



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.NET

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

NRA Affiliate Number G8162

CMP Affiliate Number 026160



President

Show/Reservations Manager

Membership

Website: www.vgca.net

Facebook: @VirginiaGunCollectorsAssoc

Ed Costello

Rick Nahas

George Dungan

Phone: 703-241-7915

Cell: 571-215-8761

Phone: 571-243-6387

Twitter: @VAGunCollectrs

Instagram: @vaguncollectors

edwardcostello@comcast.net

jet53sw@aol.com

george@eccominv.com

October 2023 VGCA Newsletter



President's Comments

Greetings to my Fellow VGCA members,

As the season changes, so we must change with it. After lengthy deliberations and an extensive analysis of our options, your Board has elected to change the location of our future gun shows. Our next Gun Show at the Prince William County Fairgrounds on November 4-5 will be our last one there. The new management of the Fairgrounds has more than doubled our costs

and made it difficult for us to maintain security and control by scheduling multiple events during the dates of our show. Our Spring Gun Show will be held at the VFW Post on Minnieville Road in Dale City on April 6-7, 2024. Many of us fondly remember when the VFW hosted successful gun shows prior to the pandemic. The VFW Post is a bit smaller than the Fairgrounds and parking is not as extensive, but the costs are reasonable and the management there is pleasant to work with - plus the food is better!! This relocation will present its challenges and I ask your patience as we work through the move. Details and applications for sales/display tables at the VFW will be provided by Rick Nahas at our November show.

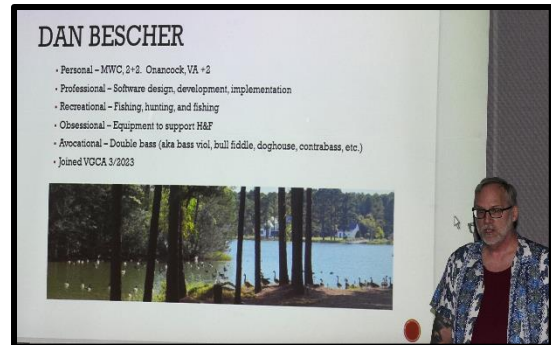
Finally, don't forget our next regular membership meeting at the NRA on the 26th where members Gary Latta and Shannon Zeigler will host a presentation on Colt SP1s. I look forward to seeing you there!

Ed Costello, VGCA President

★ September Presentation: Frankengun – the story of an unusual S&W .44 Hand Ejector

Relatively new VGCA member Dan Bescher (*at right*) gave a presentation on researching one of his collecting interests – a .44 caliber Smith & Wesson (S&W) Hand Ejector.

Dan provided some background on the .44 S&W Hand Ejectors. Collectors have designated five models of these Hand Ejectors, broken down as:



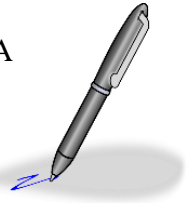
- 1st Model 1908-1915. Most often called the Triple Lock or New Century model.
- 2nd Model 1915-1940.
- 3rd Model 1926-1941 and 1946-1949. Called the "Wolf & Klar" model ('26 to '41) and "Postwar Transitional" from '46 to '49
- 4th Model 1950-1957. Model numbers were introduced after 1957 - became the model 21 and 24
- 5th Model 1957 to present. Model 29 after 1957 (the .44 Magnum)



The subject of the night's presentation (*above*) is a bit of a mystery. When examined closely, it consists of parts from at least two different large bore N-Frame Smith & Wessons – hence then moniker “Frankengun.” The frame (and probably the hammer and trigger as well) date from 1924, while the barrel, cylinder, and stocks date from 1946 (Dan noted that immediate post-war 1946 Smiths are fairly rare). The sights are non-standard and probably older than the barrel itself. So the question is – how did this assortment of parts come together?

★ September Meeting Notes

The VGCA meeting on September 28th was called to order promptly at 7:15 p.m. by VGCA President Ed Costello. Member Jim Burgess led those assembled through the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence for those members who are no longer with us as well as those military members that have fallen in the service of our country.



Gun Show Director Rick Nahas provided a quick update on our next Gun Show, scheduled for November 4th and 5th. There are only 11 tables remaining unfilled. **Update: Since the September membership meeting, Rick has had a couple of cancelations and we now have 18 tables available.** If you are interested in a sales or display table for November, please contact Rick as soon as possible. We need volunteers for show security as well as to man our Membership Table. As a reminder, members who volunteer 4 hours for security or the membership table will receive a \$25 gift certificate, redeemable with vendors at the show. The November show will also feature a 50/50 Raffle. Tickets are available now.

Treasurer Shannon Zeigler gave a financial update. He noted that bank interest rates are increasing and that he will be transferring a large amount of VGCA funds into a 9-month Certificate of Deposit at ~5% interest. He also encouraged everyone to “get the word out” for November Gun Show. Remember, this is one of our two big money-making events of the year!

VP George Dungan provided an update on the VGCA 40th Anniversary commemorative Henry Rifles. These will be the Henry “Golden Boy” lever action rifle in .22LR and will have the VGCA patch laser-engraved in the butt stock and a special/unique serial number range. Cost will be approximately \$772-\$775 each. Members will be notified via Constant Contact of the Pre-Order and will have 60 days to order their rifle(s). Rifles will be pre-paid and delivered to VGCA FFL Dealers Rick Nahas and Ian Wulf when completed.

George also gave an update on our membership status. We have a total of 542 members.

We need volunteers to help man our Recruiting Table at the Fredericksburg Gun Show on October 28th and 29th. This will be the first time we have a table at this show and we are hoping for good results. Please contact George or Bruce Buchner (details on page 8) if interested in helping out.

VGCA Tee-Shirts should be available at the October Membership meeting. Available in various colors and sizes, the price will be \$20 each.

Marc Gorelick is a long time member of the VGCA and should be familiar to everyone for his multitude of presentations, displays, and newsletter articles. He recently stepped down after more than a decade as a VGCA Director. In recognition of his service and dedication to our organization, Ed Costello and Rob Becker (*far right*) presented Marc (*near right*) with George Moller’s three volume set of books on **American Military Shoulder Arms**. Congratulations Marc – and thank you from all of us!



