

June 2019

President's Message

Well, the 2019 skeet season is blooming as most things do in June and events are popping up all over like the flowers in our gardens. The Buckle Race is picking up steam with not one, not two, not three, but four events scheduled for this month. Bay County and Wayne County start us off, with North Macomb and Grand Blanc quickly following suit. Basically, there is a Buckle Race Event pretty much every weekend of the month so get out and get some targets in for the race. As of June 1st, the Buckle Race division leaders are: Al Magyar (Michigan Division), Edward Bowker (Huron Division), Brian Myers (Erie Division) and Preston Lanehart leading the SCTP shooters. Judging by the early numbers, the three clubs that have hosted events so far this year have all had their participation numbers for the corresponding 2018 shoots up, and that is a fantastic trend. There is no better way to bring our game back than by getting out and participating and it looks like our membership is stepping up to make this happen. Congratulations to you all and let's continue this trend for all of the events and rest of the season.

With results coming in from across the state, as shoot management, try and make sure you afford our members all of the All American and Class All American points they can and should be awarded. This has always been a soap box topic for me and it will continue to be throughout my tenure as your president and director of the MSA. We have a distinct disadvantage to all the southern states with our "short" competitive year and we need, at the club level, to help our members out. If you are using the Valerio program



it is a simple "drag and drop" to assign the correct places in your events. If you are still doing it manually it isn't much harder. At the management level if you are concerned about the expense of throwing extra targets or keeping referees around, you can settle any ties for places by long run. Even though this is not the optimum way to handle a tie, it is far better than to omit giving out the points. The NSSA "recommends" that clubs report Champ, Runner up and Third in each event along with the same in each class. The exact wording states clubs "should" report these places and the key word is should, not must. However, as I have stated we "should" try and take care of our members and participants to the best of our ability. If your club, has already been giving all the possible points to the competitors, my personal congratulations to you and your staff for your effort. Remember, all the major events across the country give out all the possible places so the "top" competitors can acquire Krieghoff All American points

for that yearly recognition. We should, as shoot chairmen and club management, take care of the 90%+ shooters with all the Class All American points that can be allotted. Sometimes not awarding the points for one event may make the difference for one of our members making a Class All American team or not! If you are a participant, mention to shoot management your concerns about the points that could be awarded; maybe they are unaware of the importance to our shooters. We participate this sport for fun and if some recognition comes along with it all the better so, why not give our everyone the best chance for that recognition.

Finally, back to upcoming events. Many shoots or clubs at one time or another fall from favor for one reason or another and we stop participating in that event or at that club. If we go out of our way to avoid a club or event, how are we as members, bettering the game in our state? For our sport to thrive, we all need to be ambassadors of our game. Skeet as a whole has been on the decline. So, let's all, one member at a time, make an effort to bring our game back. Also, if you are planning on attending an event try to call and let shoot management know that you will be participating. The same goes for if you are signed up and can't make it for one reason or another. As most shoots are run by volunteers, it makes it easier to keep them around and to avoid not having them to help. Always feel free to contact me at ricktraw@gmail.com with any ideas or comments. I look forward to seeing you all soon!

- Rick Trawinski