

# Gun Collectors News

NEW MEXICO GUN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION MAY / JUNE 2014

## Officers

President:  
Darlene Couchman

Vice President  
Jim Covell

Secretary  
Ken McCorkle

Treasurer  
Dan Brovont

Show Manager  
Mark Covell

Association  
Telephone:  
505-262-1350

E-mail:  
newmexicogca@  
aol.com

Web Site:  
www.nmgca.net

NMGCA  
Membership Dues:

Annual renewal for  
regular members,  
under age 62, is  
\$35.00.  
Renewal for spouse:  
\$15.00.

Annual Renewal for  
senior members,  
over age 61, is  
\$30.00.  
Renewal for senior  
spouse is \$10.00.

## GUN, SWORD & KNIFE SHOW

Buy, Sell, Trade & Browse  
Over 400 Tables  
June 7th & 8th  
EXPO NEW MEXICO  
(New Mexico State Fairgrounds)  
Manuel Lujan Buildings A & B  
Central Ave. & San Pedro  
Albuquerque

8 ft. Table \$80.00 (Member \$70.00)

### **For Table Reservations, Contact Our Show Host:**

NMGCA Show Host, P.O. Box 13687, Albuquerque, NM 87192.  
Ph. 505-262-1350. Email: newmexicogca@aol.com.

**Set-Up** (Table Holders Only) Fri 12:00 Noon - 8:00 pm, Sat. 8:00 - 9:00 am.

**Open to Public:** Sat 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Sun. 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

**Admission:** General Admission: \$7.00. Children under 12: Free with Adult.  
Under 18 must be accompanied by adult: I.D. required. Active Duty Military  
with ID & Law Enforcement Officers with Badge or Commission Card: \$2.00.  
Uniformed Law Enforcement Officers: Free. NRA Members with Card: \$6.00.  
NMGCA MEMBERS FREE WITH CURRENT MEMBERSHIP CARD.  
2 day passes are \$8.00 and are available at admission booth.

No Alcohol, No Smoking, and No Dogs.

*Part Three:***Building Your Own M-14**

By Ron Smith

As mentioned in Part One, the M-14 was originally produced in the 1960's by 4 different rifle manufacturers: Winchester, H&R, TRW, and Springfield Armory. Killeen Machine and Tool (KMT) was also a sub-contractor during this era which made a number of M-14 parts, but not the complete rifle. Saco-Lowell, a division of General Dynamics, made some of the best barrels for the M-14. Parts so marked by the above companies are known as USGI and still preferred over all others. There were a dozen companies during the Vietnam War that produced magazines, but we'll save that for future discussions.

During the 1980's, the military saw a need to rebuild M-14s that were still in service. Mercury Machine & Tool, a manufacturer of bicycle parts, was contracted to make op-rods. SGW was contracted to produce rifle barrels, both standard grade and National Match. Neither of these manufacturers is considered to have made parts to quality standard of the Vietnam era, but still qualify as USGI.

When Springfield Armory, Inc. (SAI) first began assembling rifles, all parts used were USGI except for the

receiver. If the rifle was to be a heavy barreled (super) match, they procured the barrels from either Wilson or Douglas. Over the decades since the Vietnam War, USGI M-14 parts have flowed thru the civilian market, but the number is finite and becoming scarcer. As other manufacturers are producing receivers and rifles, USGI parts are commanding premium prices. A new in the wrapper TRW bolt has gone as high as \$500.

Somewhere during the 1990's, SAI began producing rifles with non-USGI parts. Even the receiver is currently believed to be made outside of the United States. USGI parts can still be found sprinkled in various M1a's, but rare. Many of the current made parts are cast instead of machined, making them inferior and prone to breakage. If you can find a SAI from the Golden Years (1970s-'80s), it is worth twice the value of more current manufactured M1a's due to all the USGI parts.

Enter the 21st Century. LRB began producing hammer-forged receivers, followed by their own op-rods and bolts. SEI followed suit producing receivers, bolts, op-rods, gas systems, and other parts for the M-14. They have also had government contracts in supplying rifles, silencers, and parts

to Uncle Sam. Both of these manufacturers are considered to make parts as good or better than the Vietnam era parts of the 60's.

The last area of consideration in building or upgrading your present M-14 is going National Match (NM). The following modifications are recommended in descending priority. As mentioned in Part II, if the NM route is to be followed: a barrel should be selected as this affects the bullet flight the most.

The last area of consideration in building or upgrading your present M-14 is going National Match (NM). The following modifications are recommended in descending priority. As mentioned in Part II, if the NM route is to be followed: a barrel should be selected as this affects the bullet flight the most. The second modification that should happen is a trigger job. This means polishing certain areas of the firing mechanism and adjusting the trigger. The next NM mod would be to unitize the gas system (pic #2). This eliminates any movement between the barrel band, stock and gas cylinder; helping to free-float the barrel. Other parts that can be replaced with NM parts include the front and rear sights (pic #1), the op-rod spring guide (pic #3), and the stock. If you go with a wood or fiberglass stock, glass-bedding will also assist in stabilizing the receiver and free-float the barrel. Boring out the flash suppressor (pic #4) is also recommended if shooting in inclement weather will be a factor.

I hope you enjoyed these articles on building your own M-14. If you have an M1a/M-14 rifle and would like to discuss all your options, feel free to contact me. I enjoy talking, collecting, and shooting of military arms. And building.

**Pic #4: Flash Suppressor**



Above: Pic # 2: Gas System



Above: Pic # 3: Op-rod Spring Guide

Left: Pic # 1: Front and Rear Sights

The New Mexico Gun Collectors Association  
PO Box 13687  
Albuquerque, NM 87192

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Albuquerque, NM  
Permit No. 1893

**NEW MEXICO GUN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION MAY / JUNE 2014**

## **2014 SHOW CALENDAR GUN SHOWS**

June 7th and 8th      October 4th and 5th

### **Albuquerque Old West & Military Collectible Show:**

August 9 & 10

### **General Membership Meetings\***

July 23      October 22

\*General Membership Meetings are free and open to the public. The General Membership Meetings for 2014 are being held at the Quality Inn and Suites, 25 Hotel Circle (close to Lomas and Eubank).

## **New Show Vendors Sought for 2014**

The NMGCA is again offering new vendors a special table rate for 2014 shows. If you have never been an NMGCA show vendor (or haven't been a vendor in at least in the last 10 years) you are invited to take advantage of our "New Vendor" table rate.

The NMGCA is offering one discount table to new vendors at the introductory rate of \$25.00 for our June or October Gun Shows or the August Old West and Military Show. (Additional tables would be at the normal member or non-member rates per table.)

Contact us at [newmexicogca@aol.com](mailto:newmexicogca@aol.com) or call us at 505-262-1350. You can also reach us by mail at P.O. Box 13687, Albuquerque, NM 87193. We look forward to hearing from you.