

# **PGC ORIENTATION**

Rev. 5/14/2019



## **General information about the Club:**

- PGC membership is limited to 800. There is a waiting list of applicants while processing to join.
- PGC is a private club for personal use by members, direct family & guests.
  - Direct family is defined as: Spouse, grandparents, parents, children, children's spouses, brothers, sisters, grandchildren.
  - Direct family and guests must be accompanied by the member.
  - A member may only bring up to two guests at a time to the range, but only one guest may shoot at a time, and must be supervised by the member at all times.
  - Each local area guest is limited to two visits. After his or her initial two visits, PGC expects him or her to become a member, however, members either on the waiting list or who have had a first vote may continue to visit the range with their sponsor until they become an official member.
  - Members may not use the club facilities for business related activities or receive compensation for its use.
- Fees: \$150 annually for dues, \$180 Annual Workday Assessment, \$750 initiation fee for new members half is due upon joining, the balance is due on the member's first anniversary. There is a one-time \$25 gate card fee.
- The range is on 88 acres of land owned by PGC, surrounded by West Rock and private property
- Rifle range has 200, 300, 600 and 800 yard target positions, with backstop berms at 200, 300 and 800 yards
  - All positions are on one controlled firing line
  - Members must be long range certified to shoot beyond 200 yards
- Pistol range has 10 pistol bays, each with backstop and side berms
  - Bays are individually controlled
  - Private property is beyond the backstop berms
- Facilities include two classrooms, two bathroom buildings, equipment shed, and CONEX boxes assigned to match directors.
- Equipment includes two tractors, mower, implements, and six golf carts for use at matches and the rifle line.
- The Club publishes the Bullseye newsletter each month.
  - On line at the club website and e-mailed monthly

- The club's website has lots of useful information, including the club calendar showing when the club match dates, grass cutting, and workdays.
- Workdays are scheduled on the calendar and members are required to work two or more days or pay a *\$90 assessment per workday*. Workday credit may be given for helping at matches, during special programs (Women on Target, etc.) and with PGC sponsored classes. Workday credits are recorded for the calendar year and are applied to the member's annual invoice the following April. New members joining the club in Oct., Nov., or Dec. will be responsible for only 1 workday for that calendar year.
- Please drive only on the roads and park in the proper areas. Never drive over firing lines. The rifle parking area has water and electricity hookups for campers. Overnight camping is allowed for match participants with prior approval of the match director.

### ***General Range Safety Rules:***

- The range property is a cold range – no loaded firearms until at a hot firing line; exceptions – Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) and civilian concealed carry, outside of matches, in accordance with SC Laws. LEOs not in uniform who open carry will display their badge near their holster.
- Range hours are from sunrise to sunset – no night shooting ever!!
- Ammunition: Tracers and incendiary rounds are prohibited everywhere. Armor piercing and steel core rounds are prohibited on steel.
- Alcoholic beverages and intoxicating drugs are prohibited on the ranges at any time. Check with your physician on prescription medications.
- Appropriate eye and ear protection is required at all times at the range when in proximity of firing lines. Normally this will be safety rated glasses and ear plugs or noise reducing ear muffs.
- Open fires are prohibited except on workdays when approved by the responsible fire authority in Dorchester County, when monitored by work crews and when completely extinguished before departure. Tents and campers should be setup away from the parking areas and firing lines.
- There is no hunting allowed on club properties at any time.
- Clean up your mess afterwards: Take down and dispose of all targets. Pick up center-fire brass, shotgun shells, targets, paper, wads, etc. Place all trash in a can or the dumpster.
- Any member that has an accident or encounters any problem at the range must report it to a club officer in writing. E-mail is considered in writing. If the accident or incident requires 911 services, call a PGC Officer immediately and then follow up in writing.
- Point out the AED, Trauma kit in the small classroom.

## ***FOUR Rules of safe firearms handling:***

- **ALWAYS** handle **EVERY** firearm as if it were loaded.
- **NEVER** point the muzzle at anything you are not willing to shoot.
- **ALWAYS** keep your finger off the trigger until you are pointed at the target.
- **ALWAYS** clearly identify your target and what is beyond.

