



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.NET

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

NRA Affiliate Number G8162



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August 2016 VGCA Newsletter

★ VGCA Meeting of June 23, 2016:

Our June presentation was from Bryan Pelton, who spoke on the legendary AK-47. Starting with a review of early 20th Century infantry tactics and associated military rifle development, Bryan took us through the development of the “Assault Rifle.”



As Bryan explained, an assault rifle has three characteristics – it is select fire (able to operate both semi and fully automatic), it is chambered for an intermediate round, and it has a detachable magazine. During WWII, the Germans developed such a weapon in the MP 43/MP 44 “Sturmgewehr” chambered in 8x33 Kurz (a shortened round based on the standard German 8x57 Mauser).

Enter the Soviet Union’s Mikhail Kalishnikov. Following a design philosophy of “make it simple, reliable, and effective,” he developed initial experimental models of his rifle in 1944 and 1945. Utilizing the 7.62x39 round (an intermediate caliber based on the standard Russian 7.62x54r), he refined his designs in the Automat Kalishnikov (AK) 46 and AK-47. Bryan provided an excellent summary of the AK-47’s strengths and weaknesses.



The end result was the most influential and prolific firearms design in history, with over 100,000,000 produced!

This superb presentation was enjoyed by all present! In the photograph at left you can see our President, Ernie Lyles, thanking Bryan on behalf of all of the members of the VGCA!

★ **June Business:** The business meeting this month began with Ernie Lyles leading the pledge of allegiance. Rick Nahas provided an update on the November Show and stated that there were only 22 tables available (less now – see below). Members were reminded that this show is the weekend before the general elections. Shannon Zeigler then gave us a financial update on the status of the club’s finances. The President announced that Bernie Breighner was selected by the Executive Committee as our newest Director and that Bill Chronister will be our new Membership Director. New applicants were membership and other guests were introduced by their sponsors/hosts. Finally, Kristy Austen and Steve Griffin of US Law Shield gave a brief presentation their firearms legal defense membership service. For a monthly fee, their service provides legal counsel to members involved in a firearms-related incident 24/7 around the country. Their website is uslawshield.com.

★ **Congratulations to our new Membership Director:** Please congratulate Bill Chronister on his accepting the challenge of VGCA membership Director. He will be assuming the duties from Larry Hare, who has been our Membership Director for the last 18 years. Larry is leaving big shoes to fill!

Again, congratulations to Bill – and a huge “thank you” to Larry!

✪ **Congratulations are also in order for our newest Director:** At their June meeting, the VGCA Executive Committee reviewed the by-laws and requirements for filling our vacant Director position. After discussing the volunteers seeking the post, Bernie Breighner was selected. Congrats Bernie!

✪ **Upcoming August 25th Meeting:** Our August presentation will be from Emory Hackman, who will be speaking on the Guns of the Early Cowboy Era. Please remember to bring any friends who may be interested.

As usual, there will be pizza and drinks available for a recommended five dollar donation. Social time begins at 6:15 with the meeting beginning at 7p.m.

✪ **November VGCA Show Update:** As of August 11th, there are only 13 tables available - get your reservation now. Remember, a display table is free for members!

President's Comments

VGCA Members,

I hope everyone had a nice July without having a meeting. Since our last meeting, I have presented the NRA Museum our annual donation, a check for \$2500.00. As I am an employee of the museum, I had to abstain from any voting on donations made to them. We usually do this at one of our meetings, but as Jim appointed me to receive the check, I didn't think the members would want to see me present a check to myself.

We are looking for members to do programs for next year. Please see Rick Nahas if you are interested so we can get you on the calendar. Also, congratulations are in order for one of our local Northern Virginia residents, Ginny Thrasher, who attended West Springfield High School and now goes to the University of West Virginia. She received the 1st Gold Medal of the Rio Olympics this year in Air Rifle shooting.

-- Ernie

Treasurer's Report

We are currently in good financial standing. For the period covering from the May Meeting to date we have had no significant income and the primary expense was our annual donation to the NRA Foundation. I will provide a more detailed accounting at our next membership meeting.

