April 2019

President’s Message

Well spring has finally sprung here in Michigan and boy has it been a long time coming! Jackson County has had the first Buckle Race event of 2019 and it seems to have been a success. The Springtime Open at Rockford on April 27 & 28 is the next event on the docket for the race, followed quickly in May by the Lou Raden at Detroit Gun Club. Our calendar is becoming more and more populated with mid-week and weekend shoots that are too many to mention in my letter, so keep checking the website, calendar and the flyers tab to stay up to date with the registered shoots in your area. As any organization is only equal to the sum of its parts, let’s all see if we can do “our” part to make the Buckle Race a success in its inaugural season.

If you didn’t participate in the Best of Liberty fun shoot hosted by Grand Blanc Huntsman’s Club and organized by Megan Dzbanski you missed out on a great time. The weather wasn’t all that great but it didn’t dampen the spirits of the participants, many of whom were our registered brethren. There were 97 entries in the 50-target skeet event and 56 in the 50-target sporting clays that netted the Wounded Warrior Project over $5,100. Congratulations to Megan and Grand Blanc on a job well done. If Megan and others like her are the future of our sport we, as an organization, stand on pretty firm ground.

Last month we recognized our State Team members; now we get to congratulate our ALL-AMERICANS. Michiganders on this year’s KRIEGHOFF ALL-AMERICAN Team were: Gordon Novak, Andrew Bielman, Brent Edwards, Ben Gallup, Jason Johnson, Al Magyar, Jim Nierzwick, Duane Lamely and Dick Montel. This honor is bestowed on the individuals receiving the highest point totals in the open and concurrent categories as defined by the NSSA’s rules.

Next, the CLASS ALL-AMERICAN teams. These shooters have received the highest number of points in their respective classes during the year, and Michigan is well represented. On the CLASS ALL-AMERICAN teams are: Al Magyar, Jason Johnson, Brent Edwards, Jim Nierzwick, Jim Sykes, Andrew Bielman, Dan Adam, Tom Pavlack, Ross Szareniski, Dan Hankinson, Brian Long, Jerry Kott, Breanna Gorman, Norm Rushing, Dylan Dick, Jerry Davis, Terry “Duck” Sprowl, Holly Bowker, Cory Rosencrantz, Ron Simmons, Ron Typinski, Don Povendo and Jerry Brandon. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we want to congratulate you all on a fine year of shooting.

In my opinion, recognition is one of the best ways to help grow our sport. I have always been, and will continue to be, a proponent for giving out all the possible awards, class and concurrent, at a registered shoot. This is the way our state competitors receive the recognition mentioned above and keep us all coming back for more. Participating in the Buckle Race is another form of recognition. Imagine the fun of a year-end shoot-off at the State Championships with the Buckle & prize money on the line. To me it doesn’t get much better than that! Remember we can also recognize people by sending in shoot results and an article to be posted on the MSA website. Just take a few minutes after your respective shoots and send something to Trish for her to post it for you.

All of our members want clubs to host shoots so we have somewhere to compete. The opposite side of the coin is that it takes a lot of work to put on a successful event. If your club, or even another club, is hosting a shoot take a minute to see if there is anything you can do to help. Refereeing a squad or filling a couple houses can help immensely over the course of a long weekend. We have to give back as well as receive from our game to make it better. All you have to do is stand in the shoot chairman’s shoes for a few minutes to realize how much work it takes before, during and after the event.

As always, if you have any ideas, comments or questions feel free to contact me at ricktraw@gmail.com and I will get back to you promptly. Here’s to wishing you all and Michigan skeet a great 2019.

- Rick Trawinski