## ***Security and Gate Operations:***

- The gate access cards issued are electronic cards that open the gate and double as your membership card
- Members must have membership cards immediately accessible (on your person, in your range bag, or other location that can be quickly accessed) when at the range.
- Dorchester County Sheriff's Department has jurisdiction on the range. If a member is approached by a deputy, the member is expected to, clear his or her firearm, make it safe, identify himself or herself and show his or her membership card and SC Identification.
- The gate access system is single pass system
  - You must swipe your gate access card on the card readers located near the gate to get in and out of the range, even if the gate is open!
  - If gate will not let you out, walk around gate to the "in" sensor and swipe your card.
  - Lost card replacement will cost \$25.00
  - If you forget your card, you will not get into the gate.
- DO NOT shoot up the props (or hang targets on them!) that match directors have placed in the bays examples: Plastic barrels, building facades, fences, wagons, wells, etc.

## ***Matches and Courses at the PGC:***

- Most weekends, we have matches: Cowboy Action SASS, Small Bore Rifle, High Power Rifle, Long Range Rifle, USPSA/IPSC, Rimfire Benchrest, Centerfire Benchrest, ICORE, IDPA, Steel Challenge, and NRA Light Rifle.
- Some special matches during the week usually for Regional Matches – see the calendar.
- Match Directors and course instructors have control of the range during matches and courses- See the match director or instructor to access and use any part of the range during matches. Follow the Match Director's or instructor's requirements, range orders, etc.
- Courses at PGC are not offered to the public, and are for members, direct family, and recommended guests only! Cost is nominal to reimburse the club for direct expenses. Instructors are strictly volunteers and are not compensated.

## ***Pistol Bay Operations***

- Each bay is independently controlled by the user occupying the bay.
- The “safe line” in each bay is established as the line behind all shooters (towards the road), but in no case shall the “safe line” be further towards the road than 10 feet into the bay (inside the berms).
- All firearms (except concealed carry by CWP holders) are cold behind the “safe line” in the bay. No “hot” concealed weapons at matches.
- NO shooting into the bay from across the road!
- Firearms may be loaded ONLY when inside the bay (inside the “safe line”) and when the person having control give the order to go hot.
- Magazines may be loaded at the safe line, but may not be placed in the magazine well until the shooter is at a hot firing line.
- No one handles or touches a firearm anywhere in the bay when people are downrange!
- Pistol bay targets:
  - Paper targets, cardboard targets, and clay pigeons (placed on the berms), must be placed on provided plywood target backers or on user provided target stands so that bullets pass through them and strike the berm. Do not place targets where the bullet can skip off the ground or go over the berm and do not hang targets on steel plate racks, trees, props or wood support posts!
  - Steel targets provided on the plate racks and steel targets set up for matches are permitted. Range users may bring their own steel targets provided that the targets are commercially made for the intended purpose, the targets deflect bullets downward to the ground and the targets are placed where bullets will strike a berm if the target is missed. Steel must be placed no closer than 15 yards from the entrance to the bay.
  - Pistol bay steel plate targets may only be shot with normal pistol caliber cartridges with a velocity less than 1500 feet per second and 22 caliber rim-fire ammo. Rifles and pistols shooting rifle cartridges and shotguns shooting slugs on steel in the pistol bays are prohibited! No steel core, armor piercing, tracer or incendiary ammunition may be used!
  - Shooters must be at least 10 yards from steel plate targets. Further is better! Injury can occur if you are closer.
  - Bricks, concrete blocks, glass bottles, plastic bottles, bowling pins, or like targets that fragment or are rounded so as to increase the possibility of ricochets, are strictly prohibited!
- Rifles may be fired in the pistol bays so long as the bullets strike the end impact berm. In fact, initial sighting in of rifles is encouraged in one of the pistol bays before shooting at the rifle range.
- Shotguns may be fired in the pistol bays, but all shot must impact a berm! No “skeet shooting” with thrown targets is allowed.

- Fully automatic weapons and simulated fully automatic firing using mechanical devices or methods may be fired only in the pistol bays, provided that all bullets strike the end impact berm and the owner is present with all required documentation.
- When shooting is concluded in your bay, you are expected to police all centerfire brass and shotgun hulls and ensure all barrels are at the sides of the bay.

