

UTAH GUN COLLECTOR

Newsletter of the Utah Gun Collectors Association

February 2015

March show...

Please contact **Linda xxxxx** 801-xxx-xxxx to reserve your table early. January was a unique situation where we still had tables left at show time, but we expect to be sold out again in March. Make your reservation now!

We welcome the Ruger collectors back in March and expect to have a number of exciting new Ruger displays at the show. Along with other great collectibles they bring for sale or trade.

Please copy the show announcement at the right and post a copy where you work, or the local grocery store or library or wherever public announcements are allowed.

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COLLECTORS & SHOOTERS**

GUN SHOW!

Superb Exhibits ★ Sales ★ Trades

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Collectibles ★ War Memorabilia ★ And More!

** Private sellers and FFL Dealers*

March 7-8, 2015

WEBER COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
1000 NORTH 1200 WEST
OGDEN, UTAH
EAST OF I-15, EXIT 346

**220
TABLES!**

**SATURDAY 9:00 TO 5:00
SUNDAY 9:00 TO 4:00**

**BEST
UTAH
SHOW!**

FREE Door prizes! ★ FREE Parking!

**Just \$5* per Adult for BOTH Days!
Children 12 and Under FREE with Adult**

UGCA Members and Family Admitted FREE!

** With discount coupon available at Utah's better gun stores.
Only \$6 without Coupon.*

Important Note!

**2015 dues MUST be paid for
free entry to March show!**

Ticket takers will have the membership list at the door to make it easy to make your 2015 payment when you arrive at the show. Pick up your new membership card from the Secretary's table before you leave.

Or, you can mail your 2015 dues (only \$25 for adults, or \$5 for Junior Members under 18) to:

UGCA,
PO Box 711161,
Salt Lake City, UT 84171-1161

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Ruger "Factory Letters"

Collectors like to confirm the details of their guns against factory records to be sure all features are original, and the date of manufacture. Some maker charge a lot for such letters including some in the \$50 range and some as high as \$150, unless it is a real interesting gun, in which case they bump the price up several hundred dollars more.

The Sturm Ruger Company makes rugged reliable guns at reasonable prices, and their factory letter policy fits the same philosophy.

You can request a "letter of authenticity" from Ruger for only \$10 per gun. The best way is to use the form available at

<http://www.ruger.com/pdf/letterOfAuthenticity.pdf>

You can also download free Ruger Instruction manuals and history from: <http://www.ruger.com/service/productHistory.html>



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***Browning Gun Club
at Ogden Union Station!
March 10th, April 14th,
May 12th***



EVERYONE is invited to FREE monthly Browning Gun Club meeting at the Union Station Museum at 25th & Wall Street in Ogden. They meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 9:00 AM in the meeting room upstairs by the gun museum and last about an hour.

**NEW MEMBERS –
WELCOME TO THOSE WHO HAVE
JOINED IN RECENT MONTHS!**

Julia B.
Dean C.
Boyd G.

John H.
Larry I.
Denise K.

Dwight K.
Brent S.
Monte S.

UTAH GUN COLLECTOR

Editor & Webmaster- **John S**
Assistant Editor- **Gaylord S**

Your articles and photos are needed for the Newsletter, and greatly appreciated.
Please submit notes, stories or photos to the editor

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SOME OF THE GREAT DISPLAYS!



WOW! The First AND Second Place awards were BOTH won by Gus B. for two different displays!

First Place was for "I Hates to be Thoisty" featuring an amazing array of different canteens and mess kits from all participants in World War 1, a museum quality collection that (surprisingly!) fascinated the public.

Second Place was for the U.S. Army Ambulance Service in World War I— including the most accurate replica known of a WW1 Model T Ford Ambulance as well as uniforms and personal equipment of medical personnel.



