



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

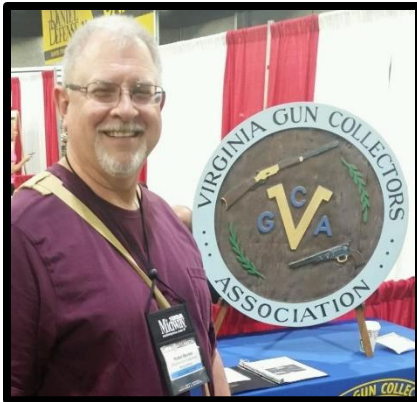
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November-December 2024 VGCA Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Greetings all—

It looks like winter is upon us. The days are cold and blustery and the sun bids farewell all too early each evening. Yep – winter is here.

With winter comes our annual Holiday Potluck Dinner and Swap Meet. This year it will be on Saturday, December 7th at

the NRA Conference Room starting at 5 p.m. As usual, the VGCA will be providing a ham, and we ask that everyone coming to share this meal bring a side dish or dessert. While there will not be a presentation on the 7th, we will be making a donation to the National Firearms Museum. It will also be your last opportunity to vote for the 2024 VGCA Member of the Year.

Also on the 7th, starting at 10 a.m., member Francis Torres will be taking pictures of guns to showcase on his Instagram account “Cinematic Arms” as well as for us to use on VGCA social media accounts. If you are interested in having one or more of your firearms professionally photographed and featured in the public domain, please stop by the NRA conference room sometime between 10 a.m. & 5 p.m. Francis will also provide the owner with a nicely formatted set of pictures of their firearm. It should be a very good day!

I wish you and yours all the best this holiday season and I hope to see you on Saturday!

Rob Becker, VGCA President

★ October Presentation

Assault Rifle 101 – the AK-47

Member Bryan Pelton (*right*) delivered a multi-media marvel on “Assault Rifles 101 – the AK-47.” He began by summarizing the development of military infantry long arms over the 100+ years before the AK-47 (*see table below*).



Type	Propellent	Rate of Fire	Range
Muzzle loader	Black Powder	1 to 3 rounds per minute	Short (100-200 meters)
Breech Loader	Black Powder	6 to 10 rounds per minute	Still relatively short
Bolt Action	Smokeless Powder	Up to 30 rounds per minute	Much improved (400 meters +)

Beginning in the 1890s, military bolt action rifles were typically chambered in high power smokeless powder calibers such as the German Mauser in 7.92x57 Mauser, the British Lee-Enfield in .303, and the Russian Mosin-Nagant in 7.62x54 Rimmed. These high power rounds offered the promise of extremely long-range engagements and militaries quickly adopted rifles with rear sights graduated out as far 2000 meters. Many militaries, including the United States with adoption of the Model 1903 rifle in .30/03 (later .30/06) caliber fell victim to this “cult of marksmanship” with unrealistic expectations of very long-range small arms engagements. The Germans even went so far as calibrating the rear sight on their Gewehr 98 rifle with a minimum range of 400 meters. Presumably, all future combat would take place beyond 400 meters! World War I would begin to disprove this theory.

The next major upgrade in infantry small arms would be the development of semi-automatic rifles, starting before WWI and continuing through WWII. The best examples of these would be the Russian SVT38/SVT40, the German G41/G43, and the U.S. M1 Garand. These rifles were all semi-automatic only and fired their respective country’s full power cartridges.

At this point, Bryan defined the term “Assault Rifle.” The term has its origins in WWI. Germany fielded special units designed to quickly capture a section of allied trench that could be exploited by regular soldiers. These special soldiers were armed with the first sub-machinegun (the MP18) and were designated “assault troops.” Assault troops need an appropriate assault rifle with the following three features:

1. Select Fire (can be switched between semi-automatic and automatic fire)
2. Chambered in an intermediate caliber
3. Utilizes a detachable magazine

The FG-42, developed for German paratroopers during WWII, almost meets these criteria but was chambered for the full power 7.92x57 cartridge. Analysis of infantry combat revealed that most engagements occurred at 300 meters or less. Full power cartridge, such as the .303 British, the U.S. .30/06, the 7.62x54R Russian, and the 7.92x57 German Mauser rounds, were far more than was needed

for a 300 meter engagement. Therefore, most infantry soldiers carried heavier ammo that recoiled more than necessary for the typical battle. An intermediate cartridge was called for, which the Germans did with their 7.92x33 Kurz round. Chambered in the select-fire Mkb42, which led to the MP43, the MP44, and finally the Stg44, all of which are justifiably referred to as the first true assault rifle (*below*).

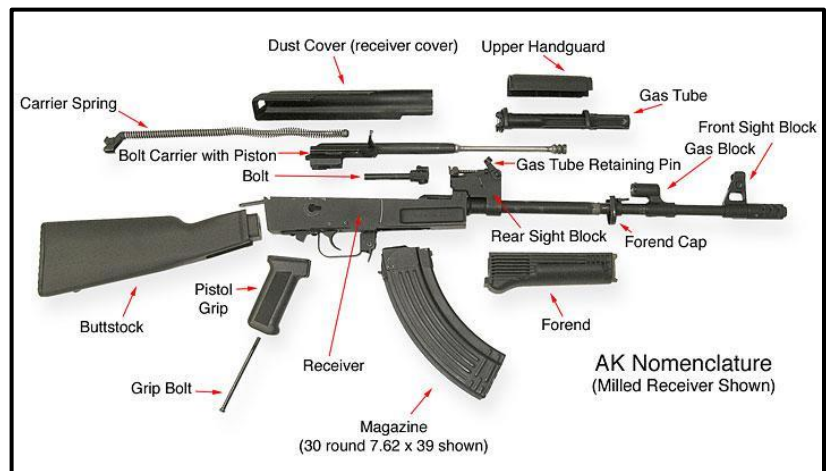


The Russians quickly developed a similar round – the 7.62x41 (some sources claim the development of this round began prior to the German invasion of the USSR in 1941). This heavily tapered round would be shortened to 7.62x39 and designated the M43. Late in WWII, the Soviet Army had an intermediate cartridge. Now the Russians needed a weapon to fire the new M43 round. Enter Mikhail Kalashnikov.

Kalashnikov’s story is known to most of us. He was a tanker in the Soviet Army, wounded in action in 1941 and sent a hospital to recover. During his recuperation, he spent his spare time tinkering and designed a new submachine gun. Though this effort was not successful, it did result in his design talents being recognized and from 1942 on, he was assigned to the Central Scientific-developmental Firing Range for Rifle Firearms of the Chief Artillery Directorate of the Red Army. His design philosophy was straight forward: any new weapon had to be simple, effective, and reliable.

He started design work in 1944 on a new semi-automatic carbine designed around the new 7.62x39 cartridge. His design incorporated features from the German Stg44 as well the American M1 Garand, but lost out to what would ultimately become Simonov’s SKS45.

In 1946 he began to work on a series of prototype assault rifles that a year later would culminate in the AK47 (*right*). The AK47 is select fire weapon with a detachable box magazine. It has an



effective range of 350 meters and a rate of fire of approximately 600 rounds per minute.

