



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

November-December 2022 VGCA Newsletter



President's Comments

To my fellow VGCA members—

This has certainly been an eventful few weeks, highlighted by our semi-annual gun show at the Fairgrounds in early November. While attendance was lower than anticipated, things went very smoothly thanks to the many volunteers who pitched in to set up tables, maintain security and provide many impressive displays. It was a good weekend for those involved!

Next, our web site (vgca.net) has been rehabilitated and now presents an impressive public image for the organization. – check it out! The next time you see member Wes Chappell, be sure to thank him for his efforts in bird-dogging this long overdue project.

And finally – on Saturday, December 10th at 5 pm, we will host our annual Holiday Pot-Luck Dinner and Swap Meet at the NRA. We look forward to good food, great fellowship, and the final chance to vote for VGCA's Member of the Year award. We will also provide a significant contribution to the NRA Museum in recognition of many years of encouragement and support. I look forward to seeing you on December 10th – and Happy Holidays!

—*Ed Costello*, VGCA President



★ October Presentation – Italian Military Handguns 1861-1918



VGCA Member Troy Blackwood (*left*) gave an excellent and detailed presentation on Italian Military Handguns. As Troy explained, the time period covered begins with the unification of the modern Italian state until the time Beretta-designed pistols dominated Italian military procurement.

The first handgun covered was the Model 1861 LeFauchaux revolver. Designed by the Frenchman Eugene LeFauchaux (who also patented the bored-through cylinder), this single action revolver (*below*) fired LeFauchaux-invented 12mm pinfire cartridges and was purchased in three different variants. The first was the “Corto,” of which 5,000 with a 123 mm long barrel were ordered by the Kingdom of Sardinia

immediately before the formation of the Kingdom of Italy. This was followed by 20,000 of the “Carabinieri” model with rounded trigger guard and no ejector rod purchased by the Kingdom of Italy for the national police. Finally, 2,000 “Standard” model LeFauchaux with longer 154mm barrels were purchased.

Next to be acquired was the Model 1874 Chamelot-Delvigne. Also of French design, this single action/double action in 10.4mm “Italian Ordnance” caliber is noteworthy for being “unofficially” adopted in 1874 (hence the designation) but wasn’t tested in trials until the next year and wasn’t officially adopted until 1876. Approximately 9,000-12,000 Model 1874s were produced in Belgium, with an additional 33,000-63,000 made in Italy.

The Model 1889 Bodeo Tippo A was the next revolver in Italian service. Also chambered in 10.4mm, this revolver had an iron frame (not steel) and was not blued. Utilizing the same gate loading system as the Portuguese Abadie and the same ejector as the Belgian Nagant, the Model 1889 had a folding trigger and no trigger guard – a design feature intended to reduce accidental/negligent discharges.

The Model 1889 Bodeo Tippo B was an officer’s model, with a traditional trigger/trigger guard and blued frame. Over 400,000 Model 1889s were produced in Italy and Spain and it was not officially retired until 1967!



In 1898, the Italian Navy purchased 5,000 M1898 semi-automatic Mauser “Broomhandle” C96 pistols chambered in 7.63x23 Mauser. These Mausers were “slab-sides” (which were slightly cheaper as they had less machining) and had large ring hammers.

The Model 1902 was purchased for the Ministry of the Interior and the Forest Service.

Adopted by the Italian Army in 1910, the Model 1910 “Glisenti” was a semi-automatic pistol. Chambered in 9x19 “Glisenti” (which was about 15% less powerful than 9x19 Parabellum), these pistols had a 7-round magazine. About 33,000 Model 1910s were produced.



About 3,500 Brixia Model 1913s were made for the Italian Navy. Chambered in 9x19 “Glisenti”, the Model 1913 (*at right*) had a 7-round magazine that was released via a leaf spring on the spine of each magazine.

The Beretta Model 1915 was also chambered in 9x19 “Glisenti” and also utilized a 7-round magazine. The Model 1915 featured two safeties – a trigger safety and a hammer safety. The Italian Army purchased 15,000 Model 1915s.

Though never formally adopted by the Italian military, several thousand “Ruby” pistols were purchased by Italian officers during World War I. These semi-automatic direct blow-back guns were made in Spain and chambered in .32 ACP.

The Model 1916 “Ona” was a Spanish copy of the Smith & Wesson No. 3 chambered in 10.4mm “Italian Ordnance.” Approximately 6,000 were purchased.

Troy ended his presentation with the various models of Berettas, concluding with the Model 1917 adopted – when else? – in 1917. These .32 ACP chambered pistols were direct blow-back and used an 8-round magazine. As Troy noted, after the Model 1917, every pistol adopted by the Italian Military was designed by Beretta.

Troy provided a memorable evening by sharing his knowledge and expertise on Italian military arms with his fellow VGCA members. Please thank him the next time you see him!



★ Next Membership Meeting: December 10th

Annual Holiday Pot Luck and Swap Meet

Location: NRA HQ Conference Room



Our December VGCA Membership Meeting will be at the NRA Headquarters and will feature our annual Holiday Pot Luck Dinner and swap meet. The club will provide a Honey-Baked Ham and we ask that the members bring either a side dish or a dessert. The Conference Room opens at 5 p.m. and following the feast, we will have a short business meeting at 6 p.m. There will not be a presentation, though we will have voting for the VGCA Member of the Year. If you have any surplus or excess treasures, bring them for the swap meet to be held later. As a reminder, this meeting starts at 5 p.m. on Saturday, December 10th. Hope to see you then!

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 recognize a member in good standing who selflessly went above and beyond for the club or for collecting during 2022. All VGCA members except elected Board members are eligible to receive the award.

All members who attend the October and December meetings 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 2022). 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 2022 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 will be able to vote for the Member of the Year Award for 2022.

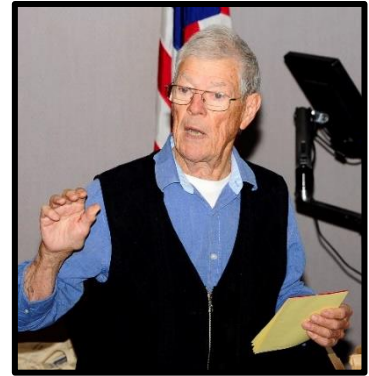
Come to the December meeting and vote for your choice!



