



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.NET

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

NRA Affiliate Number G8162

CMP Affiliate Number 026160



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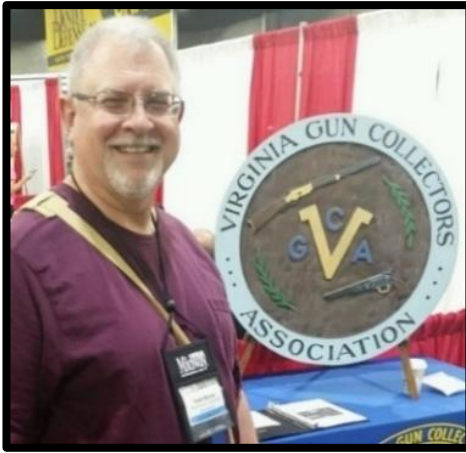
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June 2026 VGCA Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S NOTES

As we get ready to celebrate 250 years since our nation declared its independence, I ask that all of you take a moment to appreciate the wisdom of our Founding Fathers. Their guiding principles defined a balanced and effective (if not always efficient) system of government that acknowledges our God-given rights – rights that are protected by our Constitution, not privileges granted by our Constitution. Key among these is the essential right to keep and bear arms.

I also want to thank each and every one of you for helping to make the VGCA one of the best and most active gun collecting organizations in these United States. Your knowledge and expertise always impresses me and your selfless volunteerism humbles me. You made the execution of our first June Gun Show so soon after our Spring Show look easy. It set the standard and the VGCA Executive Committee now has to decide if we will continue having three (or even four) gun shows a year going forward. Thank you!

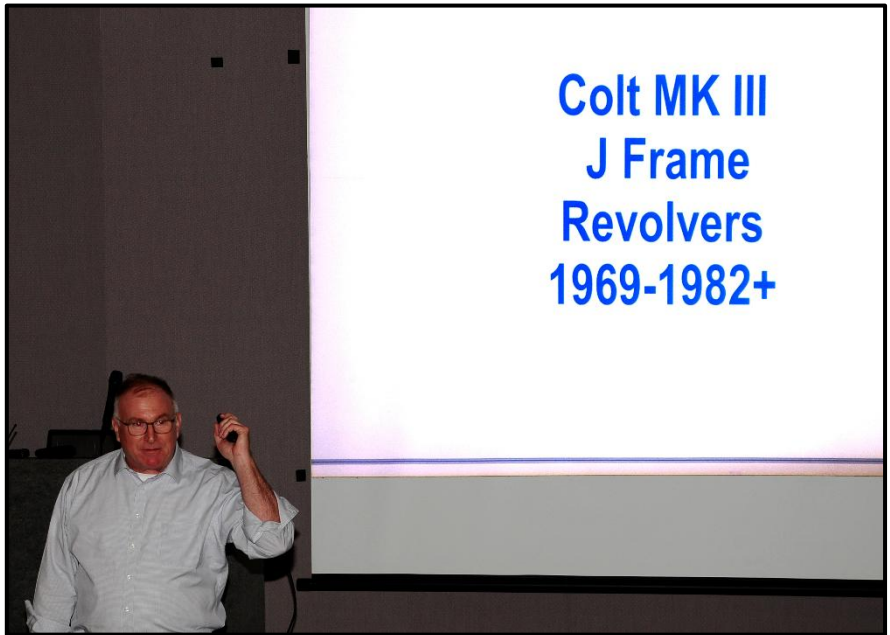
Our June Membership Meeting will be this Thursday when member Clayton Vieg will give a presentation on the Waffennuseum Suhl and German Hunting Weapons. We will also announce our newly elected officers who will start their 2-year terms at the meeting. I am looking forward to it and hope to see you there.

Rob Becker, VGCA President

★ May Presentation – The Colt MKIII J-Frame Revolvers

VGCA Member Jim Ashing (*at right*), is our resident expert on all things connected to the “Prancing Pony”. In February 2021 he gave us a presentation on “Colt Boxes 1870-1970” and last October won not one, but two awards at the Colt Collectors Association’s All Colt Convention. The first was in the Double Action category and was for his Colt MK III Revolvers in the Colt traveling display (*below*). Used during 1974-75, this display had been out of circulation for five decades and its restoration took several months in Jim’s garage! Coincidentally (or not), his topic for our May Presentation was the “Colt

MK III J-Frames from 1969 to 1982 plus”. As a Colt collector for over 40 years, Jim noted that there are actually very few references on the J-Frame Colts, so much of what he shared has come from the personal observations of himself and other Colt collectors.



Design work on the Colt J-Frame took place in 1966 and 1967. It was intended to be an entirely new design and to be produced in an entirely new factory. It was the first Colt handgun to use coil springs instead of leaf springs and had almost nothing in common with Colt’s earlier D- and E-Frames. The new revolver used a very hard steel which made it durable, but

also hard to work and fine tune. The factory was built Rocky Hill, Connecticut and incorporated new construction concepts as well as production line lay-out. This layout included a supervisor’s office on wheels, which could be repositioned anywhere on the factory floor!

There were several models/variants of the MK III. Jim started with the “Trooper”. The “Trooper” was available in four calibers (.357 Magnum, .38 Special, .22 Magnum, and .22 Long Rifle) and featured barrel lengths of 4 and 6 inches. Later, some 8-inch barrels were offered as well as a few with 5-inch barrels.

The “Official Police” was only chambered in .38 Special and had fixed sights and was predominately offered with a 4-inch barrel, though some were made with 6-inch barrels and a very few with 5-inch tubes.

Next described were the “Lawman” and the “Metropolitan” models. These featured 2-inch and 4-inch bull barrels and differed primarily in caliber, with the “Lawman” in .357 Magnum and the “Metro” in .38 Special. One option offered was an electroless nickel finish, also known as E-Nickel or “Colt Guard”.

There is an “Officers Model Match” (right) that had ventilated rib, adjustable sights, a target hammer and a target trigger. It came with a 6-inch barrel and was chambered in .38 Special only. It was only advertised in Colt’s 1970 catalog for law enforcement and production was limited to only 450 to 453 copies. Most of those produced ended up exported to France.



Prefixes and Suffixes (100K blocks*)

J Prefix	JXXXXX	1969-1973
J Suffix	XXXXXJ	1972-1976
L Prefix	LXXXXX	1976-1978
L Suffix	XXXXXL	1978-1981
Y Prefix	YXXXXX	1979-1982
U Suffix	XXXXXU	1981-1982

and their associated years of manufacture. Total J-Frame production was approximately 469,000 units before it was replaced by the MK V.

The last model Jim mentioned was the “Border Patrol”. This was a .357 Magnum with a 4-inch barrel with adjustable sights a solid rib, and matte blue or sand-blasted nickel finish. This was not a cataloged item and the Border Patrol didn’t actually purchase any Border Patrol guns.

Jim shared several tables of MK III production numbers and years of manufacture. One table (left) listed serial number prefixes and suffixes

It is always a pleasure to hear from a very passionate and knowledgeable collector and that absolutely describes Jim! Please thank him for sharing that passion and knowledge with us!

★ Next Membership Meeting: June 25th

Presentation: “Waffenmuseum Suhl – German Hunting Weapons” by Clayton Vieg

Location: NRA HQ Basement Auditorium

Our June VGCA Membership Meeting will be in the basement auditorium of the NRA Headquarters. We will start with a social hour at 6 p.m. and the meeting will start at 7 p.m. As usual, we will have pizza and soft drinks for your dining pleasure! We hope you can make it!

★ 2026 Presentation & Event List

MEETING DATE	TOPIC	PRESENTER
25 Jun 2026	Waffenmuseum Suhl – German Hunting Weapons	Clayton Vieg
23 Jul 2026	Expanded Show-n-Tell – Theme “Guns I paid too much for”	
27 Aug 2026	Guns in Video Games and Media	Peter Kalis
24 Sep 2026	Mini-presentations (~15-20 minutes long)	
	Japanese Type 89 “Knee Mortar”	Shannon Zeigler
	Japanese Type 100 Grenade Launcher	Rob Becker
	SIG + J.P. Sauer = SIG Sauer	George Dungan
22 Oct 2026	Beretta 92 – Part II	Louie DiGaetano
Nov 2026	No Meeting due to Fall Gun Show & Thanksgiving Holiday	
7-8 Nov 2026	VGCA Fall Gun Show	
12 Dec 2026	Holiday Potluck & Annual Swap Meet – No Presentation	

If you have any presentation suggestions or would like to make a presentation yourself in 2027 (all meeting dates in 2026 are already covered) – please contact Chris Britton or any officer or director.

