

March 2020

Well in the immortal words of the late, great Freddie Mercury, "Another One Bites the Dust". One more month down in the winter of 2019/2020 and it works for me. I feel like I personally have been in the house for at least 2 months. Well, I guess I have been with everything that has been going on. However, there is now light at the end of the tunnel. Shoots are beginning to fill the MSA schedule as the first 2-day shoots of the year are in March. DSC will be hosting the new "March Winds Open" while Jackson County will be hosting the first "Buckle Race" event of 2020, the "Spring Break Open". There are also one day events at Rockford, Gun River and Grand Blanc. So, I guess it is time to break out the cleaning kits and stop using the K-80 as a door stop and take to our Michigan skeet fields.

Speaking of events, I see the MSA website's Shoot Flyers page is getting more populated. As a club contact try and get a flyer to us for any of your registered events. I know that it is a little more work but marketing your event may be the difference between it being a success or a less than desired result. You can also, try downloading and printing a months' worth of flyers from other venues and post them at your club. This way we can help all the MSA clubs be successful in the 2020 year. Let's all try and boost participation across Michigan which will benefit our sport in the big picture. We have to be proponents for "all" the Michigan clubs, not just our own. I challenge you to look at your average card from last year and add one venue that you have never attended. Get a squad from your club together and shoot somewhere that you have not shot in the past. If we would all do that imagine the effect it could have on registered shooting in our state. Don't



just sit back and hope things change or get better, *make* them change and get better. Remember, we have to try something different to get a different result. Besides, you may find another favorite place to shoot at other than your home club.

Last month I mentioned that our Youth Committee was working on some ideas and incentives for the new dues collected and I will try to briefly lay them out for you. First, we are going to allow SCTP shooters to include their SCTP Conference Championship and SCTP State Championship in the respective Buckle Race division for 2020. This will allow for the possibility of more participants at our STATE CHAMPIONSHIP. Secondly, the MSA will pay entry fees to our STATE CHAMPIONSHIP for SCTP shooters that have the mandatory 4 events shot prior to the State Shoot. These fees will be paid for the SCTP 12 Gauge Buckle Race Division participants only. Finally, we will be giving away two, \$150 Instructional Credits by a random drawing at the State Championship to the participating SCTP Buckle Race

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participants. These credits can be used for junior skeet lessons by any "Certified NSSA" instructor up to 1 year after receipt of the credit. They can choose their instructor and just produce a paid receipt to the MSA to receive the credit. I know at times it may seem like we are spending much time, effort and resources to draw juniors into Registered Skeet, and we are. As we all get older most of us are set with the number of events and targets we shoot in any given year and those numbers are fairly consistent year after year. Some time for most of our demographic activities like family, grandchildren, golf and fishing may even muddle the picture. This is the reason that we target the youth in our sport. They have bright eyes and big dreams and when they lock on to something, they usually dive in head first; why shouldn't it be skeet?

Last, but not least, to the back-slapping section of the newsletter. The MSA State Teams are posted on the website and I want to congratulate everyone that made one of the teams. Your dedication to and participation in our sport are what keeps our State Association one of the best in the country. That being said, your All-State top 10 honors go to: Gordon Novak (Captain), Brent Edwards, Ben Gallup, Jim Nierzwick, David Scheibel, Sean Rosencrantz, Ross Szarenski, Gerard Klink, Jim Sykes and Andrew Bielman. Congratulations to all on an award well deserved. Again, check the website for the entire list.

As always you can reach me at ricktraw@gmail.com with comments, questions or just to talk.

- Rick Trawinski