

DESOTO GUN CLUB INC. MEMBER HANDBOOK

CONTACT METHODS:

Physical street address: 2347 NW Hwy 70 Arcadia, Florida 34266

Mailing address: Desoto Gun Club Inc. PO Box 1923 Arcadia, Florida 34265

Web address: www.desotogunclub.com

Please note that on the club's web pages there are "links" that provide contact capability to the Membership Secretary, the Administrator, and the Range Safety Officer. Please use such for any contact requirements you may encounter.

CLUB MISSION:

To provide SAFE ranges for it's members and guests to enjoy the safe use of firearms, and the shooting sports in general. **SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT.**

It should be noted that Desoto Gun Club Inc. maintains a shooting schedule of regular monthly matches. These matches are open to the general public to participate in as long as the necessary waivers are signed by non members and presented to the match director. Please see the club calendar at www.desotogunclub.com for this schedule. Also please note that Desoto Gun Club Inc. provides use of ranges to local law enforcement and other community use groups for scheduled events. These events will be listed on the club's calendar on a monthly basis to let all members know what events happen when, and on what ranges they can expect range closures due to these events. Members should pay attention to the club calendar to aid in avoiding scheduling conflicts.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CARD WILL NOT OPEN THE GATE:

- #1. Do NOT attempt to gain access to the ranges by ANY other means. Trespassing with a firearm is a felony.
- #2. Please be absolutely positive of your expiration date BEFORE you accuse Desoto Gun Club Inc. of any wrong doing.
- #3. Please send an email to membership@desotogunclub.com and a *volunteer* will answer you within a reasonable amount of time. Written communication will be accepted as well. Please send to PO Box address shown in the above paragraph.

Desoto Gun Club Inc. is operated with efforts of *dedicated volunteers*. Angry and derogatory phone calls or emails will not be tolerated, and could jeopardize your membership.

MEMBERSHIPS:

Memberships generally run on an annual basis. Regular membership meetings are conducted four (4) times per year. Membership meetings ALWAYS occur on the third (3rd) Sunday of the last month of every quarter. **March, June, September, and December** will be the *ONLY* months available for new member sign up as well as member renewals. Range safety orientations will be conducted on the scheduled days for a membership meeting. There will be ONLY ONE (1) range safety orientation conducted each membership day at 10:30 AM. All new members are required to attend one of these. Sponsors MUST be present during the time anybody they sponsor signs up to become a member. Desoto Gun Club Inc. asks that these times be honored by all. The board members and membership committee are comprised of people with jobs and family lives. Their efforts & time are donated on a volunteer basis and help keep Desoto Gun Club Inc. in operation. The responsibility of maintaining *acurrent* membership belongs to the individual member. Each member should monitor their membership expiration date, renewal requirements, etc. Members will NOT be notified by DGC of membership expirations.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT ALL MEMBERS OF DESOTO GUN CLUB INC. MUST BE LAWFULLY ALLOWED TO OWN AND USE FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION. ANY PERSON WHO HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF A FELONY IN THE UNITED STATES IS NOT PERMITTED ON DESOTO GUN CLUB INC. PROPERTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF USING FIREARMS.

DESOTO GUN CLUB INC. RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REFUSE OR REVOKE MEMBERSHIPS.

GUESTS:

A “guest” will be defined as ANYBODY not in possession of a CURRENT Desoto Gun Club Inc. membership. The Board of Directors has created provisions to allow guests to use DGC ranges *at a great risk to the club* overall. Insurance regulations today are such that there will be NO insurance coverage on ANY guest. Desoto Gun Club Inc. wants to maintain a friendly atmosphere at all costs and constantly strives to allow “guests”. Due to lack of insurance coverage every member must realize that as a member who brings a guest, they therefore assume ALL responsibility for that guest, including any legal fees. Member & guest **BOTH** MUST fill out the necessary waiver each time a range visit occurs in which a member has a guest with him/her. This is to assure that insurance requirements are met in full. Members who don’t take this responsibility will be at risk of a written safety violation. Blank waiver forms will always be available in the boxes on

the 50 meter action pistol range (blue building area) and should be completed and returned to the designated location.

