



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

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July-August 2019 VGCA Newsletter

President's Comments

Hi everyone!

I hope everyone had a great summer. I am very excited to get the new board of directors working on a bunch of new initiatives. I want to thank all the candidates who ran for the open positions and many thanks to the members for taking time to vote.

We had a great presentation in June and have already started working on the 2020 presentation schedule. We are planning to bring in some exciting speakers and great topics. Please let me know if there are any requests for specific presentation topics that you are interested in learning more about.

In fact, our presentations are generating so much interest that we had about 7 or 8 members show up on the 4th Thursday in July. Unfortunately, we do not have a meeting in July - but I do appreciate everyone making the effort to come out!

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the August member meeting.

--*Bernie Breighner*, VGCA President

★ May Presentation ★ Saturday Night Specials

VGCA member Matthew G. provided a fascinating (and very entertaining) look at an uncommon collecting area – the “Saturday Night Special.”

The term “Saturday Night Special” was first used in the press in 1968. “Saturday Night Special” (or SNS) was a derogatory term, meant to describe a cheap and disposable handgun that could be purchased



on Saturday, used in criminal activity that night, and “pitched in the river” before Sunday dawned, without a second thought by the buyer. In reality, small and inexpensive handguns are often the last line of defense for lower income households, serving a lawful purpose as opposed to an unlawful one. Typically, a SNS was a small, easily concealed handgun in a small caliber. Weapons of this ilk frequently display either poor design, sloppy workmanship, or are made from inexpensive materials. Though foreign guns fitting this description were often imported in the first half of the Twentieth Century, the Gun Control Act

of 1968 placed restrictions on imported guns. Foreign handguns were evaluated and assigned a point total, with a specified minimum number of points required for importation. Diminutive, small caliber handguns with fixed sights etc. failed to reach the minimum points and thus could not be imported. Foreign imports or not, there was still a market in the U.S. This opened the way for domestic manufacture of SNSs. Matthew’s presentation focused on these post-1968 domestic pocket pistols.

SNSs, by their nature inexpensive, are not widely collected and thus old and even rare ones remain inexpensive. To date, there just are not many collectors and so SNSs have not been extensively researched. This is a wide-open field for a young collector!

Matthew said he purchased his first “Saturday Night Special” at Gilbert’s in 2006 or 2007 (while he was still in college). It cost \$52.00. Matthew also noted that it is the most expensive gun he has ever purchased, because it piqued an interest and started an extensive collection!



Matthew showing two of his examples of Saturday Night Specials (*above left*) – a semiautomatic pistol and a double-barrel derringer. One advantage of collecting SNSs is that they do not take up much space. This picture (*above right*) shows several German revolvers imported before the U.S. Gun Control Act of 1968.

Manufacture of domestic SNSs became synonymous with the multiple companies located in the “Ring of Fire” around the outskirts of Los Angeles, California. It all started with Raven Arms, founded by George Jennings in 1970. In 1978, George Jennings’ son, Bruce Lee Jennings, founded Jennings Firearms. Jennings Firearms would ultimately go bankrupt and be renamed Bryco Arms. In 1982, George’s daughter Gail and her husband, Jim Davis (Jim was a former office manager at Raven) and Jim’s brother

John founded Davis Industries. John Davis would later go on to start Sedco. Sedco only lasted three months as it was sued out of existence for making a direct (and unauthorized) copy of the Jennings J22 pistol. Lorcin Engineering Company was established in 1989 by Jim Waldorf. Jim Waldorf was a high school friend of Bruce Jennings. In 1991, the Raven factory burned down and shortly thereafter, Phoenix Arms “rose from the ashes of Raven.” The direct relationships between the owners of these companies would probably make a great movie!

Many SNSs are made from Zamak, a zinc alloy. On the plus side, this alloy is lightweight, cheap, relatively soft and easy to cast/machine. On the negative side, Zamak wears easily (and related – can be easily defaced – think serial numbers) and is not as durable as other alloys or steel. Rapid wear means ballistic matches by law enforcement are less certain. In an effort to regulate/eliminate cheap handguns, some states have enacted “melting point” laws. These laws are designed to restrict use of Zamak and similar alloys due to their low melting temperature.

Matthew noted several generalities about these domestic SNSs:

- Workmanship and quality control can be “spotty” but some companies carry a lifetime warranty
- Reliability issues can frequently be traced to poor magazines (upgrading to a mag made by Triple K can sometimes have a dramatic effect on reliability), feed angle, extractor length, or extractor spring strength
- Used guns abound and are very inexpensive. Realize that pistols chambered in .22 LR may be heavily worn, but that guns chambered in .25 ACP are often in good shape due to the high cost of that ammunition

If you were unable to attend the June membership meeting, you definitely missed an informative and memorable presentation. Thank you Matthew!

🔴 June Business: President Bernie Breighner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. sharp. Mr. Jim Burgess led the membership in reciting the U.S. Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence for those deployed in harm’s way and those who have made the supreme sacrifice for our freedom. There were 75 VGCA members and four guests in attendance and the guests were introduced to the membership by their sponsors/hosts.

Bernie initiated a short business meeting. He mentioned that long-time VGCA life member Richard Feirman, PhD had recently passed away (see June Newsletter for additional details).

Bernie also explained that the VGCA has set a goal of reaching 500 members by the end of the year. Current membership is at 494 – 390 Life Members, 96 Annual Members, and 8 Prospective Members pending approval. We are almost there!

Rick Nahas provided an update on our November Gun Show.

- There are still 22 Tables available
- We will have an updated Security and Safety Manual in place for this show
- Members were reminded that our two shows provide the funds necessary to operate the VGCA
- In answer to a question, it was confirmed that our March 2020 Gun Show will remain at the Prince William County Fairgrounds
 - Because the PWC Fairgrounds are currently for sale, our show dates cannot be confirmed more than a few months in advance

Bernie announced that we are planning a VGCA Picnic for this fall

- Tentatively scheduled for 19 October 2019 at the NORVA range
- Picnic will be open to VGCA members and their families

Rob Becker mentioned that we had received a “Thank You” card from the 7 Bends 4H Club, thanking the VGCA for our donation of ammunition and targets

Marc Gorelick asked for volunteers to help man the VGCA table at the upcoming July Chantilly Gun Show (see notice below).

Marc also pointed out that there was an NRA-sponsored rally with Virginia Assemblymen in Fredericksburg last night (June 24th). NOTE that the Virginia Governor has called a Special Session of the Virginia Assembly to review proposed gun control measures in the wake of the Virginia Beach shooting. Please take the time to contact your Virginia senator and assemblyman and let them know how you feel about this issue.