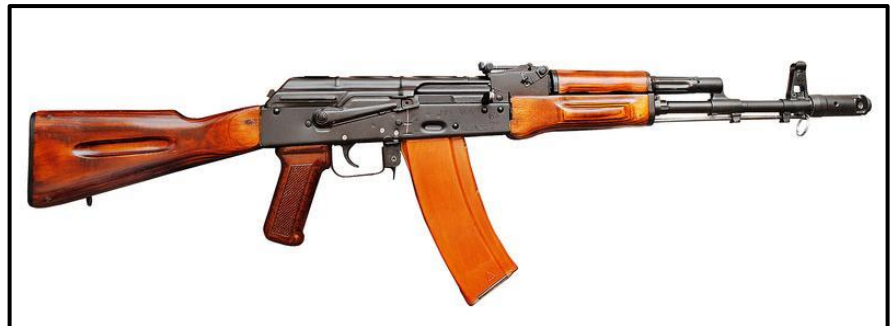
The AK47 was the initial design that would eventually see as many as 125,000,000 produced around the world in a myriad of variations. Throughout this entire period covering almost 8 decades of production, certain design features (both positive and negative) remained constant. They are:

- Utilized simple, robust, and loose-fitting parts
- Incorporated open spaces between parts to give dirt a place to go
- Does not have a last round bolt open
- Has a noisy fire selection lever
- Has a short sight radius
- "Tilt Lock" magazine changes can be slow

Early development AK47s had stamped sheet metal receivers. Soviet production methods were not able to successfully manufacture stamped receivers at the time, so the first AK47 production model featured a heavier, milled receiver. Later, stamped receivers proved feasible and the AKM was fielded in 1959. Following the AKM was a folding stock version designated the AKMS.

Various magazines were produced alongside the different AK variants. Most were 30-round box magazines, but there were also 40-round box mags, 75 and 100-round drum magazines, and a 100-round half-moon box mag whose bottom attached to the muzzle (experimental magazine for paratroopers).

Bryan briefly reviewed Eugene Stoner's AR-10 (in 7.62x51 NATO) and AR-15 (in 5.56x45 NATO) designs. Seeing the benefits of a smaller caliber (lighter round means more ammunition can be carried by the soldier and less recoil means it is easier to train new troops), the Soviet Army adopted the 5.45x39 round. The AK was re-designed for this new caliber and adopted as the AK74 (*right*). The new round had less body taper than the 7.62x39 and thus the magazine profile was straighter/less curved. The AK74 had an effective range out to 500 meters.



The AK was adopted by more than 90 countries and was produced in 32! AK47 copies include the Chinese Type 56, Hungarian AMD65, Yugoslavian M70/M70AB2, Finnish M62 and M76, Indian INSAS, and Israeli Galil ARM. Other variants include the aforementioned AK74, the AK74U (the "Krinkov"), the PP-19 "Bizon" (in 9mm), the AK101/102, the AK12, the Saiga 12 (shotgun), and the RPK.

The AK47 is an iconic firearm whose distinctive profile came to represent our adversaries throughout the Cold War. It is also a story that includes a small connection with the VGCA, as our organization in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institution funded Kalashnikov's trip to the United States to meet Eugene Stoner at the end of the Cold War. Bryan presented an informative and entertaining multi-media extravaganza on what is one of the most influential firearms in history. Thank you sir!

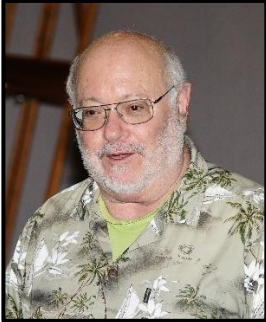




★ October Meeting Notes

The meeting was called to order by VGCA President, Rob Becker at 7:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Ed Costello and a moment of silence. There were 44 members and guests in attendance and an additional 6 people participated via webinar.

Since this meeting was immediately following our Fall Gun Show a complete report was not available, but it was announced we had rented all of our tables and had 538 paid attendees. The Virginia State Police representative stated there were more than 100 firearm transfers registered over the course of the weekend and that our show has the most private transfers of any show in Virginia!



Mark Gorelick (*left*) briefed the membership on the “VGCA Member of the Year” program and invited all members present to vote for the member (non-officer or director). See details on page 18.

Members of the Trigger Time 4H shooting club gave an update on their activities. Three of their shooters have earned Distinguished Shooter Badges and the team has placed highly in various matches. Over 70 kids have taken part in their program this year. Trigger Time has received support over the years from the VGCA and it is good to see their enthusiasm for and

success in the shooting sports!

Rob (*at right*) went over the plans for the Knight’s Armament Tour in Florida on November 1st and also outlined the upcoming field trip to the Marine Corps Museum in Quantico, VA on November 16th.



It was announced that there will be no monthly membership meeting in November due to the Thanksgiving holiday and the next meeting will be the Annual Holiday Potluck on Saturday, 7 December (details below).

Mark Gorelick asked for some help from the membership. He is seeking information on an early gun maker named Silas Crispin. Anyone with knowledge of Mr. Crispin should contact Marc directly.

★ Next Membership Meeting: December 7th Annual Holiday Party Potluck & Swap Meet Location: NRA HQ Basement Auditorium

Our December VGCA Membership Meeting, annual Holiday Potluck Dinner, and Swap Meet will be in the basement auditorium of the NRA Headquarters. The room will open at 10 a.m. for those members who would like to bring guns to be photographed and featured in future VGCA social media posts with dinner starting at 4 p.m. VGCA will provide the ham, and we ask those attending to bring a side dish or dessert. We hope you can make it!



★ 2024-2025 Presentation List ★

MEETING DATE	TOPIC	PRESENTER
07 Dec 2024	Annual Holiday Potluck & Swap Meet – no presentation	
23 Jan 2025	The Winchester Winder Musket	Rob Becker
27 Feb 2025	The Winchester Model 1894/Model 94	George Dungan
27 Mar 2025	North-South Skirmish Association Competition Firearms	Jim Burgess
April 2025	No meeting due to our Spring Gun Show	

If you have any presentation suggestions – or would like to make a presentation yourself in 2025 – please contact Matthew G. at matthewofmclean@gmail.com or one of the VGCA officers or directors.

★ We need your help!

Do you love history and firearms, are reasonably organized, have a decent command of the English language, possess fair computer skills, and can dedicate a few hours each month to the VGCA? Then you may be just the person to take over as our newsletter editor! Rob Becker will continue as our editor through the January 2025 issue but is looking for some relief. If you think this is something you would be willing to take on, please contact any officers or directors.

★ First Field Trip of the New Year

We will conduct our first field trip of 2025 – to the Manassas Battlefield on Saturday, March 29th. Starting at 9:30 a.m. and guided by VGCA President emeritus Jim Burgess, we will tour the sites of the First Manassas battlefield (July 21, 1861) in the morning, break for lunch, and then tour the sites of Second Manassas (August 28-30, 1862) in the afternoon. We should finish around 4 p.m. If you are interested in participating, a sign-up list will be available at future membership meetings or you can send an email to Rob Becker at rpebecker@verizon.net.



Look for future articles on our trips to the Institute of Military Technology and National Museum of the Marine Corps in the January 2025 Newsletter.

