



# VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

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

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## November-December 2023 VGCA Newsletter



### President's Comments

Fellow members—

I have lots of good news to report! Our final show at the PWC Fairgrounds went better than expected given the cost increases imposed by the new owners and other issues (such as the confusion concerning parking costs for a competing event which, we feel, scared off many potential gun show customers). Our attendance was low – only about 750 for the weekend – and while

we did lose money on the show, our loss was manageable. We leave the Fairgrounds with fond memories of some great gun shows and look forward to the move to the Dale City VFW site. Our first show at the VFW will be on April 6-7, 2024.

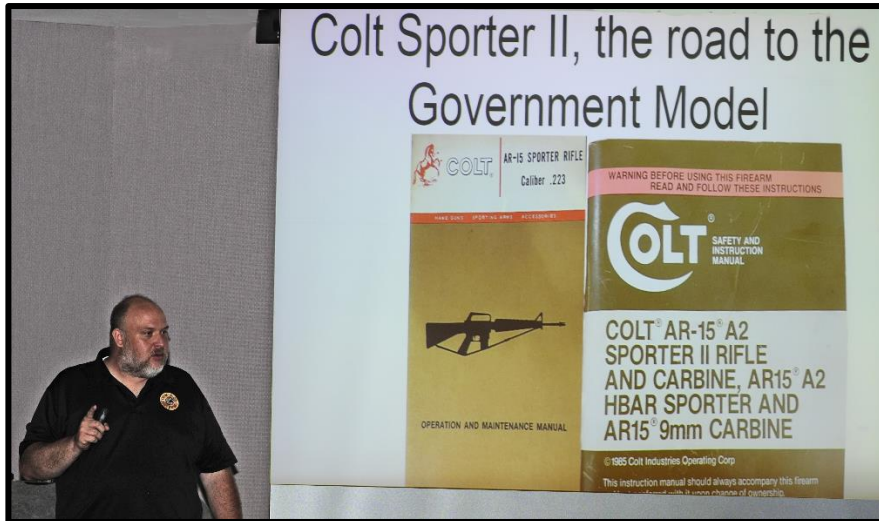
Good news - our volunteers at the most recent EXPO show recruited seven new VGCA members – a big thank you to them! And finally, our annual holiday pot-luck dinner will take place at the NRA headquarters on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5pm till 8pm. We will provide a ham and look forward to your salad/side/desert/whatever! I look forward to seeing you there!

Wishing you and yours the very best this holiday season!

*Ed Costello*, VGCA President



# ★ October Presentation: The Colt Sporter II – the Road to the Government Model



VGCA member Gary Latta (*left*), assisted by Director Ian Wulf (*below*), gave a superb presentation on the details of collecting the Colt Sporter II (aka, the SP II). Gary started by saying one of earliest memories as a kid was watching execution of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm on the news. This, together with a passion for movies, initiated an early interest with military arms - especially the M16A2s carried by U.S. troops. This further blossomed into Gary shooting

High Power rifle matches while still in high school. Later, he would collect Colt AR15s.

The story of Colt ARs begins with the first civilian sale of a Sporter I in 1963. The Sporter I was manufactured from then until 1983. As the government started to field the M16A2, the Colt Sporter I transitioned into the Sporter II. Beginning with the introduction of the Model 6400 in 1983, the Sporter II would continue in the Colt line-up until 1994, when it would be replaced by the Government Model.

Gary would go on to describe the various Sporter Models and their significant features. He started with the Model 6400, which incorporated several changes from the Sporter I ARs. These changes included:

- A longer M16A2-style butt stock
- Checkered pistol grip with a single finger groove instead of smooth pistol grip without finger grooves
- Square front sight post instead of earlier rounded type
- Solid bottom flash hider instead of full “bird cage” flash hider with slot on bottom
- Barrel profile with heavy muzzle end instead of “pencil” barrel
- Barrel twist of 1 in 7” instead of 1 in 12”



Initially, the Sporter II receivers were the as Sporter I receivers, that is, no brass deflector, no forward assist, and no raised “fence” around the magazine release button (*note the lack of these features on the Sporter I rifle held by Ian on the previous page*).

The Model 6401 was introduced in 1984 and was the first civilian Colt AR that added the forward assist – in this case, with a “tear drop” shaped button. Gary played a video clip of the AR’s designer Eugene Stoner explaining the origin of the forward assist. Needless to say, it was not Mr. Stoner’s idea and was added only at the insistence of the U.S. Army!

One year later, in 1985, Colt introduced the Model 6500. This model added the “Brunton Bump” brass deflector – a handy feature, especially for left-handed shooters.



The Model 6550 (*at left*) and the AR15A2, which was essentially a semi-automatic M16A2, followed in 1989. Later that same year, feeling political sentiment moving against semi-automatic rifles with detachable magazines in general, and AR15s in particular, Colt tried to distance themselves from the negative press of black guns and voluntarily eliminated the bayonet lug under the gas block. This neutered rifle became the Model 6551 in 1990.

This decision resulted in consumer backlash (the gun-shooting public feeling that Colt had caved in to unwarranted government pressure) and a drop in sales. In an attempt to win back buyers, Colt added a .22 Long Rifle conversion kit for less expensive shooting practice and called that option the Model 6551K – also known as Sporting Target Model.

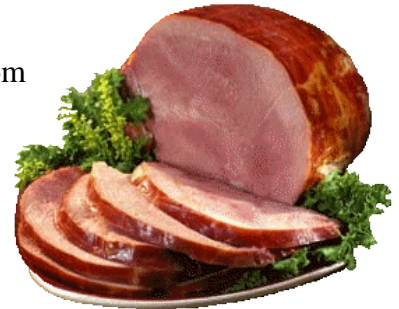
The M16 and its derivatives are now the longest-serving infantry rifle in U.S. history. As a result, multiple generations of soldiers and shooters have started to collect AR15s, especially Colts. Gary and Ian provided an excellent primer on the Colt Sporter II - of which your humble editor has only given you a brief summary. We extend our sincere thanks to both of you!





# ★ Next Membership Meeting: Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Holiday Pot Luck Dinner and Swap Meet Location: NRA HQ Conference Room

Our December VGCA Membership Meeting will be in the Conference Room at the NRA Headquarters. The room will open at 5 p.m. and we ask that everyone bringing food do so as close to 5 as possible. VGCA will provide the ham and we are asking those who will participate to bring side dishes or desserts. We will have tables set up for a swap meet if you have items to sell and it will be your last chance to vote for the 2023 VGCA Member of the Year. Hope you can make it!



## ★ VGCA Tee Shirts

New VGCA Tee Shirts are now available for purchase. Tan colored and featuring the VGCA patch on the left breast, the VGCA logo on the right sleeve, and the Virginia state flag on the left, they are available in sizes up to 2X. The cost is \$20 and they can be purchased at our membership meetings – but don't wait. Of the 72 initially acquired last month by the club, 28 have already been sold!

*Member Bryan Pelton (on left) was selling VGCA Tee Shirts at our November Gun Show while Bruce Buchner (on right) proudly wore his new shirt while manning the membership table.*

## ★ 50/50 Raffle Winner

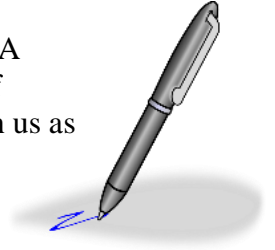
Congratulations to VGCA life member Dean Westman for winning our recent 50/50 Raffle. Randomly selected during our Gun Show on the Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, Dean received \$367.50, with the same amount benefiting the VGCA. Thanks to all who bought tickets for this very successful fund raiser – and look for our next 50/50 raffle to start some time prior to the April 2024 VGCA Gun Show!

## ★ Upcoming Officer Elections in 2024

With our officer elections scheduled for next May, it is not too early to consider running for president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer. If you would like to contribute more to the running of our organization, think about running for office. Contact one of current officers or directors if interested.

# ★ October Meeting Notes

The VGCA meeting on October 26<sup>th</sup> was called to order promptly at 7:00 p.m. by VGCA President Ed Costello. Member Jim Burgess led those assembled through the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence for those members who are no longer with us as well as those military members that have fallen in the service of our country.



New members and guests were then introduced to those assembled. There were 44 members and guests present, as well as 8 more participating on-line via webinar.

Marc Gorelick announced the start of voting for the VGCA 2023 Member of the Year. The Member of the Year Award recognizes the member who the membership believes has done the most during the past year for the club and/or gun collecting. The annual Member of the Year Award is a way for you, the membership, to publically recognizing a member in good standing who selflessly went above and beyond for the club or for collecting during 2023. All VGCA members except elected Board members are eligible to receive the award. See details on page 24.

Director Ian Wulf provided an update on the VGCA 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemorative Henry Rifles. These will be the Henry “Golden Boy” lever action rifle in .22LR and will have the VGCA patch laser-engraved in the butt stock and a special/unique serial number range. Cost will be approximately \$800 each with a minimum order of 10 total rifles. If more are ordered, the price will come down. Interested members should contact Ian Wulf at [admin@capitalsupplycompany.com](mailto:admin@capitalsupplycompany.com). If you have a special VGCA 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Henry Rifle, include its serial number in your order and we will try to match it with the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary edition’s serial number. Orders will be pre-paid and delivered to VGCA FFL Dealers Rick Nahas and Ian Wulf when completed.

Ed provided a quick update on our November Gun Show. It will be in two weeks at the Prince William County Fairgrounds. There are still 10 or 11 tables available. Ed noted that due to prohibitive cost increases at the Fairgrounds, this will be our last show at that venue. See article on page 6-9 with details on this decision on the last page.

