



# VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.NET

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

NRA Affiliate Number G8162

CMP Affiliate Number 026160



**President**

**Show/Reservations Manager**

**Membership**

Website: [www.vgca.net](http://www.vgca.net)

Facebook: @VirginiaGunCollectorsAssoc

Ed Costello

Rick Nahas

George Dungan

Phone: 703-241-7915

Cell: 571-215-8761

Phone: 571-243-6387

Twitter: @VAGunCollectrs

Instagram: @vaguncollectors

[edwardcostello@comcast.net](mailto:edwardcostello@comcast.net)

[jet53sw@aol.com](mailto:jet53sw@aol.com)

[george@eccominv.com](mailto:george@eccominv.com)

## June 2023 VGCA Newsletter



### President's Comments

To my Fellow VGCA members,

First, I hope all of you take the opportunity to vote in our election for new Directors. After an initial technical glitch, I understand our on-line ballot is fully operational and registering votes as I write this. We intend to announce the results at our June 22nd Membership Meeting. Please contact VGCA Secretary Rob Becker at [rpebecker@verizon.net](mailto:rpebecker@verizon.net) if

you have any problems accessing or completing your ballot.

Next, let me remind you that we are seeking a few more volunteers for the VGCA membership table at the upcoming EXPO gun show on June 16-19. Our membership chairman (and VP) George Dungan reports that the EXPO show has been a great resource for recruiting new members for the VGCA, but we can do so through the help of our enthusiastic volunteers.

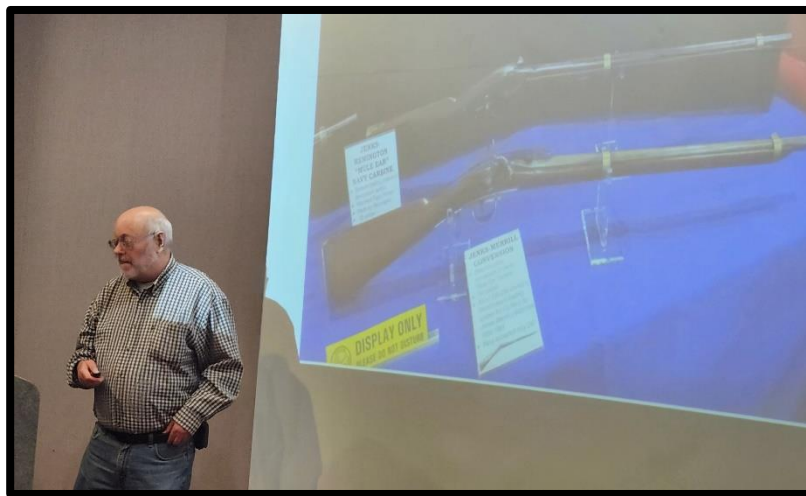
Finally, summer is upon us and I will be away much of the time, but will participate in our meetings via webinar. I will leave running our June and August Membership Meetings (remember, we do not meet in July) in VP George's capable hands!

My best to all,

*Ed Costello*, VGCA President

# ★ May Presentations: The NRA Annual Meeting

VGCA Director Marc Gorelick (*at right*) gave an excellent summary of the NRA Annual Meetings held in Indianapolis, Indiana over 14-16 April 2023. With a total exhibit area covering over 14 acres and including all of the major firearms, ammunition, and accessory manufacturers, there was far more than could be summarized in an evening, so Marc concentrated on describing the 17 educational displays presented by collector organizations from around the country.



Marc proudly represented the VGCA at the NRA Meetings with his display of the Jenk's Mule Ear. This display (*shown below*), which took first place in the judging at the March VGCA Gun Show, received numerous accolades from the NRA Awards Committee, other displayers, and the public (the NRA Annual Meetings are free to NRA members and over 77,000 attended this year).



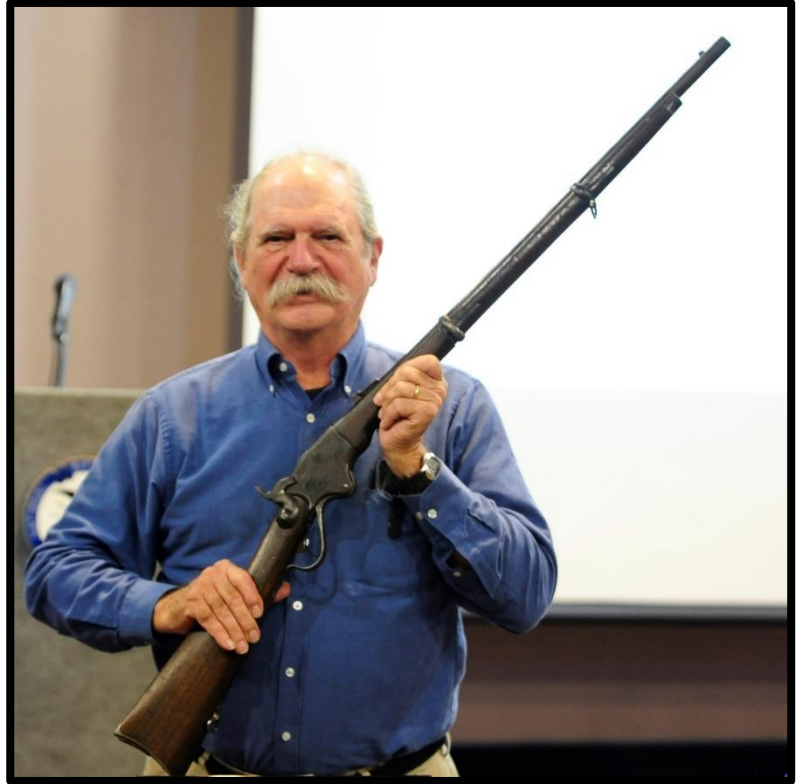
One of Marc's carbines earned an NRA Silver Medallion (*above*) – of which up to 10 per year can be awarded "to one of the ten best weapons exhibited at the NRA Annual Meetings." The silver medal is awarded to

