

ESTES PARK GUN AND ARCHERY CLUB

THIS ISSUE

- Stay Sharp - 1
- Pistol Drills - 2
- The Wild West - 3
- Member Profile- 3
- Sheriff in Pursuit- 4
- Annual Meeting- 4
- Demo Dick - 5

Estes Park GAC Newsletter
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Details on Page 6

Guns 101 -- Stay Sharp

Dave Jiles, EPGAC Member

Ok, time for our most recent shooting converts to progress on to the next stage. We have talked about safety, gear selection, basic legal guidelines, finding your place in the "gun community", and several other topics that I hope you have found helpful as you take up an interest that you may have very well thought you would never have.

So now it's time to look at how you maintain your shooting skills, keep your safety habits solid, and your "defensive mindset" sharp.

Because it is winter time the likelihood of getting a lot of time at the outdoor range is uncertain. So, what can we do to maintain our skills and keep our minds sharp? First of all, don't forget that we have the indoor range as an option. Of course, you can't use the indoor range at any time the way we can our outdoor facility, but if enough people are interested in using the indoor range, and are willing to offer some of their own time to organize it, then maybe it can happen. Rules require the range be staffed by a certified Range Safety Officer (RSO) when in use. There are a few times scheduled that an RSO is onsite and you can, as a member, use the range for one dollar. Mostly the same people have been volunteering to staff the range for a long time. They often sit there by themselves all evening with no members or non-members showing up to use the range, yet they honor their commitment to open it on the scheduled dates. My point is, if members really want more access to the indoor range, it requires people to step up and get involved. As I am famous (or maybe notorious) for saying no one in this club is drawing a paycheck.

Winter is a great time to work on your "dry fire" practice. Without spending a dime, you can develop and maintain great gun handling skills, and a smooth, consistent trigger press. Add to that some easily acquired accessories and you can increase your ability to measure and monitor your accuracy without using any ammo. You can get plastic safety barrels to replace the real barrel of your gun, to both assure that a live round cannot be loaded and make it clearly visible that it is a non-working gun. You can also get "dummy magazines" to practice reloads, and malfunction drills.

Every shooter should have some "snap caps" in the calibers for the guns they use, and lots of them for the guns you use and train with a lot. They are valuable for so many reasons, from showing new shooters how to fill magazines, to demonstrating type 1, type 2, and type 3 malfunctions and how to clear them in a completely safe condition. I like to have them to show new shooters that are trying to decide between a semi-auto and a small revolver, the difference in time to swap magazines vs. to reload a revolver cylinder. You can use them by placing them randomly in a magazine to induce a firing stoppage that requires the shooter's attention, or you can use them to see how much flinch the shooter has when the gun goes click instead of bang.

They are a safety enhancing tool for many reasons. Get some.

(continued next page)

WATCH IT

Pistol Drills (4:33)

Sig Sauer Academy

A drill to enhance trigger finger accuracy and reduce flinching.

(Click WATCH IT to open the video)

Guns 101 - continued from page 1

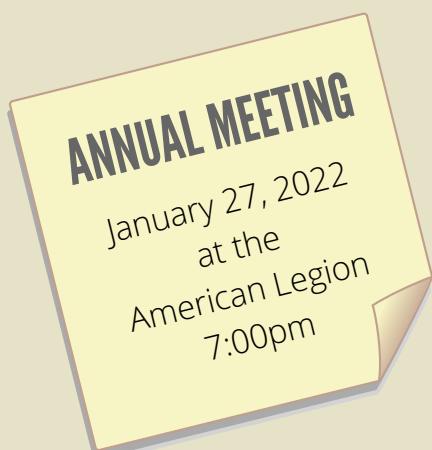
I have a device called an "I-Target". It uses an app you download to your smart phone to record the position of a beam from a "laser cartridge". It uses the phones camera to capture the positions of your hits, and will keep them until you clear it. You insert the cartridge in your chamber and each time you pull the trigger, the striker activates the laser beam and marks the position of your point of aim on the target. It comes with an 8" X 11" target, but you can use a standard size IDPA target and adjust the distance between your phone and the target. I'm sure that by now there are much more advanced systems that incorporate a timer system to measure your time from start signal to first hit as well as split times between shots. The laser cartridge itself is worth having for dry fire practice. I think I paid about \$20 for mine 8 years ago, you just buy one for your 9mm, 40 S&W, 45ACP or whatever you have. The back of the cartridge has no rim so it will not be ejected every time you rack the slide to reset your trigger. As a bonus, it will make it impossible for anyone to accidentally load a live round during practice. When you are done you just use a wood pencil or other non-marring tool that fits down the bore and press the "laser bullet" back out of the chamber.

