

January 2020

Well it is 2020, and it's a new year and a new decade. I hope that you all had a very Merry Christmas and your New Year will be filled with Health, Happiness and a few 100 Straights. I personally am looking forward to 2020 as I am having hip replacement surgery the end of this month and hope to find out what it means to walk around pain free again. As we all get older sometimes it seems that those Golden Years aren't quite as brilliant. Your eyes aren't quite as good, we move a little slower and it seems like those clay targets either are being thrown at twice the speed they were before or they are the size of dimes instead of trashcan lids. Ah, if we were only young again, we could have our way with this game of skeet.

Now that I have you thinking of your youth, let's move forward and think of youth in another way. Our game of registered skeet needs a shot in the arm from the Army of Youth Members that we have in our State. We have 392 Youth Members and 193 "adult" members on the books from last year. This would seem like skeet in Michigan is doing great because youth members outnumber regular members two to one. However, this is definitely not the case. Would you be surprised to know that out of the 25,400 Youth registered targets shot in the state in 2019, 15,900 were shot by just 11 individuals and, I think it would be safe to say, that the vast majority would be accounted for by around 25 members. Think of it, probably around 6% of our youth members account for all the youth targets shot in the state. Oddly enough, the 25,900 youth targets are



only about 6% of the total registered targets shot in our state. That is where my concern truly comes in. Now don't get me wrong, SCTP is getting better and growing but this doesn't seem to be translating into registered shooting, and this is going to be on the top of my list of things to accomplish in 2020. The Board and I are constantly working on ideas to attract young shooters into the game. Whether it is through the multiple scholarships that we contribute to or the newly formed committee that will be disbursing the majority of the Youth Membership dues back to the young members, this is still not enough. What the MSA needs is all of you – shooters, coaches, parents and friends – to try and get just one "new" youth member to try "registered skeet" in 2020. Remember, they don't need to shoot all the events; just one event might get another person interested in the game that we all have grown to love. Aside from the shooting, think of all the great friends that you have made throughout the

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years. Wouldn't you like to share that with others? Maybe we could even get some of the parents to give our sport a try using the Complimentary Limited Memberships for first time shooters. So, in 2020 let's all give recruiting a youth or new adult member a try. Think of it; you could be recruiting the next Paul Giambrone or Todd Bender. Skeet here in Michigan can always use more competitors so try to recruit any person you know that possibly may like getting involved. We on the Board or even at the National level can only put the incentives out there for participants to benefit from; it is the membership that also needs to sow the seeds for someone new.

Finally, let's get back to the 2020 season. I would say our season is about to heat up but as we all know that couldn't be further from the truth. January has a few events on the docket for the brave of heart or those able to withstand cold weather in Michigan. Rockford will be holding the "Rockford 50's" on January 8th, while both Gun River and Genesee will host events on the 18th. So, get out and get started on your season of chasing those ever elusive 100 straights!

Also remember that DSC is hosting a SCTP fundraising banquet on January 25th. It is a fun time with many items being raffled off, and a great dinner to boot. I know I will be there and hope to see some of you also.

As always, feel free to drop me a line at ricktraw@gmail.com with any thoughts or ideas.

- Rick Trawinski