

## AMCA Summer 2010 Newsletter

This being the initial AMCA Newsletter subject matter is strictly limited, zilch, nada other than a summary of the summer show following the summary so I'll start from scratch with my ideas on a newsletter contents. The background of the men and woman displaying would be of interest, how each of us became involved in our particular field of militaria interest, display tips and anything else you might think should be covered.

Summer show paid attendees totaled 629, 79 more than the '09 summer show. This did not include members and family, rug rats 12 and under, uniformed service members and re-enactors. Those displaying included Harry Craig, John Guenther, Culver Johnson, Mike Kelso, and Doss White. Prizes were awarded to Mssrs. Craig, Kelso and White.

Three new members were recruited:

Alex Genkin	Citrus Springs, FL.	WWI-II U.S. Swords.
Robert Palermo	Huntsville, AL.	Navy Firearms.
Bill Priven	Huntsville, AL.	All Military Weapons.

That hits the major points of the June show. Remember the Winter Show next year will be January 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>. Set-up will be on Friday the 15<sup>th</sup>. Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> is a Federal Holiday honoring MLK. Turn out for the show is expected to rival that of last years Show over the same holiday. Don't miss out. Register early!

Now, since I'm the "editor-for-a-while" I'll introduce myself, I'm Doss White, a collector of Japanese militaria since 1949. I became involved in militaria from The Land of the Rising Sun in the following manner. During the summer of '49 one of the Lee twins from up the street, Bobby or Tommy, I "disremember," offered me a Japanese rifle their Uncle sent back from Okinawa, the price was either \$2.50 or \$3.50. Cheap, yes, by today's standards, but back then, I was 12, and a youngster cut a big yard with the old rotary-blade push mower for \$.50. There was a lot of sweat equity in that beat-up old rifle.

Many's the night I examined the rifle, I had a Remington. 22 Scoremaster and a Remington Model 11 16 gauge shotgun, but now I had a "real" rifle, one designed to kill men, and my men to boot!!! I wrote NRA with a drawing of the markings and found out I had a Type 99 designed for the 7.7 Japanese cartridge. That rifle whetted my interest in collecting Japanese militaria and I've been at it ever since. I've authored, co-authored several books on Japanese rifles and related subjects and am the editor of Banzai, a monthly Bulletin/newsletter that goes to approximately 350 subscribers worldwide. My wife Ruth is President and CEO of Lodestone Publications, Inc., our "publishing company." For several years we also published The Military Rifle Journal, but transferred it to a couple in Snow Flake, AZ where it's now published quarterly.

Now that I've used myself as a guinea pig, how about one or more of you providing information on how you got into your field for the fall newsletter. You can email your story to me at Lodestone88@gmail.com. An editor never has too much material.

Changing the subject, displaying is a major part of our meetings. A lot of hard work goes into a display so here are a few ideas that I've found to help the public and the Judges better appreciate your collection.

(1) Keep your display to a manageable size, five or six tables of your collection may be of interest to other collectors in your field, but would they be to the general public and judges?

(2) Assume the public (and Judges) know nothing about what you are displaying. It might be grand to have every military rifle that Czechoslovakia produced, but unless you present the history and production background of these rifles, they are t a bunch of rifles to the viewer. Some years back a displayer at a Tennessee show had an excellent display of K98ks. Each one was marked with the model number. However there was no history on the adoption and development of the various rifles and all I saw were three tables of German rifles. It was great for K98k historian, but left the average viewer uninformed. An explanation of when the design was developed, put into production, production changes, etc. would have been of tremendous help to those of us uninformed on German rifle development.

(3) Number (2) brings up the "KISS" rule (Keep It Simple Stupid). On an "ABCD" rifle display you might have a display sign introducing the display such as, "Work on the design and trial production of the ABCD rifles began and was undertaken in the 1929-1931 period. Production of the ABCD rifles began in 1932 when the M-71 was adopted. In 1933 modifications to the trigger group resulted in the adoption of the M 72.. etc. "Use large, easy to read "type" and keep it as short as possible.

As the Saturday movie cartoon used to end, "Tha- tha, tha-tha, tha-that's all folks." for this issue. Any ideas to improve the Newsletter (and we need all we can get other than the use of tar and feathers on the Editor) can be emailed to Lodestone88@gmail.com.