the specific firearm and follows the gun from owner to owner. Being awarded one is quite an honor – Congrats Marc!

Marc described many of the other displays and noted that the competition was extremely tough! For an excellent summary of those displays, see Marc's article in the May 2023 VGCA Newsletter.

# The Saga of the “Frankenspencer” From Ridgeway: A Lesson Learned

Our presentation in May was actually a story about a man, his unusual Spencer (both pictured at right), a little educated speculation, and a whole lot of research. Our presenter, Mr. Kenneth Smith-Christmas, is the man in this story. Long interested in the Irish Republican “Fenian” raids into Canada in 1866 and again in 1870-1871 in support of Irish Independence, he jumped at the chance to buy a Spencer rifle in the serial number range of Spencers purchased for troops in British North America (as the provinces were known before taking the first steps toward forming the Dominion of Canada in 1867). Initially purchased in response to the Fenian raids, the Model 1865 Spencer rifle, serial number 2425 and chambered in .56/50, became available from a seller in California a few years ago, just as Mr. Smith-Christmas was looking for an example to photograph for an article on the Fenians he was writing. As noted before, Mr. Smith-Christmas was quick to purchase this Spencer when it became available, noting that it was in fairly good condition but without scrutinizing it too closely.



Upon receipt of this Spencer, our presenter quickly noted several anomalies. For one thing, it had two barrel bands instead of three and the spacing of those two barrel bands did not match any other Spencer known. Additionally, the barrel bands were not typical Spencer barrel bands and were retained by barrel band springs on the side of the stock, not on the bottom like a typical Spencer. There was also a hole in the forearm for a cleaning rod that had been expertly filled in a long time ago – but Spencers did not have cleaning rods. Upon close examination, the forearm was discovered to actually have been made from two pieces of wood (not one like it should have been) and one of those pieces gave all the appearance of being hand-carved! At this point the rifle was dubbed the “Frankenspencer” - and the research began.

At this point, it seemed pretty obvious that the forearm and furniture had been replaced. The first question was – what happened? Was it to repair fire damage? Water damage? Being run over by a horse or vehicle? Or damaged after being sold as surplus? Given the overall condition of the rest of the gun, the first three possibilities were ruled out fairly quickly. As for the last possibility, more details were needed on the history of the Canadian Spencers.

Research showed that as non-standard arms in an unusual caliber, the Canadian Model 1865s purchased in 1866 were sold off as surplus just a few years later, in 1870. Most went to France where they were in used in the Franco-Prussian War (19 Jul 1870 – 28 Jan 1871). Damage and repair during that conflict was possible.

It should be noted that 40 Model 1865 Spencers were issued to the No. 5 Company (from Toronto) of the Queen’s Own Rifles on the eve before the Battle of Ridgeway. Considered a Canadian defeat, the Battle of Ridgeway was fought on 2 Jun 1866 between the Canadian troops and the Fenians near Ridgeway, West Canada (what is now Ontario). No. 5 Company suffered three casualties during the battle, including one Private Walter Brown Copp who was wounded in his wrist - which one was not specified. Research showed that his signature on official records before and after the battle did not change, so if it is assumed that Pvt Copp was right-handed, then his wound would have been to his left wrist. His left hand would have been the support hand under his rifle and a bullet striking his wrist could have damaged the forearm at the same time. It is possible. . .

Cue more research - and it was discovered in the public accounts of the Province of Ontario 1866-1867, that one John Hamilton, a blacksmith and “military engineer” was paid to repair rifles. As a blacksmith, he probably had parts to make some of the repairs (for example, one of the replacement barrel bands on the “Frankenspencer” was upper band from a “Windsor” Enfield Type 2). It is speculated that he made the replacement forearm with a groove for a cleaning rod because almost every rifle of the time had such an attachment. Such a feature was not necessary for the Spencer and probably would have been filled in at the government’s request. One final clue was, that upon disassembly of the Spencer by Mr. Smith-Christmas, he discovered an old scrap of paper in the barrel channel with the initials “JH”. Could this have been evidence that John Hamilton worked on the rifle? Unfortunately, this occurred before Mr. Smith-Christmas knew of John Hamilton and, in a rush, he threw the scrap away rather than preserving it.

The Lesson Learned that was shared with the VGCA members was – “Don’t think twice about preserving everything when it comes to old guns!” Sound advice indeed!



**★ Next Membership Meeting: June 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Video “The Meeting of Titans in America:  
Kalashnikov, Stoner, and Two Guns that Changed the  
World” by James Anderson**  
**Location: NRA HQ Conference Room**

Our June 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. Reminder – this meeting is on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, which seems earlier in the month than usual but is indeed the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of June. Don’t miss it - hope to see you then!





