

UTAH GUN COLLECTOR

Newsletter of the Utah Gun Collectors Association

February 2017

Thank You!

The January show was a very good one despite absolutely horrible weather, bitterly cold with lots of snow and travel warnings.

UGCA really appreciates everyone who decided to do our show instead of "Brand X" in Sandy. Joe Ashman's support was especially appreciated.

March Dates-

To help you plan your schedule we publicize our show dates at least a year in advance. On the back page and on our website you will see all of our 2017 dates and tentative 2018 and 2019 dates.

However, "Rocky Mountain," an outfit that puts on gun, ammo and survival shows decided to do shows in Salt Lake City (Sandy) on the same dates as our previously announced shows in January and March 2017.

And, Lewis-Clark Traders in Idaho found a new facility in Pocatello and ended up with the same March 4-5 date. Most of our table holders are planning to do the UGCA shows, and we appreciate their support and good taste.

We hope that our members and guests will not be misled by the "Brand x" shows.

THE ORIGINAL & ONLY OGDEN

ANTIQUE & MODERN
COLLECTORS & SHOOTERS

GUN SHOW!

Superb Exhibits ★ Sales ★ Trades

All Kinds of Guns ★ Swords ★ Knives ★ Ammo

Military ★ Western ★ Indian Artifacts

Knowlegable Experts ★ Informal Appraisals

Collectibles ★ War Memorabilia ★ And More!

** Private sellers and FFL Dealers*

March 4-5, 2017

WEBER COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

1000 NORTH 1200 WEST

OGDEN, UTAH

EAST OF I-15, EXIT 346



SATURDAY 9:00 to 5:00

SUNDAY 9:00 to 3:00

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.*

Change in show hours

Effective with the January 2017 show, the SUNDAY hours will be from 9:00 to 3:00, instead of closing at 4:00 PM. This is becoming common at many other gun shows.

FUTURE SHOW DATES?????

UGCA is exploring changing from a January, March October schedule to late February, early May and October to minimize weather problems.

What do YOU think about this option? Talk to the directors at the March show. If adopted, this might begin in 2018 or maybe not until 2019. We are checking potential conflicts with other shows, fairgrounds availability, etc.

Advertising for Shows-

UGCA does extensive print advertising in the Ogden area, and also listings in the NRA magazines, Man At Arms, and various on-line gun show listings. We also send email notifications to prior show attendees and the Utah Shooting Sports Council list of gun owners.

Print advertising in Salt Lake area is not cost effective. Radio has not proven effective. Billboard or Bus Stop signs?

Who can work social media to boost turnout? Anyone have any ideas?

HISTORIC ARMS SHOOTS

Members have expressed an interest in resuming these fun family events. The first will probably be at Wasatch Shooters Range, focusing on antique black powder arms- flint, percussion or cartridge. Future shoots may expand up to all weapons including legally registered machine guns. Volunteers are needed to pull this off. NO VOLUNTEERS SO FAR, SO NO PROGRESS.

Browning Gun Club at Ogden Union Station! **February 14th, March 14th, April 11th, May 8th**

EVERYONE is invited to the 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 with an interesting speaker presentation and interesting guns.



**John M. Browning
FIREARMS
MUSEUM**

**NEW MEMBERS –
WELCOME TO THOSE WHO HAVE
JOINED RECENTLY!**

Allan B.

Bob T.



UGCA Board of Directors

Officers

President **Gary N.**
Vice President **Jimmy C.**
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Secretary **Linda E.**

Directors 2016-2017

Jim D.
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Directors 2017-2018

Frank B.
Jimmy C.
Gary N.
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Chuck R.

Membership Chair

Linda E.

The UGCA Board meets on the Fourth Tuesday of each month, except June and July, usually at S.E.L.L. Antiques, 1488 South State Street in Salt Lake City starting at 7:00 PM. Members are welcome to attend. Please contact the Secretary to confirm date, time and location.

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
john2008@oldguns.net

***Congratulatinons
on a GREAT Display!***

**SOME OF THE GREAT
DISPLAYS!**

***Hope Bisbing
Award for Excellence
Winner!***



***Savage Lever
Action Rifles by
David R.
earned the
prestigious Hope
Bisbing Award for***

Excellence! He has one of everything, and wrote the definitive book on the subject. Here are two beautiful engraved rifles. Glad to see him back.

The People's Choice Award and Third Place Award went to Gus B. for his **French Uniforms, Weapons and Equipment of World War I**. Note the soldier on the right is an African American

***3rd Place
Award Winner!***



***People's Choice
Award Winner!***

MORE OF THE GREAT DISPLAYS!



First Prize went to "Fight at Night"- U.S.Army NightVision, 1945-1980- by John S.



This included providing visible light for the battlefield, then using "invisible" infrared light sources and telescopes and eventually the "starlight scopes" which magnify ambient light. These scopes were mounted on M1 Carbines and later on M14 and M16 rifles and even .50 BMGs. One of the carbines here is a rare "T3" made with an integral scope mount. The difference in weight from the oldest to the newest units is amazing as well as the improved range and sharpness.

MORE GREAT DISPLAYS!