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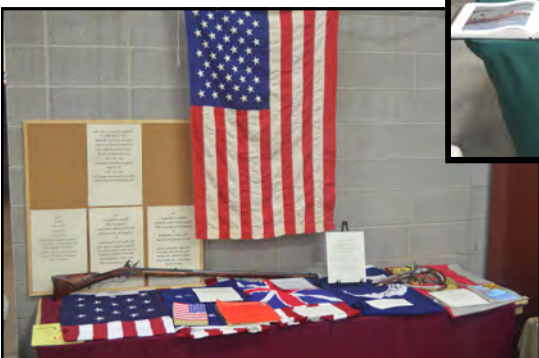


More Award Winners!

George F's great "Vintage M1903 Rifles"

display (above) covered these famous guns nicely, earning the Third Place award.

Terry J's "Lee-Enfield Target Rifles" and Jon S's "German Gun Collectors Association" also won awards, along with David G's "The Pledge" and Larry J's "WW2 Japanese Souvenirs."



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**Hope Bisbing
Award for
Excellence
Winner!**

“Some Unusual Springfield Armory Items” by John S.



Everyone is familiar with Springfield’s mass production of many famous infantry rifles, but they also made small quantities of other unusual arms for special needs. This display included one of the “Indian Carbines” made 1808-1810 for use as gifts to Indian chiefs at ceremonies, but most ended up being used as the first “cadet muskets” when West Point was established. Also, one of the very scarce heavy barrel target rifles made in 1924 (this one beautifully restored by club member George F.) And, Springfield made several different types of swords for officers and enlisted men of the Army circa 1873-1918. This earned the prestigious Hope Bisbing Award of Excellence!

More Great Displays!

**“M1 Carbines– U.S. G.I. and Commercial” by Mike H. and
“Ruger Bisley Revolvers” by Jimmy C.**





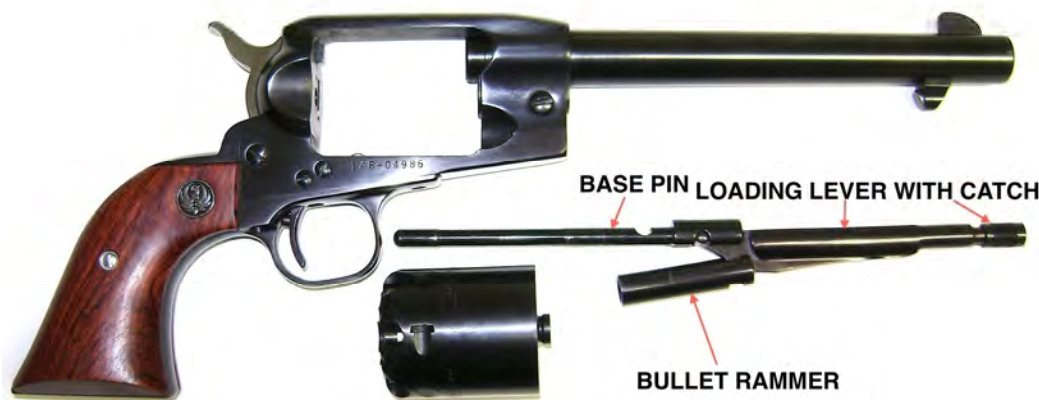
The Ruger Old Army

In 1972 Ruger introduced the Old Army. If you take the Remington 1858 New Army and marry it with the Ruger Super Blackhawk you have the first modern cap and ball revolver. Apply a patented loading lever system that is guaranteed to never come loose from recoil and you have the “first significant advance in percussion revolver construction in more than a century.”

The design is based upon the use of as many parts as possible from the Super Blackhawk while using as few screws as possible. That included the grips, grip frame, internal springs and other internal parts and the barrel blanks used with the Blackhawk in .45 Colt caliber. Like all of the Ruger single action revolvers, investment castings were used for most parts to include the Old Army cylinder. To verify the strength of the cylinder, it was tested with Bullseye smokeless powder. (Don't try that at home!)

