members,

This month should be a great meeting with Anthony Vanderlinden from FN making his third appearance at the VGCA. Remember, our meeting is the 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday this month, the 29<sup>th</sup> of June.

--Ernie Lyles

☛ **Upcoming June 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting:** Please note that due a scheduling conflict for the NRA Auditorium, the June membership meeting is on the 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday this month, not the normal 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday. Join us for a presentation by author Anthony Vanderlinden, who will present on FN, its Mauser rifles, and the guns' impact on the history of the company and use throughout the world. Emphasis will be placed on the rifle trials of the 1880s, early production, the FN Mauser rifles in the Great War, and how FN marketed the Mauser models worldwide. Vanderlinden will give special attention to the socio-economic environment that influenced FN's production and to common collector misconceptions. The presentation will be based on Vanderlinden's new book "*FN MAUSER RIFLES, ARMING BELGIUM AND THE WORLD*".

As always, get there early for social time (and pizza) at 6 p.m., with the meeting starting at 7p.m.

### **Other News!**

☛ **NOTE – You have until June 26<sup>th</sup> to vote for up to three VGCA Directors. We have five candidates running for the three positions. They are:**

#### **Bernie Breighner**

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

#### **Wes Chappell**

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

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

#### **Marc Gorelick**

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

#### **Phil Hill**

I am an active firearms collector and Life Member of VGCA and VSSA. I am also a Life Member of NRA (Benefactor) and licensed NRA instructor. I am the former VGCA Show Director that automated show registration and reporting process many years ago. I turned the reigns over to Rick Nahas, our

current show director. As an active membership recruiter, I have been working with Dave (former president) to increase club membership and awareness of our mission.

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

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

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

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

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

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



Your ballot should have arrived before the end of May (either a hard copy was mailed to your house or an electronic ballot from Constant Contact was sent to your designated email address). Please contact Bill Chronister ([wchronister@cox.net](mailto:wchronister@cox.net)) or myself ([rpebecker@verizon.net](mailto:rpebecker@verizon.net)) immediately if you have not received a ballot. Remember - your vote must be received by June 26<sup>th</sup> and you can vote for no more than three candidates!

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☛ **Membership Report for June 2017:** All 2017 paid annual members who have not yet received their annual badges and any new members may pick up their annual membership badges at this June 29, 2017 meeting. For members unable to claim their badge at the June meeting, the badge will be mailed to your address on the membership application. Please see Bill Chronister for your badge before the meeting or at the breaks.

Please welcome our new Annual Member:

- **Chaim Smith** of Falls Church, VA was sponsored by **John Babey** and **David Litchfield**. Congratulations and we hope to see you at the Monthly Membership Meeting on June 29, 2017.

☛ **New Member Applications:** The VGCA has received Membership Application from the following individual for your review. His information and sponsors name is published below for the review of the VGCA membership. If there are any comments, please notify an Officer or Director before the June Membership Meeting.

- **William Tribble** of Vienna, VA is sponsored by **Ernie Lyles**

**IMPORTANT: Verification of VGCA Members' e-Mail and Postal Mailing addresses:** The number of emails that are bouncing have increased, as have returns of hard copy newsletters. This will impact members receiving their VGCA Newsletters and will potentially affect their receipt of their ballot for the upcoming VGCA Director Elections to be held in May. Under the December 2015 VGCA Bylaws revision, electronic ballots will be e-Mailed to members in good standing who receive the Newsletter by e-Mail. Paper ballots are sent to members in good standing who do not have an email address of record. If you have not received your newsletters or have changed either your USPS mailing address or your e-Mail address, please provide this information ASAP to Membership Chair, Bill Chronister at [vgca\\_membership@cox.net](mailto:vgca_membership@cox.net) (note underscore between *vgca* and *membership*) and to Larry Hare, Newsletter Distribution at [LaurenceHare@gmail.com](mailto:LaurenceHare@gmail.com). As ballots are time sensitive, tracking down returned mailings will not be possible. NOTE: While convenient, using work e-Mail addresses may affect your receipt of newsletters or ballots due to enhanced security, or restrictions on attachments often used in corporate systems. Thanks!!!

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### Show-n-Tell



Member 1 presented a Peabody single-shot falling block rifle. Manufactured by the Providence Tool Company in approximately 1870, this rifle is one of 2000 sold to the state of Connecticut in 1871. It was part of the production over-run from a contract with the French government and was originally chambered in .43 Spanish. In 1877 it was re-barreled to .45/70.

