



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.ORG

Est. 1983 (A Non-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G8162



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December 2012 VGCA e-Newsletter



Presentation from the October 24, 2013 Meeting: Major 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 United Kingdom's Ministry of Defense ownership, presented "*The S&W 9mm Light Rifle in British Service.*"

Major Jones started off informing the crowd that much of what has been written is misleading. The UK did not ask S&W to develop the rifle which the British forces referred to as a "machine carbine." S&W presented a proposal to the UK in November 1939. The UK ordered 20,000 units, added 2,000 more, and purchased 110,000,000 rounds of ammunition. The gun was not truly robust due to the Bakelite® buttstock, but the metal was all machined from solid stock and used complex operations with tight tolerances. The Mark I had the Bakelite® buttstock, but the Mark II was modified by the British to an aluminum removable stock for airborne troops or a wooden stock to fix the breakage problem. A Mark III was developed by the British with a wooden stock, but not actually issued. Interest in the gun waned as the Lanchester SMG and the Sten were developed. The initial batch of guns went to the Royal Navy. There

were also safety concerns such as the inability to see quickly if it was loaded or unloaded or if a round was chambered. Initial results of select fire modifications and testing by the British resulted in a cyclic rate of over 1000 rounds per minute, but a rate of 450-550 was desired. Additionally selective fire was also desired. As a result it was only considered acceptable as a stop-gap measure. S&W eventually ceased production on a temporary basis, which later became permanent as the alternative Sten and Lanchester SMGs became available, with the result that only 2000 S&W Light rifles or machine carbines were ever produced and shipped, of which only 200 were the MkII variant. The post-war disposal of these weapons remains unknown. The presentation was enhanced by the NRA/NFM providing an examples of this rarely encountered weapon from the Museum's collection. This was a rare opportunity to see and hear about a World War 2 weapon that is so rarely encountered, especially from a speaker who is intimately familiar with the official documentation of its production, use and subsequent retirement from service. VGCA greatly appreciates Major Richard Jones taking the time to share this knowledge with the membership.



December 5, 2013 Annual Membership Meeting and Holiday Pot Luck Dinner and Swap Meet:

Come celebrate a great year for the association and the Holiday season with fellow collectors, members, and guests. We will not have a featured speaker – BUT, we WILL have a great **Pot Luck Dinner (ham will be provided by VGCA)**, Officer



Nominations, Show & Tell, and a member Swap Meet. For dinner items please bring something to share and a serving or cutting utensil(s) for your dish. Covered dishes and items that are not too messy or subject to spills are best, as are chips, dips, desserts and veggie snacks. Additional paper towels and large heavy duty trash bags to assist with cleanup are greatly appreciated. We will also have a swap meet so bring any items you wish to sell. Recent meetings have had some exceptional items for sale that were snapped up very quickly. We will start the formal meeting at 7:00, but as we all know food will begin arriving earlier, so get there early to avoid bones and crumbs. Last year we had a big crowd and a lot of interesting treats.

The Election of VGCA Officers for the 2014-2016 Term. We will be taking nominations from the floor at the December Annual Meeting and the January Membership Meeting for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The December and January Meetings are 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.

★ **Presentations for 2014:** The following presentations are already scheduled for next year. Only one date left!!! This is a great line-up, so mark your calendars. 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 – LTC Gregg Thompson** on Afghani Rifles
- **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 – Shannon Ziegler** – Japanese Arms (full details TBD)
- **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 October 24, 2013: The meeting started with the pledge and a number of announcements. The first was the passing of VGCA Member **Roger Sherman** (see obituary on following page under member announcements.) A number of guests were also introduced. Rick Nahas announced that the upcoming Fall Show had been oversold by one table, but room would be found. A call was made for more show volunteers for Security, Safety, Setup, and for a Sign manager to place and retrieve the small road signs. It was announced that Kent Jeffries was the new Security Manager and Joe Roberts would be the Deputy Security Manager. Members were also reminded that the show rules do not allow early departures by table holders and loose ammo is permitted and it must be bagged or boxed. (There is an exception for ammo that is part of an educational display, but it must not be accessible). A discussion also covered an overview of who could lawfully buy a firearm and sellers responsibilities. Dave Litchfield informed the group that the old VGCA website is out of service and our new site is at www.vgca.net. Please update your links and bookmarks. Some may have noticed that the old site, if searched in Google, would re-direct you to an Abercrombie & Fitch online purchase site. The new site is under our direct control and will have much better content. Members can also visit the VGCA Facebook page by clicking on the Facebook logo on our website. Another discussion was held about the Spring VGCA Member Recognition Banquet. Details on the banquet, as well as other proposed group events and trips will be forthcoming.

