

The intager

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE DOUBLE GUN SOCIETY, VINTAGE GUNNERS

Volume Six, Issue 2 ----- Second Quarter 2021

President's Message

Dear Vintage Gunners,

We are approximately 80 days away from the celebration of the Vintage Gunners Cup. Our list of exhibitors continues to grow with some key figures committing to attend. Steve Barnett Fine Guns, Robin Hollow Outfitters, Vintage Doubles, Fire Tower Doubles, Steve Cobb Quality Guns, MacNab Fine Guns, Heritage Guns, RST Shotshells and many others will attend.

Just a reminder that we are holding a pump gun competition on Wednesday. This is also an opportunity for individuals who have never experienced a Vintage Gunners event to see what we are all about. Shooters can experience the course with a pump gun, side x side, over and under and semi-auto loaders. We will also be holding an 8 ga. competition on the five-stand on Wednesday. The rifle range will be open for several hours for individuals that would like to shoot on the rifle range and see what the rifle competition consists of. We hope the various events will encourage a broader range of shooters to give the Vintage Gunners a try. We will have several raffles running throughout the event with proceeds going to sending children with cancer to "Camp Can Do". Prizes will be announced at a later date. We hope to make this a fun experience with some unique prizes for our participants.



President Tom Snyder

Thursday through Friday events will consist of shotgun gauge events, games and the rifle competition. The lady's high tea and the cocktail party will occur on Friday. This year's cocktail party will cost \$10.00 each for members and \$25.00 each for non-members. I would like to thank Robin Hollow Outfitters for their generous donation for the lady's high tea and Anthony Rinaldi for his support with his donation of the wine for the cocktail party. To enter the cocktail party tent, you will hand in your ticket and receive a wine glass with an engraved Vintage Gunners hammer to keep and take home. We will have a limited number of additional wine glasses for sale for \$10.00 each on Saturday at the Vintage Gunners booth. Awards for Thursday and Friday's 50 clays competition will be handed out at the cocktail party. Awards will not be mailed out – you must pick them up during the Vintage Gunners Cup event.

For Thursday and Friday, the shooting course will be divided into 3 sections. There will be a small gauge course on the hill past the five-stand. The 16 and 20 ga. course and separate 10 ga. and 12 ga. courses will be near the golf cart staging area. There must be at least 3 shooters in a category to have an award presented for any shooting event.

For our rifle shooters, we have moved the rifle range and added some new venues. We will have three running targets and the charging Cape Buffalo is back! There will be stationary targets set at 30, 50, 100 and 150 yds. The rules for the rifle competition will be posted on the website. Awards for the different rifle competitions will be handed out at the rifle range after shooting has concluded. Again, there must be at least three shooters in a competition to receive an award.

Saturday will be the main event. The course will consist of 80 targets with stations selected from the 10, 12, 16, and 20-gauge courses. The presentations will be altered to make them a little more interesting. Games will also be open for shooters on Saturday. Awards for the games and the Main Event will be given out at the end of the day on Saturday. Awards will not be mailed out – you must pick them up during the Vintage Gunners Cup event. We will also have a drawing for prizes on Saturday under the big exhibitor's tent.

Let me finish by saying we have worked to make the Vintage Gunners Cup an enjoyable event for all. The Vintage Gunners Cup is as much a social event as it is a shooting event. For many of us, it is the end of the clay target shooting schedule as we head into hunting season. I hope you will come and enjoy shooting fine guns and to reunite with old friends.

And I hope everyone had a great 4th of July!

Tom Snyder
President, The Vintage Gunners



From the Field

Western Lakes Chapter on the Move

The new Western Lakes chapter of the Vintage Gunners has been working hard recruiting new members. President Steve Norkus says they will be holding a chapter shoot/recruiting event once a month for the next year. This chapter looks to cover Michigan and Wisconsin and areas in between. Anyone wanting more information on the Western Lakes chapter can reach out to Steve at: stenorkus2000@yahoo.com or 248-914-0770.

