



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.NET

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

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CMP Affiliate Number 026160



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Show/Reservations Manager
Membership

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Lou DiGaetano
Vacant

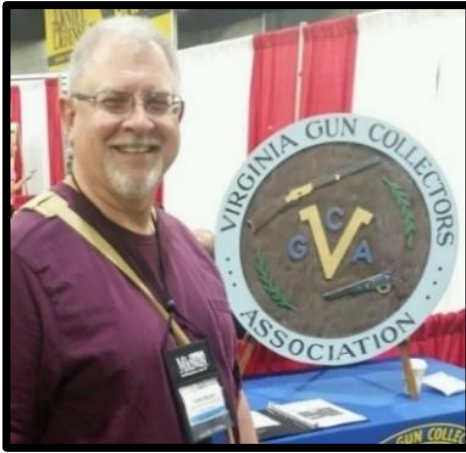
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July 2026 VGCA Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S NOTES

First, some very good news. As I was finishing this edition of the newsletter, I received an email from Ms. Holli Bryant, the Smith & Wesson Vice President of Marketing and Strategic Planning. In it she confirmed the date of our factory tour as October 16th. We will start signing up participants at our membership meeting this week. Space is limited to 20 VGCA members and/or their immediate family, so don't wait if you are interested in going to see the S&W factory in Maryville, Tennessee.

Also in the good news category, the injunction against the recently enacted Virginia "assault firearms" and magazine ban took effect this week on July 21st. So, to quote one of my favorite movies, "it looks like meat is back on the menu, boys!"

Unfortunately, not all the news this month is good. George Dungan, our Vice President, Membership Chairman, and good friend, passed away unexpectedly on July 5th. He contributed to the VGCA in so many ways and his passing is a significant loss to our organization. Please remember George's father and sister in your prayers.

Our next Membership Meeting will be this Thursday and in what has become a July tradition, it will be an all Show-n-Tell meeting. The topic is "Guns for which I paid too much" (as if that is even possible!). I hope to see you there.

Rob Becker, VGCA President

★ June Presentation – German Hunting Laws and Arms



Editor's Note: VGCA Member Clayton Vieg (*left*) was scheduled to give a presentation on "Waffenmuseum Suhl – German Hunting Weapons" at our June meeting but unfortunately, due to technical difficulties, we were unable to get the projector to cooperate. Clayton did an excellent job pivoting at the last minute to a presentation on German Hunting Laws and associated firearms (we will reschedule Clayton's Waffenmuseum Suhl program for a later date). Though I tried to take good notes, my transliteration of German was horrible and Clayton graciously provided the following summary:

Please note that due to changes in German government policy regarding US Forces personnel who possessed privately-owned firearms (POFs), I had to store all of my POFs temporarily in the arms room of my unit in Mannheim before the end of September 2002. Unlicensed possession of those POFs after that date would be treated possibly as a

criminal offense; in any case, the weapons would have been subject to confiscation by the German authorities. I could not take my weapons home again until I received all of the required German documents necessary to possess POFs under German law.

As there is no "Second Amendment" or any similar constitutional guarantee of the right to possess or carry a firearm in Germany, I first had to provide my "proof of need" (Bedürfnisnachweis) – in my case, the simplest way at the time (spring 2003) was to become a licensed hunter ("Jäger"). I therefore attended a special two-month-long course (every Wednesday night after work + all day Saturday) at the Heidelberg Rod & Gun Club (HRGC). Following an intensive exam (shooting qualification (four events) + written exam + oral exam), I was presented with a certificate of qualification from the local (German) hunting association. This was at the end of April 2003. (NOTE: My understanding is that German citizens must take a much-longer course, lasting about a year, before they can receive their Jagdschein.)

Along with my commander's certification as to my worthiness to possess firearms (which included background checks), I then went to the local county office ("Landratsamt") in the county seat of Heppenheim to apply for a three-year foreigner's hunting license (Ausländerjagdschein), which cost something in the neighborhood of 150 euros (as I recall). Although my Jagdschein has long since expired (as I no longer live in Germany), my understanding is that the license is otherwise valid for life; upon presentation of updated background checks + paying the prescribed renewal fee + proof of required hunting insurance (if I were to resettle in Germany, for example), I could reinstate my Jagdschein.

Upon receiving my Jagdschein, I then applied to the Bundesverwaltungsamt (BVA – Federal Administrative Office – a subsidiary office of the Federal Ministry of the Interior) in Cologne (Köln) for a Waffenbesitzkarte (WBK, or weapons possession card). That process took about five (5) months, delayed in part by a dispute over whether my Remington 870 Express pump shotgun (I brought it with me from the States) fell into the category (as defined by German law) of a "pump gun", which at that time had been recently

banned owing to a massacre in 2002 in the town of Erfurt where a sawed-off pump shotgun with barely a pistol grip had been used to kill several children. Once that dispute was settled, I then received the first of two (2) WBKs, covering all my manually-operated long guns + two (2) pistols (hunters are allowed up to two pistols). That WBK was issued in November 2003. (As a NATO status US Forces member, I had to apply to the BVA for my weapons permits. I understand that German citizens apply at the state or local level, most likely with their area "Landratsamt".)

The remaining pistols that I owned, along with an M1 Garand and an AR-15 (both brought with me from the States) had to wait until I qualified as a "sport shooter" (Sportschützen), which took over a year of monthly practice at the HRGC. The second WBK was only issued a few weeks prior to my PCS (from Germany to Virginia) in October 2005; in fact, the PCS was my justification for getting the BVA to issue the sport-shooter WBK when they did, as I could have been in a difficult situation when it came time to ship my firearms in my household goods shipment.

Applying for a Waffenschein (carry permit) was not authorized for US Forces members (like myself) in Germany under NATO status.

Clayton also brought four firearms with a Suhl connection. They were:

First was a German Gewehr 88 bolt-action rifle (*at right*). This was the first German rifle to use smokeless powder and introduced the 7.9x57mm cartridge. It was modified in 1904/05 to the "88/05" standard with a large "S" stamped over the chamber indicating it had been modified to accept the "S" (spitzer) bullet and had stripper clip guides added on the receiver. It carries regimental markings from an unknown unit on the barrel.



Second was a Karabiner 88 (*left*), which is a shortened carbine version of the Gewehr 88 intended for cavalry troops. This one was originally manufactured in Suhl in 1891. It was also modified for the "S" (spitzer) bullet but it was not modified for stripper clips. It has regimental markings from an unknown unit.

Next was a Karabiner 98K (*right*) in 7.9x57mm (standard 8mm Mauser). It was manufactured by J.P. Sauer & Sons in Suhl in 1938. It is marked with the Waffenamt code "S/147". This example

was a Russian capture and is import marked. Germany produced approximately 14.6 million Kar98Ks during the period 1934 to 1945.



The last firearm Clayton presented was a three-barreled firearm called a Drilling (*pictured at the beginning of this article*). It was produced by Simson in Suhl (in East Germany at the time) somewhere between 1950 and 1990. It is set up for a left-handed shooter and is fitted with a Zeiss Diavari 3x12-56 scope – which Clayton noted was probably worth more than the Drilling! The left barrel is 12 gauge, the middle barrel is in 7.9x57mm Rimmed and the right barrel (also 12 gauge) has an insert for .22 Hornet.



★ Next Membership Meeting: July 23rd

Presentation: Expanded Show-n-Tell

Topic: “Guns for which I paid too much!”

Location: NRA HQ Basement Auditorium

Our July 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!

