



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.ORG

Est. 1983 (A Non-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G8162



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December 2011 VGCA Newsletter Fall 2011 Gun Show and Election Edition



Presentation at the October 21st Meeting: The presentation for the October VGCA Meeting featured *Dave Rivers, Sgt. (ret.), Homicide Bureau, Miami Dade Police Department*, on the 1986 FBI Miami shoot-out. This presentation was derived from a far more detailed and extensive training series that is provided to Law Enforcement Officers and their Departments and Agencies. Sgt. Rivers had a long career with the Miami Dade PD, of which the vast majority of his time was spent in the Homicide Bureau. The incident in question occurred on Friday, April 11, 1986, during an ongoing investigation by the FBI into a series of bank robberies. Sgt. Rivers was the crime scene supervisor. It is probably one of the most referenced incidents and had fueled a whole range of opinions and conjectures by the media and others who analyzed the evidence and reports, but where not always privy to all the facts, or were not present. Sgt. Rivers opened with a review of some of these points. For instance, this was not a case of the FBI acting alone. In fact the operation was fully coordinated with the Miami Dade PD and the PD was invited to take part. The FBI was not armed only with revolvers, but had both revolvers and automatics. The operation was not being conducted

with inadequate personnel resources. The communications with the local LE was good and ongoing. He told the story of the robbers, who had no prior criminal histories, and had received military training, which was evidenced in how the one robber advanced and fired at the FBI agents. He pointed out how the Army Ranger and USMC-trained criminals constantly kept advancing on the officers, and the marked difference with LE who are trained to use cover and defend. They also stole and disposed of vehicles and the owners to cover their activities. The presentation was very well documented with diagrams, photos, and narratives of the different encounters during the firefight. Sgt. Rivers was also very aware of the audience and was careful to not remain too long in the more forensic aspects of the case. What was interesting was he presented it in a scene by scene method and not a strict running narrative, which highlighted the different dangers faced by the agents in different location. He also provided anecdotes regarding the difficulty of securing that large a crime scene and the hard police work that is required, especially when the first instinct is to try to quickly assist a downed officer, while preserving the crime scene. This was fascinating and given his style and familiarity, the presentation flew by, leaving one with a feeling of having witnessed the incident through a stop-motion camera. If we had the hyper-abbreviated version, I can just imagine the detail of the day-long seminar. VGCA thanks Sgt. Dave Roberts for his time and his candor. It was one of the best presentations we have had.

UPCOMING MEETING!!! As customary, the combined November-December Meeting will be held on **December 1** due to the November Gun Show and the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday seasons: We have been informed by the NRA that the scheduled NRA-NFM presentation had to be cancelled. However, the final meeting of the year is also the important VGCA Annual Membership Meeting to nominate candidates to be Officers in the association. **The Meeting will NOT be in the auditorium as usual**, but will be in the room next to the cafeteria on the second floor of the left tower (NOT the Museum tower) where we met some time ago this year or last year. There will be signs to guide folks from the right (Museum) tower to the left tower for easy access to the special purpose room. In lieu of the presentation, we will also have the always popular extended special Show and Tell session after the election meeting. Bring in those unique pieces (there is a rumor of one very special piece that will be there...), and also feel free to bring in sales items to generate some holiday 'mad money.' The room has plenty of tables for the Show and Tell and items.

Since it is the holiday season, members who wish to bring in some special food as a 'pot luck' – like a casserole, dessert, breads (Pumpkin Pie!), or other goodies – to celebrate the holiday seasons are encouraged to do so. This should be a nice change from the normal fare. We will start the evening with food and drinks at 6:30PM and start the meeting at 7:00PM. Remember, like getting to a gun show early, if there is a good selection of eats, you can be assured it will go fast. Please bring in trash bags so we can clean up.

Comments from the Podium: The show was great and many of the dealers to whom I spoke were OK. The displays were just great – Karl Karash's display was world class and one of the best displays we have ever had. I asked the NRA to come and photograph it for a possible article in their magazines. We photographed it and I will be sending it to them for possible publication.

As further bad news, the NRA National Firearms Museum informed me that their budget was cut and there will be no more NFM/VGCA joint speaker meetings. This is sad indeed but we are in very bad economic times just in case you did not know. We have had some great speakers in the past 13 years so I guess we should be thankful for that which we received. Our December meeting will NOT be in the auditorium as usual but will be in that room next to the cafeteria on the second floor of the left tower, where we met some time ago. The NRA auction that was planned in the auditorium on the afternoon of December 1 was also cancelled, but it is being used for another function. Signs will be on the doors to guide folks from the right tower to the left tower for easy access to the special purpose room.

