



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.ORG

Est. 1983 (A Non-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G8162



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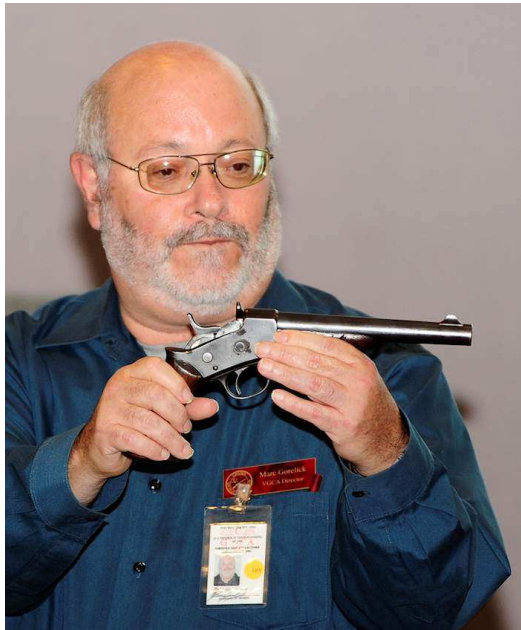
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October 2013 VGCA e-Newsletter



Presentation from the September 26, 2013 Meeting: VGCA member and Director **Marc Gorelick** covered **U.S. MILITARY REMINGTON ROLLING BLOCK PISTOLS - One Step Forward and Two Steps Back**. This presentation examined a unique chapter in the history of U.S. martial firearms by covering the background, history, use and specifications of the three Rolling Block Pistols adopted by the US Navy and US Army in the post-Civil War years. Marc began by providing an overview of the pistols that he would cover. Although many collectors feel the three models of single-shot Remington Rolling Block military pistols produced for the U.S. Army and Navy after the Civil War are among the most elegant and graceful military pistols, due to the advent of revolvers and the self-contained metallic cartridge for small arms, they were obsolete before they were designed and single-shot military pistols were being abandoned worldwide. While the U.S. Army and Navy knew that single shot pistols were obsolete, both services ordered and used Remington Rolling Block single-shot pistols after the Civil War. During the Civil War the U.S. Navy became very interested in self-contained cartridges since in sea

operations percussion guns would fail to fire due to damp powder or paper cartridges, plus there was the danger of igniting loose gunpowder or paper cartridges. After the war, the U.S. government was in no hurry to begin purchasing new firearms due to politics, a supply of obsolete weapons, and military budget cuts.

In this environment, Remington produced the three Army and Navy models of Remington Rolling Block pistols, the Model 1865 Navy, the Model 1867 Navy, and the Model 1871 Army. All three were strong, reliable, and fired a .50 caliber metallic cartridge. The Navy's choice included having a very favorable experience with the Remington Rolling Block (RRB) system for small arms. Marc showed the RRB was a refinement and improvement over the Remington Split Breech Action designed by Leonard Geiger that was used in the Civil War. The patents of Joseph Rider improved the action by strengthening and simplifying the manufacture of the new action. The Geiger and Rider patents saved Remington and the resulting system had only two major moving parts – the hammer and rolling breech block. In June 1866, the Navy contracted for 5,000 Navy Model 1865 Pistols and by 1869 had ordered another 8,000. 500 were also made for civilian use. These were chambered in .50 Caliber Rimfire with an 8.5" barrel and a distinctive spur trigger. Due to problems with the 1865 Model, the Navy Model 1867 Pistol was developed. It was not a newly manufactured gun, but was an altered and improved Model 1865. There were 3 major alterations and it took 5 years to convert 5,358 pistols. This 1867 Model and the original 1865 model received hard, heavy use around the world and were used in the battles on the Korean peninsula. Many that survived were later sold by the Navy and altered to target pistols. In addition, many were also converted to Remington Cadet Rifles. Marc showed an M. Hartley & Co. 1903-1904 Catalogue that featured a rifle based upon the .50 caliber Remington Model 1865/1867 pistol action selling for \$6.00. For this reason it is very hard to find guns in original configuration. The U.S. Army used the Model 1871 RRB Pistol in .50 Caliber Centerfire. Changes included: the trigger and trigger guard; adding a spur to the rear of the receiver to allow for a better grip; re-contouring the grip; changing the firing pin and extractor; changing the front sight to a blade; and redesigning the lockwork. It had an 8" round barrel, casehardened frame and trigger guard, and bright hammer and