Emory Hackman (Chairman of the VGCA Nomination Committee) presented the results of the election for our next VGCA Directors. From a pool of five very capable and talented candidates, two were elected outright – Marc Gorelick and Dave Litchfield. For the third Director’s position, we had a tie between Phil Hill and Ian Wulf! Per the VGCA By-Laws, in case of a tie, the members present at the meeting where the election results are announced will vote on the tied candidates. A vote was conducted and Ian won (with 48 of the 75 members present). Please congratulate our newest three VGCA Directors:

Marc Gorelick Dave Litchfield Ian Wulf

Thank you to everyone who voted. As tonight proved, your vote truly does count!

New members were introduced, followed by Matthew G’s presentation on “Saturday Night Specials”

PLEASE HELP!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE VGCA TABLE AT THE NEXT CHANTILLY GUN SHOW

The next Chantilly show at the Dulles Expo Center is coming up (September 27-29) and we are looking for a few volunteers for the VGCA promotional table. This is an opportunity to spend a few hours with fellow gun collecting enthusiasts, meet new people, help the club, and get free admittance into a big show!

Our objective is to have two or more folks assigned throughout each day. This gives everyone the opportunity to walk the show while others are promoting the club. If you want, you can work more than one day and shift.

Remember - volunteers who help us at the table get into the show for free. This is significant when the admission price keeps going up. It is now \$16 for 1-day and \$22 for a 3-day pass. Volunteers are needed for Friday (3 - 8 p.m.), Saturday (9 a.m. – 5 p.m.), or Sunday (10 a.m. – 5 p.m.). If interested, please contact Marc Gorelick or any VGCA Officer / Director.



★ **Upcoming August 22nd Meeting:** Our August membership meeting will feature a presentation on “U.S. Metallic Cartridges Post Civil War – Part 1” by member Marc Gorelick. This is part of a series about metallic cartridge conversions during the period called the “heyday of conversions.” The presentation will cover the role of US Army Ordnance Boards and concentrate on some better-known examples - the 1st and 2nd Model Allins (Models 1865 and 1866), Miller, Roberts, Peabody and Sharps conversions. So if you have examples, please bring them in. Social time begins at 6 p.m. (pizza!) in the NRA Headquarters Conference Room, followed by the meeting beginning at 7 p.m.



★ Other News! ★

★ **Membership Chairman’s Report – July and August 2019:**

New Members: Please welcome new Annual Member(s).

- **Brenden Carbonell** of Falls Church, VA was sponsored by **Jack Looney**
- **Shelsea Carbonell** of Falls Church, VA was sponsored by **Jack Looney**
- **William Gravel** of Vienna, VA was sponsored by **Bernie Breighner**
- **John Hacker** of Haymarket, VA was sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**
- **Jeffrey Manuel** of Annapolis Junction, MD was sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**
- **Clause Marzen** of Fairfax, VA was sponsored by **Carlos Davila**
- **James "Tim" McCue** of Fredericksburg, VA was sponsored by **Marc Gorelick** and **George Dungan**
- **Richard Williams** of Charlestown, VA was sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**

Congratulations and welcome aboard. Your Annual IDs were mailed in the last week of July to your home address on your membership application.

New Applications for Membership: We have eight new applicants for VGCA Membership. They applied by mail, at the June Membership Meeting and at the recent Chantilly Gun Show. The applicants’ information and their sponsor’s name are published below.

- **Frank Cambria** of Broad Run, VA is sponsored by **Bernie Breighner**
- **John Elliott** of Fairfax, VA is sponsored by **J. Craig Peters**
- **Reuben Hunter** of Herndon, VA is sponsored by **Mike Halpeny**
- **Paul T. Jobson** of Sterling, VA is sponsored by **Matthew Gminski**
- **Jacob Krahenbill** of Palmyra, VA is sponsored by **Kasev Sundar**
- **Michael “John” Pankow** of Purcellville, VA is sponsored by **Bill Chronister**
- **Wayne Spellman** of Warrenton, VA is sponsored by **Marc Gorelick** and **Chris Britton**
- **Kenneth T. Stallings** of Alexandria, VA is sponsored by **Jim Frigiola**

If there are any comments or questions on any applicant, please notify an Officer or Director, and the Membership Chair before June 22, 2019. For questions, please email **Bill Chronister, Membership Chair** at vgca_membership@cox.net or call me at 703-204-0138.

New Member IDs: Prospective members are announced in the VGCA Newsletter for member review. If there are no issues, the membership is effective 30 days after publication in the newsletter. Membership IDs are prepared and brought to the Monthly Membership Meeting. If the new member is not present, the ID is mailed to their mailing address a few days after the meeting.

If you did not get an ID or renewal sticker please let me know by E-mail. Make sure you provide your full mailing address and contact info so I can verify the mailing address and get an ID or sticker to you. Please send an E-mail to **Bill Chronister, Membership Chair** at vgca_membership@cox.net.

★ Another Great Weekend of Recruiting at the April Chantilly Gun Show!

The VGCA officers and directors would like to extend a special “thank you” to those members who graciously volunteered to represent the VGCA at our table during the last Chantilly Gun Show (July 26-28, 2019). While the rest of us were relaxing and enjoying the summer (or perhaps operating sales tables at the show), these volunteers were busy recruiting for us! They are:

FRIDAY

George Dungan
Chris Britton
James Frigiola
Kasev Sundar
Bill Chronister

SATURDAY

George Duncan
Wes Chappell
Marc Gorelick
Joe Roberts

SUNDAY

George Dungan
King Von Schilling
Joe Roberts
Marc Gorelick

Special thanks go out to George Dungan for organizing the table and the volunteers for this show. Also, “thank you!” to King Von Schilling for bringing in and displaying a Mossberg M1 .22LR trainer from WWII, a Colt Bisley revolver made in 1905, and a Colt 1851 Navy reproduction of the Richard mason conversion. These contributions helped to set our table apart from others at the show and sparked many conversations with potential new members.

The VGCA table at Chantilly has been almost solely responsible for doubling our new annual members this past year (three more potential new members were signed up during the July show and a fourth mailed his application in later!). Since January, we have directly signed up 34 new members at Chantilly, with many others picking up applications there and joining at a VGCA meeting or at our show. This growth simply would not have happened without the support of our volunteers. Again – thank you!

Please contact Marc Gorelick or any other VGCA officer or director if you are interested in volunteering at future shows. The next Chantilly Gun Show is on September 27-29, 2019.

