



ESTES PARK GUN AND ARCHERY CLUB

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EPGAC Newsletter Published Every Other Month

www.epgunarchery.com

EPGAC Leadership

President- Steve Ferrante
First VP- Steve Clark
Second VP- Denny Schall
Secretary- Pete Maxwell
Treasurer- Niki Gassmann

Directors:

David Bruce
 Dave Jiles
 Jim Morse
 Kurt Pennington

Membership- Dennis Holmes
Webmaster- Douglas Tabor

Presidents Message

Steve Ferrante, EPGAC President

I would like to thank everyone who attended the annual meeting, as your support is vital to the success of the club and the protection of our Second Amendment rights. Our guest speaker was State Representative Stephanie Luck. For those who were not present, let me summarize her comments.

Representative Luck is a Colorado native who grew up in rural Colorado. In her formative years, responsible firearms use was commonplace. In her five years as a legislator, she has become acutely aware of the majority party's desire to disarm the populace. There have been numerous and progressively more onerous bills proposed and passed before and during her tenure. These bills have exposed the intentions of many governing officials to effectively make Colorado an anti-second amendment state.

Representative Luck went on to say that once our right to self-defense from both governmental overreach and hostile criminal elements was eliminated, other sacred rights would most certainly fall. She was not crying wolf, but pointing out the need for Colorado citizens to get involved in local and state affairs.

I have witnessed the realities Representative Luck referred to during my many visits to the Capitol. The anti-gun crowd is vocal and active, while many in the 2A segment of our state are busy working and enjoying life. We must come to grips with the reality that many people enjoy life by attacking people like us in the courts and legislature.

Please take time to get involved. Gun Owners of America, Rocky Mountain Gun Owners, and other organizations provide the information we need. Join these organizations and become informed. Make time to get involved by writing letters (best), emails (not as impactful but still good), and testifying when critical legislation is proposed. Let it not be said that we did nothing as our rights were taken from us. Let it be said that we were instrumental in the preservation of our God given rights.

Please get involved!

Blessings
 Steven Ferrante
 President



Happy Holidays



Annual Meeting Recap

Pete Maxwell, EPGAC Secretary

The EPGAC Annual Meeting for 2026 took place on October 10, 2025, starting at 7:02 PM, and was led by President Steve Ferrante. Nearly 100 members and guests attended the meeting! Refreshments were provided by Steve Ferrante, Pete Maxwell, and Martha Clark, while door prizes were generously donated by Scheels, Vortex, and Jay Jacobsmeyer & Dave Jiles. Denny Schall created the awards.

Our guest speaker, State Representative Stephanie Luck, emphasized that Second Amendment rights are fundamental and unalienable. She warned of Colorado's legislative efforts to restrict firearms in terms of demand, supply, and possession. Citing FBI data, she highlighted the role of armed citizens in enhancing safety and advocated for promoting gun culture and community outreach programs, such as Appleseed training. Rep. Luck also addressed the urban-rural divide in legislation, suggesting a need for per-county representation, and encouraged ongoing, authentic advocacy from our community. Members posed questions, which she answered thoughtfully. We presented her with a special award for her contributions.

The elections resulted in the following officers being elected: Steve Ferrante (President), Steve Clark (1st Vice President), Denny Schall (2nd Vice President), Dwight Pfeiffer (Treasurer), and Jim Morse (Director). However, the Secretary position remains vacant as no candidates came forward.

Membership updates included an increase in fees by \$25, and a renewal window from January 1 to February 15 each year, before new members can join, ensuring our existing members are not affected by the Membership Cap. Steve Clark reported on upgrades to the outdoor range, while Denny Schall noted improvements to the indoor range and mentioned a cleanup scheduled for November 1. Treasurer Niki Gassmann discussed the finances, and Dennis Holmes stressed the importance of orientation requirements. Shooting awards were presented, and a raffle raised \$60. The meeting adjourned at 9:24 PM.

Thank you to all who attended!