If you can afford it, this is a good time to attend a good shooting class in a warmer climate, I hear Texas is nice this time of year. But seriously, there are good training classes going on somewhere that is warmer or in a large indoor facility. If you can swing it, that is a great experience. To bring your blood pressure down on a cold, snowy winter day what better way than sitting in front of the fireplace with a good book. Here are a few of my recommendations:

The Gift of Fear (Gavin De Becker). First published in 1999 but still completely relevant to men and women. Women particularly can benefit from it as they develop a defensive mindset. *Principles of Personal Defense* (Jeff Cooper). Published in 1972 by the man referred to as the father of modern pistol craft. Mr. Cooper spells out seven principles and how to employ them to your advantage. *In the Gravest Extreme* (Massad Ayoob) was published in 1980, it is about the role of the firearm in personal protection. He wrote a second book in 2014 under the title of *Deadly Force, Understanding Your Right to Self Defense*. This is an upgraded version of the first book with a deep dive into the history of high-profile defensive shootings. If you enjoy factual and thorough research into the minds of the mass shooters and terrorist, John Giduck has written two excellent books crafted from his expertise and experience in after action investigation on those very subjects. His company, "Archangel" has done extensive reports on the September 3rd, 2004 school takeover in Beslan Russia. The book, *Terror at Beslan* is the result of thousands of hours looking into everything that happened from the initial takeover through the rescue operation. The second book, *Shooter Down* looks deep into the Virginia Tech Massacre on April 16th, 2007. If you are in or considering law enforcement, special operations, national security, or similar careers these are must read books. These are just a few good resources for defensive minded people, there are many more out there and most are available electronically. I don't see the world becoming safer and more peaceful in the near future, so take in all the knowledge you can get.

We will see you back out at the range in the spring.

Stay armed and stay safe. --Dave



Bullet Points

Constitutional Carry: Here comes the Wild West



MEMBER PROFILE

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.

Currently there are 21 States that have "Constitutional Carry" laws on the books. That means that if you are of age, and not prohibited from possessing a firearm due to criminal history or psychological issues, you are allowed to carry a concealed handgun in public for the purpose of self-defense. As these laws are proposed, they are always met with cries of "here comes the wild west"- there will be shootouts over parking spots. Yet over and over those predictions do not materialize and the fuss about "unlicensed gun carriers" fades away and life goes on without incident. The reality is the permit will not guarantee good judgment and safe gun handling. It should not take a year in law school to understand the basic premise of defensive use of lethal force. It is, "To defend yourself or another innocent person from death or serious bodily harm". Even under those circumstances you are far better off if it is possible to avoid, diffuse, or escape any circumstance that could result in your getting into the position of having to use deadly force to survive. If you are even partially responsible for the incident, you will likely face great legal repercussions.

There is a wide variety from state to state regarding requirements for the training and testing of carry permit applicants. Everything from a two-day class with a shooting test to confirm you can put a few of your shots on paper without hurting yourself or the instructor, to a three hour classroom lecture and no live fire, such as is the case in Colorado.

I would be willing to bet that you will not find a dime's worth of difference in use of lethal force cases involving permit holders, between the States. Now throw in the 21 States with Constitutional Carry, and you still won't see a measurable difference.

