

# The ntager

THE OFFICIAL  
NEWSLETTER OF  
THE DOUBLE  
GUN SOCIETY,  
VINTAGE  
GUNNERS

VOLUME ONE, ISSUE 1 ----- WINTER 2016

## President's Message

Well Gentleman,

We are starting a new era with our organization, starting with a new name. The incorporated name will be "The Double Gun Society" with a doing business name of "Vintage Gunners". The reason for the change is the old name is tied to a for-profit organization. The new board has decided to make the organization a not-for-profit. We don't want to confuse the IRS so it is better to change the name. We are in the process of making this change.



We are also changing the website. Construction is underway now. We will have a forum designed around the discussion of double guns. A for sale page is being added for those wishing sell double gun related products. A gallery of guns will also be available. So take some good pictures of your baby with a small description. Names of owners will not be posted.

Next let me say, DUES!!!! Please get your dues in as soon as possible. We cannot operate without them. And don't let a little organizational change get in the way of recruiting new members.

For now, please continue sending dues to The Vintagers using the P.O. Box 2237 Amherst, MA 01004 address. We will let you know when that changes.

Our double gun championship is being planned for the weekend of September 23, 2016. Mark that date on your calendar. We are looking at venues now. We will get with you about the place as soon as we have it nailed-down.

Now grab your smoke pole and go have some fun!

Hammers back!

Gary Lacey  
President, Vintage Gunners

## *News from the Field*

### **Alabama Vintagers Continental Pheasant Shoot**

By Ron Wolff, President, Alabama Chapter

On January 16, the Alabama Vintagers held their Annual Continental Pheasant Shoot at the lovely Selwood Farm. Twenty four shooters gathered between 12:00 and 1:30 to warm up by shooting at ten high incoming clays, followed by a “feather and fur” try station, provided by Steyr Arms with their beautiful Merkel shotguns. In addition, two of our Vintagers provided a showing of the new Helice course and told about and demonstrated this new, fast, exciting sport, imported from Europe.

At 1:30, guns (shooters) headed out by wagon to the Pheasant field. From the 50ft. tower surrounded by even higher pines, 350 pheasants were released to 24 guns manning 12 stations. Some wives and guests came along to watch the guns and the dogs and to enjoy the action! The Pheasants had to gain altitude to clear those tall pines, and when they got to the guns, they were really moving. Guns rotated stations about every 30 birds, so that all guns shot all stations in the course of the shoot. It was fun!



After the shoot, about 30 of us retreated to the warm reception room, which Selwood had decorated with candles, libations, hors d’oeuvres, and a roaring fire. Some smoked cigars out on the porch, while others sat, laughed and reminisced over the wonderful day!



At 5:30, dinner was ready, so we proceeded to the lodge for a fantastic meal of shrimp and grits, steak, and a tomato pie, followed by cheesecake for dessert. All in all, a first class day with great shooting and warm comradery!

## Northeast Chapter News

By Ray Poudrier, President Northeast Chapter

The Order of Edwardian Gunners, Northeast Vintagers, are actively accepting renewals and hoping to generate some new members by attending the 19th Annual Northeast Fishing & Hunting Show, February 12, 13 and 14, at the Connecticut Convention Center, Hartford, CT. We will be there in full regalia, exhibiting some of the beautiful side-by-side shotguns that are used for our events. Also, Frank Conroy will be demonstrating the art of fine engraving. Volunteers will be there to man the booth and hopefully entice some younger people to join.

Where does the Chapter hold its activities? We've been to over a dozen different clubs in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York and Rhode Island. Eight shoots are held typically once a month beginning in April and ending in December.

What is a normal day for us? We begin about 9 am with a light Continental breakfast and socialization (and a lot of show-and-tell!). At most locations, our lunch and dinner are catered by Chef Andy Lussier, Culinary Connections, who has followed this club for the past 18 years. Shooting begins at 10 am and continues after lunch. Normally, there are 150 sporting clays targets for the day, but at one venue, the East Glastonbury Fish & Game Club in Connecticut, our members can shoot unlimited sporting clays, trap and skeet. In our younger days, we've shot as many as 500 rounds per person there, but we have slowed up a bit lately.