★ How to watch the June Meeting from Home

As has been our recent practice, we will be broadcasting our June meeting via the free internet service JITS. You can join via your phone through the app or via your browser on the computer. Neither requires an account. All you need to join a JITS meeting is a link, like the one below. Simply click the link.

Click the following link to join the meeting: <https://meet.jit.si/vgca-june2026>

You will be asked to enter your name. You can enter your actual name or use a pseudonym. It will then prompt you to allow access to camera and microphone, which you also do not need to gain access to the meeting. Then click “Join” – it is as simple as that!

Just want to dial in on your phone? **Dial-in: +1.512.647.1431 PIN: 3186836141#**

Click this link to see the dial in phone numbers for this meeting:
<https://meet.jit.si/static/dialInInfo.html?room=vgca-june2026>



★ May Meeting Notes

The VGCA May Membership meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by President Rob Becker. Member Brandon Hunt led the 43 members and guests present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Unfortunately we were unable to establish a Wi-Fi connection and could not share the meeting via jit.si. New members and guests were introduced.

The business meeting opened with several participants of our field trip to Fort Lee and the U.S. Army Ordnance Training Support Facility describing what aspects of the museum left an impression on them. All were impressed with the displayed collection of restored artillery, armored vehicles, and small arms - much of which had suffered decades of exposure to the elements at Aberdeen Proving Grounds before being moved to Fort Lee and restored.

Rob reminded everyone that our June Gun Show would be the following weekend. In light of the recently signed anti-gun legislation in Virginia, the VGCA Executive Committee approved an additional VGCA gun show prior to the new laws taking effect on July 1st. Sales tables for this show were completely sold out and we have a waiting list. Lou DiGaetano was introduced as our new show director, replacing Andrew Woodard who was recognized for executing five very successful shows at the Dale City VFW. There is a sign-up list to volunteer for show security and to help man the membership table.

Elections for the VGCA Officers will be held prior to our June Membership Meeting. Look for ballots to be distributed within the next week. Those receiving an electronic ballot from Constant Contact will have until June 24th to vote while those without an email address will have to mail in their paper ballots no later than June 20th. This is to ensure the paper ballots arrive in time to be counted on the 25th. Per our By Laws, hand carried ballots delivered at the June Meeting will NOT be accepted.

With the recent departure of Troy Blackwood to a new job in Texas, we need someone to volunteer to run our audio-visual equipment at membership meetings. Please contact any officer or director if you can help.

We have started selling tickets for our 50/50 Drawing. Cost is \$5 each or five tickets for \$20, with the winner being announced on June 7th (the Sunday of our show). See Director Chris Britton if you are interested in buying tickets.

We are waiting for the Smith & Wesson factory in Maryville, Tennessee to provide us with a date for our tour this fall. As soon as we have a date we will announce how you can sign up. Attendance is limited to 20 VGCA members and their immediate family only.

A sign-up sheet was passed around looking for presentations and presenters for next year's VGCA membership meetings.

Finally, Bryan Pelton announced that there were still a few VGCA t-shirts available at \$10 each.



VGCA's First Summer Gun Show is Another Success!

By Rob Becker

Just a few months ago, when the true impact of the current anti-gun administration in Richmond became known, your VGCA Executive Committee (consisting of the officers and directors) voted to have a third gun show in 2026. After reviewing the available dates with the Dale City Veterans of Foreign Wars, we scheduled this additional show for the weekend of June 6th and 7th. This weekend was selected in order to have the show before



July 1st when multiple new gun control laws will go into effect in Virginia. This show generated a couple of “firsts” for the VGCA – it was our first summer gun show and it was the first show executed by our new Show Director, Lou DiGaetano. And it was a big success!

We had a total of 694 customers walk through the door (440 on Saturday and 254 on Sunday) over the weekend. While the attendance was slightly less than our Spring Show, it was over 100 more than our show last fall.



Like the Spring Show, all 140 tables were sold out weeks ahead of time and we even had a waiting list. Post-show vendor happiness was proven by the fact we already have over 100 tables rented for our November Show. We would not have had that many vendors continue to reserve tables for the next show if they weren't pleased with the results from this one. Yes, I would definitely say our vendors were satisfied!

As I have noted many times before, a successful show does not just happen. It is the result of a lot of hard work and effort by our members, all of whom are volunteers. Please join me in thanking the following VGCA members for their efforts over the weekend.

Set up volunteers and other assistance (led by Lou DiGaetano)

Chris Britton	Robert Candido	Dan Helm	Al Reid
Bruce Buchner	George Dungan	Rick Nahas	Andrew Woodard

Special thanks to Wes Chappell for set up and also bringing the pizza for our meetings!

Security volunteers (led by Allen Reid)

Sam Brevard	Doug Gravatt	Rich McCormack	Alex Rogge
Bob Candido	Dan Helm	Craig Peters	Ric Valenzi
Tom Ciarula	Mick Jacobs	Georgette Phillips	Carl Warhurst
Tom Galloway	Bill Ludwig		

Jack Looney – provided overnight security on both Friday and Saturday nights

Membership Table volunteers (led by Bruce Buchner)

Mike Jambrosic	Keith Simmons
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Jim Burgess was not able to man our evaluation table this time due to a prior commitment. Member Bryan Pelton graciously agreed to fill in. His excellent summary of what he saw over the weekend follows this article.



There were three educational displays at the show (though only two were judged). Taking first place was the “Soviet Mosin Nagants of the Great Patriotic War” (*photo at bottom of previous page*). This display consisted of four Mosin Nagants, all produced during WWII, and included a Model 91/30 rifle, a 91/30 PU sniper rifle, a Model 38 carbine, and a Model 44 carbine. This display also featured several Soviet Army tools and accessories for the Mosin Nagant family. In addition to winning \$300 as the first-place display, the Model 44 was awarded “Best Military Firearm” among the displays. It is the lower carbine (with the bolt open) mounted on the back board.



The 4-H Trigger Time shooting club’s display titled “Competition Air Pistols” (*shown above with six members of the trigger time team*). It included numerous examples of their precision air pistols used in competitions at the regional, state, and even national level. It earned a well-deserved Second Place in the judging and the 4H-ers received \$200 in prize money!



Finally, Shannon Zeigler shared an excellent display on the Armalite AR-180 (*at left and next page*). His display featured five examples and included the major

manufacturers. Also included original accessories including manuals, magazines, and optics. Shannon chose not to have his display judged, otherwise it surely would have garnered and major prize!

One of Shannon's AR-180 shown disassembled in detail (*right*).

As mentioned previously, this was Lou DiGaetano's first show as Show Director. He did admirably and already has ideas for future improvements (look for a possible expansion and the return of a major firearms retailer)! Job well done, sir!



Our next gun show is scheduled for November 7th and 8th and tables are selling fast. If you would like a sales or display tables for our fall show, please contact Lou as soon as possible.

Appraiser's Report

By Bryan W. Pelton

The June VGCA Gun Show found yours truly filling in for Mr. Jim Burgess, who was attending a competition of the North/South Skirmish Association that weekend. He asked if I could man the Appraisal Table, and I said, "I'd give it the Old College Try!"

Perhaps the word was out that there was a newbie on the job, as there seemed to be less people wanting appraisals than usual. There was a total of fourteen items requiring my services (and of the fourteen, nine were owned by members). However, what the job lacked in quantity, it definitely made up for in DIFFICULTY! I'd just like to say that many of these items were waaay outside my wheelhouse! But, hey, excuses are like as..... well, you know.

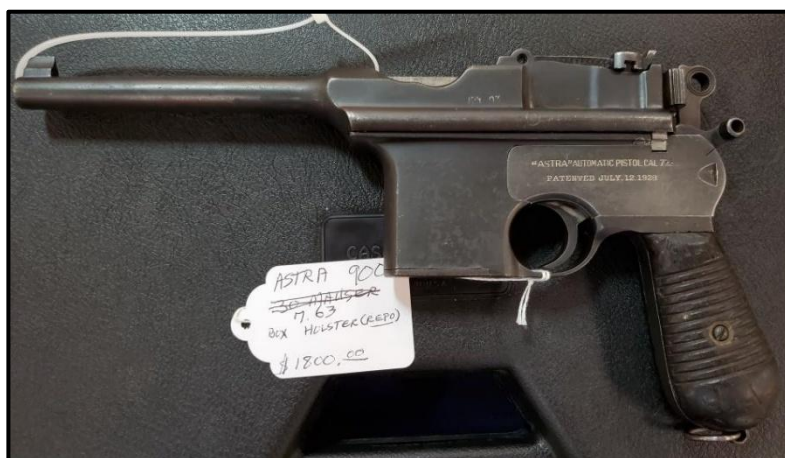
Day one began with the first five items, which were brought in by a member. The first was an old U.S. Model 1842 Aston Percussion pistol, in .54 caliber (*right*). The pistol still had its attached Ramrod and was judged to be in Fair to Good condition. Value: approximately \$700 (based on condition).