1st Precision Rifle Competition

Steve Clark, EPGAC 1st VP

EPGAC held our first Precision Rifle Competition on Oct 11th. We had 10 shooters shooting 8 stages with a total round count of 60 rounds. Distances varied out to 400 yds. All participants had a great time, and a great lunch of prize-winning chili and sides catered by Chef Pam Michalec. This was a trial run of hopefully many yet to come. Dan Michalec is the primary point person for this activity and can be reached at djmichalec@aol.com.



Something New - Coming Soon

Steve Clark, EPGAC 1st VP

The EPGAC board has approved a trial run of limited steel on the 100 yard line of the rifle range. You'll see approved targets in the pistol shed labeled for this activity. In addition, new signs on both ends of the rifle shelter will be in place outlining acceptable use. Basically, it is only club approved, provided steel at only 100 yards. No calibers greater than 30.06 and no velocities greater than 3,000 fps at the target, regardless of caliber. No steel-cored ammunition. For all you shooters who have faster cartridges or larger calibers, paper targets are your answer. Or you can go to the long-range steel rifle range and shoot at longer distances. The bigger the caliber or the faster the cartridge, the farther away you should shoot from when using steel. That rule of thumb is both for shooter safety and for target longevity.



Welcome New Range Safety Officers

Denny Schall, EPGAC 2nd VP

Seven of our members completed the NRA Basic Range Safety Officer (RSO) Course on Saturday, October 4, at the EPGAC Indoor Range. The training was conducted by instructors Jim Boyd and Gordon Ulrickson.

This 9-hour class covers many topics, including: Ensuring the range is safe to use; Conducting range safety briefings for shooters; Handling ammunition and gun malfunctions safely; Supervising safety aspects of shooting activities; and Handling emergency procedures as established by the range management.

This hands-on class concludes with a 50-question quiz where students must achieve 90% or better score to pass.

CONGRATULATIONS TO: JASON BAIN, ADAM DARLING, KURT DAVIS, JACOB HILDEBRAND, DENNY SCHALL, BRENDAN SWANSON, JUSTIN WILLIAMSON

These new RSOs are expected to utilize their training and certification to volunteer as RSOs at EPGAC events over the next few years.

Importance of Range Safety Officers

Range Safety Officers assist with club-sponsored events, such as public days at both our indoor and outdoor ranges. It is essential to note that providing these events is a requirement of our concessionaire agreement with the Estes Valley Recreation and Park District.

The NRA Range Safety Officer program was developed in response to the demand for a nationally recognized range safety officer certification. NRA Range Safety Officers are people who possess the knowledge, skills, and attitude essential to organizing, conducting, and supervising safe shooting activities and range operations.

Gun Laws, Gun Safety, and Gun Violence

Dave Jiles, EPGAC Director



The anti-gun crowd has created a multimillion-dollar industry under the pretence that they just want to stop deaths and injuries from firearms, ironically often funded by wealthy people who are surrounded by armed security. But while they wring their hands about the need to become a gun-free paradise, they fail to address the real problems.

So, what are those problems? The numbers used here are from the Pew Research Center using statistics from the CDC, FBI, and other sources in 2023.

Fifty-eight percent of gun deaths are suicides, the personal choice to end one's own life. Guns are indeed among the most certain, fast, and final methods, used only by those who truly want to die. After 29 years in the volunteer Fire/EMS world, I have seen the results of suicide attempts, both successful and failed. The failed often leading to a damaging and more miserable life. It's about mental health, misuse of drugs and alcohol, heartbreak, pain, and loneliness.

If you want to save the world, work to help people at that level of depression and stop using it as a reason to disarm people and leave them defenseless.

Four percent of Gun deaths are listed as "other". I can only assume that means accidents, and justified use of force by law enforcement and legally armed citizens. We know that we can have a positive effect on reducing accidents with good training. But, firearms training must be created and taught by people who like guns and appreciate their value, not by ignorant, gun-hating, power-hungry politicians. Good education will help you to enjoy the shooting sports and be able to defend yourself, your loved ones, and even strangers who desperately need help. It is upon each of us to understand and keep improving our ability to handle and use firearms safely and responsibly.