About 3:30 pm, there are passed hors d'oeuvre and many enjoy a BYOB beer, scotch or wine. Then we are treated to a sit-down plated meal with all the accoutrements, linen, china and stemware. The day ends at about 6 pm with some lingering to enjoy a fine cigar. The day includes, then, Continental breakfast, light lunch, plated dinner and at least 150 rounds of sporting clays for a very affordable price. And there is no keeping of score! This encourages new and not-so-adept shooters to enjoy the day. Our attendance varies from 20 to over 40 shooters and there are always a number of non-shooters as well. If you are in the area, please join us!

## Product Review

**NOTE: Product reviews are submitted by members. Reviews do not reflect the opinion of The Double Gun Society and do not constitute an endorsement. Use products and services at your own risk.**

### **A Review of Some Products and Services That I Added to My Double**

By Terence Callery (Waldoboro, Maine) -- Downeast Chapter

A few years ago I purchased a 1926 LC Smith specifically for Vintager shooting from Wildwood Guns in China, Maine. It was in twelve gauge and had a 30-inch barrel that had been re-blued at one point. Craig, the owner, specializes in vintage firearms and has the biggest collection of double barreled shotguns that I have encountered in one place. On the day I was there I counted over 20 Parkers in the rack. You do have to pick through the gun. Some are not very tight or have dents in the barrels or chips in butt plates or cracks in the stocks. I found a 1926 L.C. Smith that was in very nice shape for a little over \$1,000. The length of pull was a bit short, and the drop on the stock was (like almost every other double I shouldered that day) a bit too much, but I had plans. I brought with me a slip-on leather recoil pad (super custom fancy ones can be found at <http://www.levergunleather.com/>) to give me a feel for how the LC Smith would fit when I had a modern recoil pad installed. With the slip-on leather pad added to the stock, the length of pull went up to 14 ½ which is what I like.

This work was done right here in town by Staley & Sons for just \$70, about half the price I paid for the same Kick-EEZ pad installed when I brought a Parker Trojan to Coles in Harpswell, Maine a few years before.

Sonny Staley does lots of work on guns sent by UPS to him. If I hadn't lived right down the road, I would have sent the stock to him for the recoil pad installation and gotten it back a few weeks later.

Beretta carries a terrific product called the Gel-Tek Cheek Protector which can be found at <http://www.berettausa.com/en-us/> for \$29. It comes in two thicknesses, .12 inches and .24 inches. I have the quarter inch one on my L.C. Smith and it eliminates the drop so my double now shoots to point of aim and I can keep my head in the gun. Best thing is, it is removable and doesn't mark the stock. Here is a partial description from the Beretta website:

*“Exclusively made for Beretta. Designed to be applied to the majority of stocks and moved from gun to gun, this cheek protector contains a soft gel that will dampen the effects of recoil and dramatically increase comfort while shooting.*

#### *Features and Benefits:*

- *The pad can be moved from gun to gun and put back into the package for use later.*
- *It can be used on slug guns or trap guns if a shooter needs to raise the comb or point of impact.*
- *It can be put on wood or synthetic stocks. It also eliminates bruised cheeks that trap shooters sometimes get.*
- *It's opaque in color so you can still see the stock thru it.”*

Right after I purchased my L.C. Smith, I redid the stock and fore-end using a non-toxic paint stripper to take off the old finish. Once the stock was cleaned with fine steel wool and a little sand paper, boy did that old American Walnut look nice with all the dirt and old gun oil removed. It lightened right up, and it was time for the Tom's One Third Mix.

