



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.ORG



Est. 1983

(A Non-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G 8162

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January 2008 VGCA Newsletter

Due to a number of recent developments, the format of this newsletter is being changed to highlight serious important news and updates by the President of the Virginian Gun Collectors Association, W. Addison Hurst. This is a challenging time for the Club and Members are encouraged to share their views. An overview of the last meeting and presentation, along with other issues will follow. – Newsletter Editor

Thoughts from the President, Addison Hurst:

- As I mentioned at the last meeting, the Board's error in scheduling the Spring 2008 gun show dates on Easter weekend was a serious and unique error. Nothing like this has ever happened before as far as I know. We had no choice but to cancel the show once the mistake was discovered. I regret it more than I can tell you and I accept full responsibility. The Captain goes down with the ship as the ultimate responsibility when things go wrong rest with him, i.e., me.
- Our ability to not generate sufficient floor traffic for the dealers at Prince William Fairground is another serious problem that has caused us to lose many dealers. Being forced out of Hugo's was a nearly mortal blow to the club. There is a long shot chance that we might be able to return there. I would be very interested in hearing your frank thoughts on this. Please send them to me by email rather than by phone. My email is a.hurst@rstarmail.com. You can also use my old email address HurstA@mediasoft.net. Both work. Hopefully by the September show, we can have worked around some of these critical problems.
- Since we are in some lean times with no short term income, I would like to suggest the following insofar as monthly meetings are concerned: ***For the upcoming January 24th meeting, I thought it might be a novel idea if we had pizza. If you are planning to attend (weather permitting), please let me know how many will be in your party. Please send this data by email or by phone if you have no computer access to the internet. By so doing, we will avoid ordering too much food. Sodas will be provided.***
- We will have a donation jar at the meeting. Donations will help defer the food expense. This is voluntary, but everything the members are able to do to help the Club is a boost to us all.
- I am still working on determining the 3-4 National Firearms Museum/VGCA presentation dates for 2008. Stay tuned. We have had some great ones this past year. If you missed Anthony Vanderlinden's presentation at the last meeting on the activities of FN during the Nazi occupation in WWII, you missed another outstanding presentation. I found it very interesting what efforts the employees of FN did to thwart the production of the Nazi bastards' arms. Many employees paid with their lives, but the employees were indeed brave folks. Freedom certainly is not free.

- Since we do not have a scheduled program for the January 24th meeting, I thought perhaps we might have a focused show and tell on SHOTGUNS – Winchester Model 21s, your favorite hunting shotgun, your first shotgun, military shotguns, engraved shotguns, shotguns with historic provenance – any of your favorite guns. Be prepared to discuss them with some detail production figures, etc.
- If you have an idea or want to do a presentation at a monthly meeting, please contact me ASAP.
- On a more personal note, I underwent the mother of all eye exams yesterday (January 3) and my vision is getting worse and driving at night is becoming more difficult and dangerous. As I have no reliable and consistent means of transportation to the meetings, I may have to bow out regardless of the upcoming election. It appears that I will be having my worst eye cut at Johns Hopkins sometime soon. Having one eye done does not get me out of the woods. We asked for nominations from the floor at the last meeting – but not ONE person stepped forward. This is not good. The old timers who have been leading or trying to lead this club are getting old. I am not sure how the election will turn out but I am disappointed that no one seems willing to step up to the plate. It is your club and you need to keep it going. We old timers are not going to live forever – then what are you going to do? I, for one, do not want to see the club die. I have struggled with this organization non-stop for 25 years now. Well enough preaching..., you know the situation just as well as I do. If you do nothing, then you can blame yourself when things start to unravel.
- Watch the weather on meeting dates and look at the web page. If the cloud is flashing, open it and read and heed, we will not cancel the meeting unless we must for the safety of all concerned.
- A little good news for you. ☺ John Wallace's leukemia is in remission and he is gun collecting again and up to his old tricks. Old Gomers are hard to kill. He is one tough Marine. He received a letter from General James Conway, Commandant of the Marine Corp, ordering him to "hang tough." John follows orders!!! I will bring the letter to the meeting. Hope to see you on January 24th. Addison
- PS: I received a Christmas card from the Kalashnikov family – they wish all VGCA folks a happy holiday and a happy 2008.

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

We are now approaching the winter season, and meetings are at risk of being cancelled for foul weather. Members are strongly encouraged to **check the VGCA Website** (<http://www.vgca.org>) **for Weather Alerts and Meeting Cancellations!** If the meeting is cancelled, please inform members you know, especially those without Internet.

★ **Presentation for the January 24 VGCA Meeting:** We do not have a scheduled program. As focused show and tells have been popular, and highlight the collections and expertise of the membership, there will be a extended show and tell on SHOTGUNS – Winchester Model 21s, Parkers, Holland & Hollands, LC Smiths, etc., your favorite hunting shotgun, your first shotgun, your first shotgun to take game or win a competition, military shotguns, police shotguns, engraved shotguns, shotguns with historic provenance – any of your favorite guns. Be prepared to discuss them with some detail for the membership.

