



Fort Constitution Arms Collectors

Meeting Report: January 3, 2018

Web address: <http://www.armscollectors.org/>



Happy New Year... and Snappy Salutes to you!

Just when we got used to it being 2017... the game has changed, and it's suddenly 2018! What's really bizarre is that to me... "1970" was just here, and I paid \$3600 for that special order Mustang Mach I complete with EVERY option, Damn!... Where did 1970 go?... and where's that Mustang now? Time marches on....

Our January mustering of the fort fell on a "sort of" clear Wednesday night, and of course it was COLD. Temperatures all over New England have been well BELOW zero every day and night for a week or more! Generally, -18 is not unusual... Al Gore and his "Global Warming" can go to Heck!

Heavy snow was predicted for the day after our meeting, and so with that in mind... we all scampered into the building with goodies, bang sticks and trade goods. It was 15 minutes or so earlier than usual, but what the heck... the night was both dark AND cold!

Smiling and jovial faces were abundant, but of course a number of "regulars" were missing because of the extreme weather. Some may have simply "forgotten", hence the need for meeting reminders to be sent out. My thinking is that "Reminder Emails" should go out 3 days prior to our gatherings. That would always be on a Sunday, and give all you folks a chance to see them! In any event, our FCAC meetings are ALWAYS held on the first Wednesday of each month at 6 PM!... Put THAT notation on your calendars!

So, our January 3 gathering of the fort was fun, profitable, and provided more pieces and parts for both projects and "range" fun for those of us who don't shoot out of their kitchen windows... right John? One never knows WHAT is going to show up on a club table, and that's half the fun of this hobby... the seeking, finding, and the happy surprises! Exchanging information, sharing stories and the general comradery are especially what brings it all to life. The evening's 50/50 was won by a much surprised Justin Kiblin, who promised that he'd put his winnings to good use!.. Ha Ha.

How to get your hands on a M1911 pistol from the US Army stockpile

One can be purchased per year by a qualified buyer from the U.S. Army stockpile ... read on...

<http://www.foxnews.com/tech/2018/01/05/how-to-get-your-hands-on-historic-m1911-pistol-from-us-army-stockpile.html>

A Warm Look Back

Shooting, collecting, and just plain enjoying firearms is a way of life for many. It's been that way ever since the first "bang-stick" was created! Generation upon generation have delighted in the smell of gunpowder, and the challenge of trying to hit what you're aiming at down range! In the Concord, NH area there have always been "gun-guys", and God willing, there always WILL be! It's been my pleasure and honor to have known a number of the older fellows who grew up during the depression, and experienced WW2 and the exuberant recovery and growth of the U.S. during the late 40's and 1950's.

One of my older pals, who always reminded me SO much of my grandfather, was "Bill Summers". From an early age Bill loved guns. His profession was Machinist at the Rumford Press, but he was also a self-taught gunsmith, who developed a reputation and following in the Concord area. Fellows would gather in Bill's Beacon Street basement where he had his equipment, and talk shop and gun stuff while Bill operated on all sorts of wonderful things! During the 1950's there was a glut of surplus Mausers and Jap rifles. Back then there were inexpensive guns everywhere, and lots of Rev war and C/W antiques! Bill sporterized a ton of stuff during those years, built some beautiful Target rifles, and probably 20 or more Jap sporters. One of them (an especially pretty example) he built for his one armed father. That rifle had long been "retired" to the bridging under the upstairs floor. During the 1970's when I'd visit Bill, I always admired that dusty rifle for both its beauty, and for the love it represented. One night during a visit, and knowing that Bill had old gun parts, I mentioned that I needed a bolt for a Jap rifle that I'd bought. Bill took down his dad's gun and said "here, take this". He insisted that I take the rifle as a gift... but feeling much affection, I insisted that Bill at least take \$100 to buy "Ginger Snaps". Bill died in his 90's about 10 years ago, and that Jap sporter is still a much cherished possession of mine.

