

THE DOUBLE GUN SOCIETY. **VINTAGE GUNNERS**

VOLUME THREE, ISSUE 1 ----- FIRST QUARTER 2018

President's Message

Ladies and Gentlemen.

As the new President of the Vintage Gunners, I would like to introduce myself and tell you a little about my chapter. For the past three years I have served as President of the Northern Appalachian Mountain Chapter. When we started our chapter, we were told you'll be lucky to have 10 to 12 guys that will want to shoot as a group. We are now up to 44 members and still growing. We are fortunate to have the support of RST Classic Shotshells and several local shooting facilities. Their support has been a key element to our growth. Our region is the home of Baker, Utica Fox, Ithaca, Lefever, L.C. Smith, and Remington, plus a number of gun makers that have long since fallen in to obscurity.

We are not about competition, we are about comradery. We have members that want to dress up as Vintage Gunners, but there are others that enjoy the history of double guns and just want to shoot their favorite side-by-side with friends. Our chapter is made up of men



Tom Snyder

and women of different age groups; all are welcome. The money we take in as a chapter goes back to members as well as improving the chapter. When we have an event, often it is open to nonmembers that are interested in seeing who we are as a group. Many come a second time, usually it is as a member.

As the third President of The Vintage Gunners, I consider my position a privilege and one of stewardship. Our mission is to promote the legacy of our organization and double guns. The Board and I are committed to setting the vision for the future of our organization with the goal of increasing our membership and participation, along with securing our federal non-profit status. As an organization, we plan to reach out to the next generation to demonstrate the sportsmanship and enjoyment of shooting. As members of the Vintage Gunners, each one of us plays a role in preserving our shooting heritage and serving as ambassadors of shooting sports. \rightarrow

THE VINTAGER – FIRST QUARTER 2018

Please find below our first quarter financial statement. We will be publishing this quarterly in *The Vintager*.

I hope everyone is already making plans to attend the 2018 Vintage Gunners Cup. Be sure to look for our ad about the 2018 Vintage Gunners Cup in upcoming issues of *The Double Gun Journal* and *Shooting Sportsman*. A copy is on last page of this newsletter.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your President.

Sincerely,

Tom Snyder President, The Vintage Gunners

Financial Statement

Double Gun Society / Vintage Gunners 1st Quarter Financial Report

As of 3/31/2018

Assets:

Regular Checking \$7,121.83

Dues Collected \$ 5368.00

Liabilities/Debits:

Double Gun Journal Ad \$800.00

Total Available Funds \$ 6321.83

NOTE: 1. Business License as a non-profit organization renewed for 2018 in Georgia.

2. Taxes filed for 2017. There was no 2017 tax liability for the organization.

News from the Field

New President for Alabama Vintagers

After several years of fine leadership, Ron Wolff has decided to step down as President of the Alabama Vintagers chapter of the Vintage Gunners. We all thank Ron for his service to the Alabama chapter and to the Vintage Gunners overall.

Taking over the Presidency is Richard Falls. Richard has been a Vintage Gunner for some years and an active member of the Alabama Vintagers. As his other retirement job, Richard organizes fishing and shooting trips to Scotland under the marque MacPhail Sporting, LLC.



Richard Falls

So thanks again to Ron, and a big welcome to Richard. We look forward to shooting and working with you.

American Heritage Youth Side by Side Championship

As part of our commitment to preserving and promoting the shooting sports among younger generations, we want to bring to your attention this youth shooting event at the 2018 Southern Sideby-Side Classic (April 27-29, 2018). This event is being organized by our friends at the Parker Gun Collectors Association. The information below is provided by the PGCA, and more information can be found on their website, www.parkerguns.org. Look under "Events" for any updates the information below.

Many of you saw the announcement in the Parker Pages about the upcoming Youth Shoot the PGCA is sponsoring at the 2018 Southern Side X Side. In case you didn't see it or you are a Forum Associate I wanted to post some of the details here. At this year's Board of Directors meeting, held at the Southern, the idea for the shoot was brought up by Gary Carmichael. He stated he would donate a 16 gauge Parker Trojan to be given away at the event. After much deliberation and discussion a proposal was put together and presented to Bill Kempffer, Founder and President, of Deep Rivers Sporting Clays and Shooting School. His team reviewed the proposal and wholeheartedly got on board. In addition, Morris Baker, RST Shells, agreed to provide the ammo Brad Bachelder agreed to donate his time and talent to restore the gun.

