



# VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.ORG



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(A Non-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G 8162

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## February 2006 Newsletter

**Program for January 26, 2006:** The January meeting was opened by President Addison Hurst who promptly turned it over to Jim Burgess for a wonderful presentation on Civil War Weapons. Jim appeared in a period Union uniform used for his North-South Skirmish Association (N-SSA) events. Also appearing before the audience was a grand assortment and spread of civil war muskets, rifled muskets, rifles, repeating rifles, carbines, revolvers, and bayonets. Examples included both original specimens and reproductions of various vintages and makers and countries of origin. What followed was well put together, well researched, and definitely showed his passion and expertise for the weaponry from a historical perspective, however, what made it even more special was that he had personal experience in live-firing and operating many of the weapons displayed in the N-SSA matches. These matches use real ammo, with bullets, in contrast to re-enacting which uses powder-only charges for effect.

The program began with infantry weapons, starting with an 1840 smooth bored musket capable of firing 3 rounds of aimed fire per minute using lined formations. Next shown was the Springfield 1855 Rifle-musket, a rifled bored weapon using a hollow-based bullet (Minié ball) with a paper cartridge loaded with 60 grains of FFG black powder. Next followed the 1861 Springfield rifle with 3-leaf sights in .58 caliber. The rifles were shorter than the muskets and often used by skirmisher. Jim displayed more exotic pieces and some of the many imports which equipped the armies of both the Federals and the Confederacy. These included the Sharps rifles, 3 and 2-band British Enfields, the Henry repeating rifle, and the Lorenz rifle from Austria. He also displayed a very nice original example of a 1863 Remington 'Zouave' rifle, that was in nicer shape than many reproductions.

Next up were cavalry weapons, primarily carbines. These included a Maynard Carbine (2<sup>nd</sup> Model), a .50 caliber breech loader, and an 1863 Sharps percussion carbine using a .54 caliber linen cartridge, a model he uses in the N-SSA matches. He followed the technical presentations with an overview of his involvement in the North-South Skirmish Association and the national matches held out near Winchester, Virginia, which is a timed even shooting individually and in teams against the clock. The presentation was very, very well received and generated applause from the audience. Definitely a great effort, and one that will be remembered by those present.

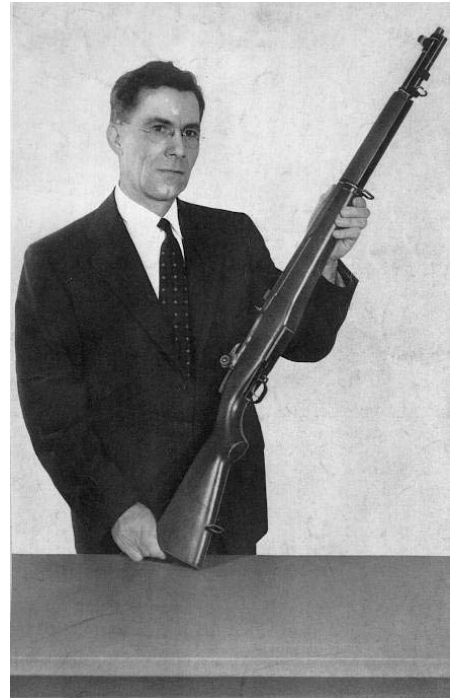
➡ **UPCOMING for the February 23 Meeting: World War II weapons.** The program for the February 23 meeting will be the weapons of WWII. The speaker will be **Martin Morgan, the curator of the D-Day Museum in New Orleans, Louisiana.** It should be a super presentation and if past is any predictor, the show and tell session following the program, with the emphasis on WWII arms – US, British and Commonwealth countries, German, Italian, French, Japanese, Russian or Finnish is right down many members alley and into their core collections, so it will be a treat. Please bring your rifles, machineguns, sub-machineguns, pistols, web-gear, manuals, or other memorabilia.

The meeting will begin promptly at 7:00pm and with the selected subject matter it is easy to predict a big turnout so arrive early to get some food, shoot the breeze, browse the weapons and ask questions. Pass this news to other members who might be receiving this newsletter late by mail.

To get you in the mood for the presentation and show and tell, a photo of **John C. Garand**, the designer of the greatest battle rifle ever carried by U.S. soldiers, in WWII and Korea, as well as allies and beneficiaries of the Lend-Lease Program, is shown to the right.