★ 2026-2027 Presentation & Event List

MEETING DATE	TOPIC	PRESENTER
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
16 Oct 2026	Field Trip to Smith & Wesson Factory, Maryville, Tennessee	
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 (Sat)	Holiday Potluck & Annual Swap Meet – No Presentation	
23 Jan 2027 (Sat)	TBD	
27 Feb 2027 (Sat)	TBD	

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 July Meeting from Home

As has been our recent practice, we will be broadcasting our June meeting via the free internet service JITSi. 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 JITSi 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-july2026>

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: 218642927#**

Click this link to see the dial in phone numbers for this meeting:

<https://meet.jit.si/static/dialInInfo.html?room=vgca-july2026>



★ June Meeting Notes

The VGCA May Membership meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by President Rob Becker. Member Jim Burgess led the 40 members and guests present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Unfortunately, for the second month in a row we were unable to establish a wifi connection and could not share the meeting via jit.si. New members and guests were introduced.

Director Chris Britton announced the VGCA officer election results. Congratulations to:

President – Rob Becker (111 votes)

Vice President – George Dungan (103 votes)

Secretary – Robert Beich (104 votes)

Treasurer – Shannon Zeigler (58 votes) – Rick Nahas (54 votes)

These officers will serve a 2-year term ending in May of 2028. You can read their biographies on pages 9-10.

Rob announced that our June Gun Show was a success. While attendance was down somewhat from our Spring Gun Show (694 attendees in June vice 771 in February/March), the attendance was still about 120 more than last November's show.

Show Director Lou DiGaetano gave a quick update on our upcoming November Gun Show. As of now, we only have 9 tables available. Please contact Lou soon if you are interested in reserving a sales or display table.

Lou also made a pitch for volunteers to manage our Audio-Visual equipment at membership meetings. Our former volunteer took a job in Texas and we need at least one person (hopefully more than one) to replace him. The objective is to have a small pool of people trained in setting up and operating our equipment so one person isn't solely responsible. Please contact any officer or director if you can help.

Rick Nahas pointed out that we have three prospective dates (one each in September, October, and November) for a Smith & Wesson factory tour in Maryville, Tennessee. The VGCA Executive Committee will vote on a date and we will announce the results and start signing people up for the tour in July. We are limited to 20 participants and as an out-of-state field trip, all participants must be VGCA members or their immediate family.

Speaking of field trips – Rob noted that we are thinking about a trip to the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) North Store at Camp Perry, Ohio sometime this fall. The intent is to try to time it in conjunction with an Ohio Gun Collectors Association show.

There was a brief discussion of the upcoming July 1st effective date for several new anti-gun laws in Virginia, to include an Assault Firearms Ban and a ban on magazines holding more than 15-rounds. Both the Assault Firearms ban and the magazine ban “grandfathered” current ownership, but after July 1st Virginia residents will not be allowed to acquire new such items.

Treasurer Shannon Zeigler gave a financial update. Bottomline – over the last several years our income has dropped and our expenses have risen. More details will be provided in a future newsletter



A MID-16th-CENTURY GERMAN WALL GUN DETACHED WHEEL-LOCK

By Michael Samuels

The wheel-lock ignition technology for pistols and long-guns began to replace that of the matchlock in the early 16th century. In military firearms the wheel-lock was employed in pistols, muskets, carbines and wall guns. Wall guns were produced in much lower quantities than the other firearms. For example, in the *Landeszeughaus* in Graz, Austria, the armory has 978 military wheellocks and only 84 wheellock wall guns. Wall guns were, of course, in size-comparison the largest and heaviest of the firearms. As such, they were intended to be used with a wall mount, a tripod (figure 1) or a gun carriage (figure 2), and they were intended for the defense of a structure, support of artillery, and as a form of light artillery.

Due to their barrel length and capacity for a heavier powder charge, wall guns were useful for sniping at a distance with a large ball projectile (upwards of .95-caliber), or a large load of shot, which was an effective

way to stop a mass charge of enemy soldiers. Large and heavy wall guns were equipped with large locks. These large guns would probably have functioned perfectly with a conventional musket-sized lock, but those juxtaposed proportions might have looked a little odd.

Figure 1. Left - A wall gun on a tripod

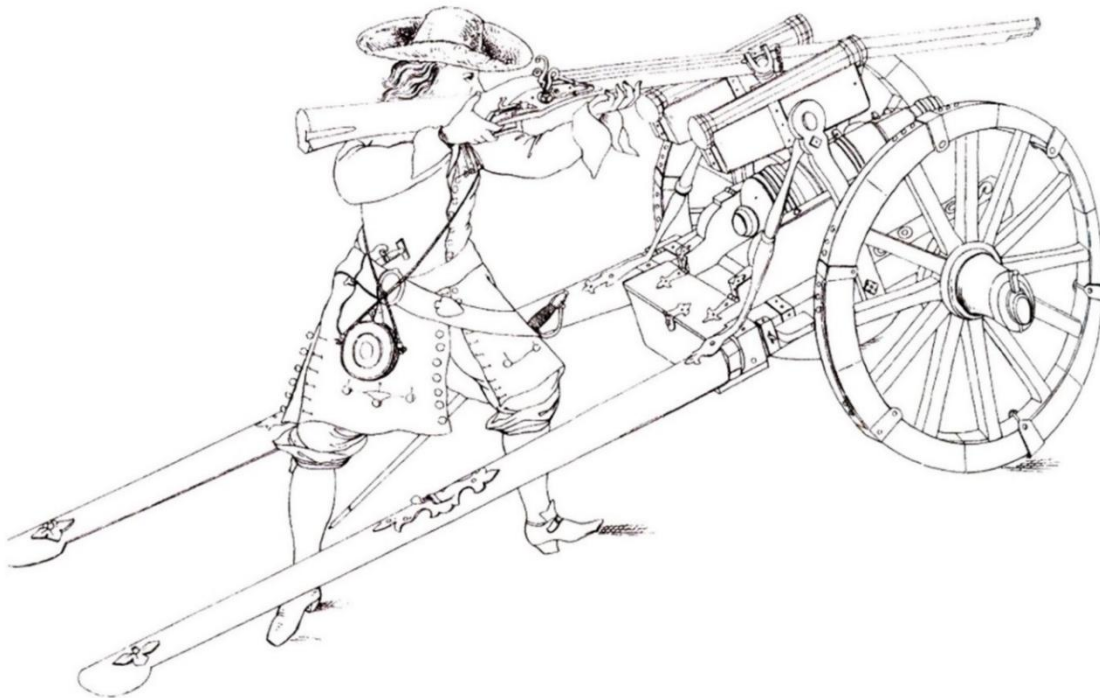


Figure 2. A wall gun used as support for artillery

The subject wheel-lock mechanism (figures 3 & 4) is such a lock intended for use in a wall gun. Of wall guns found in reference materials, most have lock plates that are 11.8-13.8 inches (30–35cm) in length. Most military wheellock long-guns—muskets and carbines-- have lock plates that are no longer than 9.84 inches (25cm) (figure 5). The subject lock's plate is 14.6 inches (37cm) in length... a giant!



Figure 3. Wall gun wheel-lock mechanism exterior. Lock plate is 37cm long.



