

ESTES PARK GUN AND ARCHERY CLUB

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Guns 101 -- Hopping down the YouTube Bunny Trail

Dave Jiles, EPGAC Member

Like many people, I get a lot of entertainment, news, and commentary from the internet, particularly YouTube. Over time I have amassed a list of favorites that I routinely look to. It has surprised me how many people have managed to take an interest in a subject, create a YouTube channel based on it, and began to bring in enough revenue that they were able to quit their "real job" and earn a much better living making videos. To top it off, they have companies sending them free ammo and loaning them new guns to review. Some find a way to continually produce good, interesting, and helpful content; others just look for ways to get clicks on their channel. I expect that most of you know that already, and in theory, those that fail to be relevant will simply fade away and disappear from the web. But some become salesmen for every new "wiz bang" gadget, theory, or way of doing things. In the world of guns, shooting, safety, and personal defense, that can become a problem. It will convince people to spend money on things that in reality won't make a dime's worth of difference in their ability to defend themselves, to be a more accurate shooter, or to find the "perfect" guns and gear that will end their search.

And oh, the drama! "Carrying your gun in "This" holster will get you killed", or "carry with a round in the chamber and go to jail". One YouTube guy calls another one a moron, and the hard core 1911 shooters call everyone else "girly men". It goes on and on, and it's just made to get your attention. Meanwhile it can drive a wedge between those of us interested and involved in the shooting sports. Remember when you could easily tell one car from another? You had Ford guys, Chevy guys, and Mopar guys and there was constant joking, ribbing, and snide comments among us. But we all knew it was all in good natured fun and that all of our cars were "cool", especially the Chevys. In today's world of "Social" (I use the term loosely) Media, it has become common to say things to and about others that you would never say to their face lest you be punched in the snout. But for some if they cannot explain why their chosen gun, accessory, or tactic is superior to others, they just denigrate everything else. Choose your favorites carefully, look for those guys and gals that define why they do or do not like a product they are reviewing. They can demonstrate two or three ways to do something say for example how to draw from holster and get on target. Then they can explain why they prefer one over the others. Just like all of us, the people who have these channels are human and therefore fallible, and when a company sends you a new gun to play with for a few months along with 1000 rounds of ammo to test it, you may not be inclined to report that their product is a piece of crap, even if it really is. A good product reviewer is able to critique something pointing out its flaws at the same time highlighting the good in a way that can help the manufacturer to correct the negative and accentuate the positive in future products.

Likewise, if you are talking about safety, shooting, and tactical skills they can explain why they do it the way they do without telling you that you are an idiot for doing it your way.

(continued next page)

Guns 101 - continued from page 1

Seek out the YouTube guys and gals that bring you good, helpful information. They will tell you what they like and why, as well as what they see as problems whether it be a product or a technique without denigrating the subject or insulting you for liking it. The same goes for people you look to for training advice, are they just teaching doctrine, or are they telling you what they find to be the most efficient way, and why. For example, John Farnam of Defense Training International will tell you that the best way to release the slide after a slide lock reload is to use your support hand to pull back and release it rather than just using the slide stop release. His reason is simply that it works for any semi-auto pistol. Rather than going back and forth about what will save you three tenths of a second, it is important to him that his students are able to pick up and operate any type of handgun with no worry about finding the slide lock lever and finding out its too hard for you to press. That is why I think it is important for people to explain the “what and why” of the methods they teach.

When it comes to channels that revolve around training, there are basically three types of people giving training advice on the web. There are the “regular people” that just happen to be shooting enthusiasts and don’t have a background in any kind of armed conflict. There are the high level competition shooters who focus on how to maximize accuracy and speed in order to win prizes, recognition, and even commercial sponsorships. Finally there are the, “been there done that” people that have real world combat experience. Any of these folks may be good or bad sources of instruction, they could be someone who takes training seriously, or just some guy who likes guns and wants to be a YouTube star- once again, choose wisely. If you are interested in shooting competition, you can find training videos with people like Mike Seeklander, Rob Leatham, and Jerry Miculek, his wife, or daughter. I recommend that you get involved in some competition once you’ve gotten the basics down just to get some experience shooting under a little stress. Former Navy SEALs, Green Berets, Delta Force, and Marine Force Recon, people that have lots of experience in serious combat are always very skilled but the information they give you can be overwhelming to an inexperienced shooter. Get some time behind the gun before you spend a lot of time watching videos on “team tactics” or “room clearing”.

There are plenty of YouTubers who have law enforcement backgrounds or are just good civilian shooters that are very good at giving you valuable advice and recommend helpful practice routines to develop your skills. There are plenty of YouTube “rabbit holes” to go down looking for this information, and these winter months are a great time to do it. Gear up, dry fire practice, and get ready for spring, it will be here before you know it.