# ★ May Meeting Notes

The May 25<sup>th</sup> VGCA meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by VGCA President Ed Costello. Member Jim Burgess led those assembled through the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence for those that have fallen in the service of our country. There were 51 members and guests present, as well as 8 more participating on-line via webinar.



Ed opened the meeting by thanking VGCA Secretary Rob Becker for publishing another excellent newsletter. He observed that at 39 pages, our May 2023 newsletter was our biggest one yet, full of great news and information.

Vice President George Dungan reminded everyone that Director Elections are coming up soon. Everyone should receive their ballot by the end of next week. We have four great candidates for the three Director positions – their biographies were included in the May Newsletter. Please vote for no more than three. The deadline for voting will be included with your ballot (via email if we have an email address for you, or via “snail mail” if we do not). Please take the time to vote!

George also announced that we are looking for volunteers to organize future tours like the one we just had to the National Museum of the U.S. Army at Fort Belvoir in March. Contact any officer or director if you would like to help.

## TAURUS GX4 PISTOL SAFETY RECALL

*By Marc Gorelick*



Taurus has issued a safety recall of its GX4 micro-compact 9mm semi-automatic pistols. This notice pertains to certain GX4 pistols that were assembled and sold exclusively within the United States. Taurus recently discovered that under specific circumstances, these pistols may discharge when accidentally dropped.

Taurus urges all GX4 owners to take this matter seriously and go to the Taurus website at <https://gx4safetynotice.com/> to find out if your GX4 is one of those affected and what to do.

Go to the website. Enter your pistol’s serial number in the indicated space. The website will let you know if your GX4 is subject to the recall and what to do next. Taurus said that it will inspect, repair, if necessary, and return your pistol to you as soon as possible, FREE of charge.

You can also contact Taurus by phone at (229) 515-8464, by online submission at <https://www.taurususa.com/support/service-request> email, or by U.S. mail at Taurus International Manufacturing, Inc., 100 Taurus Way, Bainbridge, GA 39817.





# CMP UPDATE

By Marc Gorelick, CMP Liaison

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

## CMP ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

### *GSMM Master Instructor Training and Certification*



Experienced rifle marksmanship instructors and shooters who would like to receive advanced training and be certified as “Master Instructors” to teach CMP-sanctioned Garand, Springfield, Vintage Military and Modern Military (GSMM) Rifle or Rimfire Sporter Clinics are invited to apply to attend a CMP Master Instructor Training Workshop.

Workshops are periodically held at CMP North (Camp Perry, OH) and CMP South (Talladega, AL) and in conjunction with the CMP Travel Games. CMP-sanctioned GSMM rifle clinics teach basic and intermediate rifle marksmanship skills to new and beginning shooters so they can participate in general shooting sports activities and GSMM and Rimfire Sporter Matches on a safer and more rewarding basis.

The GSMM Master Instructor training schedule for the rest of the year is:

July 21, 2023 at the National Matches, Camp Perry, OH

Sept. 16, 2023 at the New England Games, Jericho, VT

The CMP Master Instructor certification program trains and certifies advanced shooters and instructors as Master Instructors who are qualified to teach specific marksmanship instructional topics using training material and curricula developed and provided by the CMP.

The CMP currently recognizes these Master Instructor certifications:

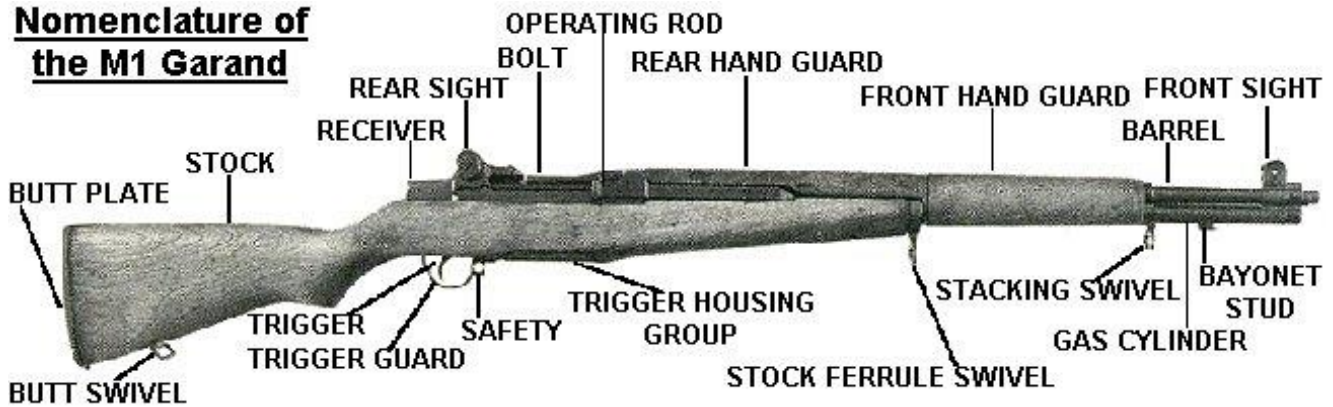
- **JMIC (JROTC Marksmanship Instructor Course) Master Instructors.**
- **Garand-Springfield-Military-Modern Military Rifle Master Instructors.**

For more information about CMP GSMM Master Instructor training workshops, go to the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/training-tech/gsmm-master-instructor/>.