The caliber of the Old Army is .45, but that doesn't tell the whole story. The instructions that came with my 1972 model serial number 140-00412 states that the Old Army is designed to use a .457 diameter round ball or conical bullet of pure lead. The end of the box that came with the gun states “Caliber .45”. Sometime in 1973 the box marking was changed to “Caliber .44 (.457 Ball Dia.)”. Eventually the markings on the boxes reverted to “Caliber .45”. The instructions that came with my 2005 revolver states “Caliber .457 Round Ball.” Of the eight Old Army revolvers I own, none of them have a caliber designation marked upon the gun.

PATENTED LOADING LEVER SYSTEM



LOADING LEVER

The patented loading lever system is designed to operate without screws. The main parts consist of the base pin that the cylinder rotates around. The front of the base pin acts as a securing device and fulcrum for the loading lever to pivot on. Mounted on the front of the loading lever is a spring loaded catch that rests in a detent fastened under the barrel.

The bullet rammer also pivots off the rear of the loading lever. This allows it to press a round in the chamber of the cylinder by slipping the catch off of the barrel detent and moving the loading lever down, away from the barrel. All this mechanism is secured to the frame of the revolver by the base retaining pin with a “screw head” located in the frame in front of the cylinder. This “screw” is actually a round pin that is flattened on one side to allow it to engage or disengage in a notch in the base pin. The base retaining pin is rotated with a dime size coin in the “screw head slot”. The gun can be cleaned in the field without the use of tools...other than a dime.

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FILED OFF SIGHT

140-00412



140-02103

BRASS GRIP FRAME

SIGHTS AND GRIP STRAPS

There are two designs for the Ruger Old Army. The original contained an adjustable rear sight similar to the Super Blackhawk. The barrel of all these revolvers is 7 1/2" in length. The grip frame for all the Old Armies is one piece incorporating both the back strap and trigger guard along with a coil main spring. The grip frame used on the first 7,700 Old Armies is designated as the XR3-RED which is made of anodized aluminum.



148-11024

5 1/2" BARREL WITH FIXED SIGHTS

However, included in that number were 1,200 with a brass square back trigger guard. Later, the grip frame was changed to steel.

The first 400 or so revolvers had a front sight borrowed from the Super Blackhawk which was too tall on the Old Army. As a result 1/8" was filed off the top of the sight so it wouldn't shoot low.

The other major design incorporated a "fixed" rear sight and a blade front sight. The top strap over the cylinder closely resembled the top strap on the Ruger Vaquero. This model was produced in 7 1/2" and 5 1/2" barrel lengths.

STAINLESS STEEL

Beginning in 1975, the Old Army became available in stainless steel. The models available were with adjustable sights and a 7 1/2" barrel, and the fixed sight models in both the 7 1/2" and 5 1/2" barrel. Finishes ranged from satin to a highly polished gloss finish in some models. The standard grip panels continued to be wood; however, white "ivory" and other custom grip panels were also available. Additionally several "commemorative" models were developed for the Ruger Collectors Association. Production of the Old Army ended in 2008.

(continued on next page)

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AMMO FOR THE OLD ARMY



148-11201
7 1/2" BARREL WITH FIXED SIGHTS
STAINLESS STEEL GLOSS FINISH



145-02039
7 1/2" BARREL WITH ADJ SIGHTS
STAINLESS STEEL SATIN FINISH

The Old Army is designed for black powder. The instructions state that any granulation will work; however, it suggests FFFg and number 10 caps on the stainless steel nipples. It recommends starting with 20 grains with filler material such as corn meal to fill the chamber to where the lead ball

can be seated approximately 1/16" below the chamber mouth. The charge can be increased or decreased to gain accuracy. No filler is required if the chamber is at least 1/2 full.

A number of after market cylinders are available to convert the Old Army into a cartridge revolver. They all require the cylinder be removed from the revolver to load live rounds and remove spent cartridge cases. They are two pieces with the cartridge chambers in one piece with a removable back plate that fits over the rear ends of the cartridges. There are two basic back plate designs. One has six firing pins and rotates with the cylinder. The other design contains one firing pin and does not rotate with the cylinder. I own is the one firing pin design by Krist Cartridge Konverter which accepts six .45 Colt rounds. The instructions not only recommend leaving the chamber under the hammer empty but to only use black powder.

