

The intager

THE OFFICIAL
NEWSLETTER
OF THE DOUBLE
GUN SOCIETY,
VINTAGE
GUNNERS

Volume Five, Issue 2 ----- Second/Third Quarter 2020

President's Message

Dear Vintage Gunners,

After months of trying to get a clear picture of what it would take to get this year's Vintage Gunners Cup off the ground and meet all the safety requirements, the Board and Hausmann's Hidden Hollow Sporting Clays have decided to cancel this year's event.

Pennsylvania's current restrictions by county continue to bounce back and forth between green and yellow, limiting attendance at events from 250 to 50 people. At last year's event, we had nearly 400 people attend. Pennsylvania has extensive requirements for events including sanitation, social distancing, keeping a log of everyone for contact tracing, etc., that would need to be met. This is feasible but if someone were to become ill, there are lingering questions on whether we would be covered by our insurance provider. New York State, where many stay and eat, has implemented restrictions on travel and 14-day quarantine requirements from many other states. These continue to change. Occupancy in hotels and restaurants is limited and could also create challenges. Hence, the Board and Hausmann's has made the decision to cancel. It is a disappointing situation for all of us.



We will start planning next year's event immediately, for **September 15-18, 2021**. We have agreed as a Board and with Ernie Hausmann that the Vintage Gunners Cup will take place at Hausmann's Hidden Hollow Sporting Clays for the years 2021 and 2022. The Board in the meantime will be looking for a new venue. That means that in 2023 the Vintage Gunners Cup will be at a new shooting establishment that meets the requirements to hold the Vintage Gunners Cup. Matt Haney will be spear-heading that committee so if you are interested in helping to locate a venue and working on the 2023 event, please contact him and get involved. There are many roles that need to be filled: expanding our exhibitors, planning the social events and coming up with different shooting venues for both shotgun and rifle.

Our goal for next year's event is to provide a truly event worthy of being called The Vintage Gunners Annual World Side X Side and Rifle Championship. We are fully intent on providing an event that all our members can be proud of and a celebration of our shooting heritage. We hope that our exhibitors and shooting participants will join us next year.

For our members, anyone who has paid national dues for the year 2020 will be given automatic membership for 2021. We will leave it up to the locals to decide if they will collect dues at that level. We are a grassroots organization based on chapter participation first and suggest paying local dues to keep chapter venues alive, which does take money.

At next year's Vintage Gunner Cup, I look forward to shaking hands with old friends, enjoying the comradery of standing beside fellow gun enthusiasts while inspecting my next potential purchase and not having to figure out who is behind the mask. **Again, the 2021 Vintage Gunners Cup will be September 15-18, 2021.**

Everyone continue to be safe, and Hammers Back!

Tom Snyder
President, The Vintage Gunners

From the Field

Northeast Vintagers Shooting and Distancing

By Melanie and Ray Poudrier Northeast Vintagers



Here is a photo of our Northeast Chapter Vintagers at Addieville East Farm on Friday, June 12. And, yes, we were outfitted properly for the Virus Shoot in Rhode Island according to the Governor's Guidelines. It was a spectacular day with bright blue skies and a light breeze. It did not feel like a threatening day, but we were prepared for shooting 150 Sporting Clay targets and some great long-missed company albeit at a social distance.

From My Gun Safe

By F. Jack Hurley, President, Carolina Vintagers

Greetings, fellow Vintage Gunners. By writing up a few guns from my own gun safe, I hope to encourage others to do the same and submit short articles with pictures to our long-suffering editor, Matt Haney.

My first item for your consideration is not one gun but two, a matched pair of 12 bores made around the turn of the last century by Frederick T. Baker. Never heard of Fred Baker? He was a top London gun maker from the 1880s to the early 1900s. In fact, he trained E. J. Churchill. His grandfather, Thomas Kerslake Baker began building pistols in London around 1833 and his father, the first Frederick Thomas Baker, took over the business in 1858 and ran it until 1881, his years spanning the development of the modern English side by side gun. Our Fred took over the business in 1881 and ran it until 1913, when he sold out to Westley Richards. The Bakers were not prolific inventors but in their day were considered among the best second tier London Gun Makers, on a par with Grant and Woodward.



