

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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COMMENTARY

Bill Matrogran

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN! Reloading for the range is in full swing, and as we come out of winter, there's a lot to look forward to.

We are excited to share that, in just the first two months of the year, we've successfully completed an NRA Basic Pistol Class, a Concealed Carry Seminar, and a Hunter's Education Class. Since November 2025, Friday Under the Lights, Practical Pistol, Bullseye, and Open Range (indoor shooting) have all been going strong.

If you haven't visited the archery range recently, especially toward the end of archery season, you'll notice improvements. We've reoriented the range and installed new targets to enhance the experience.

Looking ahead, we're preparing for our annual Gun Show on April 4th, with proceeds supporting the Junior Rifle Team Program. We also have Range Cleanup scheduled for April 12th, beginning at 8:00 AM. We're typically finished between noon and 1:00 PM. Any support you can provide is greatly appreciated, the more helping hands we have, the quicker the work gets done. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to any board member or to me directly.

On behalf of the Board, we wish you a safe and happy spring and look forward to seeing you on the range.
Safe Shooting, Bill

The one that got away

IT'S BEEN ONE YEAR since a good friend of mine, Jack Lewis (of Lewis & Grant Auctions), was shot in the leg by an errant .308 round due to a **NEGLIGENT DISCHARGE**. The incident occurred at the Ohio Gun Collectors Association meeting in Wilmington, Ohio. This is a closed gun show, where only OGCA members and their guests can attend. They operate under very strict door inspection rules, which include zip-tying all actions.

However, one of the vendors had a loaded rifle on his table that was touched off by an unwitting customer. Vendors were not subject to the same rigid door inspection procedures.

Gun Safety Rules not followed by the handler: He failed to inspect to see that the gun was unloaded; He failed to keep his finger off the trigger; He failed to keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. The vendor, of course, was guilty of **profound stupidity**, but it emphasizes the point: **Don't assume the gun you pick up at a table was unloaded by a "responsible" person. Ask the seller to demonstrate for you that the gun you want to see is unloaded, and don't forget the Basic Rules of Gun Safety!**
-DHH

BULLSEYE PISTOL

Bethany Kelley

GCGC MEMBERS, OUR LAST NIGHT of the Bullseye Pistol season is March 18th, 2026. This closes out another year, with the 2026/2027 league starting in October.

We picked up a few new shooters over the last few seasons and hope to continue adding to the firing line, but can only do it with your interest and participation.

This is a great opportunity at \$5 for members and \$7 for nonmembers to fire an NRA sanctioned course-of-fire of 60 total rounds. This event is split between slow, sustained, and rapid-fire. It is a challenging target that tests a steady single-handed firing position. Rimfire and centerfire pistols are welcome.

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

HELLO TO OUR FELLOW MEMBERS OF GEM CITY GUN CLUB from the USPSA Practical Pistol match directors. As you are reading this, we will be completing our Indoor Winter program. It was a great season with unmatched attendance and many new competitors coming from far and wide! Thanks to all for your continued support.

As our outdoor season will soon commence, we are looking for more participants from the Gem City membership roster. If you enjoy shooting your pistol, please consider giving this division a try. Please come and check out one of our matches or contact us to see what it takes to participate. We are also looking for more members to become involved with the match setup on Friday afternoon / evening. Anyone that helps setup will enjoy shooting the match as many times as desired over the weekend for FREE!

Please Note: This year's calendar of events is slightly changed from our normal "first Sunday weekend" format, and the 'June' match is actually the last weekend in May.

2026 Schedule

April — no match due to the gun show.

July — 4th & 5th

May — 2nd & 3rd

August — 1st & 2nd

June — Last weekend in May 30th & 31st

October — 3rd & 4th

Western PA Sectional Match: September 11th—13th

Don't forget that the USPSA Western PA sectional match is a major event for our club and that the entire club will be shut down from September 8th through the 14th at 4:30.

Brian Johnson 814-449-4160

Jim Johnson 814-897-5799

TRAP SHOOTING

Joe Lander

WELCOME TO ALL MEMBERS, GUESTS AND VISITORS of the Gem City Gun Club, who happen to be reading this article. The opening season of Trap will run every Monday from **May 4th** through **October 26th**. We will begin shooting at 4:00 pm and go until sunset.

This is not just an article for our newsletter, but an invite to members, parents & kids, or teams of five who would like to shoot against each other for some fun. We have instructors who will take the time to teach you if you'd like to learn the sport. The club also has five trap shotguns to use, and 12 ga. & 20 ga. shotgun shells available to purchase for \$9.00 a box.

We are always looking for new shooters! I would like to thank our current shooters, our helpers Rick & Dan, and our Board of Directors for their support. You can find more contact information on your 2026 membership card.

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 first class this year was held on February 28th. We have been successful in filling up the class roster for each class.

Having students handle firearms that have been made inoperable is part of the class. The students load, unload, and identify the correct ammunition for each particular firearm.

Current Hunter Safety Instructors are Jim Wright, Bill Matrogran, Ben Jendruczak, Christy Wright, 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 the other 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 members from the past and present rifle team have been 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, weight of rifle, and other information.

Our season will start **April 12th** with our annual range maintenance. The work party will begin at 9 AM and will end when the work is completed. Our first match of the season will be on **April 26th**.

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 26th
May 10th & 24th
June 14th & 28th
July 12th & 26th
August 9th & 23rd
September 27th

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 5:00 – 9:00 PM.

Our awards night is set for **May 16th**. 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, one Junior, Max Campbell, is working towards his Distinguished Expert Badge. The club has graduated 25 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, a special thanks goes out to the committee run program consisting of Jim and Chrissy Wright, Bill Matrogran, Doug Staaf, Mark Hess, Scott Campbell, and Jake Hicks, 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 4th, 2026.

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 Rock River Arms www.rockriverarms.com
 White Oak Armament www.whiteoakarmament.com Starline brass company www.starlinebrass.com
 and

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

Joe Paradisi Coach & Mentor

*Gem City Gun Club, Inc.
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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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Doug Staaf

ON SATURDAY, 4 APRIL, 2026, we are hosting our 22nd 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.

NOTICE: Sales tables are sold out.

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 are also available at Shooter's Warehouse, French Creek Outdoors, Presque Isle Gun Shop and 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 J. Paradisi

- October thru April, the first and third Fridays.

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

OPEN RANGE IS ON THURSDAYS starting in November and running through April. Attendance this year is up slightly and continues to increase. The board will be monitoring the open range attendance to see if this continues to be a good use of our resources. We hope to see you all there! Also, 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.