VGCA Fall Gun Show

By Rob Becker

It is another fall, which means it is time for another VGCA Fall Gun Show! For the second time, our show was held at the Dale City Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1503 and for the second time it was a big success. While the numbers through the door were not what we had hoped, it was still a good weekend of firearms transfers and gun collector fellowship.



The credit for this success goes to our Show Director, Andrew Woodard (*at the far left, discussing show execution with VGCA Treasurer Shannon Zeigler*), and our Show Security Chief, Al Reid. Without their leadership, energy, and expertise and the efforts of our volunteers, we would not be able to execute a show at all, much less a successful one. The next time you see them, please give them your thanks.

Speaking of volunteers, I want to personally thank the following members who worked shifts at security and/or the membership table:

Jim Burgess
Bruce Buchner
Bob Candido
Tom Ciarula

Doug Gravatt
Dan Helm
Tor Johnson
Bill Ludwig

Rich McCormack
Bryan Pelton
Chuck Schafer
Brent Sheltz

Keith Simmons
Elijah Souder
Clayton Vieg
Carl Warhurst

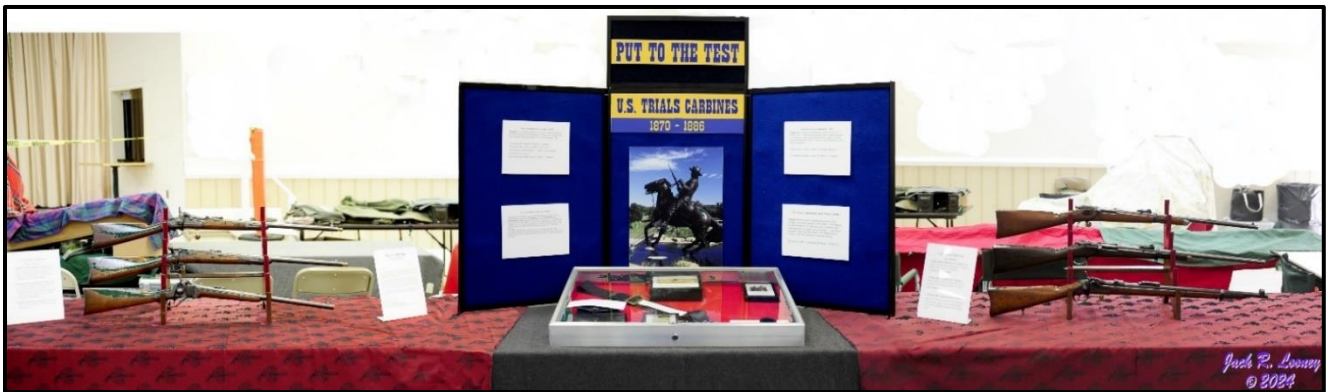
Additional kudos go out to Jack Looney, who not only provided night security in the facility for both nights of the show, but who also took the professional-quality photographs of our displays. A special “thank you” is extended to Jim Burgess, who manned our evaluation table and organized our display judging. And more thanks are extended to Bruce Buchner, who not only organized our membership table but also ran our 50/50 Raffle. That raffle netted both the lucky winner and the VGCA \$180 each!

Several vendors reported good sales activity (*note dealer and former VGCA President Ed Costello concluding another sale at right*). I was told by the Virginia State Police representative that over 100 firearms transfers were called in for background checks over that weekend. He also noted that our show has the highest number of individual (non-dealer) transfers of any gun show in Virginia. That is another feather in our cap!



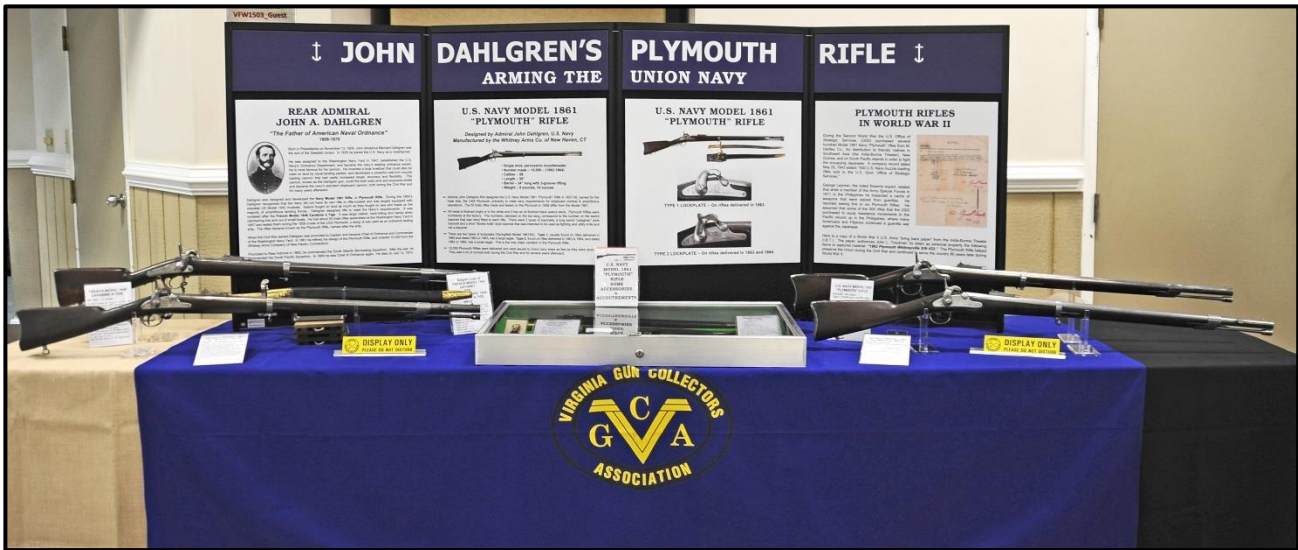
Though I thoroughly enjoy talking to the customers and vendors as well as looking at the guns for sale myself (I did buy a French Berthier M-16 carbine that you may see in a future display – thanks Bryan!), my favorite part of our shows are the displays. This show was no exception as there were some truly world-class museum quality firearms on display. Judging was tight, but the winners were:

1 st Place	Put to the Test – U.S. Trials Carbines 1870-1886	John Vagnetti
2 nd Place	John Dahlgren’s Plymouth Rifle – Arming the Union Navy	Marc Gorelick
3 rd Place	The Italian M1	Troy Blackwood and Lou DiGaetano
Non-Judged	Weapons and Equipment of WWI	
Best Antique Firearm	U.S. Navy Model 1861 “Plymouth” Rifle No. 637	Marc Gorelick
Best Military Firearm	Winchester-Hotchkiss Carbine (1 st Model)	John Vagnetti



John Vagnetti’s (far left, receiving his well-deserved 1st Place award from VGCA President Rob Becker) display of U.S. Trials Carbines (above) was a phenomenal collection of rare pieces in beautiful condition. His Winchester Hotchkiss 1st Model Carbine (below) took “Best Military Firearm” and was in absolutely mint condition!