Figure 4. Wall gun wheel-lock mechanism interior

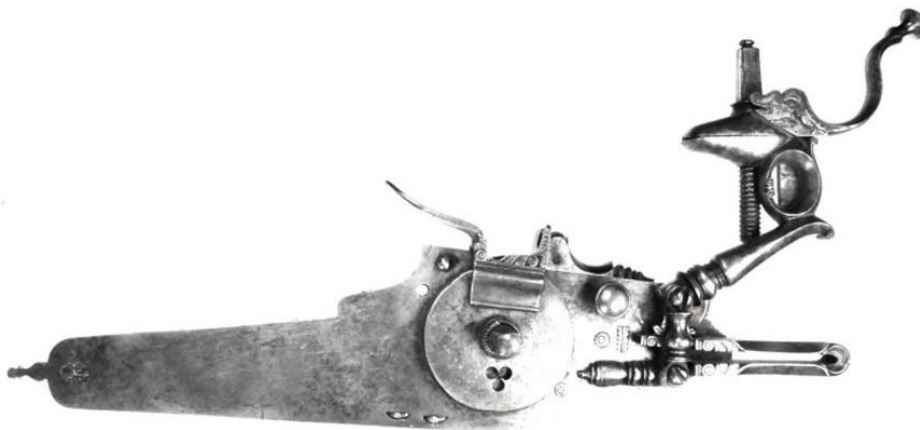


Figure 5. Left - A military wheel-lock mechanism for size comparison (not exact)

The lock has an external wheel (it is exposed on the outer surface of the lock plate – figure 3), which is a feature found in earlier wheel-locks. External wheels such as this one are more exposed to the elements, which may make

ignition less reliable when the rapidly rotating wheel teeth repeatedly strike the iron pyrite or marcasite (flint and steel ignition began with the snaphaunce lock) held in the jaws of the dog. Later wheellocks featured internal wheels that were not exposed. The wheel in this lock can be held in place by a spring-loaded safety rod that locks into a hole on the internal side of the wheel. The safety allows the lock's wheel to be kept in a state of tension—a “ready to fire” state, which allows the wall gun to be used at a moment's notice. The pan, that covers the wheel and priming powder, is closed by its spring when the cover is released by depressing a lever that passes through the lock plate to the external surface. For priming, the pan is opened by manually sliding the cover forward. An internal sear holds the wheel, when it is under tension from a chain attached to a leaf spring, in place until a trigger lever releases the sear from its position in the wheel. Releasing the sear causes the wheel to start spinning while simultaneously the pan cover, upon which the dog containing the pyrite is resting, opens allowing the pyrite to fall upon the spinning wheel,

thereby producing spark and igniting the priming powder.

The subject wheel-lock is not marked by its maker. This is not unusual for military locks, which were produced in volume. Based on the lock's architecture it is very possible that this lock was manufactured in Augsburg in Bavaria. Other large firearm manufacturing areas were in Suhl in Thuringia and Nuremberg in Bavaria. Wheel-lock mechanisms that are no longer contained within a firearm stock, a detached lock, may be the result of damage or decay of the original firearm, or it may be the result of the lock being removed in the 18th-Century to upgrade the existing firearm to the more-technologically-advanced flintlock ignition system. Removed locks would have been recycled or their parts re-used, so it can be said that detached wheel-locks are rare to find independent of their original firearm, and that wall-gun wheel-lock mechanisms are exceedingly rare to find.

A note on nomenclature: "wheellock" refers to the complete firearm (no hyphen) & "wheel-lock" refers to the lock mechanism.

Resource Note:

Brooker, Robert; *Landeszeughaus Graz, Austria*; Landesmuseum Joanneum, Austria; 2007.

Bailey, De Witt, gen. editor; *The Visser Collection*; S.I. Publicaties, Arnhem, The Netherlands; 2007.



Count Miklos Zrinyi, Hungary 1500's. Note his wheellock pistol's lock size.

Our Newly Elected 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 over 36 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. It is an honor to now serve a second term as your president.

Vice President – Vacant

Though he was re-elected just a few weeks prior, George Dungan passed away suddenly on July 5th. Per our VGCA By-Laws, the Executive Committee will vote on his successor soon.

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 – Robert Beich



I joined the VGCA in February 2023 and am now a lifetime member and is committed to the success and growth of the organization. I am a retired Government Contracting professional, having worked for 38 years in the specialized field of Government Contract Pricing. I live in Haymarket, Va with my wife of 35 years and enjoy spending time with our four children and two grandchildren. I have always possessed a deep interest in military history and started my collecting hobby with Mauser variants from European and Central/South American countries. Over time, I became an avid collector of original and replica battle rifles, semi-auto

SMGs and squad weapons, and handguns primarily from the world wars and cold war periods. I have a C&R FFL in good standing and am a regular attendee of our monthly meetings. I especially enjoy and actively participate in the “Show and Tell” segment of our VGCA meetings. I like to both share specimens from my collection as well as learn from our fellow members. As a member of the VCDL and GOA, I has been monitoring and researching the legislative changes in Virginia gun laws and 2nd Amendment legal cases across the country and look forward to socializing impactful 2A news with my fellow VGCA members.

Director – Bryan Pelton



I was born and raised in the gun-deprived, leftist enclave of the Upper West Side of Manhattan. Being the son of a Holocaust survivor, I have always loved of our country and the freedoms it offers.

I began my collecting journey in college when I purchased my first firearm (appropriately enough, a U.S. Property-marked Lee Enfield #4 Mk1*). While at college, I enlisted as an Infantryman in the Army National Guard. After earning a Commission, I served in various officer assignments, and eventually ended up in the Army Reserve. I enjoyed teaching BRM (Basic Rifle Marksmanship) to soldiers in the Army, and later to children at a summer camp.

I graduated from Syracuse University, with a Double Major in History and Political Science. I have spent the last 24 years with the IABSC (International Association of Bloodsucking Contractors), having worked at various multi-lettered government agencies. I joined the VGCA in 2019 with the goal of enhancing my knowledge of firearms. I am an equal opportunity collector, but my passion is for military surplus firearms, particularly WW1 and WW2 era bolt action rifles. I have great admiration and respect for the expertise of my fellow club members. Over the years I learned that the more you put into something, the more you get out of it, so I am particularly honored to serve the VGCA on its Board of Directors.

Editor's Note – Bryan was selected by the VGCA Executive Committee to complete the Director term of office left vacant when Lou DiGaetano took over as our Gun Show Director.



★ 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 Lou DiGaetano (ljdigster@yahoo.com) or any of the VGCA 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 have a confirmed date of Friday, October 16, 2026. S&W can manage a total of 20 people, divided into two groups of 10 each with our tours starting at 10:00 and 10:30 in the morning. 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 July Membership Meeting and future newsletters.

★ VGCA Social Media Accounts ★

Our Instagram account

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

has 405 posts with 1742 followers as of 20 July 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 20 July 2026.

The VGCA Facebook Page

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

has 405 posts with 1843 followers as of 20 July 2026.

★ 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 (like summarizing the monthly presentation or writing museum/book/gun show reviews) - please contact any of the officers or directors.

“And that the said Constitution be never construed to authorize Congress to infringe the just liberty of the press, or the rights of conscience; or to prevent the people of the United States, who are peaceable citizens, from keeping their own arms; or to raise standing armies, unless necessary for the defense of the United States, or of some one or more of them; or to prevent the people from petitioning, in a peaceable and orderly manner, the federal legislature, for a redress of grievances; or to subject the people to unreasonable searches and seizures of their persons, papers or possessions.”

George Washington

Debates of the Massachusetts Convention on February 6, 1788

VGCA GUNS OF DISTINCTION: WILSON REVOLUTIONARY WAR ERA SILVER MOUNTED FLINTLOCK PISTOL

By Marc Gorelick

Photos courtesy of Morphy Auctions, Denver, PA



During the American Revolution pistols used the flintlock mechanism. Almost all used in the war were referred to as holster pistols, because they were carried in a pair of saddle holsters. They were also called travelling pistols because civilian travel during this time could be hazardous as highwaymen and footpads infested the English highways and byways. No self-respecting gentleman would undertake a long journey unless he was well armed. The pistols were almost all made and sold in pairs and like civilians, military officers purchased their own pistols.



During the war almost all American and British officers owned pistols made in England. This is because 1) The American colonies were British and most of their imports were from England, and 2) Britain during the 18th century, was a leading industrial, commercial, and maritime power and enjoyed great prosperity and success in most endeavors, including gunmaking. Indeed, British gunmakers, specifically those in London and Birmingham, supplied a world market and the combination of artistic and mechanical excellence made their guns among the best in the world.

English pistols will often have the gunmakers name and sometimes address on the lockplate or barrel but few civilian or military officer's pistols will be marked with the date (year) they were made. However, for those pistols decorated or mounted with silver, it is possible to determine the year of manufacture from the silversmith's hallmarks (also called or touch marks). Another way of possibly dating an English gun is by the proofmarks stamped on the barrel. The Gunmaker's Company of London was authorized to test firearms for proving in 1637 and the sale of unproved gun barrels was made illegal throughout England in 1672.

