



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.ORG



Est. 1983

(A Non-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G 8162

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June 2007 VGCA Newsletter



May 24 Presentation: The May 24 Presentation on the Weapons and Items from the Great War was ably given and hosted by Club President Addison Hurst, who had stepped forward to be the speaker. The Show and Tell companion that followed was another of those VGCA events where you see the more common items, the rare pieces and the downright unusual and bizarre. This is what makes these occasions so entertaining and informative. Across the entire front of the room, covering at least 4 tables, was one of the more eclectic collections of WWI weapons, uniforms, accoutrements, blades, and curiosity pieces any collector or museum curator would be happy to see.

Addison started with a very brief overview of the political conditions and arms developments, especially in Great Britain where the development work on the planned replacement for the venerable Short Magazine Lee Enfield Rifle No.1 and the .303 round, resulted in the Rifle Pattern 13 or P-13 and its small bore,

high velocity .276 round. The outbreak of war on the continent, the logistics of a new caliber, as well as insufficient manufacturing capacity, resulted in the British contracting with the US companies of Winchester, Remington, and Eddystone to manufacture a .303 variant, known as the Pattern 14 or P-14 (later changed to Rifle No.3Mk1 and Mk1*) to fulfill the wartime demand. He showed examples from his collection of the P-14 rifles and covered how when the US was unable to meet demand for M1903 rifles through the Springfield and Rock Island facilities, the P-14 design was modified for .30-06, and resulted in the US Rifle, Model of 1917, often called the P-17 in error. He also showed the M1903, a perfect US WWI uniform that had resided in a shed for 50 years without harm, and covered the bayonets for the M1903 and 1917 Enfields, while handling comments and questions from members present. To appreciate this fully, please see the Show and Tell session in the later pages.

➡ **UPCOMING for the June 28 Meeting:** For the June meeting we are very pleased to have a club member of renown in his area of collecting. **Rick Nahas** will give a presentation covering, "Airweights of S&W in the Last 55 Years." Rick warmed up for this presentation by taking the "Best Modern Display" at the annual Smith and Wesson Collectors Association meeting this past week in Richmond, VA with 194 Airweights on display. It is recommended fans of the finest US-made revolvers come attend and look at some unique and unusual exemplars of this fascinating topic. ➡ *The meeting begins at 7:00PM, and food will available shortly after 6:00PM.*

May 24, 2007 Meeting VGCA World War One Presentation and Show & Tell



< Hank Hagenau
and C. Rausch
BAR

> Jim Burgess
and P-14

Below: Roger
Sherman Lugers

Lower Left: Jim
Leahigh and the
Mauser G98 and
Quillback bayonet

Lower Right: Jim
Pemberton and
the Dog Gas Mask



→Advance Notice: Special Presentation in the NRA/VGCA Series for the August 23 Meeting. The speaker will be Washington Post Movie Critic and Pulitzer Prize winning author and novelist – **Stephen Hunter**. Mr. Hunter's best selling novel, "Point of Impact" was the basis for the recent movie "**Shooter**," which opened March 23. Do not let this presentation be one you hear about after the fact.

May 24 Business Meeting of the VGCA: Due to the presentation, **President Addison Hurst** called a shortened (due to the many items on display for the upcoming show and tell on World War I items) business meeting to order. **Treasurer Ed Costello** gave an overview of club finances and informed those present that the Spring 2007 gun show had been success with a good gate and crowd. Hopefully this is the start of a trend. **Rick Nahas, Gun Show Manager**, gave a status report of planning and table sales for the September 22-23 Fall show. At present there are 17 tables left, so this is a great opportunity for members to launch an educational display, or to buy a table and sell or trade some of the orphans from the collection. **Larry Hare, Membership Chair** reviewed a full house of new member applications. He reported that the following individuals were voted into the fold during the May meeting: John Gibbons, sponsored by Ed Hosken; Robert Taylor, sponsored by Ernie Lyles; Mark Hilburger, sponsored by Con Rice; James Schindler, sponsored by Mike Vargosko; Dan Duffy, sponsored by Addison Hurst; and James (Jimmy) Golden, sponsored by Larry Hare. The VGCA welcomes the new members to the Club. After the voting, Addison recognized the guests, Second Lieutenant Schmidt from the German Luftwaffe, who gave a short overview of the difficulties and trials faced by persons wishing to own a firearm in modern Germany, and Dr. Richard Murphy, a collector of fine arms.