The member also had two leather holsters, likely from the U.S. Civil War era. Both were devoid of any markings, except for having an Anchor on the brass buttons, obviously indicating Naval issue. It remains unknown the country of origin, but if U.S., their shape indicated that they were likely used for Colt M1851 revolvers. Both were in Poor condition. If anyone can identify the country of origin by the button (*at left*), please contact me! Value: approximately \$100 - \$150 each.

The last two items were also Navy issued holsters (if you see a theme here, you can probably guess who the member is)! These were U.S. Model 1905 holsters (also known as the No. 310 Mills Revolver Holster). These were made of canvas and issued for the M1892 Colt revolvers chambered in .38 Long Colt or the .45 Long Colt M1909. One was in tan, and the other in blue (which now appears black). These would have been in naval service during the Spanish American War, as well as the First World War. One was judged to be in good condition, despite some discoloration, and the other in Fair condition, due to some fraying on the side. Value: \$450 - \$550, and \$350 respectively.

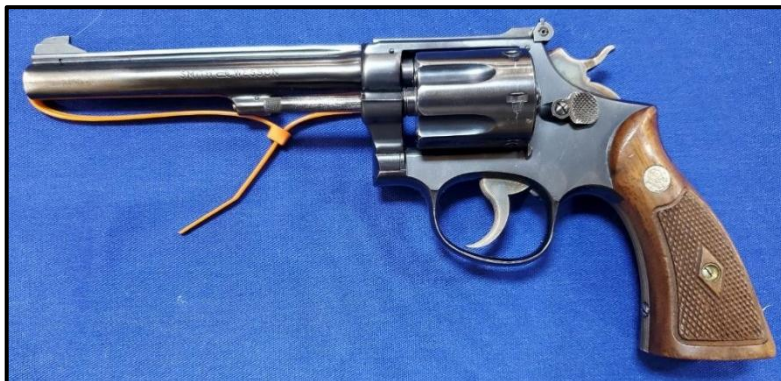
The next item was also owned by a member. It was a Spanish Astra Model 900 pistol, chambered in 7.63x25mm Mauser (*right*). The pistol came with a reproduction stock/holster. Close examination of a very faint mark on the left side of the slide revealed it to be a Chinese character, indicating Chinese service. Chinese Warlords were enamored with all things German, and the Mauser C96 Broomhandle pistol was a particular favorite. When demand exceeded available supply, the Spanish firm Astra stepped in with their copy! Astra Model 900s with Chinese markings can fetch a 20% premium. The pistol was in overall Very Good condition and was available for sale at the show. Value: \$1,500 - \$1,800.



The next items were owned by a member. A Swiss Stg-57 Bayonet (with Frog) in Excellent condition. Value: \$100 - \$150. The second item was an original Colt Light Machine Gun Upper (complete with Carrying Handle) attached to a PSA AR-15 Lower Receiver. It was chambered in 5.56x45mm. Both Upper and Lower were in overall excellent condition. The appraisal was accomplished with the kind assistance of former VGCA President Bernie Brightner. Both items were

available for sale at the show. The primary value was for the Colt LMG Upper, as the PSA AR Lower can be purchased for around \$400. Value: Minimum \$14,000 range (the original complete Machine Gun configuration with the Colt Lower would be worth in the \$40,000 - \$50,000 range).

Next, a member stopped by with a Smith and Wesson Model K-22 Masterpiece (at right). It was blued revolver, with a six-inch barrel, Micrometer rear sights, and of course chambered in .22 caliber. The gun came with an accompanying box. The appraisal was accomplished with the kind assistance of our very own in-house S&W guru, Mr. Rick Nehas! The pistol was in overall Excellent condition. Rick was able to determine the gun was all matching, and the box was original (he noticed very faint Grease Pencil markings on the back of the box with the Serial #)! Value: \$1,500 range.



Day two started with the item that was unquestionably the most interesting! A man brought in an old African Smoothbore Flintlock Musket (above). This was more a work of art than a firearm. The piece was approximately five to six feet long, with bone (or possibly Ivory) slats forming much of the buttstock. The rifle was exquisitely adorned with silver inlay and carved silver barrel bands. Attached to the trigger guard was a silver coin (likely used as a good-luck charm). This was clearly not my area of expertise! Fortunately, our in-house antique expert Mr. Marc Gorelick was standing by to assist



me! Marc identified it as a Moroccan Berber Jezail rifle (the man then said that he was trying to sell it for a family of a deceased Army Vet who had served in Morocco). The Berbers are a native Moroccan ethnic group, noted for their fine workmanship with all things metal, wood and leather. Jezail is a generic term for a pattern of Musket rifles produced all over North Africa and Arabia. Marc estimated that the rifle was probably from the 1600's! It was likely chambered in .61 caliber. This very ornate piece was likely built for a wealthy owner. The attached coin (left) was identified by me as being minted in the year 1331 on the Islamic calendar, which corresponds to 1912-13 on the Gregorian calendar (indicating it was added about 300 years later)! Marc made an interesting point about the extremely long length of

these Jezail rifles. Upon first impression, they would seem quite difficult to load. Not so, if you consider what they were used for! These were meant to be used on Camelback and Horseback. To load, the user would place the buttstock on the ground, whereupon the muzzle would then be at

★ Looking for an Audio-Visual POC

The VGCA needs your help! We are looking for a volunteer to set up and operate our Audio-Visual equipment during membership meetings. Responsibilities will include setting up the computer, camera, and microphone (all provided) and establishing the jit.si link. Our former operator has moved to Texas and we need some assistance starting as soon as possible. Please contact one of the officers or directors if you can help.

★ Smith & Wesson Factory Tour

Our second field trip of the year is planned for the Smith & Wesson factory in Maryville, Tennessee. We are waiting for confirmation of the exact date but have requested a tour sometime this fall (in September, October or November).

As this is an out-of-state tour arranged by the VGCA, attendance is limited to VGCA members and their immediate family.



Smith & Wesson®

Look for details to be announced at our Membership Meetings and future newsletters. Directions on how to sign up will be published once the date has been confirmed.

★ VGCA Social Media Accounts ★

Our Instagram account

[@vaguncollectors](https://www.instagram.com/vaguncollectors)

has 405 posts with 1744 followers as of 22 June 2026.

Follow us for a regular dose of interesting gun-related content!

Our VGCA youtube.com channel

[@vgca-virginiaguncollectorsasso](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvGca-virginiaguncollectorsasso)

has 22 videos and 81 subscribers as of 22 June 2026.

The VGCA Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/VirginiaGunCollectorsAssoc/>

has 405 posts with 1842 followers as of 22 June 2026.

★ Officer Elections to be Announced!

Ballots for our Officer Elections will be counted on 25 Jun 2026 and the results will be announced that night at the Membership Meeting.

★ 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 2nd Tuesday of each month, but this can vary. The HRMS is a sister organization to the VGCA and VGCA members are welcome to participate as guests in their meetings and tours. Upcoming meetings (at Rescue Squad No. 8 at 1243 Bayne Drive in VA Beach) are:

14 Jul 2026 **“Military Medicine: Infection and Penicillin”** by Chris Galosi

11 Aug 2026 “How I Acquired a Mountain Cannon” by Doug McDougal

08 Sep 2026 **“Lee Enfield Rifles”** by Paul Bracy (tentative)

★ Please help with our Newsletter!

Do you love history and firearms, are reasonably 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 is continuing as our editor but is looking for some relief. If you think this is something you would be willing to take on – in whole or in part - please contact any of the officers or directors.

“A militia, when properly formed, are in fact the people themselves... and include all men capable of bearing arms.”