★ October Meeting Notes

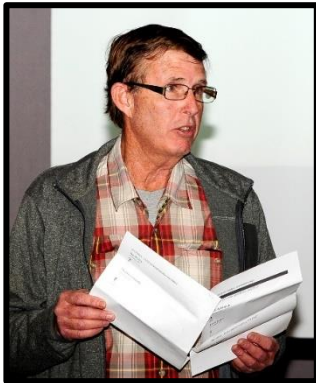
The October 27th VGCA meeting was called to order by VGCA President Ed Costello (*right*) at 7:00 p.m.

Member Jim Burgess led those present through the Pledge of Allegiance. There were approximately 36 members and guests in attendance and another 3 participated via webinar. The following items were mentioned during the business meeting:



- Ed informed everyone that our next VGCA Membership Meeting would be on Saturday, December 10th (see details on page 4 of this newsletter). It will be our annual Holiday Pot Luck Dinner and Swap Meet. There is no meeting in November due to our Fall Gun Show

- VGCA VP George Dungan reminded everyone that now is the time for annual members to renew. He also noted that the membership rolls are being updated to account for those who have recently passed



- VGCA Director Marc Gorelick announced that voting for the VGCA Member of the Year would start tonight and continue through the December Membership Meeting (details are also on page 4)

- Member Al Reid (*at left*), as the newly appointed Chairman of Legislative Affairs, reminded everyone that November 8th was election day and that it was important for all of us to get out and vote. He then ran through the NRA ratings for all of the Virginia candidates

- Finally, there was an update on our Gun Show scheduled for November 5-6 at the Prince William Fairgrounds. We have paid for some additional advertising this fall and hope that will result in additional attendance (see pages 5-11 for an update on our November show).



VGCA Fall Gun Show

On a beautiful autumn weekend, the VGCA executed yet another highly successful gun show. This continued trend of success has many sources, starting with the tireless efforts of Rick Nahas, our Show Manager, in seeking out vendors to fill our tables. The next person deserving our thanks is Show Setup Manager Andrew Woodard. Andrew and his crew of volunteers take an empty building and in just minutes fill it with properly arranged and labeled tables and chairs. These setup volunteers included:

Bruce Buchner
Jim Burgess
Wes Chappell

Chris DeFrancisci
George Dungan
Luke Garges

Marc Gorelick
Al Reid
Rich Valenzi

Rick Valenzi and Andrew also went the extra mile and put out our roadsigns

Next, we have to thank Frank Cambria and his security team who worked the entire weekend. Without them, we simply could not safely and effectively execute our shows. The next time you see these individuals, please thank them for their efforts on our behalf:

Tom Ciarula
Chris DeFrancisci
Doug Gravatt
Rick Hanson

Dave Herbek
William Ludwig
J. Craig Peters
Allen Reid

Joe Roberts
Keith Ryan
Rick Valenzi

Add to this list our over-night security and club photographer, Jack Looney



During the show, the members of the Trigger Time 4H Shooting Club presented a plaque (*at right*) to the VGCA for our support of their fund raising this year. The VGCA, led by member Phil Hill, was instrumental in helping Trigger Time achieve their \$10,000 fund raising goal. This money allowed the shooting team to participate in the National 4H Matches in Nebraska this year. Accepting the plaque on behalf of the VGCA was President Ed Costello (*above*).



One of the elements that set the VGCA Gun Show apart from other shows in the area is our active support of educational displays. The club provides up to two display tables free of charge to VGCA members. We provide a stipend of \$100 to first-time displayers to help defray the cost of building their display. And we award cash prizes for those displays judged to be the best. The VGCA does this as these educational displays as a key element of our chartered responsibility to recognize “achievements that increase gun-collecting knowledge and public appreciation of our national firearms heritage”. These displays serve multiple purposes – they allow our members to proudly showcase elements of the firearms or firearms-related collections and they serve to educate members and non-members alike on the historical significance of these collections. This show had one of the finest selections of displays that we have had in some time. Organized by member Jim Burgess, the following displays were judged to the best of the best:

- 1st Place **"First Breechloaders for the U.S. Army (Hall rifles & carbines)"** by John Vagnetti,
- 2nd Place **"Imperial Japanese Small Arms of WW II"** by Rob Becker
- 3rd Place **"U.S. Military Remington Rolling Block Pistols"** by Mark Gorelick
- 1st Judges' Choice **"Evolution of Big Bore Smiths"** (S&W revolvers) by James Howard Arthur
- 2nd Judges' Choice **"M1 Garand Sights & Grenade Launchers"** by Larry Babcock



John Vagnetti’s superb display of breechloading *Hall Rifles and Carbines* (above) deservedly won First Place in judging. In addition to the nine rifles and carbines displayed, many of them extremely rare and approaching 200 years old, John’s display included several equally rare accessories and accoutrements. Presenting to John (at right in the picture at right) his award and prize is VGCA President Ed Costello (at left in picture).





Rob Becker’s display of *Imperial Japanese Small Arms of WWII* (above) featured seven rifles and carbines with their associated bayonets, three handguns, and three flare guns (including the Imperial Japanese Navy’s distinctive 3-Barrel Type 90 Flare Gun). This well-organized and distinctive two-table display took Second Place in the judging.



Marc Gorelick’s excellent display of *U.S. Martial Remington Rolling Block Pistols* (above) featured weapons that exemplified the adage “two steps forward and one step back.” Adopted at a time when the revolver firepower was dominating the civilian market, these .50 caliber single shot weapons were popular when adopted but almost immediately obsolete. Marc’s display included four pistols, including one very rare prototype, and a carbine and cadet rifle built later on the same action. It also included several rare cartridges and earned Third Place in the judging.



The First Judges' Choice award went to James H. Arthur's comprehensive display of the *Evolution of Big Bore Smith & Wesson Revolvers* (above). When big bore Smiths are mentioned, almost everyone immediately thinks of the Model 27 .44 Magnum of "Dirty Harry" film fame. This display of 13 revolvers, many with official S&W factory letters, not only covered the Model 27 but its predecessors and successors as well.



