

**October 2023**

October, the beginning of the end of the skeet season in Michigan. Some Michiganders are in Texas giving it their best at the World Skeet Championships, while others are here maintaining the home front. Hmmm, sounds just like World War II when some of us went off to fight while others ensured the country (Michigan Skeet) is still taken care of. Being that it is the proverbial beginning to the end, there are only a few events on the docket for participants to get out and get some fall shooting in, both of which fall on the same weekend, October 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> – Rockford is hosting their 4X50 while DSC is hosting the Trick or Treat Open. Also, DSC has “Targets by Appointment” in October for anyone who may need targets to get their minimums. Just contact the respective clubs and I am sure they will accommodate you in any way possible. On a competition note, the new MSA league is winding down which, in my humble opinion, has been a huge success. You can go to the website and check out the standings and hopefully consider entering it for the upcoming 2024 season. It promises to be bigger and better!

With one year ending, so to speak, another begins. Right now, clubs are submitting their schedules for the 2024 season. In so many of my messages, I have always mentioned giving back to the game that we all enjoy so



much. Talking with many of the event coordinators, volunteers is always the number one challenge on the list. When a club doesn't have help, it has to absorb the cost of paying people to do the work as in clerical staff, referees, target loaders and just general maintenance of the shoot. When this occurs, it results in higher costs for their event, and this is a battle we are all waging war on. I have seen events cancelled for reasons like that. You may ask, “What can I do?” The answer is simple: VOLUNTEER! Whether it be at your club for the weekend or even pitch in when visiting a club. You have no idea how much that will be appreciated. In the events that I run at DSC we rely heavily on volunteers. People who have planned to shoot that weekend will pull out and help make it a go for our visiting guests by refereeing and filling-in in any way they can. I have had participants want to step up and fill machines if

## **President's Message**

needed. I try not to impose, but just the fact that someone is there to help is of immeasurable benefit. Remember, a little help goes a long way. Right now, at DSC we are even trying to get our junior program more involved and give back a little to the game. We are recruiting some of our more advanced shooters to become referees. This way they learn not only to shoot with our coaches' help, but also learn what it takes to run an event. Let's face it, the people running the events now will not be doing it forever. So, let's recruit the “future” of our game so there will be a game for them to participate in.

Finally, as I mentioned, many of our MSA members are down in San Antonio and I will provide you a recap next month (you can also follow all the action at iShoots.org). I personally wish them luck in their endeavor. All in all, skeet is holding its own in this crazy world. We have to continue fighting the good fight to make it better for the shooters to come.

I am always open to ideas and comments from our members. Just as one person doesn't make up the Board of Directors. Give us YOUR ideas – you never know, it may be a big one which will have a bearing on the game for years to come. Drop me a line at [ricktraw@gmail.com](mailto:ricktraw@gmail.com) with that game changing idea.

*- Rick Trawinski*