

ESTES PARK GUN AND ARCHERY CLUB

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Guns 101 -- Safe habits and Tragic Accidents

Dave Jiles, EPGAC Member

In mid-October, there was an accidental shooting that resulted in the death of a woman, and the wounding of a man on a movie filming set. The immediate news coming out defined the cause as the "misfire" of a prop gun. The report quickly set off my B.S. alert, as it was trying to pass the incident off as the failure of a non-functioning movie prop that caused it to suddenly fire real projectiles like a real gun.

I will admit to having a strong dislike for the actor that pulled the trigger, he is, in my humble opinion, a pompous blowhard, that like so many celebrities, loves to tell we rubes out here in the hinterland, how we should think. However, I will not take pleasure in his torment nor that of any of the people on the site that may have had a role in this tragedy that ended the life of a young mother. The best we can do is to take this opportunity to look at how complacency can turn our world upside down instantly, and when everyone involved is equally careless, there is enough blame to go around. Of course, the film industry will bring in "experts", hire a team of lawyers to look for ways to avoid liability, and have people write pages of procedures to "assure that this can never happen again". But those procedures will be piled on top of the ones that were already in place, but ignored. The experts will double down on what previous experts have put in place to avoid tragedy, and a powerful new focus will be put on safety.

There will be a team of people on every set to make sure the "I's are dotted and the T's are crossed", until the next time people become complacent. But human nature will cause them to become careless, particularly when they start to think "we got this", and they will.

Movie sets have all kinds of procedures, according to several professionals in the film industry. The handling of firearms requires that everyone involved do their part, and that includes speaking up when others are taking shortcuts. Multiple people were involved in getting that gun, with live ammunition in it, from whatever "secure" storage it was in, and into the hands of the actor that is handling it as part of the movie plot. But no, they are all "professionals", they know what they're doing, they do this all the time, "they got this". BANG.

Ok, enough of me sticking my thumb in the eye of an industry that traditionally looks down their noses at us "commoners", and tells us we are too stupid to be trusted with guns. The point is that it can happen to any of us. I have to check myself regularly, because I am accustomed to, and very comfortable with shooting alone. Whether it be slow and careful target shooting, a very active "move and shoot" exercise, or just dry fire at home in the living room, there is no one around me to worry about endangering. Therefore, I have to constantly remind myself to maintain good safe habits not only so I'm not a walking hazard to others, but for my own safety.

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Speed vs. Accuracy

(16:21)

The Gun Guys

Conversation about bullets and shot placement from 2 guys who know what they're talking about

(Click WATCH IT to open the video)

Guns 101 - continued from page 1

One of the things I always tell new club members is that it is easy to get used to being at the range by yourself, but take care to make the rules and procedures a habit while you are alone, or with other shooters.

I got my first BB gun when I was just big enough that it didn't drag on the ground when I carried it, my very own 22 rifle when I turned 12, and full access to my dad's gun cabinet a couple years later. I managed to get through hunting with my stupid teenage buddies for a number of years without incident, and 12 months in Viet Nam where we were all armed whether we were boarding an aircraft or riding in a Saigon Taxi. The only "close calls" I experienced happened after that time period, when I was a "grown up" and should have known better. While I was saved the trauma of a serious outcome, I could see my dad looking down from the heavens with that look that said "boy, one of these days". So, let's all heed this warning that no matter how familiar you are with guns, how many professional shooting classes you have attended, how many competitions you have competed in, or how much real armed combat you have experienced, we can all fall into the complacency trap. No matter how smart you are, it takes only a split second to do something stupid.

The late Col Jeff Cooper put it very clearly, keep it simple, and follow his "Four basic rules of gun safety.