President Addison Hurst opened the December 6 Meeting of the VGCA with the Pledge of Allegiance. This was immediately followed by an announcement about the necessity to cancel the Spring show due to the Easter weekend. The show has been re-scheduled to September 20-21, 2008. Announcement cards will be mailed to the mailing list and Rick Nahas will notify all the table holders. This unfortunate situation was followed by more sad news regarding fellow members. John Wallace, our resident Garand collector, was diagnosed with acute leukemia. We should include him in our prayers. Hank Hagenau notified Club leadership that Charlie Rausch, 86, had broken his hip. Vince Pugh and Jim Matthews were also ill. We wish all of them fast recoveries and a speedy return.



Featured Presentation at the December 6 Meeting: Back by popular demand after his first presentation, Anthony Vanderlinden returned with his much anticipated presentation on Fabrique Nationale (FN) during the German Occupation in the Second World War. For those who missed his first talk, and again missed this one, you have two strikes. Opportunities to hear this level of expertise are not common. Mr. Vanderlinden presented a well organized, thoroughly documented and profusely illustrated presentation for which he is well known. He led off with recounting FN's returning back to arms production in the

1930s after forays into bicycles, motorcycles, cars, and other items in previous years. The armaments included BARs, water-cooled Browning machineguns, FN Baby Brownings, the FN Hi-Efficiency pistol, a predecessor to the famed Hi-Power, and the HP1935 Hi-Power 9mm pistol. They also developed and modified their motorcycles into ultra high quality military models. Heavier arms included FN-made 40mm Bofors anti-aircraft guns. With the start of WWII, the German rapid advances quickly engulfed Belgium, resulting in the seizure of the FN facilities and equipment. Mr. Vanderlinden detailed the early stages of the German occupation years and included a wealth of information for collectors on correct German Waffenamts (inspection/acceptance marks) for FN, what arm was assembled where and when it was manufactured, and how to tell real marking from counterfeits. He walked the audience into 1942 when FN was making selected Kar.98K parts, Models of 1922 and HP1935 pistols, vehicle and aircraft parts, and also revolver parts. He went on to detail how the FN workers risked their lives and families welfare by sabotaging Mk108 cannon receivers, Hi-Powers, Kar.98 bolts, and especially P-38 pistol parts. This was followed by warning of the risks associated with firing certain WaA140 marked pistols due to possible extractor sabotage. The diversion of FN products to the Resistance was also addressed. He shared research on the activities of FN after the German retreat. This previously unknown material, now documented, will be included in his new book. Of interest, was how after liberation, the FN workers had already started assembling pistols for the Allies, when the Allies actually rolled up to the plant. After the war, FN was a major rework station for the US small arms. Mr. Vanderlinden then welcomed Carlos Davila, formerly with FN in Latin America, who displayed dressed-up Hi-Powers prepared as marketing models, a brace of Israeli Mausers, and his experiences as an FN representative. They then fielded multiple questions from the members present, ranging from FAL rifles, to the Israeli Mausers and the presentation. This was a wonderful presentation which again held the audience riveted. VGCA wishes to formally thank Anthony Vanderlinden for his time, expertise, and his sneak peak at newly researched data, as well as the NFM for making this possible.

December 6 Business Meeting: After the presentation a short business meeting was held. **Emory Hackman**, the Election Coordinator, announced that the Club Officer Nominations Committee had not received any nominations or volunteers for the key positions of Club President, Vice-President, Secretary, or Treasurer. This development resulted in the officer slate being the incumbents who agreed to continue in their positions for the near term. While the incumbent President has joked about being President for Life, this is not a satisfactory situation for the long haul as he detailed above in his message to the membership.

New member, **Richard Fierman**, told about his son stationed in Afghanistan sending home antique arms he has found. These include Martinis, Martini-Sniders, Lebel and Gras. Unfortunately, the old days of members of the military being able to acquire war souvenir firearms from the combat zone has passed, and only antique arms under the GCA of 1968, i.e., pre-January 1, 1899 arms are now permitted. This has been further restricted as over-zealous interpretations of antique meaning ONLY muzzleloading arms have been reported.

Meeting Show and Tell: Show and tell was relatively brief. **Addison Hurst** displayed a Kar.98K with BCG 43 marking indicating manufacture by Gustloff. **Larry Hare** showed his FN colors by sharing a Fabrique Nationale Model 1900 (also manufactured by Remington as their Model 8) with a non-specific 9mm designation on the barrel, which is actually .35 Remington in the US. He followed that by presenting for our viewing consideration a Browning FN Auto in .22LR with a box circa 1936-1940. The Show and Tell session was concluded by **Shelly Fischman** and his Colt 1911 Commercial Model manufactured in 1919 which was documented as being delivered to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. With this last entry, the December 6 meeting, which started with bad news, but also hosted a wonderful presentation, came to a conclusion.