The attendance at the show was the poor. Ed Costello will have details. We all know the reasons – too many gun shows, lack of disposal income, the fact that over 30% of the mortgages in the county where we have the show are underwater – I don't need to explain this as we have already been over this ground. I do not know when the economy will improve – and our lot will improve – but I do not look for a turnaround for some time. Ours is not the only show to suffer, just ask around and see for yourself.

The election is coming up at the December meeting. Think carefully about the election. I will be leaving after 30 years non-stop. One cannot work forever. I did the BEST I could for you over the many years given my limited KSAs (or knowledge, skills, and abilities as they say in Human Resources). What do you expect from a poor old hillbilly druggist??? I don't expect anyone to say thank you – I did what I thought appropriate, and I did it for my love of the club. I have been with you through both good and bad times. Now the times are bad, but they will cycle back to better times, as all such things are cyclical in nature.

I think we should have a COVERED DISH DINNER at the December 1 meeting and we should have an extended Show & Tell as the program. Come together and enjoy each other's company and conserve funds since we will not have a NFM speaker. Bring a casserole, dessert, breads, or other goodies. I am sure Monna will send special goodies with me as well. Get there at 6:30 so we can start at 7. Let's celebrate Christmas together, while we are still alive. We have lost a lot of good people in the last few years, so we should appreciate what time is left. Bring your best show and tell and enjoy the evening. I look forward to seeing you.

I hope we can have the covered dish dinner at 7. Hopefully folks will support such an idea. I will bring sodas, plates, bowls, knives, and forks, etc. Crock pot type dishes are generally easiest, etc.; however, it is up to you. I will bring chili in a large crock pot. If folks would let me know what they are bringing, that would be good so we could coordinate the food and avoid duplicate goodies. I am willing to coordinate this and to suggest things we need. Please also bring in some trash bags so we can police the trash and leave the room as we found it.

-- Addison Hurst, President, VGCA

Important Issues for Association Members' Consideration:

- ⊙ **Election of VGCA Officers for the 2012-2014 Term:** This is it! December is the Annual Association Membership Meeting in early December. That means the election of Officers. We will be taking nominations from the floor for candidates for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The nomination process will be voted closed after the nomination session. The election will be in January 2012. Ballots will be mailed out in early January and must be returned and received by February 10 (no exceptions!), as stated in the bylaws, to allow the ballots to be counted and the results announced at the February 23, 2012 Meeting. When you receive the ballot, make sure you vote and return the ballot to the address provided on the ballot to ensure its receipt by the deadline. This meeting is the only opportunity you may have to question potential candidates about their ideas for the direction of the Association. As some of the incumbents are not running for re-election, 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.
- ⊙ **Presentation Volunteers Needed:** We will need presenters for 2012 upcoming monthly meetings. Call one of the Association officers now to request your preferred month for 2012. There are 9 meetings (January, February, April, May, June, August, September, October and December) in 2012. We do not have meetings in the gun show months (March and November) or in mid-summer (July). Remember, you do not need to do it solo (grab a partner or friend) and it does not have to be a marathon. Short and direct works well; and it does not have to have slides. If you wish, there are members who will assist if you wish to use a PowerPoint presentation. This club's membership includes some published experts and other members who, contrary to their own protestations and denials, are experts in their chosen fields of this hobby.

***** INCLEMENT WEATHER ALERT *****

We are approaching the winter season and the Northeast has already had a major snowfall in October. During the upcoming winter months meetings are at risk of being cancelled for foul weather. Members are strongly encouraged to **check the VGCA Website (<http://www.vgca.org>) for Weather Alerts and Meeting Cancellations!** If the meeting is cancelled, there should be a flashing cloud with a notice when you open the page. Please inform members you know, especially those without Internet.

***** 2011 Fall VGCA Gun Show *****

Well, another show has come and gone and this one, while not the best attended, did appear to have some of the best looking educational displays in a long time. In addition, the appearances of the vendor and member tables were top notch, and had some of the best firearms in recent times up for sale. How many times are there not only one, but three S&W Registered Magnums at a single show, even the larger shows? It is a real treat to be in a show without the beef jerky and other non-gun items that are far too numerous at 'gun' shows. Key points were:

The Historical and Educational Display Awards for the 2011 Fall Gun Show went to the following persons:

- **1st Place Award:** **Karl Karash, "Rarest Model of 1911/1911A1 Pistols"**

This display was probably the most extensive display of rare M1911 and M1911A1 pistols ever assembled in one location. If you missed it, you missed a truly unique opportunity. Many thanks go out to Karl Karash for his generosity and trust in bringing this display to the Virginia Gun Collectors Association Fall 2011 Gun Show.