This was followed by introduction of new members and guests. There were 49 members and guests present, as well as 3 more participating on-line via webinar.



NORTH & SKINNER LOCKING WEDGE REVOLVING RIFLE

From Flint Single Shot to Percussion Revolver in One Family

By Mike Revesz, PAGCA

Reprinted with permission from the October 2023 issue of the Pennsylvania Antique Gun Collectors Association (PAGCA) Monthly Bugle

The first martial pistol contracted for and produced in the United States was the North & Cheney 1799 flintlock pistol. The North & Cheney partnership produced an estimated 2000 of these pistols in two contracts (500 first contract and 1500 second contract). Simeon North, over time, became the premier and most prolific manufacturer of U.S. Contract flintlock pistols and his clock maker brother in-law, Elisa Cheney, is said to have supported North's pistol production with mass production techniques and small parts, especially screws.

Today there are less than 30 documented North & Cheney Model 1 and Model 2 contract martial pistols. These are supplemented by an assortment of fakes and copies. Collectors consider original North & Cheney 1799 pistols to be the Holy Grail of U.S. marshal contract pistols with documented examples changing hands in the \$50,000 to \$75,000 range.



1799 North & Cheney 1799 Model 1

Simeon North made more than 47,000 U.S. martial contract pistols and 5000 Hall rifles during his 53 year U.S. contracting period. Simeon North (born in 1765) passed away in 1852.

By the time of Simeon North's death, his son Henry North had become a skilled gun designer and together with Chauncy Skinner received US Patent #8982 for an early percussion fired revolving rifle design. Unlike many other revolving rifle designs, the North & Skinner functioned as a lever action, with the trigger guard serving as the lever.

The North & Skinner revolving rifle design included several features intended to protect the shooter from the cylinder gap blast (which was a significant problem with all such revolving rifle designs). It used recessed chambers and a locking wedge that would push the cylinder forward so that it would nest into the barrel to achieve a semblance of a gas seal (a bit like the 1895 Nagant revolver design 40 years later). The operating lever that did this also served to rotate the cylinder and re-cock the hammer, making for a fairly sophisticated design.



North & Skinner Locking Wedge Revolving Rifle



North & Skinner Revolving Rifle with Lever Open - Note the wedge below and behind the cylinder, and the cocked hammer. Image from Michael Simens' Historical Antiques.

The North & Skinner revolving rifles were manufactured from 1856 to 1859 by the North & Savage company. This company was formed by Henry North (the designer of the rifle) and Edward Savage. About 600 of these guns were made in total, with roughly 20% being .60-caliber shotguns and the remainder being .44 caliber rifles.

A patented improvement in 1856 would replace the locking wedge system with a toggle link, and would become the basis for the North & Savage "Figure 8" revolvers. The North & Skinner locking wedge

revolving rifle design was abandoned in favor of handguns, as they presumably were significantly more popular in the market.



North & Skinner Revolving Rifle with Lever Closed and after firing - Note the wedge raised up behind the cylinder pushing the cylinder forward against the barrel, limiting gas escape. Image from Michael Simens' Historical Antiques.

The 1856 patent was further improved in 1858. The improvement incorporated a movable toggle link. This improvement was then incorporated into the Figure Eight pistols. In 1859, Henry North and Edward Savage were issued patent #22,666 further improving the revolving cylinder design. It is estimated that total production of all Figure Eight pistol models was less than 700. The North & Savage Figure Eight pistol evolved into the Savage Navy Pistol (below) where approximately 20,000 were made before and during the Civil War.



Savage Navy Pistol, .36 caliber

★ Membership Chairman's Report

Membership Chairman's Report October 2023

New Applications for Membership: Since the last Newsletter, there has been one new application for membership.

- **Alberto Durrell** of Leesburg sponsored by **Bruce Buchner**

If you know of anyone who would be interested in joining our organization please invite them to a meeting or to our upcoming VGCA Gun Show.

Notice to New Member Sponsors: VGCA will be discontinuing hard copy versions of the VGCA Newsletters at a future date. *Please make sure your prospective applicants include a legible email address and telephone contact number* if at all possible. Without an email address new members will NOT receive the newsletter or VGCA announcements.

Membership Numbers: There are currently 422 Life members and 111 Annual Members for a total of 533 members in the Virginia Gun Collectors Association, Inc.

Recruiting: Membership in the VGCA is a great way for people with an interest in the history, development, and use of firearms to broaden their knowledge and pass what they know on to others. It also offers the opportunity to network with individuals who have similar interests. To help facilitate new membership we have a Membership Table at every Chantilly gun show and also at our VGCA gun shows. If you would like to volunteer to work a shift at an upcoming Chantilly show please contact George Dungan at george@eccominv.com and to work a shift at the VGCA Gun Show contact Bruce Buchner at buchnerb@cox.net.

We would like to thank the following members for volunteering their time to work the membership table at the last Chantilly gun show; Bruce Buchner, King VonSchilling, Allan Ruppard, Keith Simmons, Dan Bescher, Louie DiGaetano, Mick Jacobs, Glen Ruh, Greg Thompson, Dov Kawamoto, and Rick Hanson.

Membership Renewal: All annual dues are due by the end of December. You can renew annually for \$30 or \$150 for life. Please use the form below to renew and either mail it in or bring it to a meeting or the VGCA Gun Show and give it to either George Dungan or Bruce Buchner. If you are unsure of your membership status email george@eccominv.com and I will let you know.

George Dungan, Vice President and Membership Chair

Annual Membership Renewals: Annual Membership renewals of \$30.00 are due by January 1, 2024. You may upgrade to Life Membership for \$150 (only \$120 over the cost of renewing your annual membership, plus no more annual dues requests). Failure to renew by the January Membership meeting may result in your being dropped as a *member in good standing*. **Members dropped for non-payment of dues will have to go through the new member process to re-join the Association.**

Dues may be paid by mail by sending a Check for \$30 (please, NO USPS or other Money Orders) and the completed membership renewal form above to the address on the form. VGCA will also accept payments in person (CHECK or EXACT CHANGE preferred – I have NO CASH for change) with a completed renewal form. If members have questions, please email **George Dungan, Interim Membership Chair** at george@eccominv.com or call me at 571-243-6387.