Stylistically and technologically, the 18th century was a time of transition in English gun making. The large horse pistols were giving way to the small pocket pistols, and middle-size belt, great coat pocket pistols and travelling or coach pistols. The English gunsmiths during the 18th century made steady improvement in the artistic quality and the fitting and finish of their products. According to G.N. George, English gun making during the second half of the 18th century witnessed the introduction of a new and plainer style of decoration. Silver mounts and mask butt caps (often grotesque human or animal faces).were a characteristic form of decoration of good quality English pistols but this changed during the end of the 18th century to a much plainer style.

This brass barreled, silver mounted pistol, made by William Wilson of London circa 1783, is a handsome example of an English middle size belt, great coat pocket or travelling/coach pistol of the latter half of the 18th century. It has a .60 caliber, 7 inch long round brass barrel with a flattened sighting plane that is engraved "**MINORIES, LONDON**" with supporting engraved line work and a floral finial. There are London proof and view marks on the offset of the barrel, a **crown over GP** and a **crown over V**, with a ***/RW** maker mark.

The convex lock is signed "**Wilson**" in script, with a gooseneck cock, bridled pan, friction frizzen, and floral engraving at the rear. The lock is retained by two side screws with silver escutcheons and the graceful gooseneck cock is a replacement, which is not uncommon. The silver mounts also include a wrist plaque, a trigger guard with acorn finial, and the silver buttcap has a grotesque face and floral

engraving on the sides. The trumpet headed ramrod is retained by a single turned ferrule and feeds into a reinforced mouth.



The silver hallmarks (or touchmarks) are a key to dating the pistol. They comprise a .925 sterling lion, lowercase Gothic "h", a crowned leopard, and "MP" maker mark for a .925 sterling made circa 1783, perhaps by Michael Plummer, a noted silversmith who did work for quality gunmakers.

Because of the */RW hallmark, this pistol was originally misidentified as being made by Robert Wilson, possibly because the cataloger used Eugene Heer's *Der Neue Stockel* as a source. Howard Blackmore's *Dictionary of London Gunmakers 1350-1850* is a better source than Stockel for English gunmakers of the era. Robert Wilson as the maker would be problematic as he died in 1766 and the silver hallmarks definitely date the silver as being London silver 1783. The */RW mark is concretely identified to Richard Wilson (1) who worked circa 1725-1766. Unfortunately, this is also problematic as Richard was dead as well when the silver was made. However, Richard's son William became partners with his father in 1756 and took over the business upon his father's death, working until his own death in 1808. And, according to Blackmore, William continued to use his father's */RW mark. During the period this gun was made

(c1783) William was at 154 Minories in London, which matches the Minories address on the top of the barrel.



The pistol's condition is very good. The brass barrel has a rich mustard coloring with some verdigris just beginning to form at the deepest parts of stock. The lock is in very good shape with crisp markings. The cock has been replaced, which is not unusual with flintlocks of this age. The gooseneck style cock, while graceful and elegant, was not as strong as the later reinforced cocks and sometimes broke and needed to be replaced. This replacement cock is a decent match for the gun. The stock is also in very good condition with some handling marks, and a well done repaired crack at the rear sidenail. The silver is in excellent crisp condition with a good, slightly tarnished, appearance. The pistol is mechanically fine with an excellent bore.

FURTHER READING

Bailey, DeWitt; *The Wilsons: Gunmakers to Empire, 1730-1832*, American Society of Arms Collectors Bulletin 85:11-24

Blackmore, Howard L; *Gunmakers of London 1350-1850* (originally A Dictionary of London Gunmakers 1350-1850), George Shumway Pub. 1986

Blair, Claud; *Pollard's History of Firearms*, Macmillan Publishing Co., New York, 1983

George, J.N.; *English Pistols & Revolvers*, Small-Arms Technical Publishing Co., Onslow County, NC, 1938

Jackson, Herbert J; *European Hand Firearms of the 16th, 17th, & 18th Centuries*, Bramhall House, NY, 1923

Moore, Warren; *Weapons of the American Revolution and Accoutrements*, Promontory Press, NY, 1967



★ Membership Report – July 2026

Please welcome the following new members to our group:

Alan Boyd of Clifton

James Howell of Lorton

Brian Gudmundsson of Lynchburg

Devin Edwards of Ellicott City

John Machey of Fairfax Station

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 Prospective New Members: If you have applied for membership in the last few weeks and do not see your name above, please be patient. Mr. George Dungan, our Membership Chairman, passed away unexpectedly on July 5th and it may be a few weeks until we recover the membership paperwork from his estate. Please contact any officer or director if you have any questions or concerns.

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.

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

[illegible]

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.

.....
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).

VGCA Use Only	
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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 07/20/2026)

- M1 Garand (*Reclaimed Receiver*) Expert Grade .30-06 and .308 calibers \$1150 + \$35 S&H
- M1 Garand Receivers (*Reclaimed*) – Grade A \$325.00 + \$15 S&H; Grade B \$275.00 + \$15 S&H (click [here](#) for grade descriptions and important information)
- M1 Garand Barreled Receivers (*Reclaimed*) – .30-06 and .308 calibers – \$500.00 + \$20 S&H (click [here](#) for important information)
- 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; Service Grade: \$1300 (NOTE: Must ship to FFL; click [here](#) for important information)
- Tisas (commercial) (new) M1911A1 Pistols - .45 ACP – **SALE \$399.00** (reg \$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; .45 ACP 185gr wadcutter (box of 200) - \$136.00 + shipping ([click here](#) for important information)

LATEST CMP NEWS...

The National Matches kicked off on Thursday, July 9th – as of this writing (July 20th), the pistol events have concluded and the air rifle events are ongoing. Next week sees the beginning of the CMP Games, including the mass-participation rifle events such as the John C. Garand Match. ([Click here](#) for more information on the 2026 National Matches.)

One Last Thing...

In connection with the Matches, CMP appears to have brought some extra inventory to the North Store (NS) at Camp Perry as many registered NM competitors always look forward to see what CMP has in store every year. On the [CMP Forums](#), an individual (*apparently not a CMP employee*) posted the following items as being on the floor at the NS on July 14th:

- One rack of reclaimed (RC) M1903A3 rifles
- Some M1917 Enfields
- Two (2) painted Krag
- One (1) rack of M1 Garand (RC) barreled receivers 30.06/.308
- Many Expert grade (RC) M1 rifles
- RC M1 Garand receivers on the counter
- Also in stock – certain .22 surplus rifles such as Mossbergs, Win 52, Kimber 82G, and HRA M12s

(Accuracy of the above has NOT been verified – stock levels at the CMP stores change constantly depending on supply and demand)

....Go CMP!

[illegible]

July Legislative Update

By Alan Reid



Ladies and gentlemen, it has been a month of change in the Gun Law field. As you are aware there have been numerous lawsuits opposing the recently enacted Assault Firearms and Magazine bans filed against the Virginia Government. One of these has already been heard.

There are three other suits in play which the AG tried to get co-joined so that there was only one case which the government could somehow influence. The VA Supreme Court appointed a three-judge panel to decide whether they should be heard as separate cases or co-joined. In a unanimous decision they decided that they should be held as separate cases. Potentially, this may mean that only one of these cases needs to succeed for the Law to be thrown out. Don't quote me on that.

SCOTUS has also decided to review two other state cases that relate to so called 'assault weapon bans'. These will be heard in the next session somewhere around October or later. As a result of the SCOTUS decision, the Va Attorney General has withdrawn his appeal on the current injunctions on enforcement of the "assault weapons ban" until after SCOTUS has released their decision.

Even though the injunctions are in place (injunction starts on 21 July 2026 to ensure all Virginia Law Enforcement agencies are aware) there is still some doubt as to whether anything covered in the bans will be grandfathered if the cases are decided in the

If you have not seen it, the link below effectively debunks some of the myths on the 2nd Amendment commonly used by anti-gunners. It is an approximately 30 minute talk on history that is well worth watching.