The mission of this program is to attract young shooters to our double gun world. It is not a recruiting tool for any particular organization or a vehicle to demonstrate that one make of side-by-side is superior to another. It is open to any and all youth shooters 10-17 years of age. They may shoot ANY side-by-side. It is our hope that our fellow double gunners from LC Smith, Fox, Lefever, German Gun Collectors and any other groups or individuals shooting side-by-side doubles will attend and participate.

The following are some of the particulars regarding date, time and rules. As everyone knows, when putting together an event such as this some things may change from what is originally published. If that happens notifications will be published on our forum. Please feel free to share this information with anyone interested in passing on our sporting heritage to future generations.

Date: Saturday, April 28, 2018

Time: 1:30 pm

Venue: Five Stand

Shooting Participants: The event will be open to any shooter age 10 - 17 years.

Rules:

- 1) Shooters may use any Side by Side shotgun.
- 2) Shooters must use RST shot shells for the qualifying event.
- 3) The event will be shot at the 5 stand venue.
- 4) Shooters will be grouped according to age: 10 11, 12 13, 14 15, 16 17
- 5) Shooters will shoot 6 targets at each stand for a total of 30 shots.
- 6) Top gun in each group will be awarded a trophy
- 7) In case of a tie, scorecards will be compared and the first missed target will eliminate that shooter. If still tied, a shoot off will take place. A coin will be tossed and the winner will determine who will shoot first. The loser will choose which station will be shot.
- 8) Every shooter will have their name entered in a drawing, for the Parker Trojan, to be held at the conclusion of the event.
- 9) Age groups 10 11 and 12 13 must have an adult gun bearer standing directly behind them to act as a safety monitor.
- 10) All shooters must sign waivers and Hold Harmless agreements.
- 11) Eye and ear protection required of all participants.
- 12) All Deep River rules are to be observed at all times.

The future of the shooting sports lies with the youth of today.



A Diminutive Churchill

By Joe Norcom, President, Carolina Vintagers

I can't believe it was 6 years ago...As a result of going to the Vegas Antique Arms Show, I bought a very rare, cased, E. J. Churchill, .410ga. Crown Grade BLE (SN 4614).

I walked by the gun for 2 days before I realized, "Wait Churchill didn't make XXVs in .410! Or if they did, this gun must be really rare." It turns out this gun came from the late Robert Peterson collection. It has been published that Pre-WW2 Churchill catalogs did not list .410s as available.



The barrel

address and trade label show Churchill's "61 Pall Mall, St. James's, London, England" address, which would be wrong for a gun built in 1931, but more on that later. The gun has 25" barrels with Churchill rib, choked .002/IC, .012/IM, and with "XXV" inlaid in gold near breech. It's Nitro proved at 5 tons per square inch, and marked for 3" shells. The straight stock measures 14 1/2" to a thin horn buttplate and weighs in at 4 pounds, 1 ounce.

The pictures show the diminutive Crown Grade .410 XXV with a 7 pounds, 12 ounces, 30"-barreled 12ga. Regal Grade. It's nearly half the size of the 12ga.

This gun was one of 10 serial numbers allocated in July 1931 for 3" chambered .410 XXV Crown Grade guns ordered for stock by Churchill, possibly from the shop of John Harper. The Serial numbers were assigned starting with 4613.

At the time *American & British .410s* was written, only 5 pre-WW2 Churchill .410s of any configuration had surfaced. The sole XXV .410 was a sibling from my gun's 1931 order, SN 4616 (*American & British .410 Shotguns*, Ron Gabriel). Ron Gabriel's research showed that only 8 of 10 (4613 to 4620) numbers appear to have been used. The guns were retailed from 1932 to 1936.