Marc Gorelick's display of U.S. Navy "Plymouth" Rifles and accessories (*above and at right*) was also world-class and garnered 2nd Place in our judging. His Model 1861 No. 637 (*bottom rifle below*) was among the first 700 delivered without gradations on the rear sight leaf. Most were sent back to be the manufacturer to be fixed, but this one was probably already issued to a ship and is one of the very few that never received the upgrade!





Our resident experts on things Italian, Troy Blackwood and Louis DiGaetano (*at far right, explaining some of the displays details to member Richard Jones*) put together a great display on the Italian M1 (*above*). This display earned 3rd Place.



Our last display is Paul Veneziano's (*left foreground*) "Weapons and Equipment of World War I." This extensive multi-table display has been exhibited before and is thus ineligible for judging, but it remains a crowd pleaser!

Our Spring Gun Show is scheduled for April 5-6, 2025. I hope to see you there!



VGCA GUNS OF DISTINCTION:

A DEADLY BEAUTY – JOSEF HAMBRUSCH DANGEROUS GAME DOUBLE RIFLE

By Marc Gorelick

Photos courtesy of Joh. Springers Erben, Vienna, Austria



The oldest family-owned gun maker in the Austrian gun making center of Ferlach is that of Hambrusch (formerly Joseph Hambrusch until 1989). First documented on April 24, 1752, and now led by the 11th generation of the family, Hambrusch is continuing the tradition of making masterpieces. The company produces custom hunting guns which are treasured for their “best gun” quality, beauty, reliability and accuracy. The company’s products are a synthesis of old-world craftsmanship and modern technology and this gun is no exception. It positively exudes a deadly elegance.



This magnificent side by side double rifle is chambered in .470 Nitro Express and is capable of bringing down the most “dangerous game.” It has 25 inch (63.5 cm) long chopper-lump barrels, with a quarter rib engraved with calibre designation, express sights with an additional folding leaf, and a hinged front Holland & Holland type night sight with ivory insert. It also has gold ribbon inlaid breeches, colour hardened action, Anson & Deeley boxlock with hanging sears, side bolsters and action bottom are engraved with 50 % bold scroll, gold inlaid maker’s name on the action bottom, gold inlaid serial number, a sliding tang safety with gold inlaid letter “S” and gold washed double triggers with an articulated front blade.





The exquisite heavily grained select burr walnut stock positively glows. It has a semi beavertail-fore-end, Deeley latch, and inletted eyes for detachable sling swivels and a thick rubber recoil pad. It is topped by a pivot mounted Swarovski Z6i Gen. II 1-6x24.



Made in 2016, this superb example of the gun maker's art is a handy dangerous game rifle of the best hand-made quality that recently sold at a Joh. Springer's auction in Vienna, Austria for the princely sum of \$32,359 (28,000 euros).



HAMPTON ROADS MILITARY SOCIETY

The Hampton Roads Militaria Society (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 2nd Tuesday of each month, but this can vary. The HRMS is a sister organization to the VGCA and VGCA members are welcome to participate as guests in their meetings and tours. Upcoming meetings (at Rescue Squad No. 8 at 1243 Bayne Drive in VA Beach) are:

10 Dec 2024 "U.S. Land Battles starting in July 1918 with the Rock of the Marne and Turning the Tide"
by Jim Paschall



★ Membership Chairman's Report – Nov-Dec

Since the last newsletter we have had the following applicants to the VGCA:

- **Marcus Trigg** of **Springfield** sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**
- **Oscar Reaz** of **Sterling** sponsored by **Philip Hill**
- **Todd Sigety** of **Alexandria** sponsored by **Chuck Schafer**
- **Jonathan McDonald** of **Manassas Park** sponsored by **Chuck Schafer**
- **Michael Pirnie** of **McLean** sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**
- **Franklin Rhys** of **Smithfield** sponsored by **Keith Simmons**
- **Brian Jones** of **California** sponsored by **Keith Simmons**
- **Joseph Fink** of **Casselberry, FL** sponsored by **Bernie Breighner**

Please welcome the following new members to our organization:

- **Mark Girard** of Dumfries, VA
- **Dylan Starr** of Falls Church, VA

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. **If you sponsor a candidate, either at one of our membership tables or elsewhere, please make sure that you fill in and sign the Sponsor page.**

Notice to New Member Sponsors: VGCA has discontinued hard copy versions of the VGCA Newsletters. *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 438 Life members and 90 Annual Members for a total of 528 members in the Virginia Gun Collectors Association, Inc.

Recruiting: **Thank** you to everyone who has worked our membership tables in the past and those of you who have signed up new members. Your efforts bring more knowledge to our organization through the new members who have an interest in gun collecting. Membership in the VGCA is a great way for people with an interest in the history, development, and use of firearms to broaden their knowledge and pass what they know on to others. It also offers the opportunity to network with individuals who have similar interests. To help facilitate new membership we have a Membership Table at every Chantilly gun show and also at our VGCA gun shows.

Membership Table at upcoming gun shows: The next gun shows at the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly are the weekends of November 22nd and December 27th. If you would like to work a shift or two at our membership table, please contact Bruce at buchnerb@cox.net.

Membership Renewal: **I have gone through the roster and deleted all names that are not current on dues. If you wish to continue receiving the Newsletter, getting in to the VGCA gun shows for free, and other benefits that come with membership please get current on your dues.** 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 and I will let you know.

George Dungan, Vice President and Membership Chair

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

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

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Please detach and return with your payment.

Membership Renewal Request (AMR-2023_Oct)
VGCA, Inc., P.O. Box 328, Manassas, VA 20108

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 or call me at 571-243-6387.

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CMP UPDATE

By Marc Gorelick, CMP Liaison

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

AMMUNITION FOR SALE AT THE CMP E-STORE



The Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) has a variety of commercial and surplus ammunition for sale at the CMP e-Store. Go to the e-Store website at <https://shop.thecmp.org/browse/Ammo> to see what is available, ordering instructions, and prices (including shipping and handling).

At the time of this writing, the available ammunition includes:

- .22 cal. ARSMCOR High Velocity 36 grain
- .22 cal. surplus ammo, 500 rounds per brick
- .45 cal. surplus ammo, 200 rounds per box
- Creedmoor 9mm Match Grade Ammo, HP 115 Grain. 250 rounds/case
- Creedmoor Sports .223 cal. 77 grain Core XTC 200 rounds/case
- Creedmoor Sports 10mm, 180 XTP, 320 rounds /case
- Creedmoor Sports .223 cal. Match Tipped Premium XTC, 77 grain, 200 rounds/case
- Federal Blazer Brass casing .40 cal. S&W, 165 grain Full Metal Jacket, 1000rounds/case
- Federal Blazer Brass casing .45ACP, 230grain Full Metal Jacket, 50 rounds/box
- Federal Blazer Brass casing 9mm, 115grain, Full Metal Jacket, 50 rounds/box
- Federal Blazer Brass casing 9mm, 124grain, Full Metal Jacket, 50 rounds/box
- Hornady .30-40 Krag, 180 grain, SST, 200 Rounds/case
- Hornady .45 Auto, 185 GR XTP AG, 20 rounds/box
- Hornady 9mm Luger, 115 GR FTX CD, 25 rounds/box



The CMP has limited quantities of these products. The items will be restocked once they are sold out. However, the restocking date is dependent on the manufacturers' production schedules and is unknown at this time. So don't delay if you are thinking of ordering ammunition from the CMP.

