



# SPC Spectator

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SYRACUSE PISTOL CLUB

MAY 2021

## WELCOME SPRING!

### PRESIDENTS CORNER — MIKE SPUCHES

Thank you to all of the members that have volunteered and have given their time and expertise to the Syracuse Pistol Club! Everything that gets done at the club is because of their efforts. I invite all members to consider how they can also get involved in continuing our growth and success.

During this time of ammo and gun shortages there are still ways to use the shooting range to improve your skills and safe firearm handling.

- Come to the range with a plan for your shooting time. You don't need to shoot a lot rounds to practice and improve.
- Work on basic marksmanship skills: Breath Control, Sight Alignment, Trigger Control, Proper Grip and Stance. The NRA offers a Basics of Pistol Shooting Online Course, a great way to start your learning.
- Practice your safe firearm handling procedures.
  - 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.

Lastly, I urge you to discover your own way of helping to grow the Syracuse Pistol Club. Talk about us with your friends that share a joy of pistol shooting, help recruit new members, help train new members, or come up with your own way! Everything big or small helps!

Happy and Safe Shooting! Mike



### THE NEWSLETTER

We hope you enjoy this issue of the SPC Spectator Newsletter. If you would like to submit an idea or article for the newsletter, please contact Linda Bender @ LBender53@gmail.com.

### MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF CONWAY

Sheriff Gene Conway has been a friend of Syracuse Pistol Club for many years. We appreciate his service and friendship. Here is an update from Sheriff Conway on Pistol License applications and amendments.

Sheriff Conway: We continue to see unprecedented interest in new applications. Our backlog is due in part to our office and the judges being shut down for a lengthy period during the early stages of the pandemic. Pistol Permits also had vacancies occur which we have since filled. The Headquarters Building remains closed to the public unless they have an appointment.

- We continue to schedule Saturday appointments.
- We have updated our webpage to make it more user friendly and searchable.
- We have added the ability to have new applicants schedule their appointment online thus freeing up a clerk from having to accomplish it over the phone.
- Amendments are still done by regular mail (to include changing permit status). This process takes a matter of days.
- The handgun safety course certificate is good for 3 years.

We ask that if new applicants are unable to keep their scheduled date and time that they notify pistol permits preferably by email or by phone so that the slot can be given to someone else. [PistolLicenseUnit@ongov.net](mailto:PistolLicenseUnit@ongov.net)

### RANGE SAFETY

We cannot talk about Firearm Safety often enough. Firearm Safety Rules apply to everyone, every time. If you see someone who is not handling their firearm safety, please help them, or notify Executive Range Officer Joe Gagliardo at 315-243-3879.

- Treat all guns as if they are always loaded.
- Never let the muzzle point at anything that you are not willing to destroy.
- Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on target and you have made the decision to shoot.
- Be sure of your target and what is behind it.

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## SPC MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Did you know that SPC has over 1,100 members?

Our SPC Membership Committee (Bob Chapman, Christine Abbatiello and John Hand) are the volunteers that keep it all in order.

SPC memberships run for a full calendar year and include an access fob. For 2021, the Membership Fee Schedule is:

- Initial Application Fee \$50 (new members only)
- SPC Full membership \$110
- SPC Associate Membership \$65 (must live in the same household as Full Member)
- Senior Membership \$65 (over 65 yrs. at time of signup)

If you know someone who would like to join the club, or if you need to renew your membership, please read on.

Membership for New Members: You must already possess a NYS pistol license. Email the SPC safety team at [safety@syracusepistolclub.net](mailto:safety@syracusepistolclub.net) to request a seat at a New Member Safety Meeting which are conducted on the third Tuesday each month. When you receive your e-mail confirmation from the Membership Coordinator, there will be a link to the on-line registration process. All new member applicants must complete the on-line forms and include payment information. Members are also required to have an NRA membership (there is a discount link provided with the e-mail confirmation). New members must attend a Safety Meeting and must pass a firearm safety check before being provided with a key fob to the club.

### Renewal Information

The month that you are due, you will receive a email to the address that the membership has on file for you. Follow the included link to make an on-line payment. If you prefer to pay by check, put payment in the lock box in the clubhouse.



Yesterday, a shop owner fiercely fought off an armed robber with his labelling gun. Police are now looking for a man and say there is a price on his head.

## SHOOTER SPOTLIGHT

Two members – one with lots of experience, and one new to the shooting sports, are in our spotlight this issue.

### FRED BRUCE



“I’m not looking for trouble,” cries Billy Bob Buckshot, waving one hand peacefully while the other hand reaches for his 1870s-style pistol—but trouble has found Buckshot. Several angry townsfolk have him right where they want him: alone and outnumbered in front of the Frisco store. They’re

looking for payback, and they know how to extract it. So, Buckshot does what any cowboy would: shoot first, and ask questions later.

The creation of a new “cowboy identity” first interested Billy Bob Buckshot in joining up with the Pathfinder Pistoleros. “We hardly know each other’s real names around the shooting range,” Buckshot said. “That keeps it fun, I think. It’s like you’re a whole new person.”

