

THE GEM CITY GUN CLUB BULLET TEN



Gem City Gun Club, Inc. 8865 Donlin Rd. Erie, PA
Published for the Club Members—who together comprise one of the largest and most diverse gun clubs in the tri-state area.



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GEM CITY GUN CLUB OFFICERS

PresidentBill Matrogran
 Vice PresMark Hess
 SecretaryJoe R. Paradisi
 TreasurerJoe J. Paradisi
 Membership .Joe R. Paradisi
 DirectorChris Hanes
 DirectorJim Wright
 DirectorBen Jendruczak
 DirectorJacob Hicks
 Director Scott Campbell

COMMENTARY

Bill Matrogran

WELL, ANOTHER SUMMER IS IN THE BOOKS. While it is hard to believe that the warm weather will be cooling down, this spells other opportunities to be outside. Hunting season is upon us and the steelhead are starting to run. If cold temperatures are not your thing, we have a lot of indoor activities planned. We just completed a Hunter Safety Class, graduating 37 new hunters. We are gearing up for indoor events such as Bullseye Shooting, Practical Pistol, Thursday Open Range, Friday Night Under the Lights Pistol Shooting and our Jr. Small Bore Program, to name a few.

There are many reasons to enjoy your membership and try out some of the many programs your club has to offer. Try something new, we always have room for you. Please look at the club calendar to see when the programs begin. As always, please feel free to reach out to myself or any of the Board Members with questions. As always, we thank you for your support and hope to see you soon at one of the events or on the range.

Safe Shooting, Bill

The Annual Toys for Tots Pistol Match will be held on 16 & 17 November

BULLSEYE PISTOL

Bethany Kelley

GEM CITY’S PISTOL “BULLSEYE” LEAGUE OFFICIALLY BEGAN with an open house on October 2nd to introduce any new participants and to familiarize them with the NRA sanctioned course of fire. With the beginning of a new season we’d first like to announce the new division director, Bethany Kelley, daughter of Jeff Locke. Jeff previously ran the division for MANY years and we all sincerely thank him for his contributions to this league and club.

For those unfamiliar, the NRA Bullseye course consists of thirty rounds, fired single-handed, from a distance of 50’. The course is broken down into slow, sustained, and rapid fire at an NRA approved target with traditional scoring rings. It is a challenging target that demands proper fundamentals. With that said, don’t let the challenge deter you from trying your (single) hand. We are open to a two-handed firing position and you are not mandated to have a specific target pistol. Consider it a “bring what ya’ got” league, open to rimfire and centerfire.

First round goes down range at 6pm, second firing line starts within the hour. We are currently projecting to have the second line complete by 7:30pm. This league will run through March 2025. We hope to see you there!

Bethany Kelley

bethanylkelley@gmail.com

814-602-4278

PA Constitution, Article 21: "The right of the citizens to bear arms in defense of themselves and the State shall not be questioned."

PRACTICAL PISTOL

Jim Johnson

GREETINGS FROM BRIAN AND JIM JOHNSON, CO-MATCH DIRECTORS OF THE USPSA PRACTICAL PISTOL DIVISION AT GEM CITY GUN CLUB. Our 2024 outdoor season has just wrapped up. We wish to thank all of the participants this year. We not only had great support from our dedicated competitors but we also welcomed many new shooters young and old! New shooters are always welcome! Come join the fun and experience the excitement that our monthly matches bring. Your match directors or any of the competitors are always willing to help you get started. You probably already have most of the equipment that you need to get started.

Our 2025 season will start indoors in January. Indoor matches run from January through March, the first and third weekends. Morning and afternoon squads are available with registration done on *Practiscore.com*. Our dedicated volunteer crew sets up the stages for our outdoor matches on Friday afternoons. Brian and Jim wish to thank **Denny Michali, Bill Wherle, Jim Dematteis, Nick Rekitt, Drew Smith** and our stat man, **Joe J Paradisi**. We couldn't do it without you! We always welcome new volunteers to help set up and tear down. Anyone that helps is eligible to shoot the match for free.