A Lancaster Apart

By F. Jack Hurley, Carolina Vintagers

At some point in the mid-1870s, someone walked into the South Audley Street premises of Alfred Lancaster and ordered the gun of my dreams. It was probably ordered for a lady or possibly an older gent. The gun in question was to be a 20 bore in the bar-in-wood configuration and equipped with an



elegant side-lever opener on the right side. As delivered, its barrels are 29 1/8" and its length of pull is 14 1/8" to a checkered butt with heel and toe plates. And here is the real surprise, it sports 2 3/4" chambers! I think the chambers have probably been lengthened, but the work was done in the UK and properly nitro re-proved afterward.

The Damascus barrels are simply wonderful. The thinnest point on either barrel is .50 and that is 20" from the breach. The gun balances beautifully and is a joy to shoot, as your editor, Matt Haney, will attest. He shot it recently and afterward I had a tough time prying it out of his grasp. (*Ed: Ahem...my hands may have been a little sticky that day. Must have been the humidity.*) Alfred Lancaster is the least well known of the Lancaster family of gun makers, but he is well worth getting



to know. The founder of the dynasty was Charles Lancaster, who learned his trade, as so many great London gunmakers did, under Joseph Manton. By 1811 he was in business for himself as a barrel maker and by the early 1820s he was listed in London directories as a gun maker. Always known for his excellent barrels, he was recognized as one of the best gunmakers in London and received his first of several Royal Warrants in 1843. When he died in 1847, his business passed to his son, Charles William Lancaster and C. W. brought his younger brother, Alfred, into the business in 1855. The two brothers worked together for about five years and patented one of the first breach-loading cartridges. In late 1859 Alfred Lancaster moved out on his own and established his business in the prestigious South Audley Street premises. According to Nigel Brown, British Gunmakers – Volume I, Alfred was able to stay there for twenty-five years, so he clearly enjoyed considerable success. Both younger Lancasters learned the art of barrel making from their father and both made guns with barrels of superlative quality.



Brown notes that during the 1870s (when my little gun was made), Alfred seemed to be at the peak of his gun making prowess. Brown states “examination of some of the London shooting grounds trap pigeon competition results of the period indicates that about 1872 Alfred’s guns were being used more frequently than Charles’ but that a couple of years later they had drawn level.” By the early 1880s, Alfred’s work was clearly in eclipse and in 1884 he was declared bankrupt. He died in 1890.

The business of brother Charles W. went on from strength to strength, building both rifles and shotguns and even three and four barreled shotguns. When he died in 1878, his business was taken over by Henry A. A. Thorn, a first-class gun maker, who carried on under the Charles Lancaster name and eventually acquired the name and assets of Alfred’s business as well. The Thorn family continued gun making under the Charles Lancaster name for many years until, in 1932, it was absorbed into a large coalition under the name Grant and Lang.

What went wrong between the two Lancaster brothers? We will never know but friction within families is not unknown. The gun trade in London in the 1870s and '80s was viciously competitive, with a dozen or more gun makers vying for the trade of a relatively small coterie of wealthy men and women, who hardly found it necessary to buy guns very often. What we do know is that for a few years in the 1870s Alfred Lancaster built guns of superlative quality. Pretty little serial number 4155 is proof of that.



A Reminiscence: Quail Hunt at River Bend ~ in the Snow?

By Phillip Floyd (aka Lord Philip) and Don Moorhead, Carolina Vintagers

We're sure the reader is familiar with hunting ducks or pheasants in the snow. But Quail? Let us take you back a few years to the weekend of January 29th-31st, 2010.

A group of Carolina Vintagers decided to spend the weekend at River Bend. We recall the group arriving for lunch and we shot a round of sporting clays. As fate



would have it, the weather report changed from whatever it was going to be to a prediction of snow. Well, the faint hearted bailed...with the exception of Barrister Don Moorhead, Bill “Saucy Peacock” Curry and Phillip “Pink Floyd”. Phillip hated that name but it was given by Bill and you know him to have been a bit imperious.

