

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
 DirectorScott Campbell

COMMENTARY

Bill Matrogran

SPRING HAS SPRUNG AND SO HAVE OUTDOOR EVENTS and competitions at Gem City Gun Club. The first Highpower, M1, F Class and Modern/Vintage Military matches start on April 27, 2025. Practical Pistol Matches start on May 2, 2025.

Check the online calendar to see all the offerings available to you and a few other notable dates that are coming up.

The Annual Gun Show is on April 19, 2025. The gun show is a great way to get out of the house and find things that you might not find in stores or online. The show serves an important function as the proceeds support the junior programs that will perpetuate the shooting sports into the future.

Another date to keep in would be April 13, 2025. This is the range clean-up date. As you know, it takes a lot of time and resources to maintain a quality club. If you could spend a few hours helping, it would be appreciated. As they say, many hands make light work.

As mentioned above, look at the club calendar for the various offerings and range availability. Come out and enjoy the benefits of your membership. I wish you a safe spring season and hope to see you on the range.

Safe Shooting, Bill

EDITOR’S NOTE: A good friend of mine, Jack Lewis, was shot in the leg by a .308 rifle due to a **NEGLIGENT DISCHARGE** (no such thing as accidental discharge) at the Ohio Gun Collectors Association (OGCA) meeting last Saturday in Wilmington, Ohio. This is a closed gun show, called a ‘meeting,’ where only OGCA members and their guests can attend. They operate under very strict inspection and action zip-tying procedures.

But this is the one that got away.

If this **Gun Safety Rule** was followed: **Always inspect to see that the gun is unloaded**, the errant cartridge would have been discovered. Or, if the handler would have followed the **#2 Rule: Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot**, no round would ever have exited the barrel. Or how about this, **#1 Rule: Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction**, an errant bullet would have hit nothing.

I spoke with Jack two days after the incident and he was in good humor, saying, “My first dust-off since Vietnam” (helicopter medivac to civilians). But it might easily been his eulogy I was writing. **Don’t forget the Basic Rules of Gun Safety!** *-DHH*

BULLSEYE PISTOL

Bethany Kelley

GEM CITY’S “BULLSEYE” PISTOL LEAGUE has ended for the season. The final evening, April 2nd, was the 25th gathering of the league for 2024-2025. For a shooter that didn’t miss a Wednesday, that translates to an individual firing 1,500 rounds for score from the 50’ line over the last six months.

Our hope is that shooters built confidence in their abilities and are enthusiastic to continue attendance during the 2025-2026 season, which will begin in early fall (date to be determined). Closer to then, we’ll publish “open house” information for anyone interested in the challenge of single-hand shooting.

Thanks to all that participated this year. Let’s continue to keep this sport alive!

Bethany Kelleybethanylkelley@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

WELCOME TO GEM CITY GUN CLUB PRACTICAL PISTOL and our 2025 outdoor season starting the first weekend in April.

We have closed out our indoor season that had a record number of shooters and are looking forward to a very exciting summer! Many of our indoor shooters were first time practical pistol participants and they always left the range with large smiles. We hope to see them all on the outdoor ranges.

Our matches are held on Saturday and Sunday during the first Sunday weekend of each month, April through November. You may choose to attend any of the four sessions that take place over those two days. A typical match has 5 stages with an average round count of 20 shots per stage. Targets are either steel or cardboard and the participant will generally have to move to acquire different target arrays in a stage. Club members and non-members are all welcome to participate. Registration is done the week ahead of the shoot on a website called "Practiscore." Register for an account and then search for "Gem City Gun Club" and upcoming matches should appear.

Please contact Brian or Jim with questions or for further information.

The most exciting news of this year is that we are hosting the "Western PA Section by Muhlenkamp" match this September 5, 6 and 7. This is a level II major match that will bring in competitors from far and wide. All shooters are welcome to attend. The match fee includes competing on 10 stages throughout the club, a chronograph stage, free lunch and trophies to category winners.

To all club members: All club ranges will be shut down from normal usage from September 2 through September 8, 2025 for match setup and teardown.

Our normal matches set up on Friday afternoons before the match. Volunteers are welcome, needed and appreciated for setup. Anyone that helps with setup will be able to shoot for free that weekend as many times as they wish.

Make sure to attend the Shooter Appreciation weekend during our August match (free food, prizes and a reduced fee).

Don't hesitate – Come out and give it a try!

Brian Johnson 814-449-4160
Jim Johnson 814-897-5799

TRAP SHOOTING

Joe Lander

MEMBERS OF THE GEM CITY GUN CLUB: Spring is around the corner and Trap will soon begin. We can't wait to see a bunch of new faces amongst our regular attending trap shooters. Trap will run every Monday from 5 May thru the end of October, starting at 4:00 PM, and run until all the shooters are done, or published sunset.