Bill Summers was one of the founders of the Pioneer Gun Club, and a member of the "Ned Roberts Muzzleloaders" of Dunbarton. Below is a photo of the Ned Roberts group in costume taken at the time of the Contoocook Fair in 1959. Left to Right – Dick Guay, Roy Bowlby, Bill Summers, and Frank Lyons... I didn't know Roy, but remember Dick Guay and Frank Lyons. Some of the Shooting Medals Bill won and later gave to me at the end of his life are shown, and of course THERE'S the beloved Jap Sporter now in 300 Savage, with muzzle brake and Lyman target peep. ... **Oh how I miss Bill!**



Fake News on Gun Confiscation?

A member of the group New Yorkers Against Gun Violence (NYAGV) recently penned a newspaper opinion piece on the upcoming deadline for recertifying handgun licenses in New York State. Titled, “Gun recertification a step for safety, not confiscation,” the writer ridicules New York State handgun owners as being “‘up in arms’ again over the fact that they have to recertify” their eligibility to possess a handgun. For “too many gun owners,” he adds, “any gun safety legislation is wrong, viewed as the camel’s nose in the tent of gun confiscation.” He concludes by expressing his disgust at what he calls “...the mindless fealty to the NRA and its affiliates’ spin that all gun laws are unconstitutional and will lead to confiscation. There are 300 million guns in our country; do the math. No one is coming for your guns.” Every person is entitled to his or her own opinion, of course, but facts are a different matter.... (Where’s my Salt Shaker?) As a follow up from ex NY patriot “Roger” who bailed out years ago – New York and its anti-gun government **SUCKS**...almost as much as New Jersey’s anti-gun Libtard government does!

The Drubbing down of “Entertainment”

Mocking political figures is nearly an American sport. We tune in to comedians on cable networks and late-night television for relief from the drollness of politics. There is just nothing like laughing at a grandstanding or even hypocritical elected official. It is cathartic. Leftists however have hijacked late-night television, bludgeoning viewers with venomous propaganda instead of the entertainment they came seeking. Just one night after an evil man took 58 lives in Las Vegas and wounded hundreds more, Jimmy Kimmel, Stephen Colbert, Trevor Noah and other late-night comedians decided to judgmentally and boorishly preach elitist, far-left propaganda aimed at law-abiding gun owners.

https://www.americas1stfreedom.org/articles/2017/11/23/the-hate-show/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=insider&utm_campaign=1117

Why Did Greenland’s Vikings Vanish?

On the grassy slope of a fjord near the southernmost tip of Greenland stand the ruins of a church built by Viking settlers more than a century before Columbus sailed to the Americas. The Vikings called this fjord Hvalsey, which means “Whale Island” in Old Norse. It was here that Sigrid Bjornsdottir wed Thorstein Olafsson on Sunday, September 16, 1408. The couple had been sailing from Norway to Iceland when they were blown off course; they ended up settling in Greenland, which by then had been a Viking colony for some 400 years. Their marriage was mentioned in three letters written between 1409 and 1424, and was then recorded for posterity by medieval Icelandic scribes. Another record from the period noted that one person had been burned at the stake at Hvalsey for witchcraft. But the documents are most remarkable—and baffling—for what they *don’t* contain: any hint of hardship or imminent catastrophe for the Viking settlers in Greenland, who’d been living at the very edge of the known world ever since a renegade Icelander named Erik the Red arrived in a fleet of 14 longships in 985. For those letters were the last anyone ever heard from the Norse Greenlanders.... **They vanished from history.**

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/why-greenland-vikings-vanished-180962119/>



Restoring the .22 Harrington & Richardson Reising M-65... “The General”

FCAC club member **John Martin** sent me the terrific story below. I’m confident that you’ll enjoy both it and the information he includes... John brought the refurbished H&R rifle to our last meeting for show and tell. (This is the sort of stuff that I’d like you folks to send me each month for newsletter fun!)