Secretary Rob Becker made several announcements to close out the business meeting:

- First, the Annual VGCA Holiday Party and Swap Meet will be held on December 2<sup>nd</sup> in the NRA Conference Room. There will not be a presentation, but there will be a pot luck dinner. Details are on page 4.
- Second, he asked that members with Show-n-Tell items hold them for the audience and the photographer to see and that they fill out a Show-n-Tell Fact Sheet (page 35) to assist with describing your treasures in the newsletter.
- Third, he reminded those present that we are still looking for people to give presentations at our membership meetings next year. Though we have topics for the first three months, we still need presenters for the meetings after our April gun show. If interested, please contact Director Matthew G. at [matthewofmclean@gmail.com](mailto:matthewofmclean@gmail.com) or one of the VGCA officers or directors.
- Finally, he announced that VGCA Officer Elections will be next year and we will be looking for candidates for all positions, but especially for secretary and treasurer. If you are interested in furthering your support for the VGCA, consider running for office!



# Farewell to VGCA Shows at the PWC Fairgrounds

By Rob Becker

An era ended with the last vendor's departure from the Prince William County (PWC) Fairgrounds on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. For the last 18 years, ever since the VGCA show left Hugo's on Highway 17 in Bealeton, we have had two shows a year at the PWC Fairgrounds. Overall, through thick and thin, the Fairgrounds have been a good venue for us. However, new owners and management at the Fairgrounds have recently increased the costs to the point it was no longer tenable for us to have our show there. More on that later. First, I want to focus on a celebration of this final fairgrounds show!



*Above: Members Shannon Zeigler, Ian Wulf, and Chris Webber solving the problems of the world behind Shannon's display*

First, we must thank our set up volunteers. Aply led once again by Andrew Woodard, these VGCA members quickly and efficiently placed and labeled the vender tables. The set up volunteers were:

Troy Blackwood  
Chris Britton  
Jim Burgess  
Bob Candido  
Wesley Chappell

Ed Costello  
Louie DiGaetano  
George Dungan  
Marc Gorelick  
Matthew G.

Rick Jones  
Lynn Jones  
Dave Murphy  
Al Reid  
Ian Wulf

An essential and under-appreciated element of set up includes the placement of our road signs along the main thoroughfares around the fairgrounds. Extra thanks go to George Dungan and Chris Britton for doing road sign setup for this show.

In addition to show set up, show security volunteers allowed us to execute a safe and secure gun show. Safety and security are never a given when mixing hundreds of guns, thousands of rounds of ammunition, and the general public. It is only through the diligence of our volunteers that these gun shows come off without a hitch. Led by Al Reid as the Show Security Director, the following members provided at least one shift over the weekend:

Jim Burgess  
Bob Candido  
Ton Ciarula  
Doug Cravatt

Al Crosby  
Lou DiGaetano  
Rick Hanson  
J Craig Peters

Brent Sheltz  
Rick Valenzi  
Clayton Vieg



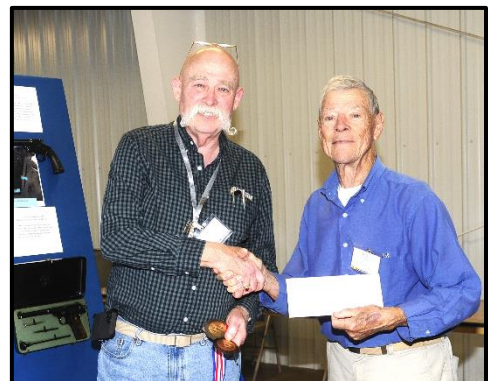
Special thanks go to member Jack Looney for once again providing overnight security on both Friday and Saturday night. Thanks Jack!

For me, the best part of the VGCA Gun Shows – and what sets us apart from all the other guns shows in the area – are the educational displays. This is where our members and collectors can share their collections and expertise with the rest of us. And we had some excellent displays this time! Once again, Jim Burgess organized the judging and determined our award winners amongst all the displays. The results from our November show were:

- First Place - "S&W Single-shot Target Pistols" by Ernie Lyles
- Second Place - "Italian Infantry Weapons of WW2" by Troy Blackwood & Louie DiGaetano
- Third Place - "Smith & Wesson Stocks" by James Howard Arthur
- Judge's Choice – "50 Years of Bushmaster" by Shannon Zeigler



Ernie Lyles' (at right, receiving his awards from VGCA President Ed Costello) display of **Smith & Wesson Single-Shot .22 Pistols** (above). This impressive display featured excellent examples of all four models of S&W pistols in the named category, including a rare 1<sup>st</sup> Model (above, at upper left) of which only 1251 were manufactured. This particular piece was also recognized as the Best Antique Firearm displayed at the show.







©2023  
Jack R. Looney



Model: Mauser C96  
 Caliber: 7.63x25mm  
 Service: 1899 ~ 1945  
 Number produced: 5,000 Military purchases

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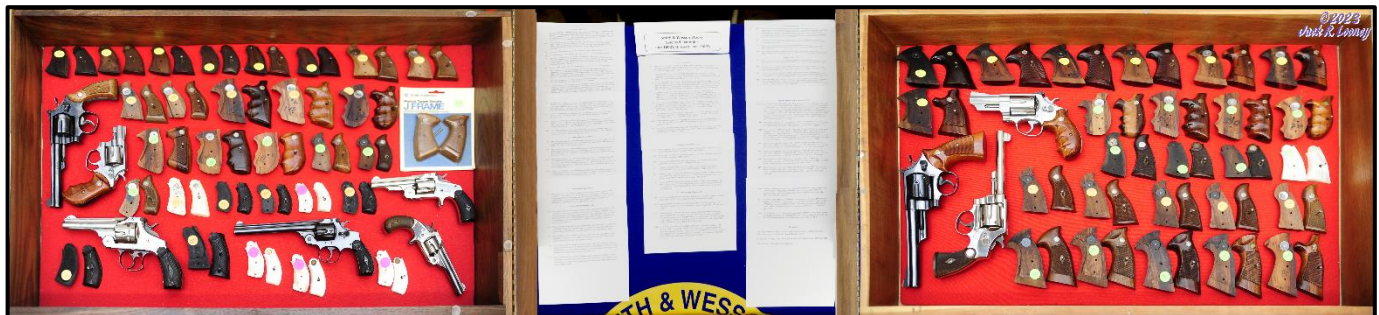
First semi-automatic firearm purchased by the Italian military. The Navy wanted to adopt a stocked pistol as a replacement for a carbine for some troops. The Navy requested that the weight reducing cuts to the frame were not made to save money and requested an enlarged hammer. The navy placed an order for 5,000 pistols but Mauser required a minimum purchase quantity of 10,000 pistols for a custom order. The navy agreed to finance an additional 5,000 pistols until Mauser could sell them on the civilian market.

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Jack R. Looney



Troy Blackwood (*above left*) and Louie DiGaetano (*above center*) received 2<sup>nd</sup> Place for their display of **Italian Infantry Weapons of WW2** (*top*). This display

included several scarce and little-known Italian military handguns, including a Mauser C96 “Broomhandle Mauser” (*above*) with shoulder stock, one of 5000 made for the Italian Navy. This piece garnered an additional award as the Best Military Firearm displayed at the show.



©2023  
Jack R. Looney



Third Place went to James Howard Arthur (*at left, on the left*) for his interesting display of **Smith & Wesson Stocks** (*above*). The number and variety of grips displayed, together with some of their associated firearms, was very impressive!

As already mentioned Shannon Zeigler’s display marking **50 Years of Bushmaster** received a Judge’s Choice award. You can Shannon’s display in the opening photograph of this article.



An additional display was not judged – that was Jim Burgess’ collection of firearms used in competition at the North-South Skirmish Association National Meets.

We owe a debt of gratitude to members Bill Chronister, Marc Gorelick, and Jim Burgess for providing their judgement and expertise in judging these displays. And to all who took the time and effort to share their treasures with us - thank you!

Member Bruce Buchner manned the Membership Table at the show and had a hugely successful weekend, helping nine new prospective members apply to join the VGCA. Very well done sir!

This also marked the final gun show to be organized and executed by VGCA Gun Show Director Rick Nahas (*at right, talking to a customer at our March 2022 show*). When asked about his greatest achievement in over two decades as our gun show director, Rick proudly stated that there has never been a single negligent discharge at any of our shows in 21 years. That is an amazing safety record that few regularly occurring gun shows can share! Rick – we cannot thank you enough for your energy, dedication, attention to detail in running the best gun shows in Virginia!

It should be noted that Rick plans to be a regular vendor in our shows going forward. Replacing Rick as the acting Gun Show Director for our spring 2024 show is Andrew Woodard.



Finally, I promised to offer an explanation for why this was our last show at the PWC Fairgrounds. Quite simply, the costs at this venue rose to point that continuing to conduct our shows there became untenable. Specifically, the new management at the fairgrounds raised our building rent from \$4200 (at our March show) to \$8000 for this one, doing so with little advance notice and giving us no opportunity to raise table rental or entrance fees, even if we had wanted to. Additionally, they booked a Monster Truck Rally for the same weekend as our show and charged those attendees for parking. We believe the possibility of a parking fee and increased traffic getting to the fairgrounds reduced our show attendance. Initial figures indicate that we did better than anticipated but still lost approximately \$1200 on this show – which is not a sustainable model, obviously. Conversely, while the VFW is a smaller venue, its costs are approximately 40% of what we were paying the fairgrounds. We are confident we will be back on the plus side of the balance sheet next year. Hope to see you there!



