

Updated October 2024



Gem City Gun Club Inc.

Club Background, Structure and Basic Range Rules



Gem City Gun Club Inc. was formed in 1949 by the merger of two existing gun clubs and was incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1952 as a not-for-profit corporation. We believe that we are the oldest continuing Gun Club in this area. Initially we began as a pistol club but today we have evolved into one of the largest and most comprehensive gun oriented organization in the tri-state area. Although our primary function is to provide range facilities and related support for our membership, we also provide community service functions such as range support to many area police and other government organizations, firearms training, hunter safety training, special events, and other related functions. The Club is situated on approx. 60 acres east of Erie, Pa. at 8865 Donlin Rd. in Harborcreek Township.

The Club is structured to operate with a Board of Directors under the direction of Shareholders. The membership breakdown is as follows:

- Shareholders
- Social Members
- Junior Social Members

Monthly meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the second Thursday of each month at the clubhouse located at 8865 Donlin Road.

Ranges available for membership-use only consist of:

- Large and small bore rifle (outdoor ranges: 25, 50, 75, 100 & 200 yds.)
- Trap
- Pistol [including small bore rifle] (indoor and outdoor)
- Full Automatic (outdoor)
- Archery

The following active divisions conduct organized events. Although membership is encouraged, non-members are welcome to participate in these events: Bullseye Pistol (indoors), Hunter Safety, Indoor Open Range, Junior Rifle, Practical Pistol (USPSA sanctioned), Service Rifle (NRA and CMP sanctioned), Trap

The following divisions are currently looking for division leaders. If you are interested running one of these division you can attend a monthly board meeting.

Steel Valley, Archery 3-d indoor, Archery 3-d outdoor

Our Ranges are designed & designated for specific uses. Only Gem City Gun Club Members and guests that accompany them are allowed to use these range facilities. Any member or guest not adhering to the following range rules will be severely disciplined. The Board of Directors has been authorized to extend range use privileges to specific organizations, e.g. police, military, and other government organizations. These organizations must also adhere to Gem City Gun Club range policies.

All ranges are designated with an "R" prefix. A range location map is available on request, at the club web site www.GemCityGunClub.org, and is posted on all ranges.

R1 is designated as our TRAP range. Only shotguns are allowed on this Range. (Set trap throwers alongside the existing trap house.) Do not shoot the trap house!! OR Use R8 with your trap thrower. Ensuring your shots go towards the backstop.

R2 is designated as our Rifle Range. Only rifle, shotgun slug-guns, or hunting handguns are allowed. **NO** .50 BMG are allowed on this or any other range!! The firing line is the front of the concrete pad. No shooting forward or behind of the firing line!

R3 is designated as our indoor range. Only .22 cal rimfire rifle/pistol and centerfire pistols are allowed. **NO** center fire rifles, shotguns, or cartridges exceeding 1400 FPS in velocity are allowed.

R4 thru R6 These ranges are for handgun usage only.

R7 and R8 These ranges are designated for use by police and other government organizations. When not scheduled for use by these organizations, these ranges will be open to our membership. These ranges will accommodate rifle (all calibers except .50 BMG), pistol, and automatic firearms.

R9 This range is designated solely for Archery. No firearms are allowed.

The Gem City Gun Club Inc. operates a **Cold Range**. This means that all firearms anywhere on range property, including the Firing Line, shall at all times be and remain (A) unloaded, (B) the actions open and (C) detachable magazines removed ("Rendered Safe"). In this regard, all firearms brought to the range must be Rendered Safe before passing through the gate. **THERE ARE ONLY TWO EXCEPTIONS:** (1) firearms properly present on the Firing Line during such time as the line is Hot (see Rule 2) and (2) firearms carried concealed (See Rule 3).

1. Cold Firing Line: The following conditions must be met before any person may go downrange or move in front of the firing line:

- A. All persons on and around the Firing Line have acknowledged that the line is Cold;
- B. All firearms present on the Firing Line have been Rendered Safe; (unloaded, the actions open, and detachable magazines removed).

C. No firearm shall be touched for any reason until the Firing Line has again been declared Hot this means, but is not limited to, no sight adjustments, no cleaning and no moving firearms to and from the firing line.

D. With respect to scheduled matches, the Match Director may modify the procedures set forth in this and other Rules to the extent appropriate for the shooting activity involved.