For those interested in some interesting factoids - to be classed as an assault weapon in the US Military, NATO and just about any other military organization it **has to** have the following characteristics:

- You'll notice that the first point proves that according to military standards, assault weapons are **not** common to the American people and furthermore classing a lever action rifle with a certain tube capacity as an assault weapon shows the utter lack of firearms knowledge on the part of many people. Oh well, why let truth get in the way of fear mongering.

A horizontal row consisting of 26 identical black triangles pointing upwards.

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.



Final Salute

George Bernard Dungan III **May 19, 1962 – July 5, 2026**

George Bernard Dungan, III, age 64, of Montross, VA, passed away at home on Sunday, July 5, 2026.

Born on May 19, 1962, in Fredericksburg, VA, George was the son of G. "Bernard" Dungan, Jr. and the late Pearl Lee Bradshaw Dungan. Raised in Montross, George had many lasting friendships throughout his community and was known for his intelligence and genuine nature.

George proudly served his country in the United States Navy, where he was stationed aboard the ***USS Finback***, a fast-attack submarine. Following his military service, he established a successful career as a Managing Broker with East Coast Commercial Investment Realty in Fairfax, VA.

George lived his life in faith and was a member of Tabernacle Baptist Church in King George. In his free time, he enjoyed target practice with friends, collecting firearms, reading, and traveling to new places.



George was extremely active in the Virginia Gun Collectors Association. For the past five years, he has been the VGCA Membership Chairman and just last month he was elected to his third term as the VGCA Vice President. He was instrumental to the success of recent VGCA gun shows, often operating behind the scenes, and was voted the VGCA Member of the Year in 2021.

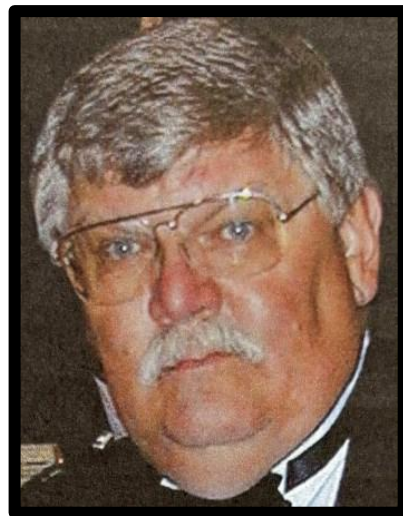
He was preceded in death by his mother, Pearl Lee Bradshaw Dungan and is survived by his father, G. "Bernard" Dungan, Jr.; his sister, Mary D. Thomas and her husband, Dan; as well as several cousins, extended family members and dear friends.

Final Salute

David “Dave” Stewart McKenzie – June 20, 2026

David Stewart McKenzie, 82, of Arlington VA, passed away June 20, 2026. Son of Charles Stewart McKenzie and Mary Lee Blaylock, "Dave" as his friends called him was a proud lifelong Washingtonian. He was a man whose life was rooted in family, tradition, community, and the outdoors he loved.

A devoted supporter of Scottish heritage, David was active in the Saint Andrew's Society of Washington, D.C. as the Sergeant at Arms, organizing annual events such as the Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk and the Kirkin' of the Tartan. He was also an active member of the Board of Directors for the Council of Scottish Clans and Associations. His most lasting legacy is the Highland Games community where he helped establish highland athletics and Celtic events across the United States. He served as President of the Virginia Scottish Games.



In his professional life, David served in law enforcement for many years including being a K-9 Officer in Calvert County, and a Police Officer at George Washington University. His longest tenure was as a Metropolitan Transit Authority Police Officer, proudly working as a member of the warrant and fugitive squad, helping to make the Metro area a safer place for over 30 years.

He was also a passionate supporter of the military community having graduated from Massanutten Military Academy and having attended The Citadel. He served at Marine Corps Base Quantico as a firearms instructor and range officer. It was this posting that led to one of his lifelong passions being a military historian, whose knowledge and respect for tradition and sacrifice informed much of his life.

Ever the avid outdoor sportsman, David was also a proud member of the Fairfax Rod and Gun Club, the Safari Club International, and the Virginia Gun Collectors Association. He enjoyed sharing his knowledge of both firearms and the history behind them, even being featured on the History Channel.

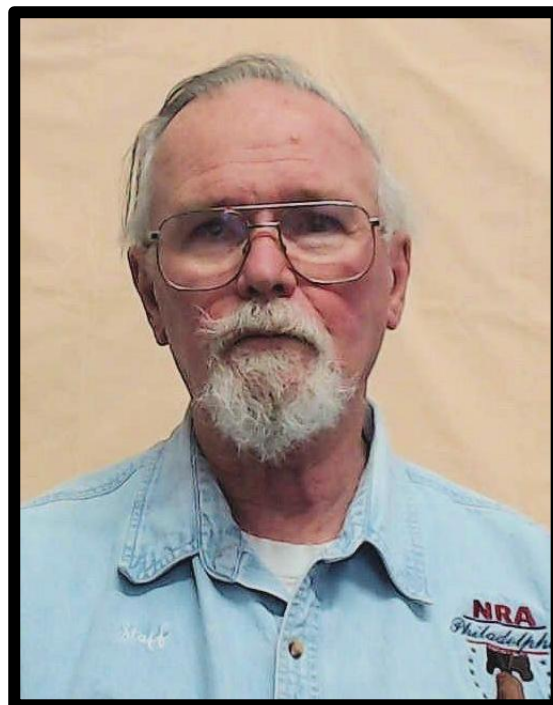
He was a devoted partner to Gwen and their beloved cat, Grayson. A loving father to Lisa, Kimberly (Wayde) and Heather (Travis), and a proud grandfather to Steven, Owen, Andrew, Audrey, Olivia, and Lyndsey. He is also survived by his sister, Mary Lynne, his sister-in-law, Mary Ellen, his former spouse, Judith, nieces Robin, Sheila (Paul), his nephew Stewart (Laura) and their families. He is predeceased by his brother Robert, and his parents.

Final Salute

Joseph “Joe” Murray Roberts May 19, 1941 – March 5, 2026

Born to Elmo Murray Roberts and Blanche Simmons Roberts on May 19, 1941 in Portsmouth, Virginia, Joe never met a stranger. From his early days as a boy scout and altar boy at Holy Angels Catholic Church he met the world with a contagious smile, which he kept all his life. After graduating from Churchland High School in 1959, he joined the Navy, where he served as a hospital corpsman at the Naval Hospital in Portsmouth, Virginia. A born salesman, he went on to work in lumber sales. It was during this time that he met and married his beloved Barbara, his wife of sixty three years. Joseph and Barbara moved to Hanover, Virginia in 1971, where they built by hand the idyllic log cabin where they would spend more than fifty years together.

A member of the Virginia Gun Collectors Association, in the past he served as their Security Director for gun shows and was often seen recruiting new members at their membership table at the old Chantilly gun shows.



An avid golfer, he cherished both the sport and his friends. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, neighbor, and friend, and he will be deeply missed.

Joe is preceded in death by his brother-in-laws Dell Zyrkle, Herb Porter, and his wife, Barbara Kyle Roberts, whom he missed dearly.

He is survived by his sisters, Blanche Roberts Porter of Chesapeake, Virginia, and Mary Roberts Butt of Cumming, Georgia. He is also survived by his brothers and sisters-in-law, Dan Butt of Cumming, Georgia, Bonnie Zyrkle of Chesapeake, Virginia, David and Judy Kyle of Richmond, Virginia, and Michael and Robert Kyle of Portsmouth, Virginia. Also surviving are his three children, Joseph Murray Roberts, Jr. of Hanover, Virginia, Audrey Roberts Scherr and husband Jay Scherr of Flagler Beach, Florida, Dianne Roberts Barr and husband Michael Barr of Manakin-Sabot, Virginia, and his “third daughter” Dena Messina of Hanover, Virginia.