GIVE A CMP GIFT CERTIFICATE FOR THE HOLIDAYS



The CMP offers 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 collectors and shooters. You can order Gift Certificates from the online CMP e-Store at https://thecmp.org/cmp_sales/cmp-gift-certificates-2/.

- To order a CMP gift certificate by mail, download the CMP order form and send in Form 3A with payment.
- Contact the CMP Customer Service Department at hello@thecmp.org or (256) 835-8455 for additional details.

CMP Gift Certificates, printed on quality, full color paper, can be purchased in any amount, with a minimum of \$20 and a maximum of \$1,500. VGCA members can purchase certificates by mail order or at any of the CMP stores, ranges, including the air gun ranges in Ohio (Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center at Camp Perry) and Alabama (South Competition Center in Anniston), as well as at the CMP's Talladega Marksmanship Park in Talladega, Ala.

Certificates are to be treated the same as cash and are non-refundable and non-replaceable if lost or stolen. They are valid for one year from the issue date and are only redeemable for goods and services not exceeding the remaining credit balance.

2025 ADVANCED MAINTENANCE CLASS SCHEDULE

The CMP announced the upcoming dates for the 2025 Advanced Maintenance Class (AMC). The AMC is a three-day course in Anniston, Alabama, for those who wish to take their knowledge of the M1 Garand rifle to the next level. Set within CMP's Custom Shop, the AMC offers participants the chance to receive unparalleled, one-on-one, training from experienced CMP armorers on head space, barrel installation, component function, maintenance and more – all as students build their personal rifles from CMP's arsenal of authentic M1 Garand parts. Students will also receive a guided visit to the CMP South Store and Talladega Marksmanship

Park to view the grounds and to test fire their newly built rifles. Those attending the AMC will be able to personally choose the parts for their constructed M1 Garand.

Due to the popularity of the classes, registration for the AMC will be based on a random drawing system. **Registration for the drawing will be open November 1 to December 31, 2024.** Registering for multiple classes is permitted, but no applicant will be selected for more than one slot. Former AMC participants are welcome to sign up for 2025.

The 2025 dates include:

- **March 4-9, 2025**
- **April 8-13, 2025**
- **May 13-18, 2025**
- **June 17-22, 2025**
- **August 19-24, 2025**
- **Sept. 9-14, 2025**
- **Oct. 7-12, 2025**

Those interested in the AMC will find more information or enter into the random drawing through the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/training-tech/advanced-maintenance-class/>. Any questions regarding the 2025 AMC or for online registration questions may be directed to Hector Lopez-Perez at hlopez.perez@thecmp.org or call (256) 835-8455, ext. 513.

M1911 SALES UPDATE



The CMP announced that it is still several months until it can resume the sale and transfer of M1911 Pistols. The delay was caused by “a significant loss of accountability of a number of M1911's.” These pistols, while under the control and custody of the CMP, remain Army property until purchased by qualified US citizens and over the past 5 months the CMP invested significant resources, and reinvented and reorganized the organization and operation to ensure that this situation never

happens again. Round Four orders will be fulfilled once sales resume; followed by new orders. The CMP reported that it has a large quantity of pistols on hand and can fulfill all Round Four orders and many thousands more once it resumes sales. After Round Four the CMP plans to proceed with an open and continuous order process (no more rounds) and fulfill orders on a first received-first fulfilled basis. The CMP will provide guidance when it has a better idea of when sales will resume. It expects the two pistols/person per lifetime limit to remain in effect at least for the next year. Go to the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/sales-and-service/1911-information/> for additional information and updates.





**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 publicly recognizing a member in good standing who selflessly went above and beyond for the club or for collecting during 2024. **All VGCA members except elected Board members are eligible to receive the award. Elected Board members are NOT 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 2024). 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:

- Writing articles or books about guns to further collecting
- Volunteering for show 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 representing the VGCA
- Giving presentations at meetings
- Promoting the VGCA or gun collecting as a whole, (such as at the VGCA table at Chantilly)
- Putting on displays at our shows and other shows to promote 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 2024.
Come to the meetings and vote for your choice.**

★ In Review - Museum ★

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: THE BERMAN MUSEUM in ANNISTON, ALABAMA Part 2

By Marc Gorelick

This is the second part of a two-part review of the weapons collection (and other exhibits) at the Berman Museum in Anniston, Alabama. Part 1 recounted some of the history of Farley Berman and his wife Germaine. Farley was a U.S. Army intelligence officer serving with the Office of Strategic Services during World War II. Germaine was with the Free French intelligence organization. As such, they both had an abiding interest in the “tools of the trade” and that is reflected in their collecting and the exhibits in the museum. One of the galleries in the museum is devoted to those “tools of the trade,” specifically the hidden and disguised weapons that agents used to protect themselves, or to assassinate enemies.

In keeping with his history as an intelligence officer, Berman was coy about the sources of many of his acquisitions. Some he said, simply magically appeared on his doorstep or in his house. Others he supposedly brought home in his army bedroll. When someone asked him how he managed to acquire Adolph Hitler’s silver tea service, he said: “That’s a good question. Next question.”

As Louis Winant said in his book **Firearms Curiosa**, “Inventors have overlooked few objects that could be used to conceal a firearm. Further, these inventors have realized that the more innocent and unexpected the cover for the gun the better the chance for surprise attack.”



*Disguised Japanese cane sword, 1550. With the grip and sheath fluted to imitate a tree branch, this sword cane was made by Kyushu Higo Do-tanuki Kazusanosuke, swordsmith to Toyotomi Hideyoshi’s general Kato Kiyomasa.
Photo – author.*

The gallery, entitled Danger, Deception and Disguise, pays tribute to the Berman’s roles as intelligence operatives during the war and displays much of their extensive collection of disguised weapons, most of which are guns. The display starts in antiquity and moves quickly through disguised and hidden edged weapons from many ages and countries, such as cane swords and knives hidden in pens, a poison ring, a cross with a concealed dagger from 15th century England, or an assassin’s wand also purportedly from 15th century England that when pulled apart revealed a poison needle. There are also assassins’ weapons

from Asia such as Japanese shuriken used by Shinobi (ninjas), an Indian Bagh Nakh “Tiger’s Claw,” a poison arrow from Persia, and poisoned blowgun darts from Malaysia.



Wallet gun from the early 1800's. This “wallet” is a cut out block covered in leather hiding a small screw-barrel flintlock pistol. The pistol is cocked by pulling a cord and fired by pressing a knob on the outside of the “wallet.”
Photo – author.

The more interesting part of the display for gun collectors are the disguised guns, especially those used by espionage agents. The examples start with small flintlock guns from the early 1800's that were hidden in books and wallets or disguised as keys. There is a gun disguised as a matchbook and a palm pistol that supposedly belonged to an assassin who operated in England during the 1890's. But the vast majority of the examples were, naturally given the Bermans' experiences, from World War II and feature disguised and hidden weapons used by the Allies and the Axis Powers. They include guns disguised as safety razors, tire gauges, pens (that could fire bullets or poison gas pellets), smoking pipes, folding pocket knives, tools (such as a screwdriver gun), match boxes and even a German belt buckle that was used by the Nazis and had two .22 caliber barrels. There is an explosives igniter concealed in a lady's brass lipstick case. Representing guns disguised as musical instruments is a flute that contained a hidden .22 caliber gun. It could be played like a regular flute but fired a bullet when the flutist played a specific note.



