

# Estes Park Gun & Archery Club

May / June 2026 Newsletter

Vol. 57



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Dave Jiles  
Jim Morse  
Kurt Pennington

Membership- Dennis  
Holmes  
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## President's Message

Steve Ferrante, EPGAC President

It is almost time for the primary elections. The gun grabbers continue to disregard the plain language of our founding documents. The state has been rebuffed by the courts for some of its unconstitutional actions, but more needs to be done. The legislature has spent our state into a 1.5-billion-dollar shortfall. They are dreaming up ways to raise funds by raiding reserves and even the unclaimed property fund. For those who do not know, the unclaimed property fund is where businesses and corporations send refunds owed to citizens of our state when they cannot find current contact information for the person owed. These are not tax dollars. They are utility deposits, PayPal refunds, etc. The state is now stealing what they demand others to give back to the rightful owners.

I would like to encourage everyone to take an hour or two to research where each candidate stands on pertinent issues. There is a maxim that states, "once you lose your rights, you never get them back." (Short of a revolution I would add.) This may seem to be a cynical statement, but history has proven time and again its truth. Our state is becoming increasingly intolerant, totalitarian, and anti-freedom. Please make your voice heard through the ballot box.

Speaking of elections . . . There are two spots on our illustrious E.P.G.A.C. board that are opening. I am in my third year as president of the club and have hit my term limit as president. Also, Steve Clark, the first vice president, is completing his third year and is term-limited out. If you want to get involved in leadership of the gun club, here are two opportunities to consider. We desire to keep the focus of the club as member-centric as possible. We have expanded both long-range shooting and the steel range in recent years. As I write this message, the road to the club is being repaved for ease of access and longevity purposes.

Please consider serving your fellow club members by taking on a leadership role. I will say this, it is gratifying when people are thankful for the work the board does to steer the club in a positive direction.

Have a blessed day.

## From the Membership Desk

Dennis Holmes, Membership Chair

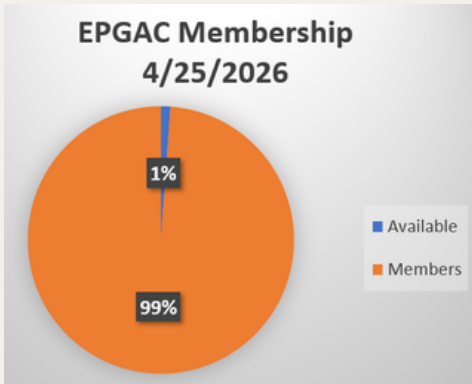
### Membership Update

As of April 25, we were at 593 members. With our 600-member cap, that leaves 7 openings before we have to close out the renewal and new member options. This may happen before this newsletter is posted.

If you know somebody who is on the fence about joining, let them know that they don't have much time left.

We're still waiting for 36 new members to complete their orientations before they get their membership cards.

If you have renewed and can't find your membership card, please let me know ([membership@epgunarchery.com](mailto:membership@epgunarchery.com)).



## Roadwork at the Outdoor Range

Steve Clark, EPGAC 1stVP

Extensive work was done on our road for the first time since 2015. Grading, shaping, and between 800 and 900 tons of recycled asphalt were brought in. Thank you for your patience and cooperation during the completion of this work.

Please continue to drive slowly on the road for everyone's safety. The improved smoothness is not an invitation to increase your speed on the road, just enjoy the smoother ride.



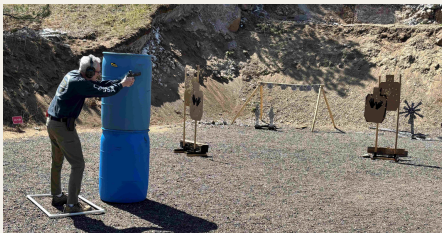
## Thank You

David Bruce, EPGAC Director

A special thank you to Todd Jirsa for donating 25 pounds of elk meat to make the chili for the long-range rifle matches.



**Handgun Competition**



**Club members sorting brass**



**21 Buckets of sorted brass, 2 buckets of steel and 1 bucket of aluminum.**

## Handgun Competition Update

Kurt Pennington, EPGAC Director

On April 18th, we held our first for 2026 IDPA-style handgun competition at the outdoor range. We lucked out with the weather, experiencing only a slight chill. Attendance was strong, with 17 participants — including about five first-timers — making for a great group of shooters.

