



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

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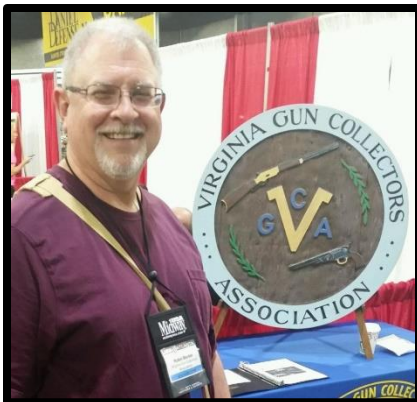
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June 2024 VGCA Newsletter



President's Comments

Greetings fellow members—

First – let me say that I am humbled and honored to have been selected as your president. I follow in the footsteps of giants, beginning with Ed Johnson who founded the VGCA in 1983, and all the way to my predecessor Ed Costello, and can only hope and pray that I am up to the task!

Your other officers for the next two years are George Dungan returning as Vice President, Shannon Zeigler returning as Treasurer, and Bruce Buchner stepping in as Secretary. They are all hard-working and extremely dedicated individuals and I am proud to serve with them. Together with our directors and other members of the Executive Committee, we will do our best to continue to advance our VGCA to among the premier gun collecting organizations.

I make no claims to being a deep strategic thinker, but I have come up with some goals for the VGCA and discussed those with the other officers and directors. After some modifications I believe we have a good roadmap and I plan to go over those at our June Membership Meeting.

Speaking of which, our June meeting will be another good one, with member Tor Johnson talking to us about the Schmidt-Rubin Rifle and its ammunition. I hope to see you there – and if you can't make it on the 27th, be sure to sign up via Webinar so you can watch the presentation either in real time that night or later at your leisure. Cheers!

Rob Becker, VGCA President

★ May Presentation – The Beretta Model 1951

VGCA member Troy Blackwood (*on the left, with fellow Italian Firearms collector Louie DiGaelano on the right*), our resident expert in Italian military arms, gave an impressively detailed presentation on the Beretta Model 1951. The path to an Italian military sidearm chambered in 9mm Parabellum is rather long. Troy provided the following timeline:

1906 – Italy adopts the Glisenti M1906 in 7.63x25

1908 – Germany adopts the P08 Luger in 9mm Parabellum

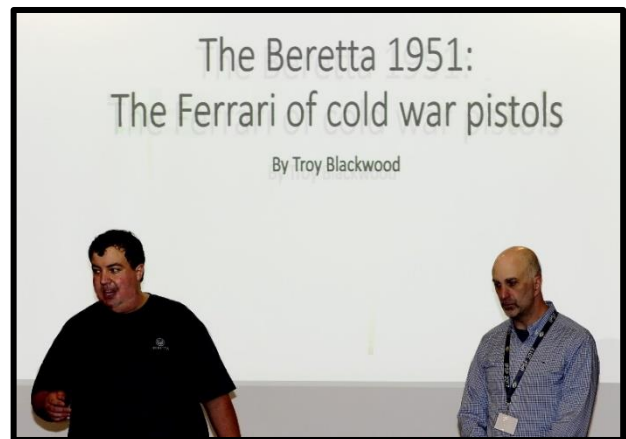
1910 – Italy adopts a Glisenti chambered in 9mm Glisenti (this cartridge has case dimensions identical to the 9mm Parabellum (9x19) but down-loaded to the chamber pressure and ballistics of the .380 ACP)

What followed over the next 20 plus years was a series of Beretta pistols developed and adopted by the Italian military in various calibers, including 9mm Glisenti, 32 ACP, and .380 ACP. Though these guns would serve Italy through two world wars, a shift in military sidearms development began in the mid-1930s. The first generation of “Wonder 9s” – single or double-action pistols chambered in 9mm Parabellum and with a single stack magazine – began to appear. Before WWII, these included the Radom Vis-35 (Poland), the FN Browning P-35 Hi-Power (Belgium), the Walther P-38 (Germany), and the Lahti L-35 (Finland) / Lahti M-40 (Sweden). Post WWII would see many of these designs continue to serve in several countries, along with the addition of the superlative Sig P49/P210 (Switzerland). Beretta had begun development of a scaled-up Model 1934 chambered in 9mm Parabellum in 1938-1940, but development was shut down following Italy’s entrance into WWII. Only one known example of these early prototypes still exists.

Beretta resumed development post-war and in 1950 built a series of prototypes for a new pistol (dubbed the M1950), the first with a push button magazine release as opposed to the typical European “heel” mag release. Other prototypes followed, with changes in the safety and take-down levers as well as incorporating the Browning tilting barrel/slide arrangement. The Beretta open top slide design did not leave enough room for a solid Browning type barrel/slide lock-up, so the design then switched to the Walther tilting block similar to the Walther P-38. The M1950 was not adopted.

An improved version designated the Model 1951 came next. It featured wrap-around plastic grips and a redesigned safety. The M1951 is a short recoil–operated, locked breech pistol with a Walther-style vertically falling locking piece and the trademark Beretta open top slide. Chambered in 9mm Parabellum, the Model 1951 utilized an 8-round single stack magazine and features a last round slide lock. The initial limited run of 100 pistols were made with alloy frames, but these had durability issues when dealing with the recoil of the 9x19 cartridge. Versions labeled “PB 951” and “PB1004” and marked “Made in Italy” were sold on the commercial market (the latter is rare).

Starting in 1955, the Model 1951 was manufactured with steel frames. Though heavier than the alloy-framed version, this “second variation” had the durability the earlier alloy-framed pistols lacked. The



new Egyptian Arab Republic adopted the Model 1951 for their military with some relatively minor modifications – taller sights, narrower grips, and a return to the heel mag release. Designated the Model 951, it is estimated that 15,000 to 20,000 were produced (possibly as many as 50,000). Production would shift from Italy to Egypt in the early 1960s. A target model, featuring a longer barrel and wood grips with a thumb rest would be adopted by Egypt as the Model 51/57 “Barhama.”

The Model 1951 was accepted into service with the Italian Navy, Air Force, and the Carabinieri (a type of national police force), though it was never adopted by the Italian Army (they kept their venerable Model 1934s in .380 ACP), Both the Model 1934 and the Model 1951 would serve two more decades when they were ultimately replaced by the Beretta Model 92 in 1977. The Carabinieri would also acquire the Model 1951R, a select fire version with a wooden vertical grip and a rate of fire of 750 rounds per minute.

Troy went on to describe various civilian variants, such as the Beretta 952 and 952 Special (a target version with a longer barrel and target sights and grips). Interestingly, these were initially marked “Model 1951” but the designation was changed to 952 at the request of the Italian government.



Troy reviewed various copies manufactured in different countries (*examples of some are shown above*). The previously noted Egyptian licensed copy was called the “Helwan” and was manufactured by Maadi. Early examples were marked “UAR” for the United Arab Republic while later production was marked “ARE” for Arab Republic of Egypt. The “Helwan Brigadier” was sold commercially in the United States and the Middle East but was notorious for questionable quality/metallurgy and cracked frames and locking blocks are not unknown.

In 1975 through 1978, Beretta produced their last version of the Model 1951. These were made for the Carabinieri and went back to alloy frame (improved over the first variant) to save weight. These feature an “F” prefix to their serial numbers and are very scarce.

As the final chapter in the story of the Model 1951, Beretta would sell the tooling to Saddam Hussein’s Iraq where it was built as the “Tariq.” Quality was considered “inconsistent.” The Tariq was never exported to the U.S. and any encountered here were no doubt arrived through unofficial means following Operations Desert Storm or Iraqi Freedom.

Finally, Troy concluded his presentation with a discussion of various manufacturing changes over the course of production, noting many of the associated details. The next time you see him, please thank Troy for sharing his knowledge of and passion for Italian firearms with us!



★ JUNE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Al Reid, VGCA Legislative Affairs

A Small WIN for the 2nd Amendment

A Texas judge just issued a preliminary injunction protecting VCDL, GOA, and TFA members, as well as residents of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Utah from having the BATFE’s “engaged in the business” regulation being enforced against them! The injunction will remain in place until there is a final resolution of the lawsuit at some point in the future!

This injunction will last indefinitely until the case is finally heard and ruled on by the court.

Remember: If you don’t live in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, or Utah, you must be a VCDL, GOA, or TFA member to be protected.

