



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.ORG



Est. 1983

(A Non-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G 8162

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October 2007 VGCA Newsletter

➊ **Featured Presentation at the August 23 Meeting:** The meeting presentation was an NRA National Firearms Museum Special Speaker Series featuring former *Baltimore Sun*, and current *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 recent movie "*Shooter*." Present in the audience were many NRA Officers and VIPs, including NRA Chief of Staff, Mary Corrigan. After an acknowledgement of the VIP guests and the introduction by Phil Schreier, VGCA members and guests were treated to a unique, very personal, and at times autobiographical, accounting of Mr. Hunter's introduction to, early experiences with, his later turning away from, and eventual re-embarrassment of firearms and shooting. His first shared recollection was of himself a young boy of eight, who was able to stay up late and watch an episode of *Dragnet*, which featured a hostage situation being rapidly resolved with the arrival of a M1928 Thompson submachine gun. Fascinated with the television depiction of the gun in action, he related how he became very interested in all things related to guns, and drew pictures of them in school (acceptable in the more tolerant 1950s, which now would most likely result in some type of politically correct adverse action by the school at minimum). He also related how as a young reporter he went through an anti-gun period due to newsroom culture. He returned to his interest while waiting to review the film "*Raiders of the Lost Ark*," with its memorable scene where Indiana Jones dispatched a scimitar-wielding miscreant with a well placed shot of his revolver. He also told of his experiences and struggles as an aspiring novelist before his first novel, "*The Master Sniper*," a story of the last days of WWII and a new German weapon, the Sturmgewehr 44 (StG44) outfitted with the Vampyr night vision scope was published. A long Q&A session followed which focused on movie criticism, the reality of making movies and screenwriting, the origin of the Bob Lee Swagger character, and the role of media. At the conclusion of the presentation, Stephen Hunter was presented with a Friend of the NRA/NFM award by Phil Schreier.

➋ Following the featured event, members were treated to another sniper-themed presentation by Major Jim Land (Ret.) of the 1st Marine Division in Vietnam. Maj. Land recounted how the USMC Sniper School was started with 12 Special Services Rifles, which were specially ordered M70 Winchester hunting rifles. He exhibited a rifle which he managed to find at an auction, which later turned out to be one of these rifles. He also had the current USMC rifle, the M40A3 on display. He was followed by Cam Hayden, of the 3rd USMC Division, who covered the development of USMC rifles in the pre-Korean War era. He also discussed the development of the M40 outfitted with Redfield 3-9 variable scope. This rifle, based on the Remington Model 700 action, replaced the older pre-'64 Winchester Model 70 after their production was discontinued. This was a treat to hear and meet two of the individuals who were instrumental in the USMC sniper training and arms development.

➌ **Presentation for the October 25 Meeting:** Larry Hare will present "*Standard Arms Company, Wilmington, Delaware - The Genesis of the Gas Operated Semi-Automatic Rifle*". He will cover the history, design, and variations of both the Standard Arms Model G (gas Semi-automatic) and the Model M (slide-action) 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 Fabrique Nationale (FN) during World War 2.

September 2007 Fall VGCA Gunshow

From the President's Podium, Comments from VGCA President, Addison Hurst:

Thanks to all who did such a great job of making the show work. There are too many folks to list – everyone knows who was “on deck” and helped the club. I think it was a good show. Paid attendance was OK. We are, in my opinion, dying insofar as shows are concerned. I think it is a combination of things – perhaps our location – too many shows – internet sales. Ed reports grim news in terms of the fact that we will end the year in the red. We must reduce costs. We had enough cancellations for the next show that we will have to occupy the big hall ONLY. Ed will have all the facts and figures for you at the meeting on October 25. VGCA does not exist solely to hold shows – they are an important part to be sure, but we exist to have interesting meetings and to provide education on firearms and to promote the hobby of gun collecting. The shows are fun and we enjoy the fellowship and enhancing our collections. They are, also, our most important revenue stream to enable us to continue to have meetings and have fun. If we can get it worked out, we will be having a board meeting before the membership meeting and will have more information for you at that time. We can not continue to operate in the red. Please feel free to send me your thoughts on this by email (a.hurst@rstarmail.com). I always appreciate receiving your thoughts. Congrats to the display winners (listed below). Displays such as these play an important part in education of the general public. We must continue having such fine displays.