Member Larry Babcock presented an impressive display of M1 Rifle sights (top), grenade launching attachments,



and practice rifle launched grenades (above). He included a cut-away M1 "Garand" with attached grenade launching sight on the left side of the stock (at right). For more details on these items, check out Larry's books *M1 Garand Photo Essay* and *M1 Garand Photo Essay Volume II* listed in the FOR SALE section of this newsletter. Larry's display earned the Second Judge's Choice award.

J.J. Roberts continued his tradition of displaying a master engraver at work (*himself – at right*). Not only did he display exquisite examples of his art, but he also could be seen actively working his trade. How often do you get an opportunity to directly observe this kind of expertise at a gun show?



Member Shannon Zeigler shared his WWII Japanese Type 99 Light Machine Gun (*above left*), Type 89 “Knee Mortar” (*above right*) and accessories (*in case at left*). This non-judged display – Shannon has displayed these items previously – were set up next to and perfectly complimented Rob Becker’s display of Japanese Small Arms of WWII.

Thanks for taking the time to display these items again, Shannon!



Display Judging Coordinator Jim Burgess also set up a display that has been done before – his on the guns of the North-South Skirmish Association (NSSA) Matches (above). Jim’s non-judged display included not only reproduction and actual antique guns used in the various matches, but examples of targets, ammunition, awards, etc. The possibilities for competition at NSSA matches are seemingly limitless, with individual matches alone including Musket, Carbine, Smoothbore, Breechloader, Revolver, Pistol, Single Shot – the list goes on! Thanks for sharing this display with the public again, Jim!



In the end, we had another good show and most of us had a very enjoyable weekend talking guns and collecting with other VGCA members and show attendees. All too soon it seems, it was over and just a little over an hour after shutting down on Sunday, we were back to an empty hall (left).

Again, if you volunteered to help with this show – thank you! If you have not done so in the past, please consider volunteering or even signing up for a display or sales table for our Spring Gun Show in March 2023. I can safely say that you will enjoy it!

★ Membership Chairman's Report



Membership Chairman's Report November 2022 – Please welcome the following new members to the Virginia Gun Collectors Association.

- **Lucas Garges** of Dulles, VA

New Applications for Membership: Since the last Newsletter, there have been fourteen new applicants for membership.

- **Danny Whitacre** of Fairfax *sponsored by Gregory Mlakoff*
- **Joel Dingman** of Front Royal *sponsored by Paul Augsburger*
- **Ralph Dwyer** of Elkwood *sponsored by Frank Cooper*
- **Jeffrey Holbrook** of Manassas *sponsored by Linwood Holbrook*
- **Bruce Eric** of Manassas *sponsored by Phil Hill*
- **William Sedmah** of Manassas *sponsored by Phil Hill*
- **Bob Corra** of Virginia Beach *sponsored by Bruce Buchner*
- **William Johnson** of Manassas *sponsored by Keith Simmons*
- **Stanley Siry** of Burke *sponsored by David Litchfield*
- **George Petronis** of Browns Mills, PA *sponsored by William Gravell*
- **Louie DiGaetano** of Clifton *sponsored by Al Reid*
- **Henry Ballard** of Alexandria *sponsored by Bruce Buchner*
- **Darren McChesney** of Lorton *sponsored by Chris DeFrancisci*
- **Charles Bourne** of Palmyra *sponsored by Bruce Buchner*

Thanks to the applicants for their interest in the Virginia Gun Collectors Association and to their sponsors for promoting the Association and keeping the membership growing.

If there are any comments or questions on any applicant, please notify any Officer, Director, or the Membership Chair. **George Dungan, Membership Chair** can be reached at george@eccominv.com or 571-243-6387.

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 any newsletter or VGCA announcements.

Membership Numbers: There are currently 415 Life members and 82 Annual Members for a total of 497 members in the Virginia Gun Collectors Association, Inc.

Recruiting: The membership recruiting table at our VGCA gun show was a huge success. A big thank you to Bruce Buchner for heading it up and to Bryan Pelton, Keith Simmons, and everyone else who helped out. Our table at the November Chantilly show (*shown at right, with members Joe Roberts and Bruce Buchner*) was also successful thanks to the efforts of Bruce Buchner, Allan Rupp, Chris DeFrancisci, Frank Cooper, Keith Simmons, Dave Herbek, Joe Roberts, and Rick Hanson. 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 recruiting table at every Chantilly gun show and also at our VGCA gun shows. If you would like to volunteer to work a shift at one of these events please contact George Dungan.



Membership Renewals: Thank you to everyone who has renewed so far. Membership renewals are due by the end of the year if you are not already a Life member. You may either renew annually or upgrade to life membership. The form below can be used for mail in renewals or you can renew in person with George Dungan at a VGCA meeting or the Chantilly gun show.

George Dungan, Membership Chair

Annual Membership Renewals: Annual Membership renewals of \$30.00 are due by January 1, 2023. 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**.

.....
Please detach and return with your payment
.....

Membership Renewal Request (AMR-2022_Oct)
VGCA, Inc., P.O. Box 2318, Merrifield, VA 22116-2318

Please complete and return this renewal form with your payment. Indicate Annual, Life or that you do not wish to renew your membership by checking the appropriate box below.

Please Print Clearly

Name: _____

Address: _____

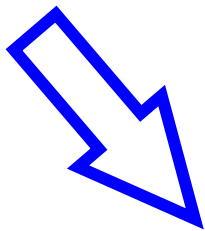
Telephone: _____ Email: _____

- Enclosed is a check for \$30.00 for CY 2023 VGCA Annual Membership dues.
- I wish to upgrade to Life Membership in VGCA. Enclosed is a check for \$150.00.
- Remove my name from the VGCA membership roster.

Make all checks payable to VGCA (Please - NO CASH or Money Orders). If members have questions, please email **George Dungan, Interim Membership Chair** at george@eccominv.com or call me at **571-243-6387**.

VGCA Use Only	
Rec'd	
Paid	
Treas	
NL	
Due	
ID Iss	

.....
Please detach and return with your payment
.....



Check out our updated website at
VGCA.net!