This week has also been a great one for other similar rules:

A Texas Court has vacated the ATFs Pistol Brace Rule in its entirety. This means that if you place an arm brace on a pistol you no longer need to register it as an SBR. Basically, returning to the standards of the last few years. Unless ATF contests the decision, the Rule is dead. The Appeals Court already found against the ATF on this Rule so unless there is a radical change of mind the current court ruling will stand. The Supreme Court has also vacated the Bump Stock Rule as well. However, the Presiding Judge did recommend that Congress decide on whether they should vote to bring it into law.

Club members, the VCDL has been tireless in its fight for Virginia 2nd Amendment Rights. In the author’s opinion, if you are not a member of the VCDL, you should consider joining. Membership is \$25 per year, about the average cost of a box of ammunition, supporting the organization potentially allows you to collect, use, sell and display the items that we are members of VGCA for. The other organizations listed above do the same, however VCDL is Virginia based and passionate about Virginian rights.

★ Last Issue of the Paper VGCA Newsletter

The VGCA Executive Committee voted in early 2020 to cease publishing the printed version of our newsletter in order to save money. Serving less than 40 members, the benefits just did not justify the costs. Executing this decision was postponed during the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent quarantine, but it is now time implement this cost-savings measure. The Executive Committee decided earlier this year that the June 2024 issue would be our last printed newsletter.

The differences between the printed and electronic versions are striking. The printed version is typically 8-12 pages long in black-and-white. The electronic version is 30+ pages in color and includes many features that we simply don’t have room to publish in the hard copy version.

If you would like start getting our electronic version, please provide George Dungan or Rob Becker with an email address and we ensure it is added to our Constant Contact database. In addition, we will soon be loading every issue on our website [Virginia Gun Collectors Association \(vgca.net\)](http://Virginia Gun Collectors Association (vgca.net)). **Again – this June 2024 edition is the last printed version of our newsletter.**

★ Meet Your New VGCA Officers

President – Rob Becker



I have been around firearms my entire life. I started hunting with my dad at age 12 and ever since then have enjoyed hunting, reloading, and recreational shooting. I started “collecting” guns when I purchased a Springfield Model 1884 almost 35 years ago. – but I am more of an “accumulator” than a collector! That said, I do tend to concentrate on WWII and Cold War military small arms and flare guns.

I first learned about the VGCA while attending the gun shows in Bealeton and have always enjoyed the educational displays – both learning from others and building my own. I always look forward to our monthly gatherings and have thoroughly enjoyed every one. I am also a member of the Garand Collectors Association, the Ohio Gun Collectors Association, a life member of the NRA, and a life member of the VGCA. I served as the VGCA Secretary for the last 8 years and it is an honor to now serve as your president.

Vice President – George Dungan



I joined the VGCA back in 2017 at one of their Gun Shows and was sponsored by Shannon Ziegler, as we both had an interest in Japanese arms and history. I learned long ago that the best way to get the most out of any group was to volunteer for their events, so I worked security at our gun shows and the membership table at Chantilly gun shows. By doing so I got to know more seasoned collectors such as Marc Gorelick, Rick Nahas, Bernie Breighner, and Dave Litchfield; all of whom, along with others, were very helpful in helping me learn more about guns, gun collecting, and the VGCA.

My first Board position was Legislative Affairs and later I agreed to be the Membership Director. This will be my second term as Vice President and I will also continue as Membership Director. My primary VGCA focus will continue to be retention of existing members and increased member involvement.

While I still have some interest in collecting Japanese arms and police/military marked handguns, my current focus is on Winchester lever action rifles and carbines. I find the high number of variations and the uses of these guns very interesting. As there are more Winchesters in the western part of the country, it also gives me a good reason to travel to gun shows in Nevada, Arizona, and Utah in search of models that I want to add to my collection.

Treasurer – Shannon Zeigler



I am not sure when my interest of firearms really began. However at age 11 I received a Daisy Red Ryder for Christmas. A few years later, I graduated to a Crossman 760 pellet rifle. Growing-up in 1970s small-town east of Cincinnati, Ohio, I did not know any gun collectors, nor did I realize people collected firearms – never heard of OGCA – can you believe that? I remember seeing TV ads for Bill Goodman’s

gun shows – I thought it odd someone would want to show their guns to strangers. Anyway, it was not until my Army enlistment was up and I was in college that I stumbled across a small VFW-sponsored gun show (love those VFW shows) in Maysville, Kentucky. My collecting interest have evolved somewhat, but I am still an avid pre-’89 “assault rifle” collector with a fondness for Colt AR-15s, early semi-auto military rifles, Japanese Arisakas, and machine guns. I joined the VGCA in 2007, and have served as your treasurer since 2014. I enjoy the camaraderie, fellowship, and learning at our monthly meetings and semi-annual gun shows.

Secretary – Bruce Buchner



I’m originally from near Chicago, Illinois and retired from the Army in 1994. I then worked as a DoD contractor and civilian employee until I retired for good in 2017. While I was a competitive shooter in high school and college I’m a late starter as a collector. I only started accumulating about 2001. I became interested in early semiautomatic pistols because of the fascinating variety of mechanisms used by inventors to make a better pistol and get around other inventors patents. I was recruited for VGCA by the late Kelly Cook and found a lot of new friends. I started assisting at the membership table to get to know the other members and am honored to be the new Secretary. I’ve not done any displays or presentations yet but hope to soon.

As each of these officers was running unopposed, per Article VII, paragraph E of the VGCA By-Laws, they have been elected by vote of acclamation and no ballots were required. Their term of office starts on June 1st of this year and runs through our May meeting in 2026



★ Next Membership Meeting: June 27th

**Presentation: “The Schmidt-Rubin Rifle and Ammunition”
by Tor Johnson**

Location: NRA HQ Basement Auditorium

Our June VGCA Membership Meeting will be in the basement auditorium of the NRA Headquarters. The room will open at 6 p.m. with pizza (we are asking for a \$5 donation per person for the pizza) arriving shortly thereafter and the meeting starting at 7 p.m. We hope you can make it!

NOTE: The originally scheduled presentation on “the FN FAL” by Carlos Davila has been rescheduled for our August meeting.

★ New VGCA Director

In addition to the new VGCA officers taking charge this month, the Executive Committee approved member Troy Blackwood to fill the Director position made vacant by Andrew Woodard’s recent appointment as our permanent Gun Show Director. In accordance with VGCA By-Laws Article VII, paragraph H, Troy will serve the rest of Andrew’s term until next May, when all three Director positions will be up for election. Look for Troy’s biography in our next newsletter. In the meantime, be sure to congratulate him the next time you see him!



★ VGCA Tee Shirts

New VGCA Tee Shirts are now available for purchase. Tan colored and featuring the VGCA patch on the left breast, the VGCA logo on the right sleeve, and the Virginia state flag on the left, they are available in sizes from medium up to XL. The cost is \$20 and they can be purchased at our membership meetings – but don’t wait – there are only about 20 left!

Member Bryan Pelton (on left) was selling VGCA Tee Shirts at our November Gun Show while Bruce Buchner (on right) proudly wore his new shirt while manning the membership table.

★ Do you love history and firearms ...

like being organized, have a decent command of the English language, possess fair computer skills, and can dedicate a few hours each month to the VGCA? Then you may be just the person to take over as our newsletter editor! Rob Becker will continue as our editor through the end of this year but is looking for some relief. If you think this is something you would be willing to take on, please contact any officers or members of the VGCA Executive Committee.



★ May Meeting Notes

VGCA President Ed Costello called the May membership meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Jim Burgess led us through the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence in honor of our fallen veterans. New members and guests were introduced. There were 39 members and guests in attendance and an additional 5 participated via webinar.

Troy Blackwood and Louie DiGaelano, who represented the VGCA at the NRA Annual Membership Meeting in Dallas, Texas with their display of Italian Military Pistols, gave a report on their experiences there. There were 16 other collecting organizations represented, many of them with museum-quality displays, and though none of Troy or Lou’s rare pistols garnered a coveted NRA Silver Medallion, the team did bring home a “Spirit of the Game” award for their effort (*at right*). They met Carlo Beretta, second in line to the Beretta Company and who took a keen interest in their display. He especially liked the Beretta Model 1951, handling one for the first time. They also met the chairman of Beretta USA and Beretta regional sales reps. Stay tuned for the possibility of a future VGCA tour of the Beretta facilities in Tennessee!



