

August 2023

August... the most important month in Michigan skeet shooting. The State Championships are right around the corner and all the i's are being dotted, and the t's are being crossed. A lot of planning goes into hosting any skeet event, let alone an event of this magnitude. If you are going to be attending, I hope to see you there. Stop me and say "Hi", as I am sure I will be running from one end of Detroit Gun Club to the other. Also, if you see Trish and Brent, along with any of the other Board members, thank them for all their efforts; I know I greatly appreciate all they are constantly doing.

As much as August is the most important month of our event year, sadly it is also the beginning of the end of the "Michigan" skeet season. The weekend events only encompass two weekends in the month with the Hannaford at Detroit Sportsmen's Congress and the Yooper Open at Negaunee kicking the month off. For all you Buckle Race participants, the Hannaford is your last chance to acquire the requisite number before the mandatory State Championships. The State Championships is the only other weekend event in the state in August so, as you can see, the activity is definitely slowing down. Midweek events are still at Rockford, North Ottawa, and DSC.

Sadly, in July, we saw the cancellation of the Delta Open; a shoot that has been held for over



60 years. I can only hope that this is not a harbinger of what's to come for our sport. I know I have said it before, but everyone should get involved with the events at their respective clubs. We all want to go out and participate in events but, if we constantly leave the running of the events to a chosen few, those chosen few are going to get burnt out one day and then who will be left to run the events? With the prices of everything on the rise, clubs need to keep their costs down and what is needed are volunteers. We all need to step up and be part of the sport, not just a participant. I am sure the current event management will appreciate anything that you can do to help.

Over the last weekend in July, I visited Bluewater Sportsman's Association for their inaugural event the "Bluewater 200" and, in my opinion, it was a rousing success. They probably had in the

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area of 25 participants a few of which were members who got into registered shooting because of the new MSA Skeet League. One of the participants actually got their hat shot. After speaking with event management, they may event consider dipping their toes into a 4-gun event next year. From my contact with KCCL, their event was also a big success. Kudos go out to the new management for diving into the deep end of the pool and making it work! That is what our sport needs to keep it going.

In closing, this time of year always seems to come too quickly. It seems like we just got started with the skeet season here in Michigan and now football is coming, which means skeet is drawing to a close. There are only a handful of Michigan events left in the year, but it also means the start of other seasons for all of our residents. I guess it is the natural progression of things; beginnings and endings. Hopefully I will see you at a few of our remaining events, because I do love shooting in the fall.

I will leave you with this thought... Remember, new ideas are good ideas, so let's all try and keep our sport growing with new ideas. You can always reach me at ricktraw@gmail.com.

- Rick Trawinski