VGCA GUNS OF DISTINCTION: KARL HAUPTMANN CUSTOM 3-BBL SXS DRILLING

By Marc Gorelick

Photos courtesy of Joh. Springers Erben, Vienna, Austria



The firm of Karl Hauptmann in Ferlach, Austria has been making custom hunting rifles and shotguns for three generations. One of the leading gunmakers in a town of master gunmakers, Karl Hauptmann is known for producing high quality hand-made bespoke guns for the most discriminating customers. This three-barrel side-by-side, sidelock drilling is a fine example of Karl Hauptmann's work.



The three side-by-side 8x57mm IRS barrels are 23.6 inches (60cm) long. This barrel configuration is unique to the master gunmakers of Ferlach. The firm claims that this configuration improves the accuracy of the center barrel because no matter how many shots are fired the precision will be the same due to the consistent support of both outside barrels. The barrels have a stepped rib, and open sights, as well as the maker's name engraved in gold. It has bright back-action sidelocks, cocking indicator, intercepting sears, and an elongated tang. The double triggers are gold washed. The front blade is a single trigger for both side barrels and the rear blade is a single set trigger for the center barrel.





The gun is exquisitely decorated with finest English rose and scroll engraving strewn with gold inlaid ornaments on most of the metal, including the triggerguard, and the steel pistol grip cap is decorated with an inlaid gold inlaid monogram. The strikingly grained select burr walnut stock has fine hand carved fish-scale checkering.



Made in 1997, this gun recently sold at a Joh. Springer auction in Vienna for \$31,690 (28,000 euros). It was sold with two pivot-mounted scopes, a Swarovski Habicht PV 1,25-4x24, reticule 2, and a Zeiss Diavari-ZM 3-12x56 T*, reticule 11.



We are looking for speakers/presenters at our membership meetings in 2023 and have several open dates. If you have any suggestions – or would like to make a presentation yourself – please contact one of the VGCA officers or directors.

★ In Review ★

The "In Review" section of the newsletter includes VGCA member reviews of gun shows, books, and museums. If you would like to submit a review, please send it to the newsletter editor at rpebecker@verizon.net

A TRIP TO THE MUSEUM: VIETNAM WAR SMALL ARMS AT THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE MUSEUM

By Marc Gorelick



Diorama of a USAF Security Police guard post with an M-60 machine gun.

The National Museum of the United States Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, is the largest air force museum in the world. Its numerous galleries present military aviation history, boasting more than 360 aerospace vehicles and missiles on display -- many rare and one-of-a-kind -- along with thousands of historical items and powerful sensory exhibits that bring history to life and connect the Wright brothers' legacy with today's stealth and precision technology. There are four huge

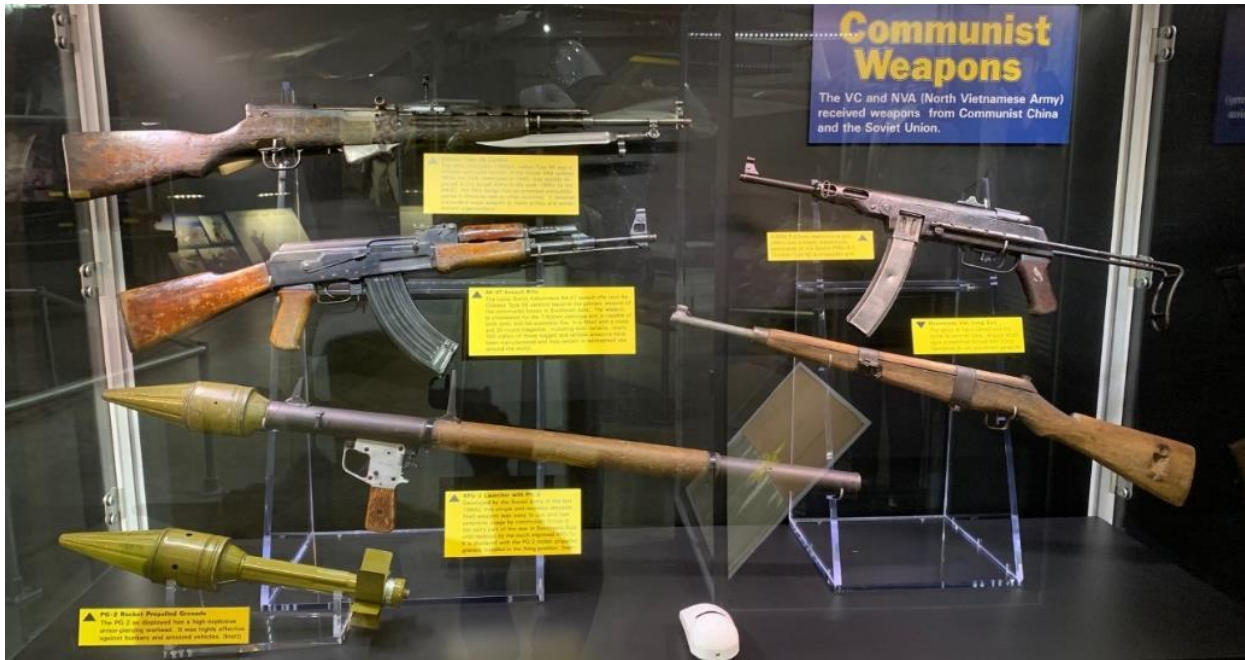
hangers, and an outdoor airpark full of aircraft, rockets, missiles, weapons, engines, and other equipment and artifacts. The exhibits span the beginning of powered flight from before World War 1 to the latest cutting edge developments. The displays of aircraft weapons is comprehensive, from the earliest rifles and pistols used during the First World War to the those that equip both historical and modern combat aircraft. The air armament ranges from machine guns, rockets, missiles, bombs (including reproductions of atomic bombs). The many aircraft guns on display include numerous machine guns, miniguns, 20mm and 40mm cannon, a 75mm cannon that equipped World War 2 B-25G & H medium bombers and A-26B light bombers up to a M102 105mm cannon that armed Lockheed AC-130 gunships.

Although the museum's focus is on aircraft, it also has a small number of small arms. Tucked away in the Southeast Asia War gallery is a small area devoted to the Air Force Security personnel who guarded our air bases in Southeast Asia. This interesting exhibit about a little known aspect of the war includes displays of weapons used by the Air Force and our Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army enemies.



