

# EPGAC Newsletter June 2021

Welcome shooting sports fans.

Here it is, June already, and our first “Public Day” of the season.

RSO’s please remember to contact me ([davejiles@gmail.com](mailto:davejiles@gmail.com)) to sign up for RSO duty on one or more Saturday mornings throughout the summer. Also, remember that we also need one person each week, to sign people in and collect the money. That person does not need to be an RSO. This is a great and easy way to get in some volunteer time and can be counted in lieu of a cleanup day, saving you the extra \$50 when you renew at year’s end. We hope to come up with a more interactive way to sign up so you can see what dates are open, but meanwhile I will try to stay on top of it and reply back to you quickly.

As always, a tip of the hat and a big thank you to our newsletter editor, Janine Dawley, who crafts my monthly ramblings into a source of information and hopefully a bit of entertainment and motivation. Also thanks to Webmaster Doug Tabor for fitting it all into the club website every month.

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**Dogs are God’s way of apologizing for your relatives.**

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## Keeping it Safe

There have been a number of examples of unsafe handling of firearms on our ranges recently. It’s not clear if it was done by new members that have recently gone through my “Range Orientation” sessions, or by long time members. If it was new members then I will take some of the blame for not having made the range rules and the importance of following them, clear enough. I expect though, that is a combination of new and long time members that began taking safety for granted.

Experience builds familiarization, which is a good thing, but it can also invite complacency. Not a single one of us is immune from becoming complacent. The habits we develop while shooting alone will certainly spill into times we are *not* the only one on the range and create an unsafe environment for other members and guests.

- Each range has a large sign that clearly spells out the “cold range” and “hot range” rules. If you are in any way uncertain about them, please read the sign again and ask someone to clarify them for you if necessary.
- Always watch your muzzle discipline; do not load your firearm until you are at the firing line and the range has been declared hot.
- Be certain that everyone is behind the firing line, has eye and ear protection on, that there are no people or animals downrange, and spectators are back away from the firing line, before calling out, “the range is going hot”.

Our club has maintained a very good safety record to date, please help to keep it up. Thank you.

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**“No matter how paranoid or conspiracy-minded you are, what the Government is actually doing is worse than you imagine”.**

William Blum (Former U.S. State Department employee)

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## **BULLET POINTS**

Statistics show an estimated 8.5 million new gun owners joined our ranks in 2020, and that 40 percent are women. That is 3.4 million women that will not be marching with “Moms Demand Action”.

With this new influx of women, this is the perfect opportunity for our lady gun owners to seek out and offer help to those that are sitting at home, nervously looking at the box that contains the brand new gun that they know nothing about. You do not need to be a certified instructor to teach the four basic rules of gun safety, or to show people how to safely unload and clear a weapon. You can help them go through the owner’s manual and learn how to field strip,

clean, maintain, and correctly reassemble their gun. You can suggest ideas on how to safely store it, while still keeping it quickly accessible when they need it.

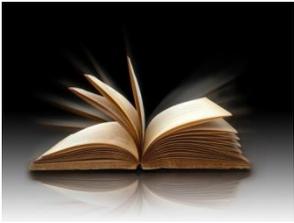
Face it, guys will find no problem finding friends from work that will be happy to take them to the range and help them get into shooting, but I expect that it's not always the same for the ladies. So, to our "sisters in arms", please find these new female gun owners and bring them into the fold. Show them the joys of getting out with likeminded people, learning, and becoming proficient with firearms. And help them to reach that feeling of empowerment that comes from knowing you can defend yourself.

## Armed and Feminine: A Woman's Perspective on Teaching

Watch "5 Ways NOT to teach new shooters"

[https://youtu.be/E-QbPc-lv\\_U](https://youtu.be/E-QbPc-lv_U)

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### GUNS 101

Guns 101 is a new feature directed toward our members that are just starting in the shooting sports. I know that you have many questions and I hope that your membership in the gun club will put you in contact with people that can help you find answers. There is a wealth of knowledge here for the asking, and you will find that most "gun people" are friendly and very willing to help.

So let's start with the four universal rules of gun safety. Please read them, remember them, and think about them whenever you touch a firearm.

- **All guns are always loaded.**
- **Never allow the muzzle to cover anything you do not want to destroy.**
- **Keep your finger off the trigger until you intend to shoot.**
- **Be certain of your target *and* what is beyond it.**

Your ability to remember and follow these rules will make your journey into the world of the shooting sports and the defensive use of firearms, a much safer experience. As a bonus you will be much more welcome and accepted around the range.

There is a lot of good information on YouTube; there are also a lot of bad ideas. Keep an open mind and a level head and you will soon be able to tell the difference. Don't get your tactical instruction from keyboard warriors who spend the first half of the video trying to convince you how big of a deal they are, and don't get your legal advice from "the street".

Current Colorado laws regarding firearms can be found on the Secretary of State's website. Remember that even though your Colorado CCW permit has reciprocity with other states, the laws in those states may be different. In some states, you may carry in a restaurant that serves alcohol so long as you are not intoxicated. In Colorado, there is no duty to inform a enforcement officer of your possession of a legally concealed weapon during a traffic stop. If you cross the border into Nebraska, you are required to notify police that you are carrying. As of this writing, it is legal in Colorado for you to carry in a restaurant, and while you may go into a restaurant that serves alcohol unless otherwise posted, you can only go into the eatery side and you may not consume alcohol while carrying.

There is a virtual minefield of differing laws, so find an online source of up to date information on laws relating to carrying or even transporting firearms in any state you may be visiting or traveling through, and plan your trip accordingly.

Strike up a friendship with someone with shooting experience to show you the ropes, practice with you, and keep you honest about your attention to safe gun handling.

Please come back and check out next month's edition of Guns 101 and we will try to bring you good information, dispel common falsehoods, and give you ideas and resources to make your entry into the "gun world" easy, fun, and safe.

## **Skill Drill of the Month**

Wilson Combat Master Class with Ken Hackathorn

Church Security Drill

<https://youtu.be/2gVdAAd8fow>

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"WHAT WE DO FOR OURSELVES DIES WITH US, WHAT WE DO FOR OTHERS AND THE WORLD REMAINS AND IS IMMORTAL".

ALBERT PINE

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## RANGE NEWS

There will be periodic work for several months on the upper range area, around the tactical range and the 200 yard firing lane.

There are a couple items of concern, one being that people will be working back in the area of the target rack and when that is the case, we want to be certain that no one shows up to shoot and is not aware that there are people downrange.

Another is that it needs to be very clear that we must not have people using the tactical range and the long range stations simultaneously. That will involve the addition of a “range flag” and some means of gating the access points of the two areas so that when one is being used, the other is blocked. To avoid confusion, when we leave, we will have to be responsible to make sure we lower the range flag and make it obvious that it is safe to use either of the shooting areas.

Also note that although the planned 300 yard lane is being worked on, it may not be used until it is complete, the SOP is finalized and all safety items (flagpole, rope, signs) are in place. As always, member suggestions are welcome, contact 2nd Vice President Jay Jacobsmeyer with your ideas.

A big thanks to all that made it to “clean up day” on May 15<sup>th</sup>. We had a lot of help and a selection of tools from screw drivers to chain saws, and even a “Bobcat” skid loader. A lot was accomplished including great progress on the 300 yard shooting lane now in the works and the preparation of the pad for the soon to be built storage barn that replaces the old green storage pod. A great effort by all, thank you.

*On March 17<sup>th</sup> we were all Irish.*

*On May 5<sup>th</sup> we were all Latino.*

*On July 4<sup>th</sup> lets all be Americans.*