You can get this stock finishing product at <http://www.thegunstockdoctor.com/index.html> for \$10 for a 4 ounce jar. It is easy to hand rub on and is made of 1/3 bees wax, 1/3 boiled linseed oil and 1/3 Turpentine. Tom Hinds has this on the website:

*“Several years ago, much to my wife's dismay, I began collecting Curio and Relic Firearms. I was continuously frustrated by the lack of "correct" products that were available to the C&R collectors, especially in regards to refinishing rifle stocks. After much research into the products that were used in the different eras of history, I found some that were correct to be used. This site was created to assist other collectors by providing products to assist them in the refinishing of the long ignored gunstocks.*

*Currently, I have two variations of a 19th and 20th century version of a Finnish Gunstock Wax more recognizably named the 1/3 Mix or Finn Mix. After researching this product, I found that not only the Finnish Army used this mix, but it and similar variations of it were used all the way back to the 17th century by various countries around the world. This is the original formula used by the Finns in the 19th and 20th Centuries. It is safe to use on all military gunstocks regardless of the types of finish applied. It can even be used as the finish all by itself. It will protect your stock from the elements (water, humidity, etc.) while giving your stock a softer feel.”*

I used four applications which can be done four days in a row. About every 6 months I might rub on a small amount, not so much because the stock really needs it, but because I love the smell. Really nice soft satin old look to the stock. Great service at this company. I got the jar in just a few days. One jar will do about 5 stocks.

### *Out and About*

#### **A Visit to Holt's Auctioneers**

By F. Jack Hurley, Carolina Chapter

In May of 2015, I was able to work a visit to Holt's Auctioneers into my trip to England and Scotland. It was well worth the time and effort but be forewarned, there is some time and effort involved.

Holts Auctioneers' address is "Gunroom on Sandringham Estate" Church Farm Barns, Wolferton, Norfolk PE31 6HA. Those readers who know England will immediately recognize that this is an address north of Kings Lynn, just off The Wash in darkest Norfolk. You can train or bus to Kings Lynn, but you will need to rent a car for the last leg of your journey. Your faithful A to Z Road Atlas will put you on the A 149 north and eventually you will see a small road sign for Wolferton off to your left. Once you are off the A 149 you are on the property of Prince Charles Windsor, namely the Sandringham Estate. A three mile ramble on unmarked roads will eventually get you to Wolferton, a village of some eight or ten houses and a church. Further wanderings and wrong turns

will eventually lead you to discover Church Farm, whose barn complex is leased by Nicholas Holt for his auction business. Yes, I know that the auctions are held in London, but all the gathering, grading, photographing, etc. is done up in Norfolk in buildings that were originally barns – good, tight barns built around an open courtyard of the sort that one often finds on prosperous farms in England. The operation is identified by a sign so small I missed it the first two times I drove past it.

If you have bought a few guns in Holt's Auctions, and if you have written ahead to let folks know you are coming, a real treat is in store for you once you actually achieve Church Farm Barns. This is the cookie factory where you will see dozens of guns and many more accessories, all laid out or in racks being readied for the next sale. A staff of around a dozen works on all phases of the business from gunsmithing to website maintenance to public relations. When I was there last May, the June auction was being set up. I had a list of guns, from the website, that I wanted to vet, but I also really wanted to just get a feel for the place and the staff. Nicholas (Nick to his friends) Holt came out to greet me and over the next three hours proved a most genial host and guide. An avid sportsman himself, who shoots as often as he can, Nick Holt was offered the long lease on Church Farm Barns after helping Prince Charles unravel some kinks in the royal shooting technique. Nowadays, he is a regular at Sandringham shoots – lucky devil.

I found the guns I particularly wanted to see and made some notes. Then Nick Holt asked me if I wanted to see a really magnificent gun. Duh! Maybe! The fabulous case was opened and the even more fabulous John Wilkes 12 bore came out, dripping gold from almost every perfectly incised line of engraving. Made in the early 80's of the last century and never fired, it was far, far, far beyond my pocketbook, but damn it was fine! It fit me pretty well too, and I know that because I was allowed to take it out in the courtyard and shoulder it a few times. I think it finally sold for something around 45 thousand British Pounds Sterling, a fine bargain for the wealthy purchaser because such a gun today would run well over 100 thousand BPS if new.