VGCA Member Wins “BEST OF SHOW” at the Forks of the Delaware



VGCA member Marc Gorelick won “Best of Show” (1st place) for his display on the U.S. Navy Jenks “Mule Ear” carbines and rifles at the July show of the Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society (FDHAS). Marc faced stiff competition, especially from a Pennsylvania Long Rifle display and a display about U.S. Krag-Jorgensen carbines. The Forks of the Delaware show is a large show (700 tables) held at the Allentown Fairgrounds in Allentown, PA, and is known for the high quality of their educational displays. Congratulations Marc – very well done!



CMP UPDATE

By Marc Gorelick, CMP Liaison

TARGET SPRINT: The Civilian Marksmanship Program has embraced and is implementing a new to the U.S. shooting discipline that is especially appealing to juniors and adults who take physical fitness seriously. Target Sprint is a dynamic shooting sports discipline that combines air rifle standing position shooting with middle distance running. Its closest relative is biathlon, a Winter Olympic sport that has a huge television following in Europe. The IBU, the international governing body for biathlon, had no real interest in a shooting discipline involving air rifle shooting and running, so the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) embraced Target Sprint as an ISSF discipline because it wanted a shooting discipline with a unique fitness challenge. The CMP introduced Target Sprint at the 2019 Camp Perry National matches.



Photo – Recent Target Sprint match in the United Kingdom. Source: British Shooting Target Sprint Organization.

Successful Target Sprint athletes must be both good middle-distance runners (400-800m) and good shooters. Although most VGCA members would not compete because of the running part, they can watch and enjoy it. Target Sprint competitors start by running a 400 m loop. When they come to the range, they must fire at and hit five targets from the standing position before running another 400 m loop and returning to the range for a second five-target shooting session. Competitors must shoot until all five targets are knocked down. Since the time spent shooting counts in the total race time, competitors must be able to load and fire very quickly. After hitting all five targets a second time, competitors run a third 400 m loop to the finish. Final rankings are based on total running and shooting times.

Target Sprint venues have a 400-meter running course, an air rifle range and a grandstand for spectators that allows them to see starts, the range and finishes. The 400 m running course does not have to be an oval running track; many resemble cross-country running courses. The biathlon-type targets have five 35mm openings, which are the same size as the four ring on the 10m air rifle target. Hitting that target is harder than many would think after running 400 meters at full speed and then shooting as fast as possible. In European countries where Target Sprint is practiced, precision 5-shot repeater air rifles originally designed for summer biathlon are the norm. The rifles must be single loaded, and magazines cannot be used, but pellet holders can be put on the rifles to make loading as quick and efficient as possible. Target Sprint events in the U.S. can start with sporter class air rifles like the Crosman Challenger, Daisy M888/887/599 or Champions Choice T200 (ISSF TS Rule 6.1). For more information about a great way to introduce young people to shooting sports, visit the CMP website at www.thecmp.org.



★ Show-n-Tell ★

NOTE: Anyone bringing in items for Show-n-Tell, please hold them up so the members can see it. This will also help your Volunteer Photographer get a decent photograph of the special item you brought to show, and people who could not attend the meeting can see it clearly in the newsletter. Thank you!

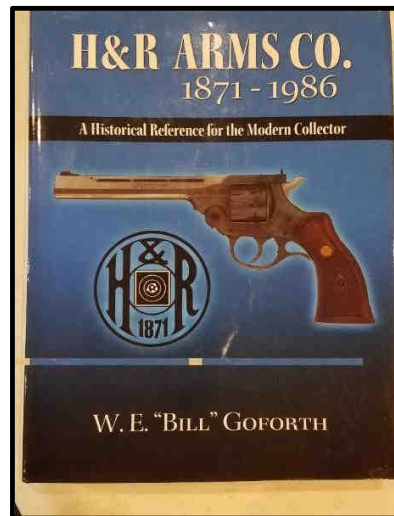
Member 1 (*at right*) shared several items at the June meeting, the first being an Iver Johnson “American Bulldog.” This 5-shot revolver in .32 S&W (*left and right inset images*) belonged to the member’s grandfather, who purchased it in about 1911 while he was an office manager for Consolidated Coal Company in Fairmont, WV.



The next item was an unmarked “Velo Dog.” Like the Iver Johnson, this is also a small 5-shot revolver (*middle inset picture*), though this one is double action only and chambered in 6.35mm (.25 ACP). Velo-Dog style pistols were popular with cyclists to discourage being chased by aggressive dogs. This one has no markings and no proofs and was probably made in either Spain or Italy.

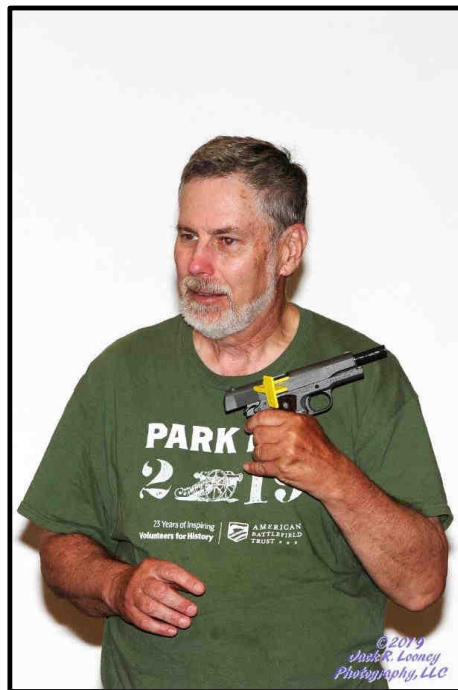


The third gun shared was a Swiss Schutzen Rifle (*left*). Marked “G&M” (unknown manufacturer), this beautiful Martini action has a 34” barrel and is chambered in 7.5x55 Swiss (though whether it is made to handle GP90 or GP11 ammunition is unknown). It was probably made between 1900 and 1935.