Happy Shooting --Dave

**Understanding Caliber**

(4:25)

NSSF

Top shooter Chris Cheng
explains caliber basics

(Click WATCH IT to open the video)



On behalf of all who attended, many thanks to those who planned and set up the annual meeting at the American Legion in January. By many accounts it was the best ever for the club. A special thank you goes out to Martha Clark for the delicious homemade cookies & to our two guest speakers, Sheriff Justin Smith and Police Chief Wes Kufeld. Also thanks to the planning committee on behalf of David Bruce and Dave Jiles for the wonderful sign they presented us for the new Public Day Shed. It will soon be proudly displayed on the front of the building. Thank you, it means a lot.

Bullet Points

Support Your Local Sheriff



MEMBER PROFILE

WE WANT YOU!

Every single member has an interesting story, and we'd like to share a few of them. If you're willing to share yours, there's a brief questionnaire and a short phone interview that will do the job. A photo would be great, and we promise not to share any secrets or private hunting spots.

Please send your name, email and contact phone number to president@epgunarchery.com and we'll be in touch.

I thought I would label this month's essay after one of my favorite western movies, starring James Garner about an easy going gunslinger who takes the job of Sheriff in a small Colorado town in the midst of a gold rush that brings a number of bad actors into the area. Why is that relevant you may ask? Well maybe it's not, but it's a good lead in to today's topic. In a few months, we will have to choose a new Sheriff for Larimer County. Our term limited Sheriff; Justin Smith, will need to move on to his next adventure, leaving the reins of LCSO in new hands. He led the department through the 2013 flood, several large fires, and countless challenges that most of us don't even know about. His will be big shoes to fill, and the job itself is a massive responsibility. It will take a very special person to maintain the well oiled machine that is LCSO. Fortunately the majority of the men and women that play the individual roles will remain to keep it running well, and the new sheriff will have the simple priority of not screwing things up.

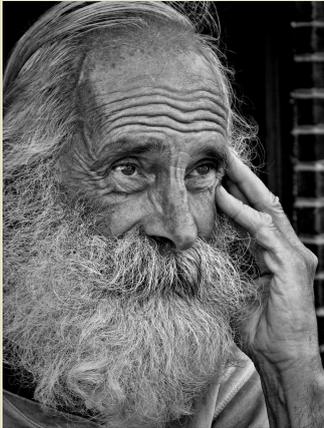
To my knowledge there are two people who have thrown their hats in the ring to fill the position. I intend to take any opportunity to hear them speak publicly about their views and plans. I don't pretend to be able to discern rosy promises and good intentions, from a good plan for running a large Sheriff's Department. But there are a few basic things that I would expect a candidate to have no doubt about their opinions on. The Sheriff has authority over and responsibility for nearly anything that happens within his or her county, Law enforcement, emergency services, disaster relief, and wildfires. Even though there are other organizations that may perform those services with paid or volunteer personnel, the Sheriff bears the burden of making sure those needs are met.

Having served for many years with a local volunteer fire/rescue department, I can affirm the importance of a good working relationship between the Sheriff's Department and the people on the front lines of those services. Of course in a department the size of LCSO, you may seldom see the Sheriff, but that is who creates and maintains the atmosphere which brings all the people and their unique skills together. For that reason I want to know how a candidate approaches working with a cadre of paid and volunteer personnel, and dealing with the issues that can arise when you have different radio systems, fire equipment ranging from 70's era to state of the art, and fire fighters/rescue personnel at all levels of training and experience.

Secondly, we can all see a constant push for firearm laws, whether they are well intentioned or an outright assault on Constitutional rights, they will be at least a burden to law abiding gun owners. At worst are likely to land some of us on the wrong side of the law having done nothing to harm anyone, yet criminals, gangsters, and "felons in possession of a firearm" will continue to do what they do. "Red Flag Laws" that are sold as a means of preventing someone from doing harm to themselves or others, can easily be abused to deny "Due Process" with no repercussions for false reporting or the loss or damage to personal property. Imagine the Sheriff's Department backing a truck up to your house and throwing your entire gun collection in "for safe keeping".

Bullet Points - Continued from page 3

Will a new Sheriff stand strong against those challenges or will they throw their hands up and say “we are just doing our job”?