Respectfully Submitted, Shannon Zeigler

Other News!

✪ **Membership Candidates:** One change from the recently approved by-laws is how we review and accept potential new members. Instead of prospective new members having to attend a meeting with their sponsor, when we receive their membership application we will list the candidates' names here in the newsletter. From that point you, the VGCA membership, will have 30 days to contact an Officer or member of the Executive Committee with a complaint or reason against allowing the candidate to join. This allows for raising an objection out of the public eye. After the 30 days, if there are no objections to a prospective member, then they will be considered to have a vote of yes from the club. At this point they will be asked to introduce themselves to the club at a meeting and pay

their dues. Once their dues have been paid they will go on the roster as an active member. Those candidates presented during the June Newsletter and for which there were no objections are listed below:

NEW MEMBER

Christopher Zieonis
Ian Charles Wulf
Randall Patrick

SPONSOR

Shannon Zeigler
Shannon Zeigler
Dave Litchfield

Here is the name of the candidate we currently have for consideration for the club as well as their sponsor.

CANDIDATE

Andrew (Andy) Galusha

SPONSOR

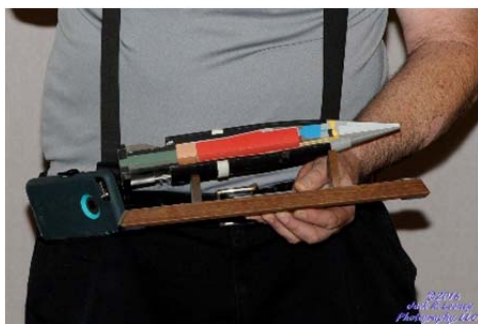
Paul Veneziano (also known by Marc Gorelick and Larry Hare)

✪ **Continued Call of Articles for the Website:** We are making a call for articles for the website. They must be about guns or gun collecting, not shooting sports or hunting. No political articles will be used. Articles may be about modern or antique firearms and may be historical and/or technical in nature. Please fact check and proofread your own work. All articles may be submitted to Marc or Richard at web@vgca.net. Official Guidelines for articles may be found on the education page of the VGCA site.

✪ **June 2016 Show and Tell** ✪

Bill gave us a look at new book entitled “M91/30 Rifles and M38/M44 Carbines in 1941-1945” by Alexander Yuschenko and translated into English by Ryan Elliot. The author, who is Ukrainian, had access to wartime production records and explains the many manufacturing and factory refurbishment markings/stamps. Bill also brought an AK103 30-round magazine. These black polymer mags are rarely seen in the US and command collect prices!

One of our members presented a cut-away example of a 60mm Small Caliber Smart Munition tested by the U.S. Navy at Dahlgren. A unique piece, to say the least!





In keeping with the theme of Soviet small arms, Rob (above) presented his recently acquired Type 45 SKS Carbine (chambered in 7.62x39, just like the AK-47) manufactured at the Tula Arsenal in 1953. It is “as issued” and, unlike most imported Russian SKSs, has never been through an arsenal refurbishment.



Also presented (above) was an interesting piece that was at least inspired by the “NRA Sporter” rifle. It is built on a 1919 Springfield Model 1903 receiver with custom stock and sights. Does any member have additional details on this rifle?

What would our Show-n-Tell be without an unusual .22 presented by Larry? This month is no different, though the Savage 87 “3-in-1” he is holding (below) actually belongs to Jack Looney, our esteemed photographer! Chambered in .22 Short, this rifle could be operated as a semi-automatic, a manual repeater, or a single shot. Members were warned not to disassemble one too far as there are lots of springs eager to disappear across the room! One member noted that this was the 1st rifle given to him by his father.





One of our members (above) shared a leather-bound notebook containing “Rifle Notes” and descriptions of the firearms of Ned Roberts (of .257 Roberts fame). Hand-written in Ned’s own cursive, this unpublished tome is a treasure-trove of target shooting and load development data from a by-gone era.

Ernie (below) presented a .22LR WASR AK clone. What is unique about this weapon is that it is serial number 1!