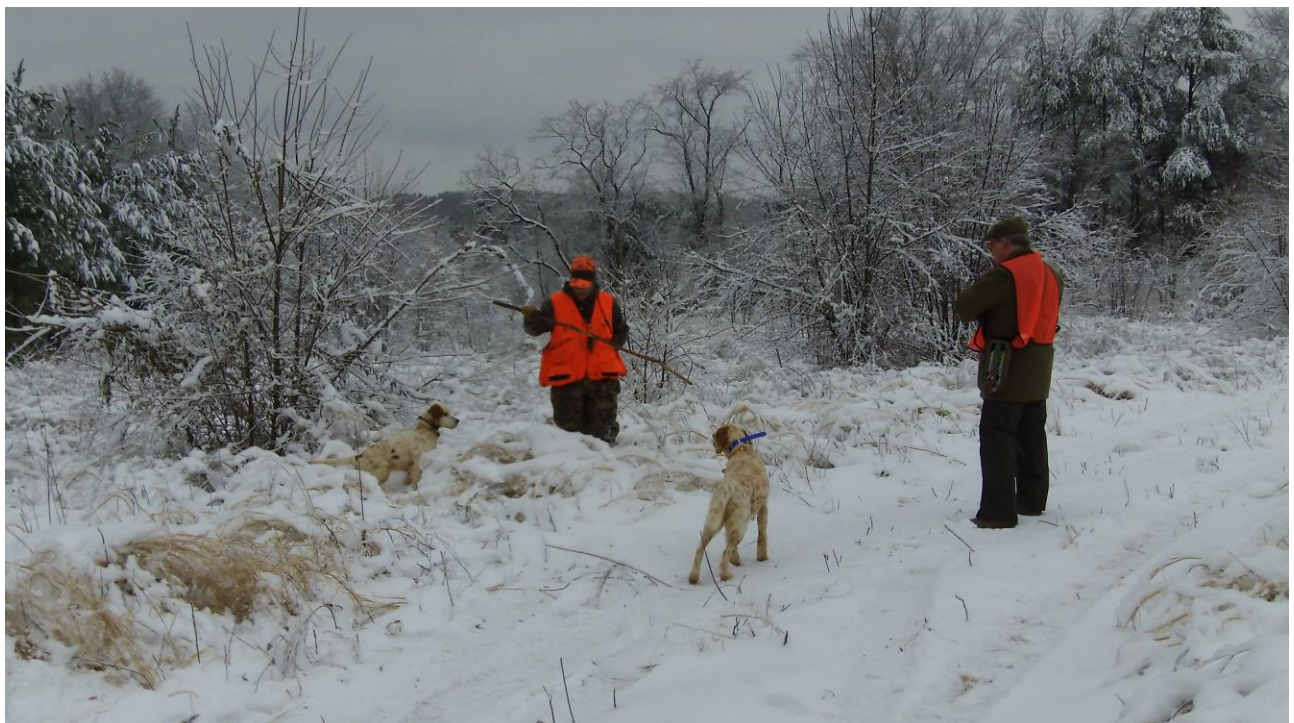


We had a great dinner, enjoyed the fireplace in the Lodge, closed it down for the evening and stayed in the Guest House, the nicer quarters.

It snowed about three inches that night. In the morning after Breakfast, we were debating what to do with our day. Bill suggested duck hunting, but Barrister Moorhead and Phillip had our hopes around Quail Hunting. In an uncommon moment of Royal courtesy, Bill

Left to Right: Bill, Phillip & Don

agreed. Quail Hunting it was!



Patrick Humphries, a favorite Guide, was summoned by Ralph Brendle, the Proprietor, and off we went. What a great Hunt! Well, we may have found one or two Quail frozen but it was a fun Hunt.

Late in the hunt, a Quail flew close to the Saucy Peacock, who fired. I witnessed the Quail pushed sideways into a tree. Here is the result:



Financial Report

Double Gun Society of the Vintage Gunners
2nd Quarter Financial Report
June 2021

Assets:

Checking Balance 6/30/2021 \$ 10,581.05

Dues Received \$ 225.00

Expenses During the 2nd Quarter:

Total Expenses \$ 849.63 for VGC trophies

Please contact me with any additional questions.

Thanks,

Joseph W. Norcom
Treasurer

You Are Cordially Invited to Attend



*23rd Annual World Side-by-Side Shotgun
& Rifle Championship and Exhibition*

SEPTEMBER 15-18, 2021
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Editor's Note

As usual, we can always use new material for the newsletter, so please send me any photos or stories you would like to contribute. Any member in good standing may contribute to *The Vintager*. Please send me your submissions.