breechblock. 1,377 were issued to troops for field trials in 1871-1872, and later saw Indian War service. They were later sold as surplus and many were converted to target pistols. Approximately 900-1,000 civilian models were sold. Marc also covered the .50 caliber Remington Pistol ammunition which was the first self-contained metallic pistol cartridge. It was a short stubby cartridge made in both rimfire (M1865) & centerfire (M1867 & 1871) and fired a 300 grain bullet over 25 grains of black powder for 600 fps muzzle velocity generating 240 foot pounds muzzle energy. After a Q&A period, members were invited to examine the pistols using the white cotton gloves to prevent corrosion to the finishes. Reports show the program was very well executed and popular with attendees.

✪ **Presentation for October 24, 2013 Meeting:** **Richard Jones**, Editor of IHS Jane's Weapons-Infantry yearbook; former and last Custodian of the Pattern Room collection before it was transferred out of the Ministry of Defense ownership – “*The S&W 9mm Light Rifle in British Service.*” If you have one of these rare arms, please bring it in, otherwise, any arm of Great Britain or the Commonwealth countries would be a great show and tell item. **There will be pizza and refreshments**, beginning between 6:15-6:30PM.

✪ **Remaining Meetings for 2013:** The following presentations are scheduled in the coming months. As usual, details and changes will be published in the newsletter each month so keep checking for updates.

- **November:** Remember, there is **No Meeting in November – VGCA Gun Show on November 2-3.**
- **December 5: Annual Membership Meeting** – NO Speaker/Pot Luck Dinner/Officer Nominations/Show & Tell/Swap Meet

✪ **Presentations for 2014:** The following presentations are already scheduled for next year. This will be a great line-up. Advance thanks to those who have signed up to present and to the members who arranged for some of the program speakers. As always, updates will be published in the newsletters each month.

- **January 23 – Doug Wicklund**, NRA Curator - *New National Sporting Arms Museum*, and tour of the Robert E. Petersen Gallery at the NFM
- **February 27 – Open**
- **March – No Meeting – VGCA Gun Show**
- **April 24 - Carlos Davila** on “*The G-1/2/3 Family of Military Rifles*”
- **May 22 - Anthony Vanderlinden** returns with more on Belgian Arms with a look at “*Henri Pieper and the Bayard Legacy*” - A look at FN's co-founder and competitor
- **June 26 – Bill Chronister and Larry Hare** cover “*Precision Adult Air Rifles.*”
- **July – No Meeting – Summer Recess**
- **August 28 – Open**
- **September 25 - Addison Hurst** – “*The Kalashnikov Rifle and Legacy*”
- **October 23 - Open**
- **November: No Meeting - VGCA Gun Show**
- **December 4: Annual Membership Meeting** – NO Speaker/Pot Luck Dinner/Officer Nominations/Show & Tell/Swap Meet

Business Meeting of September 26: New member applicants were introduced by **Dave Litchfield** standing on for Membership Chair **Larry Hare**. **LTC Greg E. Thompson**, US Army, was sponsored by **Dave Litchfield**. Greg has volunteered to be a featured presenter at a monthly meeting and he will display his British/Afghan Rifle collection he acquired in Afghanistan during his recent tour there. **SSgt John Kruetzer**, USMC, was sponsored by **Dave Litchfield** and **Dov Kawamoto**. **Waclaw (Walter) Ustupski** was sponsored by **Bill York** and **Ed Costello**. Walter will be representing the VGCA at the 2014 NRA Annual Meetings and will have a display of Radom guns. After a few words from the prospective members and/or their sponsors they were voted into the Association. Welcome aboard, gentlemen.

Dave Litchfield told the members that after receiving his letter of appreciation of their work in providing the Association with the limited edition VGCA Henry Golden Boy rifles, the President of the company, Anthony Imperato, responded back and asked if we would provide a photo of a member holding one of the rifles for placement on the Henry website (<http://www.henryrepeating.com>). **Jim Burgess**, who had authored last month's range report on the rifle, had his photo taken while holding the rifle and wearing his N-SSA tunic. The photo was forwarded to Henry Repeating Arms.