President Ed Costello brought up the new Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE) ruling that redefined what “engaged in the business” means. Rob Becker listed several of the new criteria that could get a citizen selling a gun without a Federal Firearms License (FFL) in trouble as an “unlicensed dealer.” These include (but are not limited to):

- Selling even one firearm with the intent to make a profit
- Repetitively purchasing firearms for resale
- Selling a firearm within 30 days of purchasing it
- Keeping a spreadsheet with a list of your guns, what you paid for them and the selling price
- Renting a table at a gun show to sell guns

Marc Gorelick noted that there was court stay against the new rule issued on behalf of several pro-Second Amendment groups that filed court cases against the BATFE. Phil Hill read the actual ruling. This stay applies to members of Gun Owners of America, the Virginia Citizens Defense League, the Tennessee Firearms Association, and citizens of several states (including Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Utah.

Treasurer Shannon Zeigler gave an update on how our April Gun Show did financially. While the VGCA did well in the new-to-us venue at the Dale City VFW (much better than our last few shows at the Prince William County Fairgrounds), the overall attendance was still less than our spring show in 2023. Every member needs to do their part to boost our gun show attendance numbers!



Our next gun show will be on 19-20 October. Show Director Andrew Woodard (*left*) announced that we have already rented 101 out of ~137 total.

Following the presentation and Show-n-Tells for the night, Ed Costello, as his last official act as President, handed the VGCA gavel used to call meetings to order to his successor, Rob Becker. Thank you, Ed, for two years of outstanding leadership!



The Beretta Model 1932: The Missing Link to the Beretta 1934

*By: Troy Blackwood
Edited By: Marc Gorelick*

Long before the Beretta 92/M9 series of the pistols, the Beretta 1934 pistol was the most recognizable Beretta pistol produced. The Beretta 1934 was the standard Italian army pistol from 1936 with the final orders from the Italian government being in 1991! The pistol was popular among soldiers of both sides during World War II for its compact size, adequate stopping power, and more than adequate magazine capacity. The Beretta 1934 was also made infamous when it was used to kill Mahatma Gandhi in 1948, much like the FN 1900 which was used in several famous assassinations, forever cementing its place in history.

While the Beretta 1934 is well known and recognizable to many, its precursor, the Beretta 1932 is so forgotten that it hardly even gets its own chapter in the few reference books on Beretta firearms. When these guns are found for sale they are often misidentified, despite being the rarest production Beretta pistol ever produced!

The Beretta 1932 was an important but largely forgotten step in the final production and success of the Beretta 1934 pistol. It is interesting in that, it is at the same time a standard production pistol for the Italian navy and a transitional model for the Italian army. It came to be in a period of rapid changes in Italian military. Unlike the United States, Italian military adoption of small arms is a bit different. The Italian military holds trials on various small arms and will pick a desired pattern of pistol. At this time the chosen arm becomes a sealed pattern. This sealed pattern will get a model designation with year of the sealed pattern. Then while tooling up happens for full production the first production pistols are tweaked, and experimental models are produced. If the changes become drastic enough this will produce a new sealed pattern and the process will start over.



Beretta 1922 Naval marked in .32 ACP

The development of the Beretta 1932 started in the early 1920's. After the successful sale of the model 1922 (sometimes called 1915-1919 or simply 1919) pistol in .32 ACP to the navy Beretta wanted to develop a full-sized martial handgun for the Italian army. This handgun would again be a further revision of the Beretta 1915 pistol design. It was again a direct blowback hammer fired single stack pistol in 9mm Glisenti. While 9mm Glisenti was a quite weak cartridge it was still considered the standard cartridge of the Italian military in the 1920's. This new model would be called the Beretta 1923 pistol but would not be selected by the Italian army due to its poor choice of caliber. However, it represented an important first step in the development towards the



Army production Beretta 1923 in 9mm Glisenti

The failure of the 1923 pistol would push Beretta to continue to work on this design.

Despite the army rejecting the 1923 the Italian Ministry of War decided it was time to adopt a new standard pistol for all branches of the military. The decision about the design would drag on into the late 1920's. The Italian ministry of war was dead set on adopting a new pistol in a caliber larger than .32ACP. One of Beretta's connections in the Ministry of War went so far as to claim that the 1923 design could handle the 9mm Parabellum cartridge. Two unmodified 1923 pistols were sent over for testing on December 15th 1930. Unsurprisingly, these pistols failed to withstand the 9mm Parabellum pressures.

Oddly enough during this same time period Beretta was working on an updated pistol for the Italian navy which had been working with Beretta on requested changes to the 1922 design since Ministry of War's original call for a new pistol. The navy unlike the Ministry of War, was still interested an updated .32 ACP pistol. This design would largely

be a scaled down version of the Beretta 1923 pistol. The navy test guns which would chamber the .32 ACP cartridge retained the external hammer and disconnecter featured on the 1923 pistol. These pistols would also return to form with wood grip panels as opposed to the metal grip panels used in the 1919, 1922, and 1923 designs. However, the original guns sent to the Ministry of War for the army tests would be 1923 pistols cambered for the .380 ACP cartridge known as the 9mm "Corto" or short in Italy. There are no known surviving examples of these modified 1923 pistols known to



Rare civilian Production late pattern Beretta 1931

exist. Samples were sent out throughout the year to various branches of the Italian military. The Italian navy was the only branch seriously looking into pistols at the time though.

The first pistol of the new scaled down design was sent to the Italian navy for testing on September 9th 1931. The navy would select this pistol for adoption and full-scale production was set to begin in 1932. This created the sealed pattern for the Beretta 1931. The first 1,000 pistols were ordered December 8th 1931 and production would begin with serial number 400,000. As the first guns got into the hands of sailors, the navy requested that the grip frame angle be adjusted. The bottom corner of the grip frame was found to have a sharp edge and the navy requested that it be rounded off. By serial number 401,500 the tooling was changed to accommodate this. This early rounding essentially ground down the pointed corner. Again, the grip frame's bottom corner was found to be too sharp so it was further rounded and redesigned, changing the grip angle. This later style contours the frame to somewhat follow the lines of the magazine release lever. After all these changes it was still felt that this grip was not comfortable. So, the navy requested a modification to the grip angle. It is likely test pistols with modified grip angles were sent to the navy for testing as there are examples of one offs before tooling was fully changed over to the new frame design. These test pistols can be found in as low in as low as the 402,000 range for 1931 pistols. The navy approved the new design. These one-off sample production pistols began to see limited production in 1932 and would be the basis of the 1932 pistol.

In January 1932 the Ministry of War finally decided to seek adoption of a standard sidearm for all branches of the Italian military. On January 26th Beretta submitted two examples of a pistol marked 1915-1919 model 1932. These pistols appear to be 1931 pistols with the new grip angle requested by the navy and in .380 ACP. From a letter that Beretta sent with these two pistols, this is likely the first mention of the Beretta 1932 model. Oddly enough it is in a different caliber from the Italian navy 1932 pattern that would be sealed this same year. This really denotes the beginning of the 1932 design.

We now come to a point in the story where two branches of the military are both looking at the same pistol albeit in two different calibers. The navy is now tooling up for full scale production of their modified 1931 pistols that are now being called the 1932, although it is sometimes referred to as 1923/32 pistols in letters.

On October 6th 1932 the army requested an additional 26 pistols for testing. These pistols started with serial number 500,001 through 500,026. Pistol 500,001 was sent to Fiocchi for testing. The other 25 went to Terni. Pistol 500,025 was equipped with a magazine safety. It is important to note that at least one well known Beretta expert believes this pistol with the magazine safety to be the only produced model 1932 pistol. This, however, is highly debated in the Beretta collecting community.

Returning to the navy, in 1933 production of the navy's modified 1931 pistols will eventually begin to be marked 1932 with the 2 over stamping the second 1. This is not



Naval Production Beretta 1932

present on all examples however, as a majority of these pistols do not have the over stamped 1. This stamp would begin to show up on guns produced in 1933 after the adoption of the 1932 sealed pattern. The tooling was never changed to update the model designation on the roll mark to say model 1932. All of the model 1932 pistols with a 1932 roll mark have the second “1” in 1931 over stamped with a “2”. The 1932 model really becomes finalized for the navy around gun 406,000. The author would like to point out at least one example of a 1931 pistol in the 1932 serial range. Serial number 406147 is a late production Beretta 1931 pistol in the Beretta 1932 serial number range.