The M-65 rifle has an interesting history, being developed as a trainer for the Reising family of sub-machine guns during WW II, and finding some popularity with civilian users. There is a lot of information available on-line, so I suggest if you want more information start with Wikipedia. The subject here is the restoration of an M-65 I picked up at a recent FCAC meeting (against my better judgment, I might add).

I looked at it several times, and decided that finding the missing op-rod, bolt and magazine would probably be more “expensive” than the price of the rifle. Other members were discussing it, and one of them remarked that there was a damaged magazine for it at another table. Now, I’ll always pick up something odd and interesting for a good price, and at \$10, this was an interesting addition to my parts drawer. It was at about that time I realized I was about to succumb to the curse of the tinkerer, and build something because I had one part!

The seller was at a higher price than I wanted to pay (like many of you, I’m not cheap, I’m frugal)... but he came down, and I took it home with me. It’s a beautiful rifle, nice finish on the metal, and the walnut stock will clean up nicely. The Redfield sight was complete and didn’t seem to have any frozen parts, always a bonus. A tear down later that night, and a quick search for a schematic, and I had my shopping list. I wanted to try to keep my budget to around \$150. High hopes, but I’m in no hurry. I needed a bolt of course, and the magazine I had needed a new spring and a floor plate. I also needed the op-rod, the op-rod spring and the spring guide, as well as a hammer. The hammer spring was still in the receiver, so that was a small victory. For the hell of it, I got on-line, looked at the usual sites for parts, and found most of them were reasonably priced, but out of stock. Other sites had some of the parts at some pretty high prices, so I kept looking. Like I said, I’m in no hurry.

The funny part about guns is there are many different names for some models, and different combinations will take you to different places. I found a bolt and hammer combination for a lot less than I expected, an op-rod for about the same, and the spring and guide that look a lot like an M-1 carbine spring and guide (That made me think: The rifle was issued with an M-1 carbine sling in a slightly different configuration. Given the war time conditions, there’s a chance there may be a parts interchange. I’ll see when I get the op-rod fitted) Well under budget so far, and I jumped on them. But a rifle without a magazine is a single shot, so what’s the point? There was one 5 rounder on E-bay, where every part is “rare”, “factory new” and about equal to a new truck payment. Gunbroker.com had a couple, starting at \$70, but at that price I’ll try to salvage the magazine I have, repair or replace the spring, and fashion a base plate (it’s only sheet metal). Of course, everything you order lately is getting lost in the Xmas rush, so the wait is on. In the meanwhile, I’ll turn to the stock. All the hardware is there, from sling swivels to butt plate. The butt plate was a surprise, as many of the M-65s for sale on line seem to be missing it. Go figure. But the walnut is in great shape and will clean up with a little 0000 and linseed oil. It will be perfect for a long winter’s project down in the dungeon workshop.

To my astonishment, the bolt and hammer came through in less than a week. To even more astonishment, they slid in with no fitting, and the kid in me had to try hand cocking it and dry firing! It sounded like a light strike, so maybe a new hammer spring will go in. I’ll get one and keep it on hand, just in case. The actuator spring and guide turned out to be the real challenge. The first order from Gun Parts Corp, also known as “Numrich”, came through in just a few days. I was busy, so the package sat on the work bench for a few days before I could get to it. Everything had worked so well so far that I didn’t expect any problems... So much for confidence! The parts were closer to the size needed for an

M-1 carbine, and definitely there was NO way to make them work, so back they are going. Another search of the web using different descriptions, turned up the parts on the Sarco site, but they didn't have pictures, so that was a crap shoot.

I decided to gamble that the world isn't filled with maniacs trying to restore an M-65 at Christmas time, so I broadened my search using real simple terms. I found a combination spring and guide for a Marlin/Glenfield on EBay from a dealer I've used before, and has a good return policy. The buy it now price was ridiculously low, so I took a chance. Not expecting anything soon, the rifle went back together and onto the project rack to wait for another disappointment. In surprisingly short order Hampel Guns delivered, and the package got ripped open faster than an early Christmas present! It looked close... so close that I thought it had to be the wrong part, but down I went to the dungeon and lifted the M-65 off the rack and broke it down. The parts fit perfectly! Evidently there was some copying in the design department, or they were just misidentified in the Hampel parts department. The gun seemed to function flawlessly. A visit to the kitchen window as soon as the wife was out of the house, and a half a magazine later I have a really nice H&R Reising M-65 in my collection!..... **On to the next project!**

Success is when you look back at your life and the memories make you smile.