Exciting news for the 2025 season: We will be hosting the USPSA Western PA Section Championship! This three-day major event will be held September 5,6,7, 2025. It will consist of 10 fun and challenging stages that will encompass most of the Gem City Gun Club property. The entrance fee will include the shooting fees as well as lunch. We will need extra hands from set up to tear down and many things in between. If you are able and willing to help in any manner, please let us know. More details to follow in the upcoming months.

Brian Johnson 814-449-4160

Jim Johnson 814-897-5799

TRAP SHOOTING

Joe Lander

TRAP NEWS FROM JOE, RICK, AND DAN. Club members and guests, it's hard to believe Trap concluded on October 28th. We owe a big thank you to Ben, who stepped down this year from running trap with us, and give a shout out to Dan Yerace for stepping up to fill the void. It's been a busy year, averaging six relays every Monday evening. We have had many new members inquire about shooting trap, and we're here if you want to shoot a round with us and have some fun!

Wow! A shout out to North East Gun Club for getting a North East School Trap Team together. We are waiting to hear if Harborcreek and Iroquois are interested in starting up trap teams as well, with the help of parents.

In closing, thank you for a GREAT year on the Trap range! Also, we miss you at Trap, Mark Itle. Get well, and our prayers are with you!

Joe Lander

814-725-3354

JUNIOR RIFLE

Joe J. Paradisi

THIS YEAR'S JUNIOR RIFLE PROGRAM will begin on Monday, January 6th with registration between 5pm until 7pm. Returning shooters will must fill out the registration forms and pay the registration fee and club dues. Shooters will be assigned rifles for the 2025 season and select relays for the following week.

New shooters who did not take the NRA Firearms Instruction, Responsibility, and Safety Training (FIRSTSTEPS) that was held in October will have an opportunity to take the course in two-hour sessions. These sessions begin on January 13th and continue for two or three weeks, depending on the class size. Attendance in all sessions is required to be able to shoot in the Junior Rifle Program.

Joe Paradisi jjgun@jjgun.com or 814-873-6048

HUNTER SAFETY TRAINING

Jim Wright

The Hunter Education Team schedules two courses each year; one in the spring and one in the fall. This year the spring class was cancelled due to a power outage (a tree fell over the power lines right in front of the club). The fall class was a success. The fall class was taught by Jim Wright, Bill Matrogran, and our newest instructor, **Christy Wright**. We have scheduled the spring class for March 30th. Signups will be online within a few weeks.

Jim Wright

814-790-3994

US Constitution, Second Amendment: "... the right of the citizens to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

GEM CITY HIGH POWER RIFLE

Joe J. Paradisi



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GEM CITY X-MEN COMPETING IN THE NATIONAL MATCHES AT CAMP PERRY

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR JUNIORS WHO SHOT AT THE NATIONAL MATCHES HELD AT CAMP PERRY THIS YEAR. Returning shooters **Zack Fritz, Josie Hicks, Sabrina Smith, and Katherine Raines** participated in the Advanced Shooting Clinic and **Melanie Campbell, Grace Sweet, Robbie Doerr, and Cameron Larson** participated in the Marine Clinic. They all shot in the

President's 100 and the NTI matches along with the 2- and 6-person team matches. New juniors attending the Small Arms Firing School participated in the SAFS EIC matches and with **Max Campbell** competed in the 2- and 6-person team matches. Also attending the SAFS were Senior-Juniors **Scott Campbell** and **Keith Sweet**. In the Junior's President's 100, **Sabrina Smith** finished 6th, **Zach Fritz** finished 9th, and **Ashley Castle** finished 10th. In the NTI (Leg Match) we had two juniors pick up 10 points: **Zach Fritz** and **Ashley Castle**. In the 2-person team matches, gold medals went to **Sabrina Smith** and **Ashley Castle**, bronze went to **Zach Fritz** and **Katherine Raines**, and our at-large team finished first: **Josie Hicks** and **Kaitlyn Hutson**. In the 6-person team match our gold team finished 5th. Team members were **Josie Hicks, Sabrina Smith, Zach Fritz, Ashley Castle, Mel Campbell, and Katherine Raines**.