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Only 3 other Churchill XXV .410s have appeared at auction since 1997 when 4616 surfaced. Those were:

4613, BLNE, Sotheby's 2006 (Lead gun of the 1931 order)

4614, BLE, Little John's Auction Service 2011 (my gun)

4615, BLE, Christie's, 2001

4616, BLE, Holt's, 1997



As you look at the pictures you'll notice the action has lost its case coloring, but the bluing of the barrels and furniture is nearly perfect. The checkering is crisp and the stock is nearly perfect. A refinish? Perhaps. Based on several factors, I am leaning toward a re-barreling/

refurbish in 1978 by Churchill. There is a Birmingham view mark for 1978. The proof marks are the ones in use from 1954-1989. The barrel engraving, trade label and Churchill box of bore swabs all use the 61 Pall Mall address. In his book The House of Churchill, Don Masters has a photo of the trade label used in my case. The description of the photo says it was only used from 1978-1981 (The House of Churchill, pg. 456).



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Toby Barclay, of Heritage Guns, told me once that when a gun is re-barreled in the UK, the firm doing the work can only engrave their own firm's name on the barrels unless they are the actual maker or licensed by the actual maker. Therefore it was either re-barreled by Churchill or someone in the trade allowed to use the Churchill name on their work. It would have been equally correct to put the current address on the barrels when the work was done.

I hope you enjoy this rare little Churchill XXV.

Pheasant Fun in Alabama

By Richard Falls, President, Alabama Vintagers



Here are a few pics from our annual Continental Pheasant Shoot. Selwood Farm hosted out event which started with a brief warm-up shoot with high flying clays. Afterwards we spread-out over 12 pegs with 2 shooters per peg. Our party included Vintager Gunners,

There were 350 birds shown and I think almost more got away than were taken.

After the shoot we had a wonderful hour of adult beverages and getting reacquainted followed by a catered dinner from a local restaurant.



Safety First

Over the last 30-or-so years, we have learned (or re-learned) a great deal about the strength of damascus barrels, and the strength of various actions and locking mechanisms used by gun makers in the U.S., England and Europe. While many myths and commonly-help misconceptions have been dispelled, we users of vintage guns cannot become complacent about the need to feed the firearms we enjoy the right ammunition diet. Understanding for what purposes and ammunition our shotguns and rifles were originally designed is important to ensuring continued long and safe use of our guns. It is also important to know the current condition of our guns, to again judge the most suitable ammunition to put through them.

Vintage Gunners member, and past President of the Carolina Vintagers, Bob Nay is the proprietor of MacNab Fine Shotguns & Accessories. Recently, he has begun including the following notice with any older shotgun he sells. Obviously, Bob's statements are generalized and may not apply to all guns equally. BUT, as users of older guns, we are wise if we pay heed to the call for knowledge, humility and caution in enjoying our older guns and shooting pastimes.

READ THIS IMPORTANT NOTICE

Use Sensible Ammunition

Please make sure that you use low pressure shotshells in older vintage shotguns whatever their chamber length. It is safer for you, easier on the gun, more comfortable to shoot, and produces a more effective pattern for game and clays. Look for pressures in the 6,000 to 8,000 psi range.

Most ammunition currently available on American store shelves is made up of very high pressure loads (10,000-13,000 psi) designed to reliably operate semi-auto shotgun actions. It makes no sense to use it even in current manufacture over & unders or side-by-sides much less older or antique shotguns. Using high pressure ammunition not only risks a burst barrel with its potentially dangerous consequences but is hard on the other metal components of your shotgun. For older guns the risk is magnified not to mention the stress put on 125 year old walnut buttstocks!

Advertising claims and urban legend notwithstanding you do **not** need to use 1350 fps shotshells with their heavy recoil and blown patterns to bust clays or bring down game.

Low pressure does not mean low velocity. You can still obtain velocities in the 1125 – 1225 fps range and get pressures around 7,000 psi. Muzzle velocities in the 1125 – 1225 fps range will reliably kill any game bird in the world much less break a clay target.

Quality low pressure ammunition in most gauges is available from **RST Classic Shotshells** located in Friendsville, PA. (570-553-1651) and from **Baschieri & Pellagri** (**B&P**) available from many sporting goods stores.

This article is not an endorsement of MacNab, RST or B&P by the Vintage Gunners.

Vintage Gunners Represented at PA Fly Fishing and Wingshooting Expo

As part of efforts in February to reach potential new members, Tom Snyder attended The Fly Fishing & Wingshooting Expo in Lake Harmony, PA. The Vintage Gunners had a booth at the event to promote our organization



to Expo attendees.

While at the Expo, Tom ran into the famous 20ga Parker shotgun once owned by famed outdoor writer Burton Spiller. We assume he had permission to pick it up...