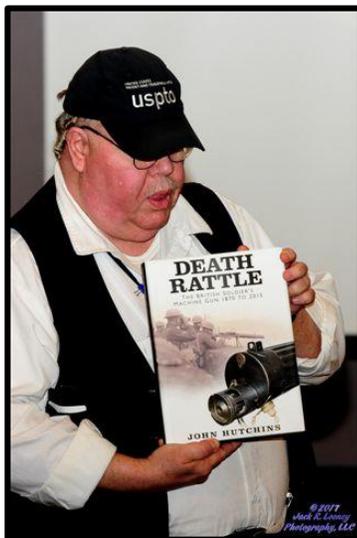
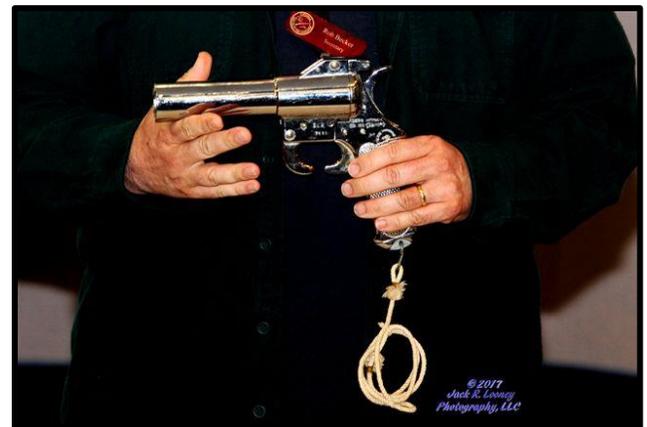
Member 2 shared his Romanian PSL chambered in 7.62x54r Russian. This model, despite its appearance, is based on the Kalashnikov action, not the Dragunov sniper rifle. An interesting feature to assist with mitigating the recoil are the dual springs in the buttstock. This is an early import as evidenced by the removable flash hider and the ground “wings” on the bayonet lug.





Member 3 presented a unique socket bayonet made by the Virginia Manufactory of Arms, a state-owned arms manufacturer and arsenal in Richmond, Virginia that only operated from 1802 or 1803 until 1821. Made in limited numbers between 1805 and 1808, this bayonet is 28 inches long (with a 25 inch blade) and was the longest socket bayonet ever made in the United States. Not many were made and most of those were cut back to a shorter length or destroyed. This example is one of only ten known to exist!

The next item presented was a post-WWII “Model B” flare gun made by the Kilgore Corporation of Toone, Tennessee. Intended for use aboard ships or life boats and chambered for 37mm (also known as 1.5 inch) flares, it is distinguished from the WWII-era “Sklar” flare gun by the chrome (or nickel) plating. This plating was intended to prevent salt corrosion from an ocean environment. Very little is known about these flare guns – to include years of production or numbers produced. This is a nice example that retains the original lanyard.



Member 5 was looking for a copy of the Luger video shown during the April VGCA meeting when he discovered this book on line. Published in England, “Death Rattle, The British Soldiers Machine Gun 1870 to 2015” was written by John Hutchins, and due to prohibitive shipping costs, is normally only available in Europe. Member 5 acquired his copy of this well illustrated, 512 page volume of “heavy metal glory” by working a special deal directly with the author. A nice addition to the library, indeed!

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## In Review

The “In Review” section of the newsletter includes VGCA member reviews of guns shows, books, and museums. If you would like to submit a review, please send it to the newsletter editor at [rpebecker@verizon.net](mailto:rpebecker@verizon.net).

### ✦ Museum

## **MUSEUM AND LIBRARY OF CONFEDERATE HISTORY GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

*Marc Gorelick, VGCA*

The southern United States is replete with local museums about the Confederacy and the Civil War and while many are not worth a special trip, gun collectors would do well to visit the Museum of Confederate History in Greenville, SC. Tucked away in what was once a private home in Greenville’s historic Pettigru District, the museum’s small size belies the breadth and depth of its firearms collection, and the historical importance and rarity of the guns on display.



The main gallery of the Museum is home to an extensive collection of arms, artifacts and documents of the war period. While most Civil War museums concentrate on the armies, displays in this museum cover the war on land and sea. For instance, among the displays about the Confederate Navy is a reproduction of a Confederate “torpedo” or mine as it is called today, as well as arms, uniforms and artifacts used by the Confederate Navy. An estimated 40 Union ships were sunk by torpedoes.