–Richard Henry Lee

Published in *Additional Letters from the Federal Farmer*, 1788

VGCA GUNS OF DISTINCTION:

HEYM 88B .470 NITRO EXPRESS SAFARI DELUXE DOUBLE RIFLE

By Marc Gorelick
Photos courtesy of Joh. Springer's Erben, Vienna, Austria

Friedrich Wilhelm Heym founded the Heym gunmaking firm in Suhl, Germany in 1865. In May 1891 the firm was awarded a patent for a three barreled hunting rifle with three triggers and three hammers on the same axis. This was the birth of the first hammerless drilling. The company expanded its product line over the years, producing drillings, shotguns, and over and under rifle-shotgun combinations and became known for producing well-crafted and accurate hunting weapons. After World War II Heym made a new start in West Germany, first moving to Ostheim in the Rhön/ Lower Franconia. It later moved its manufacturing facilities to Münnerstadt in Lower Franconia, Germany and finally built a modern weapons factory in Gleichamberg, Thuringia, Germany in 1995. Today Heym makes drillings, shotguns, bolt action rifles, and double rifles.



Known worldwide for their handling, accuracy and durability, each Heym rifle represents over 150-years of experience combined with the best in modern materials, machining capabilities and craftsmanship. Custom Heym rifles are built by hand, and every part of a Heym rifle is made and finished in-house. Each gun is unique and no two parts on different Heym rifles are interchangeable: Specialized craftsmen averaging more than 25-years of experience painstakingly hand-fit each gun to exacting tolerances.



For over 35-years, the Model 88B has served as Heym's flagship double rifle for dangerous game. According to Heym literature, there are more professional hunters carrying Heym double rifles in Africa today than any other brand. Each 88B Safari is individually crafted by hand to the customer's specifications. Receivers are designed from the ground up for double rifle cartridges. Each caliber

receives a unique barrel profile to ensure proper balance and weight distribution. Barrels are made of Krupp steel that is hammer-forged in-house at Heym. The 88B boxlock action has triple lockup (Purdey Double Underbite with Greener Crossbolt). Every Heym firearm comes standard with a meticulously executed, hand-engraved, pattern designed to complement the lines of each individual Heym firearm model. Heym states that if the customer can imagine it, they can engrave it.



This Heym 88B Safari Deluxe, chambered in .470 Nitro Express, is no exception to the high standards workmanship, material, and artistry that go into a high end custom Heym double rifle. Built in 2000 and designed for taking the largest and most dangerous African game, this double rifle is 40.5 inches (105.5 cm) long and weighs 10.58 pounds (4.8 kg). The heavy 24 inch (61 cm) long heavy demibloc barrels have an engine-turned quarter rib, and a butterfly-shaped fixed rear sight with 2 additional raised rear sights inscribed 35 for and 80 meters. It has a Greener breech, a sliding tang safety, visual and tactile cocking indicators, blue annealed double triggers with an articulated front blade, and back-action sidelocks with recoil springs and sears.



It has a beautifully grained burlwood stock (wood grade 10) with a German style cheek piece, fine checkering, a smooth oil finish and thick leathered rubber recoil pad. The half beavertail fore-end has a Deeley latch.



Decoration was not stinted and the gun is exquisitely engraved by master engraver Michael Richter, who signed the gun. (Note: Richter is a master engraver based in Suhl, Germany who often engraves bespoke guns for custom gunmakers like Heym, Reimer Johannsen, Waffen-Kastel, Manfred Orth, and Ziegenhahn & Sohn.) The sidelocks and action are engraved with African animal scenes in a feather engraving style. On the left side is a scene of a male lion facing off against three rhinos in savannah, and on the right side is a scene of three elephants and a crocodile. The bottom of the action is an engraved scene of a leopard resting on a tree branch. Metal parts are covered in deep ornate acanthus foliage engraving which also frames the animal scenes. The lever for opening the gun is decorated with the carved head of a Cape Buffalo. The barrels have inlaid silver rings at the chamber ends. The trigger guard, which is also decorated with acanthus foliage engraving, extends to the pistol grip cap, which has an engraved edge and gold inlaid initials.



The gun comes with an extra matching set of double barrels, chambered in .375 H&H Magnum. The 24 inch long heavy demibloc barrels also have an engine turned quarter rib with a fixed rear sight in butterfly shape with two additional raised rear sights calibrated for 50 and 100 meters. There is a Schmidt & Bender 1.5 - 6 x 42 scope with reticle FD7 with an illuminated red dot, which is mounted on both sets of barrels with German claw mounts. The gun, with both barrels, comes in a lockable aluminum case.



This exceptional big game rifle has an exceptional price. But if you want a custom “best gun” you should be prepared to pay for it. Joh. Springer’s Erben of Vienna, Austria recently sold it at their 39th Classic Auction in May 2023 for 33,000 euros, or about \$35,625 US (depending on the exchange rate at that time).



Well-known master engravers, like many artists, have their followings in the gun collecting and shooting world and there are wealthy purchasers who will pay a premium for a firearm that is decorated by a specific engraver. Indeed, knowing that a certain engraver has decorated a gun (and signed his work) can increase the gun’s value and price by a substantial amount.



★ Membership Report – May 2026

Since the last newsletter we have had the following people apply for membership in our group:

Alan Boyd of Clifton sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**

James Howell of Lorton sponsored by **Brandon Howell**

Brian Gudmundsson of Lynchburg sponsored by **Keith Simmons**

Devin Edwards of Ellicott City sponsored by **Jack Looney**

John Machey of Fairfax Station sponsored by **Chris Britton**

If you know of anyone who would be interested in joining our organization, please invite them to a meeting or to one of our upcoming VGCA Gun Show. **If you sponsor a candidate, either at one of our membership tables or elsewhere, please make sure that you fill in and sign the Sponsor page.**

Notice to New Member Sponsors: Please ensure your prospective applicants provide a legible email address and telephone contact number if possible. Also, please make sure your name is clearly written on the sponsorship form. Without a valid email address, new members will not receive the newsletter or VGCA announcements.

Membership Numbers: There are currently 477 Life members, 63 Annual members, and 5 applicants for a total of 545 members in the Virginia Gun Collectors Association, Inc.

Recruiting: It appears that the Nations Gun Show is no more. Thank you to all of the members who have worked at our recruiting table there over the past few years. We will still have a recruitment table at our VGCA shows and will need volunteers for that.

Membership Renewal: Dues for 2026 are now past due. If you wish to continue receiving the Newsletter, getting into the VGCA gun shows for free, and other benefits that come with membership please update your dues payment. You can renew annually for \$40 or \$250 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



Annual Membership Renewals: Annual Membership renewals of \$40.00 were due by January 1, 2026. You may upgrade to Life Membership for \$250 Failure to renew by the January Membership meeting may result in your being dropped as a *member in good standing*. **Members dropped for non-payment of dues will have to go through the new member process to re-join the Association.**

Dues may be paid by mail by sending a check (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-2025_Oct)

VGCA, Inc., P.O. Box 328, Manassas, VA 20108

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 \$40.00 for CY 2026 VGCA Annual Membership dues.
- ☐ I wish to upgrade to Life Membership in VGCA. Enclosed is a check for \$250.00.
- ☐ 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 Clayton Vieg, CMP Liaison

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

CURRENT CMP FIREARMS AVAILABLE BY MAIL ORDER (Click [here](#) for more information) *(data current as of 06/21/2026)*

- M1 Garand (*Reclaimed Receiver*) Expert Grade .30-06 and .308 calibers \$1150 + \$35 S&H
- M1 Garand Custom Shop Special .30-06 and .308 calibers \$1650 + \$35 S&H (*NOTE: Click [here](#) for important information*)
- M1903A3 Springfield (*Reclaimed Receiver*) Expert Grade .30-06 caliber \$1050 + \$35 S&H
- M1 Garand (*Commercial version*) (*New*) .30-06 and .308 calibers \$1900 + \$40 S&H (*NOTE: Must ship to FFL; click [here](#) for important information*)
- M1911/A1 Pistols - .45 ACP – Rack Grade: \$1100; Field Grade: \$1200 (*NOTE: Must ship to FFL; click [here](#) for important information*)
- Tisas (commercial) (new) M1911A1 Pistols - .45 ACP – \$429.99 + free shipping (*NOTE: Must ship to FFL; click [here](#) for important information*)

Additional rifles MAY be available at the CMP retail stores (Camp Perry and TMP). Check the [CMP Forums](#) or the individual stores for current stock information. Annual limit of 12 surplus rifles (including reclaimed receivers) per customer; lifetime limit of 4 M1911 pistols; no limit on commercial firearms.