While I can't afford to play in that league, I have gotten some fine bargains at the Holt's auctions over the past four years, including a really lovely pair of Frederick T. Baker side lever 12 bores and a beautiful Woodward 12 bore. I won't bore you with details of price, but I look at the retail websites and shake my head. There is no way I could have paid full retail for these guns. This is not to in any way denigrate those who sell fine guns in shops and on line in this country; they do a lot of legwork and put up with insane amounts of paper work and government intrusion. I buy guns from them too. But now and then a real bargain pops up on the website [www.holtsauctioneers.com](http://www.holtsauctioneers.com) and I am off again on a quest for the next great addition to my collection. The visit to Holt's Auctioneers at Church Farm Barns confirmed my impression, these are good folks who know and enjoy fine guns. I feel even more secure in dealing with them now.

*Editor's Note*

Hello All,

With this issue, I have slightly updated the masthead to reflect the new organization name, and I am starting the numbering of issues over again.

As always, I'm still looking for material for the newsletter, so please send any contributions. It can be anything from chapter news to hunting stories to poetry. I'd also love photos of guns along with any background information you have on them.

You can email submissions to me at: [mmhaney@comcast.net](mailto:mmhaney@comcast.net).

Thank you!

Matt Haney  
President, Georgia Chapter



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Russell Moccasin is a corporate member of the Vintage Gunners. See their website at:

<http://www.russellmoccasin.com/>

*Events of Interest to Vintage Gunners*

**2016 Spring Flyer Shoot Invitational**

We would like to invite you to come experience a fun-filled shooting event at our 5th Annual Flyer Shoot Invitational. Enjoy an exciting weekend of shooting, camaraderie, and fellowship.

**Schedule of Events**

**Friday, February 19th**

- 1:00pm - Check In
- 1:30pm to 2:30 pm - Open 5-Stand at Horseshoe Pond
- 3:00pm to 5:30pm - 800 pigeon tower shoot on Kathy's Hill
- 5:30pm- Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres at the Pavilion
- 8:00pm- Dinner

**Saturday, February 20th**

- 8:00am- Breakfast at the Lodge
- 9:00am- Morning Columbaire Shoot (400 birds) Singles and Pairs
- 12:00pm- Lunch served at the Lodge
- 1:30pm- Afternoon Columbaire Shoot (400 birds) Singles and Pairs
- 6:00pm- Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres at the Lodge
- 8:00pm - Dinner

**Sunday, February 21st**

- 8:00am - Continental Breakfast at the Lodge
- 9:30am to 11:30am- Pheasants on the Hill
- 12:00pm- Lunch at the Pavilion
- 1:00pm- Pheasants in the Field
- 3:30pm-Return to Lodge for Check Out

All Inclusive Price of Event with Lodging

Price: \$2,350.00

All Inclusive without Lodging

Price: \$2,150.00

All non- shooting guests will have an inclusive charge of \$795.00 for the weekend.

This shoot will be operating on a first come first serve basis with payment with priority given to 3 day shooters first. Payment must be received in full upon your reservation. We will only be taking 20 shooters.

Priority lodging will be given to early registrars. Optional lodging will be available at Old Waverly Golf Course and is included in the shoot price.

All shooting activities will commence as scheduled even in inclement weather. A jacket and light foul weather gear is recommended.

In the event of your cancellation the fee is non-refundable unless the position is filled by a shooter on our waiting list or you are able to provide a replacement shooter.



During the tower shoots there are ten pegs, two guns per peg. All non-paired shooters will be paired the day of the event.

Our friend, Dave Cruz, from Holland & Holland Ltd. will join us again this year and bring a fine display of guns and shooting wears.