You will surely see "breaking news" if a CCW holder does something stupid, but you will seldom hear about the multiple times that a crime is stopped by the mere presence of a gun, regardless if it is fired or not. And you will certainly never know about all the intended assaults that never materialized because the intended victim was aware of his or her surroundings, and projected the image of a bad choice in the victim selection process.

The point is that if you choose to take the responsibility of carrying a firearm for defense of yourself and your family, it is up to you to get the education and training you need to keep yourself alive and out of jail. No class whether it be three hours or three days can make you a skilled "operator" if you're heads in the wrong place. If you don't practice regularly your skills will deteriorate and in a real-life threatening situation you will be ineffective. No training class or testing procedure thought up by politicians will make you competent, only you can do that.

So, that being said I see no problem with the concept of "Constitutional Carry". Just because I am against mandated training, I strongly recommend that you seek out and take as much training in all things related to defensive firearms use like safe gun handling, accurate shooting, less than lethal means, conflict de-escalation, use of force laws, pre-attack behavior and even emergency medical skills.



[Smith, as a new deputy in Estes Park]

Before my first assigned work day in Estes arrived, I stood outside my apartment one night and watched as

Estes PD units initiated a chase headed out of town, towards Glen Haven and I knew the District car for the Sheriff's Office was unavailable.

I remember throwing on my vest, gun belt, radio and raid jacket and diving into my ["brand new" 1990 Jeep Cherokee] to catch up. In 1991, the switchbacks on County Road 43 were not paved. I learned that piece of information a little late as I narrowly avoided becoming a human missile trying to catch up with the chase heading towards Glen Haven.

I arrived, just as the PD boys were taking the motorist into custody. They looked over their shoulders as the new guy from the SO slid to a stop and bailed out of his Jeep - earning the nickname Justin Time!



[Smith, as the top elected law enforcement official in Larimer County]

Bullet Points - Continued from page 3

The list of things you would do well to study goes on and on. That knowledge could well make a difference in the remainder of your life. Once again, it's on you, do you want to learn all that information, or take your chances?

I have been in training classes where more than half the students were law enforcement men and women. Most often they were there at their own expense and using up vacation time. That's a good indication of how serious they take it. Granted, you and I are at far less risk of ever facing a lethal force encounter, but if we do, we are not likely to have a partner to watch our back, there will be no back up coming, and you will not have body armor.

I know that a lot of firearms instructors will rage against the elimination of training mandates, but your rights under the Second Amendment do not depend on someone else's ability to make money on it. If they offer good training at a fair price, I believe the demand for training will increase as the popularity of concealed carry rises.

Perhaps we will have Constitutional Carry in Colorado someday. We almost did at one time had we not only had to deal the opposition of the anti-gun crowd but some of the state's larger firearms trainers as well. Until then, get your required training done, apply for your permit, then look around for better, diverse classes that will fill the gaps in your defensive toolbox. Read books from folks like Massad Ayoob, Tom Givens, John Farnam, Dave Grossman and other long-time experts. YouTube videos can provide a lot of good info from them and many others.

Now get out there and train.

Sheriff to Speak at Annual Meeting

Sheriff Justin Smith will be the guest speaker at the 2022 EPGAC Annual Meeting, planned for January 27th. Smith has been the top county law enforcement official since first being elected in 2010. 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. We all look forward to meeting you!



Email ideas
or concerns

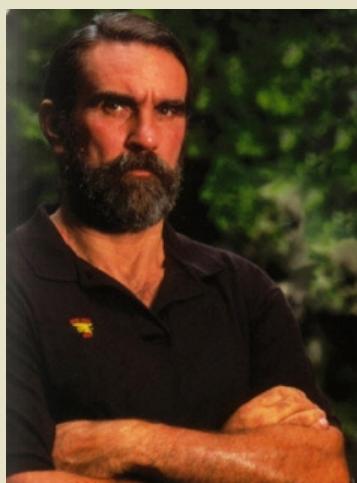
Share your Ideas in the New Year

If you have ideas for projects around the range or certain problems you feel need to be addressed, bring it up to your club officers and Board of Directors. Don't just complain! offer solutions and be willing to give some of your own time to improve the issue. For example, we had a man that joined the club early last summer. He and his son decided to take a walk around the archery range trail immediately after new member orientation. They found that the trail and its targets were in poor repair and started to make a plan to make improvements. They submitted a plan and offered to provide materials and to do the work. *That's the spirit that will keep this club thriving and assure that the facilities remain in good condition.*