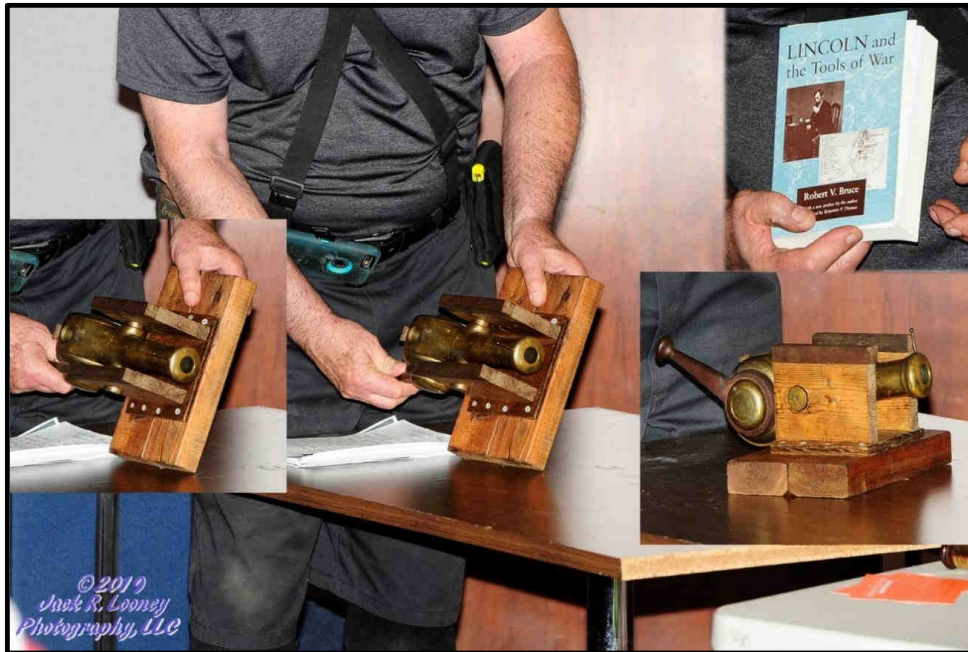
Finally, Member 1 brought in two books on American-made firearms (though generally predating tonight’s topic of Saturday Night Specials). The first was *Iver Johnson Arms & Cycle Works – Firearms 1871-1993* and the second was *H&R Arms Co. 1871-1986* (*above right*), both by W.E. Goforth.

Member 2 (*at right*) shared his recently acquired Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) M1911A1 pistol. One of the most famous designs by firearms inventor John Browning, the M1911 in .45ACP served as the primary sidearm in the U.S. military from WWI through Vietnam. The M1911s being sold through the CMP are among the last such pistols remaining in military storage. Applications were accepted in September and October last year and there were 19,000 applicants for the 8,000 M1911s that CMP had available. Because demand greatly exceeded supply, buyers were selected randomly from among those who applied. Most of these pistols were refurbished/rebuilt “one or more times” by the U.S. Army and this one is no exception. It consists of an Ithaca frame, a Remington slide, a Colt hammer, and a relatively new barrel (dated 1985). This example is one of the “service” grades pistols and should be a good “shooter.” CMP sales of M1911s are expected to continue for at least two years.



Member 3 (*at left*) brought in two Inglis Hi-Power pistols, both of which he purchased in the 1980s. The last pistol design that John Browning worked on, the P35 Hi-Power is unique in that it was used by both the Allies and Germans during WWII. Germany continued production after capturing the FN factory in Belgium while Canada initiated production based on design drawings and blueprints that escaped German occupation. The first ones came off of the Inglis production line in 1944. Most Inglis Hi-Powers

were intended for a Chinese contract, though not many were actually delivered. Inglis ceased production at the end of the war after Belgian production resumed at FN. Both of these examples are in very nice condition and have tangent rear sights adjustable to 500 meters. One retains its original wooden holster/buttstock that attaches to a slot in the rear of the frame.



Member 4 (*above*) shared a fascinating piece of ordnance history – the Civil War era subscale prototype of a breech loading cannon known as the “Cincinnati Gun.” Made of bronze, this model weighs 20 pounds and demonstrates a breech loading mechanism described as a rotating spigot and patented by Cincinnati lawyer Walter G. Sherwin (the current wooden base is a modern replacement). This prototype is believed to be the exact one that was demonstrated to President Abraham Lincoln and his cabinet shortly after the first Battle of Bull Run in 1861 (described in the book *Lincoln and the Tools of War* by Robert Bruce – see inset picture at upper right). Ultimately, the design proved impractical when scaled up – an actual artillery piece would have been too heavy to be pulled by horses – and despite the energetic efforts of Mr. Sherwin, none were produced.



Member 5 (*left*) brought in a Model 48 carbine, made for the Turkish Forestry Service. After WWII, forests of Circasian Walnut trees in Turkey were being illegally logged for the black market. Turkish Forestry Service officials found themselves outgunned by armed tree poachers and needed a new weapon. Enter the Model 48. Based on French Berthier M16 rifles, about 8,000 were converted to carbines by the Turks in 1948. The original M16 rifles were shortened to carbine length and modified to only hold three rounds of 8x50r Lebel ammunition, as opposed to the original five rounds. Though the 8x50r round

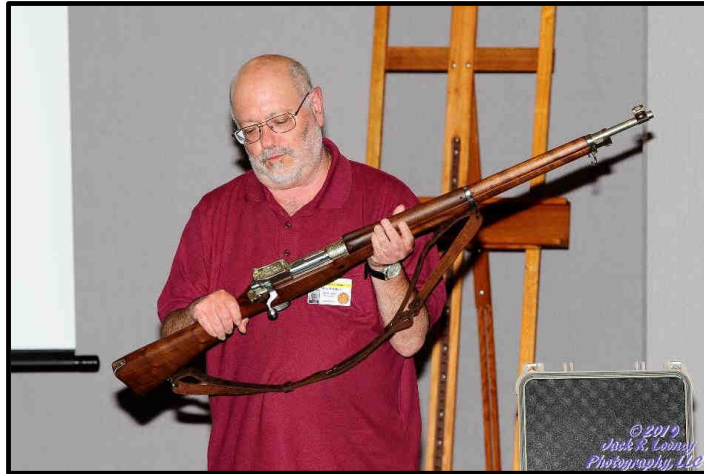
was non-standard in Turkey, it was retained to help catch any wounded tree poachers who may seek medical attention at a hospital. If a bullet were recovered, it would be hard to argue about its source!

With his show-n-tell item, Member 6 (*at right*) demonstrated that the 1968 GCA continues to impact the importation of pistols even today. Though the Glock 43 would never be described as a “Saturday night Special,” because of its small dimensions it still required a target trigger in order in order to score the minimum number of points to allow it to be imported into the United States.