**Smart people
learn from
everyone.**

**Average people
learn from their
experiences.**

**Stupid people
already have all
the answers.**

Also in these times when we may feel that we cannot trust our Federal law enforcement, whether it is FBI, DHS, ATFAE, or any of the many “alphabet soup” agencies, will our new sheriff exercise their authority to be aware when Federal Agents are operating inside the county and why? When the “Speaker of the House” can send Capitol Hill Police out into the “Fly Over” country in search of “wrong thinkers”, I most certainly want a Sheriff who is intent on serving the residents of Larimer County, and make sure that they have legitimate authority and cause for their operation. Local control is paramount to our system of Government, and the office of Sheriff plays a primary role in that control.

Fortunately, I don't foresee any radical changes in LCSO. I believe that Sheriff Smith has led the department well and that everyone from the sworn law enforcement to the administrative staff, and even the volunteer personnel, are generally provided with the equipment training, and support that they need, and are content in their jobs. After hearing Sheriff Smith speak at our annual meeting I think it is important that his replacement has a history in this area, and is familiar with the system, not some east coast genius here to bring us into the “modern area” of law enforcement.

This is an important election. Please do your research and go listen to the candidates speak. Ask them some tough but fair questions about where they stand on issues. Remember we are dealing with people with law enforcement backgrounds, not career politicians who are expert at dodging any question that might pin them down as to their real intentions. If a potential candidate has a particular view on certain subjects, I want to know what it is and why they feel that way about it. I can accept something I don't agree with, but if you lie to make me think you're on my side, your credibility is down the drain in my opinion.

So, I raise my glass to Sheriff Justin Smith, for his many years of honorable service to Larimer County, from a brand new deputy riding around with a grizzled old training officer, up through the ranks, and culminating with three four year terms in the office of Sheriff... Well done Sir, well done.

Side Note: If anyone is offended by my comments on what I feel is the over reach of our Federal Law Enforcement, just remember that whatever you deem acceptable when “your people” are in charge will become a precedent and therefore acceptable when “our people” are in charge. You may someday be the “wrong thinkers” that I was referring to. -Dave



EPGAC Officers Elected

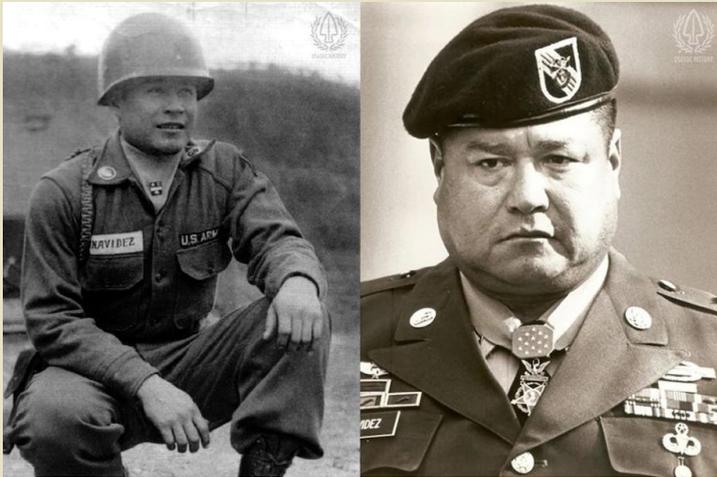
At the annual meeting Jan 27th, members elected club officers for 2022:

President- Andrew Johnson, First VP- Jay Jacobsmeyer, Second VP- Dennis Hoshiko, Secretary- Mark Watson, Treasurer- Dana Maxwell, Board Members: David Bruce, Kurt Pennington, Steve Clark, Pete Maxwell, Membership- Dennis Holmes.

THANK YOU to these members for their volunteer service to the club.

Veterans Corner

..and You Thought We Were Tough



Roy Benavidez while serving in the Army (left), and after receiving the Medal of Honor (right). (U.S. Army)

The story of Green Beret Master Sergeant Roy Benavidez

Benavidez was born on 5 August 1935, in Lindenau, Texas. He enlisted in the Texas Army National Guard in 1952 during the Korean War and in June 1955 transitioned to active duty Army. In 1959, he completed airborne training and was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

On the morning of 2 May 1968, a 12-man Special Forces reconnaissance team was inserted by helicopters into a dense jungle area west of Loc Ninh, Vietnam, to gather intelligence information about confirmed large-scale enemy activity.

