

Estes Park Gun & Archery Club

January / February 2026 Newsletter

Vol. 55



This issue

Presidents Message - 1
Membership Renewal - 2
Getting the Lead Out - 3
Recycling - 3
Did You Know? - 4
Reminders - 4
Time For Some Changes
5 - 6
Member Showcase - 7

EPGAC Newsletter
Published Every Other
Month

www.epgunarchery.com

EPGAC Leadership

President- Steve Ferrante
First VP - Steve Clark
Second VP- Denny Schall
Secretary- Charles Ward
Treasurer- Dwight Pfeiffer

Directors:

David Bruce
Dave Jiles
Jim Morse
Kurt Pennington

Membership- Dennis
Holmes
Webmaster- Douglas
Tabor

Presidents Message

Steve Ferrante, EPGAC President

We would like to welcome/introduce our two newest board members.

Dwight Pfeiffer is our new treasurer. Dwight and his wife, Sherri, moved to Estes Park in November of 2023 from Alva, Oklahoma. Dwight attended the public school system in Alva and ended up graduating from NWOSU with a BS in Agricultural Business. Dwight has been in the banking industry for over 20 years. He has been an avid hunter and fisherman since an early age and continues to love the outdoors.

Dwight joined the gun club soon after moving to Estes Park. Dwight said, "I appreciate that we have such a magnificent range to use close to Estes Park." Dwight works for the Bank of Estes Park.

We are fortunate to have Dwight take over the reins as our treasurer.

Charles Ward is our new secretary. Charles lives in Black Hawk and became familiar with our club as a result of the pistol matches we have been hosting. Charles appreciates the friendly people, camaraderie of the members, and the willingness of others to help out as needed. Charles wants to see the club continue to prosper and be vibrant so future generations have our club as a resource. Keeping the shooting sports and Second Amendment alive and well is a big priority of his. Charles recognizes and appreciates "the old guard" but realizes younger people need to step up and learn the ropes so the club remains viable for many years to come.

Though he lives in Black Hawk, Charles is willing to drive to Estes Park for board meetings. He feels the sacrifice is well worth the benefit of being a contributing member of the club. Also, Charles is married and the father of a one-year-old. He is already getting his daughter accustomed to wearing hearing protection, hoping she will be a welcome addition to the membership one day.

I would like to personally welcome both Dwight and Charles and compliment them on their enthusiasm for and appreciation of the Estes Park Gun and Archery Club.



IMPORTANT DATES

January 1 - 15

Portal open for membership renewals

February 16

Portal open for membership renewal **and new membership if slots are available**

If/when we hit the 600 member cap - The portal will close.

Membership Renewal - Portal Is Open

Dennis Holmes, Membership Chair

The membership portal for renewals opens on January 1, 2026, allowing 2025 members to make payments for their 2026 membership. We turned off the renewal option in July when we reached our 600-member limit for the first time. The Board decided to reserve until February 15 for existing members to renew. On February 16, we will open up any remaining slots for 2025 member renewals as well as new memberships.

We finished 2025 with 600 members, with 145 of these being new members.

The process for renewal will be as follows:

After logging into your account, select the appropriate membership level (i.e. **Renewal** for most members, **Life** only for life members), make the necessary acknowledgments, and submit payment. The portal does check to make sure that the billing address on the card used for payments matches what is in your profile, so you should double-check to make sure the payment was accepted.

Normal renewals will be \$150 for 2026. This will show as a \$100 fee and a \$50 initiation fee on the portal. If I have a record of you doing a workday, I will email you a code that can be used to remove the "initiation fee", making it \$100 total.

Online payments are easiest for the club, but you still have the option of sending a check to the club's PO Box if you prefer to do so. That address is:

Estes Park Gun and Archery Club
P.O. Box 982
Estes Park, CO 80517-0982

I plan on emailing cards for everybody who has renewed beginning January 19. If you would prefer to have your card sent via USPS, please send an email to me at membership@epgunarchery.com with the address you would like it sent to so I can send you a physical copy.

The gate code will be changed on 2/1/26, so you can continue to use the 2025 combination until then.

Let me know if you have any questions or need any help accessing your account, and thank you for supporting the Estes Park Gun and Archery Club!



Members Wearing PPE



Leveling The Lead Receiver Pit



Members Sorting Brass



Buckets of Sorted Material

Getting The Lead Out - Indoor Range Cleanup Day

Denny Schall, EPGAC 2nd VP

Thank you to everyone who assisted with our indoor range cleanup on November 1 and 22. I want to especially recognize those who took on the challenging task of cleaning the lead receiver pit. As we all know, this pit is the dirtiest and most physically demanding maintenance job at the indoor facility. Removing the lead is crucial for both our range safety and air quality, yet it's a task that very few volunteers step up for. Your willingness to tackle this heavy lifting means a lot to the club.

During the cleanup, we also sorted a large amount of brass, vacuumed the floors, wiped down the cabinets, and completed various other maintenance and cleaning tasks.

As a follow-up, on November 22, we organized a workday where we brought in 1.5 tons of sand. We moved it from the front of the range to the lead receiver pit and leveled it out. This significantly reduces the "splash-back" from the pit area.

The range looks fantastic, and the pit is back in top condition. We truly appreciate your hard work and commitment to keeping this facility running safely.