A Once In A Lifetime Opportunity

Club member George Duke wishes to bring to your attention 2 very SPECIAL rifles for sale. These are Brand New in the box Henry Golden Boy's in .22 magnum, and in .17 blued finish. Both are serial numbered "2". These have Special wood furniture, and will be sold as a set only. There's a story that goes with them!... Contact George Duke for price and particulars: email4duke@gmail.com
Home Phone: (603) 774-6912.... Cell: (603) 731-6912



A Lever Action Feud?

Club member John McConnell pointed out recently that it seems a feud is brewing today between Uberti and Browning. Browning bought the Winchester trademark after U.S. Repeating Arms went out of business in Connecticut a few years ago. Since then Browning decided to begin making the 1873. Uberti of course has been producing them for many years. So, it's become a pissing match to see whose version is better, or more saleable. Both company's recognize that lever actions are here to stay. 73, 83, 94 or whatever... they're all good! I always loved the "Henry". John points out that it was once feared by many that the legend of the 94 30/30 was gone for good, but no... it's still alive and doing just fine!
<http://www.taylorsfirearms.com/long-guns/cartridge-rifles/1883-burgess-lever-action-rifle.html>

1894 Carabine and Rifle | Uberti Replicas <https://www.ubertireplicas.com/product/1894-carabine-and-rifle/>

Model 94 Carbine <http://www.winchesterguns.com/products/rifles/model-94/model-94-current-products/model-94-carbine.html>

What a “Cowboy Machine Gun” Looks Like... (Now THIS is fast!)

Speaking of Lever-action rifles, we have this! Lever-actions are a unique niche in the firearm world. The go-to choice for a rapid fire weapon in the late 1800s, these so-called “repeaters” are a staple in Western movies where white and black hats alike are armed with them. Older single-shot models also enrapture audiences, with the infamous Martini-Henry playing a prominent role in the movie classic “Zulu.” For anyone who has ever fired these rifles, it becomes apparent that practice and patience are needed to effectively cycle while remaining on target. However, with the right skills, know-how, and experience, a lever-action rifle can become a deadly machine capable of putting a lot of lead downrange in a short period of time. <https://conservativetribune.com/cowboy-machine-gun/>

The Mauser Model 1898 Rifle – Everything You EVER Wanted To Know

The Model 1898—now more commonly known simply as the 98 Mauser—brought together a great many evolutionary design improvements and added a larger forward receiver ring for strength than found in previous models. A better porting system to vent away gases in the event of a ruptured case or primer was also included. The 98 Mauser was chambered in 7.92x57 mm Mauser, featuring a 227-gr., round-nose FMJ bullet at 2,000 f.p.s. from a 23.62" barrel. Later this would be changed to a 153-gr. spitzer bullet at 2,700 f.p.s. Patented by Paul Mauser in 1895, it became the *Gewehr 98* (Rifle 98) of the German military three years later.

The rifle was first used in combat in the Boxer Rebellion (1899–1901). By the time of World War I (1914), the German army stores of 98 Mausers was just a bit more than 2 million. Another 7 million were produced during the war.

https://www.americanrifleman.org/articles/2017/11/22/a-look-back-at-the-mauser-model-1898-rifle/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=insider&utm_campaign=1117



“After God, we should place our hopes of safety in our weapons, not in our fortifications alone.” ~ Emperor Mauricius Flavius Tiberius, 600 AD

Take Note: A famous scientist once said... “Either God exists or he doesn't... either way it's frightening! If he **DOES** exist, that means we need to find out who he is and what he wants, because he owns the place. If he **DOESN'T** exist we are in trouble, because we are hurdling through space at 6000 mph and nobody is driving.”