Vintage M1903 Rifles– Pre-World War II- earned George F. the Second Place Award. Great examples of the many varieties of this rifle along with related accessories.

Veteran Bring Back guns by Shane McC. included a variety of different arms along with their stories. And, also a caution that not all stories are to be believed, earning a Judge's Choice Award.

Pure Grit- Elizabeth Devitt's Footlocker– by Alyse A. honored a WW2 U.S. Army Nurse Corps officer and showed the wide variety of gear these women took to war– Judges' Recommendation Award.



Television Cowboys by David G. brought back memories of the time when TV was full of cowboys





RUGER "TWO SCREW" SINGLE ACTION REVOLVERS

A middle aged couple approached me at a recent show. They were holding a Colt Frontier Scout and a Ruger Single Six. They asked me to tell them about their guns. As I

was explaining that the guns were not drop safe, the woman handed me the Ruger while putting one of her fingers on her forehead at her hair line. She drew her finger to the top of her head while saying, "I know."

Collectors refer to the Ruger she was holding as a "three screw" which was the standard before 1973. The "three screw" represents the three screws through the lower half of the frame on all early Ruger single action revolvers. One screw is the pivot point for the hammer, another for the cylinder lock bolt and the third screw is to secure the trigger.

The Ruger three screw revolver operates like a Colt Single Action Army. The gun has "safety" and "half cock" notches on the hammer. (You can even spell C-O-L-T when cocking it.) For loading, the hammer is pulled back resting the half cock notch on the thin blade of the trigger sear, freeing the cylinder to rotate allowing the chambers to be individually aligned with the cut out on the right side of the recoil shield when the loading gate is opened.

For "safe" carry after loading, the hammer should be pulled to full cock, then gently lowered back to the frame and then pulled back a short distance with the safety notch engaging trigger sear. This "safety" notch in combination with the thin blade of the trigger sear is no match for the weight for the loaded revolver falling on the hammer. In engineering terms this is a "single point failure" that was recognized by the old time cowboys who, legend has it, carried only five rounds in their six-shooters with the chamber under the hammer empty.

The first Ruger three screw revolver was the Single Six in .22 Long Rifle caliber introduced in 1953. The Single Six line expanded to include the .22 Magnum caliber with Light Weight models and the Super Single Six before production was terminated in 1973.

In 1955 Ruger introduced the three screw Blackhawk in .357 Magnum, followed a year later with the larger frame Blackhawk in .44 Magnum. Production expanded into the Super Blackhawk and other Blackhawk models in .30 Carbine, .41 Magnum and .45 Colt. Production was terminated in 1973 with the introduction of the New Models with the transfer bar.



These "New Models" with a transfer bar are known to collectors as the "two screw" models. From outward appearances the only obvious difference is the three screws have been replaced by two screws, which actually are pins, not screws. The internal mechanism and operation of the revolver for loading is quite different from the old three screw model. Freeing the cylinder to rotate is accomplished by opening the loading gate. The hammer does not have the safety and half cock notches. It is either fully forward against the frame or fully cocked ready to be fired. During loading, the hammer remains forward against the frame.



The reason for the change in operation is to incorporate the transfer bar, making the revolver "drop safe". The hammer is too short to strike the firing pin without the transfer bar, which is not activated to fill the gap between the hammer and firing pin until the trigger is pulled.



TRANSFER BAR

NEW MODEL SINGLE SIX

The exception to three screw rule is the Bearcat with one screw for the hammer and a second screw to carry both the lock bolt and the trigger. Even though the frame holds only two screws the gun operates exactly like its three screw bigger brothers. The hammer has the safety and half cock notches and the loading gate operates independently of the hammer. The Bearcat was produced in various metals and finishes until 1973 when it was discontinued.



EARLY BEARCAT

In 1993 the New Model Bearcat was introduced. Externally it looks similarly to the old Bearcats; however, internally it is different with a transfer bar. Unlike the loading process for the bigger two screw Single Six and Blackhawk models the loading operation for the New Model Bearcat is similar to the older Bearcats. The loading gate is not interconnected to the release of the cylinder and the hammer is equipped with safety and half cock notches; however, with the transfer bar it is drop safe.



NEW MODEL BEARCAT



NEW MODEL BEARCAT

For years after Ruger changed to the new two screw model they ran advertisements on the back cover of most gun related magazines requesting that anyone with a three screw model return it to the factory for a conversion with a transfer bar. The Ruger web site as well as an information card with each new Ruger single action revolver still contains information on the conversion process.

The conversion is free and all of the old parts are returned with the revolver. The converted gun looks and operates just like it did before conversion, except that the transfer bar can be seen when the hammer is pulled back, but it is drop safe.

The next time you pick up a Ruger single action revolver you can instantly identify it as an "old model" or a "New Model" and if it is drop safe or not. And, if you have one, maybe you can find the time to go to the range and try it out...but don't drop it...if it is an un-converted old three screw model!

A FREE SAFETY OFFER FROM RUGER

DO YOU OWN AN "OLD MODEL" (PRE-1973) RUGER SINGLE-SIX, BLACKHAWK, SUPER BLACKHAWK, OR BEARCAT SINGLE ACTION REVOLVER LIKE THESE?

