

Estes Park Gun & Archery Club

September/October 2026 Newsletter

Vol. 59



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EPGAC Newsletter
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Dave Jiles
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Kurt Pennington

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President's Message

Steve Ferrante, EPGAC President

As my term as president of EPGAC comes to a close, I have much to be grateful for. The membership has shown tremendous appreciation and support for the efforts we've made over the past three years. As a board, we have successfully overseen the construction of the steel range, the renovation of the indoor range, and the repaving of the access road. Additionally, we have expanded long-range shooting capabilities to approximately 500 yards and renewed our concessionaire agreement with the EVRPD for another five years.

Over the past three years, I've had the pleasure of getting to know my fellow board members on a deeper level. They are all passionately dedicated to the club's members, the shooting sports, and the Second Amendment. It has been truly rewarding to collaborate with each of them. I hope that the next president enjoys a similar experience working alongside their board members, as they strive to provide an enjoyable environment for our members.

I urge everyone to stay informed about what is happening in our state. Please engage wherever possible and make your voice heard. Let us not allow the rights bestowed upon us by God to be undermined by any individual, group, or agency. Together, we can help maintain Colorado's sanity and freedom.

Annual Meeting - October 10

Denny Schall, EPGAC 2nd VP

The Estes Park Gun & Archery Club's annual meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, October 10, 2026**. Join us at the **Estes Park Community Center**, located at **660 Community Drive, Estes Park, CO 80517**.

- **Social Time:** 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM
- **Meeting:** 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

We are excited to welcome our guest speaker, **Victor Marx**. Victor, the Republican candidate for Governor, will discuss important issues related to state governance, individual rights, and his vision for restoring liberty. You are encouraged to bring a friend. Additionally, thanks to our generous sponsors, we've already gathered over **\$500 in door prizes**, with more to come!

Be sure to **mark your calendars** and watch your email for further details arriving in September.



Nighttime Training

Nighttime Training is Coming up!

Laz Lesperance , EPGAC Secertary

Throughout the year, the club and the Estes Valley Recreation and Park District board have discussed hosting nighttime training sessions at the Noel's Draw Outdoor Range. We are pleased to announce that we have received approval from the Estes Valley Rec board to move forward with these nighttime sessions!

Evening and reduced-light conditions are a normal part of outdoor activity in Colorado. By providing structured practice opportunities, we aim to help club members improve their firearms skills in various conditions. These sessions will be held once a month throughout the year, allowing members to test and evaluate their gear at the Noel's Draw Outdoor Range under the supervision of experienced club members and Range Safety Officers (RSOs). Please keep an eye on your email for an invitation to this exciting training opportunity!



Handgun Competitor

Handgun Competition Update: Season Heating Up!

Kurt Pennington - EPGAC Director

We have just completed our fifth handgun match of the year, with two months and two more matches left before the season concludes.

The turnout has been incredible throughout the year. Our regular competitors are fiercely vying for the top positions, while newer and less-experienced shooters are taking advantage of the matches to hone their skills in a fun, low-pressure setting. Whether you're aiming for a trophy or simply striving for personal bests, there's a spot for you on the line. To keep the excitement alive, we've been altering the stage designs each month. This time, we introduced new shooter-activated targets that provide an additional layer of challenge—testing both accuracy and speed in ways our standard targets do not.

Current Top 3 Standings

- Rank 1: Ken Rihanek
- Rank 2: Jay Jacobsmeyer
- Rank 3: Lazarus Lesperance

With two matches remaining this season, there's still plenty of time to participate, get some trigger time, and see how you stack up in the standings. Remember, our handgun competition takes place every third weekend of the month.

Come out and join the fun before the season wraps up!



Handgun Competitor

Range Report

Steve Clark & Denny Schall, EPGAC 1st & 2nd VPs

New Steel Plate Rack - Outdoor Range

The club has purchased a new steel plate rack. The expense was funded through our brass recycling program. We have quality steel targets across the board in the small tactical range now. Enjoy!



New Steel Plate Rack

Archery Range Improvements

We have had some members step up to improve our archery ranges. Approximately ten 3D targets have been added to the walk-through archery path, and more work is on the way. If you would like to be a part of developing a quality archery facility at our property, contact 1stVP@epgunarchery.com and I will get you in contact with other interested members working on this.