⚡ **Weather alert:** Since the weather is determined to let us know it will not be second-guessed, and Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow, winter remains a potentially uninvited guest at dinner. No one wants to re-enact the Battle of the Bulge by freezing in the snow at the closed NRA museum.

**Please remember to check the VGCA website,**  
<http://www.vgca.org>, for late breaking notices on meeting cancellations.



**January 26 Business Meeting of the VGCA:** Addison re-opened the meeting following a short break. Larry Hunt, VGCA Show Security Chief, who needed to leave early, gave an overview of the plans for the upcoming show and called for volunteers for security for all three days (Friday night, Saturday and Sunday), as well as setup and teardown. *(Note: Please see the separate section on the upcoming show and call for volunteers for details.)* After the announcements, the show and tell began.

**Meeting Show and Tell:** Show and Tell started with Addison who showed his Allin conversions to illustrate what happened to the arms of the Civil War as the US tried to upgrade the existing stock of arms in times of tight budgets. He showed the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Allin conversions of older rifles to the new trapdoor format breechloaders. He also showed a very nice Swiss Model 1867 Peabody rifle in 10.4X38 Swiss Rimfire. The Peabody, but in .45-70, was almost adopted by the US military, but foregone due to cost. The Swiss bought 15,000 and used it as a sharpshooters rifle even after the adoption of the Vetterli. Hal Green showed a rare 1857 Green bolt action rifle in .54 caliber oval bore which used a paper cartridge with the bullet behind the powder. 600 were made for trials purposes. Hal has actually shot this old rifle. Bob Brown showed an original 1863 CS Richmond Carbine. These were made on Harpers Ferry Arsenal machinery captured by the Confederates and moved to Richmond, Virginia. Due to faking, it is said that if the south had as many of these guns, as there are now, they might have won the war. Larry Cooley and Charlie Rausch exhibited 2 Sharps carbines, an 1859 martially marked (only 3000 made), and a New Model 1863 Sharps converted to .50-70-450 cartridge. David Szatkowski showed an 1863 Slocum side-loading revolving pistol in .32 rimfire. Ernie Lyle showed a Belgium-style parlor pistol with Meters-Koune markings. The pistol was definitely of Swiss, German, or Austrian design. Larry Hare showed a Shiloh Sharps sniper with a long period Lyman scope, and a Uberti Henry reproduction in .45 Colt. Marc Gorelick showed one of his first guns, a brass framed Italian reproduction of a Colt .36 Navy percussion

revolver. Bob Sears closed the show and tell with a humorous general set of collecting “true” meanings of collector definitions, conditions, names, and models, and a magnum prayer. Another varied and fascinating grouping of arms.

**VGCA Welcomes New Members:** Larry Hare welcomed new club members Robert Brown and Hal Johnson after their being voted in, and reminded annual members that dues ARE DUE.

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**The Spring 2006 VGCA Gun Show: The upcoming VGCA show at the Prince William County Fairgrounds (PWC) is March 25-26, 2006. The Security coordinator is requesting volunteers (club members) to work security Friday, March 24th, Saturday, March 25th and Sunday, March 26th for the upcoming Gun Show. Volunteers should call 703-368-2887 during the day and speak to Larry Hunt or email [ldhunt@idsscan.com](mailto:ldhunt@idsscan.com).**

All concealed weapon carry requests for the upcoming VGCA Gun Show **must be made by March 11th or they will not be granted.** Email your request with a reason for your request to carry and a statement that you hold a valid Virginia Concealed Weapons Permit, or you are an active or retired law enforcement officer, and a member in good standing with VGCA to [ldhunt@idsscan.com](mailto:ldhunt@idsscan.com). Anyone not appropriately registered before March 11th will be asked nicely to remove the weapon from the building.

Rick Nahas gave an detailed March Show overview and touched upon security, the number of vendors, and how to reinforce tables if using clamps for displays. There was a very helpful and open discussion about the VGCA shows and demonstrated a lot of member concern and dedication to the shows with good suggestions and observations. Keep the suggestions and observations coming.

Comment: Following the October show, and at this meeting, there has been much discussion and debate on the venue, the show, lessons learned and possible changes. This venue has a lot of potential, and all VGCA members need to keep trying to make the new show venue at PWC work as smoothly as the Bealeton shows at Hugo’s. Anytime you change a business rule you need to work hard to retain the attendees (customer). The show committees, security folks, club officers and members have worked hard on making the VGCA show a show to look forward to attending.