Defending air bases in Southeast Asia presented some unique problems. The bases were often big with large open spaces, long perimeters and vulnerable parked aircraft, ordnance dumps and fuel dumps. Some bases were located in urban areas, allowing the enemy to hide among the local populace. At others, heavy jungle growth along base perimeters gave the enemy numerous concealed avenues of approach. And enemy agents and sympathizers on the bases engaged in intelligence gathering and sabotage. The enemy employed various tactics to strike at US air bases. Mortar and rocket attacks was the most common with 450 such attacks. The VC also conducted night raids by small groups who would try to infiltrate base perimeters, strike at high value personnel and equipment, and then withdraw. During the Tet Offensive there were large-scale conventional assaults against US air bases. For instance, on the night of January 31, 1968 about 1,500 enemy troops attacked Tan Son Nhut Air Base and about 1,000 troops attacked Bien Hoa Air Base. During the war the communists killed 155 US personnel and wounded about 1,700 during their attacks on the air bases. They also destroyed 75 aircraft on the ground and damaged almost 900 more. They suffered almost 400 killed with 45 captured.

This exhibit is focused on the Air Force Security Police and their weapons during the Vietnam War. The weapons displayed (*see photo above*) include the M-79 Grenade launcher and M-16s, often with XM-148 Grenade Launchers attached under the barrel and the GAU-5A carbine. Another weapon used by Air Force security personnel that is on display is an XM-21 sniper rifle. Used as counter-sniper weapons, these were built from the M-14 battle rifle. Crew served weapons on display include the M2 .50 cal. machine gun and the M-60 7.62mm machine gun.



The exhibit also displays weapons used by the NVA and VC (*see photo above*). On the low end of the scale is a home-made long gun used by the Viet Cong. The hand-carved stock sort of vaguely resembles that of a Mauser K98 and the barrel is a smooth bore. Other small arms displayed are a Chinese SKS rifle, an AK-47 and a K-50M, a Vietnamese-made submachine gun based on the Type 50s supplied by China. The Chinese Type 50 is itself a variant of the famous Soviet PPSH-41 submachine gun. Other weapons include an RPG-2 Rocket Propelled Grenade Launcher and PG-2 Rocket Propelled Grenades. At the upper end of the scale are 107mm and 122mm rockets used to attack US air bases and anti-aircraft weapons.



Photo left – Diorama of a DShK-1938-45 heavy machine gun as used by communist forces in a tripod mounted anti-aircraft gun. 12.7mm x 108mm, 600 rounds per minute.

The museum has several displays dedicated to USAF Security Police dog handlers and their canine partners who provided a unique and critical capability against infiltration and attack. USAF dog handlers used the GAU-5A, a shortened version of the M-16 based on the Colt CAR-15 Commando. The GAU-5A differed from the CAR-15 mostly by not having a forward-assist. The Air Force initially sent 40 dogs and their handlers to South Vietnam in the summer of 1965. This number had grown to nearly 500 dogs and their handlers by the early 1967. The dogs also protected US Air Force bases in Thailand. The sentry dogs and their handlers patrolling, often outside the base perimeters, proved to be the most effective means of detecting enemy movement at night. According to the USAF, it is not

possible to overestimate the incredible bond that existed between handler and dog. The handler trusted the dog with his life, and the dog was absolutely loyal, even to the death.



Cadillac Gage V-100 Commando armored car used by USAF Security Police to patrol air base perimeters. Typically armed with one M2 Browning .50 cal. Machine gun, one M-60 7.62mm machine gun and crew's individual weapons.

The National Museum of the United States Air Force is a “must see” for any serious student of the US Air Force or airplanes in general. It has a phenomenal collection of aircraft – the biggest of any museum, including many that are famous, such as the original B-17 *Memphis Belle* and the B-29 *Bockscar*, which dropped the “Fat Man” atomic bomb on Nagasaki. The galleries are organized chronologically and if you read all signage, be prepared to spend at least a full day there. The signage is comprehensive and easy to read.

The entrance to the museum is on Springfield Street at historic Wright Field (Gate 28B), Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, six miles northeast of Dayton, Ohio.

The museum's address is:
1100 Spaatz Street
Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433

The museum is open seven days a week from 9:00am to 5:00pm. Admission is free and there is ample free parking. The museum has a cafeteria and large well stocked gift shop. There are also amenities for physically challenged people. The guides and docents are friendly and informative and there are guided tours and movies in the theater. There are flight simulators for the adventurous. And the museum also hosts private events. For additional information, visit the museum website at <https://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/>.

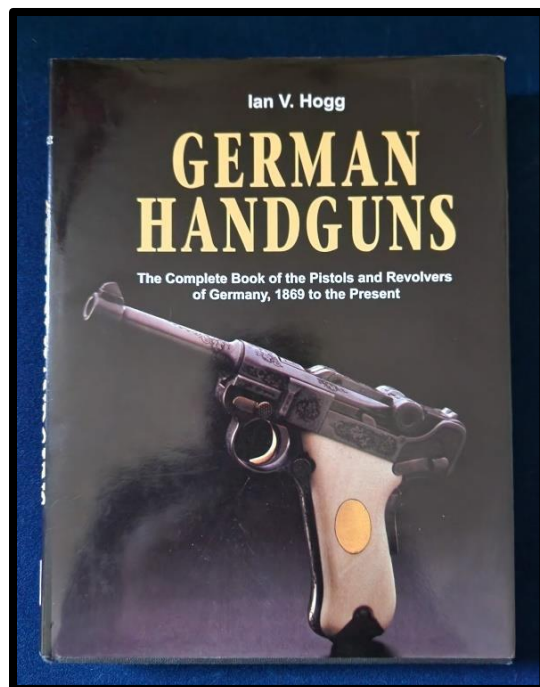


Book Review:
German Handguns
The Complete Book of the Pistols and Revolvers
of Germany, 1869 to the Present
By Ian Hogg

Review by George Dungan

This book, originally published in 2001, is a “must have” for any collector of German made handguns. All of the guns covered are in alphabetical order from the Adler to the Zehna. Not only are the well-known manufacturers, such as Mauser and Walther, covered but also small manufacturers who only made a few guns. To give the best description and overview possible; the author physically examined, handled, fired, and disassembled most of the guns covered. Some of the guns listed, however, are so rare that no specimens are to be found so he had to rely on whatever documentation that he could find.