Now to my guns. You see before you a matched pair of Fred T Baker 12 bores, SNs 8038 and 8039. With 28-inch barrels and 15 ¼ inch stocks they each weigh seven pounds. Beautifully balanced, they sport the wonderful side levers that are often associated with Stephan Grant and are my very

favorite means of opening a gun. Baker's records have not been published so we have to guess, but I am fairly sure they were made just after the turn of the last century. The address on the top ribs is 29 Glasshouse Street, London, which was the address of Baker's shop from 1899 until 1913. They sport their original bright finish and the very close scroll engraving that is still associated with E. J. Churchill's guns.



I bought the guns in a Holt's Auction in 1915 and when they arrived in their original case with some nice accessories (way better than Christmas) I was surprised to find among the packing material two old receipts from 1974, when the guns were re-stocked and re-proofed, along with some other, fairly extensive work at a charge of 595 pounds sterling. (The pound went a lot farther in those days!) The work was carried out for one R. A. Brouard, esq., La Touraille, Le Bigard, Forest, Guernsey. With this information, my good friend Bill Nanny went to work and discovered that the Brouard family is still living on their estate on the Island of Guernsey and the owner was probably Robert A. Brouard. I

did some correspondence and soon got in touch with "Bob" Brouard's widow, "Pandy" Brouard, as well as his son, "Clem". Together, they were able to piece together a fairly complete story for me.

According to Clem Brouard, the guns were originally made for a young man named Charles Lawson, who lived in Scotland. On a stag hunt shortly after acquiring the guns, Lawson made a bad rifle shot, wounding an animal, which put him off hunting. Lawson used the gun on occasional clay

events, but never shot birds with them. Sometime after WW II, Lawson moved to Guernsey where he and the Brouards became friends. Clem remembered him primarily as a “good musician on accordion.” Bob Brouard bought the guns from “Charlie” Lawsons estate in 1974 and sent them off the have the stocks replaced and the guns reproofed, as mentioned above. Clem remembered his father as “a great shot” at both trap and skeet who also enjoyed walked up grouse shooting in Scotland, but “his favorite guns were three Belgium Brownings.” “I don’t think he ever really shot the Bakers as they should be used (with a loader on driven grouse). Not his thing, I would say.” After Bob’s death, the guns were sent to Holt’s Auction and thence to me. When I got in touch with the family, Pandy wrote that she was delighted to learn that the guns had “found a good home.” And so they have.



So, I have a pair of lovely guns, made over a hundred years ago, through which I have put perhaps a few hundred shells and that is probably the most that they have been used during their entire working lives. At around 115 years, they remain essentially new guns.

One last point. I bought these guns after the Holt’s Auction was over, from the unsold lots, for their low estimate. Why were they passed over? Because the Brits have also forgotten about Fred T Baker and the wonderful guns he made. The lesson here is that the real bargains in British guns are from the lesser known makers - the Rossons, the Papes, the William Richards and so many others, not to mention, of course the Fred Bakers.

Financial Report

Double Gun Society of the Vintage Gunners 2nd Quarter Financial Report July 17, 2020

Assets:

Checking Balance 7/17/2020 \$ 13,410.16

Expenses During the 2nd / 3rd Quarter

Total Expenses \$ 0.00

We have a pending expense with Sportsman's Insurance Agency, Inc, SIAI for annual coverage. Cost is being negotiated in light of VGC cancellation.

Please contact me with any additional questions.