## ★ **Reminder – VGCA Spring Show**

Our next gun show will be held at the **Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) General Lewis B (Chesty) Puller Post 1503 at 14631 Minnieville Road, Dale City, Virginia 22193**. The dates are April 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Table rental is only \$55 (for a 6 ft. table). If you would like to reserve a table, please contact Show Manager Andrew Woodard for an application.

# JAMES “GUNSMITH” JONES: A PRE-CIVIL WAR BLACK GUNSMITH

*By Mike Revesz, PAGCA*

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



“Gunsmith” Jones’ grandfather, Charles Jones, was captured by slavers and taken onboard a slaving ship that brought him to North Carolina. He became a slave in the Raleigh area and eventually married. He instilled in his children, including his son Allen (“Gunsmith’s” father) a strong work ethic. This strong work ethic allowed Allen to develop into a skilled blacksmith, even as a slave. Allen married another slave named Temperance and they had several children including a son James Monroe “Gunsmith” Jones. During the day, Allen worked hard for his master. He then worked equally hard at night at his forge in order to make enough money to buy his family’s freedom. The agreed-upon price was \$2,000, a vast sum for anyone to acquire at that time. Allen eventually did accumulate the \$2000, and when he took the money to his master, his master told him it was not enough. So he raised another \$1,000, and was finally able to buy his family’s freedom, as well as that of

his elderly father, Charles. After buying the family’s freedom, Allen continued to work in the Raleigh area and helped establish a school for his children and other blacks in the community. The school was burned down three times. With the third burning, in 1843, Allen decided to move his family north to Oberlin, Ohio where he then sent his four sons to Oberlin College.



*Photo above and below. James Jones Chatham Rifle. .40 caliber. Barrel stamped "J. M. Jones Chatham CW Cast Steel" Barrel 30.5 inches long. Note gold bolster cleanout in photo below. Photos courtesy of Miller & Miller*



The eldest of Allen’s four sons, James Monroe “Gunsmith” Jones was born on January 15, 1821. James graduated from Oberlin College with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1849, the fourth African American to attain this achievement. He also learned to speak several languages fluently. James used his talents and his father’s passed down work ethic to become a highly skilled gunsmith and engraver.

In 1793, Canada’s Parliament passed the first antislavery law in the British Empire. Possibly seeking a freer environment, James moved across the border in



1852 to Chatham, Canada (Ontario province) and established a gunsmithing business. At that time Chatham was the northern terminus of the Underground Railroad. By proving his skill in making rifles and pocket-sized derringers, he became known as “Gunsmith Jones.” His gunsmithing and engraving skills allowed him to win a medal at the California State Agricultural Society for his pistols in 1859, and later to win first prize at the Grand Provincial Exhibition in Montreal. In 1864, Jones won First Prize for the best assortment of firearms at the Provincial Exhibition.



*Photos above – “Gunsmith” Jones Derringer. Considered one of the highest quality derringers known.*

When he moved to Canada, James Monroe “Gunsmith” Jones married Emily Francis of Howard Township and together they established a home at 105 Head St. (now Grand Ave.) where James had his shop. They had a son and a daughter. Daughter Sophia Bethene Jones became a doctor. James Monroe “Gunsmith” Jones died in 1905, at age 85, at the home of his son George, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. “Gunsmith Jones” guns today are highly regarded for both their quality and engraving.

### **“Gunsmith” Jones and the abolitionist John Brown**

Abolitionist John Brown came to Chatham, Canada in 1858 to drum up support for his radical plan to assemble an army of Blacks and anti-slavery sympathizers and take over the U.S. arsenal at Harpers Ferry in Virginia. Before John Brown left Chatham, he had Gunsmith Jones work on his guns and even pawned one of his guns to Jones in exchange for a \$75 loan. Captured, tried for treason and

hanged, John Brown couldn't collect his pawned gun. The firearm is now a treasured artefact displayed by the Chatham-Kent Black Historical Society Mecca Museum.



*Engraved "Gunsmith" Jones Derringer. Photo courtesy of Cowan's Auctions*

### **"Gunsmith" Jones and the Prince of Wales pistols**

Jones was renowned as the only African-American gunmaker in Canada during this period and even produced a pair of extraordinary gilt derringer pistols for Edward, Prince of Wales (later King Edward the VII). Prince Edward's 1860 visit was the first visit of a member of the royal family to Canada and towns and communities along the way vied with each other in the size and magnificence of their displays and gifts. The future King Edward VII the prince, then only 18, had been persuaded to divert his official Canadian tour to Chatham, Ontario in order to accept a finely crafted pair of derringer pistols made by a famous local and highly respected gunsmith. "Gunsmith" Jones had won a medal at the California State Agricultural Society for his pistols in 1859, and the same guns won first prize at the Grand Provincial Exhibition in Montreal, so this special gift was deemed worthy of a prince by the tour managers.

While waiting at the train station to congratulate and meet J.M. Jones the Prince was informed, much too late, that the gunsmith was in fact a black man named James Monroe "Gunsmith" Jones who had made the gift of derringer pistols. Although the guns were ready and had been paid for, the prince was informed (according to one story) that it was all a mistake and that the derringers could not be presented to him. He left without his pistols. According to the Chatham Tri-Weekly Planet issue of Sept. 29, 1860, "The fact that the pistols were made by Mr. Jones, a coloured man, is also said to have had something to do with preventing Mr. McKellar making the presentation."

The Canada Directory for 1857-58 lists J.M. Jones as a "manufacturer of rifles, guns, and pistols." James Gooding, publisher of The Canadian Journal of Arms Collecting, names Jones as "one of six Canadian gunsmiths who had the skill ... to be compared with the best in the world." Today, his guns are very collectible and highly sought after by discerning collectors.





## ★ October Fredericksburg Gun Show – A VGCA First!

On October 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, the VGCA had a recruiting table at the Southeastern Guns and Knives (SGK) Fredericksburg Gun Show. While we have been manning a recruiting table at the Nation’s Gun Show in Chantilly for a few years now, this is the first time we have done so at a major show outside of our normal “stomping grounds.”

Through a combination of factors, we lost our intended volunteer support on Saturday, but Dan Helms (*pictured at right, on the left*) and Bruce Buchner (*on the right*) represented us well on Sunday. While no new members were recruited over the weekend, we did distribute a lot of flyers for our upcoming gun show, as well as answer questions from attending VGCA members about moving our spring gun show to the Dale City Veterans of Foreign Wars Post.



Organizer (and VGCA Vice President) George Dungan noted that interest was good and several people stopped by the table to talk about “this old gun I have.” George firmly believes that Fredericksburg will prove a fruitful source of new members. The other VGCA officers and directors agreed with him, authorizing another recruiting table at the SGK show there on December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in helping man this table, please contact George at [george@eccominv.com](mailto:george@eccominv.com) or call him at 571-243-6387. And if you happen to attend the Fredericksburg show that weekend, stop by the table and say hello!

## ★ November Chantilly Gun Show – A Great Weekend for Recruiting!



We had a superb weekend recruiting new members to the VGCA at the Chantilly Gun Show November 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, signing up seven thanks to the efforts of volunteers Bruce Buchner, King VonSchilling, Louie DiGaetano, Mick Jacobs, Chris Britton, Glen Ruh, and Rick Hanson (*Glen Ruh and Mick Jacobs shown with VGCA President Ed Costello at left*). A special thanks goes out to VP and Membership Chairman George Dungan for organizing the table and providing the “honey” to attract prospective members – a Native American-decorated Winchester M1873 (*below*).



# ★ Membership Chairman's Report

## Membership Chairman's Report November-December 2023

**New Applications for Membership:** Since the last Newsletter, there have been sixteen new applications for membership.

- **Eckel Davis** of Spotsylvania sponsored by **Bruce Buchner**
- **Mark Gibson** of Alexandria sponsored by **Bruce Buchner**
- **Harold Hudson** of Alexandria sponsored by **Bruce Buchner**
- **Daniel Green** of Woodbridge sponsored by **William Hible**
- **Mike Piper** of Swoope sponsored by **Bruce Buchner**
- **Richard Shepard** of McLean sponsored by **Bruce Buchner**
- **Dominique Marie Notare** of Manassas Park sponsored by **Bruce Buchner**
- **Thomas Kuklish** of Manassas Park sponsored by **Bruce Buchner**
- **Walter Cate** of Falls Church sponsored by **Glen Ruh**
- **David Marvil** of Purcellville sponsored by **Jim Burgess**
- **Jackson Galyean** of Ashburn sponsored by **Bryan Pelton**
- **Elisabeth Rowan** of Reston sponsored by **Frank Cooper**
- **Thomas Macia** of Arlington sponsored by **Frank Cooper**
- **Christopher Ziedonis** of Fairfax sponsored by **Ian Wulf & Shannon Ziegler**
- **Russell Thomason** of Berryville sponsored by **Bruce Buchner**
- **Chuck Schafer** of Stafford sponsored by **Bruce Buchner**

**Please welcome the following new member to our group:**

- **Alberto Durrell** of Leesburg

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

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

**Membership Numbers:** There are currently 425 Life members and 101 Annual Members for a total of 526 members in the Virginia Gun Collectors Association, Inc.