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Editor's Note

Hello All,

As always, I'm looking for new 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. Ownership of any nice guns can remain anonymous if requested. This is your newsletter, so please contribute.

As a reminder, as a part of your Vintage Gunner membership, you now have a user name and password to access the forums and other non-public sections of our website: http://vintagers.org/home.

Your username is simply your first initial and your last name. So for me, my username would be "mhaney". (The initial is for the first name we have registered with the Vintage Gunners, so if your name is Robert, but you normally go by Bob, your username probably starts with "b".) In a very few cases, we had some overlap of first initials and last names, but fortunately we knew the middle initial for at least one of those people and added it in.

The password is simply set for everyone at this point to "password1901". So please log in and change your password as soon as you can. Below are some directions for logging in, changing your password and using the forums. If you already had a registered account on the site, we did not change it.

If you have any problems with the website, or to submit material for publication in *The Vintager*, please email me at: mmhaney@comcast.net.

Thank you!

Matt Haney President, Georgia Vintagers mmhaney@comcast.net

Announcements

Membership Dues – Speaking of dues, please continue collecting 2018 dues. Membership maintenance and growth remain a priority for 2018. A membership application is attached at the end of this newsletter. It can also be downloaded from the Vintage Gunners website under the Contact Us tab or clicking <u>HERE</u>.

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Russell Moccasin is a corporate member of the Vintage Gunners. See their website at: http://www.russellmoccasin.com/

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The Virginia Sportsman

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

OLD DOMINION VINTAGE GUNNERS (VIRGINIA)

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

March 24-25, 2018 -- Spring Weekend Shoot at the Homestead, Hot Springs, VA Contact Ray for Details

April 7, 2018 -- 2nd Annual Breaking Clays and Feeding Horses Charity Shoot at Central Virginia Sporting Clays

April 26–29, 2018 -- The Southern Side by Side, Deep River Sporting Clays, Sanford, NC

May 19, 2018 -- Central Virginia Sporting Clays

June 16, 2018 3rd Annual Reach Out for Life Charity Shoot at Central Virginia Sporting Clays

September 21-23 -- Vintage Gunners Cup, Hopkins Game Farm, Kennedyville, MD

October, 18-21, 2018 -- The Fall Southern Side by Side, Backwoods Quail Club, Georgetown, SC

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

April 6, 2018 -- East Glastonbury Fish & Game, Marlboro, CT

May 11, 2018 -- Addieville East Farm, Mapleville, RI

June 1-3, 2018 -- Driven Clays at Northeast Kingdom Skeet and Sporting Clays, Burke, VT

July 13, 2018 -- Barre Sportsman's Club, Barre, MA

September 21-23, 2018 -- Vintage Gunners Cup, Hopkins Game Farm, Kennedyville, MD

October 5, 2018 -- East Glastonbury Fish & Game, Marlboro, CT

November 9, 2018 - Addieville East Farm, Mapleville, RI

December 7, 2018 -- Addieville East Farm, Mapleville, RI **DOWN EAST (MAINE)**

Contact: Pete Kogut, President -- 603-755-3007 -- doubleguncases@peoplepc.com

2018 Events Pending

SUNSHINE (FLORIDA)

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

April 21st -- Sporting Clays at Tampa Bay Sporting Clays, 9:30 a.m. registration

May 26th -- Sporting Clays at Tampa Bay Sporting Clays, 9:30 a.m. registration

June 23rd -- Sporting Clays at Tampa Bay Sporting Clays, 9:30 a.m. registration

NORTHERN APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS (PENNSYLVANIA/UPSTATE NY)

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

April 14, 2018 -- The 6th Annual American Classic SxS Shoot, Cayuga County Sportsman's Association.