Notes from the Podium – President’s Message

Hello VGCA Members!

We are fast wrapping up one of our most successful years in the history of VGCA. Our 30th year of existence has been one of continued growth as we have added numerous high quality men and women to our rolls and these fine Americans are volunteering and taking on responsibility to help us execute our growing mission. Our two 2013 VGCA Gun Shows were hugely successful in the numbers of paid attendees, quality of table holders and quality of guns and related items for sale. This success has resulted in a substantial increase in our bank account. In keeping with our mission of supporting youth shooting sports we have added two new youth shooting organizations who will benefit from our financial support, providing safe and professional marksmanship training to over 100 young shooters. Many more youngsters are waiting for open spots to join which are limited due to lack of funding, equipment and range availability. Our goal is to fund new rifles, pistols, shotguns,

ammunition, targets and other support to allow these important clubs to add membership. I have personally attended shooting practices and met numerous young shooters and these great kids are wonderful to see and listen to their enthusiastic comments about the fun and enjoyment they get from their participation. We will also be able to support the Americans in War Time Museum honoring veterans and their service to our great country and we will continue to support the NRA National Firearms Museum. We have also fired up our new VGCA Web Site at www.vgca.net, so go there and let the BoD members hear back on ideas for what you'd like to see posted.

Our Fall Gun Show on November 1-3 was one of our best organized and executed shows in recent memory. We had 20 people show up for Set-Up on Friday the 1st, including **Tony Wilcox** who drove in from Warrenton. This enabled a super-fast table set up and room organization. **Rick Nahas, Dennis Gerdovich** and **Emory Hackman** ran a tight show and processed the table holders in smoothly, then controlled the show very well all weekend. We have a good percentage of repeat table holders for the next show and many holders told me again how much they enjoy our show. Several of the new table holders commented that they were definitely coming back. **Kent Jefferies** took over as our new Security Manager and **Joe Roberts** stepped up as the new Assistant Security Manager. Kent applied his many years of law enforcement experience and while supported by a strong crew of volunteers, and two county Deputy Sheriffs maintained a secure environment for the show. **Karl Karash** and **Ed Costello** provided overnight security. **Larry Hare, Rick Jones** and his wife **Lynn, Dennis Gerdovich, Ed Costello** and **Rick Nahas** did a great job great job getting our signs and banners posted out on county road ways to capture the attention of passing motorists. All in all a very effective effort by all who gave their time and talent.

Our last meeting in 2013 will be Thursday night, December 5. We will enjoy a holiday gathering of good food and good spirit, celebrating a great year for VGCA. We will have a Show & Tell and a Swap Meet, so bring in your interesting guns to show and bring in items to sell, trade, etc. Please see the elsewhere in this newsletter for guidance on bringing food for the meal.

I am sure that our Past Presidents **Ed Johnson** and **Addison Hurst** are pleased with the path VGCA is taking into the future. 2014 has already shaping up to be a very interesting year with the monthly speakers we have lined up and the potential trip to visit the FN production facility in South Carolina. Our gun shows for 2014 will be March 22-23 and November 8-9, so mark your new calendars for those important dates and sign up to volunteer your help.

It has been my pleasure to serve as your President for a second year. Please enjoy a wonderful holiday season with your family and friends and be thankful for our many blessings.