★ 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

June Show-n-Tell



Member 1 brought in his recently acquired Molot RPK (*left*). This is a semi-automatic version of the Russian *Ruchnoy Pulemyot Kalashnikova*, which translates as the "Kalashnikov's hand-held machine gun" aka – a squad automatic weapon. Chambered in 7.62x39, this is one of only 300 that were imported to the U.S. in 2016 before import restrictions were placed on Russia. This RPK and its 40-round magazine were one last purchase before the Virginia Assault Firearms and magazine ban are set to go into effect on July 1st.

Member 2 brought a Škorpion vz. 61 (or Sa vz. 61 Skorpion), a Czechoslovak machine pistol (*right*). It was developed in 1959 by weapons designer Miroslav Rybář (1924–1970) and produced under the official designation Samopal vzor 61 ("submachine gun model 1961") by the Česká zbrojovka arms factory in Uherský Brod. Produced from 1963 to 1979, it is chambered in 7.65mm (.32 ACP) and was intended as a personal defense weapon for drivers and other rear-echelon troops.

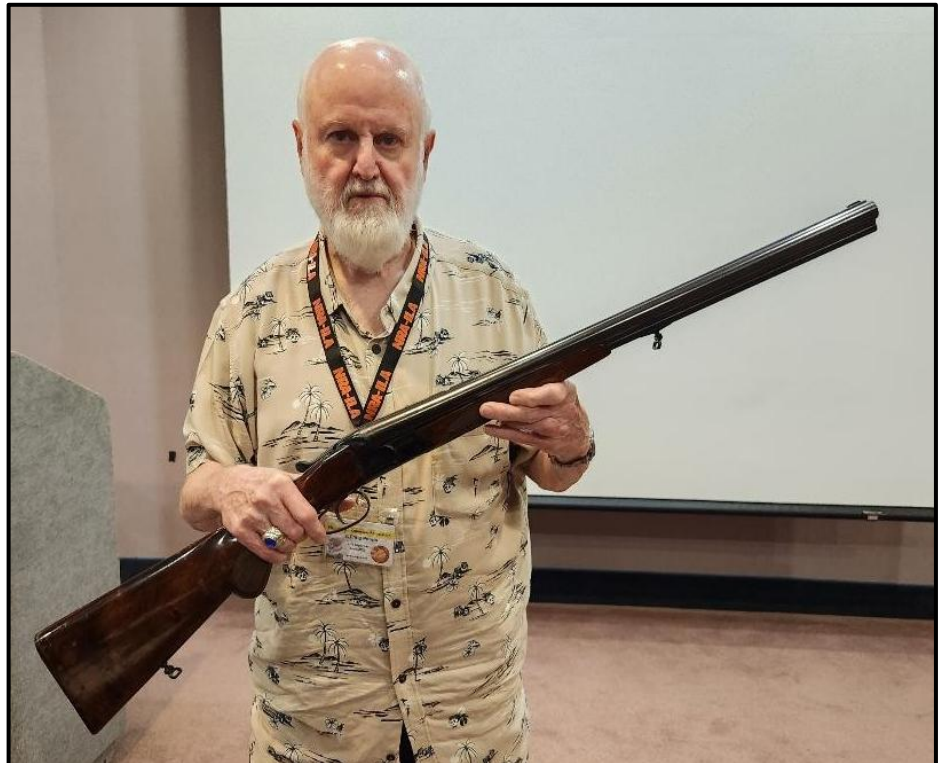
This particular example is a semi-automatic that was purchased as a pistol. It was subsequently registered as a Short Barreled Rifle (a \$200 tax is no longer collected on SBRs) and the folding stock was then added. It now matches the original "as issued" configuration.

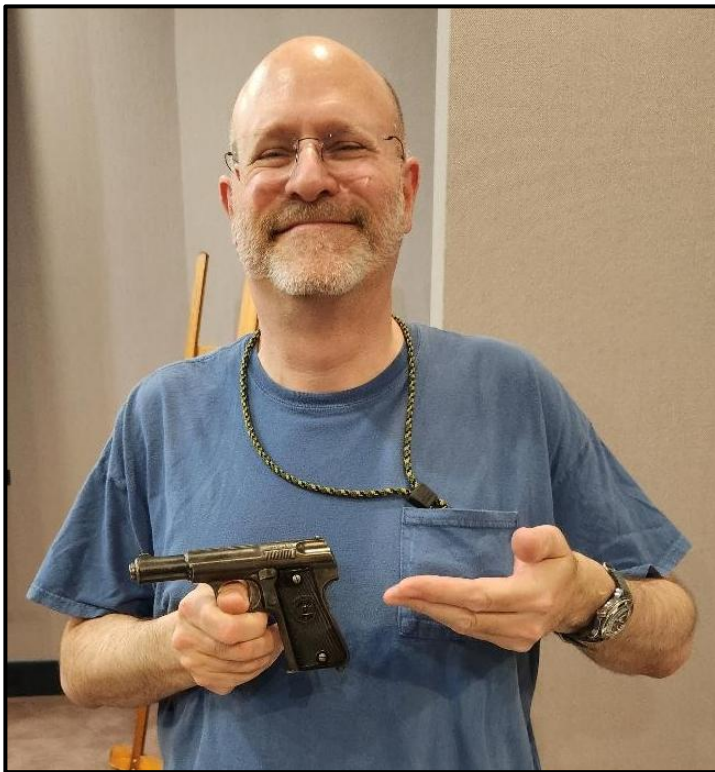




Member 3 brought in two German Drillings, both produced in Suhl. Drillings are up-scale hunting guns which feature two shotgun barrels (typically side-by-side) over a centerfire rifle barrel. The first was made by Thieme & Schlegelmilch NMIR od Gewehrfabrik (*left*). It is 16-gauge x 16-gauge (2 ½ inch chambers) over a 9.3x75R rifle barrel. It was produced between 1905 and 1910.

The second drilling shared by Member 3 was a Model 3000 produced by J.P. Sauer & Sohn of Suhl (*right*). It also has two 16-gauge shotgun barrels but in this case, the rifle barrel is 7.9x57R. This example was made in 1932 and was purchased by member 3 at the Richmond Gun Show last November.





Member 4 shared two handguns – the first being an Astra 3000 (*left*). This semi-auto blow-back pistol is chambered in 9x17 (aka 9mm Kurz or .380 ACP). This was an updated version of the Astra 300. Modifications include widened bottom on the grips, button mag release and a loaded chamber indicator. Astra produced 44,389 in .380 ACP and .32 ACP from 1946 to 1956. Astra's largest contract for them was to equip the Haburg Germany police. He purchased it at the last VGCA show.

Member 4 also brought in a "Prvi Hrvatski Pištolj" whose name translates as "first Croatian pistol" (*right*). It was manufactured by IM Metalic, today known as HS Produkt. The pistol was hastily developed to supply the Croatian military soon after Croatia gained its independence from Yugoslavia, but it was soon after replaced by the HS2000. By design, this 9mm Parabellum pistol represents a mix between Beretta 92 and Walther P38 pistols, and takes several design influences that are in both handguns, such as a decocker/safety, double-action/single-action trigger, open-top slide and vertically tilting locking block. The overall appearance of the pistol mostly resembles the P38, but the magazine capacity and single recoil spring below the barrel is closer to a Beretta. The safety also incorporates a manual decocking lever, located on the left side of the grip frame. It is entirely possible that the safety/decocker was based on the design of the Beretta Cheetah. Some 15,000 were produced in two variants – one with a 4-inch barrel and the other with a 5 ½-inch barrel (like this one). It was acquired along with the original holster, extra magazine, cleaning rod and oiler from Green Top in 2026. It uses Springfield XD 15 round magazines.





Member 5 brought in a Model 1911A1 pistol (*left*). The original Model 1911 was designed by John M. Browning and adopted by the U.S. Army in 1911. Chambered in .45 ACP, it served as the primary sidearm of U.S. armed forces for almost eight decades before being replaced by the Beretta Model 92.