Among the many arms on display in the main gallery is a rare Ellsworth cannon. Named after the famous Colonel Elmer Ellsworth of the 11<sup>th</sup> New York “Fire Zouaves,” it was the only breech loading artillery manufactured in the US during the Civil War. It also has the distinction of having the smallest bore, 1 ½ inches, of any period artillery. Only 36 Ellsworth cannons were made and this example is one of only six known to have survived.

Among the many firearms on display are a rare .54 caliber single-shot percussion Elgin cutlass-pistol, originally made for the US Navy in 1838. It was the

first percussion handgun officially used by the U.S. military and the only knife pistol used by an U.S. military service. There were only 150 produced on Navy Contract – some being used by the Wilkes-South Sea Expedition. Some were reportedly still used during the Civil War but proved unpopular.



Also on display is an outstanding example of a LeMat revolver with ammunition and a famous Whitworth rifle used by Confederate snipers. The Whitworth display is unusually complete as it includes not just the weapon but also all the accessories and accoutrements associated with it, including the special sharpshooter glasses that were issued to each sniper. Another rarity is an unusual wooden training rifle that was used to drill recruits, operational guns being needed by combat troops.



Perhaps the highlight of the main gallery for antique gun collectors is the display of uncommon Morse rifles and carbines. George W. Morse patented the breech loading gun in 1856 and 1858. Morse's design used a breech block that raised up to expose the chamber. The shooter then loaded a metallic cartridge, also designed by Morse. Morse submitted his design to the US government and the Ordnance Department appropriated money to convert up to 2,000 rifles. The money ran out after fewer than 60 had been produced with another 540 partially complete. Morse secured additional funding, and in July 1860 the Ordnance Department continued to

convert rifles at Harper's Ferry. Morse sided with the Confederacy when the Civil War began. When the Confederates captured Harpers Ferry the equipment to manufacture Morse rifles and carbines was moved to Nashville, TN and later Greenville, SC where they were made. Although the Confederacy struggled to field any sort of metallic cartridge breechloader it did not purchase Morse's gun. However, the state of South Carolina ordered 1,000 carbines for state troops, but very few of these saw any action. The distinctive brass-framed carbines were chambered for a .50 caliber version of Morse's centerfire brass cartridge, and the guns were issued with a unique ammunition belt that held 24 cartridges in individual tin tubes. The museum's display is complete with three carbines, the unique ammunition belt, reloading equipment, ammunition and most, if not all tools, accessories and accoutrements associated with the carbines. The Morse display includes an extremely rare and unusually complete Morse-Muzzy three-barrel cased set of Morse rifle, carbine and shotgun made by Muzzy & Co. of Worcester, Mass. This set, which includes the original reloading equipment, is number 60 of 100. While Morse's firearms never became widespread, the ammunition he developed was an important step in cartridge development.

The museum is also a delight for Civil War historians. The galleries include a display about the famous Red Shirts who drove out the Yankee Carpetbaggers after the Civil War. Besides being chock full of guns the displays include Confederate uniforms, equipment, flags, original papers, photographs and other artifacts. There are also displays of period musical instruments, surgical instruments and medicine, Confederate currency, and a gallery about civilian life before, during and after the war. Especially

noteworthy is the Vance Drawdy Research Library which contains the entire roster of Confederate soldiers and numerous regimental histories. The Library also contains a copy of the Official Records of the War as published by the US government.



The small museum staff is very friendly and eager to talk to visitors about the displays. All volunteers, they are enthusiastic and especially knowledgeable about the numerous firearms in the museum's collections. There is a small gift shop and free handouts that go into the history of the items on display. The museum is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Greenville is just off Interstate 85 and is not hard to find. Its address is:  
15 Boyce Avenue  
Greenville, SC 29601.

The museum is organized as a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation. Admission is free but they do ask for a voluntary donation (tax deductible). It is well worth visiting, even if you are just driving through the area.