A newly activated target system, which presents a threat target before a friendly pops up, added an extra layer of challenge to the stages. Our top three finishers were Lazarus Lesperance, Jason Bain, and Jay Jacobsmeyer. We'll see if they can hold their positions at the next event on May 16th.

If you'd like to participate, be sure to register early once registration opens — all 20 spots filled within a day, with another 10 shooters on the waiting list.

For more info, contact [kurt.pennington@gmail.com](mailto:kurt.pennington@gmail.com).

## 2026 Cleanup Days

Denny Schall, EPGAC 2nd VP

### Contributing to Our Club's Success

Members have the opportunity to contribute in various ways to help maintain and enhance our club. One such opportunity is participating in cleanup days at our ranges, which is just one of many engaging activities.

On April 18, 14 club members came together for an indoor range cleanup day. Here's what we achieved:

- Sorted brass, resulting in 21 buckets ready for recycling (Estimated value of over \$6,000. Will report actuals in next newsletter.)
- Conducted general floor cleaning
- Applied new floor tape
- Changed filters
- Cleaned cabinets
- Updated signage with 2026 information, emergency contacts, and posted cleanup day posters
- Ordered a new acrylic message holder for the front door

Looking ahead, the next cleanup days are at the outdoor range scheduled for Saturday, May 9th, and Thursday, June 4th. Additional information for these events will be shared prior to the cleanup days.



## An Armed Society

Dave Jiles, EPGAC Director

We are an armed society; our Founding Fathers designed it so that we would never be under the thumb of a tyrannical government. They also knew that everyone has not only the right but the duty to protect themselves, their loved ones, and their fellow citizens when necessary.

With that right comes responsibility. That means we must be skilled, emotionally in control, and aware of what's going on around us. Anger, panic, and fear will never excuse a careless response in defense if you injure or kill innocent bystanders.

So, why do I bring this up, you ask? Here is why. In April, I made the long drive to White Hall, Arkansas, a small city just south of Little Rock. The "Last Resort Training Center" consists of a shop building turned into a classroom and a three-bay pistol range set up for active shooter response training. The instructor, Ed Monk, and his brother Mike built this range on a large piece of family property among mature trees, with lots of space.

Day one began with introductions of students, Ed, and his brother Mike. Ed Monk grew up on this property. At the age of 18, he went to West Point for four years and then served for 20 years as an Army Armor officer in the U.S., Europe, and Iraq. Ten days after retiring from the Army, he began a four-year gig as a high school teacher.

During that time, he also served as a Reserve Deputy Sheriff and later became a part-time police officer in his hometown. He remains in that position today. Ed is a good, friendly, "down home" type of guy, and he is also wicked smart. His Army training taught him that defense against evil must be swift, violent, and unforgiving. You can't know the exact plan and ability of your attacker, but you can still plan a crushing counterattack.

In 2007, when he began as a teacher, the idea of "school shootings" was on everyone's mind. Columbine was eight years prior, and copycats were showing up on large and small scales everywhere. The planned solutions required billions of dollars for every fancy door locking, alarm sounding, flashing light, computer-driven "must-have" system to be installed in schools that struggle to buy books. Ed was in disbelief that they told him that in the event of a school shooting, he was to lock the door, close the shades, and gather the students under a table in the corner. In Ed's mind, they were neatly packaged for the shooter once he had broken the glass and let himself in.

Ed Monk's book, "First 30 Seconds," is based on the reality that most of the victims are shot in the beginning of the attack. The time period between the realizations of what was happening, the 911 call, the radio dispatch, and the time for responders to get on scene allowed the shooter free range for several minutes.

Despite the good intentions, the technology developed to help secure the schools, and the well-planned and practiced drills, you can't win over "reality." Reality is that the shooter is likely a student and is already inside the school. Locked doors make it difficult for responding police and EMS to get in, and hiding only works if the shooter doesn't come to the room you are in. Glass breaks, bullets will go through walls, and door locks can quickly be destroyed by gunfire.

Imagine you are the first cop rolling up on an "active shooter" call. The 911 operator is getting conflicting information as to which part of the huge building the shots are being reported from, and you are immediately surrounded by panicked people. Everyone is counting on you to run toward gunfire, find the killer, and quickly stop him. No pressure, tick, tick, tick.