Matchbox gun and palm pistol from England, 1890s. Photo - Author

An interesting weapon was the gearshift gun which was used by French Underground agents posing as taxi cab drivers in Nazi occupied France. The driver would press a button that would pop the gearshift out of the dash into his hand and fire two shots. It was one of the most successful assassination weapons used during the war because the Germans never discovered it. There are examples of devices used by the OSS and British Special Operations Executive (SOE), such as the pen booby trap that was used as a single-shot gun or could be planted in the ground and used as a booby trap.



*Above left – Gear Shift gun used by the French Resistance during World War II to assassinate Germans.
Above right – Gun disguised as a tire pressure gauge. Photos – author.*

Some of the hidden weapons are documented (or believed) to have been used in successful assassinations. One is the Scottish dirk that Lord Darnley is believed to have used to stab Mary, Queen of Scots' Italian private secretary, David Rizzio, to death. Darnley was married to Queen Mary, who was pregnant at the time, and Rizzio was rumored to be her lover. A more modern weapon that was used in a documented assassination is a gun disguised as a box of Sodri cough lozenges that an Italian spy used to kill an American intelligence agent in Switzerland during World War II.



Photo left – Hidden gun disguised as a pack of lozenges used by an Italian agent to kill an American agent in Switzerland during World War II. Photo – author.

Like the other displays in the museum, the signage has large text and is easy to read. The signage is next to the items so there is no confusion. The cabinets are well lit and in some you can see the item from several different angles. The only negative is that sometimes the signage does not provide enough details for the historian or enthusiast.

Part 1 covered the Berman Museum's location, entry fees, and days and times of operation. Guided tours are available and serious collectors, scholars and history buffs with extra time on their hands can take the museum's Discovery Tour. This is a guided visit to the museum's Collections Department where most of the museum's 6,000+ items are stored. With roughly four-fifths of the collection not being part of the regular display

at any given time, this is a great way to get a real sense of how extensive the museum's holdings really are and see the treasures that are not on display. A Discovery Tour must be booked three weeks in advance, and groups can include no more than 10 people. There is an extra fee of \$15 per person. See the Museum website for additional information.

★ In Review – Gun Show ★

GETTYSBURG SHOW AT REDDING AUCTION HALL

By Marc Gorelick



This small, local gun show, held at the Redding Auction Hall just north of Gettysburg, PA, (September 28-29, 2024) was surprisingly good. The show was sponsored by the Central Pennsylvania Antique Arms Association (CPAAA). It was what a small gun show used to be – guns, gun parts, ammunition, shooting supplies, gun related accessories and equipment, some other arms and militaria (swords, uniforms, helmets, unit patches, and medals). I knew it was a real gun show when I walked in the door and the smell of gun oil greeted me. There were no beanie babies, hot sauce, jewelry or other such items.

About 120 tables of mostly gun stuff. And the “paper” was mostly manuals (military and civilian), gun books, old catalogues and gun magazines, such as old copies of Man At Arms.

The tables held a good variety of guns – from early 1800's to modern firearms. There were many collectible firearms, both military and civilian sporting arms. The military included US and foreign, with many being from World Wars I and II. I even saw a bazooka. As expected for a small rural show, many of the rifles and shotguns were hunting guns. Modern black guns (AR's and AK's) were a distinct minority. There were some dealers present. Both SARCO and The Horse Soldier had several tables each. However, the majority of table holders appeared to be private owners who were selling guns from their collections. Many were also selling ammo, including some in non-standard calibers. And there were plenty of rifle stocks, especially for Garands. On the whole many of the prices were reasonable and the sellers seemed willing to dicker – there were bargains to be had. There was also a dealer in the show who would do transfers.



Redding Auction Hall is located at 1085 Table Rock Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325. It is easy to get to from Route 15, the main north-south highway that runs past Gettysburg. Parking is free and there is a food vendor inside who provided breakfast and lunch. Unfortunately,

there weren't many places to sit and eat. Lighting inside the hall was good. The cost of admission was \$10. The next CPAAA show at the Redding Auction Hall is scheduled for March 29-30, 2025. All in all it was a good show and worth the hour or two to go through it. You never know what you will find at a show like this. And it is just a few miles north of Gettysburg where there is plenty to see and do.

★ Show-n-Tell ★

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

VGCA Show-n-Tell Fact Sheet

Manufacturer: _____

Model: _____ Action Type: _____

Caliber: _____

Years of Production: _____ Total Produced: _____

Year this example was manufactured (if known): _____

Significance: _____

Question(s) for members: _____

Name (optional): _____

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

A message from your VGCA Photographer--

I ask those who bring items in for Show-and-Tell to PLEASE hold the item UP and in view of the audience so that they can be seen clearly, and so that I might be able to get a decent picture for the newsletter. PLEASE stand behind the tables and simply hold the item at chest or waist level, face forward, stand still, and give me a five or six seconds to grab a decent photograph of the Show-and-Tell item.

If you do not want your Show-and-Tell item to be shared with other VGCA members, just tell me in advance and I will not attempt to take a photo of it.

I do the photography for the VGCA and its' members, not for myself, and not for any personal gain. Your assistance in documenting your items will be a great help. I spend an average of five hours editing the pictures for the newsletter and not having a clear view of the subject has been a great and constant frustration for me.

Your help will assist in making a better newsletter for all VGCA members. Thank you!

Jack Looney

OCTOBER SHOW-N-TELL



Member 1 (*left*) shared a great piece of firearms history – an AK47 magazine signed by General Mikhail Kalashnikov himself! This early Russian steel “slab side” magazine was acquired from another VGCA member and had been signed by General Kalashnikov during one of his VGCA-sponsored visits to the United States.

Member 2 (*right*) also brought in a Kalashnikov-signed AK magazine acquired from the same VGCA member as the preceding show-n-tell item. These “slab side” magazines were the first magazines issued with AK47s and were stamped from heavy gauge steel. Though very reliable and robust, they were deemed too heavy. To lighten the standard combat infantryman’s load, several follow-on designs constructed with different materials were developed and fielded. The Cold War era Soviet Army would finally settle on the “classic” reddish-orange colored bakelite magazines for the AK47 and later AK74.





Member 2 also brought in an Arsenal SLR-107FR (*left*). This semi-automatic rifle is chambered in 5.45x39 and built to mimic the Russian AK74M. It features a side-folding buttstock.

Member 3 shared his Mannlicher M1888/90 (*right*). Recently brought in to the U.S. from Ethiopia by Royal Tiger Imports, this straight-pull, en-bloc clip fed rifle was originally designed for the black powder 8x52R cartridge. Shortly after production started on the M1888, these rifles were converted to the semi-smokeless 8x50R caliber by the Austro-Hungarian Empire and designated the M1888/90.



This example was listed as a “B Grade” by RTI and is in correspondingly somewhat rough condition!