This is also a reminder that the RIFLE RANGE WILL BE CLOSED ON THESE DAYS starting at 3:00 PM. Prices to shoot, and ammo, have not changed.

So from Dan, Rick and Joe - this is a big welcome to the 2025 Trap year!

PS: A special thank you to the high school parents who have inquired about school trap teams.

Joe Lander 814-725-3354

HUNTER SAFETY TRAINING

Jim Wright

There are two Hunter Safety classes held each year. We held our October class which was full. Our spring class this year is scheduled for March 30th. We have been successful in filling up the class roster for each class. The skill stations are part of our curriculum where students handle firearms that have been made inoperable. The students load, unload, and identify the correct ammunition for each particular firearm.

Current Hunter Safety Instructors are Jim Wright, Bill Matrogran, Ben Jendruczak, and Dave Hanes. Information is posted on the website when classes are scheduled. If you are interested in becoming an instructor to help out please see one of us instructors.

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



AS IN THE PAST THE GOAL OF THE CLUB is to attract new shooters to the sport. Everybody welcome to come out and watch or try your hand. Don't think that you must shoot fantastic scores or have the best equipment to have fun. If you don't have a rifle the club has several that are available. Also, for the promotion of the sport some of the past and present rifle team have been working the junior rifle team to help get them interested in shooting high power rifle competition.

Special Note: CMP and NRA have Approved the use of scoped AR-15 Rifles to be shot in the National Match Course of fire. Check the CMP Rules for power of scope and weight of rifle.

Our season will start April 13th with our annual range maintenance. The work party will begin at 9AM and will end when the work is completed. Our first match of the season will be on April 27th.

Check-in begins at 7:30 AM. Walk-ons will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis. The first relay will start at 8:00 AM. The second relay begins about 9:30 AM, after the completion of the first relay, and the third relay will begin around 11:00 AM.

The National Match Course of Fire will be:

- > 3 sighting shots any position in 3 minutes
- > 10 shots off hand slow fire in 10 minutes
- > 10 shots rapid fire from sitting or kneeling in 60 seconds.
- > 10 shots rapid fire prone in 70 seconds
- > 20 shots slow fire prone in 20 minutes

Match Dates:

April 27th
 May 11th & 25th
 June 8th & 22nd
 July 13th & 27th
 August 10th & 24th
 September 14th & 28th

John C Garand and Springfield matches are shot in conjunction with the National Match Course. F-Class Centerfire and Rimfire are shot from sandbags and is a 30-shot match with 10 shots fired during the offhand stage of National Match and 20 shots fired during the slow fire phase.

Special note we have started using electronic targets that worked well last season. Pre-squadding also worked quite well and we will continue the practice.

For more information, please contact:

Joe Paradisi at (814) 873-6048
 or J.R Paradisi (814) 824-5137

JUNIOR RIFLE

Joe J. Paradisi

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS TIME TO THANK THE PARENTS for involving their children in the shooting sports. We have had a steady Monday night full of kids, and our program is one of the best in the county. This program began in January and runs through until the end of April. Anyone wishing to shoot with the Juniors can meet us Mondays from 6:00 – 8:00 PM.

Our awards night is set for May 24th. The awards earned by the Juniors, too numerous to mention, ranged all the way from Pro-Marksman up through Expert and Distinguished Riflemen. In addition, several Juniors, Mel Campbell, Max Campbell, Tanner Cunningham, Cameron Larson and several others are working towards their Distinguished Experts Badges. The club has graduated 24 Distinguished Experts since 2001.

A special thanks to Amanda Wright, Junior High Power Junior and now shooting for the National Guard 'All Guard' team, has helped immensely with the training of these new shooters. We would like to thank her for serving our country and making us able to excel in the sport we love.

Also special thanks to the committee run program consisting of Jim and Chrissy Wright, Bill Matrogran, Doug Staaf, Mark Hess, Scott Campbell, Jake Hicks, Zach Frits, the Wilcox family, along with help from the Parents.

In closing, we hope that all our club members will come out and help support the Juniors by attending the Gun Show. April 19th, 2025

I want to Reach out with a special thanks to for all the donations and support for our Junior organization

Champions Choice www.champchoice.com
 White Oak Armament www.whiteoakarmament.com

Rock River Arms www.rockriverarms.com
 Starline brass company www.starlinebrass.com

and

www.thumbsupjoe.com founded in loving memory of Joseph Michael Albany Jr.

Joe Paradisi Coach & Mentor

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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 20th 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.

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

WE HAVE SEEN A SIGNIFICANT DECLINE in **Open Indoor Range** attendance. Pre-covid attendance was good, however, it has never rebounded. The board will be monitoring the open range attendance to see if this continues to be a good use of our resources.

For those enrolled in the smallbore program you are welcome to come and shoot on Thursday evening to score additional targets. Let someone know on Monday when you are here so that we can have equipment ready. We hope to see you all there!