

**June 2020**

Well here it is June and there is nothing to report. In all my life I didn't ever think I would say those words about our sport. We should be talking about upcoming events, results at our shoots and renewing friendships that take a sabbatical over the winter months. Instead we see the NSSA Skeet Scoreboard for the month with just two shoots from across the entire country – a terribly sad state of affairs. At this time the only thing that I have been working on, other than making sure my Kolar still opens and closes, is the possible funding for psychological help for our shooters. I have heard from sources close to the issue that the Bielman/Kott squad is having severe withdrawal pains. Pacing and cleaning the house, climbing and painting the walls, and even running out of hulls to reload; things that I never thought would be remotely possible. Actually, in lieu of financial support, I am considering starting a Go Fund Me page where skeet shooters from all over the country can "donate" targets to Andrew and Jerry to try and help out in these trying times. Think of it, if we all just dig deep and donate just 100 targets, we may save our friends untold amounts of mental agony.

On a positive note, ranges across the state have begun reopening. In the southeast portion of the state I know Detroit Gun Club, which is hosting the Chet Crites on June 6-7, North Macomb, Grand Blanc, DSC and Genesee have begun to allow shooting at their clubs. There is a new normal out there as some clubs are allowing just members only and there are physical distancing protocols at some clubs. If you visit a club other than your own, please pay attention



to their rules and regulations. They allow you to participate in our sport at their club after not being able to get out and shoot for so long, so please be responsible and considerate to your host club. Hopefully these protocols will get us to the other side of this pandemic so we can get back to the "social" part of our sport which is a major priority to me, and I am sure all of you. I was listening to sports radio and the topic was, "What have you come to miss even more through the whole COVID situation?" It is so hard to put it into words but, for me, it is hard to imagine an event and not being able to sit down with the friends I have come to appreciate even more at all our various clubs across our state. Things like pulling up a chair and having a "cocktail"; listening to Bill Primeau's stories and laughing so hard that I cry; are the things I miss the most. To put it mildly I like to visit my friends and just happen to do some shooting while I am there.

If you are not aware, at this time, the NSSA Executive Committee is

## **President's Message**

not making any changes to the target requirements (i.e., "minimums") for their recognition programs as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. To be eligible for a national team, all members still need to shoot the required targets as in any normal year. However, they do meet via weekly phone conferences and will continue to assess the situation. The MSA Board of Directors discussed this issue regarding the Michigan teams at our spring meeting and decided to table it until a "special" meeting we will hold in July to assess the effect that the pandemic has had on our shooting year, along with modifications, if any, that may be needed for the State Shoot. As of now, our State Championship is proceeding as planned. I just want to let you all know that we are diligently working to salvage the year while keeping our members safe in the process. From my own personal perspective running the events at DSC, there are many details to attend to – registration, referees, recording of scores, dinners, right down to the use of restrooms and everything in between that need to be addressed to make it safe for everyone involved. I knew that running an event could be trying at times, but as a famous TV chef would say, "It has been kicked up a notch". I truly hope as an organization, gun club and event chairman we can figure these things out so we can get back to the sport we love.

I hope that you, all my friends and your families, are doing well and have not had an encounter with this situation. As always, I am available by phone or at [ricktraw@gmail.com](mailto:ricktraw@gmail.com).

*- Rick Trawinski*