It is especially important that we highlight the fact that we are a totally firearms related, quality show. There are no jewelry tables, no Beany Babies, no junk and no other fofoferall items at the VGCA shows, and the displays are well conceived and top notch, often with rare and unusual items, but always with a goal of educating and informing the public and members of the history, technology and nostalgia of the period covered.

***ALL GUNS MUST BE TIED AND UNLOADED!!!*** A simple rule. However, at a recent show in Fredericksburg, VA, there was an accidental discharge which sent a round through the roof of the new facility. Keep them tied, and if you cut a tie for inspection, re-tie it only after checking the chamber and any magazine for a round. It is possible for someone, out of stupidity or design, to load a round and then pass the gun back. Check then tie!!

**Future dates:** Future dates for 2007 are March 9-10-11 and Oct 19-20-21, 2007. This includes the setup date on Fridays, March 9, 2007 and October 19, 2007. That is plenty of time to plan and design a display table of your favorite firearms field.

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## Member Research Requests

(The following new feature is presented as space permits. VGCA has a lot of members with a wealth of information. Members may email such requests to [VGCANews@cox.net](mailto:VGCANews@cox.net) for submission.)

\*\* If anyone has a collection of English Sporting Flintlock Rifles, or Fowling pieces, circa 1820~1840, I am looking for the chance to photograph three or four of them, particularly the lock, trigger/guard, and butt stock. (If this goes as far as publication you will receive full credit for the firearm, if you wish.) Please contact Jack Looney at (703) 534-3286 or [Rifleman-1st.45-70@att.net](mailto:Rifleman-1st.45-70@att.net)

## Upcoming Events and Shows

### **VIRGINIA**

- **February 17-19 – Chantilly, VA** - The Nation's Capital Militaria Show at Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly, VA. Contact: [C&E Gun Shows](mailto:C&EGunShows) (888) 715-0606 or [Showmasters](mailto>Showmasters) (540) 951-1344.
- **Feb 18-19 – Hampton, VA** - Southeastern Guns & Knives Ltd - Convention Center
- **Feb 25-26 – Leesburg, VA** - Old Dominion Shows - National Guard Armory
- **March 4-5 – Richmond, VA** - C&E Gun Shows - The Showplace
- **Mar 25-26 – Manassas, VA** - **Prince William County Fairgrounds, the Virginia Gun Collectors Association (VGCA)** [www.vgca.com](http://www.vgca.com). (Please see other show details in the newsletter.)

### **MARYLAND**

- **March 18-19 - Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, MD.** [Maryland Arms Collectors Association](http://MarylandArmsCollectorsAssociation.com). Contact: Ed Kemp, 5755 Windsong Ct., New Market, MD 21774. (301) 865-6804. A great show!
- **Saturday only - May 20, only – Frederick Fairgrounds, Frederick, MD.** [Potomac Arms Collectors Association \(PACA\)](http://PotomacArmsCollectorsAssociation.com) (9am to 5pm). Featuring the [National Airgun Collectors](http://NationalAirgunCollectors.com). For those of you interested in antique, historical and collectible airguns, this is a nice addition.

### **PENNSYLVANIA**

- **Feb 25-26 York, York Fairgrounds, [Appalachian Promotions](http://AppalachianPromotions.com).**
- **May 6-7 Harrisburg Farm Show Complex, [Mid-Atlantic Arms Collectors](http://Mid-AtlanticArmsCollectors.com)** Large good show that always has some treasures, but get there early, wear good shoes as the concrete is a killer. 2-way radios a plus.

## Upcoming events at the Potomac Arms Collectors Association (PACA) – from Jim Vaughn

**The February 16<sup>th</sup> PACA meeting** will feature a membership “Show and Tell” whose theme is *Semi-automatic pistols: foreign or domestic, military or civilian*.

I have an email address specifically for any VGCA Newsletter related matters or submissions. That new address is [VGCANews@cox.net](mailto:VGCANews@cox.net). Feel free to email comments, photos, etc. for inclusion in the newsletter. For issues of non-receipt of the newsletter, either via email or the hard-copy that is mailed, please contact Larry Hare at the numbers on page one.

Bill Chronister