The Ruger Old Army may not hold the mystique of the old Colts but without a doubt, it is the finest black powder revolver ever designed. And, like all Ruger firearms, it is a very popular and affordable collecting specialty.

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Club Logo Items Now On Sale!

A member recently asked about getting t-shirts, coffee mugs, etc. with our UGCA logo.

You can now buy such items from our on-demand supplier, cafepress.com. You can order high quality t-shirts, mugs, water bottles and baseball caps, as shown here, as well as many other items. Just go to the site and pick the items you want and order. It's that simple.

Wear your UGCA membership with pride. cafepress.com/ugca



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Living History Interpretation Contest Winners—

Standing, left to right are Julia B. as Pearl Hart; Gus B. as WW1 soldier and Benjamin J. as 3rd Infantry Division WW2 soldier. Alyse A. as a WW2 WASP (Women's Air Service Pilot); Aaron B. as a WW2 U.S. 6th Army soldier and Brian W. 31st Infantry soldier in the Philippines in 1941. Kneeling in front are Shane M. a WW2 U.S. Marine, and Caleb W. as a member of the 2nd Ranger Battalion during WW2.

Ben J. and Brian W. tied for the 1st place award.

Understanding firearms in the context of how they were used, and by whom, is part of history that is often overlooked. Thank you to all these historians for their research and effort to assemble the correct items for their impression!

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(free to members...)

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RUGER OLD ARMY SERIAL NUMBERS AND DATES OF MANUFACTURE

The BLUE old Army revolvers were designated with a "140" prefix and started at number 140-00001 in 1972. The STAINLESS guns were assigned prefix "145" and started at 145-00001 in 1976. In 1982 the 140 prefix was dropped and both blue and stainless used numbers with the 145 prefix. In 1994 a "148" prefix was added and used concurrently with the 145 prefix until end of production in 2008

This information from Ruger listed below comes with the caveat:

"The... chart shows the approximate first serial number shipped for the indicated year. This number should be used as a point of reference only. It is not necessarily the very first serial number shipped, but it can be used to determine the approximate year your Ruger firearm was shipped."

Ruger does not produce firearms in serial number order. There are occasions when blocks of serial numbers have been manufactured out of sequence, sometimes years later. Also, within a model family the same serial number prefix may be used to produce a variety of different models, all in the same block of serial numbers. And in some cases, models may be stored for a length of time before they are shipped."

BLUE OLD ARMY DATES

Beginning Serial Number for year	
140-00001	1972
140-04259	1973
140-13723	1974
140-20404	1975
140-26251	1976
140-30204	1977
140-34506	1978
140-39651	1979
140-44201	1980
140-46573	1981

STAINLESS OLD ARMY DATES

Beginning Serial Number for year	
1	1975
145-00001	1976
145-01204	1977
145-07934	1978
145-15890	1979
145-20194	1980
145-24880	1981

Ruger Old Army Serial Numbers and Dates of Manufacture

Save this as a handy wallet reference list for when you find an Old Army for sale!

MIXED BLUE AND STAINLESS OLD ARMY DATES

Beginning Serial Number: for year	
145-33428	1982
145-46522	1983
145-50008	1984
145-51681	1985
145-52645	1986
145-55577	1987
145-57569	1988
145-60386	1989
145-63537	1990
145-65870	1991

145-66177	1992
145-66292	1993
145-70614 and 148-00504	1994
145-74645 and 148-01310	1995
145-80534 and 148-03084	1996
145-87525 and 148-04467	1997
145-88998 and 148-06385	1998
145-90793 and 148-06823	1999
145-92200 and 148-07285	2000

145-92762 and 148-07895	2001
145-93406 and 148-08025	2002
145-94109 and 148-08404	2003
145-94812 and 148-09305	2004
145-95380 and 148-10546	2005
145-95673 and 148-11409	2006
145-96199 and 148-11785	2007
145-96352 and 148-12112	2008