Each listing has a description of the gun’s maker and history, the models and variations that were produced, the reason for the model’s development, and the reasons for its success or lack thereof. There is a very good description of each model including markings and dimensions. The method of disassembly and reassembly for each model is also covered. This information can be very useful to collectors because some guns are, as Mr. Hogg describes, puzzle boxes.



While the book does contain a lot of technical information and specifications it is written in a very entertaining as well as interesting manner. The descriptions, while comprehensive, are as brief as possible and the author injects humor throughout.

The hardcover copy (which I have) has a total of 319 pages. Of these 46 are in the form of appendices which contain a wealth of reference information. I plan to keep this book with me when I travel to gun shows in case I come across a German handgun that I need help identifying, placing a value on, or determining the “collectability” of for my own collection.

The author passed away in March of 2002 at the age of 76. He enlisted in the British Army in 1945 and during WWII served in Europe and eastern Asia. He later served in the Korean War and spent a total of 27 years in military service. He is credited with authoring, co-authoring, or editing over 150 books; many of which are focused on guns. He was a frequent guest on the History Channel’s *Tales of the Gun* and a contributor to A&E’s *The Story of the Gun*.

Editor’s Note: Though out of print, a quick search on-line found several copies available on the used book market, starting at approximately \$25.00.

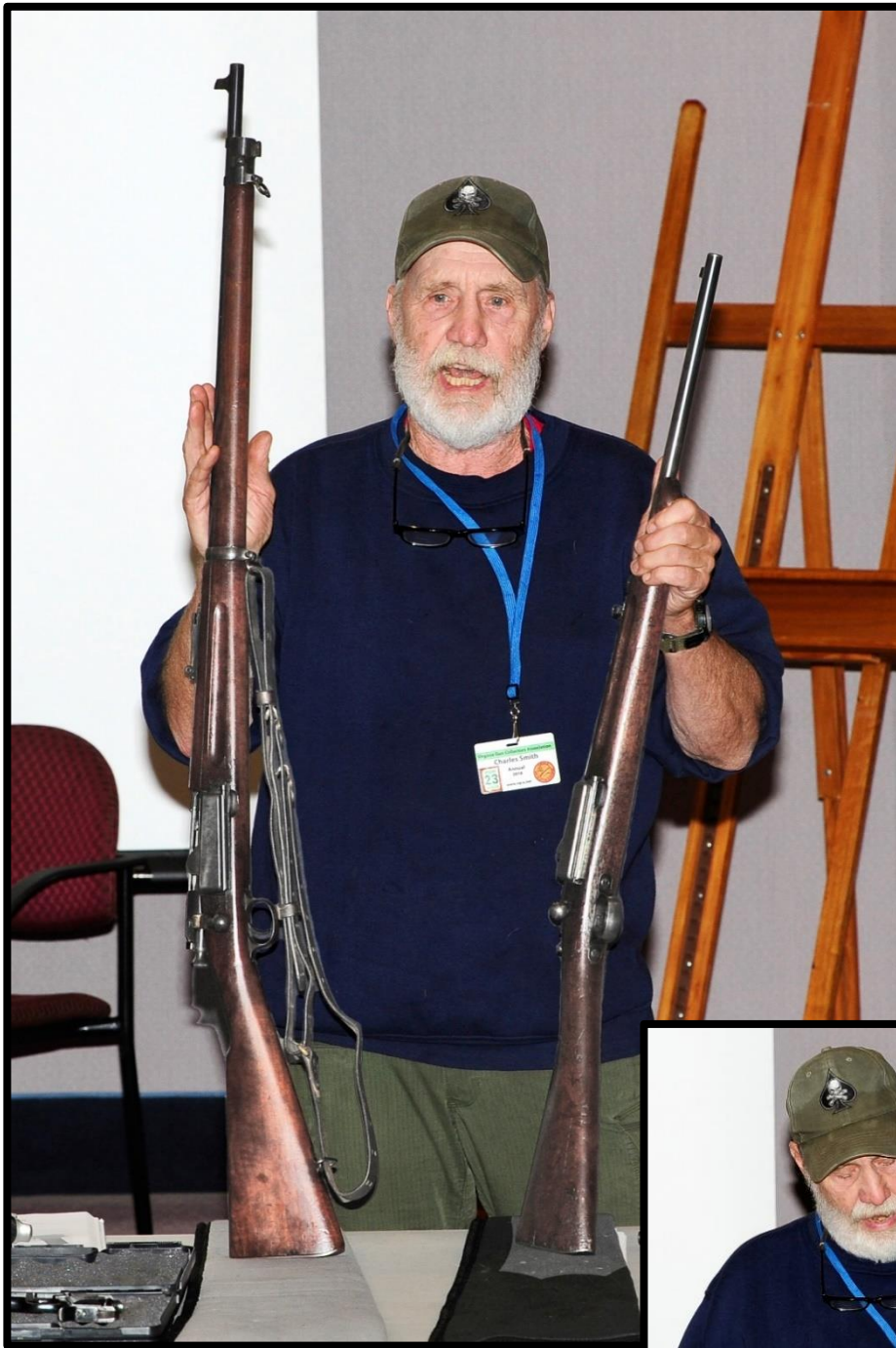


Member 1 (*at right*) shared two similar British revolvers from WWII – a Webley Mk IV (*above, top*) and an Enfield No 2 Mk I* (*above, bottom*). Developed in the early 1930s, both are chambered in .380/200 (similar to the .38 S&W with a 200 grain bullet), which is a significant reduction in power from the standard WWI-era British sidearm, the Webley Mk VI in .455