All guns are always loaded

Never allow the muzzle to cover anything you are not willing to destroy

Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on the target

Be sure of your target and what is beyond it

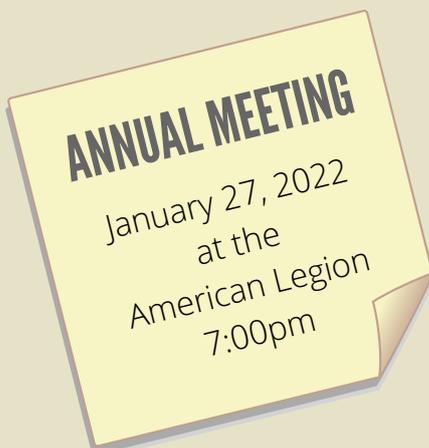
Stay armed and stay safe. --Dave

Larimer County Sheriff Smith to speak

Sheriff Justin Smith will be the guest speaker at the 2022 EPGAC Annual Meeting, planned for January 27th. Smith will be leaving his post as the top county law enforcement official due to term limits after as the elected Sheriff. A dedicated public servant, he consistently advocates for citizens rights, and has been an EPGAC friend for many years even before his election. Come hear his view on the state of affairs in our community and world.

Doors of the American Legion Post 119 (850 N St Vrain) will open at 630pm, meeting starts at 7pm. The Legion will provide complimentary non-alcoholic refreshments, as well as normal service (cash bar).

Door prizes, member recognition, club business and officer elections in addition to an opportunity to meet fellow club members. Dont miss it!



Bullet Points

Rittenhouse Impact



A cowboy told his grandson the secret to a long life. He said, "You gotta sprinkle a little gunpowder on your oatmeal, see. If you do, you'll live to a nice ripe old age." So the cowboy did this religiously every day, and sure enough, lived to the nice ripe old age of 96. When he died he left behind 4 children, 8 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren ...and a 16 foot hole in the wall of the crematorium.

Last week, we heard the verdict from the Kyle Rittenhouse case in Kenosha Wisconsin. Not guilty on all five counts. I expect for many of us that is good news, because we can imagine ourselves in a similar situation. But even among gun owners and shooting enthusiasts there are people that think that he was just a boy and should not have been there under those circumstances. I would remind you that many members of this club were barely older than that when our government dropped us into the bowels of Korea, Viet Nam, Granada, Iran, Afghanistan, and countless lesser known hell holes around the globe? So let's dismiss the "little boy" argument, and maybe question the judgment and motivation of all the people that were there from out of town to burn, loot, assault, and generally spread hate and discontent.

I agree that it may not have been the best decision for Kyle to be there. Of course none of us ever did anything stupid when we were 17, but I can't help but ask, "What was the reason behind it"?

Kenosha Wisconsin is a small city of about 100,000 people situated on the shore of Lake Michigan. It is not Seattle, Portland, LA, or Chicago. People still seem to care about their community and their neighbors. So the weak kneed "City Leaders" allowed the mob to let off steam by destroying the lives of people who had nothing to do with what they were angry about. Truth be known many were just reacting to the siren call of the "social justice warriors" and if pressed could not tell you the correct details of the situation they were there to protest.

The police are funded by the citizens with the understanding that they will maintain peace and safety. But they were ordered by city leaders, to "stand down", to not keep order, to not protect the citizens and their property, and to not enforce the law. Create a void, and something will fill it, it's as simple as that. The city leaders didn't just fail; they intentionally violated their oath and their duty to the people of the city. They themselves should be in jail right along side of the people that assumed their right to protest gave them carte blanche to commit arson, vandalism, theft, and assault. But no, they're all free.

Even as I write this, there are reports of loads of brick being dropped off in downtown Kenosha. Who ordered and paid for them, and who authorized them to put them on public property? Why were City crews not immediately dispatched to remove them? Once again, create a void, and see what fills it. Here's a simple concept I learned from my limited military instruction, if you find a hidden stash of your enemies ammunition, take it, or destroy it, don't leave it there for the convenience of your opponent. I'm guessing that they are not planning to use those bricks to repair the damage they did last time.

And for our bumbling "news media", here's a tip. Don't stand on camera in front of a burning police car, and tell us it's "mostly peaceful", you look like an idiot. It's reminiscent of the beginning of the Iraq war when "Bagdad Bob", Saddam Hussein's "information minister", reported on camera that they have repelled the infidels, while American tanks passed behind him, "nothing to see here".