### *M1 Garand Advanced Maintenance Class*

This 3-day Advanced Maintenance Class (AMC) class is designed for those who wish to take their passion for the venerable M1 Garand to the next level. It offers students a unique opportunity to receive unparalleled training from the CMP’s expert Custom Shop Staff and build their very own M1 Rifle.

## Nomenclature of the M1 Garand



The class is held in Anniston, Alabama, and is intended for individuals interested in knowing how the M1 Garand rifle functions in detail, as well as for those wishing to know how to properly perform advanced maintenance on their personal rifles. The class involves classroom lecture as well as hands-on shop time and tools will be provided for students to use during the class.

The AMC is not intended for gunsmiths or those with advanced knowledge of the M1 rifle. No prior armorer or shooting experience is required. Students will each assemble from parts their own rifle (manufacturer of receiver may vary depending on the current inventory available) that is included in the AMC fee.

Some of the key components of the class will include:

- Component purpose and function
- Use of gauges
- Commercial barrel installation, chambering and headspace
- Component selection and inspection
- Fitting and proper assembly of a complete Field Grade Special or CMP Special rifle
- Some discussion of malfunctions and their remedies
- Accurizing techniques for the M1

Participants will be exposed to all information required to safely assemble a complete rifle under the direct supervision of our expert gunsmiths. Each student signed up for the class will have an option when purchasing, with both **Field Grade Specials** and **CMP Special** rifles available for construction. On the second day of the class, students will visit the CMP South Store and a visit to the CMP Talladega Marksmanship Park is scheduled on the last day for test firing.

For more information about the CMP AMC, including schedules and costs, go to the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/training-tech/advanced-maintenance-class/>.

*For additional information about the many CMP basic and advanced training programs, visit the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/training-tech/>.*

## **CMP SALES PROGRAM**

***CMP 1911 Sales Program: Round 3*** – As of the beginning of June, the CMP continues to accept orders to purchase CMP 1911 Type Pistols. You can view the details, guidelines for purchasing, order forms and pricing on the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/sales-and-service/1911-information/>.





## VGCA GUNS OF DISTINCTION:

# ABBIATICO & SALVINELLI (FAMARS) SXS SHOTGUN

*By Marc Gorelick*

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



In 1967 in the beautiful town of Gardone Val Trompia, Brescia, Italy, young gunsmiths Mario Abbiatico and Remo Salvinelli, both sons of men involved in the area's gun making tradition, established the gunmaking firm of Fabbrica Armi di Mario Abbiatico e Remo Salvinelli, or FAMARS. The two men fused their love for double-barreled long guns with their passion for the art of bulino engraving. Since its inception, FAMARS has been a leader in bespoke gun design, creating fine masterpieces with engraving of photo-like realism paired with the finest precision in elegance, fit, finish, and function. Over the years, FAMARS has introduced many new firearms developments, including: automatic self-cocking hammers, a four-barreled shotgun, and a removable action.



FAMARS is considered one of the top Italian gun makers and its products rival English best guns. A FAMARS custom rifle or shotgun requires hundreds, sometimes thousands, of man-hours to complete and the firm produces no more than 110 guns in any year. Each FAMARS gun is hand shaped, personally fit, and engraved with the finest detail to the customer's exact specifications. The end result is a one-of-a-kind timeless masterpiece. FAMARS rifles and shotguns are beautifully adorned with the finest Italian hand engraving ranging from beautiful rose and scroll designs, to exotic game scenes, floral patterns, and stunning gold inlays.



The company is still under the direction of the founders' family. Cristina Abbiatico, the daughter of founder Mario Abbiatico is the President and CEO. She works alongside her brother Paolo and Remo Salvinelli. She is married to Marco Cavazzoni, the owner of Il Bulino, a company that specializes in Italian engraving and decorates the FAMARS guns. All production takes place at the FAMARS factory in Gardone Val Trompia. Although the company utilizes computer control and spark erosion technology to create precision parts critical for gun reliability, processes such as shaping of receivers, wood carving,

stock finishing, barrel shaping, fitting, and engraving are still performed in the traditional manner by hand by master craftsmen. FAMARS guns have been described as “superbly engraved, ergonomically efficient, brilliantly designed...with impeccable fit and finish.”

While not the most ornate FAMARS product, this 12 gauge side by side shotgun is representative of FAMARS superb quality and attention to detail. The 26.8 inch (68 cm) long demibloc barrels are surmounted by a concave rib. It features sidelocks with present springs, firing pins inserted from the front, a sliding tang safety inlaid with a gold "S", double triggers with dodging tongue, and a rolled trigger guard. The beautifully grained select walnut stock has a straight diamond shaped grip and precise checkering. The fore-end has an Anson push-rod and a silver inlaid company crest.