CMP UPDATE

By Marc Gorelick, CMP Liaison

The VGCA is a CMP Affiliated club. The VGCA club number is 026160.

By Marc Gorelick, CMP Liaison

NM Collector Software – CMP Edition



The Civilian Marksmanship Program has made available for sale a program to keep an inventory of your collection. According to the CMP, the NM Collector Software – CP is good for any collection on any computer. You can use it to keep track of all important information regarding the items in all of your collections including identification, description, purchase, sale, maintenance, events, photographs and more. One purchase entitles you to use this software for all your collections on all of your computers. This CP or “Cross Platform” collection management software can be used to

organize your collection on your desktop computer (Windows, Mac, and Linux) and/or mobile device (iPhones, iPads, Android phones and tablets). You can also print your data in case you want a paper copy. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of this software are donated to the CMP. This is nmCollector.net LLC's latest offering to the collector community and, according to the company, is designed to provide a consistent interface and easy data sharing across all commonly available application platforms. For additional information visit the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/training-tech/nm-collector/>. A link will take you to the company's website that provides additional technical information and where and how you can purchase the program.

Sales



CMP 1911 SALES ROUND 4 EXTENDED

The CMP has extended the end of Round 4 of the 1911 Pistol Sales Program and will continue to accept orders until October 31, 2023. Due to technical issues with the CMP's system, it discovered that some emails announcing Round 4 and website postings, did not go out as they should have. Therefore in order to allow everyone who would like to submit a 1911 order packet to have the chance to do so, the CMP extended the deadline by 30 days. Order packets must be postmarked by October 31, 2023.

The CMP is increasing the lifetime purchase limit of 1911 pistols to two (2). The yearly limit is one per calendar year until you have met your lifetime limit. If you have never purchased a 1911 pistol from the CMP, you may only purchase one at this time. If you have purchased a 1911 pistol in 2023, you CANNOT purchase a second 1911 at this time. If you previously purchased a 1911 through the RGN process or auction in 2018-2022, you are eligible to purchase a second 1911 pistol. You must submit a

complete order packet. Incomplete orders will not be accepted. For additional information, go to the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/sales-and-service/1911-information/>.

RIFLE SALES



During 2023 the Civilian Marksmanship Program received approximately 5,000 M1 Garands from the Turkish Government, 10,000 surplus M1911s from the US Army, and a significant quantity of surplus ammunition from the US Army. These assets provided a full year of rifle and pistol sales both online and in the CMP's three physical stores at: Camp Perry, Ohio; Anniston, Alabama; and Talladega, Alabama, and will allow the CMP to continue selling them next year. The CMP will also release a small quantity of M1917 rifles in 2024 for sale online and at the three stores.

Advanced Maintenance Class (AMC)

The CMP is bringing back the Advanced Maintenance Class for Fiscal Year 2024. The Advanced Maintenance Class (AMC) offers students a unique opportunity to receive unparalleled training from the CMP's knowledgeable Custom Shop Staff and build their very own M1 rifle. The three-day class is intended for individuals interested in knowing how the M1 Garand rifle functions in detail, as well as for those wishing to know how to properly perform advanced maintenance procedures to their personal rifle(s). The class involves classroom lecture as well as hands-on shop time. Tools will be provided for students to use during the class. This class is not intended for gunsmiths or students with advanced knowledge of the M1 rifle. No prior armorer or shooting experience is required to attend the class. Students will each assemble from parts their own rifle (manufacturer of receiver may vary depending on the current inventory available) that is included in the AMC fee. Each student signed up for the class will have an option when purchasing, with either Field Grade Specials or **CMP Special** rifles available for construction. The CMP Custom Shop plans to host 8 AMCs at the CMP's Anniston, Alabama facility, however no dates have been announced yet. For additional information, check the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/training-tech/advanced-maintenance-class/>.

CMP Advanced Highpower Clinic



Save the date if you want to learn how to shoot your military surplus rifle in competition! The CMP will be holding an Advanced Highpower Clinic next year at the National Matches at Camp Perry, Port

Clinton, Ohio on July 26-28, 2024. The CMP Advanced Highpower Rifle Clinic offers advanced instruction in service rifle competition techniques taught by members of the CMP Rifle Team. The clinic includes classroom instruction, coached dry-firing practice and live fire training on both Saturday and Sunday. Participants in the clinic must bring their own service rifles, shooting equipment and their own ammunition. All participants will receive a Clinic T-shirt and certificate. Registration opens on March 1, 2024. Go to the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/training-tech/advanced-cmp-highpower-clinic/> for additional information.

CMP E-Store Update



As of this writing, the CMP E-Store is down for maintenance. A new look and upgrade are underway to improve your shopping experience – look for more details mid-October. The CMP is working hard to get the E-store capability restored as soon as possible.

The CMP also has new challenge coins which will be for sale on the CMP E-Store and at the three brick and mortar stores.