## ✦ Book

### **Cold War Pistols of Czechoslovakia**

*By James D. Brown*

Schiffer Publishing, Ltd, 150 pages

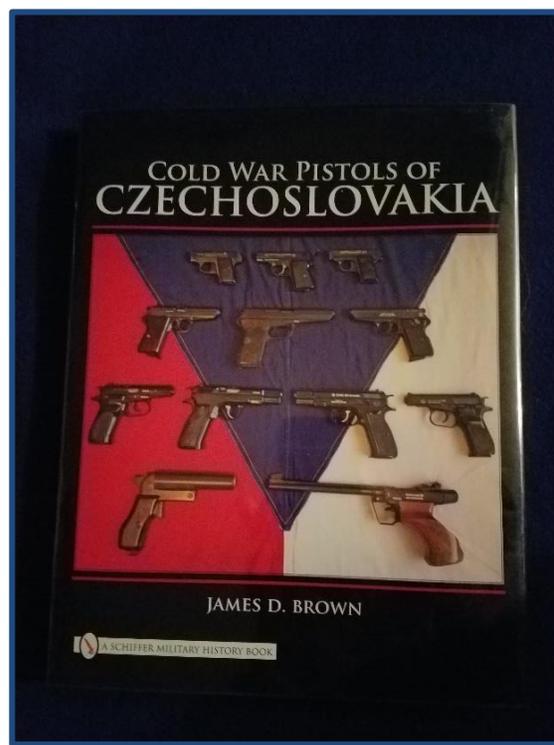
Review by Rob Becker

The arms industry of Czechoslovakia has been noted for innovative and well-engineered designs for almost 100 years. This did not change after WWII, even with the installation of a communist government and the imposition of standard armaments (i.e. the small arms and ammunition of the Soviet Union) on the Warsaw Pact. While Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romanian, East Germany, and others were required to adopt and use Soviet Russian small arms, the recognized excellence of the Czech arms industry justified allowing the Czechoslovakian army to be equipped with Czech-designed weapons. When the Eastern Europe fielded the SKS carbine, the Czech army fielded the Vz52 and Vz 52/57 carbines. When the AK47 was adopted by almost everyone, the Czechs adopted their own Vz58. While the TT33 was the standard Warsaw Pact sidearm, the Czechs manufactured and fielded the Vz52 pistol

(Vz is the Czech abbreviation for “model”) chambered in the same 7.62x25 caliber. And there are many other examples!

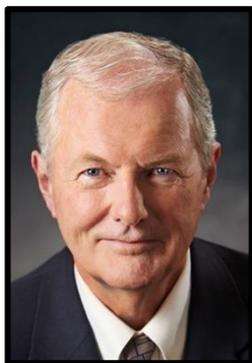
This book by James D. Brown is a comprehensive study of Czech military and police pistols manufactured during the four decades of communist rule. It covers everything from the diminutive CZ “Duo” in .25ACP to the superlative CZ75 full size service pistol in 9x19 – and everything in between. This book covers the designers, the variations, the accessories and holsters, even the ammunition. It also covers Czech .22 target pistols and flare guns (the latter, as many members know by now, are of particular interest to me!).

Well researched and beautifully illustrated with hundreds of color photographs, this book is available from several sources on-line for approximately \$60. If you have any interest in Czech handguns from 1948 to 1989 – or Warsaw Pact era weapons of any kind - then “Cold War Pistols of Czechoslovakia” is a must-have!



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## 👉 THANK YOU TO ALLAN CORS FOR HIS SERVICE 👈



Allan D. Cors’s two-year term as NRA President ended in May. Allan, a long-time VGCA Life Member and ardent gun collector, has been an excellent leader of the NRA and a staunch defender of the Second Amendment. A man of honor, integrity, duty and patriotism, he was at the helm of the NRA during the last national election and his efforts helped secure, for a time, our rights under the Constitution to “keep and bear arms.” We owe a hearty thank you to Allan for his tireless labors on our behalf. We should also take heed of his advice to not grow complacent. To paraphrase his words, the threats to our liberty will never go away, and they must be met with continued strength and courage. Let us also welcome Pete Brownell as the new NRA President.

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## Upcoming Events and Shows

**PLEASE NOTE:** There are sometimes changes in schedules by gun show promoters or errors on websites. Members are strongly encouraged to *verify before driving to a show*. These dates have been published as of this writing, but are not guaranteed. If you have a favorite show you would like to tell other members about, please email the Editor with a short review, including the show content, i.e., modern, new, collectible or antique, and I will include it as room permits. **Yellow** = Collector organizations.

## VIRGINIA 2017

- July 1-2, 2017 – Fredericksburg, VA – Expo and Conference Center – *SGK*
- July 8-9, 2017 – Richmond, VA – Kmart at Midlothian – *Showmasters*
- July 15-16, 2017 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK*
- July 22-23, 2017 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center - *C&E*
- July 22-23, 2017 – Dale City, VA – Dale City VFW – *Old Dominion/Showmasters*
- July 28-30, 2017 - Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters and C&E*
- August 19-20, 2017 – Roanoke, VA – The Berglund Center – *Showmasters*
- August 26-27, 2017 – Richmond, VA – Kmart at Midlothian – *Showmasters*

## MARYLAND 2017

- July 15-16, 2017 – Friendship, MD – Howard County Fairgrounds – *Silverado Gun Shows*