For the second year, Rubin Kronig with Vineyard Time has graciously offered a hand engraved, one of a kind, ivory watch to be given to the overall winner.

Steve Barnett's Fine Guns will be available for a private showing to participants. The shop is located in downtown West Point and is a 10 minute drive from the Lodge. If you would like to visit his showroom please let us know at registration as it is by appointment only.

Mike Stewart and trainers of Wild Rose Kennels, and other guests will provide an excellent show of retrieving for our tower shoots on Friday afternoon and Sunday morning.

We look forward to sharing our lodge, beautiful scenery, and an unbelievable shooting experience with you.

For details and reservations, please call Harry Pasisis at 662-295-7224.

Harry Pasisis  
President, Magnolia Chapter  
Prairie Wildlife  
6111 Old Vinton Road  
West Point, MS 39773

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### **Open invitation to all Vintagers.**

Florida's Sunshine Vintagers and the Gator Skeet & Trap Club are proud to announce they have joined forces to host the **National Skeet Shooting Association's 16th Annual World Vintage Skeet Tournament** in Gainesville, Florida -- **February 25th thru 28th**. Visit the host club's website at <http://www.gatorskeetandtrap.com/>

'**Vintage Skeet**' rules will be used. These rules are nearly the same as those used in 1935 at the First World Skeet Tournament, and include a *0 to 3 second variable target release*, and a *low gun starting position*. Competitors may not mount their shotgun until the target is actually thrown! Side by Side shotgun of any 'vintage' may be used, and special concurrent handicap events are offered for *light game guns and hammer guns*. See the program for specific details.

Skeet competition is offered in 12, 16, 20, 28, and 410 gauges, and daily side games are offered for SxS fans in Olympic Trap, 5 Stand Sporting, and a Walking International Trap Game.

All events are 50 targets races, and event is only \$25.00! Awards in the Skeet events will recognize the top 3 shooters in each gauge, plus nine additional shooting awards via the Lewis Class System.

Side games will recognize the top three scorers each day. Also, all competitors will be eligible for great door prizes at the end of each day--regardless of scores shot.

A free **Friday Fish Fry** and **Saturday Wine & Cheese Party** is offered to all competitors and spouses. A complete program may be viewed at the Sunshine Vintagers website at <http://www.imperialpolkgunclub.com/vintagers.htm> and scroll down the page to the Christian Hunter shotgun.

As a final note--membership in the NSSA is **not required** to participate. Take a Winter break and bring your favorite shotguns to sunny Florida.

Feel free to drop me an e-mail should you have any questions.

Hal M. Hare  
President, Sunshine Chapter  
[hal.hare@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hal.hare@sbcglobal.net)  
863-583-4858

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### **Pheasants on the Hill & Pheasants in the Field**

The Magnolia chapter would like to invite you to come and join us for a great day of camaraderie and enjoyment at Prairie Wildlife, on **February 27, 2016**

The day will begin with a continental breakfast at the Bryan Lodge at 8:30 a.m. After a good hearty breakfast, you will enjoy shooting fast flying ring-neck pheasants from our forty foot tower.

Around noon, we will have a delicious lunch prepared for you at the Pavilion on Kathy's Hill overlooking the scenic views of the Black Prairie.

After lunch, spend your afternoon on a traditional field hunt with our professional guides and their favorite pointers. The shoot concludes at 4:00 p.m.

Price: \$650.00 single peg (one shooter)  
\$1150.00 double pegs (two shooters)

We look forward to sharing our lodge, beautiful scenery, and an unbelievable pheasant hunting experience with you.

For details and reservations, please call Harry Pasisis at 662-295-7224.