Member 4 presented a Polish Radom Beryl M1 WZ96 (*left*). The FB Beryl 5.56 rifle was designed by the Team at Fabryka Broni / FB Radom to replace their aging AKM chambered in 7.62x39mm and their Tantal in 5.45x39mm. After Poland joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) alliance in 1999, they wanted to modernize the military. In particular, they wanted to field a new infantry rifle that used NATO-standard 5.56x45 ammunition. Utilizing their existing knowledge of the Kalashnikov design, FB blended the reliability of the AK with the western 5.56 caliber to yield the

Beryl 5.56 rifle series. This new production Beryl 5.56 M1 Rifle is a U.S. civilian-legal semi-auto sporting rifle made at the Fabryka Broni Arms Factory and was purchased earlier this year.



Member 5 shared a semi-automatic build of a Polish RPD (*left and below*). Chambered in 7.62x39 and utilizing a belt of non-disintegrating metal links, the RPD replaced the pan-magazine fed DP27/28 light machinegun in the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact. This particular example was built by Wiselite from a Polish Radom (factory code is the number 11 inside an oval) parts kit and was purchased by Member 5 about 12 years ago.



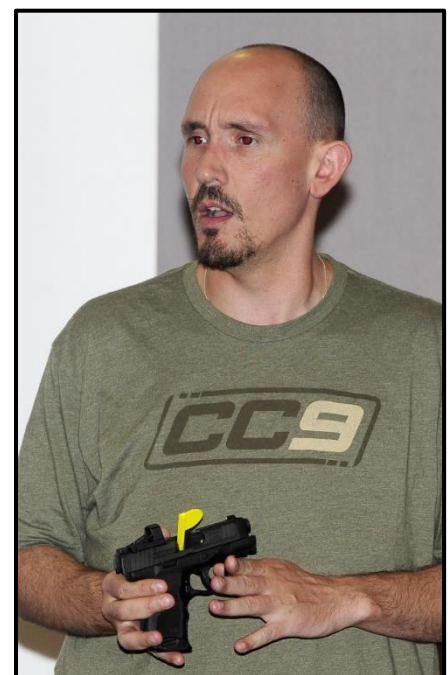
Member 6 brought in an AKS-74U (*right*). The AKS-74U is chambered in 5.45x39 and is a compact carbine issued to tankers and helicopter crews. This example was made by “AK John” at Appalachian Gun Works from a Zack Shafer parts kit in 2024. It features a folding stock and is a registered Short Barreled Rifle (SBR).



Member 6 also shared an AK-V/PP-19 clone (*left*). Built on a Palmetto State Armory 9mm Parabellum AK, this product is based on the Vityaz-SN Russian submachine gun, with a few modern improvements. The PSA AK-V is a blowback operated system to ensure a smooth cycling action. Following in the footsteps of the PSA AK-47 GF3 models, the AK-V features a forged front trunnion and bolt/carrier. The PSA design utilizes the Palmetto State Armory U9 35-round magazine, and features last round bolt hold open. The PSA AK-V can only be guaranteed to function with AKV U-9 magazines.

Member 7 shared his new Heckler & Koch Model CC9 semi-auto pistol in 9mm Parabellum (*right*). It is HK’s new polymer-framed concealed carry pistol and was made in the USA by HK-USA. Production just started this year and this example is part of the first production run (it was received the day before the meeting). It features a micro red dot optic and has a nice trigger! It comes equipped with a 10-round or 12-round magazine.

Note Member 7’s CC9 tee shirt. It is not often that we have a Show-n-Tell item and its associated apparel!



Member 8 brought in a Norinco Model 84S semi-auto rifle (*at right*) chambered in 5.56 NATO. It was imported in 1988 and was inherited from a friend.

China Sports, Inc. (located in Ontario, California of all places) introduced a couple of new Norinco models to the market in late 1988, notably chambered in calibers other than the traditional AK 7.62x39mm. This included the 5.45x39mm Type 88 and the Type 84S AKS in 5.56/.223 Remington. The Type 84S was to ship to FFLs in one of four variants: the 84S with a standard fixed wood stock, the 84S-1 with an under-folding stock, the 84S-2 with a side-folding metal stock, and the 84S-3 with a black composite fixed stock. The latter three variants were *only* imported in 1989, the same year as the Bush import ban, and all are quite collectible!



Member 9 shared his Luger P08 (*left*). Manufactured by Deutsche Waffen- und Munitionsfabriken (DWM) in Berlin, Germany in 1918, this example in 9mm Parabellum has matching numbers and Prussian military acceptance stamps. Member 9 purchased it at our October gun show!

Member 10 brought in a Polish VIS-1935 Radom pistol (*right*). The Vis or Vis 35 (Polish designation “Pistolet wz. 35 Vis” and the subsequent German designation 9 mm “Pistole 35(p)”) or simply the Radom in some English sources, is a Polish, single-action, semi-automatic pistol chambered in 9×19mm caliber. Its design was inspired by the Colt 1911 pistol designed by American John Moses Browning.

Production of the Vis began in 1935 at the Fabryka Broni factory in Radom, Poland, and was adopted as the standard handgun of the Polish Army the following year. After the German invasion of Poland in 1939 that marked the start of World War II, occupying German forces took over the country's munitions and associated industry. The wz. 35 pistol was valued by the Germans, who continued its production and eventually issued it to German paratroopers.



The Vis is highly prized among firearms collectors and considered by some to be one of the best sidearms of the period, combining some of the features present in the Colt M1911, the Browning Hi-Power, and the Ruby .45 ACP.

This example was produced under German occupation and came with a holster and spare 8-round magazine. Inside the flap is inked a German name (*left*). Some of the German acceptance stamps have been “scrubbed” indicating possible post-WWII police use.



Member 11 displayed his replica Early York Pennsylvania Rifle (*above*). The York flintlock rifles were circa 1770-1780. York County Pennsylvania lies just southwest of Lancaster and was home to many great gunsmiths such as George Schroyer, G. Eister, Martin Fry and others. Overall, the York rifle is slightly smaller than the Lancaster which makes it ideal for those of smaller stature. The slender Getz barrel makes this rifle look wonderful with its long slim lines. It handles and balances perfectly. Frontiersmen such as Davy Crocket carried York rifles.

This was Member 11's first build. He said he did about six months of reading "How to Build a Flintlock" before he started on the kit in late 2012. After researching kit manufacturers, he decided on the Jim Chambers York Pennsylvania kit. After five and a half months of work, he had, in his terms "a finished product that while not perfect he was satisfied with."

His rifle features an overall length of 58 inches, double set triggers, a Jim Chambers lock, and a 42-inch tapered and flared barrel in .45 caliber. The stock is extra fancy curly maple stained with Birchwood Casey Plum Brown and Jim Chambers Nut Brown with a hand rubbed oil finish.

Member 12 had to leave before presenting his Show-n-Tell item to the group, but fortunately our resident photographer took pictures for the newsletter. Member 12 brought in a wooden case with a set of gauges (below) for .30 M2 Ball (.30/06 service ammunition). These are early WWII era and were designed to check cartridge making machine steps.



★ 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. Shows highlighted in **yellow** are shows with a collector focus.