It was announced and members were sad to hear that member **Ben Simms**'s wife has passed away. Ben was also recently diagnosed with throat cancer, but due to its early detection has a very good prognosis. We also received the bad news that **Jim Burgess**'s mother had recently passed away. Our thoughts and prayers are with both of these members.

President **Dave Litchfield** made a series of announcements regarding the upcoming shows and the importance for members with sales tables to be aware of the both the Virginia AND Federal laws that govern sales of firearms. He reported that a private hidden camera film was made at an Arizona gun show showing private sales and purchases, where it did not appear that any effort was made by the seller to determine if the buyer was a resident of Arizona. Members need to be aware and cautious of persons who are not Virginia residents or are not eligible to purchase firearms. This is especially important with the new restrictive Maryland laws going into effect October 1. It is your responsibility to ensure you are obeying the law and to avoid any activities that could put you at risk or discredit the Association.

The November show has sold out all tables. There are 5-6 people on a waiting list. We are only using one building. Sam Hatfield has sales tables but will not be setting up his shooting gallery. We will be using one of the new ticket booths at the Fairgrounds entrance gate which will have two ticket purchase points. **Note: the gate fee for admission will increase to \$7 at the show in November.** This is still a bargain in this world of \$10, \$12, and \$13 show admissions, especially since many shows are not solely firearms and firearms related. **Remember, volunteering for the Security, Safety, and Setup teams gets a free admission.**

Notes from the Podium – President's Message

Hello All Members!

We are now headed into the final stretch for the November 2-3 Gun Show at the Prince William Fairgrounds. The show remains sold out and we have a waiting list for tables. It should another strong show for us.

We will be using one of the new ticket booths that were recently installed, and this will enable us to sell tickets from two windows when the show opens on Saturday and Sunday Mornings. This should speed up ticket purchase and allow those attendees who do not have guns to buy their entrance ticket, and then proceed straight to the entrance without standing in line behind people having their guns made safe.

We need volunteers to sign up for the security team to work any combination of Friday, Saturday and or Sunday. We'll have sign-up sheets at the October 24th meeting, or you can call in your name to any of the officers, or email us. We'll also be contacting people. Security Volunteers are the greatest need we have for each show. We'll train you.

Our featured speaker for October, Major Richard Jones, British Army retired, will present a very interesting report on the use during WW II of the Smith & Wesson 9mm Light Rifle, and we will have actual rifles present, loaned to us from the NRA NRM. We'll serve pizza again!!

VGCA elections are coming up in early 2014 and the positions of President, VP, Secretary and Treasurer are up for volunteers to run for office. Please consider giving two years to hold one of these offices..., it is fun and you really do make a difference for the future of VGCA. I firmly believe that "new blood" is healthy for VGCA. Those of us currently serving can elect to run again, but if others take our places we will train our replacements, assist them always, and we will continue to volunteer. I personally will join the Show Committee and help Rick and his team plan and execute top quality shows. Give this serious thought and get yourself nominated if you are committed to serve. Once elected you must be willing devote the time it takes to be an active participant on the Board Of Directors, attend every month meeting and set a professional example for the VGCA.

Lastly, please continue to recruit qualified new members who meet our standards of collecting interest, willingness to volunteer to help at our shows and take on VGCA taskings. 2013 has been a banner recruiting year, however only a very few members have recruited anyone. When is the last time you invited a friend to come to a meeting, introduced him or her to fellow members and completed a membership application? Have you earned your VGCA patch yet? - One new member gets you one of our beautiful VGCA patches free!!

~~ Happy Collecting, *Dave Litchfield*, President, VGCA

Member Announcements

Burial Date Details for VGCA Life Member Ed Wages: The following appeared in 2011 from the McMillan-Small Funeral Home in Myrtle Beach, SC: **Edward Jenkins Wages**, 65, husband of Melody Wages, died Friday, April 22, 2011 at his residence. He was born April 29, 1945 in Charleston, SC, the son the late Lawrence and Alma Graham Wages. He was a retired veteran of the US Marine Corp serving in Vietnam. He was the manager of the National Rifle Association Shooting Range. Survivors including his wife are: one son: Scott Wages of Atlanta, GA. An online guest book is available at www.msfh.net. The interment will be at 9:00AM on Monday, November

4, 2013 in Arlington National Cemetery. The location will be near the Administration Building and the Tourist Center.