This example was manufactured by Colt in approximately 1943 and was recently purchased from the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) in May 2026. Its condition is what CMP designated as “service grade”. Member 5 used a CMP coupon acquired at the National Rifle Association annual meetings earlier in the year.

Member 6 shared a Romanian RPK machinegun (*right*). The Romanian RPK is a local production variant of the Soviet RPK (Ruchnoy Pulemyot Kalashnikova) — the squad automatic weapon version of the AK platform — that was developed in the early 1960s to standardize Soviet small arms in the 7.62x39 caliber. Romania produced it under license at the Cugir arsenal.

It shares the AKM’s gas-operated, rotating bolt action but features:

- A thicker, longer barrel (590 mm) for sustained fire and better heat dissipation
- A reinforced 1.5 mm stamped receiver and bulged trunnion for durability
- A club-foot style stock for prone firing – to operate as a squad LMG
- A folding bipod and laminated wood handguards
- Feed options: 30 , 40 , or 75 round magazines.
- Interchangeable with an AKM but more robust in its manufacture
- Rear sight is adjustable for windage (specific to the RPK)
- Blued or black parkerized finish depending on era

The Romanian RPK saw extensive service with Warsaw Pact forces during the Cold War, providing squad-level automatic fire support. They remain a practical example of how Eastern Bloc nations adapted Soviet small arms for local production and service. This semi-automatic example was built on a Romanian parts kit dated 1976.





Member 6 also brought in a Vector Arms Uzi (*left*). The story behind the Vector Arms transferable automatic Uzi's is a long, convoluted, and interesting one! The heart of the Vector Uzi is its registered receiver. These started life in 1985-86 when the flats were stamped and folded by Michael Brown, at that time the President of Group Industries. This company had gained a reputation in the 1980's as a converter of the semiauto IMI Uzi into select fire. As the price of the IMI Uzi increased and the supply became spotty, Michael conceived the idea of making his own US-version and not being dependent on a foreign supplier. In addition, he wanted to be able to directly

influence the quality and end up with a superior product. As an inside joke, the Group Industries Uzi's were engraved with the model number HR4332. Mike selected this number as it was the House of Representatives bill enacted in May 1986 which banned newly-manufactured machine gun ownership by private citizens.

In 1995, Ralph Merrill of Vector Arms acquired the remaining Group Industries stock of receivers at auction for \$291,500, which meant the unit cost for 3,427 receivers was \$85.06 each. Now that Vector Arms had entered the Uzi market, Ralph had to figure out:

- 1) where to access a large supply of new parts to complete these 3,318 transferable receivers and
- 2) where to find a production facility to assemble the Vector Uzi

Answering these two questions would become quite the global enterprise. After striking out with original Uzi manufacturers Israeli Military Industries (IMI) and Fabrique Nationale (FN), neither of whom had any remaining parts inventory and no interest in restarting manufacture for such a small production run, in 1997 Ralph contacted Distraco SA (IMI-Europe) headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. He hoped they possessed a suitably large inventory of spare parts and the supporting production facilities to finish the Group Industry receivers. This proved fruitless as well. They did have a good number of parts but could not support any Uzi production. Distraco SA could install parts and repair existing firearms but did not possess the facilities to perform initial buildup of the receiver. The equipment needed to install barrel trunnions, rear plates, sight brackets, etc. did not exist.

In July, 1997, Ralph heard that South Africa could be a possible source of parts. During the late 1970's, the Pretoria-based firm of Lyttleton Engineering had quietly manufactured thousands of Uzi's to supply South African forces engaged in the Rhodesian war. Upon conclusion of this war and creation of Zimbabwe, the demand for these Uzi's had ceased. Consequently, over 5,000 brand new Lyttleton-made SMG's were carefully stored in a South African warehouse. Yes, the government would sell them but was not interested in dismantling them into parts kits – someone else must do that. Negotiations to acquire these new Uzi's and get them stripped down would take the next 1 1/2 years.

An Uzi is comprised of 85 parts and the Lyttleton Uzi's could provide 77. This is because the balance (7, not counting the receiver) are welded/built into the receiver in such a way that they would be destroyed during removal. Perhaps a final foreign trip could locate these seven missing parts.

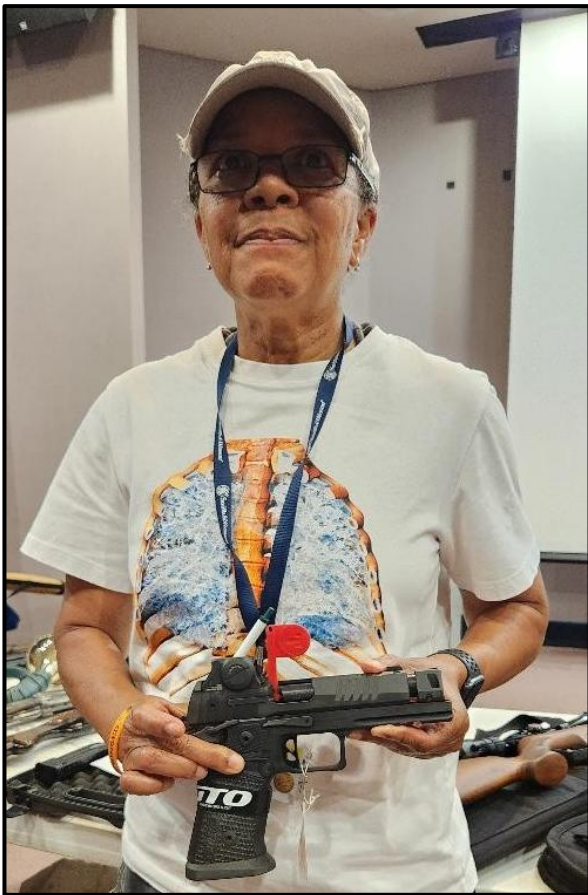
In September, 1998, Ralph visited the Croatian firm of RH-ALAN, which was producing an Uzi clone – the ERO 9 – and amenable to providing the seven missing parts. But...they wanted \$500,000 to do so. Additionally, some of these parts were investment cast and somewhat suspect regarding long term use/wear which the American shooter would expect of a "new production" fully transferable SMG. Ralph thanked them very much and decided he would make these seven parts himself. There was no other solution.

Also in September 1998, the South Africans finally shipped the 5,000 Lyttleton Uzi's to Switzerland where they were carefully disassembled into the necessary 77 parts by a respected Swiss firm. The US import permit was easily approved and the first 60 kits landed in Utah via Delta Airlines in February 1999, with the bulk arriving by sealift in May. After four years of diligent searching, Vector Arms finally had 77 of the 84 new parts they needed. Vector was going to make the additional seven parts themselves and set up full production facilities.

With the 77 Lyttleton-made parts in hand and after making the remaining parts and learning Uzi manufacture directly from Mike Brown, Ralph and Vector Arms initiated Uzi production. The Group Industries receiver is unique among all those produced by IMI, FN, Lyttleton or RH-ALAN - it is case hardened. When a typical Uzi is used over a very long period of time, the rails on the bottom of the bolt may wear longitudinal grooves into the receiver. This can lead to incorrect stripping/chambering of the cartridge and alteration of sear release geometry, etc. As the receiver is the registered part, Vector wanted to make sure it would not wear out. According to U.S. National Firearms Act, the bolt can be replaced but not the receiver. The first transferrable Vector Uzi was shipped on May 25, 1999.

This example is a semi-automatic carbine with a 16-inch barrel. It is made with the same quality control and attention to detail as Vector Arms' earlier full-auto Uzi's.

Member 7 brought in an antique pistol from the American Revolutionary War period – a Wilson Silver Mounted Flintlock Pistol (right). For an in-depth look at this well-made classic single shot, see this month's VGCA Guns Of Distinction on pages 13-16.