SPURIOUS BRONZE CANNON MARKINGS

By John Morris

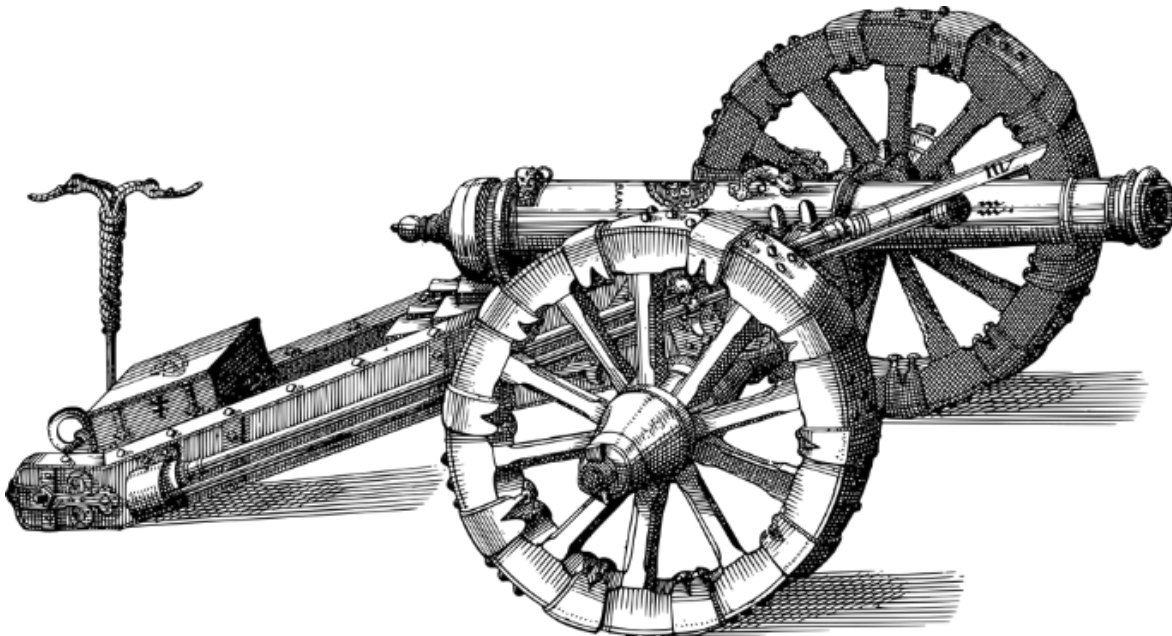


Image Public Domain.

Please beware of antique bronze cannons with spurious markings, particularly those resembling French and Spanish markings. I've examined numerous good photos of a few of these recently. Common issues include one or more of these:

- The cannon is a real antique cannon but of a pattern never used by the country whose marks seem to be present, and/or bore diameter is one not one used by the imitated country.
- The engraved marks are shallow, sloppy, and/or obviously applied OVER scratches and dents.
- The text grammar incorrect.
- The text field is missing words or numbers that are typically present on authentic cannons of a given country and period.
- The engraved characters are misaligned
- The vent field is radically different from those on pieces from the country whose marks were imitated.
- Dolphins are missing from pieces large enough to require them if they are actually French or Spanish cannon.

I have more very specific information that isn't included out of caution. If you are considering a cannon purchase or have already made one and you find the piece suspicious, I'll take a look if you send sharp color photos and dimensions. All engraved areas should be included.

The following is from the National Park Service website regarding the Spanish cannon at the Castillo de San Marcos, St. Augustine, Florida: <https://www.nps.gov/casa/learn/historyculture/artillery-tour.htm>

Early bronze artillery could also be described as beautiful works of art. Some are basic in design while others are very ornately detailed. Today, all the bronze guns are covered in a green patina. When first made, they were bright and shiny, like a new penny. Look closely at each gun for some key features. Starting at the back, you can find the name of the maker, the city where it was made, and the date when the gun was manufactured. Moving up, you will find the royal coat of arms of the Spanish King & Queen who reigned during the making of the weapon. Next are a couple of raised handles called dolphins. Moving closer to the front of the gun, a banner bears the cannon's name. Four cannons (*at Castillo de San Marcos*) (#1, #2, #13 & #28) also have a second, larger banner that reads "*Violati Fulmina Regis*" (*Thunderbolts of an offended/angry king*). Each trunnion (the pivot bars on the sides of the gun) lists where the metal was acquired, the gun's maintenance record, and how much the weapon weighs.



3D images of a Spanish bronze cannon in the Castillo de San Marcos. This cannon is on display in the fort's courtyard. It is an 18 pounder cast in Seville in 1764. Its name is El Milanés (The One from Milan). Photos National Park Service.



VGCA GUNS OF DISTINCTION: MANURHIN MR73 & MR22 REVOLVERS

By Marc Gorelick

French gunmaker Manurhin introduced the MR73 in 1973. The Manurhin MR73 is a high quality, extremely accurate, double-action/single-action revolver primarily chambered in .38 Special and .357 Magnum. The MR73 became standard issue with France's Gendarmerie, and European police and other security-related groups requested several variations of this revolver to meet their specialized requirements. In response Manurhin developed 3-inch barrel defense-guns and 9 and 10-inch barrel MR73s with optical sights for specialized police units, including tactical Special Weapons and Tactics teams such as RAID, and GIGN. These were also used for silhouette and sport shooting. The MR73's accuracy was so good that Manurhin brought out a special target-version in .32 S&W long, to compete with the then new and highly respected German Walther GSP sport pistol.



*Photo left – MR73 Gendarmerie Model.
Photo - Beretta*

The MR73 has an adjustable trigger in both double-action and single-action modes, a feature found in other high-quality revolvers such as Korth and Janz. The adjustments do not affect the strength of the main spring, ensuring reliable primer ignition. This is due to the use of roller bearings in the trigger mechanism along with extensive hand fitting and polishing of components during assembly. The MR73 requires more than 12 hours of hand-fitting at the factory. This makes it about 50% more expensive than competing U.S.-manufactured brands. However, as a result of this extra work and care, every MR 73 is match grade accurate. Each revolver is shipped with its own factory

test target fired at 25 meters 27.3 yards (25 meters). The test firing averaged 15 rounds with no gun producing a group of more than 0.79 inches (20mm) diameter being released.



MR22 Match revolver with 6" barrel. Photo courtesy of Joh. Springers Erben, Vienna, Austria

In 1977 Manurhin announced that they will bring out a target (sport) version of the MR73 chambered in .22 long rifle. Unfortunately the new MR22 did not find its way to the market until 1985. During the almost ten years between the first announcement and the match-grade revolver's introduction much had changed in the match shooting world - Hammerli, Walther, FAS, Feinwerkbau, and other makers had taken over .22 long rifle handgun target shooting with their famous and accurate sport pistols. The MR 22 was also somewhat expensive for its day, in 1986 a new MR 22 cost \$665 US.



MR22 Match revolver with 6" barrel. Photo courtesy of Joh. Springers Erben, Vienna, Austria

Like the MR73, the MR22 is also extremely accurate. It too has a lot of hand fitting during the manufacturing process. The frame, cylinder, and barrel are made from ordnance-certified, alloyed steel. Barrels are manufactured by cold-hammering. The rifling is formed during the forging process,

eliminating the need to cut the rifling as a separate manufacturing step and creating an extremely hard and microscopically smooth internal barrel surface. The MR22 Match version features only a single action trigger and has an extended rearward rise. This allows the aiming length to be increased without increasing the total length of the weapon, which would have made it exceed the maximum dimensions authorized in certain competitions.