VGCA Director Jim Burgess took First Place in the Expert Class of the Breech-Loader and Carbine Match at the North-South Skirmish Association's National Matches. Jim was using his Uberti reproduction of the Henry Lever Action Carbine in caliber .44-40. This is the same gun Jim showed during his presentation on Civil War Carbines that at first look can be mistaken for an original due to the rich aged black powder mustard patina on the brass receiver.

VGCA Gun Show Schedule for 2014-2015. The Virginia Gun Collectors Association will hold its 2014 and 2015 gun shows at the Prince William County Fairgrounds. The **Spring 2014 Show will be March 22-23, 2014** (The Baltimore Antique Arms Show is March 15-16, 2014 and Easter is on April 20) and the **Fall 2014 Show will be November 8-9, 2014**. For 2015, the **Spring 2015 Show will be March 28-29, 2015** (The Baltimore Antique Arms Show is March 21-22, 2015 and Easter falls on April 5). The **Fall 2015 Show will be November 7-8, 2015**.

Fall 2013 VGCA Gun Show Announcements

- ⊙ **CALL for Fall 2013 VGCA Gun Show Volunteers:** The dates are Friday, November 1, (vendor set-up), with the show on the Saturday and Sunday, November 2 - 3. We **always** need volunteers for the **Show Table Setup** and the **Safety and Security Teams**, as well as some folks to help with the **Sign Detail** the morning of the show, and pick them up after the show on Sunday, etc. Tell **Dennis Gerdovich, Dave Litchfield** or one of the Association Officers or Directors if you wish to volunteer, or sign up at the three monthly meetings left before the show. Talk to **Larry Hare** if you want to help with signs. **Fall show table set-up** will be on Friday morning, November 1, around 10:00AM, or whenever the tables arrive.
- ⊙ **Safety Team Volunteers:** If any member wishes to help out for an hour or so at the show, please contact **Dennis Gerdovich**, Acting Safety and Security Coordinator. **Remember, volunteering for the Security, Safety, and Setup teams gets a free admission.**

Member Requests for Information



Do you know what this item is? Member Jack Looney is trying to identify a mystery gun part, tool, or gauge that he discovered in a box of gun parts. The tool is pictured on the left, along with an inch ruler to provide a reference scale. It has a patent date of August 6, 1870. If you know what this is, please contact Jack Looney via email at rifleman_1st.45_70G@verizon.net or by telephone at Jack R. Looney Photography, LLC (703) 534-3286, or via the Newsletter at VGCANews@cox.net

Legislative Alerts and News Updates

Virginia gubernatorial candidate Terry McAuliffe's (D) website was updated Monday to show his commitment to bring Colorado-like gun control to the Commonwealth.

In the section titled "Investing in Virginia's Urban Centers," TerryMcAuliffe.com now contains the heading, "Support Common Sense Gun Control Measures."

Under that heading, it says McAuliffe "will support mainstream and majority supported gun control measures like universal background checks, limiting the size of magazines, and a return to the 1-gun-per-month rule."

The limitation on magazine capacity is a Colorado-like gun control measure that will put law-abiding Virginians at a disadvantage the moment it is enacted. This is because criminals will not obey it but will keep their "high-capacity" magazines so they can outgun their victims.

Universal background checks will mean an end to private gun sales in the state of Virginia, as they did in Colorado. This happens because Virginians will have to get the government's permission, via a background check, in order to sell or buy a firearm.

In addition, the universal background check mechanism will allow a McAuliffe governorship to control how many guns Virginians can or cannot buy each month — thus the pledge to "return to the 1-gun-per-month rule."

Once similar gun control measures passed in Colorado, upset citizens successfully recalled two State Senators behind the legislation within months.