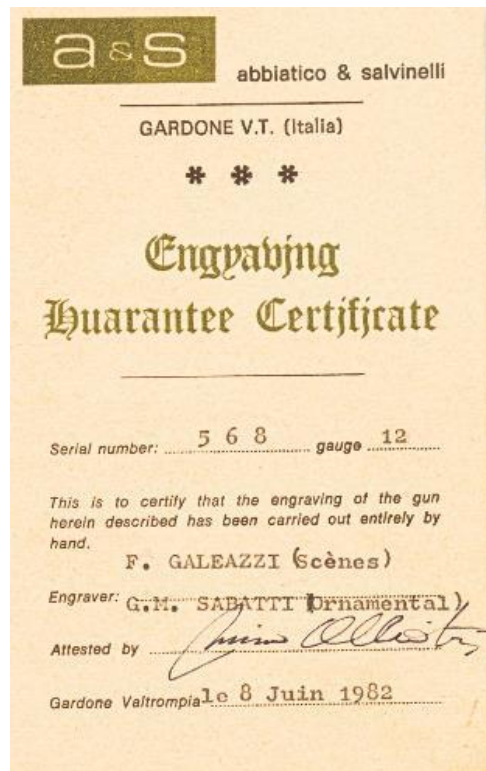


The bright sideplates, bascule and other metal parts are richly engraved with fine foliage arabesques and rocailles. There is a bulino engraved scene of a pointer with partridges on the left side plate and a pointer with red grouse on the right. The bottom of the action has a bulino engraving of a pointer with a woodcock and the triggerguard is decorated with foliage and roccaille engraving. The serial number “568” is inlaid in gold on the tang behind the triggerguard. The gun is signed "F. Galeazzi" for master engraver Fausto Galeazzi, and "Ornato Sabatti G" for master ornamentalist GM Sabatti.





Custom made in 1982 for a prominent French sportsman, this bespoke shotgun comes with the original manufacturer's leather covered case, certificates and accessories. The gun was recently offered at a March 2022 auction by Joh. Springers Erben in Vienna, Austria with a starting price of \$5,464 (5,000 euros),



If you want to see an Abbiatico & Salvinelli gun in the flesh, the NRA National Firearms Museum showcases six (6) FAMARS guns in its displays.







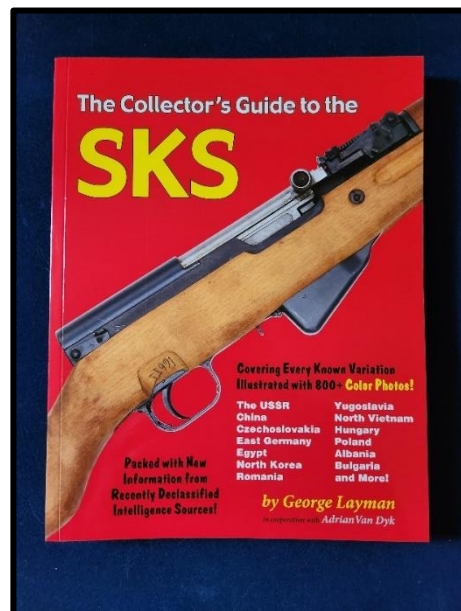
## ★ In Review ★

*“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).*

# BOOK REVIEW: The Collector’s Guide to the SKS

*Text and photo by Rob Becker*

As many of you know, I have a special place in my heart for the SKS carbine. I bought my first one in 1987 – an all-matching and unissued Factory 26-made Chinese Type 56 – and added several others during the MILSURP import heyday about 15-20 years ago. My first presentation to the VGCA many years ago was on the SKS (I also did a follow-up presentation two years ago) and you may have seen my SKS display at one of our gun shows. I have always liked the sleek profile of this Cold War warrior, but when it came to concrete background information for presentations and displays, facts and details were often in short supply. The SKS was produced by eight of our Cold War adversaries, and in the not-so-distant-past, these countries were understandably reticent to share details of their small arms production. Much of what American collectors “knew” about the Simonov-designed semi-automatic carbine was based on observation of imported examples and educated guesses.



But no more! ***The Collector’s Guide to the SKS*** by George Layman, in cooperation with Adrian Van Dyk, was published just a few weeks ago – and it is full of previously unknown or speculated details from many primary sources! This 260-page soft-bound book has chapters on each of the countries that manufactured the SKS, plus, as a bonus, the visually similar but functionally different Czechoslovakian Vz-52 and Vz-52/57 and Egyptian/Iraqi Rashid. There is also a chapter on Hungary, Poland, and Bulgaria (countries that took steps to adopt the SKS) and a chapter dedicated to collecting the SKS. But the true value of this profusely illustrated book (over 800 color pictures) are in the details – production numbers by year of the various models, when variations/changes were incorporated, tables of serial numbers, definitions of various stamps and symbols, and the most comprehensive list and explanation of the Chinese factory codes I have seen. As just one example, collectors knew there were two manufacturer marks on the rarely seen East German Karabiner-S (Simonov carbine), but now, thanks to this book, we know that factory code “1a” represents the Jagdwaffen Werke Thalmann and that “20Z” is for Richard Sorge Military Factory on the outskirts of Dresden. Similar newly discovered details are provided for all models of the Samozaryadny Karabin sistemy Simonova.

If you have any interest in Cold War or Eastern Bloc weapons in general, or the SKS in particular, I highly recommend this book. ***The Collector’s Guide to the SKS*** by Layman and Van Dyk is available on-line from multiple sources for \$40-\$50.



# NOTICE

The VGCA has withdrawn from its informal reciprocity agreement with the Northern Virginia Relic Hunters Association (NVRHA) for mutual free entry of members in each other's shows. The NVRHA puts on one Civil War show a year near Fredericksburg, VA. From now on, VGCA members going to that show will have to pay the nominal entry fee.