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Bullet Points - Continued from page 3

As they are known to do, the news media quickly set the narrative, and they all followed the script. "White Supremacist crosses State line with illegal gun to shoot peaceful protesters". A lot of people accepted that narrative as they always do, and were sure that it was accurate because it was on CNN, ABC, MSNBC, and most of the late night "comedy", read here, "gossip" shows.

A jury has seen the evidence of the case and made their decision. Video footage from multiple sources clearly shows exactly what happened, yet the "news media" has an agenda and cannot allow facts and reality to get in the way. But Wisconsin gets awful cold this time of year, so we will soon see how much real commitment the protesters have.

From the Massad Ayoob book, "*Deadly Force, Understanding your right to self defense*", there are three conditions which must all be present at the time, to justify use of lethal force, they are as follows;

Ability: Does the person have the ability to kill or cripple you?

Opportunity: Are the current circumstances such that the person could use that ability to kill or cripple you?

Jeopardy: Do the person's actions or words provide you with a reasonably perceived belief that he intends to kill or cripple you?

Kyle Rittenhouse would have likely been stomped to death or sustained life changing permanent injury, had he not used his "legally possessed weapon". That in turn would have put that weapon in the hands of convicted felons, what could possibly go wrong with that?

To say that Rittenhouse should not have been there is akin to saying a rape victim should not have gone to "that bar wearing that dress". It may be an astute observation after the fact, but does not shift the blame from the rapist to the victim.

If you have local leaders that order your law enforcement to "stand down" in the face of mayhem, be sure to lay the responsibility for all of the theft, arson, and assault squarely in their lap.

This entire incident could have been avoided had the authorities not failed to do what the citizens pay them to do, maintain order. There is a noticeable gap between "peaceful protest" and total lawlessness and a pre delivered supply of bricks is what you might call "a clue". I will bet that if those mobs were coming after the mayor and city council, they would be demanding action by the police to put a stop to them. There was a perfect example of this last year in Seattle when the City Council members that had championed the "defund the police" movement found themselves being threatened by the mobs, and they began demanding armed personal protection for themselves, at taxpayer expense, while they let their citizens suffer the wrath of lawlessness.



..take a
closer
look
at the
new
shed
on the
next
page



First Peek at the new Sign-In Shed



By the time you read this, the new shed should be nearly complete, with the exception of paint and a few other exterior details that may have to wait for favorable weather. Its primary purpose will be for use on "Public Days" to keep the sign in log books out of the weather and to store and display the supplies and available targets, ear plugs, and safety glasses that we offer. Over time I hope that we will find it good for several other uses as well.

THANK
YOU

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone that has helped out with this project as well as the Club Officers and Board of Directors for giving us the go ahead and the funding for it.

A big thank you goes to Don Darling, who brought out his buddy "Bob", as in Bobcat, to do the dirt work for the build site, and to Scott Bart, who's company "Colorado Roof Toppers" provided not only the materials, but the muscle to complete the roof.

Most of all I want to thank David Bruce, without whose help I would have been struggling throughout the winter to get it together. While I am a hacker with a little construction experience from many years ago, David is a true professional and his attention to detail is unmatched. Plus, he has a lot of really cool tools.

We could use an ambitious painter or two, to take on that part of the project, so if that is you, please contact me: davejiles@gmail.com

Once again, thank you to all who helped. --Dave

Divide the Task = Multiply the Success

As we near year's end, it's time to think about plans for next year to continue with improvements, and to perform ongoing maintenance of the ranges. I have heard so many people express how great our facilities are and what a great deal the membership is. This is a direct result of the efforts of our members, and I applaud everyone who played a part in keeping the ranges clean, and making improvements like the 200 and 300 yard ranges. The guests who came out for Saturday morning "Public Days" were impressed and a good number of them have already joined or intend to in 2022. There are volunteer positions for 2022 in need of energetic people willing to step up, so if you have the time and ambition contact your club officers and let them know you are interested in helping. There will always be ongoing projects in the works, and even if your schedule does not allow you to make a long term commitment, maybe you can help out on one of them for a few hours. Everything helps, and as I like to tell new members, "no one in this club is drawing a paycheck", so if we as members don't volunteer our time to help, it doesn't happen.

Thank you again to all who have helped out. Let's keep our great safety record going, and look forward to another year of great ideas, and Improvements.