The area was controlled and routinely patrolled by the North Vietnamese army. After a short period on the ground, the team met heavy enemy resistance, and requested emergency extraction. Three helicopters attempted extraction, but were unable to land due to intense enemy small arms and anti-aircraft fire. While assigned to Detachment B56, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces, Republic of Vietnam, Benavidez was at a forward operating base in Loc Ninh monitoring the operation by radio when the helicopters, who attempted the extraction, returned to off-load wounded crewmembers and to assess aircraft damage. Benavidez voluntarily boarded a returning aircraft in order to assist in another extraction attempt. Realizing that all the team members were either dead or wounded and unable to move to the pickup zone, he directed the aircraft to a nearby clearing where he jumped from the hovering helicopter and ran approximately 75 meters under heavy small arms fire to the crippled team. Prior to reaching the team's position, he was wounded in his right leg, face and head. Despite his injuries, Benavidez took charge, repositioning the team members and directing their fire to facilitate the landing of an extraction aircraft and loading the wounded and dead team members. He then threw smoke canisters to direct the aircraft to the team's position. Despite his severe wounds, and under intense enemy fire, he carried and dragged half of the wounded team members to the awaiting aircraft. He then provided protective fire by running alongside the aircraft as it moved to pick up the remaining team members. As the enemy's fire intensified, he hurried to recover the body of and classified documents on the dead team leader.

When he reached the leader's body, Benavidez was severely wounded by small arms fire in the abdomen and grenade fragments in his back. At nearly the same moment, the aircraft pilot was mortally wounded and his helicopter crashed. Although in extremely critical condition due to his multiple wounds, Benavidez secured the classified documents and made his way back to the wreckage, where he aided the wounded out of the overturned aircraft and gathered the stunned survivors into a defensive perimeter. Under increasing enemy automatic weapons and grenade fire, he moved around the perimeter distributing water and ammunition to the men. Facing a buildup of enemy opposition with a beleaguered team, Benavidez mustered his strength, began calling in tactical air strikes and directed the fire from supporting gunships to suppress the enemy's fire in order to permit another extraction attempt.

He was wounded again in his thigh by small arms fire while administering first aid to a wounded team member just before another extraction helicopter was able to land. He began to ferry the troops to the aircraft and on his second trip with the wounded, he was clubbed from behind by an enemy soldier. In the ensuing hand-to-hand combat, he sustained additional wounds to his head and arms before killing the enemy.

(Con't next page)

He then continued under fire to carry the wounded to the helicopter. Upon reaching the aircraft, he spotted and killed two enemy soldiers who were rushing the helicopter from an angle that prevented the door gunner from firing upon them. With little strength remaining, he made one last trip to the perimeter to ensure that all classified material had been collected or destroyed and to bring in the remaining wounded. Only then did he allow himself to be pulled into the extraction aircraft. Benavidez's actions saved the lives of at least eight men. During the six hours of continuous operations, surgeons found Benavidez had a broken jaw and 37 bullet and bayonet puncture wounds. He was so mauled that his commanding officer did not believe he would live long enough to receive the Medal of Honor, so he nominated him for the Distinguished Service Cross instead. Because General William C. Westmoreland, who had awarded Benavidez the DSC, learned details of Benavidez's heroics, he nominated him for upgrade to the Medal of Honor. Benavidez received that medal in 1981 from President Ronald Reagan during a White House ceremony.

In addition to the Medal of Honor, Benavidez received the Purple Heart and numerous other awards throughout his magnificent career. There are numerous facilities named in his honor to include the Roy P. Benavidez American Legion Post #400 in San Antonio, Texas, and the Roy P. Benavidez City Park in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Roy Benavidez passed away on 29 November 1998. He is interred at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio.

When I first heard this story being narrated, they said that when he returned to the field hospital they assumed he was dead or so near to it that they set him aside and tended to other wounded soldiers. As they began to close the body bag, being unable to move or speak but aware of what they were doing, he spit in the Doctors face getting their attention. There are a number of books and online articles available on Master Sergeant Benavidez. This story is not the only one that will leave you in awe.

The Estes Park Gun Club in 1969

by Bur Spurlock (written in 1982)



The best records I find show that this Club was organized in 1969. The first check drawn on the Club checking account was April 21, 1969 to the National Rifle Association for the Charter fee and a membership in the NRA for Norman Putt. The following are the names listed as those who became charter life members of the Club: Ted Ross, Joan Ross, Vince Bishop, Donna Bishop, Norman Putt, Verna Putt, Ed Gibson, Edna Gibson, Jack Gartner, Ronald Reiland, John Page, Arnold Dalrymple, Pat Dalrymple, K.S. (Mike) Michael, John Gordon, Bill Van Horn, Gene Brough, Betty Brough, Marion Jenista, Judy Jenista, Webb Weaver, Hans Gartner, Eugene Greene, Dr. A.L. French, Jane French, Tom Sherrard.

In addition to these life members there were twenty annual members in 1969.

*"Being powerful is a lot like being a lady.
If you have to tell people you are, you aren't."
-Margaret Thatcher*

