

ESTES PARK GUN AND ARCHERY CLUB

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Guns 101 -- Perspective on Gun Control

Dave Jiles, EPGAC Member

A RANT ON THE PUSH FOR "GUN CONTROL"

Once again, they are using the recent mass shootings to further the agenda of gun control, and in so doing, they fail to do anything meaningful to harden our schools, to deal with well known mental health issues, or to provide immediate and effective defense against anyone intent on attacking innocent people. Evil exists, it always will, and if you think you can legislate away its ability to harm others, you are truly delusional. The shameless use of these events to further disarm potential victims is disgusting. I would ask that anyone in a position of power who suggests more victim disarmament, dismiss their own personal security detail, and join us out here in Utopia where you have to watch out for yourself and your family. You are no better than us, call 911 and wait your turn.

Eleven teens die each day in the US because of texting while driving. A person dies every 52 minutes from alcohol related vehicle accidents. Oh what a wonderful world it would be if we could prevent those deaths, but no one is suggesting going back to "Prohibition" or making it illegal for anyone under 21 to have a cell phone. The "mass killing" problem is not about the lack of "gun safety training", it's about evil and lawlessness, not civilian gun owners.

Despite the spin, all but the terminally stupid politicians know full well the meaning and intent of the Second Amendment, and it keeps them awake at night, as well it should.

Rant Over.

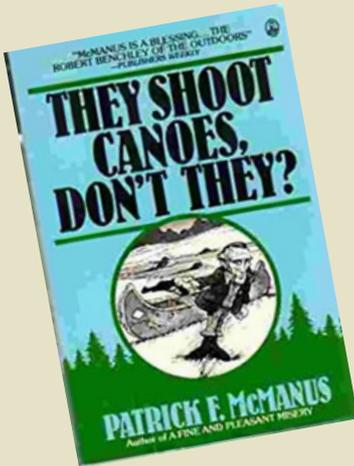
Clean Up Days a Success

Thanks to everyone that came out for the cleanup days at the outdoor range and the indoor range, lots of good work has been done. A special thanks to Steve Clark and a few others for working on clearing low hanging branches and ground cover down on the east side of the new shed. This will be a great help for fire mitigation and also makes a nice shaded area for a picnic lunch or a place for non shooters to relax, and read a book.

*Thank
you!*

Enjoy a good book

When I first returned home from my 4 year military service, I stayed at my parent's home for a short while as I tried to figure out what to do next. Hearing a strange noise downstairs, I went down to the living room to find my Dad reading his copy of Outdoor Life that had just arrived in the mail. He was chuckling nonstop, with tears of laughter on his cheeks. I asked him what was so funny, and he read the first paragraph of the story to me. I nearly fell to the floor laughing. Thus began my love of the "partially true stories" of Patrick McManus. Over the years he wrote articles in outdoor magazines, and later published books with the same and similar short stories. Just to give you a taste of the style of writing, here is the first paragraph of a story titled "Skunk Dog" from the book, "They Shoot Canoes, Don't They?"



When I was a kid, I used to beg my mother to get me a dog. "You've got a dog," she would say. "No, a real dog," I'd reply. Why, you've got Strange, and he's a real dog, more or less." Strange was mostly less. He had stopped by to cadge a free meal off of us one day and found the pickings so easy he decided to stay on. He lived with us for ten years, although as my grandmother used to say, it seemed like centuries. In all those years, he displayed not a single socially redeeming quality. If dogs were films, he'd have been X-rated.

McManus wrote stories from his childhood growing up in rural Northern Idaho. Of course there was a good deal of embellishment for effect but most characters were real people with descriptive nick names. In later years he wrote about hunting and fishing trips as an adult with friends and neighbors.

I found a "McManus" calendar that I still have from 1988 with illustrations of the different characters and predicaments from his stories, and as luck would have it, the days and dates are in sync with the 2022 calendar, so I hung it back up in my workshop.

Here are some examples of his characters as illustrated on the calendar. His older sister, "the Troll"; held a 3rd degree black belt in aggravation. Crazy Eddie Muldoon; ten year old inventor of life-threatening devices Retch Sweeny, lifelong friend who eventually would set a record for being between jobs Rancid Crabtree, my old mentor in woodcraft who served as a living lesson in the importance of knowing which way the wind was blowing.

If you like to read uplifting stories to get away from the turmoil, hate, and discontent in today's news, get a hold of about anything by Patrick McManus and sit down, relax, and have a good laugh.

Patrick McManus died on April 11, 2018 but his stories will live on. Though his stories portrayed an accurate image of his life growing up, he became a professor of English, journalism, and creative writing at East Washington State College. He also wrote a series called Sheriff Bo Tully Mysteries. I had not heard of this series until I was looking up some facts for this article- now I have something new to read.

If you enjoy reading, and can relate to the adventures like "bicycle camping", launching a homemade airplane from a barn roof, or reporting your fishing trip by saying "I caught two six inchers and some small ones", you will have hours of good entertainment.

**DON'T FORGET
TO STOCK UP ON
CANNED GOODS!**



Women's Group Report

Women's Group



July 20th

The second gathering of the Women's Group was on Wednesday June 15th at 5:00 pm. Once again there was very little turn out. The next one will be July 20th. Not being a woman, my role is simply to facilitate and set up an interesting and fun set of targets and serve as an RSO as needed. The details of what this group does, when they meet, and who makes decisions is up to the women who are involved, so if this sounds like something you would enjoy, please come out and join the fun! If you have questions or input you can contact me at davejiles@gmail.com. I will get you an answer or put you in touch with one of the ladies who have graciously offered to head up this effort. We are also working on having better communications through the club web site and/or via some type of limited chat group, so keep an eye out for pertinent information. We could use help on that as well.

There have been a lot of very active women's groups in the shooting world across the country. I would love to see EPGAC play a part in expanding women's involvement in the shooting sports.

Flashback to December 1969

The year the club was organized, plans called for a community center on TOP of the indoor range

(Dec 1969 - Estes Park Trail)



Gun Club seeks funds for new indoor range

The Estes Park Gun and Archery Club is seeking contributions for a building fund for construction of an indoor pistol and small bore rifle range.

According to Ed Gibson, a member of the Club, the range will be build south of the swimming pool at Stanley Field. The Rocky Mountain Recreation District has promised to provide \$3,000 for the building if the Club can raise a like amount in cash, donated labor and materials, he said.

Eastwood and Gavell has offered to do the excavating for the building for free.

The building will require about 62 yards of concrete,

which costs about \$18 per yard, Gibson said. The Club is hoping that residents will donate one yard.

The range will be underground, and will be about 30 by 50 feet. There will be five range stations, a target back stop and restroom facilities.

Future plans call for construction of a multi-purpose community building on top of the range.

The Gun and Archery Club was started here about eight months ago, and has over 40 members. The new range will also be available for the use of youngsters enrolled in the Optimist Club's Junior Rifle Club.

Those who wish to contribute to the fund may contact Gun Club President Norm Putt, Gibson, or Pat Dalrymple.