Current surplus ammunition - .22 LR standard velocity (bricks of 500) - \$25 + shipping (*click [here](#) for important information*)

LATEST CMP NEWS...

Every few months, the CEO of CMP, Gerald O'Keefe, publishes an update for the benefit of the CMP community – here are some excerpts from his [May 2026 update](#):

Wyoming State Shooting Complex: Ground was broken in April 2026 for a new, state-of-the-art shooting facility in Cody, WY. This is part of CMP's

efforts to expand its coverage to the Western U.S. CMP will not own or operate the facility, but they will hold CMP events there, and they also anticipate having a CMP store on site.

Camp Perry Expansion. A major expansion project is underway at Camp Perry. A new facility is in the works – adding a large, modern indoor range, expanded retail space, competitor support areas and gathering spaces designed to serve athletes, coaches, spectators, families, sponsors and visitors. The space will facilitate air gun, smallbore and pistol disciplines. The project is scheduled to break ground in August 2026 with an estimated completion date of December 2027.

M1911 News: CMP's inventory of M1911s remains strong and will be further bolstered by the transfer of 10,000 more pistols in the June-July timeframe. Also, in-person weekly M1911 sales at the M1911 Armory in Anniston will begin on May 29, 2026, and recur every Friday!

For 2026, CMP will be selling the M1911s in-person out of the Anniston armory only and not at Camp Perry. CMP understands how important it is for you to pick out surplus firearms in-person and will continue to strive for that in Alabama, Ohio and eventually in Wyoming.

Shotguns: As of now, the military departments (Army, Navy and Air Force) are assessing what shotguns are excess to their requirements and available to transfer. Once that's complete, a report to Congress is required. Given these requirements, the expected transfer and CMP sales for these shotguns is in late 2026 or early 2027. Indications are there will not be huge numbers transferred, but CMP believes there will be some interesting and historic shotguns on the transfer list.

One Last Thing...

As in every year, the summer months see thousands gathering at Camp Perry, OH for the annual National Matches events, held almost every year since 1907. Shooters from all over the U.S. as well as several foreign countries compete in these events, ranging from events that are mostly amateur in nature to competitions of some of the best shooters in the world. This year's Matches run from July 9 through August 9 – click [here](#) for more information....**Go CMP!**



The PEOPLE

By Alan Reid



The Constitution of the USA and Virginia both state “ the right of the PEOPLE to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed”.

The current administration in Richmond, in their defense against the many lawsuits filed against the “assault firearms ban,” have stated that the VA constitution gives no right to the PEOPLE and the Right to Bear Arms applies ONLY the National Guard, Virginia Defense Force and the Unorganized Militia.

A person could conclude from this statement that unless you are a member of one of these Government controlled organizations you are no longer a member of the PEOPLE. So, what are we now? Serfs, minions, or somebody to be controlled?

As far as the unorganized Militia is concerned, study of the Constitution infers - if not directs - that it comprises the PEOPLE who are ready to take up arms to defend freedom. It is not formed, there is no roster, no list of names, etc. but comprises all those male and female citizens who are opposed to tyranny.

The Unorganized Militia comprises all males 17 to 45. Although as 17- to 21-year-olds are now banned from having access to suitable weapons the numbers are reduced considerably.

Much has been said about Commonwealth Prosecutors and Sheriffs standing by their oaths to uphold the Constitution and refusing to prosecute the assault firearms ban. There are 95

Counties and 38 Independent Cities in Virginia and of these, 80 Counties and numerous Cities declared themselves as 2nd Amendment Sanctuaries in the recent past. It is reasonable to expect that all of those 2nd Amendment Sanctuaries would make the same declaration regarding the assault firearms ban – but that has not happened yet!

Several Virginia government officials (to include the Commonwealth Attorney General) have threatened to sack Prosecutors and Sheriffs who don't do their bidding. Their belief that they can do that is concerning and indicates a lack of knowledge of the Virginia Constitution. These officials are voted for by the PEOPLE and are not appointed or controlled by the Government in Richmond.

There is much confusion as we approach the July 1st ban. Many people (including law enforcement) are unsure what the new laws actually mean and what they can and can't do. This is especially true among the sponsors of these laws. If you listen to these people they contradict each other in explaining what the laws mean. You would expect that the sponsor of a Law would know its meaning and repercussions completely. Think about that!

There are a couple of sites you can visit to help understand the new Laws. One is the VA Government site which has every state law. It is not easy to navigate and there is no clear tab to firearm related laws. It is located at <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/>

The other is the Virginia Citizens Defense League (VCDL) website which has all the new laws and their interpretations. It is far easier to read and all the new gun laws in the one spot. It has their legal interpretation of the laws, but who knows what our elected leaders will direct law enforcement. The link to the VCDL site is <https://vcdl-lis.org/>

Please remember that law enforcement is not the issue here. Law enforcement officers are not lawyers – they know what they are told and cannot be expected to know all the details. We may find that how the new laws are enforced will differ from county to county. Won't that be fun?

Article I, Section 13 of the Virginia Constitution states:

That a well regulated militia, composed of the body of the people, trained to arms, is the proper, natural, and safe defense of a free state, therefore, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed; that standing armies, in time of peace, should be avoided as dangerous to liberty; and that in all cases the military should be under strict subordination to, and governed by, the civil power

★ 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 cannot 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, standstill, 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 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 displayed a Ruger No. 1 single shot falling block rifle (right). Chambered in 6.5mm Creedmore and carrying a Leupold 2.5-8 x 36 scope, this rifle only drops 2.8 inches at 300 yards. Probably the most striking aspect of this Limited-Edition rifle is the exceptionally beautiful checkered feathered walnut stock!



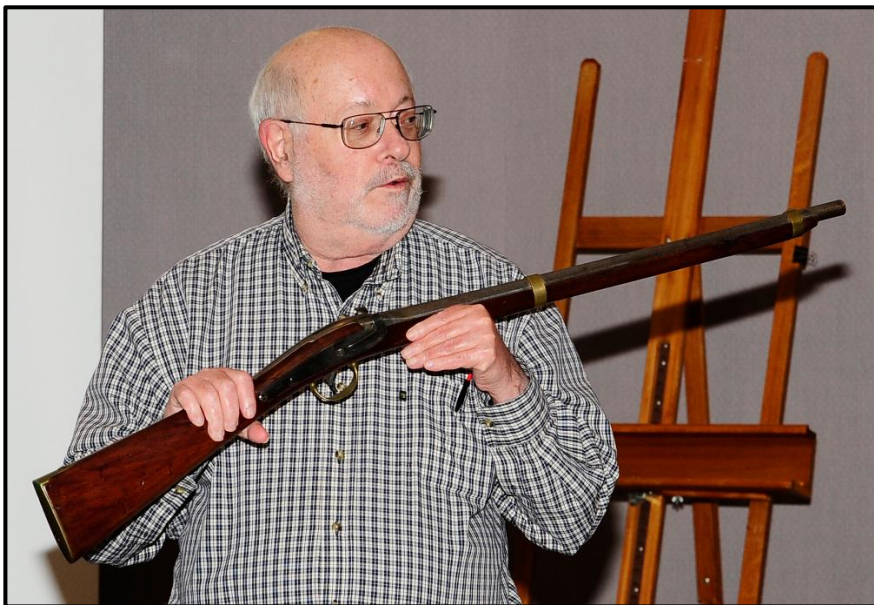
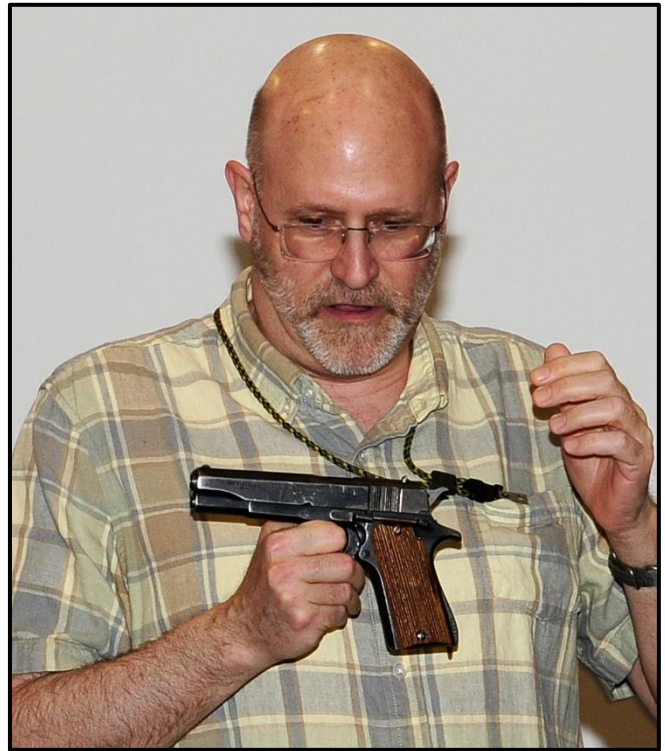
Member 2 brought in a Galil ACE GEN II Pistol – a semi-automatic pistol with an 8.3" barrel in 7.62×39 and a side folding stabilizer brace (left). The new Galil ACE GEN II is a continuation of the Galil ACE, which itself was based on the dependable mechanics of the original Galil rifle first developed by IMI in the late 1960's. Drawing inspiration from the legendary Russian AK-47 and the Finnish Valmet RK 62, the IWI Galil family has been continuously improved over the last 50