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

★ ★ ★ ★ Fall 2013 VGCA Gun Show Report ★ ★ ★ ★

Dave Litchfield covered the show in his comments, so a show report will not be repeated here. Of note, however, this was one of the first shows in many moons where there were no Educational Displays. Educational display tables are available, but if not requested early, they revert to sales tables. The VGCA has a history of exceptional display by our members. They are fun to view and fun (but work ☺) to put together. There are very few tables left for the March 2014 show. So IF you want to do a display let **Rick Nahas** know ASAP before they are all taken (hint, hint!).

A Message from our Show Security Manager: I would like to the members who volunteered to support the VGCA Gun Show this month. I know they all had busy schedules and weekend plans, but found time to give to the association at our major fundraising event. Many complements were passed to the Show Committee regarding the security and safety and this is due to their commitment to courteous interactions and attention to detail at their assigned posts. There were just enough volunteers to cover the required stations and it worked well. Safety was never an issue and I am very grateful for their help. **Jeff Nickel, John Babey, Jim Burgess** and **George Kirshbaum** earn special kudos for their time out of doors and two full-day commitments. I hope there will be a few more volunteers next time so that everyone will have more time to enjoy the tables and experience less lower back pain. Members who volunteered to support Security & Safety were: **Joe Roberts, Lee Turner, John Murphy, Chris Britton, Jeff Nickel, Chuck Pellern, George Kirshbaum, Allan Ruppap, Dan Marett, Norman Danford, Jim Burgess, Steve Geis, Rob Becker, David Gilbert, Jim Frigiola, John Babey, Marc Gorelick, John McCullough, John Frietsch, Harrison McConnell** and **Al Miller**. Thanks to all, *Kent Jefferies*

Karl Karash and **Ed Costello** provided overnight security. **Larry Hare**, **Rick Jones** and his wife **Lynn**, **Dennis Gerdovich**, **Ed Costello** and **Rick Nahas** did a great job getting our signs and banners posted out on county road ways to capture the attention of passing motorists.

Also deserving of special VGCA recognition is past President **Addison Hurst** who manned the Evaluation Table, a favorite with customers. He soldiered through with his many resource materials and provided his expertise to many questions on the firearms folks were inquiring about. Also helping at the table were **Jim Burgess** and **Shannon Ziegler**. In addition to the Evaluation table, Addison also picked up food for the night crew each morning. Thanks also go to the 4H shooters of Trigger-Time and their parents who assist with the gate and the cleanup duties. **Delmas Whitaker** ordered the tables and also provided coffee, donuts, and cookies each day for volunteers.

And finally, to thank those who set the stage, recognition goes to the setup volunteers: **Tony Wilcox**, **Lee Turner**, **Jack Ganson**, **Ron Kivett**, **Rick Jones**, **Lynn Jones**, **Marc Gorelick**, **Jim Burgess**, **Larry Hare**, **Bob Chapman**, **John Murphy**, **Joe Roberts**, **Bart Leggett**, **Dov Kawamoto**, **Ed Costello**, **Allan Rupp**, **Dennis Gerdovich**, **Rick Nahas**, and **Dave Litchfield**. Putting on a gun show is work and would not happen without all these members and friends mentioned here and in Dave's comments above. Thanks again.

Member Announcements, Etc.



VGCA has lost a valued member. The following appeared in the October 12, 2013 issue of the Washington Post. **Roger R. Sherman**, 79, passed away on October 14, 2013 at INOVA Loudoun Hospital from complications of pneumonia. Roger, beloved husband of Kathryn Lytle, was a long-time resident of the Washington, D.C. area and a graduate of Dartmouth College. He retired in 1999 from full-time work as a multi-disciplined systems engineer/manager for clients that included many federal agencies. His professional employment began in the late 1950's with more than three years of active duty in the US Army Counter Intelligence Corp, where he was stationed in Japan, Korea and the US. He is survived by his wife Kathryn Lytle and his stepchildren David Lytle and Mary Wolfman. Services and interment to take place at a date to be announced at Arlington National Cemetery, with arrangements by Cremation Society of Virginia. Memorial contributions can be made to the Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research Foundation.

Roger collected in a number of fields and was a frequent Show & Tell contributor at meetings. He always had great specimens and showed a number of rare and interesting Lugers, P-38s, and other pieces. Invariably, if he had an item, you could be sure it would be a good one.

