President’s Message

May 2020

May is the unofficial official start of the warmer months here in the state of Michigan. It is just that for a very obvious reason; a new skeet year is not gearing up. I hope that all of you, my friends, have made it thus far without any complications from the virus and hope that continues to be the case. Being that we have all been living the movie “Groundhog Day” for the last few months, we can only hope for small changes. As I am writing some of this message, we are expecting 3 inches of snow tomorrow so maybe it is time for Christmas decorations for the weekend.

Speaking of Christmas, I think it is time for me to mention and recognize some “presents” that were handed to some of our members who made the NSSA’s Class All American Teams. Michigan was represented by 15 shooters on this year’s teams and my congratulations go out to all our members that have made a team. In Class A, we are represented by Andrew Bielman – 2nd on the First Team, Dan Adam – 2nd on the Second Team, while father and son Ed and Edward Bowker received Honorable Mention in Class A. On the Class B Team, we have 3 members on the First Team. Jerry (Santa Claus) Kott comes in second place while Brian Long and Dan Hankinson come in 6th and 7th respectively. Receiving Class B Honorable Mention was one of our retired military (Thank You for your service to all our military members), Mike Self. Moving on to Class C, we have 5 members representing the MSA. Numbers 6 & 7 on the First Team are Ryan Cordes and Patrick Fowler while Jim Gingrich, Holly Bowker and Ron Galloway received Class C Honorable Mention. Finishing up with Class D we have a name that keeps popping up. NSSA All American Rookie, MSA Rookie of the Year and now 3rd on the Class D Team, Jimmy Grimes. Rounding out our MSA membership is Ron Simmons receiving Class D Honorable Mention. Now, after listing all our members receiving honors, I notice four of them are from one family in one way or another. Think of that over 25% of all the shooters receiving honors travel and stay together. After watching “these” members receive countless awards at the State Championships for years, I think as President, if the familial trend continues, I may have to authorize testing for performance enhancing substances in the Bowker’s snacks, “beverages” and water. Congratulations again from myself and the Board of Directors to everyone making a NSSA Class All American Team.

Along with the Class All Americans, we also have NSSA/SCTP All Americans to receive kudos. In the Sub Junior ranks there are James Palma, Griffin Howe, Olivia Krauss and Jenna Tenor. The Junior division has Soren Hanson, Jadon Butler and Jake Lottermann. In the Collegiate category we have Greg Reinke, Jr. and Grace Culp. Finally, in the Rookie category is Connor Paulus. Our congratulations go out to all our SCTP All Americans. You are the future of our sport and we sincerely hope that you carry the banner for our state into the future.

Up until now, and in the future months, registered events have been cancelled that we all wish we could have partaken in. But the year 2020 has had, and will still have, tests and challenges along the way for us all. If you are a club representative please notify us if you have any changes in your schedule so we can share it with our members. National, as well as local, decisions on skeet events are being made daily based on what is best for our members along with all the workers and volunteers. I know this is a bitter pill for us all to swallow who want to be out there shooting and competing, but I will always maintain that I would rather err on the side of caution as our skeet demographic places over 60% in a higher risk category than to see just one of my friends sickened by this virus and know that it could have been prevented. Our game of skeet will bounce back.

As always, don’t hesitate to contact me at ricktraw@gmail.com with any questions or concerns.

- Rick Trawinski