These guns had the new grip angle that the navy requested and basically were the same as the guns submitted to the army in 1932 but in .32 ACP. Production of navy model 1932 pistols continued into 1934 and June 27th, 1934, would mark the end of production of the 1932 pistol. This last batch of guns for the navy, sent to the La Spezia Arsenal would contain one pistol marked 1934. Model 1932 pistol, serial number 407969, had the new 1934 mark with a 4 over stamped on the 1. In addition to this the roll mark now includes the fascist calendar date that is present on later standard production 1934/1935 pistols. This really marks the end point for the short lived 1932 pistol design. This is confirmed by Pietro Beretta himself in an April 14th, 1934 letter sent to the Ministry of War “I have the honor to inform you that the handgun supplied, having undergone improvements compared to model 1932, will be defined model 1934”. By June of this same year guns chambered in .32ACP and .380ACP now bear the 1934 model designation. These .32 ACP 1934 pistols will begin to transition into improvements found during army testing of the 1932 pistol in .380ACP. The last nail in the coffin comes around serial number 408,000 where the Bakelite grips with steel supports now begin to appear on the newly designated 1934 pistols. The design of the .32ACP caliber Model 1934 pistol will be finalized around serial number 412,000. In an effort to highlight that these are different models Beretta will designate these .32 ACP 1934 pistols as the Beretta 1935. This will even be stamped on guns between 414,000 and 418,000. Oddly enough the m1935 roll mark was short lived and was quickly changed to a 7.62 marking but the m1935 designation would stick with the pistol through the rest of production.

The 1931 model mark on the slide presents quite the challenge to the modern collector. Someone who does not know about a Beretta 1932 could mistake it for a Beretta 1935 with a 1931 slide. This pistol, unlike many other Beretta pistols of the era can be quite easily faked to an unknowing collector. Thankfully to the modern-day collector there is one sure way to be able to tell if a pistol is fake or not. A real Beretta 1932 will not feature a half cock notch on the hammer where a standard 1934 pistol will. Even the early 1934's in .32 ACP after serial number 410,000 will have this feature. So even if someone were to put a 1931 slide on a Beretta 1934/1935 it could be identified as fake by the presence of the half cock notch. As previously stated, the Beretta 1932 pistols also have a known serial number range from 406,000 to around 407,700. So any pistols with a serial number outside of this range should be taken cautiously. The author states this as there are a few examples of preproduction 1932 pistols below the 406,000 range but these should have all matching serial numbers and be below 406,000 with an angled grip frame.



Early naval acceptance mark on a Beretta 1922

There are also some more subtle differences between a standard Beretta 1932 and the later Beretta 1934/1935. The model 1932 pistols have the roll mark “Pistola Beretta 7.62 Brev 1915-1919 MO 1931” or “1932” with the 2 being engraved or stamped over the second 1 before bluing. Along with different roll marks on the slide the frame will have a similarly unique naval acceptance stamp like that of the Beretta 1931 pistol. This nontraditional mark will be found on the left side of the pistol near the beavertail. The

top mark will be the letter “BF” in an oval. Under that you will find a shield in an oval that is similar to that of a naval acceptance Carcano M91/28 carbine. This marking is not the standard naval acceptance marking at the time and is quite unusual but it is found on the Beretta 1931 and 1932 pistols. However, we know there to be at least one example featuring the early oval naval acceptance stamp like that found on a Beretta 1922 (pictured above). By the time of the 1935 pistol the navy will have returned to their traditional RM anchor stamp on the frame. To further confuse matters there are some later naval pistols for the Beretta 1935 that have another nonstandard naval mark with just the inspector’s mark. The grip panels will be made of wood and navy guns will have a medallion with an “RM” around an anchor for Regia Marina. This will be in the lower 3rd of the grips on both sides. This RM medallion marking is closer to what a typical naval acceptance mark looks like on pistols of the era. Commercial guns will feature a PB medallion in the same spot. On the slide the pin holding the firing pin in place will have a slightly different indent in the slide.



Naval Medallion found on 1932

The remaining differences will be internal. The shape and size of the transfer bar and sear arm are slightly shorter and fatter on the Beretta 1932 (see images below). The bolt holding in the sear arm is rounded on the 1932 pistol, as opposed to the 1934 and 1935 where it has a sear bolt with a hexagonal head. The Beretta 1932 also has a smaller rounded screw than the Beretta 1931 sear bolt. The pin holding the magazine catch in place will be longer and act as a locator stud for the wood grips on the 1932 pistol. The screw heads on the 1934 grips will be slightly fatter. The firing pin on the 1932 will have a square notch in it unlike the firing pin on a 1934 that has a half-moon notch. The final noticeable difference in the frame is the location of a pin for the magazine catch.



Beretta 1932 Firing pin retaining pin (left), Beretta 1934 firing pin retaining pin (right)



Evolution of the sear bolt, Beretta 1931 large round bolt (left), Beretta 1932 small round bolt (middle), Beretta 1934 hexagonal bolt (right)

The Beretta 1932 continued the same serial range on from the end of Beretta 1931 production. The Beretta 1932 production was thought to have started around 406,000 and ran as high as 407,700's so total production would be around 1,700 guns on the high end. This would make it Beretta's rarest standard production pistol.

The author hopes that this article helps to shed some light on this rare pistol. The author would also be happy to look at any further examples of these pistols, as the known serial numbers of these guns currently sits at less than a couple dozen known to the author.



Beretta 1932 grip screw (left), Beretta 1934 grip screw (right)

★ 2024 Presentation List ★

| MEETING DATE | TOPIC | PRESENTER |
|--------------|---|---------------|
| 27 Jun 2024 | The Schmidt-Rubin Rifle and Ammunition | Tor Johnson |
| | <i>No meeting in July due to our Summer Break</i> | |
| 22 Aug 2024 | The FN FAL | Carlos Davila |
| 26 Sep 2024 | The History of the Finnish Mosin-Nagant | Matt DiRisio |
| 24 Oct 2024 | Assault Rifles 101: Birth of the Kalashnikov AK-47 | Bryan Pelton |
| | <i>No meeting in November due to our Fall Gun Show / Thanksgiving</i> | |
| TBD Dec 2024 | Annual Holiday Pot Luck & Swap Meet – no presentation | |

If you have any presentation suggestions – or would like to make a presentation yourself in 2025 – please contact Matthew G. at matthewofmclean@gmail.com or one of the VGCA officers or directors.

VGCA GUNS OF DISTINCTION:

ARGENT 1750 DUCAL FLINTLOCK SHOTGUN

By Marc Gorelick

Photographs courtesy of Joh. Springer, Vienna Austria



During the 1700's the noble houses of Europe commissioned some beautiful guns for themselves and their close relations and senior court officials, and this double barreled shotgun is no exception. This ornately decorated shotgun was made around 1750 by D. Argent of Stuttgart for the Hunting Master to the Ducal Court of Wurttemberg.



The shotgun has two 31 inch (79cm) long, side by side 20 gauge round barrels with a concave rib. The barrels are inlaid on top with silver rocailles and silver inlaid maker's name "D. ARGENT A STUTTGARD (sic)." The breech ends of the barrels are decorated with inlaid with gold ribbons and they have gold washed flash holes. It has French style flintlocks with rocaille shaped cocks, raised lockplates that are chiseled in bas relief with game scenes, and double triggers.



The walnut half-stock has brass furniture carved with oak leaf and is richly decorated with brass inlaid rocailles. The squared cheekpiece on the left side of the buttstock is inlaid with a crowned coat of arms of the Ducal House of Württemberg (from around 1750). Next to it is the dedication "F v. Spring" and "HHJM" for the Ducal Court Hunting Master (Herzöglicher Hof Jägermeister). Beneath that is "zu Württemberg" on a brass plate. It has a brass buttplate, trigger guard, sling swivel and sling button. The original ramrod has a horn tip.



This exquisite example of the 18th century German gunmaker's art was sold at auction by Joh. Springer of Vienna, Austria for about \$7,752 (6,500 euros).



★ Membership Chairman's Report – June

Please welcome the following new member to our group:

- **Wayne Hallem** of Gainesville
- **Douglas Cavileer** of Burke
- **Edward Land III** of Triangle
- **Mickey McIntire** of Beaverdam
- **Trent Maly** of Woodbridge
- **Chris Parios** of Gainesville
- **Josh Batten** of Fairfax Station
- **Keith Showman** of Falls Church
- **Elijah Sauder** of Aldie

If you know of anyone who would be interested in joining our organization, please invite them to a meeting or to our upcoming VGCA Gun Show.