years, resulting in today's extremely dependable and highly accurate Galil ACE GEN II. The ACE GEN II takes AK-47 magazines and is also available in a 5.56x45 version which takes AR/M16 mags. The concentric barrel was made for mounting a suppressor and the tight-fitting top cover has an optics rail – in this case carrying a Trijicon Red Dot.

Member 3 displayed an Argentine HAFDASA produced Ballester-Molina pistol (*right*). The Ballester–Molina was designed to offer the Argentine Federal Police and other armed forces a less expensive domestically-produced alternative to the "Sistema Colt Modelo 1927", itself a licensed copy of the Colt M1911A1, built under the supervision of Colt engineers.

The Ballester–Molina is a short recoil-operated semi-automatic locked breech pistol. The Ballester–Molina and the M1911 appear very similar, but the only interchangeable parts are the seven-round magazine, barrel, recoil spring, and barrel bushing.

Production of the Ballester–Molina began in 1938 and ceased in 1953. The Sistema Colt 1927 was manufactured until 1966, outliving its intended successor by more than two decades. Member 3 purchased this pistol at Fairfax Gold & Gun this year.



Member 4 brought in a one-of-a-kind Jenks Naval Rifle (*left*) as produced by the famous N.P. Ames Company of Springfield, MA. The Jenks rifle utilized a unique breech loading mechanism and a “Mule Ear”, sideways mounted percussion hammer mechanism.

During the early 1840s, the Navy experimented with a number of new small arms weapons systems, among those were both the Jenks Naval 36-inch barreled, which the Navy actually referred to as a “long carbine” and the 24-inch barreled carbine. In 1841, the Navy Department ordered 1,000 of the 36” barreled “long carbines” and 500 of the 24-inch barreled carbines. Eventually the Navy Department ordered a total of 4,250 of the shorter guns but never ordered any additional “long carbines” – all of them smooth-bores and all produced by Ames. This unique rifled variant is in .54 caliber and features anti-progressive rifling, which means the rifling twist rates actually slows down as it nears the muzzle. It is not known if this was built as an experimental model for the Navy or by the Eastman company which bought 1500 surplus Navy Jenks.



Member 5 brought in three firearms. The first was a Czech vz.27 pistol (*left*) in 7.65mm (aka .32 ACP). The vz.27 is a Czechoslovak blowback semi-automatic pistol, based on the earlier pistole vz.24. It is often called the CZ 27 after the naming scheme used by the Česká zbrojovka factory for post-World War II commercial products. However, it is correctly known as vz.27, an abbreviation of the Czech "vzor 27", or "Model 27".

This example was produced during the German occupation of Czechoslovakia and can be distinguished by the "fnh" (the German letter code for Česká Zbrojovka, Strakonice) slide markings and were designated Pistole 27(t). More than a half a million pistols were produced from 1927 to 1951. The vz.27 remained in Czechoslovak service until the early 1960s, when it was replaced by the vz.50 pistol.

Member 5 also brought a Czech VZ-58 Rifle (*right, with bayonet*). The vz.58 (or Sa vz. 58) is a 7.62×39mm assault rifle that was designed and manufactured in Czechoslovakia and accepted into service in the late 1950s, replacing the vz. 52 self-loading rifle and the 7.62×25mm Tokarev Sa 24 and Sa 26 submachine guns.

While the vz.58 visually resembles the Kalashnikov AK-47 and uses the same ammunition, it is a different design based on a short-stroke gas piston, uses a different magazine, and weighs almost one pound less than its Soviet counterpart. Also unlike the AK-47, the bolt is held open after the last shot is fired.



The vz.58 was produced in three main variants: the standard vz.58 P (Pěchotní or "infantry") model with a fixed buttstock made of a synthetic material (plastic impregnated wood, older versions used a wooden stock), the vz.58 V (Výsadkový—"airborne"), featuring a side-folding metal shoulder stock, folded to the right side, and the vz.58 Pi (Pěchotní s infračerveným zaměřovačem—"infantry with infrared sight"), which is similar to the vz.58 P but includes a receiver-mounted dovetail rail bracket (installed on the left side of the receiver) used to attach an NSP2 night sight; it also has a detachable folding bipod and an enlarged conical flash suppressor.

Finally, Member 5 shared a Walther P38 pistol (right). The Walther P38 is a 9mm semi-automatic pistol developed by Carl Walther GmbH as the service pistol of the Wehrmacht at the beginning of World War II. It was intended to replace the comparatively complex and expensive-to-produce Luger P08. Moving the production lines to the more easily mass producible P38 once World War II started took longer than expected, leading to the P08 remaining in production until September 1942 and copies remained in service until the end of the war.

Germany started to look for a replacement for the P08 as early as 1927, culminating in the first Model HP or Heerespistole ("army pistol") in 1938. The HP offered similar performance to the Luger P08 but would reduce production time by almost in half. Early production of prototype ("Test") pistols began in late 1939. Transition to mass production began in mid-1940, using

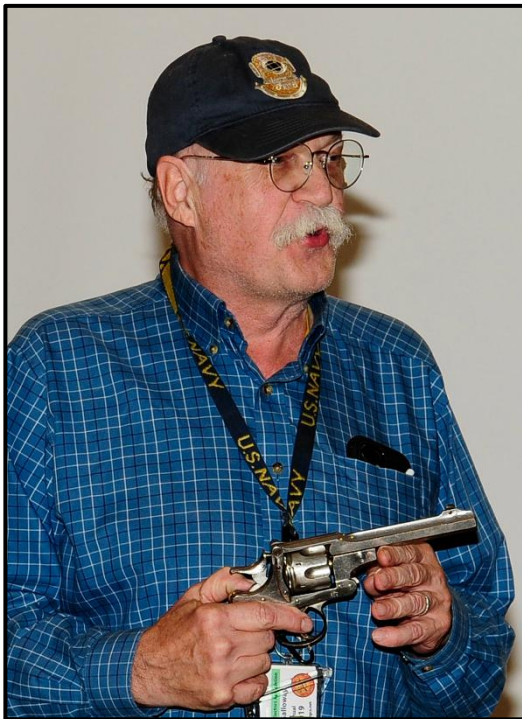
Walther's military production identification code of "480". The transition from HP to the mechanically-identical P.38-marked pistols took place 1939–1940. In addition to the 9×19mm Parabellum version, some 7.65×21mm Parabellum and some .22 Long Rifle versions were also manufactured and sold.



The P38 was the first locked-breech pistol to use a double-action/single-action (DA/SA) trigger (the earlier double-action PPK was an unlocked blowback design, but the more powerful 9×19mm Parabellum round used in the P38 needed a locked breech). The shooter could chamber a round, use the safety-decocking lever to lower the hammer without firing the round, and carry the weapon with a round chambered. The lever can stay on "safe", or if returned to "fire", the weapon remains safely "ready" with a long, double-action trigger pull for the first shot. Besides a DA/SA trigger design, the P38 features a visible and tactile loaded chamber indicator in the form of a metal pin that protrudes from the rear of the slide when a round is chambered. Initial production P38 pistols were fitted with walnut grips, later replaced by Bakelite.