☛ **If you have NOT paid the 2007 Annual Membership Dues Payment, they are overdue. Dues will Increase in 2008!!** The current VGCA annual membership requires renewal each year with a timely payment of \$20 for the 2007 calendar year. Please note, the annual dues will increase to \$25 next year (2008). You may want to consider upgrading your membership status now to a life membership for only an additional \$80 over the cost of the annual membership – *if you upgrade now*. Also note, after 2007, the Life membership will also go up from \$100 to \$125. Now, in the dog days of summer, with taxes paid or refunds received, slow gun shows, and before the hunting season spending, is the time to make the upgrade to life membership. One advantage is that if you upgrade your membership now, you will never have to deal with the annual VGCA dues payment hassle again. Please make all checks payable to VGCA. If there are any questions concerning this subject, please contact Larry Hare at (703)339-8636 or by email at LDHare@verizon.net.

Meeting Show and Tell: The S&T was kicked off in the WWI vein by **Hank Hagenau** covering a gem from **Charlie Rausch's** collection, a WWI format (without bipod) Winchester BAR that was a documented movie gun. He then moved to a French semi-auto battle rifle that used 8mm Lebel in enbloc clips. Some say this was the first semi-auto battle rifle, but as Hank pointed, out that honor goes to the Swiss Mondragon. **Ed Costello** displayed a commercial 7.63mm Mauser "Broomhandle" pistol with shoulder stock, as well as a "Red 9" 9x19mm Parabellum variant, also with shoulder stock. **Jim Burgess** presented a very nice P-14 Remington with volley sights and bayonet and a 1918-dated Remington Model of 1917 Enfield with Remington bayonet. He was followed by **Phil Valentini** who had a 1917-dated M1903 Springfield, also in great shape. **Mark Heath** showed his DCM marked NRA-released M1903 Springfield rifle with a single bolt, low wood stock and NRA and flaming bomb marked magazine box/trigger guard assembly. **Jim Leahigh** switched to the Central Powers armaments with a beautiful 7.9mm Mauser Gewehr 98 with lang visier rear sight and a quillback bayonet, a combination which exceeded 6 feet in length. **Ernie Lyles** showed a number of WWI arms, starting with the Remington-made 1917 Enfield, and followed by a M1903 Springfield rebuilt during WW2 with a High Standard (HS) barrel. He then showed a M1911A1 pistol, and a very nice S&W Model of 1917 revolver with original finish. Moving on to the 1960s, he displayed a newly acquired High Standard Supermatic Citation target "space pistol" with weights and compensator. **Larry Hare**, always a .22LR fan, left the military domain, and presented 2 pump-actioned .22's, a Peerless (similar to a Mossberg Model K) and a Meridian (Sears), originally a Savage design. **Dan Szatkowski** showed his Franchot, "not a Browning" pistol in .25 ACP. **Gary Holderman** showed a classic Colt 1873 SAA revolver with real ivory stocks. **Roger Sherman**, brought 2 gems from his collection, a German Luger 1904 Navy (1906 variant – Marine marked) with 6" barrel, one of 8000 made by DWM; and a 8" barreled Erfurt (Prussia) Artillery Model with Flat board stock and all accessories. He also displayed a 1917 Eisenkreuz (Iron Cross) Second Class from WWI. **Jim Vaughan** described his German "Mutzen" soft cap, and compared his rare, early model British 1907