Notice to New Member Sponsors: VGCA will be discontinuing hard copy versions of the VGCA Newsletters in July. Please make sure your prospective applicants **include a legible email address** and **telephone contact number** if at all possible and **make sure that your name is on the sponsorship form**. Without an email address new members will NOT receive the newsletter or VGCA announcements.

Membership Numbers: There are currently 433 Life members and 90 Annual Members for a total of 523 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 and Fredericksburg gun show and also at our VGCA gun shows. If you would like to volunteer to work a shift at an upcoming show, please contact George Dungan at george@eccominv.com or Bruce Buchner at buchnerb@cox.net.

The next Chantilly show is June 19th, 20th, and 21th and we need volunteers to work our membership table. Please contact Bruce Buchner at buchnerb@cox.net to get on the schedule.

Membership Renewal: All annual dues were due by the end of December and you need to be current to get in our VGCA shows for free. You can renew annually for \$30 or \$150 for life. Please use the form below to renew and either mail it in or bring it to a meeting and give it to either George Dungan or Bruce Buchner. If you are unsure of your membership status email george@eccominv.com and I will let you know.

George Dungan, Vice President and Membership Chair

Dues may be paid by mail by sending a Check for \$30 (please, NO USPS or other Money Orders) and the completed membership renewal form above to the address on the form. VGCA will also accept payments in person (CHECK or EXACT CHANGE preferred – I have NO CASH for change) with a completed renewal form. If members have questions, please email **George Dungan, Interim Membership Chair** at george@eccominv.com or call me at **571-243-6387**.

.....
Please detach and return with your payment
.....

Membership Renewal Request (AMR-2023_Oct)

VGCA, Inc., P.O. Box 2318, Merrifield, VA 22116-2318

Please complete and return this renewal form with your payment. Indicate Annual, Life or that you do not wish to renew your membership by checking the appropriate box below.

Please Print Clearly

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

- Enclosed is a check for \$30.00 for CY 2024 VGCA Annual Membership dues.
- I wish to upgrade to Life Membership in VGCA. Enclosed is a check for \$150.00.
- Remove my name from the VGCA membership roster.

Make all checks payable to VGCA (Please - NO CASH or Money Orders). If members have questions, please email **George Dungan, Interim Membership Chair** at george@eccominv.com or call me at **571-243-6387**.

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CMP UPDATE

By Marc Gorelick, CMP Liaison

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



REMINDER - NATIONAL MATCHES Camp Perry, Port Clinton, OH July 11-August 10, 2024

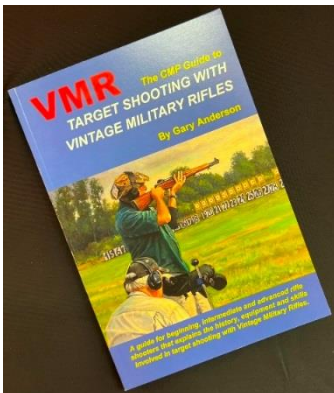
The Civilian Marksmanship Program’s National Matches are open to the public and the CMP encourages all marksman to participate in the Historic National Matches at Camp Perry in Port Clinton, Ohio. You can go as a competitor in one or more of the many matches, or as a spectator.

Held annually at Camp Perry, the National Matches include:

- Rimfire Sporter Match
- National Smallbore Matches
- Air Gun Nationals
- National Trophy Pistol Matches
- Highpower Rifle Championship (KTS Electronic Targets)
- National Match Air Gun Events
- National Trophy Rifle Matches
- National Match Games Matches
- National Mid- and Long Range Matches
- National Matches Camps, Clinics and Schools

The **National Match Program** and **National Match Calendar** are available online. For detailed information go to the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/cmp-national-matches/>.

CMP Guide to Target Shooting With Vintage Military Rifles



Vintage military rifle competitors and collectors will be excited to learn the Civilian Marksmanship Program published a book, entitled TARGET SHOOTING WITH VINTAGE MILITARY RIFLES, authored by Gary Anderson, Director of Civilian Marksmanship, Emeritus and two-time highpower rifle Olympic gold medalist. The 284-page, soft-bound, fully-illustrated book is likely the most comprehensive reference ever written about the methods of training and competing with popular American and foreign historical military rifles. The book is \$29.95 at the CMP E-store or at their stores at Camp Perry, OH and Anniston, AL. The CMP also has a large number of other reference books and technical manuals for sale. For more information visit the CMP at <https://shop.thecmp.org/browse/Books>.



★ In Review ★

The "In Review" section of the newsletter includes VGCA member reviews of gun shows, books, and museums. If you would like to submit a review, please send it to the newsletter editor at rpebecker@verizon.net.

A TRIP TO THE MUSEUM: THE ROSS E. BEARD COLLECTION AT THE CAMDEN ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM

By Marc Gorelick

Photos by author



Sometimes gun collectors and historians find jewels where they would not expect find them. The Ross E. Beard, Jr. collection in the Camden Archives and Museum is an example of that. Camden, South Carolina is known to students of American history as the center of a pivotal area during the Revolution. Following the British occupation of Charleston two important battles were fought there: the Battle of Camden (August 16, 1780) where British Lord Cornwallis devastatingly defeated General Horatio Gates, and the Battle of Hobkirk's Hill, where Lord Francis Rawdon defeated a numerically superior

American army under American General Nathaniel Greene. That battle was a tactical victory for Rawdon but a strategic victory for Greene as two weeks later Rawdon was compelled to abandon Camden.

Camden's is also known as the home of the Ross E. Beard Collection in the Camden Archives and Museum. Billed as "The Best Gun Collection in the South," in some respects it lives up to its reputation while in others, particularly in the display, it falls short. However it is a collection of national and international importance.

Ross Beard was 10 years old when he first met Melvin Purvis, the famed FBI agent. Beard's father, a police officer in Florence, SC, was a friend of Purvis's, and when Purvis "hired" young Ross to help clean and maintain his gun collection he started Ross on the road of being an avid gun collector and historian. They developed a strong and lasting friendship - Purvis became Ross's godfather and when he died Ross came into his large collection. Over the next 75 years he traveled throughout the world adding to his collection until he had over a thousand guns, many of historical significance. He moved to Camden after World War 2 and fell in love with the town and area. To show his appreciation to Camden, he placed his lifelong collection of antique and historic guns and military collectibles in the Archives and Museum.

The Beard Collection occupies a room towards the back of the museum and only a part of the collection is on display. The display is divided into several concentrations in large display cases. The largest concentration is of Beard's large collection of early and historical guns, the earliest of which dates from 1481. The other concentrations are those items that he acquired from three distinct sources - Melvin Purvis, U.S. M1 carbine designer David Williams and British secret agent Peter Mason.



Photo above – German Wheellock rifle, c.1540.

Photo left – Case 3 with a number of flintlocks from the 17th and 18th centuries.



Cases 1 through 3 contains the early and historical guns and associated items. Some of the earliest and most fascinating include a .70 caliber Arab matchlock rifle from the 1400's that was long enough to allow a mounted warrior to reload it without dismounting, a Chinese wheellock for about 1514 with its muzzle in the form of a dragon's mouth and with the barrel surface resembling dragon's skin, and a German wheellock circa 1540 ornately decorated with beautiful inlaid ivory and a compartment in the stock for spare parts and tools. There are also an Ottoman Turkish blunderbuss from the 1600's, a Colt-Root revolver and revolving rifle, and German Schuetzen rifles. Case 2 contains a number of guns from the pre-Civil War and Civil War periods including a Le Mat revolver guns. Case 3 predominantly contains flintlock guns from the 1600's and 1700's. These include an Arab snaphaunce from around 1650, a number of flintlock pistols decorated with hammered gold wire, and a hand carved and engraved French child's flintlock

musket made around 1720. Of particular interest is a Turkish gunmaker's model from the 1600's. These models were made by gunmakers to show off their skills and this one is decorated with inlaid silver wire

and turquoise. The case also contains guns from later eras including a German drilling, a modern Ruger revolver, and several presentation Colt revolvers.

Case 4 pays tribute to Melvin Purvis and contains many guns and items from Melvin Purvis's collection including his own weapons and those associated with famous gangsters, such as John Dillinger, "Pretty Boy" Floyd and "Baby Face" Nelson. On display are Dillinger's Colt Model 1903 .32 caliber pistol, his Parker sawed-off shotgun, and his Thompson M1928 Submachine Gun. There is also a great deal of memorabilia from Purvis's days as an FBI agent, including a letter from FBI Director to Purvis commending him for his actions in the death of "Pretty Boy" Floyd.