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

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

*George Dungan*, Vice President and Membership Chair



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

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

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**Please detach and return with your payment**  
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## **Membership Renewal Request (AMR-2023\_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 2024 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](mailto:george@eccominv.com) or call me at 571-243-6387.

| VGCA Use Only |  |
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# CMP UPDATE

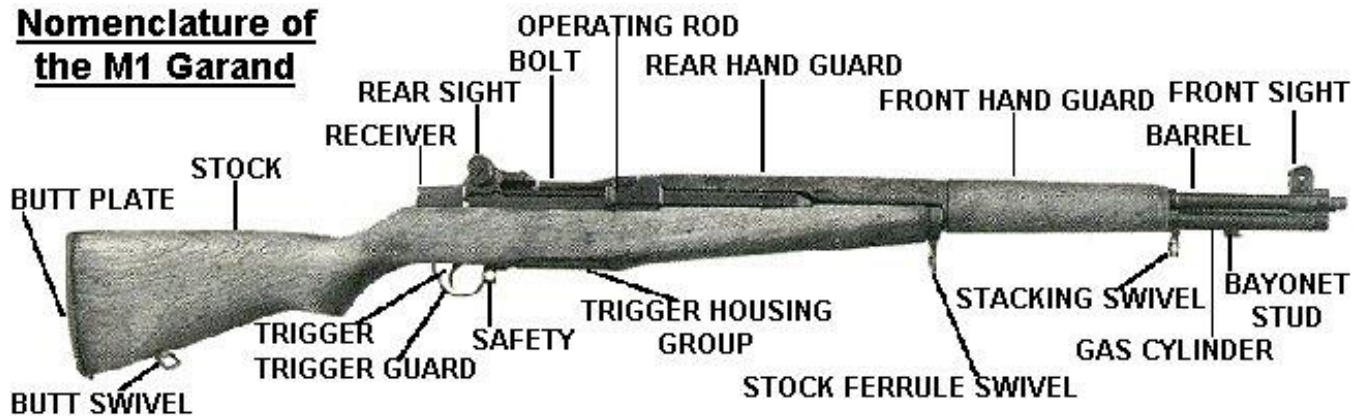
By Marc Gorelick, CMP Liaison

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

By Marc Gorelick, CMP Liaison

## RETURN OF THE CMP ADVANCED MAINTENANCE RIFLE CLASSES

### Nomenclature of the M1 Garand



The Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) has firmed up its plans and recently announced that after a long hiatus, the CMP's Advanced Maintenance Class (AMC) Clinics will be returning in 2024! The course is for those firearm collectors and shooters interested in assembling his or her own vintage rifle with the help of the CMP's knowledgeable armorer instructors.



The AMC is a three-day course in Anniston, Alabama. Designed for those who wish to take their passion for the M1 Garand to the next level, the AMC offers students a unique opportunity to receive unparalleled training from the CMP Custom Shop staff. The class is intended for individuals interested in knowing how the M1 Garand rifle functions in detail, as well as for those wishing to know how to properly perform advanced maintenance procedures to their personal rifle(s). The class involves classroom lecture as well as hands-on shop time. Tools will be provided for students to use during the class.

Students need only bring themselves, safety glasses and a shop apron. Topics such as head space, barrel installation, component purpose/function, general rifle assembly, rifle/component maintenance and various accuracy techniques will be covered using hands-on instruction, instructional videos and detailed

visual presentations. As part of the class each participant will build and keep their own expert grade M1 Garand rifle. (*See CMP photo of a previous class.*)

In conjunction with the classroom sessions, students will receive active instruction and individualized assistance from Custom Shop armorers. Additionally, students will visit the CMP South Store on the second day, and on the last day they will visit the Talladega Marksmanship Park for a chance to view the grounds and test fire their personally built rifles from class.

Due to popularity of the classes, registration will be based on a lottery system. Registration for the lottery will be open Nov. 27 to Dec. 22. Along with classes for individuals, the Custom Shop will host four “Buddy Class” dates – reserved for applicants wishing to attend with a designated partner of their choosing.

Those interested in the AMC can get additional information and can register through the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/training-tech/advanced-maintenance-class/>.

The 2024 dates are:

- Class 1: February 27 – 29, 2024
- Class 2: March 1 – 3, 2024 – BUDDY CLASS
- Class 3: June 25 – 27, 2024
- Class 4: June 28 – 30, 2024 – BUDDY CLASS
- Class 5: August 20 – 22, 2024
- Class 6: August 23 – 25, 2024 – BUDDY CLASS
- Class 7: October 22 – 24, 2024
- Class 8: October 25 – 27, 2024 – BUDDY CLASS

Registrants will become part of an electronic lottery used to randomly assign the 20 available seats for each class date. An additional 20 participants will be assigned to a stand-by list for each date. These stand by lists have been established due to a historically high cancellation rate and will be utilized to fill classes as cancellations occur.

Total cost for the 2024 AMC will be \$2,350 (\$1,200 for tuition & \$1,150 for an Expert grade rifle). The \$1,200 course tuition fee will be billed immediately after purchasing the course from the CMP eStore (with \$150 of your class tuition fee considered as a nonrefundable “registration fee”). Late cancellations, made within 30 days of the class start date, will be subject to forfeiture of an additional \$300. The deadline for class payment will be February. 16, 2024.

Those who attend the AMC must arrange their own housing. The CMP provides a list of accommodations in Anniston, AL that have a special CMP rate (available on the CMP website).

The Advanced Maintenance Class is a fantastic opportunity that the CMP provides for those interested in collecting and/or shooting the M1 Garand. The class is not intended for gunsmiths or students with advanced knowledge of the M1 rifle. No prior armorer or shooting experience is required to attend the class.

## **CMP GIFT CERTIFICATES**

### ***A great gift for the holidays.***

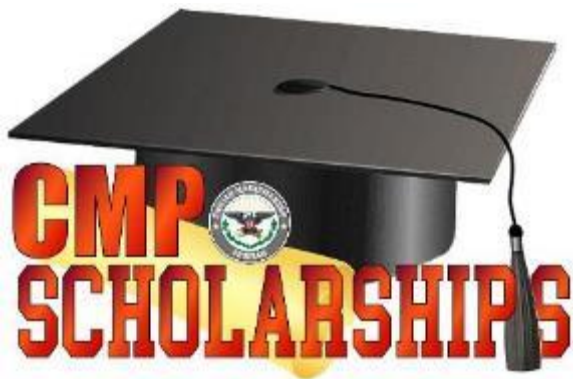
The CMP is selling Gift Certificates that may be used towards any purchase within the CMP. Whether an entry fee, a sweatshirt or even the full price of one of the CMP’s refurbished rifles, certificates can be a cost-effective and worthwhile gift for firearm enthusiasts.



CMP Gift Certificates, printed on quality, full color paper, can be loaded with any amount between \$20 and \$1,500. You can purchase certificates from the CMP on-line e-Store (when it is up), by mail order or at any of the CMP ranges, including at Camp Perry, Ohio, Anniston, Alabama and Talladega Marksmanship Park in Talladega, Alabama.

For additional information, including purchase/ordering forms, go to the CMP website at [https://thecmp.org/cmp\\_sales/cmp-gift-certificates/](https://thecmp.org/cmp_sales/cmp-gift-certificates/).

## CMP SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



To continue its efforts in supporting young marksmen and women across the nation in their future endeavors, the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) announced that it will award up to \$335,000 for the 2024-2025 school year. The CMP provides this scholarship program for deserving high school seniors who excel in marksmanship and scholarship assistance to qualified junior marksmen in order to encourage and reward their outstanding efforts.

In 2024, the CMP will award four \$5,000 scholarships that will be renewable for 4 years (*Total value of each scholarship awarded: \$20,000*). The overall applicants will be determined by members of the CMP Scholarship Committee. The remaining CMP Scholarships are \$1,000 one-year awards that may be used to fund any accredited secondary education, technical/trade school or vocational program. CMP Scholarships may also be used to pursue a post-secondary education during the upcoming school year.

The CMP seeks applications from high school seniors who currently compete in marksmanship competitions. Based on merit, selected individuals are high school seniors who are currently enrolled in a team or club that is participating in marksmanship competitions.

To be eligible for CMP scholarships, junior shooters must:

- Be a U.S. Citizen.
- Be of good moral character.
- Be a graduating high school senior.
- Demonstrate acceptance to a university, college or trade school leading to a diploma or trade certification.
- Demonstrate marksmanship competition experience.

A complete application must contain all required documentation. In addition to the completed application form, please include:

- A certified copy of the applicant's high school transcript
- Letter of Nomination/Recommendation from the Coach, Instructor or Adult Leader
- A letter from the applicant including the reasons for applying and how the scholarship will help in pursuit of the applicant's goals
- Additional Documentation of proof of marksmanship activity

**Scholarship applications must be completed by March 31, 2024.** Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. For additional information go to the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/youth/cmp-scholarship-program/>.

# CMP PRECISION AIR RIFLE SALES



The CMP is currently selling *Walther LG400 Bluetec Precision Air Rifles*. The new Walther LG400 Bluetec was specifically designed for three position air rifle shooting. The barreled action and trigger are the same as the top of the line LG400 models. It comes without an absorber but it can be retrofitted with one. The barreled action will fit into any of the higher end stocks if you wish to upgrade it. The accuracy is the same as the higher priced LG400s – 10 shots through the same hole at 10 meters.

The LG400 Bluetec Precision Air Rifle comes with the Walther Basic rear sight, Walther 22mm front sight and a 200/300 bar steel cylinder. The newly designed aluminum stock comes with an ambidextrous grip, trigger guard and an adjustable cheekpiece and buttplate. The fore-end riser can be adjusted with the included spacers and screws. The cocking lever can easily be switched to the other side for left handed shooters. The total weight is only 4kg (8.8 lbs.) and the trigger weight is adjustable from 80 to 150 grams.

Sales are available to individuals as well as CMP affiliated clubs. The price is \$1,775 plus shipping and handling as they are shipped directly by Walther Arms. For additional information, including ordering information and forms, go to the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/sales-and-service/precision-air-rifles/>.