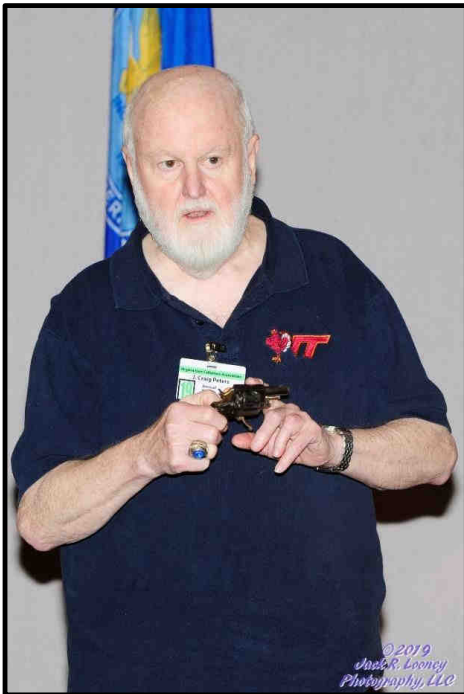


Member 7 (*left*) brought in his recently acquired Davide Pedersoli-made replica of the Model 1857 Wurttembergischen percussion rifle. Like the original, this rifle has a .54 caliber bore (13.9mm), which was considered a small bore at the time. Developed in the mid-to-late 1850s for the Hapsburg Empire, the Model 1857 was produced at the Koniglich Wurttembergische Gewehrfabrik at Oberndorf (later bought by the Mauser brothers). This reproduction was initially bought by a N-SSA shooter for use in North-South Skirmish Association matches which mandate American Civil War-type arms. Unfortunately for the original purchaser, it was not accepted for N-SSA use, as it was not actually used by either side in the Civil War. The barrel of this rifle will work with either a round ball or a conical Minie-style bullets of .547 caliber, as used in the original rifles.

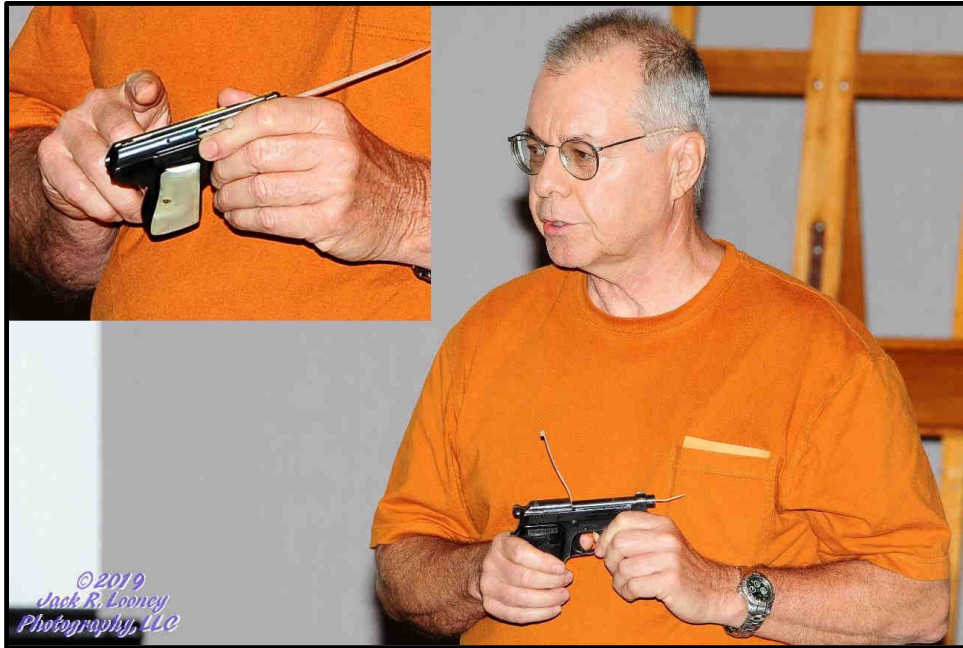
Member 8 (*right*) provided a U.S. Model 1917 rifle for our review. This rifle was manufactured at the Baldwin Locomotive Plant in Eddystone, Pennsylvania (a sub-contractor to Remington). Eddystone employed over 15,000 workers, to include over 3,000 women (19% of the work force), and produced more M1917 rifles (1,354,701 in less than two years) than the Remington and Winchester factories combined. At its peak during WWI, 5000 rifles were produced daily with 7201 marking the single highest day production.



As just one example of the scale of production - 320 walnut trees were required **daily** in order to meet the requirement for stocks. This particular rifle has all Eddystone parts and the barrel is dated March 1918. At some point, it was nickel-plated for parade/ceremonial use.



Member 9 (*at left*), like Member 1, also brought in a small “Velo Dog” revolver. This example was a 6-shot in .25 ACP with an exposed hammer allowing either single-action or double-action use. It also features a safety and a folding trigger. What makes this little revolver “special” is that it was a Father’s Day present from Mrs. Member 9!



Finally, Member 10 (*above*) shared three “special” pocket pistols. The first was a Lorcin in .25 ACP. It was special because a friend gave it to Member 10 – and it had pink grip panels! The original receipt from 1995 was for \$79.42.

The second item was an Armi Galesi pistol, also in .25 ACP. Armi Galesi, which also went by Industria Armi Galesi (IAG), was an Italian gun manufacturer founded in 1910. Known for its small semi-automatic pistols, it produced the majority of its pistols between 1960 and 1970 and was one of the foreign arms manufacturers impacted by the U.S. Gun Control Act of 1968. IAG went out of business in 1991. This pistol was special because Member 10 purchased it from Bernie, the VGCA president!

The most special to Member 10 was the third pistol, a Beretta 948 (*main photo above*). Produced from 1948 until 1958, the 948 was based on the earlier, centerfire Italian Model 1934 service pistol and was chambered in .22LR. This one is special because it is the first gun ever bought by Member 10, who purchased it as a sophomore or junior in high school from the school janitor!



★ In Review ★

The “In Review” section to the newsletter was initiated in August 2016 and includes 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.

Museum

A TRIP TO THE MUSEUM: **THE PENNSYLVANIA LONGRIFLE MUSEUM**

Marc Gorelick, VGCA

No survey of America’s firearms collections and museums would be complete without including the Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum in Nazareth Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania longrifle represents the iconic American gun that figured so prominently in our nation’s history. While many museums that house firearms collections may have a few longrifles, the Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum stands out as it is dedicated entirely to the Pennsylvania longrifle, and in particular, to the multi-generation Henry dynasty of Pennsylvania gun makers, who built thousands of muskets, rifles, shotguns and pistols for about 150 years. This is appropriate as the museum is on the site of one of the Henry’s key manufacturing locations.



Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum

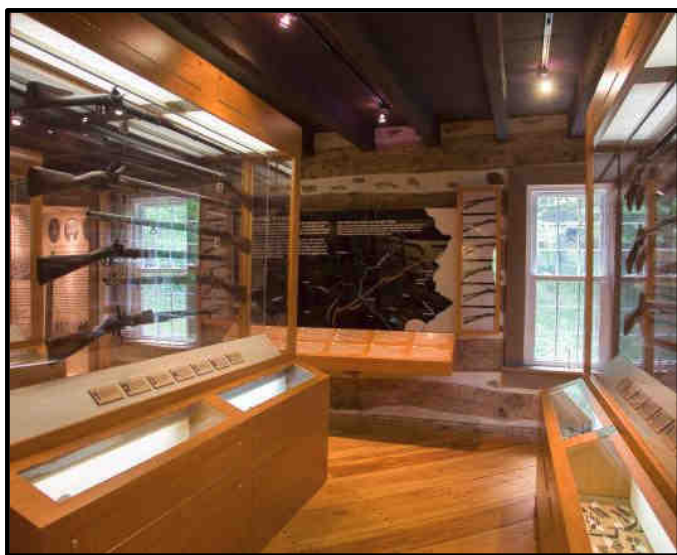
The Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum is located in the historic Joseph Henry 1832 homestead. The museum, which is run by the Jacobsburg Historical Society at Boulton, opened to the public in 2006. It contains a substantial collection of original, hand-crafted Pennsylvania longrifles and items related to the making of longrifles from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and features more than 100 historic

arms, parts, accoutrements, accessories, and tools used in the guns' construction, on either permanent display or in rotating, topical exhibits.



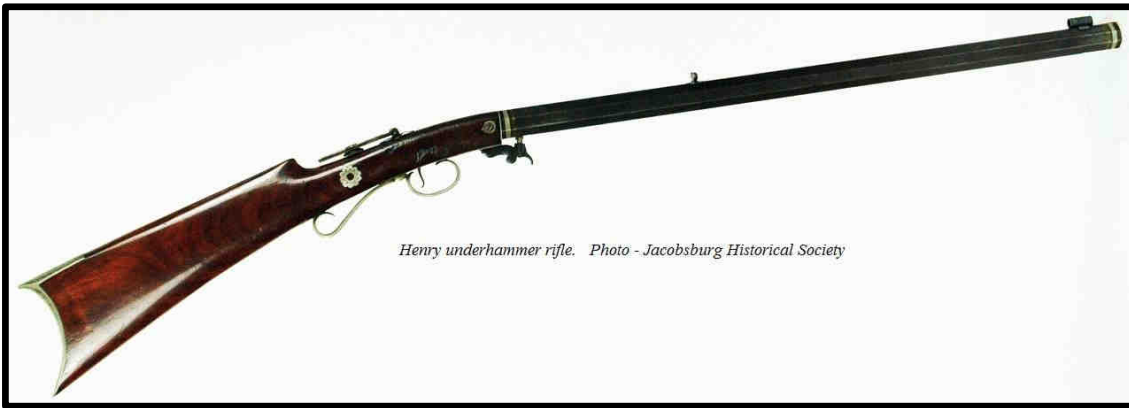
JJ Henry marked Pennsylvania longrifle.

Almost all the hundred guns in the collection were handmade by eight or nine successive generations of the Henry family, starting with Abraham Henry (1768-1807) who apprenticed in Nazareth under his brother William Henry II (1757-1821) but returned to Lancaster to practice his trade. The family were located in Nazareth, Boulton, Philadelphia and Lancaster. The Boulton area itself produced guns for more than 100 years. It is a unique collection, in that it focuses on guns made by one extended family. Displays feature Henry family firearms dating from the early eastern frontier, the American fur trade, post-Revolution, the War of 1812, the Civil War, the American West, and the early twentieth century. Most of the firearms were made by the Henrys of Boulton, but the collection also contains arms made by Abraham Henry.



Besides the classic Pennsylvania longrifle, Henry family-made rifles in were sold to the American Fur Company and they produced many trade guns intended for the Indian trade, large military contracts for .69 cal. muskets were obtained. These contracts were for the Model 1897 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania musket, and the Model 1798, 1808 and 1812 U.S. contract muskets, many of which were used during the War of 1812. The Henry family also produced a .58 caliber military rifle during the 1860's. Privately purchased Henry longrifles were still being used by sharpshooters in the American Civil War, although no government contracts were secured. The Henry family was also

known for their contract military pistols, including the Model 1897-1808, Model 1812 Navy and Model 1826 type flintlock pistols. John Joseph Henry II (1786-1836) of Boulton invented and sold a .58 caliber breech-loading flintlock pistol that was manufactured during the 1820's. Henry also made a number of swivel-breech flintlock rifles. The Henrys also made gun parts for other manufacturers, including Colt. During the second half of the 19th century Henry made breechloading rifles and shotguns; the rifles used a twist-breech. The last family gunmaker, Granville Henry had several patents for a breechloading drop action shotgun in the 1890's. The company went into slow decline with the advent of mass-production guns made with machine tools in large factories, and the last handcrafted Henry longrifle was sold in 1912.



Henry underhammer rifle. Photo - Jacobsburg Historical Society

Of special interest are the unique Henry underhammer guns on display in the museum. These firearms are quite rare and are unique to the Nazareth/Boulton area. Fortunately, all the original Henry Gun manufacturing facility shop records remain intact and can be studied. Microfilm and digital copies are in the Jacobsburg Historical Society archives at Jacobsburg. These records indicate percussion underhammer guns were produced by the Henry family for a four-year period from 1836 to 1839 and that less than 100 underhammer rifles were produced. The underhammer, percussion ignition system was popular in some regions, including New England, during the first half of the 19th century.

More popular than the Henry underhammer rifles were the Henry underhammer pistols. They were often carried by their owners in the boot as a concealed weapon while riding in a buckboard wagon or coach. They could be quickly pulled from the boot without the hammer “hanging up.” Henry records indicate that 2300 were produced during four years (1200 in 1836, 700 in 1837, 300 in 1838, and only 100 in 1839). Most of the underhammer pistols were sold under the name “Smith,” a St. Louis merchant, or were unmarked.



*Henry underhammer pistol.
Photo - Jacobsburg Historical Society*

Henry signed underhammer guns are extremely rare today. Only two known underhammer rifles and one pistol bearing the name “J. J. Henry” (for John Joseph II) remain in existence. An additional eight unsigned pistols are known to exist, which would indicate a survival rate of only .1%. After John’s death in 1836, James Henry took over the

business marking his guns “J. Henry.” One underhammer rifle signed “J. Henry” is known to exist today. Several rare Henry signed guns are on display in the Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum. Underhammer Henry made firearms remain a true early American rarity.