Also presented were an Anschutz Model 54. This is a single shot trainer in .22LR produced after WWII. Approximately 3000 were produced for West German Police and Customs Agents. It was noted for its fast lock time.

A member brought in a DSM 34 “Sportsmodel”. This pre-war trainer was made by Thüringen Co-op and probably came to the US as a GI bring-back after WWII. It has subsequently been “sporterized.”

In Review

“In Review” is a new section to the newsletter and will include VGCA member reviews of guns shows, books, and museums. If you would like to submit a review, please send it to the newsletter editor at rpebecker@verizon.net.

Gun Show

VGCA Members attend the July Ohio Gun Collectors Association Member Meeting

By Bill Chronister

VGCA Members Marc Gorelick, Rob Becker and Bill Chronister were guests of Ohio Gun Collectors Association (O.G.C.A.) member and VGCA Vice President Richard Nahas at the July membership meeting of the O.G.C.A. The goal was to see the meeting and to apply for membership in the world’s largest and oldest gun collecting organization. The O.G.C.A. was formed in August 1937 and currently has 18,000 members. The O.G.C.A. is a Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) affiliate and membership may qualify you to purchase surplus firearms through the CMP.

The membership meetings are large, members-only gun shows held at the Roberts Center in Wilmington, Ohio, six times a year. Invited guests are admitted with a member; however one can only attend as a guest twice in a lifetime. The meetings have approximately 700-800 member tables of firearms and related items. The tables held many treasures and the prices were varied – for example, many Smith & Wesson firearms were a welcome bargain compared to recent shows in northern Virginia. There were many tables of collectibles and also parts, books, and other accoutrements. Unlike local commercial shows, there were actually very few tables devoted entirely to new firearms and modern sporting rifles. We found the members and table holders were extremely friendly and when seeing you were a guest would often introduce themselves and ask about your interests. The meetings are well attended and in January 2016, there were 692 tables, with 545 guests in attendance, and they had 183 applications for membership.

Educational displays are a large part of the meetings. The July meeting had over 40 display tables. Various collector organizations are hosted at different meetings. Hosted during this meeting were the Ruger Owners and Collectors Association and the American Thompson Collectors Association. There were also a number of O.G.C.A. member displays. The displays were exceptionally well crafted.

To become a member, you must complete an application at a meeting and have two members as sponsors. What was extremely impressive was the organization and administrative support provided by the Association. The new membership area and member services were a suite of rooms. There were a series of tables of O.G.C.A. shirts, caps, badges, pins and other items for sale in the lobby. There was a dedicated information table and also a security table manned by uniformed officers. There were a number of food vendor areas with a large selection of items. I look forward to attending more of these meetings, especially the May meeting which is the “Display Meeting.”

Museum

A VISIT TO THE MUSEUM – THE SWEDISH ROYAL ARMOURY

By Marc Gorelick



If you are ever in Stockholm, Sweden, a visit to the Royal Palace should be on your “to see” list. A seldom seen part of the collections that is well worth a visit by gun collectors and military historians is the Royal Armoury. The Royal Armoury is the oldest museum in Sweden. It was established by King Gustav II Adolph in 1628 after his decision to preserve the blood splattered clothes he wore on his campaign in Poland. This became the Royal Armoury's hallmark: blood-marked armor and costumes preserved to bear witness to royal valor, including the blood-stained shirts and buff jerkin which Gustavus Adolphus was wearing when he was killed in the battle at Lützen (Germany) in 1632. Housed in the spectacular and beautiful cellar vaults of the Royal Palace, it holds 500 years-worth of arms and armor used by Swedish royalty. The Royal Armoury's oldest artefacts are the sets of royal state and ceremonial weapons that were stored in the old Three Crowns Palace during the 16th century. The Armoury's collections include some of the most richly decorated arms and armor in Europe, including matchlocks, wheellocks, flintlocks, swords, polearms, combination weapons, and horse armor. It also includes a collection of more modern arms, as well as firearms curiosa of various types. While not a huge collection, many of the arms on display are historically significant and are richly decorated works of art in their own right. Admission is free, the staff is friendly and helpful, and, if you are with a non-gun person, he or she can view the royal costumes, clothes and carriages.