Thanks,

Joseph W. Norcom
Treasurer

Book Review

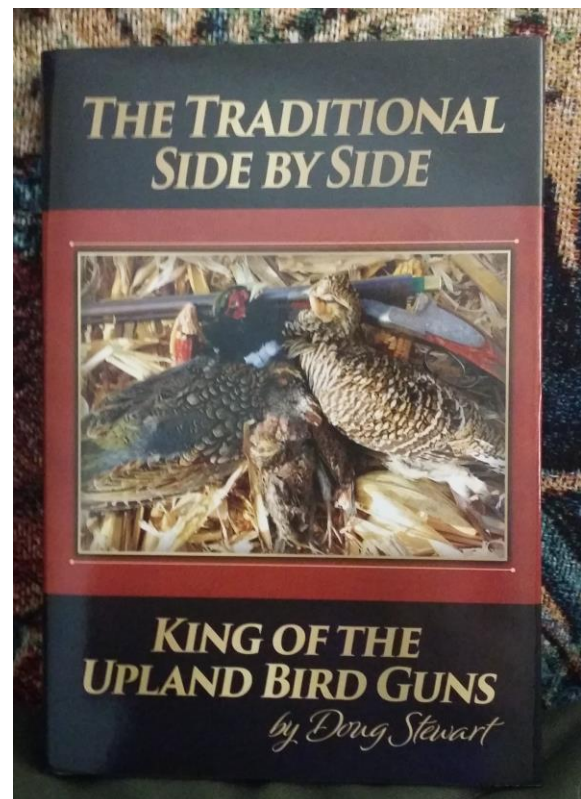
A New Ode to the Traditional Side-by-Side Shotgun

By Matt Haney, President, Georgia Vintagers

The Traditional Side by Side: King of the Upland Bird Guns by Doug Stewart is a recent (2018) addition to the literary canon of our favorite type of shotgun.

In heartfelt, unpretentious prose, author Doug Stewart tell us why he believes the side-by-side shotgun is the best gun for upland hunting. A fine example of Stewart's style is this quotation: "A traditional side by side has a soul of its own. The soul was given to the gun by a craftsman who produced this piece of art part by part."

Stewart is a health and fitness trainer from Colorado, and is an avid bird hunter. His focus is the on use of



side-by-side guns in upland settings, so most of the information presented in the book is written from that perspective.

As he discusses in the book, Stewart loves to test his beliefs about shotguns and shooting and apply what he learns. Stewart tells us, “Through these many years I have become really big on trial and error...I shoot, test, and study everything to do with shotguns and shooting...” He provides evidence of this work in the chapters on ammunition and gun barrels.

Stewart covers a lot ground in less than 200 pages. He divides the book into big sections with sub-sections that generally equate to chapters. There are chapters on common gauges used for upland hunting, chapters on the basic parts of a gun, and chapters on shooting technique and ammunition. There is also a directory of some of Stewart’s favorite gunsmiths and gun dealers at the end of the book.

The author is not afraid to offer his opinions. He shoots and owns guns of various makes, American, British and others, but his favorites are Parkers, and he tells you why. Stewart believes in using the best ammunition, saying, “Feed your special double the best nutrition you can.” I cannot say I agree with everything Stewart writes, but at least he is willing to share what his testing and experiences have taught him and lead him to believe. I take that as a sign of honesty and integrity.

I enjoyed the book; Stewart’s enthusiasm is infectious, but for anyone who has studied side-by-side guns for many years, there will not be much new information. However, I would recommend *The Traditional Side by Side* to anyone starting on their double gun journey. I think it helps answer the question of why many people are passionate about these old guns. It has been a while since we have received such full-throated endorsement of the classic side-by-side, and it is refreshing to hear it in a new voice. If your double gun faith is in need of a revival, give this a read, and give a copy to anyone who is starting to show interest in side-by-side guns.

Stewart mentions a couple of times that he is working on a second book, so hopefully we will hear more from him in the future.

The Traditional Side by Side: King of the Upland Bird Guns is available from numerous sources including Amazon (naturally), or it can be purchased directly from the author at: <https://www.dougstewartauthor.com/>.

Editor’s Note

The intention had been to get this newsletter out in time to be a true second quarter edition, but as we knew a decision on the Vintage Gunners Cup was imminent, we held it until we could make an announcement one way or the other. So the editor apologizes for the tardiness of this edition and that it will serve as both the second and third quarter editions of *The Vintager*.

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*.





JOE'S SAFARI PH
PEANUT CHAMOIS LEATHER + TAN CANVAS

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Chapters

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

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



2020/2021 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, 2020 – **For 2020, dues also cover 2021 for National membership.**
- 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, Treasurer
3033 Burnt Mill Road
Charlotte, NC 28210