Many of the guns are exhibited in freestanding display cases so it is easy to see them from all angles. The items in the cases are well lighted and the signage is clear, easy to read and understand. The friendly staff very informative. Besides Henry family-made guns are a number of other firearms made by other local gunsmiths, as well as contemporaneous guns made elsewhere, including Sharps 4-barrel pepperbox pistols.

Museum freestanding displays.



Located across the street from the museum is the John Joseph Henry House (also a museum), which is loaded with period antiques and well worth the tour. The museum is in the Jacobsburg state park so there are some hike/bike options. Tours of the grounds, John Joseph Henry House and Summer Kitchen are generally on the third Sunday of each month from May to October. Visitors can enjoy a freshly made snickerdoodle in the Summer Kitchen and Smoke House.



The Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum is located at 402 Henry Rd, Nazareth, PA 18064, at the corner of Schoeneck Avenue & Henry Road. The telephone number is (610) 759-9029. The museum is open to the public during special events and select weekends from May to December. ***Days and hours vary and are flexible so call before you go.***

Museum Admission: Adults \$5.00. Children 12 and under are free. Jacobsburg Historical Society members, Active Duty Military (and family), and Scouts receive free admission.

Additional information can be found at the Jacobsburg Historical Society website:

<http://www.jacobsburghistory.com/society-collections/pennsylvania-longrifle-museum/>.

A Henry pistol display in the museum.

Final Salute

The VGCA just became aware of the passing of VGCA Life Member Roy Ghiloni.



Roy Peter Ghiloni, 83, of Dumfries, Virginia was born on June 2, 1935 and passed away on February 25, 2019 at Sentara NVMC. He was a retired MSgt at Quantico military base and served on the Marine One helicopter squadron, 1956-1977. He had one tour of duty in Vietnam.

Roy was preceded in death by his parents and loving wife of 54 years, Pat.

He is survived by his two daughters and one granddaughter, Cindy, Debbie and Candice, and their spouses.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, 18900 <https://www.marineheritage.org/makedonation.html> in memory of Roy.

★ 2019 Presentation List ★

The following presentations are scheduled for our remaining 2019 membership meetings:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PRESENTATION</u>	<u>PRESENTER</u>
August 22 nd	U.S. Metallic Cartridges Post Civil War – Part 1	Marc Gorelick
September 26 th	U.S. Metallic Cartridges Post Civil War – Part 2	Marc Gorelick
October 24 th	History of the VGCA	TBD
November	No membership meeting scheduled due to our Fall Gun Show	
December xx	Holiday Pot Luck and Annual Swap Meet (<i>date is TBD</i>) – no presentation	

★ 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 or shows.

VIRGINIA - 2019

- ⇒ Aug 17-18, 2019 – Roanoke, VA – The Berglund Center – *Showmasters*
- ⇒ Aug 24-25, 2019 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex – *Showmasters*
- ⇒ Aug 31-Sep 1, 2019 – Weyers Cave, VA – Weyers Cave Community Center – *Sporting Shows Unlimited*
- ⇒ Sep 7-9, 2019 – Dale City, VA – Dale City VFW Post 1503 - *Showmasters*
- ⇒ Sep 7-8, 2019 – Doswell, VA – Farm Bureau Center at Meadow Event Park – *SGK*
- ⇒ Sep 7-8, 2019 – Fishersville, VA – Augusta Expo Center - *Showmasters*
- ⇒ Sep 14-15, 2019 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK*
- ⇒ Sep 14-15, 2019 – Harrisonburg, VA – Rockingham County Fairgrounds – *C&E*
- ⇒ Sep 27-29, 2019 - Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- ⇒ Oct 2-6, 2019 - Winchester, VA – Fort Shenandoah (Sutler Row) – *140th National Skirmish by the North-South Skirmish Association*
- ⇒ Oct 12-13, 2019 – Salem, VA - Salem Civic Center - *C&E*
- ⇒ Oct 12-13, 2019 – Warsaw, VA – 4298 Richmond Rd – *RCVFD*
- ⇒ Oct 19-20, 2019 – Roanoke, VA – The Berglund Center – *Showmasters*
- ⇒ Oct 19-20, 2019 – Virginia Beach, VA – Virginia Beach Convention Center – *SGK*
- ⇒ Oct 26-27, 2019 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fredericksburg Expo & Convention Center – *SGK*
- ⇒ Oct 26-27, 2019 – Woodstock, VA – Moose Lodge – *Sporting Shows Unlimited*
- ⇒ Nov 2-3, 2019 – Manassas, VA – Prince William County Fairgrounds – *VGCA (our show!)*
- ⇒ Nov 2-3, 2019 – Weyers Cave, VA – Weyers Cave Community Center – *Sporting Shows Unltd*
- ⇒ Nov 9-10, 2019 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex – *Showmasters*
- ⇒ Nov 16-17, 2019 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex – *Capital of the Confederacy Civil War Show – MK Shows*
- ⇒ Nov 16-17, 2019 – Woodstock, VA – Shenandoah County Fairgrounds – *C&E Gun Shows*
- ⇒ Nov 22-24, 2019 - Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*

MARYLAND - 2019

- ⇒ Aug 31, 2019 – Parkville, MD – Baltimore County Fish & Game – *Baltimore County Fish & Game Protective Association*
- ⇒ Oct 11-13, 2019 – Bel Air, MD – American Legion Harford Post #39 – *Michael Collins*
- ⇒ Oct 19-20, 2019 – Timonium, MD – Timonium Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- ⇒ Nov 9-10, 2019 – Frederick, MD – Frederick Fairgrounds - *Silverado*

PENNSYLVANIA - 2019

- ⇒ Aug 16-17, 2019 – Gettysburg, PA – Gettysburg Fire Dept – *Militaria & Historic Arms Show*

PENNSYLVANIA – 2019 (continued)

