



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.ORG



Est. 1983

(A Non-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G 8162

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July / August 2007 VGCA Newsletter



We have successfully survived July sans VGCA meeting, but July is fortunately the month of the Worlds Greatest Sporting event, the *Tour de France*, a 23 day bicycle stage race. We are now embroiled in the legendary stifling heat of a Washington, DC area August. So, on with the Show!

June 28 Presentation: This months presentation was delivered by **Rick Nahas** on the S&W Aircrewmen, Airweight, and AirLite handguns. Much thanks goes to **Larry Hare** who took the meeting notes as your editor was off in the West Texas town of El Paso. I was greatly disappointed to have missed this as I have mentioned to Rick after I lugged a display of heavy Swiss rifles that I should collect S&W Airweights instead. This presentation showed ably that there is no free lunch! Rick, who won a prize for Best Modern Display at the recent S&W Collectors Association at their Richmond show favored us with an outstanding display of over 90 fine examples of these fascinating handguns. They came in all kinds of flavors including ones with aluminum (Al), titanium (Ti), and blued steel cylinders. Some had one piece barrel shrouds, some had two piece shrouds. Rick had several fine examples of authentic Aircrewmen J series (605 manufactured), along with some fine examples of the later C series (40,000

manufactured) and many, many other uncommon and interesting variations. Rick also covered several important areas of extreme interest to collectors, such as unique assembly parts numbering and several examples of counterfeit and fake Aircrewman revolvers. A number of members commented on the extreme quality and clarity of the accompanying Powerpoint slides. Overall, it was a very impressive and enjoyable presentation by one of our own members.

June 28, 2007 VGCA Meeting S&W Airweight Presentation and Show & Tell



Top: Just half of the S&W display for the Airweight presentation.

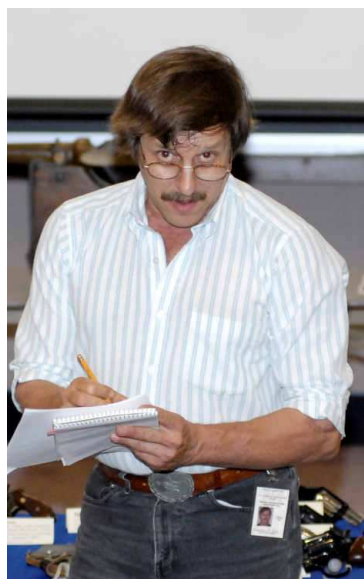
Left: James Pemberton asks about his shotgun case.



Right: Hal Johnson and the Swiss 7.5 x 55 emergency ammo tin.

Lower left: Larry Hare introduces a membership candidate.

Lower Right: John Morris' breech loading bronze 1.5" cannon.



➡ **UPCOMING for the August 23 Meeting:** The NRA/VGCA Series for the August 23 Meeting will host Washington Post Movie Critic and Pulitzer Prize winning author and novelist **Stephen Hunter**. Mr. Hunter's best selling novel, "Point of Impact" was the basis for the movie "**Shooter**," which is now available on DVD. Doug Wicklund will be bringing in some of the props from the movie. Bring in your sniper arms and equipment for show and tell. Jim Land will also be attending and he is bringing in several Marine sniper rifles. ➡ *The meeting begins at 7:00PM, and food will available shortly after 6:00PM.*

➡ There will be **NO MEETING in SEPTEMBER** due to our VGCA Gun Show at PWC Fairgrounds.

➡ **ADVANCE NOTICE for the October Meeting:** **Larry Hare** will cover, "Standard Arms Company, Wilmington, DE - The Genesis of the Gas Operated SemiAutomatic Rifle". The presentation will cover the history, design, and variations of both the Standard Arms Company Model G (gas operated Semiautomatic) and then Model M (slide action manual operated) rifles.

