

MICHIGAN SKEET ASSOCIATION NEWS

November 2019

November is the big month for deer hunting in Michigan. Unfortunately, it also means just about everything in our skeet shooting world for the year has been completed. Most of our state events are finished save for a mid-week event at Rockford and Saturday events at Gun River and Genesee. Can you say more targets for the Crazy Tour? The World Shoot has been completed and some of our Michigan contingent had a little luck. In the 4X50 prelim, Tom Pavlack was 3rd in the 12 Gauge event, Jerry Kott 2nd in the 20 gauge and Andrew (don't call me Andy) Bielman was 2nd in the 28 and 3rd HOA. In the Mini World, our State Team Captain Gordon Novak was 3rd in the 20 Gauge event, while Andrew was at the top of A Class. Perennial State team member Ben Gallup was 3rd in the Wayne Mayes event. There were also many class and concurrent awards throughout the 9 days of competition and our congratulations go out to all!! Also, at the World we saw the return of Al Magyar back to shooting. I am sure this is a welcome sight for all of us here in Michigan but it also lets us know he didn't lose a step. Way to go Al!

November is also the month for our main Board meeting of the year. Obviously, by me writing this, you can see I am fortunate enough to be your President for another year. My thanks go out to the Board for having faith in me to give it another go and be the face on the Presidents Message. I want to welcome Andrew Bielman to the Board and congratulate all the others who were reelected in August. On a more somber note, I would like at this time to bid adieu to Brent



Edwards. If you did not know, Brent has relinquished his spot on our Board. There are not, and haven't been many, Board members as diligent and hard working as Brent. In my time on the Board of Directors Brent and I have collaborated on many things and I am proud to have worked with him. THANK YOU, BRENT, for all you have done for the Michigan Skeet Association. That being said, Brent assures us that he will not disappear and he will still be an integral part of the State Shoot

The first topic at the meeting was the MSA 2020 Calendar. This year we set up the calendar via email and, after a couple of months of work, it all came together really well. There is basically not a weekend from the middle of March all the way through September that there isn't an event at one of our clubs. Also, if you so desire, there are midweek events at many clubs that make it easy to get some targets in. As in 2019 we have 11 Buckle Race events preceding the State Championships. We bid

President's Message

farewell to Buckle Race events at Bay County and Genesee, but in turn welcome Kent County and Gun River into the fold. At the meeting the Board also reviewed comments received from members and, as a result, have made a change to the 2020 "Race". We will still keep the classes as they were, however, we will be adding a handicap element to each Division. In the AAA-AA Division AA shooters will receive 2 targets added to their HOA score. In the other two Divisions B will receive 6 targets, while D will receive 8. After much number crunching, we came up with these numbers to make the divisions more competitive and level the playing field. With the Buckle Race being as much of a success as it was in 2019, let's all try and make it even better in 2020.

As of this writing, there has been some good and bad news in regards to targets being thrown across the state. The total for the entire state is down a bit at this time and, I believe, the extremely wet spring Michigan had was a major contributing factor. On the other hand, Jackson County, North Ottawa and Rockford made significant upward moves. Again, I could go on and on about reasons but the bottom line is we as Board members and every member of our association have to try and do a little more to "make our sport great again". I believe Michigan shooters are some of the most dedicated in the country and I have confidence we can get it done.

As always, if you have any ideas, comments or questions please contact me at ricktraw@gmail.com – my mailbox is always open!

- Rick Trawinski