ALERT!! Of Interest to Members and Firearms Enthusiasts – Please review the following message thread at Gunboards.com: <http://forums.gunboards.com/showthread.php?t=21739>. A partial excerpt follows. “Citi Merchant Services and First Data Corp. are refusing to process any credit card transactions between federally licensed firearms retailers, distributors and manufacturers -- a move which will severely limit available inventory of firearms and ammunition to military, law enforcement and law-abiding Americans. The first company to be affected by this decision appears to be firearms distributor CDNN Sports Inc.” “We were contacted recently by First Data/Citi Merchant Services by a June Rivera-Mantilla stating that we were terminated and funds were being seized for selling firearms in a non-face-to-face transaction,” said Charlie Crawford, president of CDNN Sports Inc.

“Although perfectly legal, we were also informed that no transactions would be processed in the future, even for non-firearms. I find this very frightening.” Additional info at: <http://www.nssf.org/news/fromBP.cfm?BPseq=704>

Upcoming Events and Shows

Words to the Wise: Lately there have been some changes in scheduling by gunshow promoters or errors on some websites.

Members are strongly encouraged to check before driving long distances for a show. These dates have been published as of this writing, but are not guaranteed. If you have a show you would like to tell members about, please email the Editor, and I will fit it in.

VIRGINIA

- ☉ January 12-13, 2008 - Richmond, VA - The Showplace - *C&E Gun Show*
- ☉ January 26-27, 2008 - Hampton, VA - Convention Center - *SGK, LTD*
- ☉ January 26-27, 2008 - Salem, VA - Salem Civic Center - *C&E Gun Show*
- ☉ February 8-10, 2008 - Chantilly, VA - Dulles Expo Center - *C&E Gun Show / Showmasters*
- ☉ February 16-17, 2008 - Dale City, VA - VFW Post 1503, 14631 Minnieville Rd. – *Old Dominion Shows*
- ☉ February 16-17, 2008 - Norfolk, VA - Norfolk Scope - *Showmasters / C&E Gun Show*
- ☉ February 23-24, 2008 - Harrisonburg, VA - Rockingham County Fairgrounds - *C&E Gun Show*
- ☉ March 22-23, 2008 - Virginia Beach, VA - Convention Center - *SGK, LTD*

MARYLAND

- ☉ January 5-6, 2008 – Westminster, MD - Carroll County Agriculture Center – *Silverado Promotion*
- ☉ February 16-17, 2008 - Upper Marlboro, MD - Show Place Arena (P.G. County) – *Silverado Promotions*
- ☉ March 15-16, 2008 – Timonium, MD - The Baltimore Show - Maryland State Fairgrounds - *Maryland Arms Collectors Association*

PENNSYLVANIA

- ☉ February 9-10, 2008 – Allentown, PA - Agricultural Hall - *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*. Contact: FDHAS, 3491 Linden St., Bethlehem, PA 18017. 610-997-8613 after 6pm.
- ☉ February 16-17, 2008 – Macungie, PA - Memorial Hall Macungie - *Eagle Arms*
- ☉ February 29-Mar 2, 2008 – Allentown, PA - Days Inn - *Eagle Arms*
- ☉ March 7-9, 2008 – King of Prussia, PA - Valley Forge Convention Center - *valleyforgegunshow.com*
- ☉ March 15-16, 2008 – Harrisburg, PA - Farm Show Complex - *Mid-Atlantic Arms Collectors*. **NOTE:** The Ruger Collectors Association will once again display at the March 2008 show. In March 2007 there were over 30 tables of some of the nicest Rugers in the US. Expect to see many more at the 2008 show.

OHIO

- ☉ March 8-9, 2008– Wilmington, OH – Roberts Centre - *Ohio Gun Collectors Association*. **OGCA MEMBERS ONLY.** For membership information contact Laura Knotts (330) 467-5733.

OKLAHOMA

- ☉ April 5-6, 2008 – Tulsa, OK - Expo Center-Expo Square (Tulsa Fairgrounds) - *Tulsa Arms Collectors Association*. ****MORE THAN 3,900 TABLES!**** Featuring *Browning Collectors Association*

“[Even if there would be] few tears shed if and when the Second Amendment is held to guarantee nothing more than the state National Guard, this would simply show that the Founders were right when they feared that some future generation might wish to abandon liberties that they considered essential, and so sought to protect those liberties in a Bill of Rights. We may tolerate the abridgement of property rights and the elimination of a right to bear arms; but we should not pretend that these are not reductions of rights.” -- U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, 1998

Address for any Newsletter related matters or submissions is VGCANews@cox.net. Feel free to email items for inclusion in the newsletter. For changes of address or non-receipt of the newsletter, either via email or the mailed hard-copy, please contact Larry Hare at the numbers on page one.

V/R, Bill Chronister, Newsletter Editor