Fall 2007 VGCA Gunshow Educational Display Awards

First Place: Marc Gorelick's display of “The American Enfield - US Rifle Model of 1917 and British Pattern 14”;

Second Place (Tie): Pete Roberts well designed and presented display of Rare SW Revolvers;

Second Place (Tie): Vince Rausch's extensive and unusual display of Union Civil War Small Arms;

Third Place: Karl Karash's display of Fine Blued 1911A1s Pistols;

President's Choice: Kelly Cook's display of High Standards Automatic Pistols

VGCA Gun Show Attendance for the Past Five Years

March 2003 (Hugo's)	2,230	September 2003 (Hugo's)	1,508
March 2004 (Hugo's)	1,674	September 2004 (Hugo's)	1,863
March 2005 (Hugo's)	1,609	October 2005 (PWC)	1,418
March 2006 (PWC)	1,631	October 2006 (PWC)	922
March 2007 (PWC)	1,707	September 2007 (PWC)	1,236

Credit again where credit is due: Gunshow **Security Chief Larry Hunt** wishes to thank each and every person who assisted with the show security. These folks, who man the door, patrol the aisles, pull the night shifts, and ensure that all firearms are tied, did an excellent and effect job and we hope to see them back in the Spring. Thanks to your efforts we had a safe show. Also recognized are those **members that assisted in setting up** the show facility. Ed Costello, Rick Nahas, Larry Hare, Lee Turner, Bart Leggett, Ben Simms, and King VonShilling & his friend Tony Romano (who isn't a member "yet"), came out and donated some of their “sweat equity” to the cause. Thanks, again...

Election time for officers is growing near. It is not too early to consider that nominations are needed for **President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.** Call Emory Hackman, Nominating Committee Chair at (703) 288-2941 with any nominations you can think of, including yourself. All nominations are welcome.

Business Meeting: The business meeting was brief covering mostly last minute issues for the upcoming show. Guests were introduced and recognized and allowed to say a few words in their defense – Rick Thornly said a few words on the M1941 USMC sniper rifle, Karl Keaner, retired FBI from Front Royal area, and Dan Frigenschrit, expressed interest in the Civil War and the Old West Periods. Apologies are offered for any misspellings and a

August 23, 2007 Meeting and the Fall 2007 Gunshow



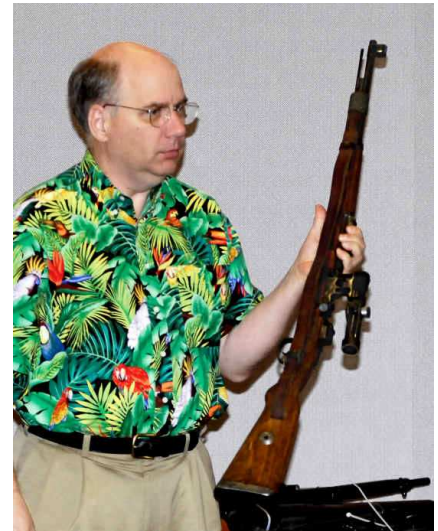
Maj. Jim Land delivers, Special Services Rifle (rear)



Hank Hagenau and his Mle 49-56 MSE showing modifications.



Larry Burman presented a very nice Swedish Mauser Model 41B Sniper.



Greg Dixon and his BZN Kar98K Sniper with PU scope. (Right →)

Fall 2007 Show Awards and Displays



First Place: Marc Gorelick's display of "The American Enfield - US Rifle Model of 1917 and British Pattern 14"

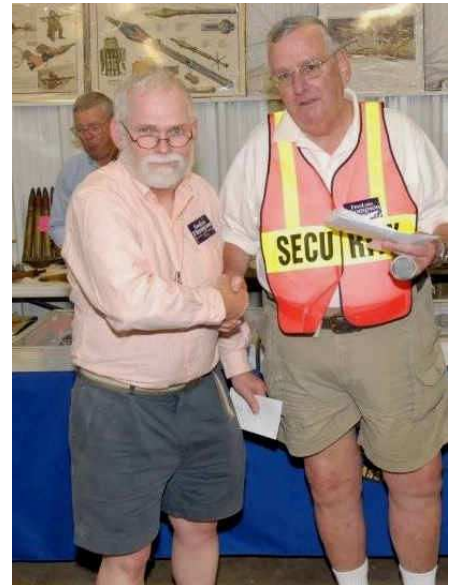


Second Place (Tie):
Pete Roberts well
designed and
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extensive and unusual
display of Union Civil
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Third Place:
Karl Karash's
display of Fine
Blued 1911A1s
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President's Choice: Kelly Cook's display of High Standards Automatic Pistols ↵ ↘



hearty welcome is offered. **Larry Hare** provided details of show setup and will explore with Pete Roberts having new table covers (in butternut color) made for member to purchase for their show tables. He also mentioned that members need to make sure the club has current and correct email and postal mail addresses for receiving the newsletter and election material. Returned email can be resent, but postal mail costs. Ed Costello gave an overview of the advertising strategies for the show and reported all was ready to go.