## ★ Show-n-Tell ★

**NOTE: For anyone bringing in items for Show-n-Tell - please hold the item up so the members in attendance can see it. This will also help your photographer get a decent picture and allow people who could not attend the meeting see it clearly in the newsletter. We also ask that you provide a Fact Sheet (copies of the one below will be provided at the meeting) to assist the newsletter editor in accurately describing your item. Thank you!**

---

### VGCA Show-n-Tell Fact Sheet

Manufacturer: \_\_\_\_\_

Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Action Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Caliber: \_\_\_\_\_

Years of Production: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Produced: \_\_\_\_\_

Year this example was manufactured (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Significance: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Question(s) for members: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Where acquired (optional): \_\_\_\_\_ When acquired (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

---

# MAY SHOW-N-TELL



Member 1 brought in two pieces with a connection to the 1870 Fenian Invasion of Canada. The first was a Needham side-opening breechloading conversion of a Model 1861 Springfield rifle (*detail at left*). Designed by (ironically) English brothers Joseph and George Needham, this breechloader was chambered in .58 Centerfire. The stock on this rifle is cut down as the Fenians did in order to ship the rifles disassembled in smaller

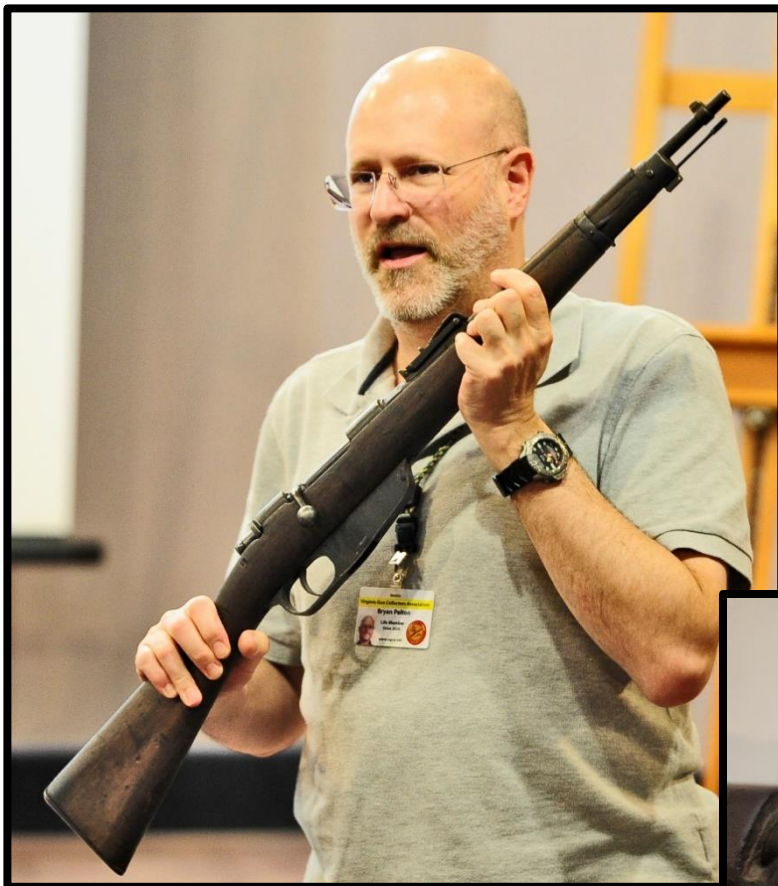
crates, thereby eluding scrutiny and confiscation by U.S. authorities. The Fenians had 5,020 rifles converted (mostly Bridesburgs like this example) into Needham breechloaders.

The second piece shared by Member 1 was a Snider Mark II (*at right*). Another side-opening breechloader conversion of a muzzleloading rifle, the snider was designed by American Jacob Snider and adopted by the British. Mark I and Mark II Sniders were conversions of Model 1853 Enfield rifles, while the later Mark III and IV were new-built guns. All conversions were chambered in .577 Snider centerfire. This example is marked to the 35<sup>th</sup>



Battalion of the Canadian Militia, the “Simcoe Foresters”, headquartered at Barrie, Canada West (now called Ontario). Though the Simcoe Foresters did not participate against the Fenians, other militia units armed with Snider rifles did.





Member 2 brought in an Italian Model 91/24 TS Carcano-Mannlicher (*at left*). This rifle started as a Model 1891 full length infantry rifle that was converted to carbine length post-WWI. Retaining the standard Italian 6.5x52 cartridge, the barrel was cut back from 29.9 inches to 16.8 inches. Along with the corresponding reduction in the fore stock, the M91/24 carbine was 2 pounds lighter than its original form. The conversion was adopted in 1924 and the bolt-action rifles were modified starting in 1925. In total, 263,000 were modified. The later, new manufacture M91/28 carbines were similar but



incorporated a new carbine rear sight. An easy way to tell the difference between the M91/24 and the M91/28 is that the former retains the original rifle rear sight (*right*). This example was originally manufactured in 1918 and was modified in 1925.



Member 3 shared a Spanish copy of a Smith & Wesson double action revolver (*left*), probably produced post-WWI. Due to lax Spanish patent laws at the time, Spanish arms manufacturers often made unauthorized copies of popular foreign firearms designs. Marked "Made in Spain", this revolver is chambered in .38 S&W Long. It features aftermarket Franzite plastic grips, which date from the 1930s-1960s. Member 3 acquired this nice example at a recent gun show in Richmond.