- **2nd Place Award:** **David Litchfield / Buz Rueger, "Luger Variations"**

This display also had some very unique and unusual pistols. It is not often one can see, in person, a Martz "Baby Luger," and other specialized Luger examples. Well done!

- **3rd Place Award:** **Dan Szatkowski, "Open Up!"**

The title is unusual, and invokes one's curiosity. Dan's display was a very special, and at times entertaining, look at the various methods of feeding rounds into a firearm. These methods ranged from what proved to be disastrous commercial or engineering failures (often fiercely advocated in their day by those with personal or political reasons) to landmark advancements in firearm technology.

- **Judges' Choice:** **Jim Vaughan, "Military Signal Pistols"**

This was an unusual display of martial signal (flare) pistols from many countries. The examples ranged from finely crafted brass to more basic stamped metal or other material. As is always the case with Jim's presentations, it was well researched and explored a topic that is not often seen.

The other 3 displays were excellent and deserve mention for the time, research, and dedication that is required in planning, constructing, and arranging material and pieces in an organized, educational, and eye-catching format. They were all well done and had many comments from the viewers. These displays were: **Larry Babcock**, “**Training and Maintenance**,” with cutaways M1 rifles, training and practice grenades, and assorted manuals and tools; **John Babey**, “**Civil War Personal Sidearms**,” with percussion and cartridge revolvers and selected accoutrements and documentation; and **William Spence**, “**America’s Star – The U.S. Marshal Service**,” an extensive collection of memorabilia and a collection of current and past equipment used by the U.S. Marshal Service, that he gathered during his career with that agency.

These fine displays necessitated a good deal of review and consideration by the Display Judges. Chief Judge **Jim Burgess** would like to acknowledge the assistance of **Lee Turner** and **Bill Chronister** as the judging committee for this show. Jim likes to get different sets of eyes to judge at each show and is always looking for new volunteers. All the displays were well done and researched and all deserve a hand for a lot of hard work, patience, and making their collections available for our inspection and appreciation.

A note from the Security Chief: I would like to thank a great crew for not only providing security; but also their efforts in making the show enjoyable. They provided security, safety, and sign detail work, and many still found time to man a sales and/or a display table, and even did display judging and gun evaluations. Some did vendor set-up security as well as show security. So; in alphabetical order here they are: **Julian Aylor** (safety), **Jim Burgess**, **Vernon Cochran**, **Fred Fees** (safety), **Terry Fearnley**, **Emory Hackman**, **Larry Hare**, **Jim Hoffman**, **Gary Holderman**, **Addison Hurst**, **Karl "1911" Karash**, **George Kirschbaum**, **Dave Litchfield** (Assistant Security Chief), **Bill Ludwig**, **Dave McKenzie**, **Chip Miller** (safety), **Penny Peyton**, **Steve Philippy**, **Joe Roberts**, **Tom Schweiger**, **Gary Sherrill**, **Lee Turner**, **Carl Warhurst**, **Reid West** (safety), and **Bill York**. Thank you’s go to **Chief Deputy John Collier** and **Sheriff Glen Hill** for stopping by. Thanks to the 4-H kids for their dedication and efficiency. A thank you also goes to **Bill Hitchcock**, **Larry Hare** and **Jack Looney** for the camera work. At this point; I would like to send a special thank you out to **Gary Sherrill**. Gary was one of my Security crew "regulars" but retired last spring and moved to Texas. He drove some 1580 miles (+/- a few of miles) to work Security for all three days. This is kindness, commitment and dedication to VGCA. I wish club members who lived but a few miles away could find time to assist a little more. Once again; thank you, every single one of you; and have an enjoyable Thanksgiving and Christmas. See you in the spring. *John Frietsch*, Security Chief.

Table Setup - The VGCA would like to thank all of those who volunteered to set up the tables for the show. It was a fine job, quickly executed, and crucial to a successful show. Many thanks! A thank you also goes out to the **4-H “Trigger Time”** youngsters as well for all their assistance, both at “tear down” and at the gate. If anyone would like to help with this at the next spring 2012 show, contact Rick Nahas, Show Manager, or any of the Officers.

