

**February 2025**

**President's Message**

Greetings All!

It would seem that after a few years of mild winters, Mother Nature decided it was time we remembered what winter can really be like! We have certainly had our fair share of snow and extremely cold weather over the past few weeks, which has mostly kept me inside and thinking of warmer days ahead. I am starting to notice the days are getting a little longer though, so at least we are headed in the right direction.

The month of February is a relatively quiet one for registered shooting in Michigan. Rockford Sportsman's Club is hosting the lone registered shoot, the Arctic Man 12ga & Doubles event, on Saturday, February 15th. In other news, Rick Trawinski will once again be organizing the MSA League, running from March through October. Information will be updated on the MSA website soon. For those who have participated in the league in the past, I hope you sign-up again; and, for those who have not done it, I encourage you to give it a shot! The league is a great way to recruit more recreational shooters into the world of registered shooting. If someone has never shot registered targets before, they qualify for free first year memberships to both the NSSA and MSA, so the costs to start the league are greatly reduced. The league offers a lot of flexibility in shooting your targets throughout the months and at the location of your choice.

Turning to my monthly reminders section, if you have not renewed your MSA Membership for 2025 yet, please print off and mail in your completed form to Kathy. This saves her a lot of headaches throughout the



year keeping track of who has not renewed yet. Additionally, the NSSA Referee certification documents for 2025 have been uploaded and posted to the MSA website. If you are due to renew your certification, or want to become a new referee, check out the packet, take your test, and submit your application. Lastly, all shoot organizers can submit their shoot flyers for posting on the MSA website to [MISkeet@comcast.net](mailto:MISkeet@comcast.net).

This past weekend I had the pleasure of attending the annual SCTP Fundraising Banquet hosted by DSC. This year's sold-out event was another great success by my observation; although I might be slightly biased as I was fortunate to have my name called a few times for some prizes. My hat goes off to all the SCTP volunteers who put in their time and effort each year to put this event on as it is no small task. The SCTP program in Michigan continues to grow each year and is a great asset to the clay target sports!

While trying to stay warm over the past several weeks, I have scratched

my shooting itch by reading old gun magazines and listening to various shooting sports podcasts. While there are not many skeet shooting specific podcasts, there are a multitude of sporting clays and shotgun shooting in general. I have found "The Dead Pair" podcast to be very informative, and while it is focused on sporting clays, they cover a lot of clay target shooting industry news as well. I have heard rumors they will be doing some skeet-focused episodes this year as well! One topic discussed in almost all their episodes is growing the shooting sports. During each episode the hosts challenge their listeners to take one new person shooting at their local gun club each month and introduce them to the sport. By doing this, even if only one or two of the new shooters get hooked, it will hopefully increase participation at local clubs and, eventually, at registered events. No one thing will bring more shooters into the fold, but by trying several different things we can perhaps get new shooters introduced to skeet and help grow our sport. With that thought, I would like to challenge you to do the same and try to bring a new shooter out to your club and introduce them to the world of clay target shooting – although it might be best to wait until the weather is slightly warmer!

Until next month, as always, if you have any questions, thoughts or ideas, please feel free to reach out to me at [ATB22890@aol.com](mailto:ATB22890@aol.com).

Take Care,

*- Andrew Bielman*