Follow AWR Hawkins on Twitter [@AWRHawkins](https://twitter.com/AWRHawkins)

<http://www.breitbart.com/Big-Government/2013/09/23/Terry-McAuliffe-Pledges-Colorado-like-Gun-Control-If-Elected>

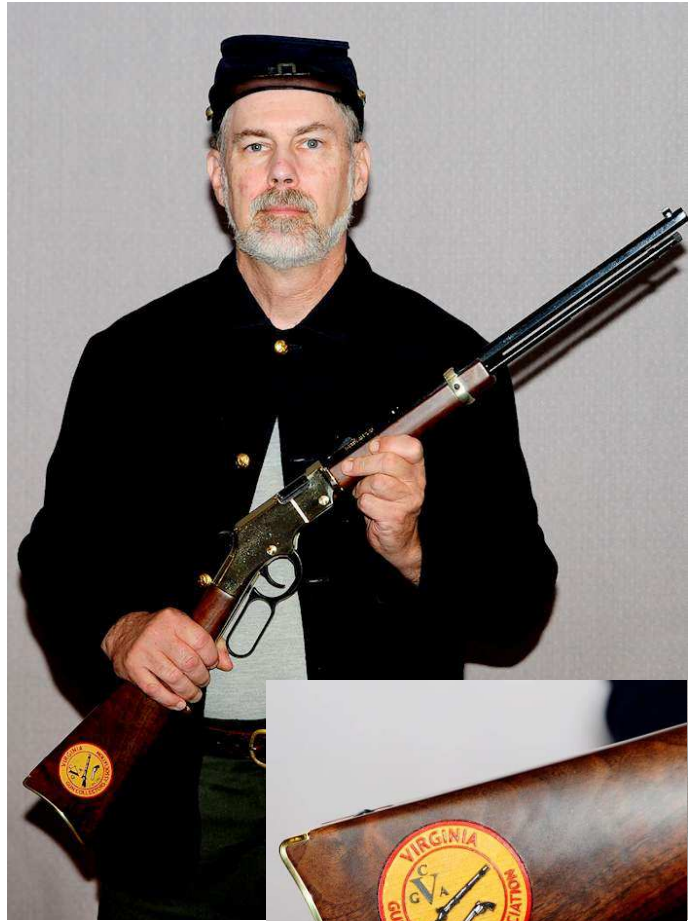
Editorial Comment: Members are urged to closely review the websites and read the campaign literature of all the major candidates for all elections. Remember, some campaign promises DO get realized and it CAN happen HERE. If successful, gun shows will cease to exist. Be an informed voter and remember a protest vote for a third party candidate is really a vote for whomever wins whether you voted for them or not.

The Election of VGCA Officers for the 2014-2016 Term. This is a request to get members thinking about the Annual Association Membership Meeting in early December. As last time, we will be taking nominations from the floor at the December meeting for candidates for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The December Annual Membership Meeting is the only opportunity you may have to question potential candidates about their ideas for the direction of the Association, instead of relying on a photo and one paragraph attachment to the ballot. Some of the incumbent Officers have indicated they are not running for re-election, so we will need to have candidates to fill the vacant positions. Please consider if you would like to run, or if you have someone you would like to nominate to run. Our recent elections have had increasing interest and candidates, and we have been busy recruiting and signing up new members, which is a good sign.

Show & Tell at the September 26, 2013 Meeting: In keeping with the subject matter of the evening's presentation, **Member 1** showed 5 Remington Rolling Block (RRB) pistols from the collection of a fellow VGCA member. 4 of the 5 pistols were private gunsmith conversions of military pistols, while the fifth was a Remington Factory conversion of a military pistol. Among the conversions by gunsmiths was a rare and beautiful Arthur Hubalek custom conversion of a Model 1871 Army in .22RF from the 1940's. Hubalek, a jeweler by trade was also a noted gunsmith, barrel and scope maker, and Schutzen shooter. He used to be a friend of Pope until he learned Pope's secrets of barrel making and became Pope's competitor. The Remington Rolling Block Model of 1887 in .22 short from the collection was based on the Navy Model 1867 and is an excellent example of Remington using leftover parts from a military contract to produce a high quality target pistol. **Member 2** presented a German P-38 pistol with a Swedish holster. **Member 3** showed a rare CZ-46 pistol with Czechoslovakian markings. These pistols, which look like a Walther P-38, were assembled after the Second World War from German P-38 parts and included a number of improvements made by the Czechs. Only a few thousand were manufactured. The last item, displayed by **Member 4**, was a high-grade 12 gauge side-by-side percussion shotgun with vividly patterned Damascus steel barrels, ornate engraving and inlaid gold embellishments. It was marked on the barrel rib with the name Gasser, an Austrian gun maker associated with Austro-Hungarian revolvers like the Rast-Gasser. Leopold

Gasser began making firearms in the mid-1800s, and though he died in 1871 his company was successfully continued on by his son Johann. As Gasser is not known to have manufactured shotguns, this piece is most likely a custom item commissioned for one of the Gassers.