Member 4 brought in an interesting WWII production Polish Vis-35 (at right and below). The Vis-35 was a semi-automatic, single action pistol chambered in 9x19 Parabellum. This example, manufactured at the Radom factory while under German occupation, is probably from late war production when cost cutting and time saving measures included rough machining and a deleted thumb safety. However, this

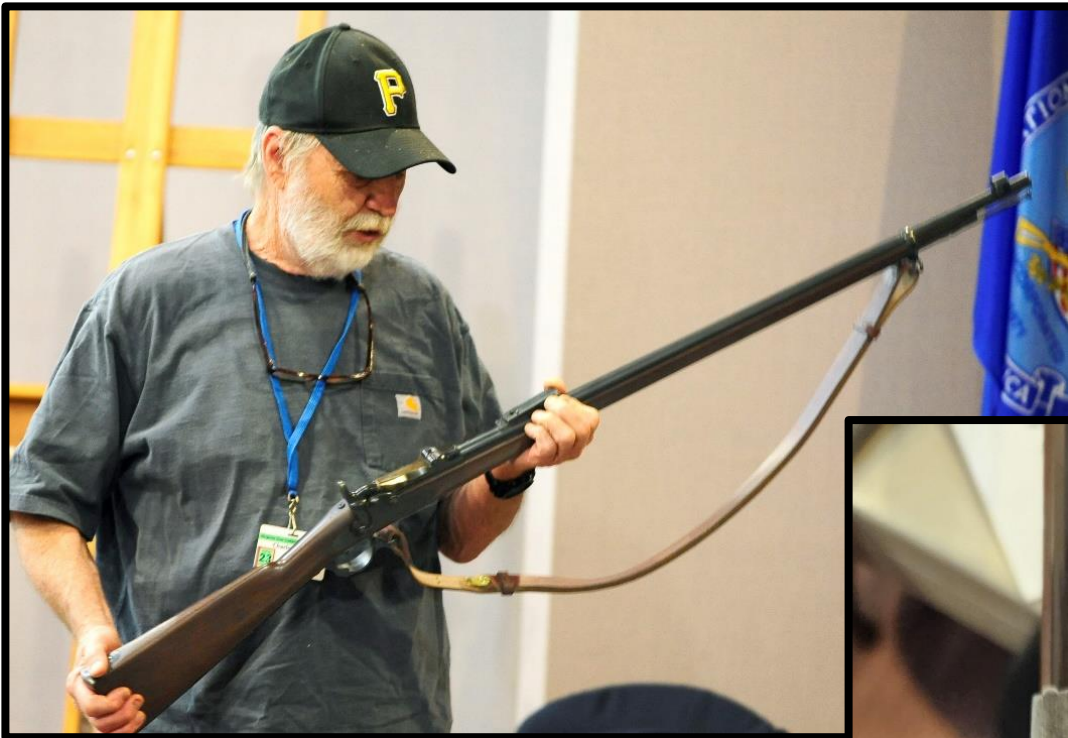


example features a mix of parts mid- and late-war parts (for example, the frame has an “F” series serial number which places it mid-war). The grip panels appear to be post-war replacements and the magazine is actually a modified Glisenti mag. An interesting piece indeed!

Member 5 shared his semi-automatic version of a classic submachinegun of WWII – the Russian PPSH-41 – aka the “PaPa Shah” (at right). Built by TNW Firearms in Vernonia, Oregon from Russian parts kits in the 1990s, this carbine now fires from a closed bolt and features a longer barrel (16 inches vice the original 10.6 inches) and barrel shroud to avoid requiring registration as a short-barreled rifle. Chambered for the original bottlenecked 7.62x25 round and utilizing the original 35-round stick and 71-round drum magazines, the TNW PPSH-41 handles like the original and is great fun to shoot! Member 5 also demonstrated how to load the drum magazine.







Member 6 brought in a Model 1884 Springfield “Trapdoor” rifle (*above*). The Model 1884 was an improvement over the earlier Model 1873, which was the first standard issue breechloading rifle adopted by the U.S. Army. Both models are chambered for the .45/70 cartridge, featuring a .45 caliber bullet in a self-contained centerfire case over 70 grains of black powder. One of the improvements of the Model 1884 was the Buffington rear sight (*detail at right*). Designed by Lieutenant

Colonel Adelbert Buffington (*image at left, from Wikipedia.org*) of the U.S. Army Ordnance Department, this new rear sight was graduated out to 1400 yards and has marked offset to the left as the set range is increased. This is designed to offset the drift imparted on the bullet by the spin from the rifling, though this was probably more of a theoretical benefit than an actual advantage in the field.

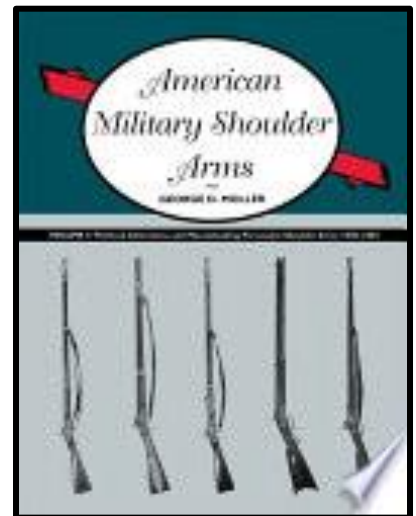


This particular M1884 was manufactured in 1889.