## An Armed Society - Continued

Dave Jiles, EPGAC Director

The point that Ed Monk makes in his book, “First 30 Seconds,” is this: If you have any chance of a low victim count, you must quickly counterattack with ruthless force. The “Run, Hide, Fight” theory is backwards; “Fight” should be violent and instant. The book uses the term “Time and Math” to point out that in the first minute of the attack, you can expect one new victim every 3 to 5 seconds. In the second minute, add another victim every 6 to 8 seconds. In the third minute, expect another victim every 10 to 12 seconds. That’s a count of 24.5 victims before the optimistic response time of 3 minutes for defenders to end the fight.

Studies show a few expectations of the shooter:

1. They will have more than one weapon and a lot of ammo.
2. They will not be familiar with the guns and will likely have trouble with malfunctions and reloads.
3. They will stop random shooting as soon as they are met with a violent response.
4. They may not see you before you make your first shot.

Immediate action by the intended victims has a better chance of lowering the victim count than hiding and hoping. “Gun-free zones” mean nothing to mass shooters and leave law-abiding, skilled, and capable people unable to stop the shooter while they wait for help. This is not to discount the brave and skilled professionals who are en route; it only recognizes the 25 victims that could have been saved had someone been able to meet violence with superior violence from the start. A strong teacher and a couple of big football players can “dog pile” and stop the shooter in seconds. A legally armed civilian can stop them immediately.

The live-fire portion of the class was geared toward finding your personal skill levels, working to improve them, and determining the maximum distance at which you can put precise shots on the active shooter without the risk of hitting innocent victims.

Day two was morning in the classroom, focusing on adapting an aggressive defense rather than the hide, wait, and hope mindset. After lunch, we went back down to the range for “scenario” drills. Bay 1 was set up with target stands and life-size “photo” targets, meaning pictures of real people in various positions. One would have a long gun across the chest or a pistol in hand. A wall of plastic 55-gallon drums created a barrier so you could not see anything until the timer sounded and you stepped in.

Bay 3 was a much more realistic scenario set up. It was all rubber dummies positioned on the edge of a barrel so that they would fall off with a couple of solid hits from a 9mm or larger. To add realism to it, there was a speaker blasting noises, gunfire, screaming, and general mayhem. Again, you could not see anything until you stepped into the room. All of the dummies looked like “bad guys,” but you had to pick out the one holding the black pistol against dark clothing.

Bays 1 and 3 each set up three different scenarios during the afternoon, and each of the students went through every one. It is amazing how, even going into the drill knowing that gunshots, screaming, and the panicked atmosphere are all made up, the victims and shooter are rubber dummies, and you are not at risk of being shot, your mind is under pressure that you may have never experienced. After everyone had run all six scenario drills, we talked about the things that distracted us or caused us to hesitate, shoot the wrong target, or forget to carefully move to a position that would give us cover but allow us to verify that the shooter had been put down. It was a very good experience and excellent training.

Finally, our class of seven men and three women returned to the classroom, got our certificates, and said our goodbyes. Although the drive was long and the hours on the range were tiring, it was well worth it. I would recommend this type of training for anyone interested in security for schools, churches, or anything that may become the target of someone with a twisted mind and a desire to become famous.

No more accepting criminal violence as normal, waiting for someone else to save you, and hoping that the shooter will go to someone else’s room. Once again, it is not about who is better trained, equipped, and capable. It’s about who is there at the beginning that is able to stop the killing in the “First 30 Seconds.”

Ed Monk’s book is available on Amazon for about \$20, and it is well worth it.

## Soapbox

Steve Clark, EPGAC 1stVP

Let's try this again as these issues remain.

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 all year, and Sunday, 2:00 - 3:00 PM, November - May.

**Public Days at the Outdoor Range** - Resume on Saturday, June 6, and continue each Saturday through October.

**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 outdoor range. Club members and non-members are welcome. **Contact Martha Clark at [maclark1027@gmail.com](mailto:maclark1027@gmail.com) or Dave Jiles at [davejiles@gmail.com](mailto:davejiles@gmail.com) for more information.**



These things need your attention!



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



**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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**From EPGAC Member Bill Crosby**

Due to failing health, I have a Pelican Vault Long Rifle Case I would like to sell. Brand new with all uncut foam. Paid \$209 on Amazon , will sell for \$125. Email: [billc050@msn.com](mailto:billc050@msn.com) Phone: 970-213-9814

Stock Photo

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