Book

Member Connie Rice was recently notified that his article “Seventy Years of Guidebooks for Marines” will be published in the November issue of Leatherneck Magazine. His story outlines the Marines Handbook (1930’s to 1941), a wartime book called “The Word”, and the Guidebooks from 1945/46 to present. He also discusses the changes in tactics, weapons, and special areas of emphasis. Look for it this fall!

Upcoming Events and Shows

PLEASE NOTE: There are sometimes changes in schedules by gun show promoters or errors on websites. Members are strongly encouraged to ***verify before driving to a show***. These dates have been published as of this writing, but are not guaranteed. If you have a favorite show you would like to tell other members about, please email the Editor with a short review, including the show content, i.e., modern, new, collectible or antique, and I will include it as room permits. **Yellow** = Collector organizations.

VIRGINIA 2016

- August 27-28, 2016 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway – *Showmasters*
- September 3-4, 2016 – Norfolk, VA – Norfolk Scope – *Showmasters and C&E*
- September 10-11, 2016 – Fishersville, VA – Augusta Expoland – *Showmasters and C&E*
- September 10-11, 2016 – Hampton, VA – Convention Center – *SGK*
- September 17-18, 2016 – Manassas, VA – Prince William County Fairgrounds – *SGK*
- September 17-18, 2016 – Salem, VA – Salem Convention Center – *C&E*
- September 30-October 2, 2016 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters and C&E*

MARYLAND 2016

- August 27-28, 2016 – Dundalk, MD – Grand Lodge Order of Odd Fellows – *Blue Fins Group*
- September 10-11, 2016 – Frederick MD – Elks Lodge – *Potomac Arms Collector Association*
- September 10-11, 2016 – West Friendship, MD – Howard County Fairgrounds – *Silverado Gun Shows*
- October 15-16, 2016 – Timonium, MD – Timonium Fairgrounds – *The Gun Shows*

PENNSYLVANIA 2016

- August 27-28, 2016 – Altoona, PA – Blair County Convention Center – *Showmasters*
- August 27-28, 2016 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center – *Showmasters*
- September 10-11, 2016 – Shady Grove, PA – Shady Grove Community Center – *Frontier Cnty Gun Club*
- September 17-18, 2016 – Philadelphia, PA – National Guard Armory – *The Gun Shows*
- September 24-25, 2016 - Allentown, PA – PA Roadway Inn Expo Center – *Eagle Arms Productions*
- September 24-25, 2016 - Greencastle, PA – Mason Dixon Auto Auctions – *The Gun Shows*
- September 24-25, 2016- Dover, PA – Union Fire and Hose Company – *The Hunters Gun Show*
- September 24-25, 2016 – Washington, PA – Washington County Fair Grounds – *ARH Sport Shop*

VGCA MEMBERS GET FREE ENTRY TO THE PACA GUNSHOW

The VGCA and the Potomac Arms Collectors Association (PACA) entered into a reciprocal agreement whereby VGCA members in good standing will get free entry to the PACA show on **September 10-11**, at the Elks Lodge, 289 Willowdale Drive, Frederick, MD 21702. PACA members in good standing will get free entry to the VGCA show on November 5-6.

.....VGCA members must to show a current valid VGCA ID card in order to get free entry to the PACA show. Only a valid ID card will be accepted. No exceptions.

.....This agreement constitutes a member benefit for both clubs and may help increase traffic at the respective shows

**POTOMAC ARMS COLLECTORS ASSN.
ARMS & MILITARIA SHOW**

Including Air Gun Collectors & Appalachian Arms Collectors

September 10-12, 2016

Elks Lodge #684

289 Willowdale Drive

Frederick MD 21702

Turn north onto Willowdale from West Patrick Street (US40W)

Antique and modern arms and arms related items only

No flea market items. 90 Tables. Saturday - 9AM to 5PM, Sunday – 9AM to 3PM

VGCA Members FREE ENTRY with VALID VGCA ID. Ladies & Children under 16 free.

The e-mail address for any Newsletter related matters or a submission is Newsletter@vgca.net or you can read 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 Larry Hare.