* New members in their 1st probationary year will bring **ONLY** a spouse or child during their first year of membership, during which they are on probation. After the probation period (one year) ends, any member can bring guests that are not family members.

* Each member is limited to **no more than TWO guests per visit.**

* Every guest must be with a member at all times while on Desoto Gun Club Inc. property. **Example:** they (guests) can't be shooting on a different range than the member they came with.

* Non members who participate in regular scheduled matches **MUST** sign a waiver and be in accompaniment of the match director during the match. This person will **NOT** shoot at all after the match is over unless permitted to do so by that match director. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Please exercise extreme caution in the process of determining who you will bring as a guest. **Remember, you the member hold total liability for all guests!**

MATCH DIRECTORS ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY GUEST PARTICIPATING IN A MATCH

SPONSORSHIP:

Sponsorship is required for ANY new member. In other words, a current member, in good standings with Desoto Gun Club Inc. must be willing to assume full liability for the new member they choose to sponsor for a full one (1) year period. **In order to become a sponsor you must have a current membership for a minimum one (1) year period without a written safety violation occurring over the previous twelve (12) months.** Special considerations may be required for members wanting to become a sponsor if this member has written safety violations recorded against them. **The sponsor MUST be present when a new member joins.** There are no exceptions to this rule. If you want to act as a sponsor, then accept the responsibility that goes with that privilege.

In considering the duties associated with sponsorship, a member should have “shooting knowledge” of the person they are considering to sponsor, and must feel totally comfortable assuming responsibility for a person wishing to become a new member. Furthermore the member should ask themselves if they honestly feel that this person being considered to become a new member will be an asset or a liability to them as well as DGC.

*** As a sponsor you may be contacted by an official from Desoto Gun Club Inc. if the new member you sponsor is not able to consistently exhibit safe firearms handling skills while on the ranges.

THINK ABOUT WHO YOU CHOOSE TO SPONSOR!

SAFETY VIOLATIONS:

Written safety violations may be issued as necessary against any member who was observed committing a safety infraction. Such violations will be sent via US Mail to that member, and a copy will also be placed in that member's file. It should be noted that after the issuance of three (3) written violations a member will have their membership privileges revoked permanently and will not be eligible to rejoin Desoto Gun Club Inc.

* Any Desoto Gun Club Inc. member may contact the range safety officer or other club officials in regards to a safety violation they witnessed or were a part thereof. All inquiries & complaints will be evaluated.

* Safety infractions of a serious nature may result in immediate revocation of membership privileges.

* Safety infractions may be challenged in person, by means of attending the next regular scheduled Desoto Gun Club Board of Directors meeting.

* 1st safety violation means the member MUST attend the next regular scheduled Range Safety Orientation (membership days) or their gate access code will be turned off until such time as a Range Safety Orientation is completed. If the member ignores the violation and does not attend a Range Safety Orientation, their presence on DGC will be considered a felony trespass. Member will also lose the privilege to sponsor any new members for a one (1) year period from the date of the violation.

* 2nd safety violation requires the member in question to appear before the DGC Board of Directors to explain himself / herself, attend the next regular scheduled Range Safety Orientation, have their gate access code turned off for a ninety (90) day period from date of violation, and lose their sponsorship privilege permanently. If this member ignores these requirements and is found on DGC property their presence will be considered as a felony trespass.

* 3rd safety violation and member is banned from ANY & ALL DGC range use permanently.

