

## August 2024

Well, it is August, and can someone explain to me where the summer went? The State Championships are around the corner and that usually is the beginning of the end of the skeet year for most of us in Michigan. Don't get me wrong, the Kasse is in September with the World Shoot following shortly after, but for many the trek around the woods for upland game such as pheasant, grouse, quail and culminating with the deer season is in the back of your minds. However, there is still time and events to be shot in the upcoming months.

August kicks off with a duo on the first weekend. One event is the Yooper Open at Negaunee Rod and Gun with the second being the Hannaford Open at DSC. By the way, the Hannaford is the last "Buckle Race" event prior to the State Championships so, if you are still looking to claim your place among the leaders, you better get yourself entered to have a chance. Mid-week events are being held at Rockford, North Ottawa and DSC, so get out and have some fun breaking more clay targets.

While on the topic of breaking some targets, the MSA League is plugging along with many of the participants turning in some pretty good scores. Check out the standings on the MSA website and see how you and your friends are doing. Remember that the league has two divisions, scratch and handicap, with equal prize



monies given out for each division. So, if you haven't given the league a try, maybe you should consider it next year. Plus, it also makes for some fun inter-club competition.

With all this being said, it is time to mention the highlight of the skeet year, THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS. Just about all the preparations – the i's have been dotted and t's have been crossed – to make this year's event one to remember are complete. All that is needed is YOU! I am sure you are all registered by now and are also bringing a new participant (hint, hint) because if you aren't planning on coming you will miss a great time. Hopefully we will see many of you there.

If you are a club representative and have had a first 100 by anyone at your club in a registered event, please get all the information to me or another board member so we can ensure they are recognized with their

## President's Message

certificate at the State Shoot.

Finally, with more and more challenges to our sport, we always need new and fresh ideas to help it move forward. It has become harder for some to participate and practice as much as they may have in the past. For most, with the lack of practice comes inconsistency; in one event you may be the king and in the next you may be the pawn. At that point you mustn't get discouraged; remember, the reason that we all shoot this sport is FOR THE ENJOYMENT! Being an Event or HOA champion is truly a short-lived pleasure, as most of us won't even remember who won in a week. But all the friends that we make can last for many years. So, take the time to introduce someone to registered skeet. If you, like myself, have made the friends that I have you will be passing that on to someone else. Also, don't be too "good" to help a new shooter at your club. Recall when you were that new shooter and the people that helped you. What I am saying is that if we are all emissaries of the game, we can continue to make it grow and prosper. Skeet needs nurturing to make it grow and we are the gardeners. So, put on those gardening gloves and dig in.

Drop me a line anytime with your questions or comments at [ricktraw@gmail.com](mailto:ricktraw@gmail.com). See you all at the STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS!

*- Rick Trawinski*