Photo above left – Display case 4 devoted to Melvin Purvis. Note the Thompson Submachine guns below.

Photo above right top – Colt M1911A1 owned by a gangster that Purvis killed.

Photo above left bottom – Melvin Purvis's .38 caliber Colt Police Positive w an FBI badge in the pearl grips.



Left (77) John Dillinger's .32 caliber Colt M1903. Right (78) Smith & Wesson used by Melvin Purvis in shootout where "Pretty Boy" Floyd died.

Case 5 is devoted to David “Carbine” Williams, who developed the M-1 Carbine and held 61 patents. This case holds numerous variations of M-1 carbines, including experimental models and prototypes. These include a Rock-Ola factory cut-away, an early “no number” prototype with an early “I” cut stock and an “L” sight, made and signed by “Carbine” Williams, a Winchester M1 carbine prototype, serial number 1, also signed by Williams, and an extremely rare M1 T3 model, also signed by Williams. For those not familiar with his story, Williams served many years in prison for killing a sheriff’s deputy during a raid on Williams’s still in 1921. While in prison, Williams worked on a number of firearm ideas, including for the M1 carbine. After being pardoned he worked for Winchester and other firearms companies before becoming a recluse back at his North Carolina home. Beard located him, begged for a meeting and began a 15-year friendship.



Photo left – Case 5 that pays tribute to David “Carbine” Williams and Peter Mason. Note the many M1 carbines including prototypes that were signed by Williams.

Photo right – Case 6 is devoted to handguns from several eras, including a number of Luger variations.

Case 5 also contains a number of items related to Peter Mason, a long-time friend of Beard’s. Mason was a member of the British Special Air Service (SAS) during and immediately after World War II. Captain Mason and his team were dispatched behind enemy lines to collect sensitive German information and/or capture or liquidate Nazis. He made 59 parachute jumps into German occupied Europe to kill 57 Gestapo and SS personnel responsible for the torture and death of British SOE (Special Operations Executive) and SAS agents. Mason’s work continued into the Cold War period and is still cloaked in secrecy, and he is said to be the inspiration for Ian Fleming’s James Bond. Some of the “hidden” weapons on display include 4mm pen and mechanical pencil guns, a single shot gun disguised as a cigarette, a pipe that contains a poison dart that was made for Mason, an umbrella with a retractable sleeve that exposes a poison needle and Mason’s Bowler hat with a metal lining that concealed a .25 caliber pistol.

Case 6 contains a large number of U.S. and foreign pistols, many from World Wars 1 and 2, as well as some antique and modern ones. There are numerous Lugers but one interesting pistol is a 9mm Jo. Lo. AR. This Spanish gun, invented by Jose de Lopez Arnaiz and manufactured between 1924 and the early 1930's, can be fired using only one hand. A lever chambers the round and cocks the pistol.



John Dillinger's .45 caliber M1928 Thompson Submachine gun.

The Ross E. Beard Collection is impressive to say the least, with a large number of pieces of historical and technical interest. However, there were a number of issues with the presentation. There were only about 128 guns on display when I visited and that is only a fraction of the Beard collection. This is primarily because of space limitations – there just isn't room for any others. The guns are displayed in a relatively small space and this adversely affects how the guns are exhibited. They are in large wood framed glass cases (made by volunteers from the local fire department) but the cases have inadequate lighting and the guns and other items are displayed/mounted almost one on top of another. The cases have glass shelves with guns and other items on them. However, these block the view of some of the guns that are mounted on the back wall behind the shelves or are under them. One has to almost get on hands and knees to see some of the guns at the bottom of the cases and it is sometimes difficult to get a good complete view of an entire long gun because the heavy wooden frames block the view. Guns and other items mounted on the side walls of the cases are sometimes not easy to see.



Left – Spanish Jo Lo Ar pistol in 9x23 Largo. Note the distinctive lever on the right hand side of the frame that enabled the user to carry the pistol with the chamber empty and then chamber and cock the weapon with one hand. They were also chambered in .25 caliber, .32 ACP, .380, and .45ACP.

Another problem is the organization of the exhibit. While the gallery generally tries to follow time periods, there were anomalies that worked against this. For example, one case appears to be devoted to flintlock guns of the 17th and 18th centuries but there would also be a more modern gun from the 19th or 20th centuries, such as a Ruger revolver, without any explanation of how or why it fit into that display. Or

Case 6, which is mostly 20th century pistols, would have a Remington Rolling Block rifle that was captured, used and decorated by a Plains Indian, or percussion pistols from 1840 to the 1860's with no explanation as to how they fit into the display. Again, I believe that this is a result of space limitations.

A major problem was with signage. There was none. The guns and other items are identified by numbered discs next to them and visitors are given a printed guide with descriptions of the guns keyed to the numbered discs. This system was adopted, I believe, because there just isn't enough room for signage in the cases. And finally, while a novice, or someone not familiar with guns would find the explanations of the guns interesting, a collector or firearms historian would find the information to be lacking in details that serious collectors love.



Colt Model 1860 Army Revolver, .44 caliber. Heavily engraved in gold, Samuel Colt presented this percussion revolver as a gift to a member of the Du Pont family for making superior gunpowder.

Despite these issues, many of which can be alleviated by expanding the exhibition space, the Ross E. Beard Collection is well worth a visit. The collection is impressive in its depth and scope and covers more than five centuries of firearms history. The staff is friendly and helpful and there is free parking. There is no café or gift shop but there is a small room with an excellent exhibit about the Battles of Camden and Hobkirk's Hill. Group presentations are available with advance arrangements. And there is an extensive genealogical and historical research library.

Camden itself is an attractive southern town with a rich history going back to colonial times and there are several nearby attractions, such as the Camden and Hobkirk's Hill battlefields, the Historic Camden Revolutionary War site, the Revolutionary War Visitor Center (with a small museum), the National Steeplechase Museum (Camden is situated in one of the oldest and most active equestrian communities in the country) and a number of gun stores.

The Camden Archives and Museum is located at 1314 Broad Street (US Hwy 521), Camden, SC 29020, at the corner of Broad and Laurens in a 1915 Carnegie Library building, an attractive and welcoming red brick example of Greek revival architecture on a grassy tree-covered lot near the center of the town. Camden is just north of Interstate 20, Exit 98.

Admission is free and the hours are:
Monday to Friday - 8:30am to 5:00pm
Saturday - 10:00am to 4:00pm
Closed on Sunday and major holidays.

You can obtain additional information at <https://experiencecamdensc.com/visitors/what-to-do-page/museums/camden-archives-and-museum/>.
Telephone - (803) 425-6050 or (803) 425-6174
E-mail - archives@camdensc.org.



HAMPTON ROADS MILITARY SOCIETY

The Hampton Roads Militaria Society (HRMS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to assist collectors and historians in the collection & preservation of militaria of all sorts and periods, preserve and honor our military past, and honor the veterans of all our conflicts. They generally meet on the 1st Tuesday of each month, but this can vary. The HRMS is a sister organization to the VGCA and VGCA members are welcome to participate in their meetings and tours. Upcoming meetings (at Rescue Squad No. 8 at 1243 Bayne Drive in VA Beach) are:

- 2 July 2024** **Continuation of “American firearms designer/inventor John Moses Browning”
by Chris Betcher**
- 6 Aug 2024** **“U.S. land battles and notable, mostly American, officers and men, starting in June 1918
(Belleau Wood, Marne defense)” by Jim Paschall**
- 3 Sep 2024** **“The operation of the Machine Gun in World War II” by Doug McDougal**

For more details, HRMS website is: [Hampton Roads Militaria Society \(classicfirearmsandechoesofglory.com\)](http://Hampton Roads Militaria Society (classicfirearmsandechoesofglory.com))



★ 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 sharp picture and allow people who could not attend the meeting to 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): _____

A message from your VGCA Photographer--

I ask those who bring items in for Show-and-Tell to PLEASE hold the item UP and in view of the audience so that they can be seen clearly, and so that I might be able to get a decent picture for the newsletter. PLEASE stand behind the tables and simply hold the item at chest or waist level, face forward, stand still, and give me a five or six seconds to grab a decent photograph of the Show-and-Tell item.

If you do not want your Show-and-Tell item to be shared with other VGCA members, just tell me in advance and I will not attempt to take a photo of it.