RANGE OFFICERS AND CLUB OFFICIALS HAVE FINAL SAY

ACCESS:

Each Desoto Gun Club Inc. member will be issued a *personal & individual* gate accesscard .A personal code will be embedded into a DGC proximity card (starting 2014).This card will have the individual member's picture on it and **MUST** be worn while on DGC ranges/property in a manner so it can be easily seen by club officers, or other DGC members. This proximity card is **NOT** to be used by anybody other than the DGC member. If any DGC memberhas not maintained an active membership (expired), or they have committed safety violations their code may be inactive.DGC members encountering another person at the gate claiming entry difficulties should not grant them access. If any member hasa guest arrive after the member's arrival time, the member must drive/walk to the post located to the left side of the gate and use the "green open button" located thereon as a means of opening the gate for guests. Gate data is stored and can be examined for misuse. Any gate accesscardsuspected of misuse will be examined further.

* **Shooting may take place during daylight hours ONLY**(daylight hours). No exceptions!

* Gate may be locked open on various match days or membership days.

* Any Desoto Gun Club Inc. member caught in the misuse of their personal gate access will be in danger of revocation of membership.

* Gate access issues should be reported to Desoto Gun Club Inc. immediately for examination & possible correction.

* Any DGC member who misplaces or damages theirgate access card will be subject to a \$25.00 proximity card replacement fee.

WHAT TO BRING TO THE RANGES:

As a member of Desoto Gun Club Inc. you are responsible to bring any and all the items necessary for a safe shooting experience. Typically, the following items may be needed:

* Firearms & magazines, speed loaders, etc. (Firearms to be "cold" until on the firing lines)

* Correct caliber ammunition, and enough of it. DGC does **NOT** sell anything.**Absolutely no "tracer" ammo. The use of "tracer" ammo will be grounds for immediate membership revocation.**

* Eye and ear protection for everyone attending, this includes spectators as well.

* Target stands, sticks for targets that are *long enough to keep targets high enough so shots penetrate the rear berms only*, cardboard target backers, staple gun & staples or tape, targets.

Many DGC members have built a target stands, some that are weighted to prevent the wind from blowing targets stands over. The use of club property in the way of benches, etc. as weights to hold target stands down is prohibited. Any member doing so will earn a safety violation.

Many DGC members like to bring along snacks and possibly a lunch. Eating foods is permitted on club property, but we should remind everybody to PLEASE wash your hands before doing so. This will include drinking of any soft drinks as well. Lead contamination is very hazardous and should be avoided (by washing hands) at all cost.

Alcohol& Drugs,,,,,, NEVER,,,, ever. ANYBODY caught in possession of, under the influence of, or consuming alcoholic beverages or drugs while on DGC property will have their membership revoked on the spot! Desoto Gun Club Inc. will prosecute such individuals to the full extent of the law.

RANGE CLEANLINESS:

Generally the ranges are left in a “clean condition” by previous members. On occasion, you may arrive at the range only to find that an uncaring DGC member has left his / her mess for others to take care of. We ask that you take a few moments and clean up shell casings, lunch bags, soda cans and what ever else can be seen BEFORE you leave the property. Many members are using cheaper steel and aluminum cased ammo, and walking away leaving cases scattered across the concrete floors for others to trip on. This is NOT acceptable! Generally, all members & their guests should leave the ranges in a cleaner condition than you found it. Trash receptacles are placed about and available for trash and discarded ammo, ammo boxes, etc. Each member is responsible to clean up “downrange” as well. **PLEASE LEAVE THE RANGES CLEAN!**

TARGETS& RANGE RULES:

Desoto Gun Club Inc. is very permissive in regards to targets. We allow members to shoot at paper targets of all kinds & colors. The use of tin cans, plastic soda/water bottles is permitted as well. However, these “targets” MUST be positioned on the berm to insure ALL shots impact the rear berm and do NOT skip off the ground first. Remember to always check your target height BEFORE firing the first shot to make sure ALL shots will directly impact the rear berm. The use of steel targets is permitted. Steel targets MUST be placed at the manufacturer’s minimum safe distance (between target & shooter) to avoid any “splatter” or fragmentation from injuring ANY shooters on the ranges. Please remember too that some steel targets are very short in height and this will

generally mean they will have to be placed directly in the rear berms so shots will NOT “skip” off of the ground. ANYBODY caught “skipping” shots off the ground before the bullet impacts the rear berm will be issued a written safety violation!