The MR Series of match revolvers are shipped with a highly ergonomic target grips. These grips are known for extreme recoil mitigation and high levels of shooter control and allow for increased accuracy, faster follow-up shots, and limit recoil transfer to the shooter's hands. In addition, there are numerous after-market custom match grips available.

New Manurhin MR73 Sport 5.25” and MR73 Gendarmerie 4” are now available in the United States through the Beretta Galleries and select Beretta Dealers. The Sport and Gendarmerie’s MSRP is \$3,600

Left – After-market target Nill grips for the MR73 and MR22.

HAMPTON ROADS MILITARY SOCIETY

If you find yourself at Virginia Beach with some extra time this fall, consider attending a meeting of the Hampton Roads Militaria Society (HRMS). The HRMS is a non-profit organization dedicated to assist collectors and historians in the collection & preservation of militaria of all sorts and periods, preserve and honor our military past, and honor the veterans of all our conflicts. They generally meet on the 1st Tuesday of each month, but this can vary. Upcoming meetings (at 1329 Harpers Road in VA Beach) are:

Nov 14 – “Becoming a Hunter in Germany” by Nelson Voke.

Dec (TBD) – TBD.

Jan (TBD) - "The Evolution of the Rifle" by Chris Betcher.

For more details, HRMS website is: [Hampton Roads Militaria Society \(classicfirearmsandchoesofglory.com\)](https://www.classicfirearmsandchoesofglory.com)

★ 2023-2024 Presentation List ★

MEETING DATE	TOPIC	PRESENTER
26 Oct 2023	Collecting Colt SP1 Rifles	Gary Latta & Shannon Ziegler
	<i>No meeting in November due to our Gun Show</i>	
02 Dec 2023	Holiday Pot Luck & Annual Swap Meet	N/A
25 Jan 2024	Broomhandle Mausers	Ed Costello
22 Feb 2024	FN FAL	Carlos Davila

We are starting to fill in the presentation schedule for next year. If you have any suggestions – or would like to make a presentation yourself – please contact Matthew G. at matthewofmclean@gmail.com or one of the VGCA officers or directors.

Al Reid, VGCA Legislative Affairs Chairman provided the following article from the VCDL-PAC. This is a list of VCDL-PAC endorsements for the Virginia Assembly and are not endorsements from VCDL or the VGCA

VCDL-PAC 2023 Endorsements – VA General Assembly Elections

The Virginia Citizens Defense League - Political Action Committee (VCDL-PAC) congratulates the following endorsed candidates for the general election to the state legislature for 2023! All of the following candidates scored Very Pro-Gun and received a unanimous endorsement from the committee. Early voting started on Friday, September 22. Reward these candidates by voting early. It not only secures your vote but it also saves the candidates money. In order to qualify for consideration for VCDL-PAC endorsement a candidate must first submit their answers to the VCDL Survey ([VCDL.org/candidate-surveys](https://vcdl.org/candidate-surveys)). Other factors taken into account are voting records, public statements, and other information that may be available to the PAC. Please remember to share this information as a VCDL-PAC endorsement, not VCDL.

Additional endorsements will be forthcoming. Endorsements are also listed on the website here: [VCDL-PAC 2021 Candidate Endorsements - Virginia Citizens Defense League](#)

General Assembly - Senate:

Senate District 1 - Timmy F. French
Senate District 2 - Mark D. Obenshain
Senate District 3 - Christopher T. Head
Senate District 9 - Frank M. Ruff, Jr.
Senate District 10 - John J. McGuire, III
Senate District 11 - Philip A Hamilton
Senate District 12 - Glen Sturtevant
Senate District 17 - Emily Marie Brewer
Senate District 19 - Christie New Craig
Senate District 21 - Giovanni G. "Gio" Dolmo

Senate District 24 - J. D. "Danny" Diggs
Senate District 25 - Richard H. Stuart
Senate District 27 - Tara A. Durant
Senate District 28 - Bryce E. Reeves
Senate District 34 - Mark A. Springman
Senate District 35 - Mark B. Vafiades
Senate District 36 - Julie Anna Perry
Senate District 38 - Matthew J. "Matt" Lang
Senate District 40 - David A. Henshaw

General Assembly - House of Delegates:

House District 8 - Max B. Fisher
House District 18 - Edward F. McGovern
House District 21 - John T. Stirrup
House District 25 - John S. Gray
House District 32 - William D. "Bill" Wiley
House District 34 - Tony O. Wilt
House District 35 - Chris S. Runion
House District 36 - Ellen H. Campbell
House District 39 - William P. Davis
House District 41 - J. Christian "Chris" Obenshain
House District 42 - Jason S. Ballard
House District 43 - James W. "Will" Morefield
House District 46 - Jonathan E. "Jed" Arnold
House District 47 - Wren M. Williams
House District 50 - Thomas C. Wright, Jr.
House District 51 - Eric R. Zehr
House District 52 - Wendell S. Walker

House District 53 - Timothy P. Griffin
House District 56 - Thomas A. "Tom" Garrett, Jr.
House District 59 - H. F. "Buddy" Fowler, Jr.
House District 60 - Scott A. Wyatt
House District 62 - Nick Freitas
House District 63 - Phillip A. "Phil" Scott
House District 70 - Matt J. Waters
House District 72 - R. Lee Ware, Jr.
House District 73 - Mark L. Earley, Jr.
House District 84 - Michael J. Dillender
House District 86 - A. C. Cordoza
House District 88 - James M. "Jim" Wright
House District 89 - N. Baxter Ennis
House District 92 - Michael L. Durig
House District 93 - John Sitka, III
House District 94 - Andrew B. "Andy" Pittman
House District 97 - Karen S. Greenhalgh

Sheriff:

Buckingham - W. G. "Billy" Kidd, Jr.
Carroll - Kevin A. Kemp
Clarke - Travis M. Sumption
Culpeper - Joseph A. Watson
Goochland - Steven Ned Creasey
Green - Steven S. Smith
Henry - Del Mills
James City County - David J. Hardin
King William - G. Scott Hamilton
Louisa - Donald A. "Donnie" Lowe
Orange - Stephen M. LaLuna
Prince William - Glen Hill
Southampton/City of Franklin - Thomas O. Potter, Jr.
Washington - R. Blake Andis

Commonwealth's Attorney:

Dickenson - Josh H. Newberry
Goochland - John L. Lumpkins, Jr.
Highland - Diane U. Montgomery
Southampton/City of Franklin - Eric A. Cooke

City Council:

Buena Vista - Ronald E. Cash

Chairman, Board of Supervisors:

Fairfax - Arthur G. Purves
Frederick - Josh E. Ludwig

VGCA ANNUAL MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The **VGCA Member of the Year Award** recognizes the member who the membership believes has done the most during the past year for the club and/or gun collecting. The annual **Member of the Year Award** is a way for you, the membership, to publically recognizing a member in good standing who selflessly went above and beyond for the club or for collecting during 2023. All VGCA members except elected Board members are eligible to receive the award.

All members who attend the October and December meetings, and the show, will have an opportunity to vote for the person of their choice. A ballot box and slips of paper will be available. Just write in the name of the member you think should get the award and the reason you think he or she should get it (what he or she has done in 2023). No preselected list of names will be presented for voting – this is your choice from start to finish.

After the votes have been counted the person being recognized will be announced at the January 2024 meeting and presented with his/her award.

Reasons for being selected include, but are not limited to:

- Volunteering for set-up or security, or other duties before or during the shows
- Volunteering other services to the VGCA, such as setting up trips, administering club programs or providing technical support
- Giving presentations at meetings
- Promoting the VGCA or gun collecting as a whole, (such as at the VGCA table at Chantilly)
- Putting on displays not just at our shows but other shows to enhance collecting
- Writing articles to further collecting
- Recruiting new members to the VGCA

Remember – Only those members in good standing who attend the October and December meetings, and the November show, will be able to vote for the Member of the Year Award for 2022.

Come to the meetings and vote for your choice.

★ Show-n-Tell ★

NOTE: For anyone bringing in items for Show-n-Tell - please hold the item up so the members in attendance can see it. This will also help your photographer get a sharp picture and allow people who could not attend the meeting see it clearly in the newsletter. We also ask that you provide a Fact Sheet (copies of the one below will be provided at the meeting) to assist the newsletter editor in accurately describing your item. Thank you!

VGCA Show-n-Tell Fact Sheet

Manufacturer: _____

Model: _____ Action Type: _____

Caliber: _____

Years of Production: _____ Total Produced: _____

Year this example was manufactured (if known): _____

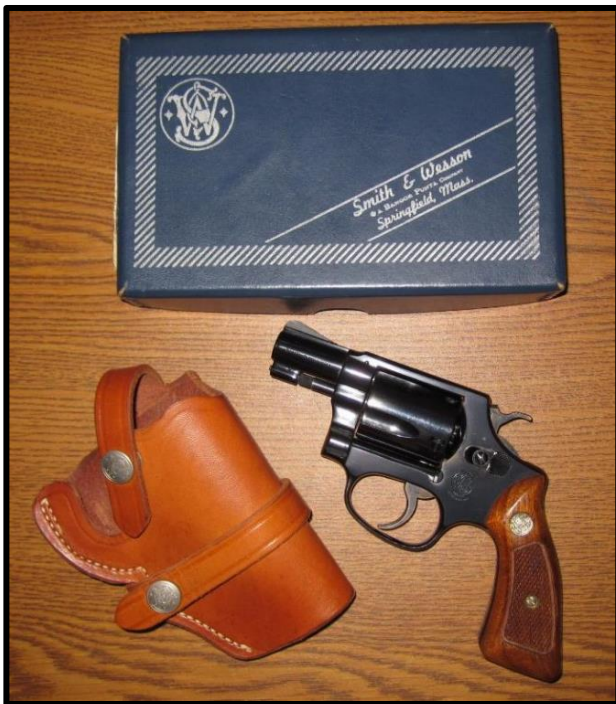
Significance: _____

Question(s) for members: _____

Name (optional): _____

Where acquired (optional): _____ When acquired (optional): _____

September SHOW-N-TELL



In keeping with the Smith & Wesson Hand Ejector theme, Member 1 brought in three very nice boxed examples of S&W revolvers. The first was a "Chief's Special" Model 36 (*upper left*). This blued, double action, 5-shot J-Frame with a 2-inch barrel is chambered in .38 Special (the first J-Frame so chambered) and features a square butt.



Next was a Model 36 "no dash" (*above right*). It is also a square butt, double action, 5-shot J-Frame with a 2-inch barrel chambered in .38 Special, but this one has a nickel finish.

Lastly was a Model 32-1 "Terrier" (*left*). This blued example shares many of the same features of the first two, but is chambered in .38 S&W caliber and has a round butt. All are shown with proper leather carry holsters.

Member 2 brought in a pair of Smith and Wessons. The first was a Model 1903 (right) I-Frame chambered in .32 Long. This is the first model to feature the locking lug for the ejector rod (locking detent is circled at right under the barrel). This very nice example was made in 1914.



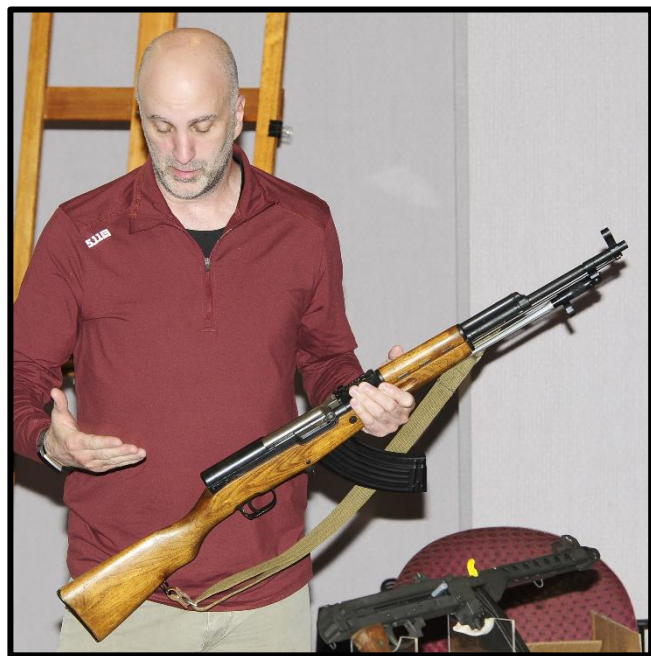
Member 2 also shared Triple Lock (left) chambered in .44 Special. This particular example has been reblued.