- Aug 17, 2019 – St. Thomas, PA – St. Thomas VFD – *Franklin Co Chapter of Izaak Walton League*
- Aug 17-18, 2019 - Harrisburg, PA – PA Farm Show Complex – *C&E Gun Shows*
- Aug 17-18, 2019 - Leesport, PA – Leesport Farmers Market – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Aug 24-25, 2019 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center – *Showmasters*
- Sep 7-8, 2019 – Wind Gap, PA – Plainfield Fire Company – *Eagle Arms*
- Sep 13-14, 2019 – Morgantown, PA – Holiday Inn – *Contemporary Longrifle Association (10th Annual Eastern Pennsylvania Longrifle Show)*
- Sep 14-15, 2019 - Gettysburg, PA – All Star Conference Center – *Eagle Arms*
- Sep 18-22, 2019 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center – *Ohio Valley Military Society (The MAX Show)*
- Sep 21-22, 2019 – Split Rock, PA – 100 Mossywood Road - *Eagle Arms*
- Sep 21-22, 2019 – Washington, PA – Washington County Fairgrounds – *ARH Sport Shop*
- Sep 28-29, 2019 – Allentown, PA - Econo Lodge –*Eagle Arms*
- Sep 28-29, 2019 - Philadelphia, PA – National Guard Armory – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Oct 4-5, 2019 – Oaks, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Arms*
- Oct 12-13, 2019 – Bloomsburg, PA – Bloomsburg Fairgrounds – *Eagle Arms*
- Oct 12-13, 2019 – Delta, PA – 173 Pikes Peak Rd - *Delta Peachbottom Fish & Game Assn*
- Oct 12-13, 2019 – Grove City, PA – Grove City Masonic Hall – *Masonic Hall*
- Oct 12-13, 2019 – Mount Joy, PA – Mount Joy Sportsmen’s Assn - *Mount Joy Sportsmen’s Assn*
- Oct 19-20, 2019 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds – *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*
- Oct 19-20, 2019 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center – *Showmasters*
- Oct 19-20, 2019 – Quarryville, PA – Solanco Fairgrounds – *SLCF-SA*
- Oct 26-27, 2019 – York, PA – York Fairgrounds-Memorial Hall - *Appalachian Promotions*
- Nov 2-3, 2019 – Lebanon, PA – Lebanon Valley Expo Center – *Eagle Arms*
- Nov 9-10, 2019 - Leesport, PA – Leesport Farmers Market – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Nov 16-17, 2019 – Hermitage, PA – Hickory Post VFW - *LR Gun Shows*
- Nov 16-17, 2019 – Split Rock, PA – 100 Mossywood Road - *Eagle Arms*
- Nov 23-24, 2019 – Carlisle, PA – Carlisle Expo Center – *Eagle Arms*
- Nov 23-24, 2019 - Philadelphia, PA – National Guard Armory – *Appalachian Promotions*

SPECIAL NOTE – 2019

- Sep 14-15, 2019 – Wilmington, OH – The Roberts Centre – *Ohio Gun Collector’s Association (to include displays by members of The Winchester Arms Collectors Association)*
 - Oct 11-12, 2019 – West Point, KY – Knob Creek Gun Range – *Machine Gun Shoot and Military Gun Show*
 - Nov 9-10, 2019 – Tulsa, OK – Tulsa Fairgrounds (Expo Square) – *Tulsa Arms Collector Association – aka Wanenmacher’s (world’s largest gun show – over 4200 tables!)*
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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. The VGCA, its officers, and directors are not responsible for any listings made in any VGCA Newsletter. We are not responsible for the accuracy (condition, value, etc.) of any listings. All buyers, traders, and sellers agree to comply with all local, state, federal, and international laws in regards to items sold via the VGCA Newsletter. It is their duty and responsibility to ensure the quality and value of the transaction and that all such laws are followed at all times. Buy, sell, or trade at your own risk.

If you would like to list an item (or items) in the VGCA Newsletter, please send your description, price, and contact information to rpebecker@verizon.net. I must receive your material no later than the second Sunday of the month for it to be included in that month's newsletter. Unless other arrangements are made, items will be listed for one issue of the Newsletter.

FOR SALE:

★ Springfield Model 1903 Mark I in .30/06 made in 1919 for Pedersen device. Excellent 24" barrel (dated October 1919) w/excellent bore. Good wood – overall VGC. Cost is \$1195.00
Negotiable/BO

★ Walther Model 8, 25acp. 8-shot magazine, 2nd variation, WW2 German officer bring back, w/ rare, reduced size, custom C96 Broomhandle-type holster. EC. \$1495

★ Smith and Wesson 1912 38 S&W New Departure or Lemon Squeezer, 5 -shot revolver, rare 4 inch barrel, sharp nickel plating, minty bore, pearl grips and original factory letter. EC. \$749

If interested, call 571-308-4978 or send email to jrbzn13@aol.com

FOR SALE:

★ After more than two and a half years of research, VGCA member Bill Vanderpool has recently published his book "**Guns of the FBI**". This book is available at GunDigest.com or can be purchased directly from Bill by calling 703-626-2975. He is more than happy to sign a copy for you. Cost is \$50.00.

FOR SALE:

★ VGCA member Charlie Pate has four books that he has authored for sale, at discounted prices to VGCA members. These include:

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

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

FOR SALE:

★ S&W Model 629 (No Dash) in mint condition; appears to only have been factory test fired; not a hint of carbon build-up or stain and the faint turn line is nearly invisible. This vintage pre-lock stainless steel 6” revolver in .44 Magnum is pinned and recessed. It shipped from the factory in July 1981 with wide checkered target hammer; wide target trigger; red ramp front sight; white outline adjustable S&W Micrometer rear sight; satin finish; and flawless checkered target Goncalo Alves target grips. Accessories: Excellent condition S&W mahogany presentation case with tools; original dark blue interior shipping box with corner metal fasteners; original exterior cardboard shipping box; heavy nylon S&W blue padded gun case with S&W logo; a fitted Bore Stores silicone gun sleeve for added protection; original Model 629 operating/maintenance instructions and other new owner brochures; and a S&W Historical Foundation letter of authentication – now a \$100 service. \$1750.00.

★ S&W .357 Combat Magnum Model 19-3 in flawless condition; appears to only have been factory test fired and the resultant turn line is nearly invisible. This vintage pre-lock 6” revolver is pinned and recessed and it shipped from the factory in August 1976. It comes in the original S&W blue box with tools wearing an original box label indicating a NIB price of \$269.50. This collector quality 19-3 is equipped with a Patridge front sight and adjustable S&W Micrometer click rear sight; target hammer; target trigger; flawless S&W Bright Blue finish; and beautiful dark checkered Goncalo Alves target grips. Accessories also include a heavy nylon S&W blue padded gun case with S&W logo and a fitted Bore Stores silicone gun sleeve for added protection. Of course, it comes with the original operating instructions and a S&W Historical Foundation letter of authentication – now a \$100 service. \$1250.00.

If interested, call 703-901-2543 or preferably email me at occonnorhome@cox.net and I’ll send you a full set of photos.

– VGCA Member Peter O’Connor

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