bayonet, still having the hooked quillion, with a Japanese Type 30 bayonet upon which it was modeled. He followed with an Aussie Lithgow No.1 MkIII SMLE with cutoff, and a WWI Webley brass flare pistol. In an unusual display, **Tom Ring** showed a replica he machined of a WWI trench periscope and firing device with an M1903 rifle. It was designed to fire a rifle over a trench without exposing the marksman. The M1903 rifle in his display used a modified BAR magazine instead of the super rare Air Service magazine. **Jim Pemberton**, displayed some curios from the war, a gas mask bag in which his father carried home an M1911 pistol, his father's helmet with a sniper bullet crease, and some trench art made from shell casings. However, the piece de resistance, especially for the dog lovers, was a highly unusual German item – a gas mask for a dog!!! **Bill Chronister** showed a newly acquired Mauser 1871/84, an 11mm, tube feed repeating rifle. While long obsolete, these are pictured with some rear echelon and militia units photos in the early years of the war. This long session was closed by **Charlie Rathwell**, who compared the Colt Model of 1917 revolver against a S&W 1917. All Colts were delivered blued. So there you have it – from movie guns to dog gas masks, another VGCA presentation and related S&T drew to a close.

Attention Remington Collectors - New Book Provides History, Cataloging of Remington Guns. In 1861, the War Department needed arms to fuel the Union effort in the Civil War. Arms manufacturers had a difficult time mass producing military-sized revolvers. Remington & Sons had just introduced its navy revolver to the arms market, and their business began to flourish. In **REMINGTON ARMY AND NAVY REVOLVERS, 1861-1888** (\$65 hardcover, University of New Mexico Press), Donald L. Ware tells the story of Remington's entry into the American consciousness, from its beginnings in Ilion, New York, to its ascent as the best-known and now oldest American gunmaker. Two decades of research enhance this volume. Discussions of gun design, historical photographs, and diagrams and charts of guns will satisfy collectors and gun historians looking to increase their knowledge of Remington guns. Ware also includes charts and lists on production and pricing, and correspondence and newspaper clippings to round out his thorough research. Donald L. Ware, of Russellville, Arkansas, first became interested in collecting antique arms in the early 1950s and started researching Remington handguns in the 1980s. The book is available at bookstores or directly from the University of New Mexico Press. To order, please call 800-249-7737 or visit www.unmpress.com.

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 verified as of this writing, but are not guaranteed.

VIRGINIA

- ☉ June 23-24, 2007 - Winchester, VA – Sportsplex Event Center - *Old Dominion Shows*
- ☉ July 7-8, 2007 – Richmond, VA – The Showplace - *C&E Gun Show*
- ☉ July 27-29, 2007 – Chantilly, VA - Dulles Expo Center - *C&E Gun Show and/or Showmasters*
- ☉ August 4-5, 2007 - Dale City, VA - VFW Post 1503 - *Old Dominion Show*
- ☉ August 11-12, 2007 - Richmond, VA - Richmond Raceway & Fairground - *Showmasters & C&E Gun Shows*
- ☉ September 1-2, 2007 - Alexandria, VA - Hyatt Crystal - *Antique Arms Shows*
- ☉ **September 22-23, 2007 - Manassas, VA - Prince William County Fairgrounds – Virginia Gun Collectors Association**

MARYLAND

- ☉ June 23-24, 2007 - Frederick, MD – Frederick Fairgrounds - *Silverado Promotions*
- ☉ July 21-22, 2007 – Upper Marlboro, MD – Showplace Arena - *Silverado Promotions*

PENNSYLVANIA

- ☉ June 23-24, 2007 - York, PA - York Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*
- ☉ July 14-15, 2007 - Allentown, PA - Agricultural Hall at Fairgrounds - *The Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*. Contact: FDHAS, 3491 Linden St., Bethlehem, PA 18017. (610) 997-8613 after 6pm.
- ☉ September 1-2, 2007 - Allentown, PA - Allentown Days Inn - *Eagle Arms*

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