Meeting Show and Tell: **Addison Hurst** led off with an overview of the 65th Anniversary of the Kalashnikov AK-47, and showed his semi-auto AK-47 that was autographed by General Kalashnikov, and was later successfully added to the C&R list. He also told how on his recent trip to Russia they attended a Russian mini-Shot Show, discovered a new book about the Soviet Era Dragunov Sniper Rifle, and met again with the General who is now 88 years old and suffering from Parkinson's disease. Keeping in the Sniper Rifle theme of the meeting, **Hank Hagenau** displayed **Charlie Rausch's** M1C Garand WW2 sniper rifle and his own French MAS Mle 49-56 MSE (Modified St-Etienne) that was adopted in 1968 for NATO competition. Of 3000 ordered, only 900 were delivered, and are still used by the Gendarmerie. It has a special adjustable stock, match sights and a tuned trigger. Only 6 or 10 were ever imported into the U.S. **Greg Dixon** exhibited two WW2 veterans, his British No.4Mk1(T) Lee-Enfield sniper rifle, as well as a genuine BZN Kar98K Sniper with PU scope (yes, it is real). **Addison** also added 3 additional pieces to the mix, a Colt HBAR AR15, a DCM M1D Garand sniper, and a Remington M1903A4 with a Lyman Alaskan scope and 4 groove barrel. The self-described resident contrarian, **Larry Hare**, brought out a Webley & Scott Service Model (3rd Type) spring airgun. 13,000 were manufactured in the 1938-1946 period. **Larry Burman** presented a very nice Swedish Model 41B Sniper Rifle based upon the Swedish 1896 Mauser. The final sniper rifle displayed was another M1903A4 with a Lyman 4X scope and 2 groove barrel. This rifle was bought in the 1950s for the princely sum of \$17.50. And with that rifle, the Sniper-themed meeting was concluded.

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

- ☉ October 12-14, 2007 - Chantilly, VA - Dulles Expo Center Militaria Show - *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*
- ☉ **October 26-27, 2007 - Roanoke, VA - Roanoke Civic Center Exhibit Hall – *International Airgun Expo* – NOTE DATES: Friday, 12:00 noon – 7:00PM, Saturday, 9:00AM – 5:00PM. Address: 710 Williamson Road, Roanoke, VA 24016. For flyer see <http://www.airgunshow.com> *** Catch 2 shows, next to Showmasters below *****
- ☉ October 27-28, 2007 - Roanoke, VA - Roanoke Civic Center – *Showmasters*
- ☉ October 27-28, 2007 - Winchester, VA - Sportsplex Event Center - *Old Dominion Shows*
- ☉ November 3-4, 2007 - Dale City, VA - VFW Post 1503 - *Old Dominion Shows*
- ☉ November 9-11, 2007 - Harrisonburg, VA - Rockingham County Fairgrounds - *Old Dominion Shows*
- ☉ November 10-11, 2007 - Richmond, VA - Richmond Raceway & Fairground - *Showmasters & C&E Gun Show*
- ☉ November 16-18, 2007 - Chantilly, VA - Dulles Expo Center - *C&E Gun Show & Showmasters*

MARYLAND

- ☉ **October 13-14, 2007 – Frederick, MD - Frederick Fairgrounds - *Potomac Arms Collectors Association*. Contact: Jim Vaughn (301) 384-7177.**
- ☉ **October 27-28, 2007 – Baltimore, MD – Armory - *Antique Arms, Military Memorabilia*, Contact: Scott Condello (215) 699-8064**
- ☉ **November 3-4, 2007 - Upper Marlboro, MD - Showplace Arena - *Silverado Promotions***
- ☉ **November 10-11, 2007 - Frederick, MD - Fairgrounds - *Silverado Promotions***

PENNSYLVANIA

- ☉ **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***

- **November 10-11, 2007 – Hamburg, PA** – Hamburg Field House - Pennsylvania Antique Gun Collectors Association. Contact: Russ Dussling , P.O. Box 63, Media, PA 19063. (610) 891-8405.
- **December 1-2, 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.
- **December 8-9, 2007 – Harrisburg, PA** - Farm Show Complex - *Mid-Atlantic Arms Collectors*

OHIO

- **November 10-11, 2007 – Wilmington, OH** – Roberts Center - *Ohio Gun Collectors Association* – **OGCA MEMBERS ONLY**. For membership information contact Laura Knotts (330) 467-5733.

If “the people” in the 1st, 4th, 9th & 10th Amendments, means “the people,” why do some folks think “the people” in the 2nd Amendment means “the state?”

“Remember that a government big enough to give you everything you want is also big enough to take away everything you have.”
- Col. David Crockett

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