VIRGINIA – 2024-2025

- Dec 7-8, 2024 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fraternal Order of Eagles (**new location!**) – SGK
- Dec 21-22, 2024 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center – *C&E Gun Shows*
- Dec 27-29, 2024 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- Jan 11-12, 2025 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – SGK
- Jan 18-19, 2025 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fredericksburg Fairgrounds – SGK
- Jan 18-19, 2025 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center – *C&E Gun Shows*
- Jan 25-26, 2025 – Fishersville, VA – Augusta Expo – *Showmasters*
- Jan 31-Feb 2, 2025 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- Feb 8-9, 2025 – Virginia Beach, VA – Virginia Beach Convention Center – SGK
- Feb 15-16, 2025 – Doswell, VA – Meadow Event Park – SGK
- Feb 15-16, 2025 – Harrisonburg, VA – Rockingham County Fairgrounds – *Showmasters*
- Mar 8-9, 2025 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fraternal Order of Eagles (**new location!**) – SGK
- Mar 8-9, 2025 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center – *C&E Gun Shows*
- Mar 29-30, 2025 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – SGK

MARYLAND – 2024-2025

- Dec 7-8, 2024 – West Friendship, MD – Howard Cnty Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Jan 4-5, 2025 – Frederick, MD – Frederick Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Jan 11-12, 2025 – Timonium, MD – Maryland State Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Feb 14-16, 2025 – Jarrettsville, MD – Jarrettsville Gardens – *Izaak Walton League, Harford Co.*
- Mar 22-23, 2025 – Timonium, MD – Maryland State Fairgrounds – *Maryland Arms Collector Association*

PENNSYLVANIA – 2024-2025

- Dec 7-8, 2024 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds – *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*
- Dec 7-8, 2024 – State College, PA – C3 Sports & Events Center – *Showmasters*
- Dec 7-8, 2024 – Trevoise, PA – Radisson Philadelphia Northeast – *Eagle Shows*
- Dec 14-15, 2024 – Harrisburg, PA – PA Farm Show Complex – *C&E Gun Shows*
- Dec 14-15, 2024 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center – *Showmasters*
- Dec 20-22, 2024 – Oaks, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Shows*
- Dec 28-29, 2024 – Allentown, PA - Parkview Inn - *Eagle Shows*
- Jan 4-5, 2025 – Morgantown, PA – Morgantown Expo Center – *Eagle Shows*
- Jan 11-12, 2025 – Lake Harmony, PA – Split Rock Resort – *Eagle Shows*
- Jan 11-12, 2025 – Matamoras, PA – Best Western Inn at Hunt's Landing – *Westchester Collectors Inc.*
- Jan 18, 2025 – Greencastle, PA – Greencastle Sportsman's Assoc Club – *Izaak Walton League, Franklin County*
- Jan 18-19 2025 – Trevoise, PA – Radisson Philadelphia Northeast – *Eagle Shows*
- Jan 25-26, 2025 – Gettysburg, PA – Allstar Events Complex – *Eagle Shows*

PENNSYLVANIA – 2025 (continued)

- Jan 25-26, 2025 – Quarryville, PA – Solanco Fairgrounds – *Lancaster Muzzle Loading Rifle Association*
- Feb 1-2, 2025 – Allentown, PA - Parkview Inn - *Eagle Shows*
- Feb 8-9, 2025 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds – *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*
- Feb 7-9, 2025 – Oaks, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Shows*
- Feb 15-16, 2025 – Bloomsburg, PA – Bloomsburg Fairgrounds – *Eagle Shows*
- Feb 15-16, 2025 – Clintonville, PA – Clintonville V.F.D. – *Clintonville V.F.D.*
- Feb 15-16, 2025 – Hermitage, PA – Hickory VFW 6166 – *Canon's Gun Room*
- Feb 22-23, 2025 – Ellwood City, PA – Wurtemberg Perry VFD – *Wurtemberg Perry VFD*
- Feb 22-23, 2025 – Trevoise, PA – Radisson Philadelphia Northeast – *Eagle Shows*

SPECIAL EVENTS / SHOWS – 2024

- Jan 11-12, 2025 – Wilmington, OH – The Roberts Centre – *Ohio Gun Collectors Association*
- Mar 15-16, 2025 – Wilmington, OH – The Roberts Centre – *Ohio Gun Collectors Association*
- Apr 5-6, 2025 – Tulsa, OK – Expo Square (Tulsa Fairgrounds) – *Wanenmacher – World's Largest Gun Show – 4200+ tables!*
- Apr 24-27, 2025 – Atlanta, GA – Georgia World Congress Center – *NRA Annual Meetings*

NOTE: OGCA Gun Shows are not open to the public – they are restricted to members and invited guests only. That said, several VGCA members are also members of the OGCA and can sponsor you if you are interested in attending.

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 regard 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. Items will be listed for one issue of the Newsletter.

VGCA Logo Available at Lands' End

Here's how to order your apparel:

1. Go to the VGCA store on Lands' End business:
<https://business.landsend.com/store/vgca>
 - a. It must be the URL shown above. **Do not** go to the regular Lands' End website. It will not show our logo options.
2. Above the photo on the home page click on "Men" or "Women"
3. On the drop-down menu select what you are interested in. For example, Men>Activewear >Tops gives you 19 different styles and fabrics of men's shirts. When you have selected an item click on it and select your color, size and quantity. Then on the lower right-hand corner of the screen click on the blue "Apply Logos" button.
4. On the next screen click on the VGCA logo to choose it and it will open the "select a Location" menu showing where you can have the VGCA logo embroidered. Choose a location and then scroll down to the "Apply Logo" button in the lower right corner and click it. It will return you to your garment page.
5. If you are satisfied with your garment, color, size and logo location click on the "Add to Bag" button in the lower right corner.
6. Then you can then go to checkout or continue shopping. When you checkout it will show an additional \$8.95 for the embroidery.



If you have any questions, you can reach Bruce Buchner at 703-339-8212 or Buchnerb@cox.net

FOR SALE:

★ **FINNISH MOSIN-NAGANT** is authored by VGCA member Matt DiRisio and published by Wet Dog Publications. The list price is \$99.95. It is 584 pages long with over 1,500 color and black and white photographs.

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

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



FOR SALE:

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

FOR SALE:

★ VGCA member Charlie Pate has four books that he has authored for sale, at discounted prices to VGCA members. These include:

- "U.S. Handguns of World War II" - \$45.00
- "The Smith & Wesson American Model" - \$55.00
- "U.S. Military Arms Inspector Marks" - \$45.00
- "The Colt Model 1860 Army Revolver" - \$60.00

If interested, please contact Charlie at usarmsresearch@gmail.com

FOR SALE:

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

WANT TO BUY:

★ Browning lever action Gold Medallion, short action, blue or silver.
Also: Browning lever action with pistol grip and take down. Prefer .308 but any considered.
Call King at 703 576-7016, if no answer leave name and number with brief description.
Thank you, King von Schilling

WANT TO BUY:

★ Seeking a Bagnold Sun Compass, used during WWII by British desert troops. It was mounted on their vehicles. Must be complete and in working order. Contact Jack via email to looney.house@verizon.net or text to 703-999-9458.



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.