# CMP .30-06 AMMUNITION SALES



The CMP currently has Creedmoor 167grain .30-06 ammunition available for mail order for \$195 per case. The item Number is 4C3006CS167-100. Ordering information may be viewed at [https://thecmp.org/cmp\\_sales/ordering-information/](https://thecmp.org/cmp_sales/ordering-information/).

The CMP Stores in Anniston, Alabama, and Talladega, Alabama, have .30-06 surplus ammunition available for purchase. Customers at the North Store may place their order for the 400 round can of .30-06 surplus ammunition and it will be shipped from Alabama. View CMP store details at [https://thecmp.org/cmp\\_sales/cmp-stores/](https://thecmp.org/cmp_sales/cmp-stores/).

**NOTE:** *Ammunition availability is subject to change between the writing and publication of this article. CMP surplus ammunition sales are final. No refunds or exchanges.*



# FORTRESS BIOMETRIC GUN SAFE SAFETY RECALL

*By Marc Gorelick*



The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and Fortress Safe of Naperville, Illinois announced the nation-wide recall of about 61,000 Fortress biometric safes due to a serious safety hazard and risk of death caused by a programming feature that can allow unauthorized access to the safes. Consumers can believe they have properly programmed the biometric feature when in fact the safe remains in the default to open mode, which can allow unauthorized users, including children, to access the safe to remove hazardous contents, including firearms.

According the CPSC and Fortress Safe, owners should immediately stop using the biometric feature, remove the batteries from the safe, and only use the key for the recalled safes being used to store firearms. Contact Fortress Safes to receive instructions on disabling the biometric feature and to receive a free replacement safe. So far, there have been 39 incidents of consumers reporting that their safes have been accessed by unpaired fingerprints and one alleged death of a 12-year old boy who opened the safe and took out a loaded gun.

The recalled gun safes were manufactured in China and are portable lock boxes, personal safes, pistol vaults, and gun cabinets with brand names Fortress, Cabela's, Gettysburg, and Legend Range & Field. The recalled safes were sold at Bass Pro Shops, Cabela's, Scheel's, Sportsman's Guide, Optics Planet, Dick's Sporting Goods, Gander, Rural King, Lowe's and other stores nationwide and online at Amazon.com and Ebay.com from January 2019 through October 2023 for between \$44 and \$290. Model numbers can be found above the barcode on a label located on the back of the safe and on the top right corner of the original packaging. Safes with the following model numbers are included in the recall.

| <b>Model #</b> | <b>Description</b>   |
|----------------|--|
| 11B20          | Fortress Portable Safe with Biometric Lock                             |
| 44B10          | Fortress Personal Safe with Pop up door and Biometric Lock             |
| 44B10L         | Legend Range & Field Personal Safe with Pop up door and Biometric Lock |
| 44B20          | Fortress Medium Personal Safe with Biometric Lock                      |
| 55B20          | Fortress Quick Access Safe with Biometric Lock                         |
| 55B30          | Fortress Large Quick Access Safe with Biometric Lock                   |
| 55B30G         | Gettysburg Large Quick Access Safe with Biometric Lock                 |
| 4BGGBP         | Cabela's 4 Gun Safe with Biometric Lock                                |
| 55B30BP        | Cabela's Biometric Personal Safe                                       |

You can contact Fortress Safe toll-free at 833-588-9181 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. MT Monday through Friday or online at <https://www.fortresssafe.com/biometric-product-recall.html> or [www.fortresssafe.com](http://www.fortresssafe.com) and click on "Recall" at the top of the page for more information.



# VGCA GUNS OF DISTINCTION: KUCHENREUTER PERCUSSION RIFLE with WILLIAM BECKWITH LOCK

*By Marc Gorelick*

*Photos courtesy of Joh. Springer's Erben, Vienna, Austria*

The Kuchenreuter family of Regensburg, Germany were among the finest of the Germanic gunsmiths in the 18th and 19th centuries. Established in 1640, the long line of the Kuchenreuter gunsmiths is legendary in Germany and a branch of the family is still making guns today. Johann Adam Kuchenreuter (1794 - 1869) inherited his uncle's workshop in Steinweg (near Regensburg) in 1815. During his lifetime he produced many fine rifles, shotguns and pistols for the royalty and nobility of Europe until his death in 1869. Johann Adam was the court gunmaker for the Princes of Thurn und Taxis and for the Royal Court of the King of Bavaria. In addition, Napoleon, Metternich, the Kaiser of Austria and the Czar of Russia, all ordered Kuchenreuter guns or received them as gifts.



Although this is a rather plebian Kuchenreuter half-stock percussion rifle that shows hard use, one of the things that makes it stand out is the back-action lock, which bears the name of a leading London gunmaker, William A. Beckwith.



William Andrew Beckwith was a well-respected London gunmaker who was active during the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Although not as fashionable or as prolific as some of his contemporaries like Greener, Egg, Manton, Nock, Boss, Lang, Forsyth and Westley Richards, he produced a number of fine high-quality guns for the upper crust of English society. William Beckwith apprenticed under Wattel Clark in 1785 and was admitted to the freedom of the Gunmakers Company in 1801. He started his own business at 58 Skinner Street, Snowhill, London. He was elected Master of the Gunmakers' Company in 1808, 1814, 1825 and again in 1840. Following his death in 1841 the business was carried on by his son and widow Elizabeth until the late 1860's. Today good condition Beckwith guns bring high prices at auction. For instance, a cased set of flintlock double barreled traveling pistols sold for \$24,560 at a Southams

London auction, and a pair of percussion double barrel "Howdah" pistols sold for \$7,472 at a 2019 Rock Island Auction. He also made blunderbusses and Baker rifles.



This Johan Adam Kuchenreuter rifle's caliber is 16mm and the 25.6 inch (65 cm) long octagonal barrel has eight deep rifle grooves. The top of the barrel is decorated with a silver inlaid inscription "J. Adam Kuchenreuter in Regensburg" and a maker's mark. It has open sights. The flat back-action lock is engraved with sparse foliate scroll and signed "Beckwith - London." It has a sliding safety lever behind the dolphin-shaped hammer. There is no counter plate on the other side of the rifle. It has a single set trigger and the forged trigger guard with finger rest is decorated with floral engraving. The barrel is attached to the stock by a wedge (key). The walnut half-stock, has an oval cheekpiece, a steel buttplate, and a horn forend cap. The brass-tipped ramrod appears original. The gun was made around 1840, although it is believed that the barrel is older. It is not known how or why the back-action Beckwith lock was used on the Kuchenreuter but it is unusual for an English lock. This rifle sold at a May 2019 Joh. Springers auction in Vienna, Austria for about \$600 (550 euros). The price probably reflected its condition.





We are seeking speakers and presenters for our membership meetings in 2024. If you have any suggestions – or would like to make a presentation yourself – please contact any of the VGCA officers or directors.

## ★ 2023-2024 Presentation List ★

| MEETING DATE | TOPIC  | PRESENTER      |
|--------------|--|----------------|
|              | <i>No meeting in November 2023 due to our Gun Show</i> |                |
| 02 Dec 2023  | Holiday Pot Luck & Annual Swap Meet                    | N/A            |
| 25 Jan 2024  | Broomhandle Mausers                                    | Ed Costello    |
| 22 Feb 2024  | The FN49   | Carlos Davila  |
| 28 Mar 2024  | The Beretta Model 1951                                 | Troy Blackwood |
|              | <i>No meeting in April 2024 due to our Gun Show</i>    |                |
| 23 May 2024  | TBD  |                |
| 27 Jun 2024  | TBD  |                |

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

## HAMPTON ROADS MILITARY SOCIETY

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

- 12 Dec 2023, 6-8pm – "North Pole Submarine Operations 1970" by Dave Snyder
- 2 Jan 2024 - "The Evolution of the Rifle" by Chris Betcher

For more details, HRMS website is: [Hampton Roads Militaria Society \(classicfirearmsandechoesofglory.com\)](http://HamptonRoadsMilitariaSociety(classicfirearmsandechoesofglory.com))





## VGCA ANNUAL MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

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

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

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

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

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

**Remember – Only those members in good standing who attend the October and December meetings, and the November show, will be able to vote for the Member of the Year Award for 2023.**

***Come to the meetings and vote for your choice.***

# **/r/VAguns - Virginia's Largest Gun Forum and Firearm Community Online**

*By Peter Kalis*

Hosted on Reddit.com, one of the top 10 websites in the United States, [/r/VAguns](https://www.Reddit.com/r/VAguns) is a gun forum for Virginia firearm enthusiasts and Virginia based news, discussions, and questions. With over 115K subscribers and over 50K pageviews a month the forum serves as an important resource for Virginia gun owners and the 2A community. Since 2014 the /r/VAguns web forum, or subreddit as they're called on Reddit, has provided an accessible and great tool for the Virginia firearm community. The /r/VAguns subreddit is located at [www.Reddit.com/r/VAguns](https://www.Reddit.com/r/VAguns)

The /r/VAguns subreddit is for the discussion of firearms and gun topics in the Commonwealth of Virginia. These topics include political posts relating to state and local firearm laws, questions about gun laws and processes like obtaining Resident Concealed Handgun Permits and NFA form submissions, as well as just sharing firearm related news, events, or photos. Daily posts from users include pictures of new gun photos or projects, requests for suggestions for ranges, gear, or firearms, and discussions about training, classes, events, and news about firearms in the state.

The community also keeps up the [/r/VAguns Map of Gun Locations, Ranges, and Stores](#), which is a community submitted and updated map of all relevant firearm locations in VA. The google map has every gun store in the state, and all ranges and relevant gun locations listed to allow people to easily find locations in proximity to them.