Photos from the September 2013 Meeting



Top Left: Marc Gorelick demonstrates the Remington Split Breech action, the precursor of the Rolling Block action.

Top Left and Insert: Jim Burgess displays his Henry Repeating Arms VGCA Limited Edition Rifle, and detail of the laser cut VGCA logo.

Center Left: Close-up of an 1871 Army Rolling Block converted to a target rifle.

Lower Left: Gasser-marked 12 gauge side-by-side percussion shotgun with vividly patterned Damascus steel barrels, ornate engraving and inlaid gold embellishments.

Upcoming Events and Shows

PLEASE NOTE: There are sometimes changes in schedules or errors on websites. Members are strongly encouraged to *verify before driving to a show*. These dates have been published online, but are not guaranteed. **Yellow** = Collector organizations.

VIRGINIA 2013

- ☞ October 26-27, 2013 - Fredericksburg, VA - Expo Center - *SGK, LTD*
- ☞ October 26-27, 2013 - Roanoke, VA - Roanoke Civic Center – *Showmasters*
- ☞ November 2-3, 2013 - Norfolk, VA – Norfolk Scope Arena - *C&E Gun Show*
- ☞ **November 2-3, 2013 - Manassas, VA - Prince William County Fairgrounds – Virginia Gun Collectors Association**
- ☞ November 2-3, 2013 - Dale City, VA - VFW Post 1503 - *Old Dominion Shows*
- ☞ November 9-10, 2013 - Richmond, VA - Raceway & Fairgrounds – *Showmasters*
- ☞ November 22-24, 2013 - Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center - *C&E Gun Show*

MARYLAND 2013

- ☞ November 10-11, 2013 – Frederick, MD - Frederick Fairgrounds – *Silverado Productions*

PENNSYLVANIA 2013

- ☞ October 19-20, 2013 – Bloomsberg, PA – Bloomsberg Fairgrounds - *Eagle Arms*
- ☞ **October 19-20, 2013 - Allentown, PA - Agricultural Hall - Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society. Contact: FDHAS, 3491 Linden St., Bethlehem, PA 18017. 610-997-8613 after 6pm.**
- ☞ October 26-27, 2013 - Monroeville, PA - Convention Center - *C&E Gun Shows*
- ☞ October 26-27, 2013 - York, PA - York Fairgrounds (Toyota Arena) – *Appalachian Promotions*
- ☞ November 2-3, 2013 – Lebanon, PA - Lebanon Expo Center – *Eagle Arms*
- ☞ **November 2-3, 2013 – Plymouth Meeting, PA – LuLu Shrine Center – Pennsylvania Antique Gun Collectors Assoc.**
- ☞ November 9-10, 2013 - Poconos, PA - Split Rock Lodge - *Eagle Arms*
- ☞ **November 9-10, 2013- Tarentum, PA - Pittsburgh Mills Mall - Pennsylvania Gun Collectors Association.**
- ☞ November 16-17, 2013 - Allentown, PA - Rodeway Inn - *Eagle Arms*
- ☞ November 30-December 1, 2013 - Monroeville, PA - Convention Center - *C&E Gun Shows*

NEW YORK 2013

- ☞ **December 14-15, 2013 – Freeport, NY - The Freeport Recreation Center - Long Island Antique Historical Arms Society. Contact: Dave Gruner (631) 722-3248, P.O. Box 41, Jamesport, NY 11947**

OHIO 2013

- ☞ **November 16-17, 2013 – Wilmington, OH – Roberts Centre - Ohio Gun Collectors Association. OGCA MEMBERS ONLY. <http://www.ogca.com/index.htm>**

OKLAHOMA 2013

- ☞ November 9-10, 2013 – Tulsa, OK - Expo Center-Expo Square (Tulsa Fairgrounds) - *Tulsa Arms Collectors Association. ****MORE THAN 4,100 TABLES!*****

“If a nation values anything more than freedom, it will lose its freedom, and the irony of it is that if it is comfort or money that it values more, it will lose that too.” ~ W. Somerset Maugham

The e-mail address for any Newsletter related matters or a submission 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. v/r Bill Chronister, VGCA Newsletter Editor