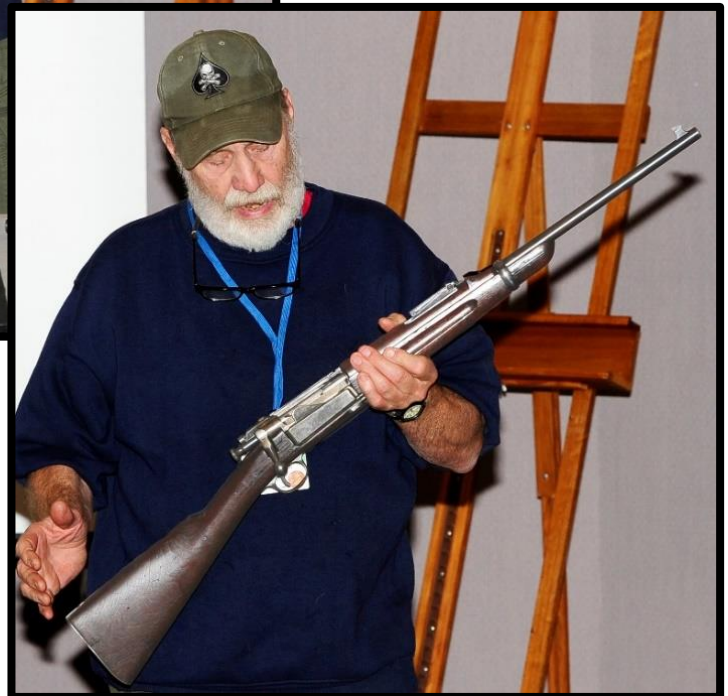
Webley. The reason for this reduction in power is that .455 was a heavy recoiling caliber that was difficult – and expensive - to master. Designed by Webley, Enfield took the single action/double action six-shooter design (without payment to Webley), made some minor tweaks, and produced it as the No.2 Mk I. Webley sued the government and won in the courts, but was only awarded 150 pounds and no production contracts. During WWII, when the British needed weapons of every description, Webley was finally given a contract to manufacture their Mark IV. Webley was worried that the rough finish on these wartime produced sidearms would hurt their postwar reputation, so their Mark IVs were stamped “WAR FINISH” (*below*) to clearly make that distinction.



This Enfield No 2 Mk I* was modified (hence the star designation after the Mk I) to double action only (DAO). Note how the spur on the hammer has been cut off. This is to prevent it from being snagged and accidentally going off in the cramped confines of tanks and armored vehicles.



Member 2 brought in two U.S. Krag (*at left*) to share with the group. The bolt action, rotary magazine fed Krag style rifle chambered in the smokeless powder .30/40 round was adopted by the U.S. Army in 1892. It replaced the single shot “Trapdoor” Springfield, which was chambered in the blackpowder .45/70 round. Various models of both rifles and carbines ensued until the Krag design was itself replaced in 1903. The Model 1898 rifle (*on the left in the photo at left*) is a nice original example, manufactured at the government Springfield Armory and complete with stock proof and inspection cartouches. The Model 1899 carbine (*on the right in the photo at left, and below*) is the “real McCoy” (there are a lot of fakes) and was made in 1899. No rifles were produced that year.





Member 3 shared his Italian Model 1934 pistol (at left and below). Chambered in 9mm Corto (aka .380 ACP), the Model 1934 was designed and produced by Beretta for the Italian military. It was fielded by the Royal Italian Army (stamped with a crown over "RE" for "Reggio Esercito", like this example at lower left), by the Royal Italian Air Force and Navy, Italian Police, and was also purchased by Romanian forces. Italian firearms of the Fascist period were marked in Roman numerals to designate the number of years since Mussolini came to power on 28 October 1922. This example was manufactured in 1936, though it is also marked with "XV" which would indicate 1937.



As an historical note – Indian Independence leader Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated by Nathuram Godse, a Hindu Nationalist, in 1948 using a Beretta Model 1934, serial number 606824. This particular M1934 was made in 1934 and was captured by a British officer in North Africa. It is not known how it got to India.



Member 4 brought in an Italian Model 1900 flare gun (*above*). Produced throughout WWI and WWII, this 25mm caliber features a side button to release the barrel for loading and unloading, single action hammer, and a ring trigger. The earliest variant featured wood grip panels. Later, aluminum grip panels with molded checkering became standard and were used by various manufactures (to include Beretta) throughout WWII. However, those Model 1900s made by the Arsenal at Torino, like this example from 1943, utilized bakelite material for the grips.

At President Ed Costello's request, Member 4 gave a brief history on the military use of flare guns. Beyond the ability to launch parachute flares to illuminate a battlefield at night, flare guns had multiple important uses before radios became prevalent throughout military formations. For example, as early as the U.S. Civil War, specific color flares (or smoke rounds for use during the day) could be used to signal specific commands – for example, to fire artillery or launch an attack. As another example, during WWII, German used purple flares or smoke to indicate a unit was under attack by tanks/armored forces. Also during WWII, U.S. and British forces used flares to initiate bomber raids in order to maintain radio silence – one flare would tell a squadron or group to start their engines, another would direct the bombers to taxi into position for take-off, and a third would direct the bombers to launch. Finally, Member 4 explained that flares could be used by ships at sea to determine identity via a challenge and reply. When ships of unknown nationality were spotted at night, the spotting ship did not want to use their spotlights to determine the identity of the unknown ship as this would give away their position as well. Instead, a specific color flare would be used to challenge the unknown vessel, which if friendly would respond with the correctly colored flare in reply.

Member 5 shared a rather unique Smith and Wesson pistol (*at right*). It is a S&W Model 4056 TSW chambered in .40 S&W caliber. What makes it unique is that it is engraved with the Brinks Security/Armored Car company logo (*below*), which is not listed in the current edition of the *Standard Catalog of Smith and Wesson* by Jim Supica and Rick Nahas. The Model 4056 is a double action only (DAO) pistol in stainless steel. Brief production started in 1997 and it is not known how many were made, but sales were apparently limited.



This was a nice find, sir!



©2022 Jack R. Looney

★ 2022-2023 Presentation List ★

MEETING DATE	TOPIC	PRESENTER
10 Dec 2022	Annual Holiday Pot Luck and Swap Meet	N/A
26 Jan 2023	Displays 101	Rob Becker
	Las Vegas Antique Arms Show Report	George Dungan/Rick Nahas
23 Feb 2023	TBD	TBD

We have started putting together the presentation schedule for 2023. If you have any suggestions – or would like to make a presentation yourself – please contact one of the VGCA officers or directors.