➡ **ADVANCE NOTICE for the combined November-December meeting on December 6:** Due to popular demand after his first presentation, Anthony Vanderlinden will be back with a presentation on FN during WW2.

June 28 Business Meeting: The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance, a simple tradition that is quite enjoyable when you think about it. It is one of the few times during the course of our daily lives that we can stand up and reflect on how fortunate we are to live in such a great nation. **President Addison Hurst** announced that there will be no meeting in July and the next meeting will be August 23 with the presentation by Stephen Hunter. Posters and flyers for the September VGCA gun show were available for the taking. These posters were created by **Larry Hunt** and are truly a piece of fine art. It is suspected that at least some of these are likely to end up framed and on some members' gun room walls. ☺ A sign up list for the upcoming show was available for potential security team and other volunteer. Due to popular demand after his first presentation, Anthony Vanderlinden will be back in a combined November-December meeting on December 6 with a presentation of FN during WW2. **Rick Nahas** said that there are less than 20 tables available for the September show. We're in a much better position than we were at this point prior to the last show. **Larry Hare** presented one new club applicant to the membership for a vote. We are glad to announce that **Carl Lindenmayer** has been accepted into the fold. Welcome aboard.

Meeting Show and Tell: **James Pemberton** brought out a fine leather gun case seeking information from the assembly as to its most probable source and the type of gun for which it was fitted. Bob Sears quickly determined that it was fitted for a 30" single barrel trap gun but that was about all that could be derived from such a brief inspection. **Hal Johnson** exhibited a "not often seen" 7.5mm Swiss sealed metal cartridge box with instructions in four languages. These boxes were issued to Swiss military and militia as emergency packs to keep at home for use in times of war, until they could be issued ammo at the muster point. They were required to be turned in on an annual basis for a fresh pack. **John Morris** muscled in another piece of very interesting "heavy ordnance." Specifically, this piece was either a patent model or a salesman example of a bronze, Merrill breech loading 1.5" bore cannon on a iron wheeled carriage. The breech mechanism is very similar to that used by the Hall breech loading rifle. This was an awesome piece as are most of John's finds. **Larry Hare** displayed a unique pair of pistols starting with a very nice example of a 1969 S&W Model 41 with the 7.5" barrel, with muzzle break and cocking indicator. This was accompanied by a now very collectible S&W manufactured CO₂ air pistol clone of the Model 41. The show and tell, off to a fine start, was cut short by a storm-induced power failure which plunged the meeting hall into total darkness. All members made is out by the emergency lighting and the restoration of power.

Several members had numerous firearms for sale up in the back. Among the items for sale was a .22LR Colt New Frontier and a Remington Model 550-1 semi-automatic .22LR, both in almost new condition and very reasonably priced, according to Larry Hare. Sometimes it pays to check out the side table for "deals" before moving over to the feed trough. ☺ Very favorable comments have been received on the food arrangements.

Member Notes: **Addison Hurst** will be off for the first two weeks in August to Russia to visit General Kalashnikov. Ed Johnson, Bill York, and Ed Costello were also invited. He promised to bring back lots of photos. **Some bad news.** VGCA Member James Pemberton died on Monday, July 30. The information was received from his spouse, Libby via Mona Hurst. A copy of the Washington Post Death Notice follows on the next page.

JAMES A. PEMBERTON (Age 67) Died Monday, July 30, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Libby A. Pemberton, and his daughter, Kelsie S. Welch. James was preceded in death by his daughter, Anne Elizabeth Pemberton. A Memorial Service will be held Monday, August 6, 2007 at 10:30 a.m. in St. John's Episcopal Church, 1525 H St., N.W., Washington, DC 20005. The family will receive friends following the service at the church. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to St. John's Episcopal Church. Arrangements with DEMAIN FUNERAL HOME, Springfield, VA. *Published in The Washington Post on 8/3/2007.*

Upcoming Events and Shows

Words to the Wise: Lately there have been some changes in scheduling by gunshow promoters or errors on some websites. Members are strongly encouraged to check before driving long distances for a show. These dates have been published as of this writing, but are not guaranteed.