Recycling - What It Means to the Club

Denny Schall, EPGAC 2nd VP

A standard task during cleanup days at both indoor and outdoor ranges is brass sorting. Many volunteers gather to carefully sort through buckets of shell casings from the firing line, removing duds, dirt, stones, and other non-recyclable items. This process results in clean buckets that are sorted by material type: brass, steel, aluminum, and lead. Recyclers pay a premium for these sorted materials.

1st Vice President Steve Clark and Director David Bruce made a trip to Rocky Mountain Recycling in Commerce City with the following items, which represent about a year of collection from both ranges:

- 1,600 lbs. of brass shell casings
- 211 lbs. of range lead
- 28 lbs. of aluminum shell casings
- 66 lbs. of steel shell casings
- 129 lbs. of miscellaneous steel and copper scrap

The club received \$5,153.20 for this recycling effort, marking the largest payout we have ever received. The funds were deposited into the club's bank account.



Outdoor Range has 2 Locks

Did You Know?

Denny Schall, EPGAC 2nd VP

We have two locks on the chained gate at the outdoor range!

2 EPGAC locks on the same chain with the same code - Why?

We have found that the combination locks used on the chained gate at the outdoor range fail approximately every 6 months. Starting last November, we added a 2nd lock with the same code. The 2nd lock is your backup to ensure you have access in and out of the range. Yes, people have been locked in and out because of a single lock failure.

If you do experience a failed lock, use the backup lock and notify a board member of the failure by sending an email to board@epgunarchery.com



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, 2:00 - 3:00 PM**.

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



Time for some Changes

Dave Jiles, EPGAC Director

American politics has us heading full throttle into a storm of angry citizens. I'm not referring to the college kids chanting whatever the "cool kids" tell them to chant, or those who come in on buses paid for by wealthy people with an agenda. No, I am referring to average, work-a-day Americans, people that have had it with the constant manipulations of statistics, the lies, the corruption, and the practice of making policies based on what will get them re-elected or increase their investment portfolio, rather than what is best for our country, our communities, and our freedoms.

They spend our money on "feel-good" issues and promises of safety if we just give them a little more power, but it doesn't do any good, and it does nothing to make us safer. You can pin it on whatever political party you want to; there's plenty of blame to go around, but it's not hard to see where the problems are.

Let's take my favorite pet peeve, "ending gun violence" aka gun control. Our own state legislature introduced, passed, and our Governor signed into law a mishmash of progressive new laws designed to save us from ourselves.

The problem is, every law seems to be directed at the law-abiding citizen. Punish the victim for not adequately locking their firearm in their locked vehicle when they go to one of the "sensitive zones". Funny how the locking and alarm systems in a \$60000 truck aren't enough to stop the thieves, but the \$60 lockbox will. It's one thing to encourage people to secure their firearms; it's another thing to punish the victim.

The "bad guys", the gangsters, career criminals, and the people that believe they can do or take whatever they want, don't give a hoot about those laws, and will likely never be prosecuted adequately to change their life choices or keep them in jail until they are too old to do harm. "Gun Free Zones" are just an invitation to evil, and the people that are responsible for demanding the victims be helpless are co-conspirators to the crime. They may someday be held accountable.

That said, this is a message to the lawmakers, something they ought to remember and understand about the anger that boils up when they arrogantly and carelessly make laws that disrupt the lives of good people, and do nothing to make those committing true criminal activity accountable. We hear it all around us, not just in Colorado, but all over America. Citizens are simply tired of politicians barking about the need for more laws and restrictions.



Time for some Changes - Continued

Dave Jiles, EPGAC Director

Even stupid people know that things like murder, violent assault, robbery, rape, and kidnapping are against the law, and they most certainly should be punished for it. Either you're a law-abiding person, or you are not. Violating one of the billions of petty laws that most people are not even aware of is entirely different from one of the above-listed crimes. Is there criminal intent or not?

Being a responsible gun owner simply requires common sense and control of your emotions. All the training, lectures, and tests, no matter how well you do, will make you a well-armed civilian. If you follow "Active Self Protection" on YouTube (if not, I would recommend you do), you will have heard the line, "be a good, sane, sober, moral, and prudent person".

Pretty simple, if you stay in that mode, you will likely avoid doing something stupid, yet be prepared to handle a lethal force incident if necessary. Nonetheless, most "gun violence" is generated by people who are arrested and released back onto the streets by the Government that says it is protecting us. "You are your own first responder". How you present yourself, how you deal with people, good or bad, and how you handle things like road rage, aggressive panhandlers, or just plain jerks, will determine how people, pro and anti-gun, will see you.

As for Mr. and Ms. Lawmaker, remember this. When you took office, you took an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States. We expect you to honor that oath. For several years, it seems that the oath is nothing more than pomp and circumstance, a ceremonial routine, but to us, it is a promise from you that you will never overstep your bounds and violate it. It is, most importantly, the reason the Second Amendment was written.

Don't ever forget that!

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.

Scot's Sporting Goods
870 Moraine Ave.
Estes Park, CO 80517
970-586-2877

scotssportinggoods@gmail.com
www.scotssportinggoods.com

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Enter Coupon Code: **EPGAC** at checkout & receive 20% off your order

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