Not everyone has the time to do a lot of volunteer work, but if you can, please look for opportunities to contribute. The target stands always need some love, weeds always need eating, and there is always stuff on the ground that needs to be picked up. Get certified as a Range Safety Officer (RSO) since there are opportunities every Saturday throughout the summer to help with Public Days. If you can think of a way to make picking up brass easier, tell us! There is always something that needs to be repaired and repainted, and it is very common for target trash to get blown around the property. When trash ends up on private property it risks causing conflict with the land owners and we are committed to being good stewards of this land, so pick it up when you see it.

Finally, there are short and long term volunteer positions to be filled. Find something that suits you and check it out. The more members that get involved, the easier and more enjoyable the club is for everyone. Many hands make light work. Click the email link at the left to send your thoughts.

"Demo Dick", founder of SEAL Team 6



Richard Marcinko
1940 - 2021

While the football world is mourning the death of John Madden, a well respected coach and sports commentator, not everyone is aware that on Christmas Day, we lost a true American hero. For those with an interest in American military past, you will know who I am talking about. For the casual observer, the name **Richard Marcinko** may not mean much, but as a former Navy guy, he is up there along with Daniel Boone, George Patton, and my own Dad.

Marcinko began his Navy career in Underwater Demolition Team, or UDT before the SEAL teams were created in 1962. He was commissioned as an officer in 1965, and deployed to Viet Nam in 1967. After operation Eagle Claw failed to rescue the hostages in Iran, Marcinko was task to create a special operations unit, and that was the birth of "SEAL Team 6", now known as the best of the best, and the "go to" unit when you have to do the impossible.

He is the author of several books beginning with *Rogue Warrior*. While you are waiting out the winter snows, that book will keep you occupied.

So raise a glass to a man that lived a life of extreme danger and died at the age of 81. -Dave

Please! Share what you know



Knott and Shott
got into a gunfight.

Knott was shot and
Shott was not.

Therefore it was better to be
Shott than Knott.

But what if the shot Shott shot
didn't hit Knott but Shott?

Then the shot Shott
shot shot Shott.

We began working on the upgraded Newsletter last May and we have provided interesting and informative subjects for our members, with a little humor to boot. As with everything in this club, writing original articles is totally a volunteer effort, and sometimes it is affected by real life responsibilities, or just plain burnout.

I enjoy writing the monthly "Guns 101" and "Bullet Point" articles but by no means am I a professional writer, and I do not want to be accused of "murder by boredom". If you are interested in submitting original material either periodically or one time, we can use your help. Anything that you feel would be of interest to Gun Club members. For example, a former combat medic could share the basics of emergency treatment for gunshot wounds and what supplies you may want to keep on hand for treating them. A gunsmith might contribute basic and advanced checklists to keep your arsenal in tip-top shape.

Since the addition of the 200 and 300 yard shooting lanes, there is more interest in becoming proficient at long distance. We would all benefit from the advice of members who are skilled in distance shooting. Or someone with expertise in pistol bullseye shooting can write about how to get started in that form of competition. If you would like to write about historical figures in the firearms world, or just funny stories from your childhood, you could make a valuable contribution to the monthly Newsletter.

If an idea just came to mind, we would like to hear from you. Do you see room for improvement with the newsletter? Tell me about it and share your ideas to make it better. You can contact me at davejiles@gmail.com with comments or to make a contribution in the form of a good story.