Member 8 shared a newly acquired Sig P211 (*left*). Chambered in 9mm Parabellum (9x19) and designed for range duty and competition the P211 entered production in 2025. It features a double stack magazine with factory mags having a capacity of 17, 21, or 30 rounds (currently not available for purchase in Virginia – but based on a current judicial injunction this will change on July 21st). This example features a red dot optic and a compensator. It was purchased at the Richmond gun show in June 2026.

Member 9 displayed a Herman Weirrauch Beeman HW97K spring-piston .177 pellet rifle (*right*). They have been in production since 1997 and are used extensively in field target competitions and small game hunting. This example was acquired in the late 1990's and features a beautiful wood stock.



Member 10 brought in an Italian Bren Gun (*at left*). Unlike the standard British Bren chambered in .303 British, the Italians adopted this machinegun in 7.62x63mm (.30/06). These were manufactured by Breda between 1959 and 1975 as a Bren MKII. Very rare in the U.S., this example was rebuilt from a parts kit and is now semi-auto. The rifle and the crate (numbered to the gun) weigh 52 pounds! It represents another "assault firearm"

currently outlawed for purchase in Virginia (though that law has a judicial injunction in place – meaning it will no longer be in effect between July 21st of this year and July 1st, 2027).



Member 11 (*right*) brought in a cased cap-and-ball revolver made by Robert Adams (*above*). Designed, patented, and built by Adams, it was sold by Dickson and Son of Edinburgh, Scotland. Dickson and Son was founded in 1820 and is still in business today. The gun is a double action only revolver in 54 bore, which equates to .442 caliber. This model has a separate rammer (as there is no built-in loading lever) and was produced from 1851 through 1854. This example has Birmingham proofs, was proofed in 1852, and was refinished sometime in the 1970s. Victorian era Scottish revolvers are far less common than their English equivalents.



Member 12 shared a Soviet era Russian SKS carbine (*above*). Designed by Soviet engineer Sergei Simonov, the SKS-45 (Self-loading Carbine of the Simonov System – 1945) was a semi-automatic rifle chambered in 7.62x39 caliber and with a fixed 10-round magazine. Based on combat analysis from WWII, the SKS was initially intended to be the next primary COMBLOC infantry weapon. However, it lost that role when the AK-47 – originally intended as their new submachinegun - proved so versatile. The Tula arsenal manufactured the SKS-45 from 1949 through 1958. For the first six years, the factory marked the top of the receiver cover with the Tula “arrow in a star” logo and the year of manufacture. During the last three years, the top cover markings were eliminated and a small star was stamped on the left side of the receiver and a single letter suffix after the serial number denoted the year (*see table, left*). This example is from the last year of Tula manufacture, features a birchwood laminated stock with two recoil cross bolts (a feature seen only in the laminated stocks), and is in beautiful condition. It does not appear to have ever been issued.

Д (D in English)	=1956
И (I in English)	=1957
К (K in English)	=1958

A photograph of a vintage Remington-Union Metallic Cartridge Company (R-UMC) bolt-action rifle. The rifle features a polished wooden stock and a black metal receiver. A telescopic sight is mounted on top of the receiver. The rifle is resting on a wooden surface, and a wooden block is visible in the background.

A long-barreled, bolt-action rifle, likely a Swiss K31, is displayed horizontally. It features a dark wooden stock and a long, slender barrel. A large red cross is visible on a white cloth in the background, suggesting a medical or humanitarian context. The rifle is mounted on a wall or a display stand.

James Monroe, speech to Congress, November 16, 1818

★ 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

- 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 19-20, 2026 – Woodstock, VA – Shenandoah County Fairgrounds – *Bear Run Firearms*
- 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*
- **Nov 7-8, 2026 – Dale City, VA – VFW Post 1503 – *VGCA (Our Fall Gun Show!)***
- Nov 14-15, 2026 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex – *Showmasters*
- Nov 20-22, 2026 – Manassas, VA – Manassas Mall, 8358 Sudley Rd – *Showmasters*
- Nov 28-29, 2026 – Fishersville, VA – Augusta Expo – *Showmasters*
- Nov 28-29, 2026 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK*

MARYLAND – 2026

- Aug 22-23, 2026 – Easton, MD – Easton Volunteer 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*
- Nov 7-8, 2026 – Crownsville, MD – Anne Arundel Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Nov 7-8, 2026 – Easton, MD – Talbot County Community Center – *Shore Shot Promotions*
- Nov 14-15, 2026 – Frederick, MD – Frederick Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*

PENNSYLVANIA – 2026

- ~~Jul 25-26, 2026 – Indiana, PA – Kovalchick Convention & Athletic Complex – *Eastern Gun Expo* – CANCELLED~~
- Jul 25-26, 2026 – Reeders, PA – Jackson Township Volunteer Fire Company – *Jaeger Arms*
- Aug 1-2, 2026 – Bloomsburg, PA – Bloomsburg Fairgrounds – *Eastern Gun Expo*
- Aug 7-9, 2026 – Oaks, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eastern Gun Expo*
- Aug 15, 2026 – Greencastle, PA – Greencastle Sportsman's Assoc Grounds – *Izaak Walton League of Franklin County*
- Aug 15-16, 2026 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center – *Showmasters*
- Aug 22-23, 2026 – Trevoze, 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*

PENNSYLVANIA – 2026 (continued)

- ➔ **Sep 17-20, 2026 – York, PA – York Expo Center – *Ohio Valley Military Society – Max Show***
- ➔ **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***
- ➔ **Nov 7-8, 2026 – Quarryville, PA – Solanco Fairgrounds – *Eastern Gun Expo***
- ➔ **Nov 7-8, 2026 – Sellersville, PA – Forrest Lodge VTW 245 – *Jaeger Arms***
- ➔ **Nov 14-15, 2026 – Lebanon, PA – Lebanon Expo Center – *Eastern Gun Expo***
- ➔ **Nov 15, 2026 – Portland, PA – William Pensyl Social Hall – *Portland Hook & Ladder Co. #1***
- ➔ **Nov 21-22, 2026 – Allentown, PA - Parkview Inn - *Eastern Gun Expo***
- ➔ **Nov 28-29, 2026 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center – *Showmasters***

SPECIAL EVENTS / SHOWS – 2026

- ➔ **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!

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



Looking for Carpool to Cartridge Show

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.

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 regard 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.

VGCA Logo Available at Lands' End

Here's how to order your apparel:

1. Go to the VGCA store on Lands' End business:
<https://business.landsend.com/store/vgca>
 - a. It must be the URL shown above. **Do not** go to the regular Lands' End website. It will not show our logo options.
2. Above the photo on the home page click on "Men" or "Women"
3. On the drop-down menu select what you are interested in. For example, Men>Activewear>Tops gives you 19 different styles and fabrics of men's shirts. When you have selected an item click on it and select your color, size and quantity. Then on the lower right-hand corner of the screen click on the blue "Apply Logos" button.
4. On the next screen click on the VGCA logo to choose it and it will open the "select a Location" menu showing where you can have the VGCA logo embroidered. Choose a location and then scroll down to the "Apply Logo" button in the lower right corner and click it. It will return you to your garment page.
5. If you are satisfied with your garment, color, size and logo location click on the "Add to Bag" button in the lower right corner.
6. Then you can then go to checkout or continue shopping. When you checkout it will show an additional \$8.95 for embroidery.



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.



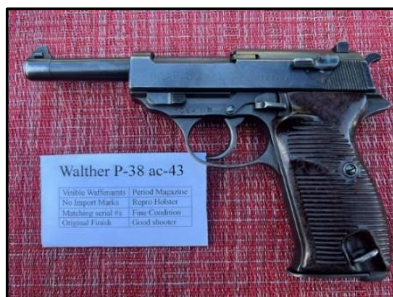
- ★ Four boxes of Freedom Munitions 10mm X-DEF 200gr
- List price is \$29.65 each - Asking \$25 each



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@ygca.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.