April 26-29, 2018 -- Southern SidexSide Spring Classic -- Deep River Sporting Clays and Shooting School, Sanford, North Carolina

Contact: http://www.southernsidebyside.com ph. 919.774-7080

May 12, 2018 -- Northern Appalachian Mt. Chapter Event -- Vernon National Shooting Preserve (Sporting Clays and Steak Roast)

Contact: Tom Snyder <u>tsnyder610@aol.com</u> ph. 607-759-7150; Dick Mider <u>dmider@aol.com</u> ph. 607-642-8419

June 7-9, 2018 -- 15th Annual Northeast SidexSide Classic -- Hausmann's Hidden Hollow Contact: Ernest Hausmann ewhausmann@frontier.com; ph. 570-934-2336

June 24, 2018 -- Northern Appalachian Mt. Chapter Event -- Tioga County Sportsman's Association

Contact: Tom Snyder <u>tsnyder610@aol.com</u> ph. 607-759-7150; Dick Mider <u>dmider@aol.com</u> ph. 607-642-8419

July 7, 2018 -- Northern Appalachian Mt. Chapter Event -- Oneonta Sportsman's Association

July 28, 2018 -- Northern Appalachian Mt. Chapter Event -- Vernon National Shooting Preserve (Sporting Clays and Steak Roast)

Contact: Tom Snyder <u>tsnyder610@aol.com</u> ph. 607-759-7150; Dick Mider <u>dmider@aol.com</u> ph. 607-642-8419 August 2-5, 2018 -- Northern SxS Challenge and Expo -- Rock Mountain Sporting Clays Contact Mike @570-965-7625

August 12, 2018 -- The Glorious Twelfth Shoot -- Hausmann's Hidden Hollow Sporting Clays Contact: Tom Snyder tsnyder610@aol.com ph. 607-759-7150; Dick Mider dmider@aol.com ph. 607-642-8419

August 24-25, 2018 -- 25th 8th Annual Hunter Arms Home Coming Days, Fulton, NY LC Smith Shooters only -- More information when available

September 8-9, 2018 -- Cobb Invitational -- Hausmann's Hidden Hollow More information when available

September 21-23, 2018 -- The Vintage Gunners Cup 21st Annual World Side-by-Side Shotgun & Rifle Championship and Exhibition -- Hopkins Game Farm, Kennedyville, MD Contact: hopkinshunting@gmail.com; ph. 410-348-5287

GEORGIA

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

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

2018 Events Pending

MAGNOLIA CHAPTER (MISSISSIPPI/TENNESSEE)

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

2018 Events Pending

CAROLINA

Contact: Joe Norcom, President -- 704-577-3180 -- jwnorcom@gmail.com

2018 Events Pending

LONG ISLAND/GOLD COAST (NEW YORK)

Contact: Randell Beck, President - 516-509-6943 -- beckrandell@gmail.com

2018 Events Pending

BUCKEYE (OHIO)

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

2018 Events Pending

A Thank You To The Vintage Gunners

Late last year, the Georgia
Vintagers made a donation to a
local youth shooting team on
behalf of the Vintage Gunners.
We received a very nice Thank
You card in return, signed by all
the team members of the
Mambas Scholastic Clay Target
Program Team.



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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. Give me a call or email me.





470 Broad Street Lyndonville, VT 05851 Cell: 207-751-1233 Office: 802-626-4343 Fax: 802-626-3700 ackdudley47@gmail.com

WWW.ALLSEASONSRE.COM I





Jason Basham 4390 Little Indian Road Kimbolton, Ohio 43749 740-509-0071

diamondpointguns@gmail.com

I started gunsmithing 20 years ago for Master stockmaker Brent Umberger at Sportsman Haven Inc./Stocks by Umberger. Mr Umberger has taught me his skillful trade of stock building, stock fitting, checkering, and gunsmithing. After the passing of Mr Umberger, I continued my training by mastering the art of hot bluing and slow rust bluing.

I offer the following services:

- Custom Stocks
- Refinishing
- Checkering

- Case Hardening
- •Hot Bluing
- •Rust Bluing

- Cerakote
- Gunsmithing





2018 Membership Application for the Vintage Gunners And Double Gun Society

Please print legibly.	
Name:	
Name and DOB of spouse if couple me	embership:
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, 2018.
- 2 New members joining after Sept. get the rest of current year and following year.
- 3 Annual Membership: \$75.00 Individual
- 4 Annual Membership: \$120.00 Family Membership (Spouse and Children)
- 5 Make checks payable to: The Vintage Gunners
- 6 Mail to: The Vintage Gunners c/o Joe Norcom

3033 Burnt Mill Road Charlotte, NC 28210 You Are Cordially Invited to Attend



21st Annual World Side-by-Side Shotgun & Rifle Championship and Exhibition

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For Membership and Chapter Event Information go to Vintagesrs.org