If you have a show you would like to tell other members about, please email the Editor with a short review, including the items displayed, i.e., modern, new, or antique, and I will include it if room permits.

VIRGINIA

- ☉ August 18-19, 2007 - Roanoke, VA - Roanoke Civic Center - *Showmasters*
- ☉ August 25-26, 2007 - Harrisonburg, VA - Rockingham County Fairgrounds - *C&E Gun Show*
- ☉ August 25-26, 2007 - Winchester, VA - Sportsplex Event Center - *Old Dominion Shows*
- ☉ September 1-2, 2007 - Alexandria, VA - Hyatt Crystal City - *Mideast Antique Arms Show* - Contact: Beinfeld Productions, P.O. Box 2197, Cathedral City, CA 92234. (760) 202-4489.
- ☉ September 8-9, 2007 - Fredericksburg, VA - Expo Center - *SGK, LTD.*
- ☉ September 8-9, 2007 - Norfolk, VA - Norfolk Scope - *Showmasters & C&E Gun Show*
- ☉ September 15-16, 2007 - Hampton, VA - Convention Center - *SGK, LTD.*
- ☉ September 22-23, 2007 - Manassas, VA - Prince William County Fairgrounds - *Virginia Gun Collectors Association*
- ☉ September 22-23, 2007 - Salem, VA - Salem Civic Center - *C&E Gun Show*
- ☉ October 6-7, 2007 - Dale City, VA - VFW Post 1503 - *Old Dominion Shows*
- ☉ October 12-14, 2007 - Chantilly, VA - Dulles Expo Center - *C&E Gun Show* and/or *Showmasters*
- ☉ October 13-14, 2007 - Virginia Beach, VA - Convention Center - *SGK, LTD*
- ☉ October 20-21, 2007 - Richmond, VA - The Showplace - *C&E Gun Show*

MARYLAND

- ☉ September 15-16, 2007 - Howard County, MD - Howard County Fairgrounds - *Silverado Promotions*
- ☉ October 6-7, 2007 - Timonium, MD - Timonium Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*
- ☉ October 13-14, 2007 - Frederick, MD - Frederick Fairgrounds - *Potomac Arms Collectors Association*. Contact: Jim Vaughn (301) 384-7177.

PENNSYLVANIA

- ☉ September 1-2, 2007 - Allentown, PA - Allentown Days Inn - *Eagle Arms*
- ☉ September 8-9, 2007 - Harrisburg, PA - Farm Show Complex - *Mid-Atlantic Arms Collectors*
- ☉ September 15-16, 2007 - Greencastle, PA - Mason Dixon Auto Auction - *Appalachian Promotions*
- ☉ September 21-23, 2007 - King of Prussia, PA - Valley Forge Convention Center - *valleyforgegunshow.com*
- ☉ October 6-7, 2007 - Allentown, PA - Allentown Days Inn - *Eagle Arms*
- ☉ October 20-21, 2007 - Allentown, PA - Fairgrounds - Agricultural Hall - *The Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*. Contact: FDHAS, 3491 Linden St., Bethlehem, PA 18017. (610) 997-8613 after 6 pm.
- ☉ October 27-28, 2007 - York, PA - York Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*

"It is the common fate of the indolent to see their rights made a prey by the active. The condition upon which God has given liberty to man is ETERNAL VIGILANCE: which condition if he breaks, servitude is at once the consequence of his crime, and the punishment of his guilt."

J.P. Curran, 1790.6

Address for any Newsletter related matters or submissions is VGCAnews@cox.net. Feel free to email items for inclusion in the newsletter. For changes of address or non-receipt of the newsletter, either via email or the mailed hard-copy, please contact Larry Hare at the numbers on page one. V/R, Bill Chronister, Newsletter Editor