The community also provides a valuable resource allowing the dissemination of Virginia firearm news. In 2020 when drastic gun law changes and a Northam-backed assault weapon bill were being proposed /r/VAguns served as a tool of the community to discuss these new laws and post information about the VCDL Lobby Day 2020. That January, during the Lobby Day protests at the capitol in Richmond, the forum saw over 1 million page views showing the impact and reach of the community. The VCDL and its members continue to post their news and updates to the forum as a method of getting important updates to the Virginia firearm community.

Virginia Gun Collectors Association has had its past two VGCA Gun Shows posted to /r/VAguns. Going forward this can be a great method to spread the word about upcoming gun shows and provide information about the event and the VGCA.

Since 2017, /r/VAguns has held bi-annual Range Day Meetups at The Cove Campground range in Gore, VA. Participants enjoy a full day of shooting at the Cove's 100yd outdoor range. Our event has seen shooters of all experience levels, from the most novice who have never shot before, to newer shooters looking perhaps for advice and a chance to try interesting firearms before they buy, all the way up to individuals willing to bring out their full arsenal. No matter the experience level, all are invited for a fun & safe day of shooting. With shooting benches and steel targets provided, attendees are free to shoot, socialize, and try out a wide variety of different guns and firearm platforms that people bring, especially if they are considerate enough to bring their own ammo.

/r/VAguns is hosting its next [Range Day Meetup](#), open to all, at The Cove Campgrounds in Gore, Virginia on Saturday Dec. 2, 2023. More information and event details can be found on the top of the site at [www.Reddit.com/r/VAguns](https://www.Reddit.com/r/VAguns)



## ★ 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](mailto:rpebecker@verizon.net).*

# **A TRIP TO THE MUSEUM: MORRISTOWN NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK; George Washington Did Sleep Here**

*By Marc Gorelick*

When one thinks of New Jersey, one doesn't usually think about guns. However, the Garden State was once the crucible of the Revolutionary War. Morristown National Historical Park commemorates the site of General Washington and the Continental army's winter encampment of December 1779 to June 1780, where they survived through what would be the coldest winter on record. The Park in Morristown, NJ, is 90 years old this year and is America's first national historical park.



*Above left – Washington Headquarters Museum. Above right – Ford Mansion; Washington's Headquarters. National Park Service (NPS).*

Morris County was one of the few strongholds in New Jersey that Washington could use after the British took New York and Long Island. Morristown provided Washington with important defensive advantages. It was protected from sudden British attack by Long Hill and the Watchung Mountains, as well as broad swamps. From here, with reasonable security, Washington could keep an eye on the British wintering in and around Manhattan Island and was able to guard the roads from New England to the Revolutionary capital in Philadelphia. Morristown's location allowed him to swiftly move his army to any threatened point along these lines of communication. Just as importantly, Morristown was a center of iron production, and the forges and furnaces that provided iron products for the army were located there. And unlike the encampment at Valley Forge, the Continental Army was able to subsist in the Morristown area without overburdening the local economy or depleting its food reserves.

Anticipating a long encampment at this advantageous position, Washington decreed that his army was to build a "Log-house city" here. Eight infantry brigades occupied the site for seven months. More than 600



acres of oak, walnut and chestnut were converted into lines of barrack huts and fortifications that rose on the hillsides. In the end, there were about 1,000 to 1,200 log structures in Jockey Hollow.



*George Washington's dress sword. Worn during his Inauguration in New York on April 30, 1789, given to him by his friend, Maj. Gen. William Drake. NPS.*

The park consists of several sites, all of historical significance. First there is the historic Ford Mansion, which was George Washington's headquarters. This large Georgian style home was built in the early 1770's for Jacob Ford, Jr., an iron manufacturer, and his family. Ford was a colonel in the Morris County Militia during the Revolutionary War and died in January 1777. In December 1779 Ford's widow, Theodosia, allowed General Washington to use her home as his headquarters during the winter of 1779-1780. While Mrs. Ford and her four children moved into two rooms of the house, General Washington, his wife Martha, five aides-de-camp, eighteen servants, a number of visiting dignitaries and guards took over the rest of the house. Today the house is furnished to reflect how it might have appeared during Washington's stay and is shown only by guided tours.



*British Light Dragoon Pistol, c 1765-1770. The lock bears Dublin Castle, a crown and "GR" marks and the barrel a crowned "GR", arrow, crossed scepters, and CN 2729 (the Irish registration marks). The stock bears "RT I E N" marks. NPS.*

Behind the Ford Mansion is the Museum Building. This Colonial Revival building was designed by the noted architect John Russell Pope, who also designed the Jefferson Memorial in Washington D.C. Pope

used Mount Vernon, George Washington's Virginia home, as the inspiration for this building, which was built in the 1930's. The museum features a number of exhibits showing furniture, weapons, documents and other objects from colonial and Revolutionary times. The building also houses a research library, the park collections and administrative offices. It is here that many of the weapons in the collection can be seen, including some of George Washington's personal weapons. Although it is a small collection, it is of high quality and historical significance.



Other attractions in the park include the Wick House (built around 1750) in Jockey Hollow, where a large part of the army was encamped, Fort Mifflin, a fortification that Washington ordered built on May 14, 1777 to protect the Continental Army's encampment and Morristown, and the New Jersey Brigade area, which can only be reached via a hiking trail. Jockey Hollow, a few miles south of Morristown, was where the entire Pennsylvania contingent mutinied and later 200 New Jersey soldiers attempted to emulate them.

*Pair of English Queen Anne pistols. .50 caliber. Marked "B.B.Brooke", "London," and "B.C." The pair are documented as being captured from the British Army in Boston, 1775. NPS.*



*Ferguson Rifle, 1776. British Major Patrick Ferguson patented this breech loading flintlock rifle in England. Only about 200 were made. It has the number '2' stamped on the trigger guard. NPS.*

Most of the weapons from the colonial and Revolutionary War are on display in the museum. While it is not by any means a large collection, it is representative of the weapons used in the Revolutionary War. They include not only muskets, rifles, blunderbusses, and pistols used by the Americans, British, French and Hessians during the war, but also edged weapons such as swords, cutlasses, axes, spontoons, and halberds. The edged weapons include some that belonged to Washington. There are even a few cannon

scattered around the grounds. Many of the weapons are in superb condition and the signage is generally comprehensive, easy to read and geared towards adults. The weapons are well lit and most are displayed so that the visitor can examine them closely.



*Hessian Flintlock Musket, 18th century. This musket was used by Hessian troops and is heavily marked; The butt is stamped "2dRtGB" which appears to be the 2nd Grenadier Battalion von Block, the side of the barrel is marked with four arrows; the tang is marked "2", under stock is marked "2", "4 25". The Crown and initials of George III are crudely incised on the lock plate and was done following the hiring of German troops. NPS.*



*George Washington's cutlass. The blade face is engraved with his monogram "G.W." beneath a crown and floral designs. The maker's mark appears on both sides of the blade, but is undecipherable. This was originally a two-edged weapon and at a later date, one edge was cut into a "saw-tooth". It was worn by Washington when inspecting his troops. NPS.*

The museum is well laid out and impressive with many exhibits that bring the Revolutionary War to life. Although some of the displays are interactive, it is not necessarily a children's museum. There is plenty of reading. The displays tell the story of an under-appreciated chapter in the American Revolution, two years after Valley Forge, with the troops surviving a more severe winter.

The two galleries on the museum's main floor are very good and the displays are well curated. "Exploring the Revolution" features military artifacts and weapons and describes the activities and challenges associated with a winter encampment such as Morristown. An interactive display has a separate touch screen for each of the eight years of the war, which provides information about military campaigns, battles and encampments during that year.

The second floor of the museum contains the Rare Book & Manuscript Gallery. The library collection consists of nearly 50,000 volumes and an archive of nearly 250,000 manuscripts, journals, diaries, letters (including some of Washington's), account books, letter books, military orderly books, inspection returns, muster lists, and other documents. It is a historical researcher's dream.



The Park is spread out and with numerous hiking trails. There are two main areas. Washington's Headquarters Museum and the Ford Mansion are located at:  
30 Washington Place  
Morristown, NJ 07960

The Jockey Hollow Visitor Center is located at:  
586 Tempe Wick Road  
Morristown, NJ 07960



*American Spontoon, c 1775. Carried by an officer in Arnold's Light Horse Troop, which was organized in Morristown, NJ in 1775. This pike head was found in Arnold's Tavern. In the British army commissioned officers carried spontoons until 1786 as a symbol of their rank and used it to issue battlefield commands to their men, while sergeants generally carried halberds until 1792 when they were replaced by the sergeant's pike, a spontoon. NPS.*

Park and museum hours vary with the season so check the museum website at <https://www.nps.gov/morr/index.htm>. Or call the museum information desk at (973) 539-2016 x210. According to the National Park Service website, the park grounds are open year-round, with the exception of Thanksgiving Day, December 25, and New Year's Day. The grounds open at 8 AM and close at different times throughout the year. Park buildings are generally open from 10 AM to 4 PM Thursday through Sunday, though the hours expand during the summer season.

All park grounds and facilities at Morristown National Historical Park are free of charge. There are two stores in the park. One is located at the Washington Headquarters Museum, and the other at the Jockey Hollow Visitor Center. The stores offers a wide variety of books related to George Washington, the



American Revolution, and 18th century life as well as theme-related merchandise. There are some items that are only available at one store or the other, though most items can be found in both stores. In general, expect to find history related products at the Museum store and products relating to nature at the Jockey Hollow Visitor Center. There is no restaurant.