* Aerial targets are ONLY allowed on Match Days under Match Directors supervision. Clay birds can be placed on the back berms and used as targets.

* Targets that have “movement” are acceptable. No “moving targets” under the power of engines, or radio controlled devices, drones, etc. Remember, shots must impact rear berms only.

* NO glass targets of any type. Glass & concrete are ***strictly prohibited.***

* No empty propane cylinders may be used as targets. An empty propane cylinder which contains “fumes” can harbor explosive powers equal to five (5) sticks of dynamite.

* Computers, TV, microwaves, etc. (no glass) may NOT be used as targets.

* Use EXTREME CAUTION if an “empty” aerosol can is to be used as a target. If shot at close ranges, these can propel shrapnel and metal pieces violently thus causing injury. Generally, this may not be a good idea.

* NO FRUIT OR VEGETABLES OR OTHER PERISHABLES of ANY kind can be used as targets. The use of these items causes a huge mess and leaves unsanitary conditions for the next DGC member. Be kind to other members!

* NO EXPLODING TARGETS of ANY kinds (including other live ammo),,,,,, NEVER. The use of such will be considered grounds for immediate membership revocation.

In general, we ask DGC members to exercise extreme caution when choosing targets to shoot at. If in doubt, it is better to error on the side of caution. Please clean up used targets before exiting the ranges.

RANGES AND THEIR USE:

200 meter range:

All shooting activities that take place here DEMAND that ANY & ALL targets be placed at the rear berm ONLY. ANYBODY found to be placing targets at any distance less than 200 meters will be issued a written safety violation and may have their membership revoked entirely. This range is NOT to be used for members wishing to shoot defensive type handguns, etc. Please exercise extreme caution should any vehicles and or people enter the property located directly adjoining the left side of the 200 meter range. It

would be suggested that the 200 meter range be declared “cold” if people are observed on the property to the left side of that range until they vacate entirely. ALWAYS use caution.

SHORT LINE RANGE (7 yards) :

The use of this range IS only for handguns, rifles and shotguns. Steel targets should NOT be used at such a close distance. Members should NOT over crowd this firing line. Over-crowding results in dangerous conditions.

CONTAINMENT RANGE:

This area is for the members who are pre qualified to use full automatic firearms. To be qualified a member MUST have a minimum of one (1) full year of SAFE membership, and *prove by demonstration* to DGC full automatic safety committee that they can SAFELY handle full automatic firearms. This will involve being “qualified” with each individual full automatic firearm you wish to use. NOBODY but the qualified member can shoot ANY full automatic firearm,,,, no guests, no friends, NOBODY. Qualified members MUST be in possession of, and display a special DGC badge and all necessary federal paperwork to use the full automatic area (containment range) for the purpose of firing full automatic weapons.

*** Bump-fire type stocks have been determined illegal and not permitted. Other special devices or methods of firing that act to simulate a full auto rate of fire will be considered as full automatic in the eyes of DGC. Prior qualifications will be needed for these items to qualify for use of the containment area.

DGC asks its members to refrain from using the containment area for normal shooting applications. This range was very costly to initially erect, and has been the victim of abuse, whether intentionally or not, the containment range has taken a beating.

50 YARD RANGES (2):

Both of these ranges are to be used with caution for the purpose of shooting handguns, rifles, and shotguns. ALL rounds must directly impact rear berms ONLY (no side berm

penetration). Please observe and practice all range safety rules. Remember that during a “cold line” ALL shooters are to be behind the “firing line” and no guns are to be handled on that range.

SHORT RANGE (10 YARD) :

Desoto Gun Club Inc. attempts to maintain TWO short firing line ranges. This range some of you might remember as the old “Bowling Pin Range”. This range is to be used with handguns, rifles or shotguns. All normal range safety rules apply. Shoot steel targets here at your own risk.