★ 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 – 2022-2023

- ⇒ Dec 10-11, 2022 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fredericksburg Expo & Conference Center – SGK
- ⇒ Dec 17-18, 2022 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center – C&E Gun Shows
- ⇒ Dec 30-Jan 2, 2023 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – Showmasters
- ⇒ Jan 14-15, 2023 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center - SGK
- ⇒ Jan 28-29, 2023 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fredericksburg Expo & Conference Center – SGK
- ⇒ Jan 28-29, 2023 – Fishersville, VA – Augusta Expo – Showmasters
- ⇒ Feb 3-5, 2023 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – Showmasters
- ⇒ Feb 11-12, 2023 – Virginia Beach, VA – Virginia Beach Convention Center – SGK
- ⇒ Feb 18-19, 2023 – Doswell, VA – The Meadow Event Park – SGK
- ⇒ Feb 18-19, 2023 – Harrisonburg, VA – Rockingham County Fairgrounds – Showmasters

MARYLAND – 2022-2023

- ⇒ Dec 10-11, 2022 – West Friendship, MD – Howard County Fairgrounds - Appalachian Promotions
- ⇒ Mar 18-19, 2023 - Timonium, MD – Maryland State Fairgrounds – Maryland Arms Collectors Association

PENNSYLVANIA – 2022-2023

- ⇒ Dec 3-4, 2022 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds – Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society
- ⇒ Dec 3-4, 2022 – Bloomsburg, PA – Bloomsburg Fairgrounds – Eagle Shows
- ⇒ Dec 3-4, 2022 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center – Showmasters
- ⇒ Dec 10-11, 2022 – Harrisburg, PA – PA Farm Show Complex – C&E
- ⇒ Dec 10-11, 2022 – Trevoise, PA – Radisson Philadelphia Northeast – Eagle Shows
- ⇒ Dec 11, 2022 – Mt. Bethel, PA – Mount Bethel VFD – Mt. Bethel Vol Fire Company
- ⇒ Dec 16-18, 2022 – Oaks, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – Eagle Arms
- ⇒ Dec 17-18, 2022 – Sellersville, PA – Forrest Lodge VFW Hall and Club – Jaeger Arms
- ⇒ Dec 17-18, 2022 – Titusville, PA – Chapmanville Firehall – Chapmanville Fire Company
- ⇒ Jan 7-8, 2023 - Morgantown, PA – Morgantown Expo Center – Eagle Shows
- ⇒ Jan 7-8, 2023 - Washington, PA – Washington County Fairgrounds – ARH Sport Shop
- ⇒ Jan 14-15, 2023 – Lake Harmony, PA – Split Rock Resort – Eagle Shows
- ⇒ Jan 14-15, 2023 – Matamoras, PA – Best Western – Newmart Promotions
- ⇒ Jan 21, 2023 - Greencastle, PA – Greencastle Sportsman's Association Club – Izaak Walton League of Franklin County
- ⇒ Jan 21-22, 2023 - Lebanon, PA – Lebanon Expo Center – Eagle Shows
- ⇒ Jan 28-29, 2023 – Gettysburg, PA – Allstar Events Complex – Eagle Shows
- ⇒ Feb 4-5, 2023 – Brodheadsville, PA – Signature Events Center – Tall Timber Tactical
- ⇒ Feb 4-5, 2023 – Trevoise, PA – Radisson Philadelphia Northeast – Eagle Shows
- ⇒ Feb 4-12, 2023 – Harrisburg, PA – PA Farm Show Complex – NRA – Great American Outdoor Show
- ⇒ Feb 10-12, 2023 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds – Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society

PENNSYLVANIA – 2023 (continued)

- Feb 11-12, 2023 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center – *Showmasters*
- Feb 11-12, 2023 – Oaks, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Arms*
- Feb 18-19, 2023 – Bloomsburg, PA – Bloomsburg Fairgrounds – *Eagle Shows*
- Feb 25-26, 2023 – Allentown, PA – ParkView Inn & Conference Center - *Eagle Shows*

SPECIAL EVENTS / SHOWS – 2023

- Jan 20-21, 2023 – Las Vegas, NV – Westgate Resort & Casino – *Morphy Auctions*
- Jan 28-29, 2023 - Wilmington, OH – Roberts Convention Centre – *Ohio Gun Collectors Association*
- Feb 22-26, 2023 – Louisville, KY – Kentucky Exposition Center – *Ohio Valley Military Society – “Show of Shows”*
- Apr 1-2, 2023 – Tulsa, OK – Tulsa Fairgrounds – *Tulsa Arms Collector Association – World’s Largest Gun Show (over 4200 tables)*

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:

✦ 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:

✦ After more than two and a half years of research, VGCA member Bill Vanderpool has recently 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 Larry Babcock recently 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 / 703-856-2561.

FOR SALE:

★ A very nice McKeever cartridge box marked Watervliet Arsenal to include rounds of .45-70 ammo for sale (see photos). Asking price is \$325. Now \$300



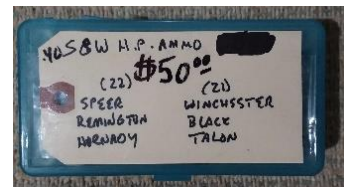
If interested, contact Jim Burgess at 703-361-1339 x1207 or jim_burgess@nps.gov

FOR SALE:

★ **5.56x45 NATO SS109 Ammo.** General Dynamics 62grain FMJ. Box of 250 rounds for \$160.00



★ **.40 S&W:** Winchester Black Talon (21 rounds), peer/Remington/Hornady (22 rounds), mixed 43 rounds total, in an MTM plastic box. \$50.00



★ **7.62x25 Tokarev Ammo.** Eastern Bloc surplus (dated 1984) in 72 round boxes. \$45 per box (6 available).

⊛ **Hornady .450 Nitro Express Ammo.** 3 ¼” 450 grain DGX, 20 round box, very limited production. \$125.00

⊛ **Cold Steel Sanburu Spear.** Three sections – head/blade, shoe/butt spike, and double taper hardwood handle. \$65.00

⊛ **Six Ten-Pin Bowling Balls – or reusable cannon balls.** Approximately 8” in diameter, in two three-pack carry bags. \$75.00



Prices firm. Contact Jack for details at looney.house@verizon.net

FREE!

⊛ **8mm Egyptian Mauser ammo (estimated from mid 1950's).** Approximately 700 rounds with Berdan Primers and 196gr projectiles. I tried to shoot several of these and All were misfires!

FREE to first person who comes to get them (located in Stafford, VA).

Contact Joe at 571-278-3297

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.