The patented Ruger Conversion Kit is an entirely new operating system for these revolvers. It can help prevent accidental discharges caused by a drop or blow to the hammer if the user has failed to take the basic safety precaution of keeping the hammer down on an empty chamber. *That's very important!*

This mechanism can be factory-installed without any further alteration. The frame and other major parts will not be affected by this Conversion. The value of the gun will not be impaired, and we will return your original parts for collector's purposes.

To receive a **FREE** factory safety Conversion, write to us at Sturm, Ruger and Company, Inc., Dept. KC, 411 Sunapee Street, Newport, NH 03773. We will provide you with a shipping container and instructions. You only pay initial shipping to our factory. We will cover all other charges including return shipping costs. Please write to us without delay if you have one of these guns, and tell your friends about the availability of this kit. Remember that the safest way to carry any older single-action revolver, regardless of manufacturer, is with the hammer down on an **empty** chamber.

If your revolver has the words "New Model," "Bisley," or "Vaquero" on the frame, this offer is not applicable. Please write to us at:

Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc.
Department KC
411 Sunapee Street
Newport, NH 03773

for full details and a **FREE** shipping box.



Three frame screws identify the "old model" Single-Six, Blackhawk, and Super Blackhawk made from 1953 to 1972.



Serial numbers below 93-00000 identify old Bearcat and Super Bearcat models made from 1958 to 1972.



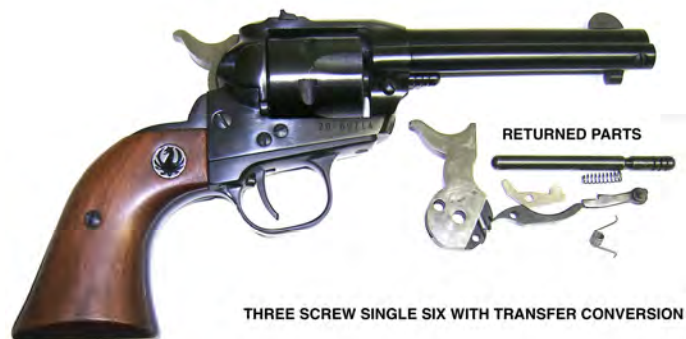
Arms Makers for Responsible Citizens®

FREE instruction manuals for all Ruger firearms are available online at www.ruger.com



TRANSFER BAR

THREE SCREW WITH TRANSFER BAR CONVERSION



RETURNED PARTS

THREE SCREW SINGLE SIX WITH TRANSFER CONVERSION

MORE OF THE GREAT DISPLAYS!



British Empire Small Arms of World War I- earned a Judge's Commendation for Terry J. A great collection with some very rare arms which were in the trenches 100 years ago.

Ruger Bearcats by Jimmy C. Did not compete, but was enjoyed by all.

Poseidon's Cloak- The uniforms and equipment of U.S. Navy Sailors won an Honorable Mention award.



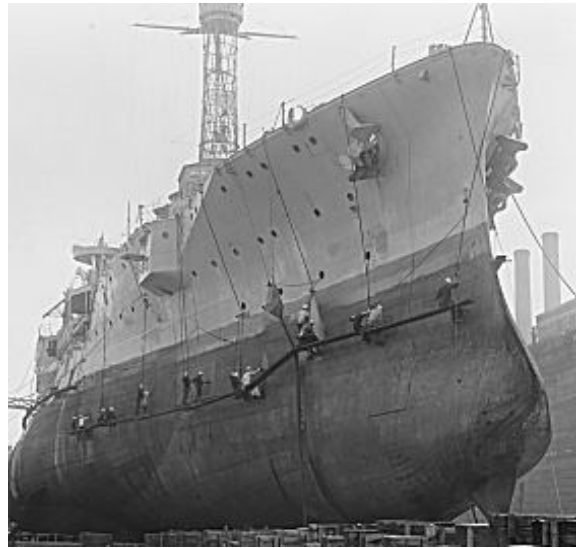
Aaron B., Ben J. and Brian W. presented this exceptionally comprehensive display included a "full seabag" of properly stenciled and rolled uniforms, hammock, mattress, etc.



WW2 Japanese Rank Patches was something different and educational, thanks to Larry J.



Living History



Living History Participants help bring the full picture to the arms by adding representations of the people who used them. In many cases, an interest in living history grows into serious gun collecting.

Here we have three early WW2 swabbies ready for liberty to spend their Living History award winnings: Aaron B., Jon E., and Ben J. who is honoring Ken Potts, a veteran who was aboard USS Arizona at Pearl Harbor. Above right sailors paint the battleship USS Utah in drydock. Sailors worked hard!

Alyse A. portrayed a U.S. Army Nurse in Italy (see her excellent display) earning Second Place; Shane McC. representing the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Vietnam, and his son, Darren as a hands free radio operator from the Gulf War taking First place in the adult and junior categories.



UGCA CLASSIFIED ADS:

(free to members....)

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<http://utahshootingsportscouncil.org/>