

Estes Park Gun & Archery Club

March / April 2026 Newsletter

Vol. 56



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www.epgunarchery.com

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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

From the Membership Desk

Dennis Holmes, Membership Chair

Membership Update

I hope this message finds everyone in good spirits and taking advantage of the excellent shooting weather we've been enjoying.

Membership News

Things have been quite busy on the membership front. We have reserved a renewal period for our current 2025 members until February 15, and on February 16, we welcomed back former members and new applicants.

As of noon on February 22, the deadline for this newsletter, we have already welcomed 66 new members, bringing our total membership to 512. This means there are still 88 spots available, which I anticipate will fill up quickly.

If you renewed for 2026 and have not yet received your card via email, please check your junk folder, as it may have landed there. The initial batch of emails was sent out on January 19 to approximately 300 members, with subsequent emails being dispatched every few days as more members renewed throughout the year. If you can't find your card, you can just message me, and I'll resend it. It's also a great opportunity to ensure that your profile displays your preferred email address, and, if possible, a secondary email, in case your service provider blocks messages from the club.

I made a small error on the cards, indicating the tentative annual meeting date as October 9, 2024. Unfortunately, I was informed of this after 408 cards had already been sent out. I plan to hire Dana Maxwell as my proofreader next year! The correct date should be October 9, 2026. Please check the actual club calendar before making reservations in Estes Park, as this date may change.

Thank you all for your patience as I work on distributing your new cards, and I hope the remainder of 2026 treats you well!

Dennis Holmes
Membership Chair
membership@engunarchery.com

Upcoming Spring Activities and Information

Steve Clark, EPGAC 1stVP



Dan Michalec has been running long-range and short-range rifle competitions on the upper tactical and rifle ranges. Precision rifle-type matches use round counts, timed stages, and ranges out to 400 yards. Shorter-range gas gun (AR type) matches tend to use shorter distances, timed stages, and may involve movement. He's talking about alternating the formats on a monthly basis or so. Emails will go out notifying the membership when matches are scheduled. Space will be limited, around 15 to 20 shooters. Lunch is usually included with the registration fees.



We have some new steel on the small tactical range beside the pistol range. A new Texas star is there, and a new hostage silhouette target. The steel range is proving to be very popular, but it's taking quite a beating. If you knock something down (like Texas star plates) put them back up before you leave. If you shoot at this range, or any range on the property, **PICK UP YOUR BRASS**. It is a requirement of our concessionaire agreement with the Rec District to keep the property policed and clean.



There will be a new storage shed placed behind the large shed on the upper tactical range. It will house free-standing metal target bases, 1x2 arms for the target bases, stakes, clamps, and cardboard for target backers. It will not be locked. You bring the targets. The cardboard backers are not targets. The intent is to offer flexibility to set up and design your own course of fire on the tactical range, incorporating your own steel targets brought from home, the OSB backboards already there, and freestanding mobile paper targets using the metal target stands. No, you can't store things from home in the new shed, but you will have open access to what is in there, similar to the pistol shed down below.

2026 Cleanup Days

Denny Schall, EPGAC 2nd VP

Members can contribute in various ways to help maintain and improve our club. One opportunity is the cleanup days at our ranges, which are just one of many ways to engage. **The dates for the 2026 cleanup days are printed on the back of your club ID card, listed on our website, and noted below:**

Indoor Range

Saturday, April 18 Saturday, October 31

Outdoor Range

Saturday, May 9, Thursday, June 4 Sunday, July 12
 Thursday, August 13 Sunday, September 13



Handgun Competition Events – Begins April 18th

Kurt Pennington, EPGAC Director



Our monthly Handgun Competitive Events return this season! Join us at the outdoor range on the 3rd Saturday of each month, April–October, starting at 12:00 noon. Events are open to all club members, beginner to advanced, with IDPA-style scoring and a 20-shooter limit.

Registration emails will be sent two weeks before each event, so watch your inbox to sign up.

These meets focus on fun, safety, skill-building, and camaraderie. This year, we plan to introduce holster-draw stages and possible reload scenarios as difficulty progresses.

Requirements:

- Semi-auto handgun (6-round minimum, rimfire or centerfire)
- OWB holster that covers the trigger or a handgun case
- Holster worn at 3 or 9 o'clock
- ~50 rounds of ammo
- Eye & ear protection

For more info, contact kurt.pennington@gmail.com.



Steel Challenge the Fundamentals

Ken Rihanek, EPGAC Member

The Steel Challenge Returns Saturday, April 4th.

If you haven't participated before, here's what you need to know about the Steel Challenge.