100 YARD RANGE:

This range is to be used for predominately rifle shooting. Any shooter feeling they possess the skills necessary to safely shoot handguns on this firing line may do so as long as ALL shots impact the rear berm ONLY. Side berm penetration is ***strictly prohibited***. Some members who have physical conditions that limit their mobility may drive their vehicles downrange to set up targets, ONLY if it is safe to do so. We ask all others to refrain from such *unless you have physical limitations that require you to do so*. Please do NOT use this range as a range to shoot close distance by going “downrange” in order to get close to the berm. There are short lines as well as both 50 yard ranges for this purpose.

*** Shooters on this line must exercise caution and remember that other members may be coming & going from the restroom nearby.

BASIC RANGE RULES & GUIDELINES:

Generally, there is to be NO shooting anywhere other than the ranges described previously. On specified “match days” the Desoto Airgunners may be shooting at pre approved locations on DGC property. DGC also host various matches on some days. Please monitor the DGC club calendar for such dates.

All firearms are to be carried to and from the firing lines in a safe manner. Firearms are to be loaded ONLY on firing lines. Please exercise EXTREME CAUTION when bringing firearms from your vehicle to the firing lines. Do NOT carry the firearm in any manner as to “sweep” other members with your muzzle. Firearms are NOT to be loaded and handled at vehicles.

All firearms are to be uncased & unpacked from range bags at the firing lines ONLY. Do NOT uncase ANY firearm behind other members. The benches & racks (behind firing lines) are for storage ONLY. When leaving the firing lines please place all firearms in cases and bags at the lines of fire, not at the benches BEHIND the firing lines. Arrive and exit the firing lines safely. If you can't do this, you don't belong at DGC!

Firearms may be carried in any holster as long as they are carried in a "safe" condition. This means chamber EMPTY, hammer down (if applicable), magazine removed (if applicable). Any member who wishes to *draw from a holster or any other methods of conceal carry*, **MUST** do so "downrange" as to avoid the possibility of "muzzle sweeping" other members & shooters. In other words, take your target(s) and yourself "downrange" to shoot at close, safe, distances. DO NOT draw from holsters while alongside other shooters on the firing lines.

** The use of single point slings wherein a rifle would hang pointed toward the shooter's feet are NOT permitted. **Muzzles can ONLY be pointed "downrange"**.

All firearms must remain pointed down range at all times whether they are loaded or unloaded. When loading and unloading DO NOT point the firearm in the air to insert magazines (AR type rifles especially).

NO TRACER ROUNDS CAN BE FIRED ANYWHERE ON DGC RANGES

All members, their guests, and ANY non shooter on the firing line while in a "hot" condition MUST have proper eye & are protection. The ONLY time these may be safely removed is during a "cold" line. Before shooting begins, EVERYBODY has to have on eye & ear protection.

When ANY member/shooter requests a "cold line" the answer by all others present is to be a *clearly audible* YES. If for some reason (e.g. loaded black powder weapon, or other extenuating conditions) the shooter can NOT create a safe condition (cold firing line) with their firearm, the shooter should issue the command "standby not cold" audible to everyone on that firing line. Cold lines must be established to allow shooters to go downrange to replace/ repair targets. To establish a "cold line" all firearms must first be safe. This means actions open, chambers empty, magazines removed, and laid on the table in such a position that the muzzle is pointed in a downrange direction. During the "cold line" all members and their guests must stay BEHIND the lines of fire. Only after everyone present is sure that all shooters are accounted for, and have returned from "downrange", and **everyone** has on eye & ear protection, may shooting begin.

Any firearms stored on the shooting tables must be in a case, or actions open, magazines removed, chambers empty, and muzzles pointed downrange ONLY. DO NOT lay out all

the guns you brought at one time in an unsafe manner just because you may shoot that gun at some point in the day.

Shooters are NOT permitted to walk away from their position on the firing lines and leave “hot” firearms lying about. The ONLY condition you lay down ANY unattended firearm in is SAFE.