We at Syracuse Pistol Club know Billy Bob Buckshot as Fred Bruce, our top bullseye league shooter as well as rifle league member. Fred learned to shoot when he joined the Air Force at age 19. The Air Force was his training, once he learned sight alignment, he was good to go. His favorite pistol is a 1911, tried and true and comfortable to shoot. In addition to shooting in the bullseye and rifle leagues, Fred is a cowboy action shooter, N-SSA (North-South Skirmish Association) member and high-power rifle shooter.

When asked what advise Fred would have for shooters, he stated “Keep shooting hundreds of thousands of rounds to get good. Only perfect practice makes perfect. Bullseye is the basis for everything”. Thanks Fred—we agree with you. “So many guns, so little time.”



Florida Man shot over 200 times with an upholstery gun...  
Doctors say he is now fully recovered.

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## ARLENE JOHNSON



Three years ago, Arlene came to SPC as a favor to a neighbor who needed a ride to the club for a TAW (The Well Armed Woman) meeting. Although she was not experienced with handguns, she enjoyed the social aspect of the group. However it didn't take long before she was hooked on shooting and participating in events.

She became an active member in TAW (The Well Armed Woman) attending presentations and practicing skills learned from the drills. Quickly realizing that if she wanted to get better, she would need to practice more. Signing up for bullseye league gave her the opportunity to make a weekly commitment and get advice from fellow shooters on what works best for them. Not one to be held back Arlene jumped into shooting action pistol league as well with new challenges of steel, cardboard targets, movement, and stages changing weekly.

Arlene joined SPC as a senior citizen and new to pistol shooting. She is committed to making steady progress and she provides encouragement to all others, no matter their skill level. Arlene is always willing to help with events and to supply us with those farm fresh eggs so we can make baked goods!

Why do you enjoy the shooting sports? If you would like to be featured in our Shooter Spotlight, please contact Linda Bender.

## RULE REMINDER – TARGET PLACEMENT

Firearm Safety Rules are in place to prevent personal injury and property damage. Our rule reminder for this issue is:

**SAFETY RULE:** Know your target and what is beyond.

Every bullet you fire at SPC needs to impact the backstop. Rounds should not hit the ceiling, the walls, or the floor. If you cannot consistently hit your target, consider taking lessons to improve your skill level.

Target placement is important to help us reduce/eliminate errant rounds. Incorrect target placement has resulted in property damage at SPC and could have resulted in personal injury. To improve

awareness, the SPC Safety Team has placed new signage on the indoor range to remind you of allowable targets and target placement.

## NEW SIGNAGE ON INDOOR RANGE:

For Lanes 1, 2 and 11,12 (the end lanes): All Targets must be placed fully downrange. Do not place targets any closer than 50 ft when in Lanes 1, 2 & 11,12. This is to minimize damage to the walls of the range.

When using this lane:

**ALL TARGETS**

MUST BE PLACED

**FULLY DOWNRANGE**

Use lanes 3 through 10 if you want to shoot at shorter distances.

For Lanes 3 through 10: NO targets closer than 17 feet (the yellow/black line) AND use only approved or similarly sized targets at the appropriate distance. This rule is in place to minimize rounds hitting the floor or the ceiling.

**NO TARGETS CLOSER THAN 17 FEET**



17 feet



30 feet

**BULLSEYE** sized targets may be placed at any distance greater than **17** feet.

**SILHOUETTE** sized targets may be placed at any distance greater than **30** feet.

ALL ROUNDS YOU FIRE SHOULD HIT THE BACKSTOP!

## Shooting Rests/Bags

If you place a shooting rest on the shooting bench to steady your gun during sight-in, you must place your target fully downrange (50 ft) otherwise you will likely impact the ceiling causing property damage.

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## Steel Targets – Outdoor Range

Steel targets provide instant visual and audible feedback that reinforce positive shooting habits. These targets have been placed taking into consideration a recommended minimum shooting distance and secondary spatter zone. For this reason, DO NOT move steel targets on the outdoor range. DO NOT shoot the 22 plates with anything other than 22 caliber firearms. DO NOT use steel target stands as target holders.

It is the responsibility of all members to follow all safety rules all the time. Members of the Safety Team are periodically reviewing video of range activity to ensure compliance with safety rules, but if you see someone who is not handling their firearm safety, please help them, or notify Executive Range Officer Joe Gagliardo at 315-243-3879.

## SPRING/SUMMER SHOOTING LEAGUES

Leagues are a great way to shoot on a regular basis and improve your gun handling and shooting skills. Also, other members are available to mentor and share experiences. Please don't think that you're not good enough to join a league. Our leagues are open to all members – from novice to advanced shooters. If you're still not sure, come out and observe a league night, talk to other members, and then make your decision if it's something you'd like to try.

## **BULLSEYE LEAGUE**

Bullseye, or "conventional pistol" in NRA terminology, is the granddaddy of handgun competition in this country. This is a fun and challenging precision shooting sport. The precision required in bullseye shooting helps to hone your trigger control and concentration skills.