The Steel Challenge is particularly great for new shooters, as the stages are clear-cut and equipment needs are minimal—other than the number of magazines you may require. If you have low-capacity magazines, aim for five, one for each string. EPGAC's Steel Challenge welcomes both rimfire (.22 LR) and centerfire pistol competitors, allowing either iron sights or red dots. A holster is necessary since all strings start with a draw from the holster. Participating in the Steel Challenge will enhance your trigger speed, target transitions, and mental focus. Our community is available to assist newcomers with questions or tips.

Matches take place from Noon to 4 PM on the first Saturday of each month, April through October. The cost to participate is \$5.00.

Registration emails will be sent two weeks before each event, so watch your inbox to sign up.



Civilian Gun Ownership

Dave Jiles, EPGAC Director

Whether we like it or not, every right comes with its own set of responsibilities. We have the freedom to enjoy our favorite foods, drive our preferred vehicles, and consume the beverages we choose. However, none of these rights protects us from the legal repercussions and life-altering consequences of irresponsible actions, or even sheer foolishness. This principle applies to the right to possess firearms as well. While many of us staunchly support our right to own and carry firearms, others tirelessly work to undermine that right. Yet, there exists a significant portion of the population that simply wishes to live without the fear of “gun violence”—I want that segment on my side.

Some of our so-called “representatives” see this as an opportunity to gain attention by proposing laws framed as “common sense gun control.” However, if they truly understood the issue, they would recognize that “gun violence” largely stems from street gangs, career criminals, desperate drug addicts, or simply reckless, spoiled, or feral youths. This ignorance—or deliberate deception—reveals that they might be lying criminals who violate their constitutional duties and deserve to be removed from office and prosecuted.

This issue is not about whether my Glock 17 has a capacity of 17 rounds instead of 15, or whether my AR-15 semi-automatic rifle holds 30 rounds, akin to the fully automatic M-16 I carried while serving in Vietnam at 19. It does not involve hunters, competitive shooters, long-distance competitors, or casual weekend target shooters. Let’s stop pretending that the problem of “gun violence” can be solved by petty, overreaching regulations on our rights. With more guns than people in America, anyone suggesting that a “mandatory buyback”—or forced confiscation—will decrease that number should be immediately stripped of any authority.

Additionally, it’s important to note that suicides account for at least 60 percent of gun violence statistics. The notion that “red flag laws” will prevent someone determined to end their own life is a fallacy. We should focus on providing help to those individuals rather than infringing upon their rights. Moreover, the statistics also include numerous legitimate shootings of criminals by law enforcement and law-abiding citizens.

A significant portion of gun violence involves the criminal element, often shooting one another—those with felony records, gang members, drug manufacturers, dealers, and habitual users. If we exclude data from three well-known cities, the United States would have some of the lowest gun death rates globally. Perhaps we should be more concerned about that demographic than about rancher Bob’s revolver or Katie’s purse gun.



Civilian Gun Ownership - Continued

Dave Jiles, EPGAC Director

There are “accidental” shootings, which account for approximately 5 percent of all gun-related fatalities. These incidents often stem from carelessness, intoxication, panic, or sheer foolishness. Effective training can significantly reduce both carelessness and panic-related occurrences. Alcohol is responsible for far more deaths beyond gun-related incidents, including physical assaults and car accidents. Yet, if you're 21 or older, you can easily purchase alcohol at a drive-through liquor store, and unfortunately, some behaviors can't be rectified.

Training should be based on factual information, presented clearly and realistically. Being a responsible individual is not overly complicated; simply remain polite and in control of yourself. There's a YouTube channel called “Active Self Protection” that characterizes a responsible gun owner as someone who is good, sane, sober, moral, and prudent.

It doesn't require government intervention; it takes committed citizens to preserve our freedom and protect us from tyranny.





These things need your attention!



Texas star paddles on the ground - You shoot them off - You put them back on.



Soapbox

Steve Clark, EPGAC 1stVP

If you are a member here, you are supposed to be an adult. If you are an adult, you are supposed to be responsible. If you can't be responsible to pick up after yourself when you shoot, please don't come out to this range anymore. Find somewhere else to shoot, and good luck with that. If you can't take the time to clean up after yourself when you shoot, or to pick up your own brass, please don't come here. We don't want to clean up after you.

Brass buckets are for brass, the dumpsters are for trash. Don't put trash in the brass buckets, put it in the dumpsters. Shotgun shells are trash, we can't turn them in for brass. If you want trash cans around the range, sign up to provide, maintain and empty them yourself. Otherwise, use the provided dumpsters.

David Bruce, EPGAC Director

Most of the time when I go to the range, the paddles are off the Texas star. When you are done shooting, please put the paddles back on for the next shooter.

Also, people are shooting steel core ammo at the long range steel. This damages the steel and can cause fires. There is no steel core or solid copper bullets allowed on the long-range steel. This ammo can be used on the plywood targets and the one hundred yard range; not on the steel.

Reminders

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.

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.**

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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