## PENNSYLVANIA 2017

- July 1-2, 2017 – East Stroudsburg, PA – VFW Post #2540 – *Jaeger Arms Promotions*
- July 8-9, 2017 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds - *Forks of the Delaware*
- July 15-16, 2017 – Dallas, PA – Luzerne County Fairgrounds – *Jaeger Arms Promotions*
- July 22-23, 2017 – Scranton, PA – Ice Box Arena – *Jaeger Arms Promotions*
- July 22-23, 2017 – Philadelphia, PA – National Guard Armory – *The Gun Shows*
- July 29-30, 2017 – Promised Land, PA – Promised Land Vol Fire & Ambulance – *Jaeger Arms*
- August 5-6, 2017 – Phoenixville, PA – Oaks Expo Center - *Eagle Arms Productions*
- August 12-13, 2017 – Lake Harmony, PA – Split Rock, 100 Mossywood Rd - *Eagle Arms*
- August 19, 2017 – St. Thomas, PA – St. Thomas VFW - *Local*
- August 19-20, 2017 – Harrisburg, PA – PA Farm Show Complex - *C&E*
- August 19-20, 2017 – Leesport, PA - Farmers Market - *The Gun Shows*
- August 26-27, 2017 – Allentown, PA – Econolodge Conference Center – *Eagle Arms*
- August 26-27, 2017 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center - *Showmasters*

## SPECIAL NOTE – OHIO - 2017

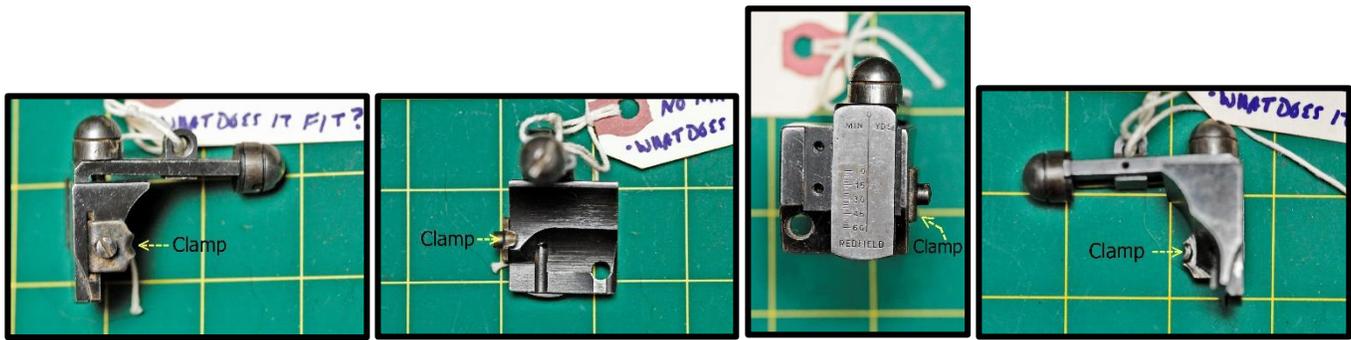
- July 15-16, 2017 – Wilmington, OH – The Roberts Centre – *Special Guests: Ruger Owners and Collectors (Members and invited guests only)*

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### **Want-to-Know: What is this?**

There are no part/ID marks whatsoever, other than "Redfield". It has one screw mount hole, and a pointed clamp, and fits on the left side of the receiver. Missing from the bridge are the windage scale and elevation pointer.

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**Want-to-Know: And what is this?**

Something Winchester. There are no part/ID marks whatsoever, other than "Winchester" and copyright symbol. It has no way to mount it to anything, and no bends that would allow it to be used as, for instance, a receiver cover, as far as I can see...



If you can identify either of these items, please contact members Jack Looney or Rob Becker. Jack will bring both of these items to the June meeting.

**Want-To-Buy:** Member Kim Walton is interested in buying Newton and Meeker rifles. If you have one to sell, please contact him at (210)-602-0506 or [copo6970@yahoo.com](mailto:copo6970@yahoo.com)

The e-mail address for any Newsletter related matters or a submission is [Newsletter@vgca.net](mailto:Newsletter@vgca.net) or you can read the editor directly at [rpebecker@verizon.net](mailto:rpebecker@verizon.net). Feel free to e-mail items for inclusion in the newsletter (such as the "Want-to-Know" or the "Want-to-Buy" items above). For changes of address or non-receipt of the newsletter, either via e-mail or the mailed hard-copy, please contact Larry Hare.