During WWII, the P38 was produced by Walther, Mauser, and Spreewerk. To conceal manufacturer identities, each wartime manufacturer used a letter code: "ac" (Walther); "byf" (Mauser), and "cyq" (Spreewerk), followed by the year. Spreewerk did not mark production dates. Pistols were produced in blocks of 10,000 consecutively numbered pistols, with each block having a consecutive letter suffix, to conceal production volume. 1,277,680 P.38s were produced during WWII: 617,585 by Walther in Zella-Mehlis; 372,875 by Mauser in Oberndorf; 287,220 by Spreewerk Grottau. This example was made by Walther in early 1943 ("ac 43").

From 1945 to 1946, several thousand pistols were assembled for the French armed forces (frequently dubbed "grey ghosts" because of parkerized finish and grey sheet metal grips). Only after 1957 was the P38 again produced for the German military. From 1957 to 1963, the P38/P1 was again the standard German sidearm.



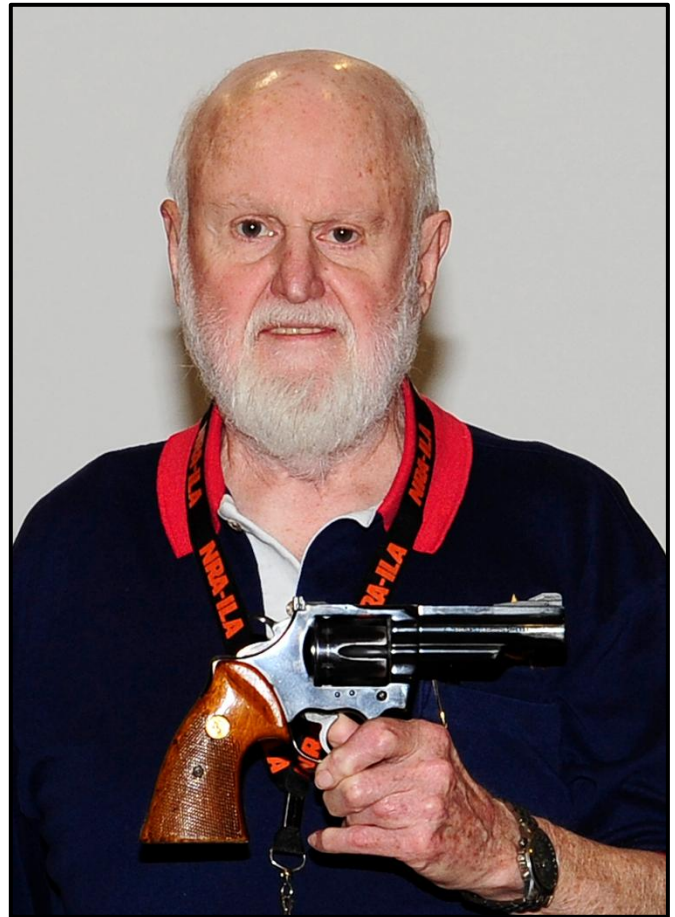
Member 6 (*above left*) brought in a cased Webley Kaufman 2nd model top break revolver (*above right*) chambered in .455 British. Also known as the “Improved Government” model, approximately 1,250 were produced from 1881 to 1887. The model represented a significant technical improvement that allowed Webley to further develop their line of top break pistols. This particular revolver was made in 1884 and purchased by Major George Hugh Grant of the South Wales Borderers in 1885 for 7 pounds, 6 shillings, and 6 pence. Commissioned in 1879, Major Grant campaigned in Burma in 1885 and probably carried this handgun with him at that time. It has a factory nickel finish and is serial number 703. Member 6 bought it through Amoskeag this year.

Member 7 shared an M1C Garand sniper rifle (*right*). Chambered in the U.S. standard .30/06 caliber, only about 8,000 M1Cs were produced in 1944-1945. It featured a scope offset to the left so that the 8-round enbloc clips could still be used. This example was made at Springfield Armory in 1944 and has a reproduction M82,



mount, and cone flash hider. This rifle was acquired from VGCA Member and Garand expert Larry Babcock, who had himself gotten it from the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP).

Member 8 shared three items. The first, in keeping with the theme of the evening's presentation was Colt Trooper MK III revolver in .357 Magnum (*right*). This is the target grade version and displays lots of honest holster wear – this revolver was no doubt a police sidearm and carried extensively!



Next was Defiance .22 Short black powder 7-shot revolver that likely dates back to the 1880s (*above left, on bottom*). It was purchased at the Richmond gun show in May of 2026. It is shown with a modern North American Arms (*above left, on top*) .22 Magnum revolver as a size comparison.

And lastly, Member 8 brought in a Mauser Werke 98 bolt action Sporting Rifle (*right*). Chambered in 8mm Mauser (7.9x57) caliber, it is not clear whether this a factory original sporting rifle or a subsequent “sporterization” of a military gun. It features double-set triggers, light engraving, and is an overall beautiful gun. Member 8 purchased it at the VGCA gun show in February 2026.



★ 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. Shows highlighted in **yellow** are shows with a collector focus.

VIRGINIA – 2026

- Jun 20-21, 2026 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK*
- Jun 20-21, 2026 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex – *Showmasters*
- Jun 20-21, 2025 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center – *C&E*
- Jun 27-28, 2026 – Virginia Beach, VA – Virginia Beach Convention Center – *SGK*
- ~~Jul 11-12, 2026 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex – *Showmasters* - Rescheduled~~
- Jul 17-19, 2026 – Manassas, VA – Manassas Mall, 8358 Sudley Rd – *Showmasters*
- ~~Jul 18-19, 2025 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center – *C&E* - CANCELLED~~
- Jul 18-19, 2026 – Doswell, VA – Meadow Event Park – *National Civil War and Antique Arms Show*
- Aug 1-2, 2026 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK*
- Aug 8-9, 2026 – Wytheville, VA – Hitachi Energy Center (formerly Apex Event Center) - *Showmasters*
- Aug 22-23, 2026 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex – *Showmasters*
- Aug 29-30, 2026 – Virginia Beach, VA – Virginia Beach Convention Center – *SGK*
- Sep 4-7, 2026 – Hillsville, VA – Grove King VFW Post 1115 – *Grove King VFW*
- Sep 5-6, 2026 – Fishersville, VA – Augusta Expo – *Showmasters*
- Sep 12-13, 2026 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK*
- Sep 25-27, 2026 – Manassas, VA – Manassas Mall, 8358 Sudley Rd – *Showmasters*
- Oct 3-4, 2026 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fredericksburg Fair Grounds – *SGK*
- Oct 10-11, 2025 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center – *C&E*
- Oct 10-11, 2026 – Virginia Beach, VA – Virginia Beach Convention Center – *SGK*
- Oct 24-25, 2026 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fraternal Order of Eagles – *SGK*
- Oct 31-Nov 1, 2026 – Harrisonburg, VA – Rockingham County Fairgrounds - *Showmasters*

MARYLAND – 2026

- Jul 11-12, 2026 – Timonium, MD – Timonium Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Jul 18-19, 2026 – Frederick, MD – Frederick Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Aug 22-23, 2026 – Easton, MD – Easton Vol Fire Dept – *Shore Shot Promotions*
- Sep 12-13, 2026 – West Friendship, MD – Howard County Fairgrounds – *Appalachian*
- Oct 3-4, 2026 – Timonium, MD – Timonium Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*

PENNSYLVANIA – 2026

- ~~Jun 20-21, 2026 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Conv Ctr – *Showmasters* - CANCELLED~~
- Jun 27-28, 2026 – Allentown, PA - Parkview Inn - *Eastern Gun Expo*
- Jun 27-28, 2026 – York, PA – York Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Jul 4-5, 2026 – Reeders, PA – Jackson Township Volunteer Fire Company – *Jaeger Arms*
- Jul 11-12, 2026 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds – *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*
- Jul 19, 2026 – Mount Bethel, PA – Mount Bethel Vol Fire Company – *Mount Bethel VFC*
- Jul 25-26, 2026 – Indiana, PA – Kovalchick Convention & Athletic Complex – *Eastern Gun Expo*
- Aug 1-2, 2026 – Bloomsburg, PA – Bloomsburg Fairgrounds – *Eastern Gun Expo*

PENNSYLVANIA – 2026 (continued)

