

December 2020

Well, the Presidential election has been officially decided and the MSA is stuck with me for another year. I want to thank the Board of Directors for having faith in me to do the job again as it is my pleasure. It is now December in the year that was not. When I look back, I cannot believe some of the things that happened in 2020. Many of us still got out and went to events that were held with different rules, restrictions and results. Hopefully when we all look back at the year in review, we can be thankful that our friends and family made it through this challenge mostly unscathed and hopefully healthy. Before going any further, I would like to wish you all a MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR! I also hope that we all get the same thing under the tree this year, a healthy 2021 for you and your family and skeet events to go to that we can visit with friends as we have in the past.

At our November Board meeting we set the calendar for 2021 and it looks like most clubs are back and gearing up for the upcoming season. Check it out on the MSA Website and start planning. Remember, you can import the calendar to your computer or phone. Minimums were the big topic at the meeting and the Board made the decision to alter the requirements and teams for 2021 and 2021 alone. There was much discussion the options, from leaving the teams as they have



always been to eliminating them altogether. Finally, after reviewing copious amounts of data, the Board decided on the most fair and representative way to have our teams. The number of targets has been reduced to 500 in each gauge and 300 doubles, and the All-State Team reduced from 10 to 5 individuals. The HOA Concurrent will be filled by people qualifying in their respective categories, while the Gauge teams will be reduced to 3 members each. The Buckle Race was another topic, and the changes include reducing the number of qualifying events to 3 plus the mandatory State Shoot. Also, there is a handicap system to level the playing field within the classes. Remember, you can shoot more than 3 events, use your top 3 plus the State Championships. Because the SCTP season was cancelled, anyone who paid dues for 2020 will have them credited to 2021. Referee tests can be self-

President's Message

administered this year and your credentials are good for another 3 years. We will be getting out a packet to all members via email blast, so if you know somebody that does not do email make sure you help and get one to whoever needs it. Referees are the backbone of our sport, so renew your creds and recruit a couple more.

Now for the "My Opinion" section of the letter. Skeet has suffered this year like no other year in my lifetime. Our sport has been "struggling" as Joe Namath said in his infamous interview, for a few years and this year was the icing on the proverbial cake. So many friends like me are plain tired of all that is going on whether it is the virus or the political turmoil that we are bombarded with daily. I would like to go back to a time where my father could argue with my uncle about issues and then laugh and have a beer. However, for now I do not see that happening, so what we must do is like the unofficial Marine Corp slogan we have to "improvise, adapt and overcome". In skeet we did "improvise" we cancelled events where necessary. We did "adapt" as many shoots were rescheduled and revamped with different rules. Finally, now the most difficult, we must "overcome". Let us all work to build our game to some of its past glory. Contact me at ricktraw@gmail.com with any ideas, comments or questions.

- Rick Trawinski