VGCA Gun Show Attendance for the Past Six (6) Years: the show attendance was in the fourth place for PWC Fall Gun Shows. Our fall shows are typically less well attended than the spring shows. This year may also be due to fall cleaning duties and yard work, opening day of the muzzle-loading hunting season, the economy, and saving for the Holidays. In spite of that, it appeared that sales were being made, and some great deals were recognized and taken advantage of, resulting in happy sellers and proud buyers. The attendance breakdown follows:

Spring 2006 (PWC)	1,631	Fall 2006 (PWC)	922
Spring 2007 (PWC)	1,707	Fall 2007 (PWC)	1,236
Spring 2008 (PWC)	cancelled	Fall 2008 (PWC)	754
Spring 2009 (PWC)	2,059	Fall 2009 (PWC)	1,307
Spring 2010 (PWC)	1,723	Fall 2010 (PWC)	1,194
Spring 2011 (PWC)	1,530	Fall 2011 (PWC)	975

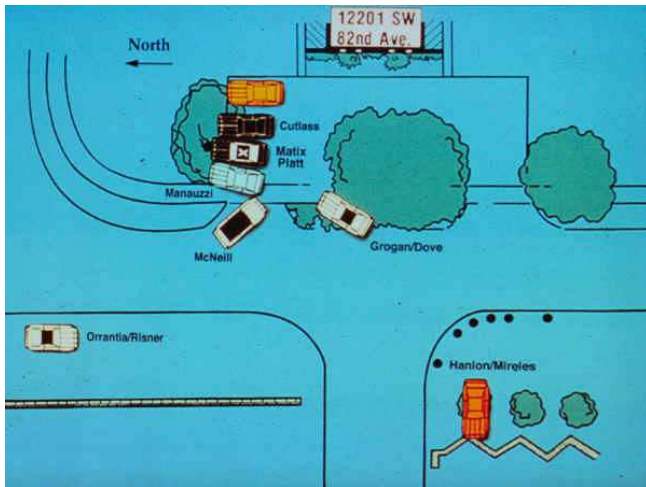
So now we begin our preparations for the spring 2012 VGCA gun show. Thanks to all who helped, had tables, and attended.

Business Meeting for the October 21st Meeting: Announcements were made regarding the show preparations, and volunteers were solicited. The only other segment was the introduction of guests and consideration of new members. **John Isoldi** was sponsored by **Bill Chronister**. He is a collector of hunting guns, assorted Winchesters,

is an avid reloader, and a hunter and shooter. After a few words in his defense, John was voted into the club. Welcome aboard John.

Show & Tell for the October 21st Meeting: The show and tell was loosely focused on a law enforcement theme to match the presentation. **John Babey** showed his recently acquired 'classic' mid-1980's Ruger Mini-14 with Ruger factory folding stock. While an unintended coincidence, this was like one of the weapons used in the shootout covered in the presentation. **Ernie Lyles** displayed a piece of the 'bulletproof' vest worn by notorious Depression-Era bank robber John Dillinger. **Marc Gorelick** presented an overview of his Gallagher Carbine. Originally adopted during the Civil War as a percussion arm, it was disliked by the soldiers and was unreliable and considered unsuccessful. Post-Civil War it was converted to .56-50 Spencer cartridges and became well accepted and very successful on the Frontier. **Larry Hare** brought out his recent acquisition from the Roanoke Airgun Show, a Shamiel (?) pellet pistol. The session was closed by **Addison Hurst** with a cautionary, "Buy the gun, not the Story," tale. He showed an 1897 Winchester Trench gun allegedly used by Actress Candice Bergen in the film with Sean Connery, "the Wind and the Lion." Subsequent disassembly told a possibly different tale, with the markings, "Omaha Police Department" – apparently originally a police riot gun. It is a nice piece never the less, but the saying 'Trust, but Verify' does apply.

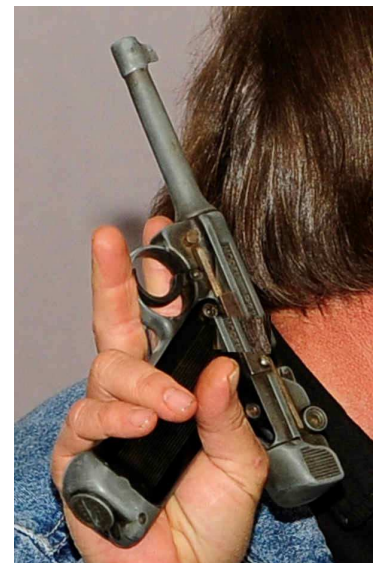
October 21st Meeting Photos



L: One of the diagrams used by Sgt. Rivers to explain the dynamics of the Miami FBI shootout.
R: John Babey shows his Ruger Mini-14, that was coincidentally similar to the one used by the bank robbers in the shootout.