SMGs – “Fallen From Favor” - The End of the Machine Pistol?

No self-respecting Western movie-producer would dream of making a movie about WWII (European Theater) without equipping nearly all his actors portraying Wehrmacht (German) soldiers with MP-38 SMGs. The profile is unmistakable!

The distribution of MP-38s throughout the actual WWII Wehrmacht was not nearly as generous as one might conclude from watching WWII feature films, particularly those filmed in America, but there were still many produced and used. Often incorrectly called the “Schmeisser,” the MP-38 (“MP” is for “Machine Pistol”) made extensive use of metal stampings, and even die-cast internal parts. It was thus cheap and easy to manufacture and could be produced in far greater numbers, and faster than much more precise Mauser rifles. <https://www.ammoland.com/2017/12/smgs-hope-machine-pistol/#axzz52JYkbUpM>



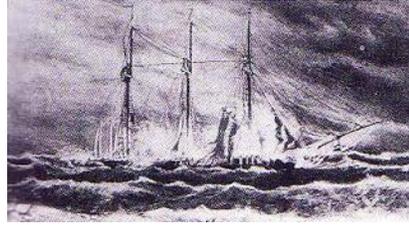
A Bad Investment: The S&W Model 1940 Light Rifle

In early 1939, Great Britain consulted with Smith & Wesson regarding the development of a “light rifle” for potential use by that nation’s armed forces, and S&W’s chief designer, Edward S. Pomeroy, was tasked with the project. Pomeroy and his team designed a blowback-operated rifle chambered for the 9 mm Parabellum (Luger) cartridge. The initial patent was filed on June 28, 1939, and granted on Sept. 3, 1940. Smith & Wesson submitted design drawings and several prototype samples to the British government for approval. The design was deemed acceptable, and the British advanced \$1 million to S&W in order to get the new carbine into production. The gun was designated the “Model 1940 Light Rifle.” Design flaws aside, the concept of a semi-automatic-only rifle that was 32-inches long, weighed more than 9 pounds (loaded), and fired a pistol cartridge hardly made for an optimum military arm for a variety of reasons. The Brits were NOT pleased with those “damned colonials and their boat anchor”, and so cancelled the contract! <https://www.americanrifleman.org/articles/2012/10/17/a-bad-investment-sw-model-1940-light-rifle/>



As Ronald Reagan said: “the worst 10 words in the English vocabulary are - I’m from the government and I’m here to help you”

A True Ghost Story: The Curse of the Charles Haskell



The Curse of the Charles Haskell, a fishing boat that was “damned before it ever left harbor.” The Charles Haskell was built for cod fishing, and undergoing its final inspection prior to its maiden voyage, when a workmen slipped on the deck and fell, breaking his neck. This would have been about 1869, and superstition was high back then. Someone dying aboard ship before it even left the harbor starts people whispering about a curse pretty quickly. The original buyers backed out, and the Haskell sat in the harbor for a long while before someone worked up the courage to buy the schooner. Then again, New Englanders are crafty, and it’s possible that the new owners never heard of a curse, though they no doubt soon would. The haunting was so talked about that a song titled “The Ghostly Sailors” was written about it. <https://www.gothichorrorstories.com/true-ghost-stories/a-true-ghost-story-from-the-sea-the-curse-of-the-charles-haskell/>

Fun With an M-2 Carbine

The .30 carbine was (and is) a neat little weapon and the M-2 variation made it even better. Here’s a video made many years ago that demonstrates “classically” what makes an M-2 tick and tick and tick. [https://www.facebook.com/LoneStarGunRights/videos/1598447366882615/?hc_ref=ARQ1 - UoqiWXrGB-AE_NSqfhGj3-U3IDpAi1uLEfkDdov3-vqCSBpG3IX2VW6k8zbAg](https://www.facebook.com/LoneStarGunRights/videos/1598447366882615/?hc_ref=ARQ1-UoqiWXrGB-AE_NSqfhGj3-U3IDpAi1uLEfkDdov3-vqCSBpG3IX2VW6k8zbAg)

NRA News - "A Marine's Case for Reciprocity"- (FCAC President Evan Nappen is in this) The Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017 passed the House last December and will next be considered by the Senate. But a veteran U.S. Marine Corporal is living proof of why it needs to become law... Holy Crap!... Watch this video! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HvcX5c_zhDg&feature=youtu.be

Road Contamination Prompted Evacuation of a Town!