I do the photography for the VGCA and its' members, not for myself, and not for any personal gain. Your assistance in documenting your items will be a great help. I spend an average of five hours editing the pictures for the newsletter and not having a clear view of the subject has been a great and constant frustration for me.

Your help will assist in making a better newsletter for all VGCA members. Thank you!

Jack Looney

MAY SHOW-N-TELL

Member 1 brought a Kriss Vector (right) that was manufactured relatively close to home in Chesapeake, Virginia. This delayed blowback Pistol Caliber Carbine (PCC) is chambered in 10mm and takes Glock magazines. What sets this gun apart from other PCCs is that it is select fire and marketed for police and military use. It has a very high cyclic rate of approximately 1200 rounds per minute in the .45 ACP version!

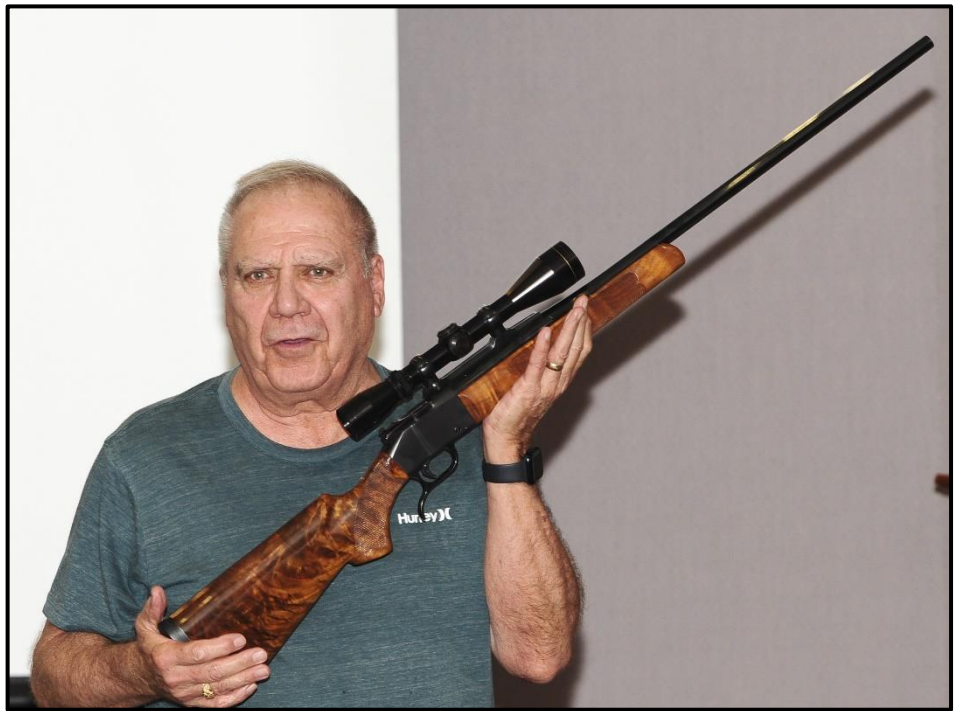
This particular example is fitted with a SilencerCo Osprey 45 suppressor.



Member 2 shared his G3 clone made up as Swedish Home Guard Automatkarbin 4 (left). The AK4 was a slightly modified and license-built copy of the Heckler & Koch G3 rifle which was adopted by Swedish armed forces in 1965. Chambered in 7.62 NATO, the AK4 replaced the M96 bolt action, the semi-automatic AG42, and the automatic rifles KG21 and KG40 in Swedish service. The AK4 was manufactured in Sweden at the Carl Gustafs and Husqvarna factories from 1965 until 1985, when it was replaced in front-line service by the AK5 (a license copy of the FN FNC). The AK4 remains in use by the Home Guard and some specialist marksman units

This example was built on a commercial PTR91 receiver. It features the correct forearm that has a proprietary Swedish locking system (not M-Lok), an Atlas bi-pod, and an Aimpoint TF sight which uses a proprietary battery. Only 210 of these Aimpoints were imported into the U.S.

Member 3 shared his beautiful Colt Sharps Sporting Rifle (*right*). Colt purchased the Sharps Arms Company in 1970 and started producing its single shot falling block hunting rifle the same year. These rifles were only made under the Colt name in small numbers from 1970-1975. Though they were assembled by Colt, the machine work was by Bellmore-Johnson Tool Company, the barrels were by Shilen and Hart, the stocks by Numrich, and the scope/scope mount by Leupold. They were thus extremely expensive to make and subsequently affordable by only a very small demographic, retailing for around \$1500 in the early 70s! Only 503 Deluxe models and 50 standard models were produced in five standard calibers (.22/250, .243, .25/06, 7mm Magnum, and .30/06). This example is chambered in .243 Winchester and shoots a 12mm sized group at 100 yards.



Member 4 brought in two rifles, the first was a bolt action Enfield No. 4 Mk I* (*left*). Purchased at our April gun show, this rifle is something of an enigma. It was made by Long Branch in 1950 (the Canadians restarted No. 4 production at Long Branch in 1949 to replace worn out weapons from WWII) and appears to be in excellent condition, but the parts do not all match. Member 4 contacted Ian Skennerton, a noted expert on English

military firearms, and even he was stumped. One possibility is that it was made from available parts for a Canadian shooting club and saw little use. Does anyone have another theory?



Member 4 also brought in an M1891/38 T.S. Carcano carbine (*left*). The T.S. designation means it was made for Special Troops, which in this case refers to troops not issued the standard rifle or cavalry carbine. According to Ralph Riccio's excellent book *The Model 1891 Carcano Rifle – A Detailed Development & Production History*, TS troops included “artillery and engineering units, NCOs, alpine logistics units, the Italian Navy, and the Forestry Militia.” This was the last T.S. model of the Carcano series. Like all earlier Carcanos, this model is chambered in 6.5x52 and is loaded via a 6-round en bloc clip.

This very nice example was made in 1943 at FAB Brescia per “FNA-B” stamped on barrel (*inset at left*).

Member 5 also brought in two guns for show-n-tell, the first was a Beretta Model 1951 (*right*). For background on the semi-automatic Beretta Model 1951, chambered in 9mm Parabellum, please see the summary of Troy Blackwood's May presentation on pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter.

This particular example was an Egyptian model, captured at some point by the Israeli military, and subsequently exported to the U.S.





Member 5 also brought in a Degtarov DP28 Light Machinegun (*above*). The DP28 was the standard infantry light machinegun of the Soviet Union during WWII. Designed and developed by Vasily Degtarov, the DP28 was the final production version of the earlier DP27 and prototype DP26. Chambered in 7.62x54 Rimmed, the DP28 utilized a 47-round pan magazine (*shown being inserted below*) and had a cyclic rate of approximately 550 rounds per minute.



This example is actually a semi-automatic built by Wise Lite Arms on a post-war Polish parts kit. It is a fun range gun with negligible recoil thanks to its weighing almost 30 pounds. The shooter just has to be sure to keep their fingers away from the reciprocating charging handle!

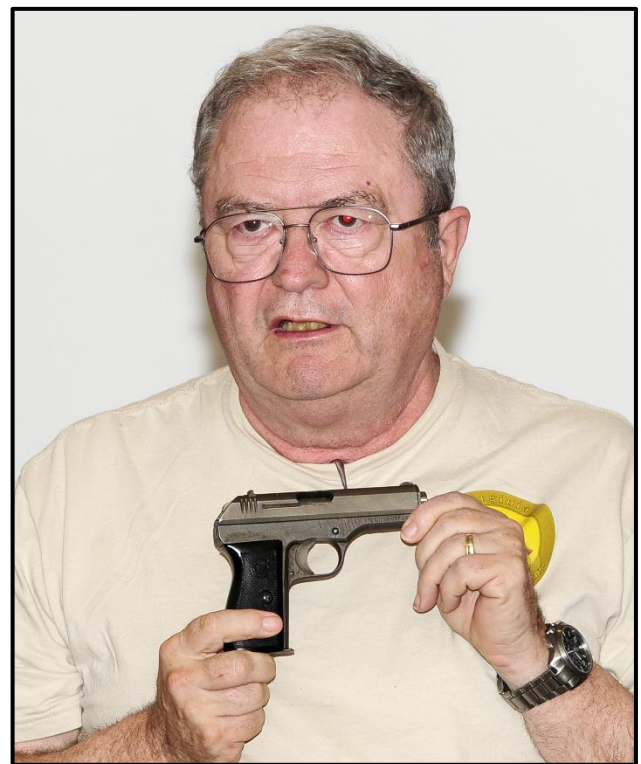


Member 6 shared his recent acquisition of a “Tru-Flite Super Long Range Gas Gun” (*left*). Manufactured by the Lake Erie Chemical Company of Cleveland, Ohio, this 37mm single action tear gas launcher has a heavy frame and barrel designed to handle tear gas rounds with a range of up to 150 yards. The Tru-Flite entered production in 1933 and was produced for over three decades.