L: Ernie Lyles' piece of the 'bulletproof' vest worn by notorious Depression-Era bank robber John Dillinger with accompanying documentation and fingerprint charts.



R: Larry Hare's recent acquisition from the Roanoke Airgun Show, a Shamiel (?) pellet pistol, a Luger look-a-like.



L: Addison and the the 1897 Winchester Trench gun allegedly in the film with Sean Connery, "The Wind and the Lion."



R: New member John Isoldi speaks to the members. A collector of hunting guns, assorted Winchesters; he is an avid reloader, hunter and shooter.

2011 Fall Gun Show Photos



UL: 1st Place Award: Karl Karash, "Rarest Model of 1911/1911A1 Pistols"
 UR: 2nd Place Award: David Litchfield / Buz Rueger, "Luger Variations"
 LL: 3rd Place Award: Dan Szatkowski, "Open Up!"
 LR: Judges Choice: Jim Vaughan, "Military Signal Pistols"





L: Larry Babcock, "Training and Maintenance," with cutaways M1 rifles, training and practice grenades, and assorted manuals.



R: William Spence had an extensive collection of current and past equipment used by the U.S. Marshal Service.

L: John Babey's Civil War themed display had percussion and cartridge revolvers and selected accoutrements and documentation.



L: The Educational Display participants await the results of the judging. Left to Right: Dave Litchfield, Karl Karash, Buz Rueger, Dan Szatkowski, William Spence, and Jim Vaughan. Not present, John Babey and Larry Babcock.

All the displays were outstanding!

NOTE: Due to the size of the displays, the photos shown have been cropped to preserve detail. They do not show all the examples present in each display.



L & R: Thanks to Trigger Time for Gate and Cleanup duties.



Have a Great Holiday Season!!!

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 2011

- November 26-27, 2011 – Hampton, VA - Convention Center - *SGK, LTD*
- December 3-4, 2011 – Richmond, VA – Showplace - *C&E Gun Show*
- December 10-11, 2011 – Harrisonburg, VA - Rockingham County Fairgrounds – *C&E Gun Show*
- December 11-12, 2011 – Winchester, VA – Winchester Sportsplex – *SGK, LTD*
- December 17-18, 2011 – Dale City, VA - VFW Post 1503 - *Old Dominion Shows*
- December 17-18, 2011 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center - *C&E Gun Show*
- December 31, 2011-Jan. 1, 2012 - Roanoke, VA - Roanoke Civic Center – *Showmasters*
- December 31, 2011-Jan. 1, 2012 - Fredericksburg, VA - Expo Center - *SGK, LTD*

MARYLAND 2011

- December 10-11, 2011 - Parkville, MD - Tall Cedars Bldg., Putty Hill Shopping Center - *Appalachian Promotions*

PENNSYLVANIA 2011

- December 3-4, 2011 - Allentown, PA - Agricultural Hall - *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*. Contact: FDHAS, 3491 Linden St., Bethlehem, PA 18017. 610-997-8613 after 6pm.
- December 10-11, 2011 - Monroeville, PA - Convention Center - *C&E/Showmasters Gun Shows*
- December 10-11, 2011 - Harrisburg, PA - Farm Show Complex – *Mid-Atlantic Arms Collectors*
- December 16, 17 & 18, 2011 - King of Prussia, PA - Valley Forge Convention Center - valleyforgegunshow.com

NEW YORK 2011

- December 10-11, 2011 – 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

Donations for Congress:

A driver was stuck in a traffic jam on the highway outside Washington, DC. Nothing was moving. Suddenly, a man knocks on the window.

The driver rolls down the window and asks, “What's going on?”

“Terrorists have kidnapped Congress, and they're asking for a \$100 million dollar ransom. Otherwise, they are going to douse them all in gasoline and set them on fire. We are going from car to car, collecting donations.”

“How much is everyone giving, on average?” the driver asks.

The man replies, “Roughly a gallon.”

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. v/r Bill Chronister, VGCA Newsletter Editor