Member 7 shared another firearm with a Fenian connection, this one a U.S. Model 1863 Type II rifle (*right*). It is one of 40,000 three-band percussion muzzleloaders Remington (*lock plate shown below*) was contracted to produce during the latter part of the American Civil War. Only 10,000 were delivered before the end of the war, with the rest being delivered by 1866. Unusual in that this is still configured as a .58 caliber muzzleloader - most were re-purchased by Remington when they were declared surplus by the government in 1866 for conversion to cartridge guns and subsequent sale. This example has a Fenian “IN” marking and British proofs – indicating it possibly could have been captured in Canada in 1866...



This particular rifle is featured in George D. Moller's book "American Military Shoulder Arms Volume III" (*below*).







Member 8 brought in a rare piece – a Beretta Model 1931 (*left*). One of the least produced Beretta pistols of the modern age, only 1,010 were made in 1932 – 10 trial and 1,000 production guns – for the Regia Marina, the Royal Italian Navy (*see grip medallion below*). It is chambered for 7.65mm Browning, aka the .32 ACP.

Member 8 had watched this pistol on a popular on-line gun auction site for two years but was not positive it was a Model 1931 (the differences are subtle and it was



not listed as such). He contacted the seller who agreed to sell it to him at a reduced price – and when it arrived, he was able to confirm its model. Nicely done, sir!

Member 9 brought in a Winchester Model 1907 Self-Loading Rifle, but left without presenting it to the group. Produced from 1907 to 1957, the Model 1907 was an early semi-automatic rifle design that was blowback operated and chambered in the .351 Winchester Self-Loading (SL) cartridge. The .351 SL fired a 180 grain bullet at approximately 1,870 fps (more powerful than the .357 Magnum). The Model 1907 weighed between 8 and 9 pounds (depending on the variant) and was popular with police and security officers for many years. Firing from 5, 10, 15, or 20 round detachable box magazines, Model 1907s were purchased France (5,000), Russia (500), and Great Britain (120) during WWI, typically to arm early observation aircraft. Member 9 had acquired this rifle, a takedown variant with an extended magazine and the original sling, on the day of the meeting!



Apologies as we failed to get any photographs of this Show-n-Tell piece (*image of similar example above from Rock Island Auction*).

# ★ 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

- 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 2, 2023 – Parkville, MD – Baltimore County Game & Fish – *Baltimore County Game & Fish Protective Association*
- Sep 9-10, 2023 – West Friendship, MD – Howard County Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Sep 23-24, 2023 – Crownsville, MD - Anne Arundel Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Sep 23-24, 2023 – Ocean City, MD – Ocean City Convention Center – *Showmasters*

## PENNSYLVANIA – 2023

- 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*
- 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 9-10, 2023 – Gettysburg, PA – Allstar Events Complex – *Eagle Shows*
- Sep 10, 2023 – Portland, PA – William Pensyl Social Hall – *Portland Hook & Ladder Co. #1*
- Sep 16-17, 2023 – Pittsburgh, PA – David L. Lawrence Convention Center – *Eagle Shows*

## PENNSYLVANIA – 2023 (continued)

- 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

- ~~Jul 2, 2023 – New Castle, DE – Nur Shrine Center – *DE Antiques Arms Collectors Assoc. Inc.*~~  
**CANCELLED**
- Jul 22-23, 2023 - Wilmington, OH – Roberts Convention Centre – *Ohio Gun Collectors Association* – Special Guests: Ruger Owners and Collectors Society (ROCS) and the Remington Society of America (RSA)
- Sep 3, 2023 – New Castle, DE – Nur Shrine Center – *DE Antiques Arms Collectors Assoc. Inc.*
- Sep 16-17, 2023 - Wilmington, OH – Roberts Convention Centre – *Ohio Gun Collectors Association* – Special Guests: Winchester Arms Collector Association and the German Gun Collectors Association

---

## 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.

---

## 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)

---



**FOR SALE:**

✪ After more than two and a half years of research, VGCA member Bill Vanderpool has recently published his book **Guns of the FBI**. This book is available at GunDigest.com or can be purchased directly from Bill by calling 703-626-2975. He is more than happy to sign a copy for you. Cost is \$50.00.

---

**FOR SALE:**

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

---

**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 1/4" 450 grain DGX, 20 round box, very limited production. \$125.00

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



✪ **WWII Shovel.** 100% functional. Marked “WOOD” with Korean War dated cover. \$80.00

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

---

**FOR SALE:**

✪ Frankford Arsenal Precision Case Trimmer. Like new. All parts included. \$50



✪ Lyman Case Prep Xpress - \$140 Only used for about 200 rounds. All parts included. Great shape. This cost \$184 new. Selling for only \$140



✪ Lyman Universal Trimmer with 9 Pilot Multi-Pack Trims .17 Cal to .458 Cal WITH power adaptor. Spare parts included and extra cutting head. Combined, this would be \$145. Selling for \$100.

Will sell all three items together for \$250.

Contact Gregg Malakoff at [greggm65@hotmail.com](mailto:greggm65@hotmail.com)



---

### 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)

---

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.