

# New NEACA Schenectady, New York Arms Fair Crosstown Expo Ctr., July 29, 30, 31, 2005

## For Immediate Release

Instead of a dying shopping center without an anchor store, there is now a rejuvenated location of bustling business with shoppers and sales. Thanks to a few area businessmen who took advantage of a defunct Ames Company Store and turned it into an Expo Center at Crosstown Plaza on the Schenectady/Rotterdam border of upper New York State. Vision, instead of hand wringing, can also produce results to get lemons turned into lemonade.

A few friends in the outdoors recreation business contracted with an advertising agent and have leased the former anchor store in the Crosstown Plaza Shopping Center. With renovation, new paint and excellent lighting they have turned a 40,000 plus square foot emptiness into the Crosstown Plaza Expo Center. A nice tile floored, high ceiling, easy access, air-conditioned or heated exposition hall was sorely needed in this Capital District area, and this endeavor is now just beginning to reach its potential. There is also plenty of free parking and two restaurants on the premises. Motels are just minutes away and highway access is almost immediate.

Cathy and David Petronis, co-owners of NEACA, Inc. Show Promotions, were made aware of this new venue by one of their New Eastcoast Arms Collectors Associate members and a quick trip to the center was all they needed to book some shows. This July 29, 30 and 31 will be their first Schenectady area Arms Fair at the new Crosstown Expo Center.

Public will be invited to participate on Friday evening from 6:00PM to 9:00PM for a special preview price of \$20 of the anticipated 450 table show. Also on Saturday from 9:00AM to 6:00PM and Sunday from 9:00AM to 4:00PM for \$7.00 daily. Seniors over 60 get a dollar discount and children under 12 are free with an adult. As with all of their shows, NEACA members get in free on all days. Membership is only \$30.00 with an annual renewal of \$25.00. Their membership numbers over 1100.

Cathy Petronis, Secretary and Treasurer of NEACA, says that it has been many years since a large show of this kind was held in the area. In fact, the very first show that she and husband David attended was at the old IUE Hall on Erie Boulevard about thirty years ago. That was when Gun Shows were in short supply. "There were very few of these then," she said. "I can remember only the old Newburgh, Armory show and an antique arms show in Glastonbury, CT, besides the one put on by the New York State Arms Collectors Club at the IUE Hall. Then we started our business of show promotions in 1984 and began the Saratoga Springs Arms Fair. With this new and revived show, it is almost full circle, like coming back to what was."

David Petronis, President of NEACA, stated that this show would be on the same dates as the former summer show that was held at the Albany Convention Plaza under "the Egg." NYS Arms Collectors will not hold their summer show but still has their January show scheduled for 2006 at the Plaza. "When I heard that the date was open and I knew I wanted to use this Schenectady Crosstown Plaza location, the two just went hand in hand. Now we again can have a really large show in this area where a long time ago, gun shows began," Petronis said.

On July 29, 30 and 31 the Schenectady Arms Fair and Sportsman's Exposition will make its debut at the crossroads of Routes 7 and 5, at the Crosstown Exposition Center on Route 7 in Rotterdam. Antique, collectable, investment grade and modern firearms of all types will be on display and hundreds of dealers will offer for sale or trade a myriad of guns and other items. Dealers in books and prints, ammo and accessories, sporting antiques and collectables, fishing, trapping and hunting gear, decoys, Americana and vintage militaria of arms and armor, swords, knives and bayonets, uniforms from our Civil War to current dress will all be part of this show.

A large part of the collectors' quest is trying to find and buy these old war souvenirs and vintage guns or hunting accessories; so the public is urged to bring items to the show to sell or trade with the exhibitors. That old attic trunk or dark closet or crowded basement may well hide a treasure these collectors are seeking. However, please cover or case any guns coming into the show and make sure they are unloaded. Would you believe some aren't, even after many years in storage? Safety is always of paramount concern when promoting these types of shows.

Mr. Petronis also stated that he and Cathy are trying to educate the public that our Second Amendment of the right to own firearms is the one piece of our Bill of Rights that fully guarantees all the others. "We are the only country in the world that guarantees this right", he says. "Do you think it may be why we are the strongest and safest country on earth? School children should be taught firearms safety and shooting for the sport and pleasure. Not be made to believe guns are evil. People who hurt other people are evil. A gun might be their tool but it can also be our own salvation." Both he and Cathy have raised three kids with guns and are introducing gun safety and knowledge to their five grand children. "You can always tell a kid who comes into the show with a parent or guardian who hasn't been around guns or not had some sort of instruction about danger and safety," Cathy said. "First thing they want to do is grab a gun and hold it. My kids never did that because guns held no mystery to them. They knew what they did and what they are for." Both the Petronis's think gun safety, handling and familiarization should be taught in school by specialized instructors. And that the history of the gun and its use, in both of our freedom and pleasure should also be taught along with the development of our National Heritage. "Education is also why we encourage Arms Displays at our events. To show the public, and our children, that firearms played a huge part in building and keeping our Republic, as the only one, people want to escape to, not from," says David Petronis.

"And this July 29, 30 and 31 the folks around the New York State Capital District can again enjoy a large Arms Fair in their part of this great country. Come and view the displays. It is like a walk through history," he says.

More information can be had by going to their website at [www.NEACA.com](http://www.NEACA.com) or by writing to NEACA, Inc., PO Box 385, Mechanicville, NY 12118 or they can be reached at 518-664-9743. As of this June report about 150 of the 450 tables are sold so there is exhibit space available for quality firearms and vintage militaria and related hunting and outdoor sporting accessories.

Photos can be taken from <http://www.neaca.com/GunShows.html> for examples of exhibitors and activity.

Contact Person: Cathy Petronis, Secretary, NEACA, Inc. ~ 518-664-9743 phone or fax