38 percent of gun deaths are listed as murder. Sure, there may be the occasional desperate citizen, the angered ex-spouse, the hot-headed driver, or the overreacting response to fear, but the largest contributions to gun death statistics are repeat criminals who live on taking from and terrorizing others.

There are the gangsters from MS-13, to the "East Side Rulers" or whatever threatening title they choose to create fear. There are drug users and dealers, crime is their career, and they keep their victims helpless and in fear. We have government officials who tell us "nothing to see here", while we watch live video of Venezuelan gangs taking over apartment buildings. And they wonder why we have lost faith in our so-called "leaders".

The penal system should be more than a few weeks of hanging out with their "bro's" and learning all the best practices of the criminal world. It should start with several weeks of the "Boot Camp" experience, where you begin to learn how to follow orders and take responsibility for yourself and your actions. Next, a chance to learn how to be a productive and useful human being, learn a trade or skills that can get you on a road to being able to legitimately support yourself.

Once you get out, you at least have the option to choose between being a decent person or a worthless drain on everyone else. If you choose the latter, God help you.

Gun Laws, Gun Safety, and Gun Violence

Continued



I believe that the tide is changing, and Colorado politicians will begin to hear loudly from all over the state. No more “Mr. Nice guy,” we have heard about how we should address our legislators as “the honorable”, but we see very little honor. They have all pledged to uphold the Constitution of the U.S. and the State of Colorado, yet they spend their time manipulating statistics and “reimagining” their meaning of them.

If the people who live in the crowded cities want wolves, then the wolves should be released in their cities. And if the political class believes that we, “the little people,” have no reason to carry firearms to protect ourselves, then there should never be any of our tax money going to provide armed security for them, not one dime.

How about this for a Ballot Initiative? If any adult legally allowed to carry a concealed weapon is denied that right, and is the victim of a serious crime, anyone who supported and signed that bill into law shall be personally and financially responsible to the victim or their family. Perhaps they would be a bit more careful about violating the simple words, “The right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed”.

Sunday Public Days Are Back at the Indoor Range

Bill Howell - Sunday Public Day RSO Leader

We are excited to announce that our Sunday Public Day schedule will resume on November 2nd. As a reminder, we pause the Sunday schedule during the summer months to accommodate our Saturday Outdoor Range Public Day schedule.

Join us on Sundays from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM at our heated indoor range, conveniently located near the roundabout at U.S. Highway 36 and Community Drive, right next to the Estes Park Dog Park. Our facility features six shooting lanes, each 50 feet long, which can accommodate all standard handgun calibers, .22 LR rifles, and air guns. Please note that we do not allow black powder firearms or .44 magnum calibers or larger. A small range fee is charged as noted below:

Indoor Range Fees:

Club Members \$1.00 per visit

Non-Members (Public) \$5.00 per visit

Active duty military personnel - No Charge

Reminders

Mountain Markswomen - For the ladies of the club, don't forget the Mountain Markswomen shoot is on the first Monday of each month. We shoot from 4:30 to 6:30 at the indoor range during the winter months. Club members and non-members are welcome. **Contact Martha Clark at maclark1027@gmail.com or Dave Jiles at davejiles@gmail.com for more information.**

Public Days at the Indoor Range - Scheduled on **Thursday** and **Friday, 6:30 - 7:30 PM**, and **Sunday, 1:00 - 2:00**, beginning November 2nd.

Public Days at the Outdoor Range are now paused during the winter months and will resume in June 2026.



ESTES PARK GUN & ARCHERY CLUB MEMBER SHOWCASE



Scot's Sporting Goods in Estes Park is a full-service sporting goods store selling firearms, ammunition, optics, accessories, bulk ammunition, special orders, and FFL transfers. We are a class 3 dealer Powered by Silencer Shop and can handle any of your NFA needs. CCW courses are also offered at the shop. Contact us about any of your 2A needs.

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