Harry Pasisis  
President, Magnolia Chapter  
Prairie Wildlife  
6111 Old Vinton Road  
West Point, MS 39773

## Chapters & Events

### GUNNERS NATIONAL OFFICE

Contact: Gary Lacey, President -- 678-622-5337 -- [vintagers1901@gmail.com](mailto:vintagers1901@gmail.com)

### ALABAMA

Contact: Ron Wolff, President -- 205-482-0232 -- [lobowolff8@hotmail.com](mailto:lobowolff8@hotmail.com)

Most Tuesdays or Wednesdays -- contact Ron to get on the email invitation/advisory list  
April 16, 2016, Alabama Vintagers Spring Shoot

### NORTHEAST (NEW ENGLAND)

Contact: Ray Poudrier, President -- 413-339-5347 -- [vintagersray@hotmail.com](mailto:vintagersray@hotmail.com)

April 15 - East Glastonbury Fish & Game, Marlborough, CT\*

May 6 - Addieville East Farm, Mapleville, RI\*

July 15 ? - Barre Sportsmen's Club, Barre, MA\*

August 19 ? - Westford Sportsmen's Club, Westford, MA. Clambake\*

October 7 - East Glastonbury Fish & Game, Marlborough, CT\*

December 2 - Addieville East Farm, Mapleville, RI\*

\*Food catered by Chef Andy Lussier of Culinary Connections (Woonsocket, RI)

### DOWN EAST (MAINE)

Contact: Pete Kogut, President -- 603-755-3007 -- [doubleguncases@peoplepc.com](mailto:doubleguncases@peoplepc.com)

2016 Events Pending

### SUNSHINE (FLORIDA)

Contact: Hal M. Hare, President -- 863-583-4858 -- [hal.hare@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hal.hare@sbcglobal.net)

February 25-28 -- World Vintage Shotgun Championships, Gator Skeet & Trap Club,  
Gainesville, FL

### GROUSE HALL (PENNSYLVANIA)

Contact: Brian Buckman, President -- 215-518-8942 -- [brian.buckman9@gmail.com](mailto:brian.buckman9@gmail.com)

2016 Events Pending

### LEATHERSTOCKING (CENTRAL NEW YORK)

Contact: Don Nickerson, President -- 607-638-9258 -- [negrouse1@hotmail.com](mailto:negrouse1@hotmail.com)

2016 Events Pending

**GEORGIA**

Contact: Matt Haney, President -- 404-783-0615 -- [mmhaney@comcast.net](mailto:mmhaney@comcast.net)

We shoot most Saturdays or Sundays. Contact us to meet up.  
2016 Events Pending

**MAGNOLIA CHAPTER (MISSISSIPPI/TENNESSEE)**

Contact: Harry Pasisis, President -- 662-295-7224

Feb. 19-21 – 2016 Spring Flyer Shoot Invitational  
Feb. 27 -- Pheasants on the Hill & Pheasants in the Field

**CAROLINA**

Contact: Bob Nay, President -- 704-796-6364 -- [RNAY@carolina.rr.com](mailto:RNAY@carolina.rr.com)

Feb. 26-28, 2016 -- Backwoods Quail Club, Georgetown, SC  
(Tower Pheasant shoot on Feb. 27 -- sporting clays all three days)

**LONG ISLAND/GOLD COAST (NEW YORK)**

Contact: Randell Beck, President - 516-509-6943 -- [beckrandell@gmail.com](mailto:beckrandell@gmail.com)

2016 events pending

**BUCKEYE (OHIO)**

Contact: Mark Douglas, President -- [hi-sport@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hi-sport@sbcglobal.net)

2016 Events Pending

**BUYING OR SELLING REAL ESTATE?**

Let me help you in locating a professional real estate agent in your area who would be compatible and empathetic with your needs. I have access to the profiles of hundreds of agents and can match your interests and life style with their record and credentials. Buying and selling real estate requires substantial decisions on your part and having the aid of a qualified professional who not only understands the market but can relate to you makes the process so much easier.

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[jackdudley47@gmail.com](mailto:jackdudley47@gmail.com)

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## *Gun of the Issue*



A 20-gauge Belgian gun by an unknown maker. It was built in 1930 and retailed by the shop of Paul Schraff in Brussels.