Member 3 brought in a Swiss Model 1881 Vetterli (below). The last development of the Vetterli system, the M1881 was an improved version of the earlier M1879. This bolt action with a tube magazine (note the open action below right showing the lifter that would carry the round up from the magazine to line it up with the chamber) featured steel instead of iron parts for added strength and an improved rear sight. Chambered in the black powder bottle-necked round 10.4x38Rimmed (aka .41 Swiss Rimfire), the M1881 was produced from 1881 until 1889. This example was manufactured in 1887.



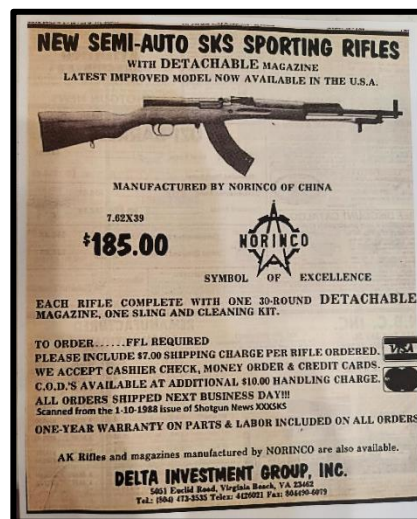
©2023
Jack R. Looney

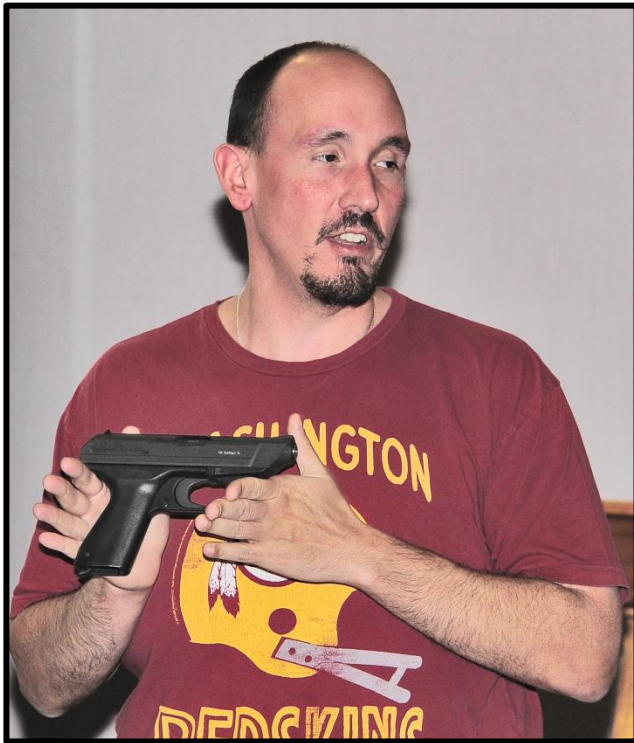
Member 4 shared the next in his continuing series of semi-automatic conversions of historic submachine guns – this month featured a Finnish KP m/44 (*right*). The KP m/44 was designed to be cheaper and easier to build than the excellent Suomi KP m/41. The m/44 is essentially a copy of the Soviet PPS-43 – which was itself designed as a cheaper, less complex SMG replacement for the Soviet PPSH-41. The m/44 is chambered in 9x19 Parabellum (as opposed to the Soviet SMGs chambered in 7.62x25 Tokarev) and would accept the same 25 and 36 round stick, 50 round “coffin” (*left inset above*) and 70 round drum (*right inset above*) magazines as the earlier KP m/41. The Tikkakoski Arsenal produced 30,000 m/44s in 1944-1945 and they remained in service as a training weapon until the 1970s. With the exception of the stock being welded in the closed position (keeping it as a pistol vice a short barreled rifle) and the action changed from open bolt full-auto to closed bolt semi-auto function, this example has the same dimensions and feel as the original. This conversion was made from a parts kit by TNW Firearms, Inc. of Vernonia, Oregon.



Member 5 brought in Chinese SKS (*left*). What separates this example from the tens of thousands of other Chinese Type 56 SKS carbines that were imported is that this is an early example of a factory conversion to use AK47 magazines instead of the standard 10-round fixed mag. While later imported conversions – variously designated Model M, Model D, or Model 21 – had shorter 16” barrels, sporter stocks, and no bayonets, this example (serial number 009xx) retains all of the

standard Type 56 features. Also included in the Show-n-Tell was a 1988 ad (*at right*) for this version – priced at an even-for-that-time attractive \$185.00!





Member 6 brought in a Heckler & Koch VP70Z (*at left*). The VP70 (possible abbreviation for “Volkspistole” or literally “People’s Pistol”) has several unique features. It is the first commercially produced polymer frame pistol, beating the Glock by 12 years! It was available in either 9x19 or 9x21 and had a high capacity for-the-time 18-round double stack/double feed magazine. It has a polished ramp with central notch for a front sight, is striker fired, double action only, and has a reputation for having a horrible trigger! It was made in two variants – the VP70M for police and military use, which was select fire in either semi-automatic or 3-round burst – and the VP70Z for civilian use, in semi-automatic only. It utilizes a direct blowback action and has very deep rifling grooves in the barrel to allow some gas to escape around the bullet, thus reducing backward pressure on the slide during blowback. Reminiscent of the Mauser C96, the police version had a shoulder stock that doubled as a holster. The VP70 had limited commercial success and production ceased in 1989.