In the Garand matches, **Jake Hicks** finished 73rd (silver medal), **Jim Wright** 196th (bronze medal), and when joined with **Scott Campbell** (253-0x) and **Bill Matrogran** (252-2x), they amassed a team total of 1044-8x. Long Range Competitors were **Zach Fritz** and **Mike Orlandi**, with **Zack** finishing High Junior and **Mike** winning the Critchfield Memorial Match.

A special thanks to all the people who helped to keep our juniors in line this year in my absence goes to **Jim Wright, Bill Matrogran, Mark Hess, Christy Wright, Amy and Matt Wilcox, Jake Hicks, Scott Smith, Kim Raines, Scott Campbell, Keith Sweet, Doug Staaf, and Jeff Hixenbaugh**. This program would not be able to continue without their support.

At the State Service Rifle Championship, **Wyatt Wilcox** became the 2024 Junior Service Rifle State Champ for the fifth straight year. Sharing as State Champion is **Ashley Castle**. **Zach Fritz** took High Junior in Long Range Service Rifle. Also attending the State Matches were **James Farrar, Cameron Larson, Josie Hicks, Katherine Raines, Mel Campbell** and **Max Campbell**. Senior-Junior's **Jim Wright** and **Mike Orlandi** shot the 1000-yard match and Mid-range Prone.

The Solon Sportsman Club hosted a dual EIC CMP match in September. On day one, **Zach Fritz** picked up 8 more leg points, and on day two, he picked up 8 additional points. Coupled with his 10 EIC points earned at Camp Perry, that's 26 of 30 points in this year alone! **Zach** is now only 4 points away from earning the coveted Distinguished Rifleman Badge.

Everyone seemed to enjoy shooting on e-targets this year. Next year we will be running the matches a little quicker so start times will change. Congratulations to all the adults and juniors who participated in this high-power season.

Hope to see you all back in the Spring.

Joe Paradisi jjgun@jjgun.com or 814-873-6048



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WE'RE ON THE WEB
www.gemcitygunclub.org

For information on pending gun-related legislation and to sign up for automatic updates go to: www.nraila.org

For membership information go to www.gemcitygunclub.org or contact J.R. Paradisi at membership@gemcitygunclub.org

GUN SHOW

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Dave Hanes

ON SATURDAY, 19 APRIL, 2025, we are hosting our 21st Annual Gun Show. This is an annual event we hold the Saturday before Easter, so mark the date on your calendar. Show hours are **9:00 AM to 4:00 PM**. **I suggest to everyone that they get on Joe R. Paradisi's email list so we can keep you updated on Gun Show status and other important information.**

Donations of anything to do with the shooting sports, hunting, fishing, or related items will be placed for sale on the Junior Rifle Team table to help their cause. If you have anything to donate, contact **Joe Lander** at **725-3354** prior to the show. Thank you to everyone who has donated items to support this worthy effort.

Admission is still just \$4.00.

M1 GARAND TO BE RAFFLED AT 3:00 PM—SEE A BOARD MEMBER FOR TICKETS

(Tickets also available at the door)

For more Gun Show information, contact: **Doug Staaf 814-449-9672**

Thanks to all of you who have supported us in the past—we appreciate your support!

OPEN INDOOR RANGE

THE INDOOR RANGE is open to all club members and their guests (not open to the public) for handgun and .22 rifle shooting from **11 AM to 2 PM** and from **5 PM to 8 PM** every **Thursday, November thru April**.

If you are currently a Range Safety Officer, or would like to become certified as one, and would like to help out, please contact:

Jim Wright 814-790-3994

FRIDAY NIGHT UNDER THE LIGHTS

JOE PARADISI

- October thru April, the first and third Fridays
- AM squads 10 am to noon
- PM squads 6 pm till last shooter is done (around 8PM)
- Cost: \$4.00 range + \$4.00 per division (per gun) +\$2 Non-club members
- Course of Fire is two IPSIC-style challenging stages.
- This is a perfect opportunity to prepare for IPSIC shooting.

Don't forget about our annual Toys for Tots match November 16th and 17th

For more info contact: **Joe Paradisi** jjgun@jjgun.com or 814-873-6048