Any safe rimfire, centerfire revolver or semi-automatic pistol which is allowed at SPC may be used, but a 22 caliber semi-auto is preferred by most. The S&W Victory, S&W Model 41, Ruger Mark II, III, or IV, or High Standard are frequently seen on the line.

Traditionally, Bullseye is fired from the standing position using a one-handed stance; however the SPC league allows for a two-handed stance. There are 3 strings of fire: Slow Fire, Timed Fire, and Rapid Fire. Targets are 2'x2' set at 25 and 50 yards (on the outdoor range). You

will need 30 rounds of ammunition to complete the course of fire each week.

SPC Bullseye league runs for 18 weeks and your average is based on your score for the best 12 weeks. You don't need to be present for all 18 weeks as you can shoot ahead to make up for times you are unable to attend.

Bullseye League fee is \$20.00 for the season. Sign up is Wednesday May 5 from 5:30-6:30 League starts on Wednesday May 12. You can shoot in the morning starting at 9:15, or the evening starting at 6:15. To help you practice, there is an app for your phone called Bullseye that has all the commands and practice drills.

## **RIFLE LEAGUE**

Our Rifle League is another precision shooting sport. You will need a rimfire rifle. You can use either iron sights or a scope. The course of fire is twenty-five shots in 25 minutes at 25 yards.

Rifle League fee is \$10.00 for the season and the league occurs on Wednesday mornings at 8:00 or Wednesday nights at 5:00.

## **ACTION LEAGUE**

Action league requires a combination of speed and accuracy. Each week two new stages are presented to the competitors. These two stages may contain both cardboard and steel target and it's up to the shooter to determine the most efficient way to address the targets. Based on USPSA/IDPA style shooting, the SPC Action League is a great introduction to either of these sports.

The best type of firearm to use for this sport is an easily reloadable semi-auto pistol with 10 round magazine capacity. In addition, you will need an OWB (outside the waistband) holster for your firearm and at least 4 magazines with mag pouches. League organizers are available to help you determine the right equipment for you to get started.

Although a holster is required for this event, you cannot draw from the holster during this event until you have been certified to do so by attending a SPC Holster Safety Class and passing a practical exercise. Shooters new to the league will start from the high ready position.

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**IMPORTANT:** Drawing from a holster is not permitted at SPC unless part of an approved event.

Action Pistol League begins on Monday, May 3rd. Cost is \$2.00 per night. Time-slots are available for 5, 6 and 7 o'clock and sign up is done through "Practiscore", an on-line match registration program.

Not quite sure about joining a league. You are welcome to come out to watch and ask questions.

## TRAINING WITH A LASER FIREARM - JEFF SGARLATA

Many people wonder if using a laser firearm for training is a good way to develop firearm skills. The answer is yes! The skills developed while laser training carry over to real firearms. Laser training can help you develop fundamental skills like grip, stance, and trigger control, up to more advanced skills like drawing from concealment, mag reloads, and movement. Laser training has many benefits, but here are just a few:



Trigger time = Better Shooting: How do you become a better shooter? You practice... practice... practice! Using laser technology is a safe and economical way to do just that and more. Due to the flexible nature of laser guns and targets, you can develop skills in a safe training environment. The best way to learn is by doing, and laser training gives you the opportunity to practice regardless of weather, and in various drills that provide a level of realism that will be educational and rewarding.

The Safer Way to Shoot: Utilizing laser technology is a very safe way to train shooters of all skill levels. Shooting a firearm or practicing new skills can be very intimidating and risky (especially to new participants). Laser training offers shooters an extremely safe and non-threatening environment to learn about firearms and to develop the needed skills of shooting.

A Cost-Effective Way to Alternative Training: Shooting at the range is expensive and the rising price of

ammunition is making it difficult for new enthusiasts to discover benefits of practicing. Laser training provides a cost-effective solution while offering various training drills to keep the practice exciting and different.

Safe Movement Training: Extreme flexibility and various setup options allows for training skills which are nearly impossible on a traditional firing line or in a classroom. Your training room is only limited by your imagination. Laser training gives you the ability to practice different firing positions, firing around obstacles and to learn strategies for movement. The introduction of walls, furniture or silhouettes can provide an unparalleled opportunity to practice moving to cover, safely drawing a firearm, as well as finer skills of acquiring a target while moving from cover to cover.

## RULE REMINDER #2: KEY FOBS

Key FOBS are provided to each member allowing them access to the clubhouse and ranges during normal range hours. Key Fobs do more than provide member access. Each time you fob in, it provides us information on range usage which allows us to better plan maintenance activities. As a reminder, the following are the SPC rules pertaining to key fob usages and security:

- Members must have their membership cards on them.
- Use YOUR Key FOB to enter the Ranges.
- No loaning of FOBS, holding doors open for others, everyone shall swipe in.
- Don't allow unauthorized people on club property, including media and uninvited guests.

A complete set of SPC rules can be found on the Syracuse Pistol Club website.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

SPC Members Kelly Rounds, Mary Cate Voss, John Bianco, and Bill Bigness recently completed training to become NRA Certified Range Safety Officers! Well Done!



If you know of a SPC member who deserves recognition, please contact Linda Bender @ LBender53@gmail.com.