Brass Recycling

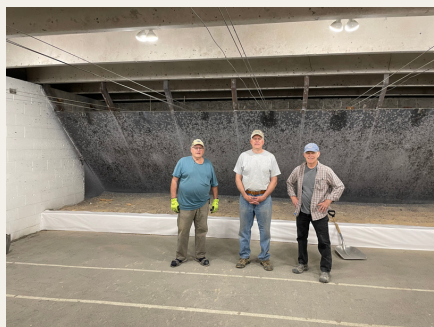
Our brass recycling program recently funded a new high-quality steel plate rack and a falling popper for our IDPA type pistol matches held on the 3rd Saturday of the month. No, we don't just pick up the brass for the recycling money (although it sure is nice!), we are required to police the property and keep it clean per our concessionaire agreement with the Estes Valley Recreation and Parks District. Thanks for picking up your brass!



Small Tactical Range Steel Targets

Rebuilt Pit Wall - Indoor Range

After years of service, the pit wall at the indoor range gave out and sent sand, busted-up 6 x 6, and railroad ties flying. We organized an unscheduled cleanup day to perform this maintenance. The wall was rebuilt, and the range was operational in less than 4 hours.



Club members in front of the new pit wall.

Upcoming Cleanup Days

The last two cleanup days of the year are nearly here. This is your last opportunity this year to support the club and help with needed projects that keep our ranges in top operating shape. Thank you to the many club members who have already attended multiple cleanup days. They have contributed to the success of our club, but more work is still needed. If you wish to receive the \$50 credit toward your 2027 membership fees, please plan to attend one of the days listed below.

Outdoor Range - Sunday, September 13, 2026

Indoor Range - Saturday, October 31, 2026

USPSA State's Match

Laz Lesperance , EPGAC Secertary



Competitive shooting is thriving in Colorado! Several members of the EPGAC actively participate not only in club matches but also in USPSA (United States Practical Shooting Association) events. The matches utilize hit factor scoring, which means both speed and accuracy are evaluated as competitors navigate a course of fire that often features up to 16 targets. Participants can use their preferred handguns or pistol-caliber carbines to complete the course.

This year, some members competed in the 2026 Battle at the Peak Colorado State USPSA Championship. This event drew competitors from Colorado and across the United States. Members who participated in this match include:

- Jason Fan
- Ben Zee
- Taylor Dean
- David Rahbany
- Chuck Fazio
- Laz Lesperance

If you're interested in getting started with USPSA, be sure to reach out to these members!



Attention RSOs

David Bruce, EPGAC Director & Chief RSO

Please check your junk folder for my emails concerning assistance needed on Public days. I have been sending out requests for help but have not received any responses. I suspect that many of these emails may be ending up in junk folders. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

EPGAC Name Tags Now Available for Active RSOs

Attention all Range Safety Officers! Official EPGAC name tags are now available for active RSOs. These tags are specifically designed for use on public days, where you represent the club as a legitimate, credible, and authorized key member. If you have completed at least two sessions on any of the club's ranges during this calendar year, you qualify to receive an RSO name tag. To claim yours, please contact our 2nd Vice President, Denny Schall, at 2ndvp@epgunarchery.com.

Lost Shot Timer

Has anyone misplaced a shot timer? We discovered a shot timer at the outdoor range. If you can provide the brand and color, please reach out to David Bruce, and he may be able to return it to you. You can contact him at 970-227-2971.



Turn This Car Around!

Dave Jiles, EPGAC Director

There appears to be a stir not only among devoted firearm enthusiasts but also among everyday individuals who own a few guns for hunting, predator control, or cherished memories of their father's old collection. People are growing weary of the relentless attempts to make anything associated with firearms a taboo. We value them, hold them dear, and rely on them for protection against all adversaries, both foreign and domestic.

We don't require political rhetoric; we need lawmakers who recognize that the vast majority of gun owners have no connection to "gun violence." Regardless of their personal feelings about firearms, representatives are meant to serve all constituents. They shouldn't tarnish the reputation of every man and woman who enjoys shooting sports, hunting, and the right to defend themselves and their loved ones. Perhaps, lawmakers, you should focus your efforts on the criminal world rather than infringing on your oath to the Constitution and your promises to the citizens.

