

**February 2026****President's Message****Greetings All!**

I hope everyone's 2026 is off to a great start. As we enter the month of February, Winter is certainly in full force in Michigan and across the nation, having just come off some of the coldest weather we have seen in many years, and plenty of snow to go along with it. If you are like me, you are counting the days until warmer weather returns. While Spring is still a ways off, at least daylight is increasing a few more minutes each day!

The month of February officially kicks off Skeet Season in Michigan with the year's first event scheduled for Saturday, February 21st at Rockford Sportsman's Club which is hosting The Arctic Man 12 Gauge & Doubles events. Hopefully the temps will warm up a bit by then! While waiting for warmer weather to return, I use the month of February to coordinate with my squad on which shoots we will be attending this year and start getting deposits sent out to secure spots at some of the larger shoots. Shoot flyers are starting to be posted on the MSA website so, if you are a shoot organizer and have not submitted a flyer for your event yet, please send them to Trish at MISkeet@comcast.net so they can be added. Also, if you are planning on attending an event I, once again, encourage you to reach out to the shoot organizers at least a few weeks in advance to let them know. This gives organizers an idea of how many shooters to expect so they can ensure they have enough pullers, food, etc. to host a good shoot. It also gives them confidence that it will be worthwhile holding the event. Over the last few years, several shoots around the State



have been cancelled due to lack of early sign-ups.

As a reminder, if you have not renewed your MSA Membership for 2026 yet, please print and mail in your completed form and dues to Kathy. This saves her a lot of headaches throughout the year tracking down members who have shot during the year but who have not renewed yet. A list of MSA Member dues status is posted on the Membership tab of the website if you can't recall if you renewed already. Additionally, if your NSSA Referee Certification has expired, which is good for three years, the 2026 NSSA Referee certification package will be available soon. The NSSA Rules Committee is finalizing revisions to the Referee Exam following the significant reorganization to the NSSA Rules Book for 2026. An email blast will be sent out as soon as the updates are completed and made available by NSSA.

This past weekend I once again had the pleasure of attending the annual SCTP Fundraising Banquet hosted by

Detroit Sportsmen's Congress. This year's sold-out event was another great success, by my observation. My hat goes off to all the SCTP volunteers who dedicate their time and effort each year to put this event on as it is no small task. If you have not attended before, I strongly encourage you to add it to your calendar for next year. This event supports a great cause as all monies raised stay in Michigan to benefit our SCTP shooters, and they always have some great prizes to win, too! The SCTP program in Michigan continues to grow each year and is a great asset to the clay target sports as we have seen with continued increases in participation by SCTP shooters in registered events across Michigan.

Before the shooting season starts, I always check my inventory of reloading supplies and ammo for the upcoming year. Thankfully, at present, ammo and reloading components seem to be in plentiful supply. Costs have stayed fairly flat compared to last year, but I have heard some rumblings that 2026 will see some modest increases in new shotgun ammunition prices due to commodity inflation, specifically copper. Hopefully we will not see too much impact on shotgun ammo, but it is always wise to stock up now while availability is good and before prices may go up.

Until next time, as always if you have any questions, thoughts, or ideas, please feel free to reach out to me at ATB22890@aol.com.

Take Care and Stay Warm!

*- Andrew Bielman*