- Aug 7-9, 2026 – Oaks, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eastern Gun Expo*
- Aug 15-16, 2026 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center – *Showmasters*
- Aug 22-23, 2026 – Trevoise, PA – Radisson Philadelphia NE – *Eastern Gun Expo*
- Aug 29-30, 2026 – Harrisburg, PA – PA Farm Show Complex – *C&E Shows*
- Sep 12-13, 2026 – Union City, PA – UCVFD Social Hall – *Randy Peterson*
- Sep 13, 2026 – Portland, PA – William Pensyl Social Hall – *Portland Hook & Ladder Co. #1*
- Sep 19, 2026 – St Thomas, PA – St Thomas Sportsmen Assoc Club House – *St Thomas Sportsmen Association*
- Sep 19-20, 2026 – Morgantown, PA – Morgantown Expo Center – *Eastern Gun Expo*
- Sep 26-27, 2026 – Franklin, PA – Rocky Grove Fire Hall – *Rocky Grove VFD*
- Sep 26-27, 2026 – Gettysburg, PA – Redding Auction Hall – *Central PA Antique Arms Association – Guns and Militaria from All Eras*
- Sep 26-27, 2026 – Sellersville, PA – Forrest Lodge VTW 245 – *Jaeger Arms*
- Oct 3-4, 2026 – Conneaut Lake, PA – Conneaut Lake Sportsmans Assoc – *Glenn Favorite*
- Oct 3-4, 2026 – Lake Harmony, PA – Split Rock Resort – *Eastern Gun Expo*
- Oct 10-11, 2026 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds – *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*
- Oct 10-11, 2026 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center – *Showmasters*
- Oct 10-11, 2026 – Pleasantville, PA – Pleasantville Vol Fire Dept – *Randy Peterson*
- Oct 10-11, 2026 – Williamsport, PA – Liberty Arena – *Eastern Gun Expo*
- Oct 16-18, 2026 – Oaks, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eastern Gun Expo*
- Oct 18, 2026 – Mount Bethel, PA – Mount Bethel Vol Fire Company – *Mount Bethel VFC*
- Oct 24-25, 2026 – Reeders, PA – Jackson Township Volunteer Fire Company – *Jaeger Arms*
- Oct 30-31, 2026 – Shippensburg, PA – Oak Grove Events Building – *Allegheny Log Homes*
- Oct 31-Nov 1, 2026 – Bloomsburg, PA – Bloomsburg Fairgrounds – *Eastern Gun Expo*
- Oct 31-Nov 1, 2026 – Harrisburg, PA – PA Farm Show Complex – *C&E Shows*
- Oct 31-Nov 1, 2026 – York, PA – York Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*

SPECIAL EVENTS / SHOWS – 2026

- Jun 20-21, 2026 – Oklahoma City, OK – Oklahoma State Fairgrounds – *Heartland Militaria Show LLC - Largest Military & Old West Collectible show West of the Mississippi – 600+ tables*
- Jul 17-18, 2026 – Lansing, MI – Royal Scot Golf and Bowl - *International Ammunition Association – Great Lakes Cartridge Show*
- Aug 8-9, 2026 – Hamilton, OH – Spooky Nook at Champion Mill – *OGCA – Hosting Rugers Owners Collectors Society*
- Aug 14-15, 2026 – Reinholds, PA – Reinholds Fire Company Banquet Hall – *International Ammunition Association - Pennsylvania Cartridge Collectors Show*
- Sep 12-13, 2026 – Greenville, SC – Greenville Convention Center - *SCACA*
- Sep 26-27, 2026 – Wellington, OH – Ross Expo Center, Lorain County Fairgrounds – *OGCA – Hosting Winchester Arms Collectors Association*
- Oct 1-4, 2026 – Noblesville, IN – Embassy Suites by Hilton Conference Center – *Colt Collectors Association Show and Auction*
- Oct 17-18, 2026 – Statesville, NC – Statesville Civic Center - *NCGCA*
- Oct 24-25, 2026 – Rock Hill, SC – Rock Hill Sports & Events Center - *SCACA*
- Nov 14-15, 2026 – Tulsa, OK – Expo Square (Tulsa Fairgrounds) – *Wanenmacher – World's Largest Gun Show – 4200+ tables!*

VGCA Member Jack Looney is looking for someone to carpool with to the Pennsylvania Cartridge Collectors Show in Reinholds, PA on Aug 14-15, 2026 (either day). If interested, contact Jack via email to looney.house@verizon.net or text to 703-999-9458.

▼ ▼

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.

Here's how to order your apparel:

-
- A blue polo shirt with a white tag inside the collar that reads "CREST CLEANERS" and "crestcleaners.com". A circular orange and yellow logo is pinned to the chest. The logo features a stylized figure and the text "CREST CLEANERS".

If you have any questions, you can reach Bruce Buchner at 703-339-8212 or Buchnerb@cox.net

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 for 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.

FOR SALE:

★ Lefever Arms “Nitro Special”. 12-gauge with 2 ¾ inch chambers, 28-inch barrels choked Full and Modified. \$950

Contact Jack via email to looney.house@verizon.net or text to 703-999-9458.



FOR SALE:

- ★ 1968 Winchester Model 70 chambered in .270 Winchester. Excellent condition. Accepting offers.



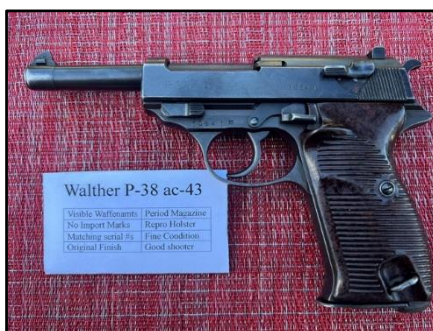
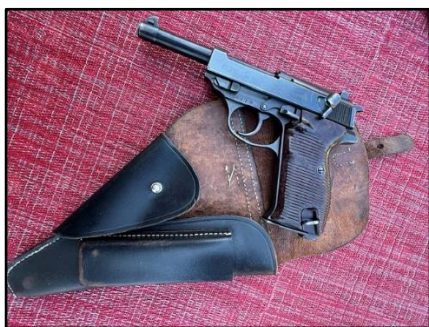
- ★ Four boxes of Freedom Munitions 10mm X-DEF 200gr
- List price is \$29.65 each - Asking \$25 each



Contact Steven Philippy at dhhilliard54@duck.com or 703-927-9210.

FOR SALE:

- ★ Walther P.38 - ac-43 in Fine to Excellent condition. Early 1943 “ac” Walther manufacture - fully functional with all matching with original finish; sharp lettering, numerals and design on metal; unmarred original grips and fine bore. Comes with high quality repro late war P.38 holster. Don't miss this chance to own a pristine mid-war Walther P.38! C&R OK. Price: \$1,950



- ★ 1/35th Scale Armor Model Kits - unbuilt - new in box condition. My collection includes several hundred model kits from industry leading manufacturers such as Tamiya, Italeri, Dragon, DML, AFV Club, Academy. Collection includes older vintage kits from the 70s-80s and newer highly engineered kits from the 90's onward. If you enjoy building or collecting 1/35 scale armor models, chances are I have the kit(s) you may want at a great price.

If interested, please contact Robert Beich at ontarget8@aol.com or 571-421-6849 (Cell).

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 there is no answer leave name and number with a brief description.
Thank you, King von Schilling

WANT TO BUY:

☼ Seeking a Bagnold Sun Compass, used during WWII by British desert troops. It was mounted on their vehicles. Must be complete and in working order. Contact Jack via email to looney.house@verizon.net or text to (703) 999-9458.



WANT TO BUY:

☼ VGCA Life Member and Federal Firearms License dealer Colonel Ed Cercone, USMC, is seeking to enhance his collection and is looking for the following firearms in pristine condition and preferably with correct box. Ed can be reached at lucille.cercone@gmail.com or at (703) 323-6358. Mirror finish pieces are most desired.

S&W Model 56 KTX - 38

S&W Model 73

S&W Model 59 Blue or Nickel

S&W Model 39-2 Alloy 7.65 mm

S&W Model 39 Steel Frame

S&W Model 39 Alloy Blue or Nickel

S&W Model 66 Combat 2 1/2" 357 mag

S&W Model 66 No Dash 2 1/2" 357 mag

S&W 386 SCS Airweight

Beretta Model 1934 (7.65) With High Polish Finish or Italian Air Force Production or Model 1935 possibly with a high polish finish in 7.65

WANT TO BUY:

☼ VGCA member Kenan Torrans is on the hunt for an original and unaltered World War I Winchester Model 97 trench shotgun (not the riot gun or a riot gun modified to a trench gun configuration, and not a WW II version). If you have one you are willing to part with, please contact Kenan at: kenantorrans@aol.com

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.