



COLORADO GUN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

From our President:

Hopefully everyone had an enjoyable holiday season visiting with friends and family. We had an enjoyable CGCA Christmas/end-of-the-year party at Maggiano's restaurant (see the enclosed picture). My only regret is that I didn't get to visit long enough with everyone I wanted to. Now that the new year is underway, it is time to start looking forward to the year's gun show calendar and making plans.

As I have mentioned previously, we are looking forward to our 60th Anniversary Show this May 16-17. A few people have asked about what new laws might impact this year's show. One Bill in particular is SB 003 from last year, which makes lots of hoops to jump through to acquire a semiautomatic firearm with a detachable magazine (with a lot of exceptions for collectable C and R guns). That doesn't go into effect until at least August, which is after our Collectors' Show. There are a lot of mechanics that the state hasn't worked out yet to implement that law, and there is also at least one lawsuit pending on that legislation so let's not worry about that until after the next show. I have heard rumors going around that attendance was down last year but in fact attendance was up about 10%.

Of course, the attendance was the best at the Merchandise Mart years ago, because of the venue, the proximity to Denver, and gun laws were just less restrictive across the country back then. That prime location is gone now, and that is kind of ancient history at this point. Going back even farther to the 1970's, the CGCA show used to be at the Albany hotel in Denver. That Famous hotel was opened in 1886 and some of its previous guests included Annie Oakley and Buffalo Bill Cody! It was demolished in 1976 to make way for "progress."

Your Board is working very hard to improve our show every year, including looking for new venues that are better, cheaper, and more central to the population centers like Denver. Being closer to Denver may increase our gate, and the walk-through traffic, which would be great, but that isn't necessarily the whole answer. A lot of input I have received shows that having more people wandering the isles doesn't necessarily translate into more sales. A lot of the people buying high end collectables are the other vendors and dealers, and our VIP's that get in on Friday before general admission starts on Saturday. These are the people with the interest and the resources to buy a lot of the stuff offered at our show. I have heard that the Ohio Valley Collectors Show is only open to members for example, but our membership is not large enough to follow that business model.

We welcome your suggestions but just realize that it is a complicated issue and we can't just take up one person's idea about the perfect solution to gun show nirvana, without accounting for all the other variables. Please send an email or give me a call though, if you would like to share some insight or suggestions. We already have some ideas, but it is too early to share any specifics yet.

I hope you will continue to support our show despite all the complications that this day and age brings. We are on the front lines of fighting the Liberal gun haters and we expend a lot of time and money in the process to defend the 2nd Amendment and gun collecting.

I always have a great time at our show, and it is a highlight of the year. I love the displays, and there is more than enough stuff to spend my money on and add to my collection. Most of all I love to talk to my friends and have those little discussions about interesting stuff we see at the show. We are in kind of a unique part of the country in some ways, bridging the West with the East. Some people from the west coast get to our show but don't venture farther east. I am sure some from the east don't venture farther west than Kansas City. Anyway, it is location that brings a unique group of collectors together.

I thought California was a desert for gun collectors, but recently I learned of a collection there that surpasses any private collection I have ever heard of! California gets a lot of press for being unfriendly to gun collectors, but that doesn't mean that there aren't lots of collectors of antique and C & R guns out there. The same is true for Colorado and its surrounding states. As always, I encourage you to get involved in some way to defend our 2nd Amendment Rights and the hobby we so love. We hope to see you in May!

Our next meeting will be January 20, 2026 at the American Legion Post 1; 7:00 PM. Our program will be "Colorado Freedom Memorial, What it is and Where it's Headed."

By Rick Crandall.

This is an excellent opportunity for show and tell items that are "Bring Back Items."

We had a great turnout for our Christmas Dinner. Big thanks to Craig Blancett for arranging our dinner.

We have 3 new member applicants this month.

Frank Kostal from Loveland, CO. Collects Various C&R, CMP.

Gary Mitchell from Highlands Ranch, CO. Collects revolutionary war items thru WWI

Jeffrey Merenkov from Golden, CO. Collects US Civil war through WW II firearms and Militaria.

At our next meeting (January 20) we will be voting for officers and directors.

The President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer serve one-year terms.

Directors serve three-year staggered terms so normally, only one Director is up for election each year. There are no term limits for any of the officers.

The Past President serves on the board until a new President is elected, then the retiring President becomes the new Past President.

A Nominating Committee selects the candidates, but nominations are open from the floor.

The Gun Show Chairman, Safety Marshall and Show Judging Manager are appointed by the Board.

Due to unforeseen circumstances all directors are up for election this year.

The candidates for the 2026 CGCA offices are:

President: Rick Wilson

Vice President: Chris Brownell

Secretary/Treasurer: Cindy Jewell

Director: William Flint

Director: Tyler Brownell

Director: Clay Timson

Past President: Wayne Mattox

Appointed Board Members

Gun Show Chairman: Dave Weddle

Safety Marshall: Ray Magill

Show Judging Manager: Craig Blancett

COMING SOON.....

The Colorado State Shooting Association is raffling off a Custom 1873 SRC made by Winchester to commemorate our 60th anniversary show.



CGCA 2025 Christmas Dinner Maggiano's



*Please visit our website at www.CGCA.com for club news and updates.
New pictures are on our website.*

If you have questions, please contact:

President Rick Wilson, President@cgca.com

Cindy Jewell, Secretary/treasurer 303-750-5645; sectreas@cgca.com

Dave Weddle, Show Chairman 720-482-0167 CGCASHOW@cgca.com

The American Eagle head swords. By Tom Hillman

The American Eagle head swords manufactured from 1780 to 1840 are considered the most American of US early swords. Typically, they were carried by Horse Artillery or Cavalry Officers if the blades are curved. At this time, officers had to purchase their own weapons, uniforms, and equipment. The blades were usually imported German, French, and English. US silversmiths and sword makers then added guards, grips, pommels, and scabbards. The wealth of the buyers determined how elaborate the quality. The major problem with collecting Eagle head and Bird head swords is that few have manufacturing marks to help identify the maker. If marked, the stamp is usually found on the top of the blade or on the guard. Otherwise, one must compare the type of Eagle pommel, grip, or guard to known makers. Picture 2 { I apologize for the poor photo} shows the location on my swords.

Thru fun searching and good luck, I have found two swords by the same maker. Picture 1. The mark, I S & Co, is for a company founded in 1804. The blades were made by Richards of Birmingham England. They were then sent to John Sayre a Silversmith in New York, who added guards, grips, and pommels to the buyer's desire. The company went out of business in 1812. The effect of the War of 1812 if you have not already guessed.

The fun for me was searching, acquiring, and researching. Two different swords by one identified manufacturer.