Gun violence primarily stems from an ineffective penal system that often serves as a training ground for criminals.

Parents who let their children roam the streets unchecked should share some responsibility. Teach them to be good individuals, or accept the role you played in their development.

A new law, SB-003, is one of their proposed measures to "prevent gun violence." In reality, it complicates, prolongs, and raises the cost of acquiring a semi-automatic rifle with a detachable magazine. The AR-15, a popular and widely used rifle, is often at the center of these discussions. It's important to note that those who commit gun violence are unlikely to adhere to laws or pass a background check to obtain a firearm legitimately, raising questions about the true intent behind such legislation.

Consequently, both the Colorado Division of Wildlife and every Sheriff's Department in Colorado are burdened with additional policies, paperwork, and unnecessary tasks that divert their focus and funding away from wildlife management and law enforcement.

The Colorado Division of Wildlife has effectively managed wildlife control for years. Let's allow them to continue their work without political interference.

They should not be swayed by political pressures. I wonder how much of the CPW budget has been allocated to compensate ranchers for livestock lost to the relocated wolves that urban residents advocated for. Perhaps we should consider moving the wolves to Denver instead.

A Sheriff is accountable to the people in their county. Like the CPW, they have ample responsibilities without the state legislature and the Governor imposing extra paperwork under the guise of "curbing gun violence."

I would appreciate it if the Governor or one or two of his aides who voted for SB-003 could explain how this legislation effectively reduces gun violence. Here's the catch: they aren't allowed to prepare a professionally crafted statement to convince citizens they've made the world a safer place.



Turn This Car Around! (Continued)

Dave Jiles, EPGAC Director

No, I want to hear how the costs, delays, and burdens imposed on CCW and 64 Colorado Sheriff Departments will affect a single career criminal or a reckless juvenile who will disregard any laws or gun safety classes.

My main point is that politicians at all levels must grasp this: People are fed up with a correctional system that fails to correct anything. Colorado has some of the highest crime rates in the country. Addressing this requires focusing on criminals, not lawful gun owners. The number of legal gun owners is growing; they will influence the careers of those who insult them, treat them like children, and deny them the right to protect themselves and their families.

There are hundreds of thousands of veterans who served their country using the military-issued version of what is now called the AR-15; many fought valiantly with them. I was just 19 when I arrived in Vietnam, armed with a fully automatic M-16, and I never harmed anyone who didn't deserve it. Yet, veterans are often viewed as uninformed individuals who cannot possibly understand firearms better than desk-bound city dwellers. It's time to put aside political egos and remind lawmakers that they serve the citizens and uphold their oaths, which we will hold them accountable to.

So, Mr. and Ms. Politician, we are done. Get realistic about the distinction between criminal behavior and gun safety. Unsurprisingly, anti-gun initiatives lead to a surge in firearm purchases; this phenomenon occurs every time there is a threat to our rights, creating what you might call "a queue."

Let's draw a line between "gun violence" and "gun safety." I wholeheartedly support safety training, but when you make it expensive, intimidating, and time-consuming, you'll struggle to attract those who are undecided. Keep the government involvement to a minimum. This should be an opportunity for anyone interested in shooting sports or self-defense to explore it without incurring significant costs.

Public and private ranges could offer free or low-cost classes. Instructors could volunteer their time; I certainly would, and certification shouldn't be a requirement—just competence in safe gun handling and a willingness to collaborate so that students aren't confused. Let's make it happen, encourage more people to engage in shooting sports, and vote against the dishonest, corrupt, anti-Second Amendment politicians; they need to be replaced.



Reminders - Check The Club Calender For the Latest

Annual Meeting - October 10, 2026 - Estes Park Community Center

Upcoming Cleanup Days - Outdoor Range - Sunday, **September 13**

Indoor Range - Saturday, **October 31, 2026**

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 - Saturdays 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 or Dave Jiles at davejiles@gmail.com for more information.**

ESTES PARK GUN & ARCHERY CLUB
MEMBER SHOWCASE



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