Vintage Gunners Cup 2021

It's time to get out of the house and enjoy the sport we all love. Start thinking about packing those vintage firearms up and making plans to attend this year's Vintage Gunners Cup. September 15-18, 2021

We have blocked rooms at the Candlewood Suites in Vestal, NY, which is approximately 25 minutes from Hausmann's Hidden Hollow Sporting Clays. Room rates have been discounted for anyone attending the Vintage Gunners Cup. Take advantage of the lower rates by booking early. You have until August 15, 2021, to take advantage of the blocked room rates. The hotel has assured that there is no issue with firearms on site. They must be cased in the hotel.

Room types - King size bed or Double Queen Beds \$114.99 + tax per night. Call (607) 770-0007 and use group code VGC. You must call the Vestal hotel directly to get the Vintage Gunners rate. These are very nice suits with full kitchen and office work zone.

Golf cart rentals will again be supplied by Empire Golf Carts, who often works with Hausmann's events. The website is: <https://empiregolfcars.com/>

Call 888-913-6747 for information or contact Jim Farrelly at jim@empiregolfcars.com.

Keep abreast of the latest info at: www.vintagers.org.



Chapters

VINTAGE GUNNERS NATIONAL OFFICE

President: Thomas A. Snyder, Sr. -- 607-759-7150 -- vintagers1901@gmail.com

Secretary: Matt Haney -- 404-783-0615 -- mmhaney@comcast.net

Treasurer: Joe Norcom -- 704-577-3180 -- jwnorcom@gmail.com

***New Chapter WESTERN LAKES (MICHIGAN/WISCONSIN)**

Contact: Steve Norkus -- 248-914-0770 -- stenorkus2000@yahoo.com

OLD DOMINION VINTAGE GUNNERS (VIRGINIA)

Contact: Ray McNaughton -- 804-937-6006 -- raymcnaughton@comcast.net

ALABAMA

Contact: Richard Falls, President -- 205-613-0506 -- richardbfalls@gmail.com

We shoot most Tuesdays or Wednesdays -- contact Richard to get on our email list

NORTHEAST (NEW ENGLAND)

Contact: Ray Poudrier, President -- 413-339-5347 -- vintagersray@hotmail.com

SUNSHINE (FLORIDA)

Contact: Hal M. Hare, President -- 863-583-4858 -- hal.hare@sbcglobal.net --
<http://www.imperialpolkgunclub.com/vintagers.htm>

NORTHERN APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS (PENNSYLVANIA/UPSTATE NY)

Contact: Thomas A. Snyder, Sr., President -- 607-759-7150 -- tsnyder610@aol.com

GEORGIA

Contact: Matt Haney, President -- 404-783-0615 -- mmhaney@comcast.net

We shoot most Saturdays or Sundays. Contact Matt Haney to join us.

MAGNOLIA CHAPTER (MISSISSIPPI/TENNESSEE)

Contact: Bill Walters, President -- 662-624-6534, ext. 112 -- bwalters@wltwalterscpas.com

CAROLINA

Contact: Mike Jarina, President -- 704-516-1894 -- mikejarina123@windstream.net

BUCKEYE (OHIO)

Contact: Mark Douglas, President -- hi-sport@sbcglobal.net



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Information about Chapter events can be found [HERE](#).

2021 Membership Application for the Double Gun Society, Vintage Gunners

Please print legibly.

Name: _____

Name and DOB of spouse if couple membership: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Date of Birth: (at least month and day) _____

Telephone: Home _____ Work _____

Cell: _____ (optional but often handy)

Email: _____

Chapter: _____

Check # and amount: _____ Cash amount: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Membership includes issues of the National Chapter Newsletter (by email), ability to advertise in Newsletter, liability insurance coverage at any Vintage Gunners' event, admittance to all Vintage Gunners' events nationwide including The Vintage Gunners Cup and membership in The Double Gun Society.

- 1 Membership is for one calendar year from January 1 to December 31, 2021 –
New members joining after Sept. get the rest of current year and following year.
- 2 Annual Membership: \$75.00 Individual
- 3 Annual Membership: \$120.00 Family Membership (Spouse and Children)
- 4 Make checks payable to: The Vintage Gunners
- 5 Mail to: The Vintage Gunners
c/o Joe Norcom, Treasurer
3033 Burnt Mill Road
Charlotte, NC 28210