

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.*

COMMENTARY

Bill Matrogran

AS WE ARE NOW OFFICIALLY INTO FALL, it's time to break out our rifles, pistols and/or bows to head out to enjoy the 2025/2026 hunting season. We recently completed a Hunters Education Class that certified close to 50 new hunters. A spring 2026 class will be set in the coming months. As you will see, the archery range has been improved, with new target frames, targets and impact areas for members to practice.

We continue to focus on the trap, rifle, pistol and archery ranges to provide usable shooting spaces and a positive shooting experience for our members. We encourage you to come out, sharpen your hunting skills, or participate in one of many varieties of shooting competition matches.

If you are worried about competing in matches, don't be. Come out to any match that interests you. Many competitors are willing to talk about their experience and provide helpful guidance. Check out the calendar to see what matches or training opportunities are coming up.

If you are interested in becoming involved with the various activities at the club, please reach out to anyone on the board of directors. Anyone of us would be happy to answer any questions. To all of those who volunteered or continue to volunteer in running the divisions, support the Junior Team, volunteering for work parties or any other support, a heartfelt THANK YOU!

Here's to wishing you all a **Happy and Safe Holiday Season**. We look forward to seeing you on the range!

Safe Shooting, Bill

*****The Annual Toys for Tots Pistol Match is on 21, 22, 23 Nov.*****

BULLSEYE PISTOL

Bethany Kelley

GEM CITY'S PISTOL "BULLSEYE" LEAGUE began on Wednesday October 15th and run every Wednesday through March 18th.

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.

The first round goes down range at 6 PM, and the second firing line starts within the hour. We hope to see you there!

Bethany

814-602-4278

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GEM CITY GUN CLUB OFFICERS

President Bill Matrogran
Vice Pres Mark Hess
Secretary Joe R. Paradisi
Treasurer Joe J. Paradisi
Membership Joe R. Paradisi
Director Chris Hanes
Director Jim Wright
Director Mike Orlandi
Director Jacob Hicks
Director Scott Campbell
Editor Dave Hanes

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 2025 outdoor season has just wrapped up. WOW! What a great season we had! All of our regular matches were well attended and we greeted many new smiling faces that have come to enjoy the sport of Practical Pistol. We wish to thank all of the participants this year.

The biggest event came in September when we hosted the Western PA Sectional match for all USPSA competitors. The match was an overwhelming success. We had 250 competitors enjoy the match over a 3 day period. Forty-eight people volunteered their time and talent to work the match. Without their support, it would not have run as successfully as it did! A great big "Thank You" goes out to all of them! Look for the Sectional match to be hosted by us again on September 11, 12, 13, 2026. Come join the fun as a competitor or a volunteer staff member.

New shooters are always welcome to join our sport! Come join the fun, excitement and experience that our monthly matches bring. Your match directors or any of the competitors are always willing to help you get started.

Our 2026 season will start indoors in January. Indoor matches run from January through March on the first and third weekends on Saturday and Sunday. 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, Mike Orlandi** 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.

On a general membership note: Much effort was spent on replacing plastic barrels that are props for the practical pistol division. Please respect them and do not use them as targets or target backers.

Brian Johnson 814-449-4160

Jim Johnson 814-897-5799

DAYTIME INDOOR RANGE

Jim Wright

OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS we have seen a decline in Open Range attendance. While pre-covid participation was good, 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. If you are currently a Range Safety Officer or would like to become certified as one and help out please contact **Jim Wright 814-790-3994**, or any board member. We hope to see you all there!

Also, for those enrolled in the Junior Rifle Program, you are welcome to come and shoot on Thursday evening to score additional targets. Let someone know on Monday when you are here for Junior Rifle so that we can have equipment ready.

See the last page for more information.

JUNIOR RIFLE

Joe J. Paradisi

THIS YEAR'S JUNIOR RIFLE PROGRAM will begin on Monday, January 5th with the registration beginning at 5 PM and running until 7 PM. Each returning shooter will need to fill out the registration form and pay the registration fee, and the club dues if not already paid.

Shooters will be assigned rifles for the 2026 season and they will select relays for the following week.

New shooters will need to register for the FIRST Steps class held the following Monday, January 12th.

Note: completion of the NRA Firearms Instruction, Responsibility and Safety Training class (FIRST Steps) is mandatory training required of participants in our Junior Rifle Program.

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

HUNTER SAFETY TRAINING

Jim Wright

THERE ARE TWO HUNTER SAFETY CLASSES held each year. We hold one in the spring and one in the fall. This fall our class was held at the end of September and opened registration to 60 seats, which is one of the largest classes we have ever scheduled, from which we graduated 49 students. 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, Dave Hanes**, and our newest instructor **Christy Wright**. Information is posted on the website when classes are scheduled. If you are interested in becoming an instructor to help out please contact one of the 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



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

Returning shooters **Zack Fritz, Mel and Max Campbell, Cameron Larson, Sabrina Smith, Katherine Raines, and James Farrar** participated in the advanced shooting clinic, and all shot in the Presidents 100 and the NTI matches along with the 2- and 6-person team matches.

One new junior, **Gianna Susi**, attended the Small Arms Firing School (SAFS) and participated in the SAFS EIC match, and also competed in the 2- and 6-person team match. Also attending the SAFS were Senior Juniors **Christine Wright** and **Scott Campbell**.

In the Presidents 100, **Amanda Wright** finished 37th while **Sabrina Smith** finished 56th and **Ashley Castle** finished 96th.

In the NTI (Leg Match) this year we had two juniors pick up their last ten points to become Distinguished Rifleman: **Zach Fritz** and **Kaitlyn Hudson**. **Ashley Castle**, who previously legged out last spring, received her award as well.

In the 2-person team matches we had Gold Medals going to **Sabrina Smith** and **Ashley Castle**. Bronze went to **Zach Fritz** and **Kaitlyn Hudson**.

Long Range Competitors were **Joe Paradisi** and **Mike Orlandi**. **Mike Orlandi** won the Kerr Memorial, Hemery Memorial, McKaken & Speaks Memorial, and the Camp Perry Palma Match, and took second in the Baesel Memorial and Viale Memorial Match, and third in the Critchfield Memorial Match.

Special thanks to all our support people helping to keep juniors in line this year in my absence: **Jim Wright, Mark Hess, Christi Wright, Scott Smith, and Scott Campbell**. This program would not be able to continue without their support.

At the State Service Rifle Championship Match, **Ashley Castle** became the 2025 Junior Service Rifle State Champ for the 2nd year.

Also attending the State Service Rifle Match were **Zack Fritz, James Farrar, Cameron Larson, Katherine Raines, Mel Campbell, and Max Campbell**. Senior Juniors included **Jim Wright, Joe Paradisi, and Mike Orlandi** shooting the 1000-yard and Mid-range Prone.

Everyone seemed to enjoy shooting on e-targets this year. Next year we will be running the matches a little quicker, so starting times will change. The first squad will begin at 8 AM, second at 9:30 AM, and the third at 11 AM. 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



*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.**

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 8 AM to noon
- PM squads 5 PM till last shooter is done (around 8 PM)
- 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 21st, 22nd, 23rd

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