Member 7 shared four Smith & Wesson Hand Ejectors. The were a Model 1903 with round butt (*above left, on top*), a M1903 square butt (*above left, on bottom*), a “Regulation Police” (*above right, on right*), and a very nice later “Regulation Police” (*above right, on left*) but not so marked. What made this an interesting grouping of double action I-Frames is that all four revolvers were chambered in .32 S&W Long. The .32 S&W Long was introduced in 1896 with the first model of Hand Ejectors and was adopted by several police departments in the northeast United States, where it had a reputation for superb accuracy. Colt also chambered revolvers in this round, though Colt called it the “.32 Colt’s New Police” cartridge (neither Colt nor Smith & Wesson could bring themselves to engrave their competition’s name on their guns, even if it was part of the chambered cartridge’s designation).

★ Upcoming Events and Shows ★

PLEASE NOTE: VGCA members are strongly encouraged to verify shows before driving to an event. These dates were confirmed when this newsletter was written, but are not guaranteed.

VIRGINIA – 2023-2024

- Oct 28-29, 2023 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fredericksburg Expo and Convention Center – *SGK*
- Oct 28-29, 2023 – Harrisonburg, VA – Rockingham County Fairgrounds – *Showmasters*
- Nov 4-5, 2023 – Manassas, VA – Prince William County Fairground – *VGCA - Our Show!*
- Nov 11-12, 2023 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex – *Showmasters*
- Nov 17-19, 2023 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- Nov 18, 2023 – Doswell, VA - Meadow Event Park - 42nd Central Virginia Military Antique Show - *BulletAndShell.com and Central Virginia Civil War Collectors Association*
- Nov 25-26, 2023 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK*
- Dec 2-3, 2023 – Fishersville, VA – Augusta Expo – *Showmasters*
- Dec 9-10, 2023 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fredericksburg Expo and Convention Center – *SGK*
- Dec 16-17, 2023 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center – *C&E Gun Shows*
- Dec 29-31, 2023 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- Jan 6-7, 2024 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex – *Showmasters*
- Jan 13-14, 2024 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK*
- Jan 20-21, 2024 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center – *C&E Gun Shows*
- Jan 27-28, 2024 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fredericksburg Expo and Convention Center – *SGK*
- Jan 27-28, 2024 – Fishersville, VA – Augusta Expo – *Showmasters*

MARYLAND – 2023-2024

- Nov 4-5, 2023 – Easton, MD – Talbot County Community Center – *Eastern Shore Arms Collectors*
- Nov 11-12, 2023 – Frederick, MD – Frederick Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*
- Dec 9-10, 2023 – West Friendship, MD – Howard County Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*

PENNSYLVANIA – 2023-2024

- Oct 28-29, 2023 – Lebanon, PA – Lebanon Valley Expo Center & Fairgrounds – *Eagle Shows*
- ~~Oct 28-29, 2023 – Wind Gap, PA – Plainfield Township Fire Co. – *Jaeger Arms - CANCELED*~~
- Oct 28-29, 2023 – York, PA – York Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Nov 4-5, 2023 – Harrisburg, PA – PA Farm Show Complex – *C&E*
- ~~Nov 4-5, 2023 – Spring Brook, PA – Spring Brook Fire Co. – *Jaeger Arms - CANCELED*~~
- Nov 4-5, 2023 – Trevoise, PA – Radisson Philadelphia Northeast – *Eagle Shows*
- Nov 11-12, 2023 – Brodheads ville, PA – Signature Events Center – *Tall Timber Tactical*
- Nov 11-12, 2023 – Hermitage, PA – Veterans of Foreign Wars – *Canon's Gun Room*
- Nov 18-19, 2023 – Allentown, PA – ParkView Inn & Conference Center - *Eagle Shows*
- Nov 18-19, 2023 – Kutztown, PA – Kutztown Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Nov 18-19, 2023 – Pleasantville, PA – Pleasantville Vol Fire Dept – *Pleasantville VFD*
- Nov 19, 2023 – Portland, PA – William Pensyl Social Hall – *Portland Hook & Ladder Co. #1*
- Dec 1-3, 2023 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds – *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*
- Dec 2-3, 2023 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center – *Showmasters*
- Dec 2-3, 2023 – Quarryville, PA – Solanco Fairgrounds – *Eagle Shows*

PENNSYLVANIA – 2023-2024 (continued)

- ~~Dec 2-3, 2023 – Sellersville, PA – Forrest Lodge VFW – Jaeger Arms - CANCELED~~
- Dec 6-8, 2023 – Denver, PA – Morphy Auctions – *Morphy Forearms and Militaria Auction*
- Dec 9-10, 2023 – Harrisburg, PA – PA Farm Show Complex – *C&E*
- Dec 9-10, 2023 – Trevoise, PA – Radisson Philadelphia Northeast – *Eagle Shows*
- Dec 15-17, 2023 – Oaks, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Arms*
- Jan 13-14, 2024 – Matamoras, PA – Best Western Inn at Hunt’s Landing – *Westchester Collectors Inc.*
- Jan 13-14, 2024 – Washington, PA – Washington PA County Fairgrounds – *ARH Sport Shop*

SPECIAL EVENTS / SHOWS – 2023

- Nov 11-12, 2023 – Tulsa, OK – Expo Square-Tulsa Fairgrounds – *Tulsa Arms Collectors Association – World’s Largest Gun Show – Over 4,200 tables!*
- Nov 18-19, 2023 - Wilmington, OH – Roberts Convention Centre – *Ohio Gun Collectors Association – Special Guests: Muzzleloader/Black Powder Associations*

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 and is intended for listing firearms and firearm related items. 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:

✪ After more than two and a half years of research, VGCA member Bill Vanderpool has 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:

★ VGCA member Larry Babcock has published a companion piece to his earlier book **M1 Garand Photo Essay**. This second book, titled **M1 Garand Photo Essay Volume II** covers all new material, to include the M1C and M1D sniper rifles as well as a myriad of M1 accessories. Best of all, both books are offered at a discount to VGCA members. Volume I is normally priced at \$69 and volume II lists for \$49, VGCA members can buy them directly from Larry for \$60 and \$40 each respectively - or \$90 total if you buy both. Look for Larry Babcock set up near the VGCA recruiting table at the next Chantilly Gun Show or order from him directly at larrybab@comcast.net / or text to 703-856-2561.

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 George Dungan.