Mystery Part Identified! **Marc Gorelick** deserves recognition for identifying the mystery gun part that was illustrated in the October issue of the VGCA newsletter. According to Marc, it is a RAMROD STOP that was used by Springfield Armory when assembling rifles. It was inserted into the stock and held the ramrod in place when it is inserted into the ramrod channel in the stock.

There were two types, a Type I had the patent date Au. 16, 1870, as seen in the photo and was used until mid-1879, and Type II which is unmarked and was used in Trapdoors starting around S/N 115,000. Type I was used in the Model 1870 Rifle (4th Model Allin), on the Springfield Model 1873 trapdoor, on the Model 1870 Navy Rifle and Model 1870 Experimental (Remington Rolling Block or RRB) rifle, Model 1871 Army (RRB) and other long arms produced at Springfield before August 1879. Type II (unmarked) was used in Springfield produced long guns that were made after 1879 and had ramrods under the barrel. The reason that Type II is unmarked is that there were changes made - the angle of the stop was increased, which voided the patent. With the patent voided, Springfield no longer had to mark the RAMROD stop with the patent date.

Description: The RAMROD STOP is a flat spring with 2 bosses at either end. It fit into the inside of the stock and the two bosses were inserted into holes in the bottom, front end of the stock. At one end is a boss that is the RAMROD STOP itself. The boss was milled out in a semi-circle to catch, slip into, and hold the groove in the ramrod (whether the ramrod was single shoulder or double shoulder) and hold it in place. The bandspring tang passed through the stock and through a hole in the curved boss to secure the RAMROD STOP in place. (NOTE: The bandspring held the front barrel band in place. END NOTE.) The other boss (with the patent date) enters a hole in the barrel channel which helps secure the RAMROD STOP in place and hold it in proper alignment.

End of an Era: Last U.S. Lead Smelter to Close in December

In December, the final primary lead smelter in the United States will close. The lead smelter, located in Herculaneum, Missouri, and owned and operated by the Doe Run Company, has existed in the same location since 1892.

The Herculaneum smelter is currently the only smelter in the United States which can produce lead bullion from raw lead ore that is mined nearby in Missouri's extensive lead deposits, giving the smelter its "primary" designation. The lead bullion produced in Herculaneum is then sold to lead product producers, including ammunition manufacturers for use in conventional ammunition components such as projectiles, projectile cores, and primers. Several "secondary" smelters, where lead is recycled from products such as lead acid batteries or spent ammunition components, still operate in the United States.

Doe Run made significant efforts to reduce lead emissions from the smelter, but in 2008 the federal Environmental Protection Agency issued new National Ambient Air Quality Standards for lead that were 10 times tighter than the previous standard. Given the new lead air quality standard, Doe Run made the decision to close the Herculaneum smelter.

Whatever the EPA's motivation when creating the new lead air quality standard, increasingly restrictive regulation of lead is likely to affect the production and cost of traditional ammunition. Just this month, California Governor Jerry Brown signed into law a bill that will ban lead ammunition for all hunting in California. The Center for Biological Diversity has tried multiple times to get similar regulations at the federal level by trying, and repeatedly failing, to get the EPA to regulate conventional ammunition under the Toxic Substances Control Act.

At this time, it's unclear if Doe Run or another company will open a new lead smelter in the United States that can meet the more stringent lead air quality standards by using more modern smelting methods. What is clear is that after the Herculaneum smelter closes its doors in December, entirely domestic manufacture of conventional ammunition, from raw ore to finished cartridge, will be impossible. Source: [NRA-ILA - 10/26/2013](#)