Here’s some “environmental excitement” that could easily befall a town anywhere! Toxic, Acidic or Hazardous waste being dumped on highways (mostly at night, or in the rain). Reportedly it’s even happened in New Hampshire, Maine... and of course in Massachusetts! On a day in 1982, the Missouri Department of Health and the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) informed residents of Times Beach, Missouri that their town was contaminated when the chemical dioxin was sprayed on its unpaved roads, and that the town would have to be evacuated and demolished. By February, the federal and state governments had spent \$36 million to buy every house in town except one (its owners, lifelong residents of Times Beach, refused to sell). In 1985, the city was officially disincorporated. In 1979, the EPA came to town and took soil samples, and in 1982 the agency announced that the levels of dioxin in Times Beach (the most potent cancer-causing agent made by man) were off the charts. In all, the agency spent \$250 million and incinerated 265,000 tons of dioxin-tainted soil. In 1999, the bulldozed and cleaned-up Times Beach reopened as the “Route 66 State Park”

Anyone care for a picnic? <https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/times-beach-missouri>

History in January

January 1, 1660 - Samuel Pepys began his famous diary in which he chronicled life in London including the Great Plague of 1664-65 and the Great Fire of 1666... Far more educational than reading Harry Potter!

January 1, 1959 - Fidel Castro seized power in Cuba and established a Communist dictatorship.

January 3, 1777 - During the American Revolution, General George Washington defeated the British at Princeton, NJ and drove them back toward New Brunswick. He then established winter quarters at Morristown. During the long harsh winter, Washington's army shrank to about a thousand men as enlistments expired and deserters fled. Today, Political Oppression is causing New Jersey's population to shrink back toward that level!

January 8, 1815 - The Battle of New Orleans occurred as General Andrew Jackson, pirate Jean Lafitte, and American troops defeated a far larger British force, inflicting over 2,000 casualties... **Everyone Mardi Gras!**

January 11, 1964 - The U.S. Surgeon General declared "cigarettes may be hazardous to ones health"... Well, in that case then I'll just smoke a pipe like my Pop does!

January 12, 1999 - President Bill Clinton sent a check for \$850,000 to Paula Jones officially ending the sensational sexual harassment legal case that ultimately endangered his presidency. The president withdrew \$375,000 from his and Hillary Rodham Clinton's personal funds and got the remaining \$475,000 from an insurance policy. It's alright though... because the Clintons are "Democrats", so the media didn't mind.

January 13, 1834 - Author Horatio Alger was born in Revere, Massachusetts. He wrote over 100 books for boys, many featuring "rags to riches" themes of poor boys triumphing over life's obstacles. (They're corny but Terrific!)

January 15, 1559 - Elizabeth Tudor, daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn, was crowned as Elizabeth I.

January 17, 1773 - The ship *Resolution*, sailing under Captain James Cook, became the first vessel to cross the Antarctic Circle... and a raucous snow ball fight promptly erupted among the crew!

January 24, 1972 - Japanese soldier Shoichi Yokoi was discovered on Guam after he had spent 28 years hiding out in the jungle not knowing World War II had long since ended... "Have you Americans surrendered yet?"

January 28, 1871 - The Franco-Prussian War ended as Paris surrendered to the Germans after a four month siege. (France of course became quite good at surrendering to the Germans).

January 30, 1649 - King Charles I of England was beheaded for treason by order of Parliament under the direction of Oliver Cromwell.... (No really good reason... it had just been a slow week in London)

Next Meeting:



February 7, 2018