Any rifles stored in the rifle racks provided are to be stored “SAFE”. Actions open, magazines removed, chambers empty, muzzles UP. If you have a rifle such as an AK47 that does not have a “lock open” feature, please use an empty shotgun hull, an empty shell case, or other device to hold the action visibly open.

All targets must be placed at correct height to assure that ALL shots impact the rear berms ONLY.

All members with guests must have properly completed the DGC waiver **BEFORE** any other activity begins. DGC members shall not bring more than **two (2)** guests on any visit. All guests must remain with the DGC member during the entire duration of the visit to DGC,,, NO EXCEPTIONS!

If any DGC member has guests arrive at DGC after the member in inside of the gate, that member will have to use the “open button” located on post, to the left side of the gate (inside) to allow the guests to enter DGC property. ANY member caught issuing their personal gate code out to unauthorized users will have their membership immediately revoked.

Any member or guest caught tampering in any manner with any of the fire extinguishing & prevention equipment located on DGC property will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

WHAT TO DO WHEN BRINGING GUESTS:

If any DGC member accepts the responsibility of guests we ask that you **FIRST** review all range & firearm safety rules with each guest **BEFORE** any shooting begins. Remember they are your responsibility. Are you doing your part?

When taking a new shooter to the range there are a variety of items that should be covered *before* they handle any firearms & ammunition. At the range it is a good idea to try to start every new shooter off with a safety discussion using a blue plastic “training handgun” or a “safe gun” meaning it is unloaded, before taking them onto a “hot” range with live firearms.

The first thing new shooters need to hear is the four rules of gun safety, and how the four rules apply to the range they are about to be on.

Rule 1: Assume all guns are always loaded. This means we don't want anyone behind the firing line with an "unloaded" gun. Keep it on the firing line unless it's in the case, because trust me, it's loaded, and no one wants anyone with a gun wandering around behind them. Approach & leave the firing lines with all firearms "safe". If a gun is NOT cased, it is to be carried, muzzle up, action open, and chamber empty, until it is placed safely into the shooter's vehicle. If you arrive at a firing line with a gun bag, please remove & replace all guns in the bag on the firing line, and not behind the firing line.

Rule 2: Don't point your gun at anything you're not willing to destroy. That means keep it pointed down range. No matter what happens the firearm should not be pointed at the floor, the roof, the shooting tables & benches, or anything besides the dirt berm. Keeping the muzzle pointed in a safe direction also applies to uncasing/casing any firearm.

Rule 3: Keep your finger off the trigger until the sights are on the target. Keep your finger indexed, parallel to the barrel, until the gun is up, sighted on a target, and you are ready to break the shot. This will also include times during loading & unloading. Generally speaking, fingers do NOT go on the trigger until we want the gun to go bang.

Rule 4: Know your target and what is beyond it. Paper doesn't stop bullets. Your bullet will travel beyond the target and *hopefully* hit the dirt berm. Keep an eye on your angle of trajectory and keep your aim aligned so the bullet will impact the REAR BERM. Shots that "skip" off the ground are NOT acceptable.

The next thing I like to do with new shooters is go over basic stance and grip. If you are going to use a semi auto style handgun, make sure thumbs are placed correctly. If a revolver is to be used, one must keep hands from the area directly in front of the cylinder. Nothing fancy, just "hold the gun safely", and "stand safely". We want everyone to have a safe and fun shooting experience. Many people are nervous and very excited so they have a difficult time focusing (and hearing) once on the range, the more instruction an individual has heard ahead of time the better.

Range use is basically on a first come first serve basis. We are asking every member to work together and be courteous to one another. NO member has the right to try and force another member to move to a different range or shoot together if they don't want to. Some members don't feel comfortable shooting with other members. Harassing behavior, aggressive behavior, or threatening behavior towards other members will not be tolerated. If it is determined by the Executive Committee that you as a member have demonstrated harassing behavior, aggressive behavior, or threatening behavior towards another member, your membership will be immediately suspended or revoked.

Remember DGC members, guests are YOUR responsibility!

SAFETY IS NOT AN OPTION, BUT RATHER A NECESSITY