*American Powder Horn, c. 1775. This decorated horn belonged to Jacobus Rosecrans, an ensign in the Fourth Regiment Orange County Militia. NPS.*

A tour of the museum could take from one to two hours (if you read most of the signage) with another hour for the free tour of the mansion (you get tickets at the museum information desk). Then there are the other Park sites. Although the firearms collection is not large it has some quality, historically important pieces. If you are in the area and are interested Revolutionary War history, as well as the weapons of that period, the Morristown National Historic Park is well worth a visit.

*A Book Review:*  
**FINNISH MOSIN-NAGANT**  
**Three-Line Rifle to Ukko Pekko**

*An important new book by VGCA member Matt DiRisio*

*Review by Marc Gorelick*



This seminal work is the culmination of 15 years of research and collecting by author, historian, and VGCA Life Member Matt DiRisio. Matt has spent the last 15 years collecting Finnish arms and accoutrements. His research extends far beyond the basics of arms collecting: he immersed himself in Finnish culture, history, and even learned the Finnish language in order to facilitate his work. He has made himself, and is recognized as, a world-class authority on the arms of Finland, especially on the Finnish Mosin-Nagant.

This book about the Finnish Mosin-Nagant is the result of an extensive collaboration between the author and some of the most knowledgeable Finnish collectors, contributors, museums, and archives worldwide. It has been in the works for almost five years and encompasses the most complete and detailed work on Finnish small arms in the English language. Not only does it cover all the Finnish Mosin-Nagant models and minutiae, it describes the historical context that influenced the development and production of these rifles, as well as their issuance and use. This comprehensive approach

would not have been possible without including the myriad of other small arms and accessories purchased and captured by Finland. The author's extensive research answers many questions about the Finnish Mosin-Nagant that have puzzled the U.S. collector community for decades. Besides providing extensive details, many of which were unknown to the U.S. collecting community, emphasis is also placed on explaining and correcting common misconceptions.

FINNISH MOSIN-NAGANT is user friendly and easy to read for both novice as well as advanced collectors. It is hardbound with color cover, and is 584 pages long, all of which will be full color. The book has 1,510 color and black & white photographs of which almost 500 are period photographs of the Mosin-Nagant (and many other Finnish small arms) in use. Many of the historical photos have never been seen before in the United States. The book's size is 9.25" by 12.25".

These rifles are usually found only on early production rifles but may have also ended up on later rifles during overhaul that made use of parts cannibalization. Additionally, low m/28 production rifles cannot be fitted with optical sights, although it is unknown if they were built as such or upgraded during a refurbishment.

The nose cap of the m/28 was also modified during the rifle's production run. The early nose cap design featured a two-piece design in which a metal plate was attached to the stock via two screws drilled directly into the wood near the muzzle. This was, in turn, accompanied by a large, sliding metal cap fitted around the barrel and stock. This design allowed for easy access to the stock and muzzle. This design allowed for easy access to the stock and muzzle. This design allowed for easy access to the stock and muzzle.

One of the larger handicaps to the use of certain elements from the selected Russian Mosin-Nagant design was their degradation in potential accuracy. This was because the original sights were far from ideal for precision shooting. While the m/28 utilized a new front sight, it kept the original Konovalov curved rear sight of the Mosin-Nagant m/91.

Short of designing an entirely new rear sight, as would be done with the m/28-30, there was only so much accuracy that could be gained from fine-tuning the Konovalov rear sight assembly. One minor change that the Civil Guard attempted was the fitting of a windage-adjustable aperture to an elongated rear portion of the Konovalov sight leaf. It allowed for a slight lateral adjustment of the rear sight aperture for angular-point correction. This was accomplished by milling down the back portion of the Konovalov rear sight plate and substituting it with a new aperture plate with two small screws on each side. When one side was loosened, and the other side tightened, the rear aperture could be shifted a few millimeters laterally in either direction in a similar manner to the laser front sights on the m/28-30 and m/39. This allowed the rifle's user to adjust the rear sight for windage to a limited degree. Even as a minor measure, these modified Konovalov leaves saw limited service on the m/28 and can also occasionally be found on m/91-24 rifles. In the end, the IIG and Yläkirkko branch purchased by the Civil Guard was capable of better accuracy than their earlier rifles could provide. This resulted in the development of a new rear sight for the m/28 rifle's successor, the m/28-30.



(Fig. 218-1) The rear sight of the m/28 nose cap is most easily distinguished by its one-piece construction, with a small glass-front plate by two screws hidden below the nose cap and above the charging rod in this photo.



(Fig. 218-2) The stock of the "50 rounds" model m/28 is the most distinctive design variation of the m/28. Fully defined by its double along slots on the bottom of the rifle, it is the only Finnish adaptation of the Mosin-Nagant to adopt this approach to sling fitting.



(Fig. 218-3) The nose cap of the m/28 nose cap was a solid, one-piece that was also used on the m/28's successor, the m/28-30. The roughing-up process on later m/28 stock production is also visible.



(Fig. 218-4) The windage-adjustable rear sight on the m/28 approximates the best bit of additional accuracy use of the old Russian Konovalov rear sight. It was difficult to use and was not superior to any other Finnish Mosin-Nagant rear sight, normal being replaced by the Konovalov rear sight on the subsequent m/28-30 rifle. (Photographs by author, courtesy of Steve Sparks.)



## HIGHLIGHTS:

- The most comprehensive collection of information on Finnish sniper rifles ever assembled, featuring the m/27 PH, m/33, m/39 PH, m/39 SOV, m/39-44, and more!
- Detailed descriptions and high quality color photographs of the rarest Mosin-Nagant variants such as the Finnish SAT m/91, Estonian Model 1935, and Polish Karabinek wz. 91/98/25
- The revealing of the origin story and history of the Finnish m/91 B Barrels and their Belgian connection.
- An examination of the heated rivalry between the Finnish Civil Guard's m/28-30 rifle and the Finnish Army's m/27, and how their fusion produced the m/39 rifle.
- In depth photographs and historical information on the little-known Mosin-Nagant .22 caliber training rifles used by

the Finnish Army.

- Gorgeous photographs and information on the plethora of pistols used by Finland during World War II such as the Lahti L-35, Mauser C96, ČZ vz. 38, Polish FB Radom Ng 30, and FN High Power
- An exploration into the Finnish capture, modification, and use of captured SVT-40 semi-automatic rifles.
- Serial data and collecting information on every major Finnish Mosin-Nagant variant.
- An exploration of the origins of the Mosin-Nagant rifle, its history, and its major users around the world over the last century.



- The most in-depth look at Finnish Mosin-Nagant accessories and bayonets ever compiled.
- High quality historical photographs from a variety of sources and Mosin-Nagant rifles from the finest collections known.
- The little-known story of the Finnish Mausers in 7.62x54mmR such as the m/30 and m/34



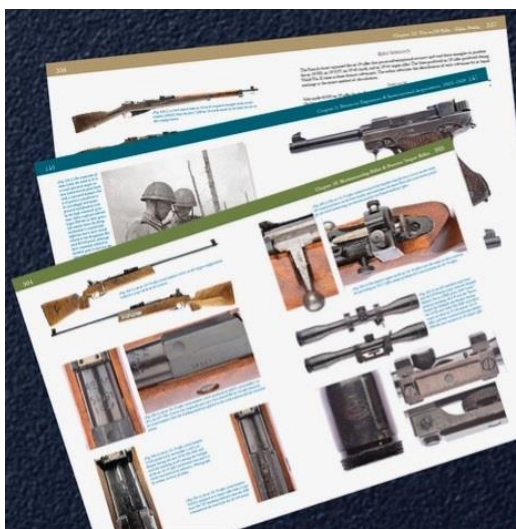
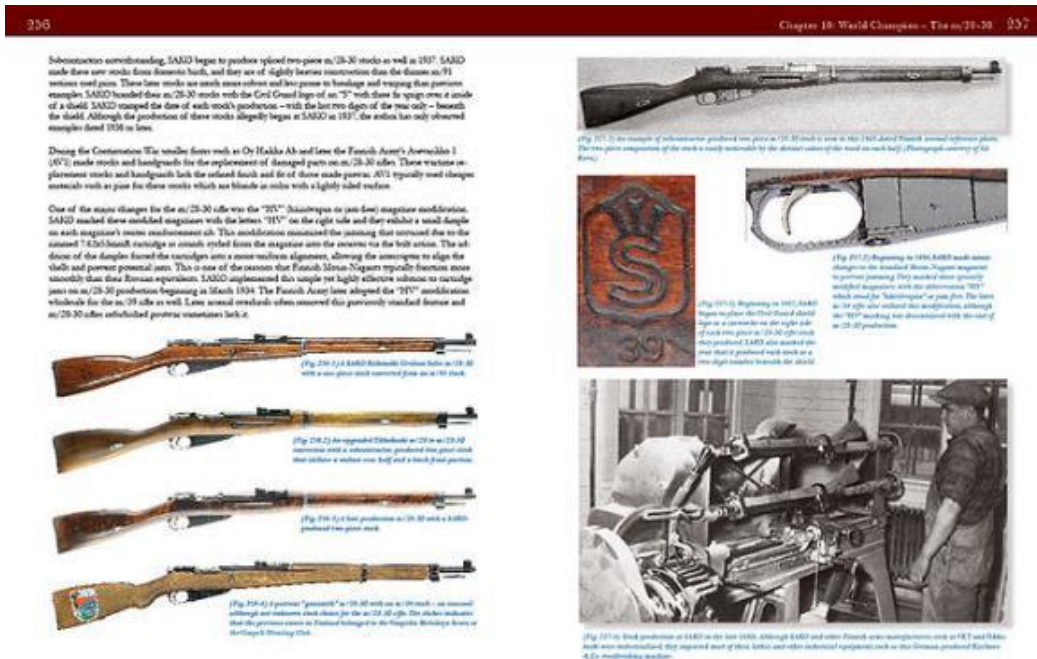
## CHAPTERS:

- 1 The Men Behind the Mosin-Nagant
  - 2 The Mosin-Nagant: Origins and Early Service
  - 3 Around the World with the Mosin-Nagant
  - 4 Finland's Struggle for Survival: 1918 to 1945
  - 5 Domestic Expansion & International Acquisitions
  - 6 The Early Finnish m/91 Rifles: SAT, P-Series, Tikkakoski
  - 7 The m/91-24 - The Lotta Rifle
  - 8 Pystykorva - The m/27 Infantry Rifle
  - 9 Suojeluskuntain Pystykorva – The m/28 Civil Guard Rifle
  - 10 World Champion – The m/28-30
  - 11 Cavalry Rifles - The m/91rv & m/27rv
  - 12 Emergency wartime Production of the m/91
  - 13 The m/39 - “Ukko-Pekka”
  - 14 White Death: Prewar and Wartime Finnish Sniper Rifles
  - 15 The m/91-30 in Finnish Service: Captured and Copied
  - 16 War Booty, White Elephants, and Imported Weaponry
  - 17 Finnish Mosin-Nagant .22 Caliber Training Rifles
  - 18 Marksmanship Rifles and Postwar Sniper Rifles
  - 19 Finnish Bayonets - Unwanted and Unneeded
  - 20 Accessories – Cleaning Kits, Cartridge Pouches, and More
- A: Civil Guard Districts

B: Finnish Unit Identification Discs Abbreviations  
 C: The 1959 InterArms Contract

Matt DiRisio has written a book that is bound to be considered the bible on Finnish Mosin-Nagant rifles. It is a limited edition reference that is printed and bound in the USA. The ISBN number is: 978-0-9981397-4-6. Whether you are a beginning or advanced Mosin-Nagant collector, or just interested in the history of Finland, the Winter War and its firearms, this book is a “must-have” for your library. It is possibly the most comprehensive and important reference on the Finnish Mosin-Nagant to be published in the United States. No self-respecting firearms library should be without it.

See separate ordering information in this newsletter. Some sample pages are illustrated below.



# ★ Show-n-Tell ★

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

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## VGCA Show-n-Tell Fact Sheet

Manufacturer: \_\_\_\_\_

Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Action Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Caliber: \_\_\_\_\_

Years of Production: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Produced: \_\_\_\_\_

Year this example was manufactured (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Significance: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Question(s) for members: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Where acquired (optional): \_\_\_\_\_ When acquired (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

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**NOTE: Due to size of the Nov-Dec 2023 VGCA Newsletter, the descriptions of the October Show-n-Tell items have been postponed until the January 2024 Newsletter.**



# ★ Upcoming Events and Shows ★

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

## VIRGINIA – 2023-2024

- Nov 25-26, 2023 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK*
- Dec 2-3, 2023 – Fishersville, VA – Augusta Expo – *Showmasters*
- Dec 9-10, 2023 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fredericksburg Expo and Convention Center – *SGK*
- Dec 16-17, 2023 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center – *C&E Gun Shows*
- Dec 29-31, 2023 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- Jan 6-7, 2024 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex – *Showmasters*
- Jan 13-14, 2024 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK*
- Jan 20-21, 2024 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center – *C&E Gun Shows*
- Jan 27-28, 2024 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fredericksburg Expo and Convention Center – *SGK*
- Jan 27-28, 2024 – Fishersville, VA – Augusta Expo – *Showmasters*
- Feb 10-11, 2024 – Virginia Beach, VA – Virginia Beach Convention Center – *SGK*
- Feb 24-25, 2024 – Doswell, VA – Meadow Event Park – *SGK*

## MARYLAND – 2023-2024

- Dec 9-10, 2023 – West Friendship, MD – Howard County Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Feb 24-25, 2024 – Easton, MD – Easton Vol Fire Department – *Granite Lodge #177*
- Mar 16-17, 2024 – Timonium, MD – Maryland State Fairgrounds – *Maryland Arms Collectors Association – the Baltimore Antique Arms Show*

## PENNSYLVANIA – 2023-2024

- Dec 1-3, 2023 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds – *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*
- Dec 2-3, 2023 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center – *Showmasters*
- Dec 2-3, 2023 – Quarryville, PA – Solanco Fairgrounds – *Eagle Shows*
- ~~Dec 2-3, 2023 – Sellersville, PA – Forrest Lodge VFW – *Jaeger Arms* - CANCELED~~
- Dec 6-8, 2023 – Denver, PA – Morphy Auctions – *Morphy Firearms and Militaria Auction*
- Dec 9-10, 2023 – Harrisburg, PA – PA Farm Show Complex – *C&E*
- Dec 9-10, 2023 – Trevese, PA – Radisson Philadelphia Northeast – *Eagle Shows*
- Dec 15-17, 2023 – Oaks, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Shows*
- Dec 30-31, 2023 – Allentown, PA – ParkView Inn & Conference Center – *Eagle Shows*
- Jan 6-7, 2024 – Morgantown, PA – Morgantown Expo Center – *Eagle Shows*
- Jan 13-14, 2024 – Matamoras, PA – Best Western Inn at Hunt's Landing – *Westchester Collectors Inc.*
- Jan 13-14, 2024 – Lake Harmony, PA – Split Rock Resort – *Eagle Shows*
- Jan 13-14, 2024 – Matamoras, PA – Best Western Inn at Hunt's Landing – *Westchester Collectors Inc.*
- Jan 13-14, 2024 – Washington, PA – Washington PA County Fairgrounds – *ARH Sport Shop*
- Jan 20-21, 2024 – Lebanon, PA – Lebanon Valley Expo Center & Fairgrounds – *Eagle Shows*
- Jan 27-28, 2024 – Quarryville, PA – Southern Lancaster County Fairgrounds – *Eagle Shows*
- Jan 27-28, 2024 – Trevese, PA – Radisson Philadelphia Northeast – *Eagle Shows*
- Feb 3-4, 2024 – Gettysburg, PA – Allstar Events Complex – *Eagle Shows*

## PENNSYLVANIA – 2024 (continued)

- Feb 3-11, 2024 – Harrisburg, PA – Farm Show Complex – NRA – *Great American Outdoor Show*
- Feb 9-11, 2024 – Oaks, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Shows*
- Feb 10-11, 2024 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center – *Showmasters*
- Feb 17-18, 2024 – Bloomsburg, PA – Bloomsburg Fairgrounds – *Eagle Shows*
- Feb 17-18, 2024 – Hermitage, PA – Veterans of Foreign Wars – *Canon's Gun Room*
- Feb 24-25, 2024 – Allentown, PA - ParkView Inn & Conference Center - *Eagle Shows*
- Feb 24-25, 2024 – Ellwood City, PA – Wurtemberg-Perry Fire Hall – *W&P Twp Fire*

## SPECIAL EVENTS / SHOWS – 2023

- Jan 13-14, 2024 - Wilmington, OH – Roberts Convention Centre – *Ohio Gun Collectors Association* – Special Guests: Single Action Shooting Society
- Mar 9-10, 2024 - Wilmington, OH – Roberts Convention Centre – *Ohio Gun Collectors Association*

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## 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](mailto: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.

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## FOR SALE:

**PRE-PUBLICATION SPECIAL OFFER! ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!**

# **FINNISH MOSIN-NAGANT**

## **THREE LINE RIFLE TO UKKO PEKKO**

**By VGCA Member Matt DiRisio**

✪ This important new reference book is currently available for pre-publication ordering at the reduced price of only \$84.95. Order now and save money because once the book is published the list price go up to \$99.95



FINNISH MOSIN-NAGANT is published by Wet Dog Publications. The list price will be \$99.95. It is 584 pages long with over 1,500 color and black and white photographs. It is currently available for pre-order at a special price of only \$84.95. The goal is to ship the books before Christmas 2023. Customers who order early will receive an autographed book with an original limited edition art print, numbered and signed by the author. During research the author and his father uncovered the original Bannerman print plate depicting the Mosin-Nagant and other World War I rifles. The author's father, James, acquired the print plate and a limited series of 500 art prints were printed for the book's release. These are printed on their own 1925 Poco "O" proof press and 1863 Gordon Jobber press! These presses and the traditional printing business have been in the DiRisio family for generations and are now used to create this hand

printed artwork (no digital means, each print is done by hand with ink, print plate, and pressure as it was done with each Bannerman catalog). Numbered prints will be shipped in the sequence of the orders received, first order will receive No.1, second order will receive No.2, etc. Requests for special numbers are welcome but will only be honored if the number is available!

For ordering information go to the Wet Dog Publications website at:

<https://www.fnbrowning.com/book-finnish-mosin-nagant>.

**Read the review of this exciting new book in this issue of the VGCA Newsletter.**

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#### **FOR SALE:**

✦ After more than two and a half years of research, VGCA member Bill Vanderpool has published his book **Guns of the FBI**. This book is available at GunDigest.com or can be purchased directly from Bill by calling 703-626-2975. He is more than happy to sign a copy for you. Cost is \$50.00.

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#### **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](mailto:usarmsresearch@gmail.com)

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#### **FOR SALE:**

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

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The e-mail address for any Newsletter-related matters is [Newsletter@vgca.net](mailto:Newsletter@vgca.net) - or you can reach the editor directly at [rpebecker@verizon.net](mailto: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.