This example is in better condition than most, though the rubber recoil pad has been replaced (it is not unusual to find these old tear gas guns with badly deteriorated rubber recoil pads). It served with an unknown police department as it has “B.P.D.” and a rack number on the bottom of the pistol grip.

Member 7 brought in a Vz 27 pistol (*right*). Made at the Česká Zbrojovka factory (known as the Böhmische Waffenfabrik under German occupation) in Czechoslovakia, production started in 1927 and continued through WWII, eventually being replaced by the Vz50 in ~1951. The Vz 27 is a semi-automatic blowback pistol chambered in 7.65mm (.32 ACP) and using an 8-round magazine. Total production may have approached an impressive 650,000.

This example was made in 1944 during the German occupation of Czechoslovakia (note the late war gray phosphate finish). It is waffenampt-ed, indicating inspection and acceptance by German Army. The original polymer grips are notoriously brittle and easily chipped, so Member 7 purchased and mounted modern reproduction grips so the gun can be fired without possibly damaging the originals.





I have been describing Show-n-Tell items for this newsletter for eight years, and I believe Member 8 brought in the oldest firearm we have seen in that span – a Japanese Tanegashima arquebus matchlock (*above and right*). Introduced to Japan by the Portuguese in 1543, mass production started within a year and the matchlock design quickly changed the face of Japanese warfare. They remained in use through the 1860s.

This unusually ornate example possibly belonged to a Samurai and was made in about 1700. It features a 40” long octagonal smoothbore barrel of approximately .50 caliber. It has brass and silver inlays of a tiger (*below*), butterflies, and floral designs. One is a 4-pedal Mokko Kamen design (*below right*) enclosed in a circle denoting a minor clan.



Member 9 also brought in a Beretta Model 1951. His example was used by the Italian Carabinieri and was purchased in 2020 (early in the COVID-19 quarantine) while at DK Firearms in Bowling Green, Virginia for another purchase. Unfortunately, we did not get a picture of Member 9's specific pistol. I have included a generic Model 1951 photograph I found on-line from icollector.com (below).



Reminder – there will not be a VGCA Membership Meeting in July (for summer break).

★ 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 – 2024

- Jul 13-14, 2024 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex – *Showmasters*
- Jul 19-21, 2024 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- Jul 20-21, 2024 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center – *C&E Gun Shows*
- Jul 27-28, 2024 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK*
- Aug 24-25, 2024 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex – *Showmasters*
- Sep 7-8, 2024 – Fishersville, VA – Augusta Expo – *Showmasters*
- Sep 14-15, 2024 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK*
- Sep 27-29, 2024 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*

MARYLAND – 2024

- Jun 22-23, 2024 – Crownsville, MD – Anne Arundel Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Jul 6-7, 2024 – Timonium, MD – Timonium Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Aug 24-25, 2024 – Frederick, MD – Frederick Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Sep 7-8, 2024 – Easton, MD – Easton Vol Fire Dept – *Granite Lodge #177*
- Sep 14-15, 2024 – West Friendship, MD – Howard Cnty Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Sep 21-22, 2024 – Crownsville, MD – Anne Arundel Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Sep 21-22, 2024 – Ocean City, MD – Ocean City Convention Center – *Showmasters*

PENNSYLVANIA – 2024

- Jun 22-23, 2024 – Allentown, PA - ParkView Inn & Conference Center - *Eagle Shows*
- Jun 22-23, 2024 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center – *Showmasters*
- Jun 22-23, 2024 – Sellersville, PA – Forrest Lodge VTW245 – *Jaeger Arms*
- Jun 22-23, 2024 – Washington, PA – Washington PA County Fairgrounds – *ARH Sport Shop*
- ~~Jun 29-30, 2024 – Gilbert, PA – West End Fairgrounds – M2 - CANCELLED~~
- Jun 29-30, 2024 – York, PA – York Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Jul 6-7, 2024 – Reeders, PA – Jackson Township Vol Fire Co. – *Jaeger Arms*
- Jul 13-14, 2024 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds – *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*
- Jul 26-27, 2024 – Gettysburg, PA – Gettysburg Fire Dept – *Hallowed Ground Militaria*
- Aug 3-4, 2024 – Bloomsburg, PA – Bloomsburg Fairgrounds – *Eagle Shows*
- Aug 9-11, 2024 – Oaks, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Shows*
- Aug 17, 2024 – Greencastle, PA – Greencastle Sportsman’s Assoc – *Izaak Walton League of Franklin County*
- Aug 17-18, 2024 – Harrisburg, PA – Farm Show Complex – *C&E Gun Shows*
- Aug 17-18, 2024 – Lewis Run, PA – Lewis Run VFD Station 6 – *Lewis Run VFD*
- Aug 17-18, 2024 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center – *Showmasters*
- Aug 24-25, 2024 – Treose, PA – Radisson Philadelphia Northeast – *Eagle Shows*
- Sep 7-8, 2024 – Cresco, PA – Barrett Admin Recreation Complex – *Tall Timber Tactical*
- ~~Sep 14-15, 2024 – Gettysburg, PA – Allstar Events Complex – Eagle Shows - CANCELLED~~
- Sep 14-15, 2024 – Leesport, PA – Leesport Farmers Market – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Sep 14-15, 2024 – Sellersville, PA – Forrest Lodge VTW245 – *Jaeger Arms*
- Sep 15, 2024 – Portland, PA – William Pensyl Social Hall – *Portland Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1*

PENNSYLVANIA – 2024 (continued)

- Sep 21-22, 2024 – Morgantown, PA – Morgantown Expo Center – *Eagle Shows*
- Sep 21-22, 2024 – Washington, PA – Washington PA County Fairgrounds – *ARH Sport Shop*
- Sep 28-29, 2024 – Allentown, PA - ParkView Inn & Conference Center - *Eagle Shows*
- Sep 28-29, 2024 – Gettysburg, PA – Redding Auction Hall – *Central Pennsylvania Antique Arms Association*

SPECIAL EVENTS / SHOWS – 2024

- Jun 28-29, 2024 – Allenwood, PA – Warrior Run Area Fire Dept Social Hall – *Williamsport Area Cartridge Show*
- Jul 13-14, 2024 - Wilmington, OH – Roberts Convention Centre – *Ohio Gun Collectors Association* – Remington Society of America and Ruger Owners and Collectors Association
- Jul 20-21, 2024 – Doswell, VA – Meadow Event Park – *North South Trader's Civil War Magazine* – National Civil War and Antique Arms Show

NOTE: OGCA Gun Shows are not open to the public – they are restricted to members and invited guests only. That said, several VGCA members are also members of the OGCA and can sponsor you if you are interested in attending.

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. I must receive your material no later than the second Sunday of the month for it to be included in that month's newsletter. Items will be listed for one issue of the Newsletter.

FOR SALE:

✪ **FINNISH MOSIN-NAGANT** is authored by VGCA member Matt DiRisio and published by Wet Dog Publications. The list price is \$99.95. It is 584 pages long with over 1,500 color and black and white photographs.

For ordering information go to the Wet Dog Publications website at:
<https://www.fnbrowning.com/book-finnish-mosin-nagant>.



FOR SALE:

✪ After more than two and a half years of research, VGCA member Bill Vanderpool has 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 Charlie Pate has four books that he has authored for sale, at discounted prices to VGCA members. These include:

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

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

FOR SALE:

✪ VGCA member Larry Babcock has 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 / or text to 703-856-2561.

WANT TO BUY:

✪ Browning lever action Gold Medallion, short action, blue or silver.

Also: Browning lever action with pistol grip and take down. Prefer .308 but any considered.

Call King at 703 576-7016, if no answer leave name and number with brief description.

Thank you, King von Schilling

The e-mail address for any Newsletter-related matters is Newsletter@vgca.net - or you can reach the editor directly at rpebecker@verizon.net. Feel free to e-mail items for inclusion in the newsletter. For changes of address or non-receipt of the newsletter, either via e-mail or the mailed hard copy, please contact Rob Becker or George Dungan.