2. Hot Firing Line. When the Firing Line is Hot and, the following requirements must be met:

A. No persons are forward of the firing line.

B. Eye and ear protection are worn by persons on or around the firing line.

C. Firearms may be loaded and firing commenced;

D. All firearms which are not actually being used shall be Rendered Safe; (unloaded, the actions open, and detachable magazines removed). Only one (1) firearm may be considered in use at any one time.

E. All firearms shall be Rendered Safe; (unloaded, the actions open, and detachable magazines removed) before being removed from the firing line.

3. Concealed and Open Carry:

A. Although discouraged, concealed carry is permitted by those Members possessing a valid Pennsylvania Conceal carry permit or other valid carry license/permit recognized by the state of Pennsylvania. Concealed carry by guests is not permitted.

B. Members who have concealed carry permits will be allowed to carry Concealed at Gem City Gun Club. However concealed carry firearms will remain holstered at all times. **IF THE CLUB MEMBER IS PLANNING ON SHOOTING HIS OR HERS CARRY FIREARM IT WILL BE UNLOADED AT ALL TIMES UNTIL ON THE FIRING LINE. IT WILL BE TREATED LIKE ALL FIREARMS BROUGHT TO A COLD RANGE UNLOADED.**

C. Open carry by either Members or guests, including off-duty law enforcement officers, is not permitted; and

D. The host Member has the responsibility of ensuring that his or her guests comply with this rule.

Please adhere to the following rules. Common sense and courtesy is expected of our members when using these ranges.

ALWAYS Keep The Gun Pointed In A Safe Direction

ALWAYS Keep Your Finger Off The Trigger Until Ready To Shoot

ALWAYS Keep The Gun Unloaded Until Ready To Use

A: Close and lock the gate behind you when entering and leaving the property. This helps to ensure that the next person on the range is a member. Do not share the gate combination!

B: Our outdoor ranges are open to the membership from 8:00 AM until published sunset. **NO** shooting after published sunset!

C: **SAFETY: SAFETY: SAFETY:** must be paramount in your mind at all times.

D: Read and understand the posted range rules.

E: All firearms shall be benched with actions opened whenever anyone is down range.

F: All firearms shall be pointed down range at all times whenever you are on the firing line.

G: Wear ear and eye protection at all shooting sessions.

H: Use only proper targets. Glass, tin cans, plastics, reactive ground bouncing targets including but not limited to Jacks, Stars, Balls, Box etc. are not permitted on our ranges. The plastic barrels located on the ranges are not target backers. **Do not shoot them!!** When using tannerite, limit the charge to one half pound. We need to be mindful of our neighbors.

I: Allow members time to post or remove their targets between your shooting sessions.

J: Never fire a gun on a range that is not specially designated for it, e.g., rifles on the rifle range, pistols on the pistol range, etc.

K: Do not shoot at range buildings, animals on a range, vehicles, or other improper targets.

L: Do not shoot across adjoining ranges.

M: Set yourself a reasonable time to shoot then clear the bench for other members use; don't "hog" a position.

N: After your shooting session, clean up your targets and area. Use the receptacles provided.

O: If the trap range is in use, the rifle range cannot be used; nor can the trap range be used if the rifle range is in use.

P: Driving on the ranges is not permitted.

Q. No member, guest or lessee is permitted to be in possession or under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, illegal drug or any substance that would cause a person to not safely handle or operate firearms, bows or other mechanical devices while on any of the ranges.

These are basic range rules for Gem City Gun Club Inc. Club policies and procedures are posted at each range.

Remember, have your membership card visible when on Gem City Gun Club property. This is the only way we have of keeping nonmembers off the ranges. Always lock the range gates behind you when you enter and leave. Each year when you renew your membership you will receive that year's combination for the gates. As an active member you may have no more than 3 nonmember guests accompany you to no more than 3 range visits after which they must make the decision to join or not. If an unaccompanied nonmember is using our facility, then that person is trespassing. If you suspect that an unauthorized person is using our facility, record as many details as you can and report that person to a board member as soon as possible.

Always read the main bulletin board located outside the Club House or view our web page for scheduling and other up to-date information.

We are affiliated with the NRA, CMP, United States Practical Shooting Association, and Pa Rifle & Pistol Association. We encourage all members of Gem City Gun Club to join the National Rifle association and the Pennsylvania Rifle & Pistol Association.