### ***Rifle Line Operations***

- The rifle line is ONE firing line
  - Shooters must all follow the operational commands for HOT and COLD range.
  - Shooters on the line – please be courteous and coordinate range hot and cold with others. Don't just turn the light on or off without verbally checking with others.
  - Be especially careful to check with long range shooters as they might be downrange and out of sight.
- When the red light is off the range is hot; however you must **ALWAYS** visually confirm that no one is downrange before loading a firearm or firing.
- When the red light on the firing line is lit, the range is COLD!
  - Firearms must be unloaded, magazines removed, and either bolts pulled out or back, or in the case of semi-autos, bolt latched open. Then a chamber flag must be installed.
  - Unless approved otherwise for a specific match by the Match Director, no one handles a firearm on a cold range! No looking through scopes, no unpacking firearms, no cleaning firearms, just don't touch it!
  - Cased firearms may be taken to or brought from a vehicle when the range is cold but must remain in the CLOSED case until the range goes hot.
  - There is an audible buzzer when the red lights are turned on and every 5 minutes thereafter until the lights are turned off.
- Normally, the red light is left off when the range is not occupied. When you first arrive at the range, if the light is off, visually verify that no one is downrange anywhere, including all the way to the 800 yard backstop berm, before loading or firing.
- If the red light is on when you arrive and no one else appears to be present, before turning the red light off, positively verify that no one is downrange!
- Firing pistols with pistol caliber cartridges on the rifle line is prohibited – bullets will hit the ground before impacting the berm and perhaps skip over the berm. Rifles shooting pistol cartridges are allowed up to 200 yards provided that the cartridge has sufficient velocity to pass through the target and strike an impact berm. Pistols shooting center-fire rifle cartridges are also allowed on the rifle line.

- Targets must be placed at the proper height so that the bullet passes through the target frame and into the backstop berm.
  - 200 yard target line – staple targets on cardboard, plywood or other backer placed into the 200 yard target frames.
  - Or shoot 50 or 100 yards or meters with temporary target frames placed in PVC sockets. All targets MUST be placed at an appropriate height to ensure the bullet passes through the frame and into the 200 yard backstop berm.
  - Do not place targets on any skip berms.
- You MUST be long range certified to shoot beyond 200 yards.
- Long range shooters place targets in the frames provided at 300, 600 and 800 yards or on the berms at 300 or 800. No other target locations are authorized.
- Very large caliber, high velocity magnums, over 338 caliber, such as the 50 BMG, 416 Barrett, 408 CheyTac, 375 CheyTac, are allowed only by mutual consent of all on the firing line, and may only be fired at 200 yard targets.
- Rifle line steel targets are for use only with expanding bullets. Steel core “penetrator” and armor piercing ammo is prohibited. If your bullet sticks to a magnet, it is steel core and may not be shot at steel targets.
- Fully automatic fire, or firing using devices or methods that simulate fully automatic fire (such as “Slide Fire”, external trigger springs, etc.) is strictly prohibited on the rifle line! Fully automatic rifles may be fired on the line provided that the rifle is set to semi-automatic fire and all legally required documents are physically present with the owner.
- Rifle Line Etiquette:
  - Check in with other shooters already on the Range. Let them know what you’ll be doing.
  - Set up your equipment while the line is hot.
  - Be prepared to hang targets as soon as the line is called safe.
  - Make the line safe about every 20 min so others can hang targets.
  - Make sure everyone has time to put on eye and hearing protection before you start shooting.
  - Long Range and Handicapped shooters have priority on use of the golf carts.

### ***Environmental concerns***

- The ranges contain lead, not only in the backstop berms, but all along the firing line and in the bays. Lead comes not only from bullets, but also from primers and gasses expelled upon firing.
- Smoking, eating and drinking are discouraged on the firing lines and in bays due to the potential for lead ingestion and exposure.
- Young children especially are susceptible to problems from lead exposure
- Do not permit your children to “forage” for spent bullets in the pistol bays and backstop berms. Spent bullets often have sharp edges and the dirt is full of lead dust