Show & Tell at the October 24, 2013 Meeting: **Member 1** led off with a Swiss Schmidt Rubin rifle that underwent a private gunsmith conversion to 22LR. The rifle looks like a G1911 infantry rifle, but was actually made from the receiver of a G1889 rifle with the 1889 bolt modified for the .22 cartridge, and the 1889 stock, magazine, and sights modified to G1911 style. The barrel was constructed using the stub of the original barrel and a .22 barrel was inserted into the stub. Externally it looks like a one piece barrel. As most of the parts are originally military in origin, this example showed 7 different serial numbers on the components. The craftsmanship on this type of rifle is outstanding and the rifles are not common in this country. **Member 2** shows his new British Ferguson breech loading military flintlock he built from a kit. The construction took 14 months, and the term "kit" is not just a put together operation but requires hand fitting and truing of the breech threads and action and a lot of patience and research. The Ferguson was perfected by British Major Patrick Ferguson and was able to fire 6 very accurate shots per minute. The King funded construction of 200 rifles for a special 100 man unit. Only 5 are known to remain. This replica was a thing of beauty. **Member 3** presented a U.S. pistol Model 1911A1 made by Ithaca in late WW2. This example was still in the original cosmoline and original kraft shipping box along with 2 magazines, and in its original blue finish. He also showed a WW1 .45 pistol squad cleaning kit with hog bristle brushes, and spare parts kit, all original and all complete. (Thanks go to **Marc Gorelick** for his note taking on the presentation, meetings, and S&T sections.)

Photos from the October 2013 Meeting



Left: Major Richard Jones provides a diagram and exploded view of the major parts of the S&W Light Rifle.



Far Left: Member 2 shows his new British Ferguson breech loading military flintlock he built from a kit.

Center: The construction took 14 months, and the term "kit" is not just a put together operation but requires hand fitting and truing of the breech threads and action and a lot of patience and research.

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

- November 22-24, 2013 - Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center - *C&E Gun Show*
- November 30-December 1, 2013 - Hampton, VA - Convention Center - *SGK, LTD*
- November 30-December 1, 2013 - Harrisonburg, VA - Rockingham County Fairgrounds - *C&E Gun Show*
- December 7-8, 2013 - Dale City, VA - VFW Post 1503 - *Old Dominion Shows*
- December 7-8, 2013 – Winchester, VA – Sportsplex Event Center - *SGK, LTD*
- December 14-15, 2013 - Fredericksburg, VA - Expo Center - *SGK, LTD*
- December 14-15, 2013 - Fishersville, VA - Augusta Expoland – *C&E Gun Show*
- December 21-22, 2013 - Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center - *C&E Gun Show*
- December 27-29, 2013 - Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *C&E Gun Show*

VIRGINIA 2014 (2014 dates are only those currently announced for January)

- January 4-5, 2014 - Doswell, VA - Farm Bureau Center @ Meadow Event Park - *SGK Show*
- January 11-12, 2014 - Richmond, VA - Richmond Convention Center - *C&E Gun Show*
- January 18-19, 2014 - Salem, VA - Salem Civic Center - *C&E Gun Show*
- January 18-19, 2014 - Hampton, VA - Hampton Roads Convention Center - *SGK Show*
- January 25-26, 2014 - Fishersville, VA - Augusta Expoland - *C&E Gun Show*
- January 25-26, 2014 - Norfolk, VA - Norfolk Scope Arena - *C&E Gun Show*
- **March 22-23, 2014 - Manassas, VA - Prince William County Fairgrounds – Virginia Gun Collector Association**
- **November 8-9, 2014 - Manassas, VA - Prince William County Fairgrounds – Virginia Gun Collectors Association**

MARYLAND 2013

- December 7-8, 2013 – Parkville, MD – Tall Cedars Building, Putty Hill Shopping Center - – *Appalachian Promotions*
- December 14-15, 2013 - Annapolis, MD - Annapolis Armory – *Appalachian Promotions*

PENNSYLVANIA 2013

- November 30-December 1, 2013 - Monroeville, PA - Convention Center - *C&E Gun Shows*
- **December 7-8, 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.**
- December 14-15, 2013 - Harrisburg, PA - Farm Show Complex – *Mid-Atlantic Arms Collectors*
- December 20-22, 2013 – Philadelphia, PA - Greater Philadelphia Expo Center (Oaks) – *Eagle Arms*
- December 21-22, 2013 - York, PA - York Fairgrounds (Toyota Arena) – *Appalachian Promotions*

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**

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