July 2020

Well six months of the year are behind us. There has been a smattering of events so far and some members are making it back to the skeet fields. The July calendar looks a little more normal with events scheduled on weekends and some in the middle of the week. The MOTOR STATE at DGC, Teasdale @ KCCL and the COAST GUARD @ NORGC are up this month. It is still a wise idea to make sure you check with any club that you may be attending to find out if they have any last-minute changes or special “protocols” in place for you to register and participate.

We have just gotten back to shooting here in Michigan and we are already gearing up for the State Championships and, in the immortal words of Bill Murray, “Something is wrong, something is terribly wrong”. However, your Board of Directors is working on plans to make our premier event a success. We will be holding a special meeting on July 8th to make sure that all aspects of our event will be conducted in accordance with any guidelines that need to be followed while trying to keep it as close to normal as possible. It is truly a different way of planning when you must consider the health and safety of our members, as well as all the other details. On a positive note, the MSA received a $1,000 grant from the NSSA to help defray some of the cost for the State Championships. Michigan was one of five states along with New York, West Virginia, California and Wisconsin to receive the grant, which we will put to good use. So, if you have not taken the time to send in your State entry, why wait. It is available on the website or contact the Shoot Chairman at your respective club and they should be able to help you along the way. The MSA will again be giving away two free entries to first time attendees, so be sure get someone new to come and participate.

Now we come to the “My Thoughts” portion of this newsletter. In the past weeks and months, I have heard many comments from members in our state and NSSA members from different states on the impact that Covid-19 has had on our year. The question about the pandemic generally asked is, “Are we moving too fast or too slowly?” I have heard remarks that range from “too many people have drunk the KOOL-AID” to “this situation has sapped the competitive desire from me this year” and everything in between. I also have been asked, “What are we going to do about minimums and recognition awards?” Truthfully, I do not think there is a “one size fits all” answer on either of the topics. Our sport’s age demographic, based on my last figuring that also corresponds with the NSSA’s numbers, that around 62% of skeet shooters are 50 and above. We have been told by people way above my paygrade for months this is the group most at risk, especially if you have underlying medical conditions, so what are we to do? The answer that I give is, “You have to do what works best for your individual situation.” If you are going back to shooting as normal, good for you. If you are hesitant because either you or a person close to you is at risk or you just do not feel comfortable, skeet will be here when you are ready to return. On the topic of “minimums and awards” I know on the state and national levels that this is a topic of much discussion and needs to be “fairly” figured out. The State Shoot is usually the beginning of the end for “serious” competition in our state. There are events after the state championships, but they are few and far between and “most” are lightly attended. Also, hunting season is around the corner posing another issue. Still yet a decision must be made while keeping the big picture in focus. If everything remains the same and getting your targets tallied is important to you this year, you will figure out a way to make it happen, while others will say “2020” will be a practice year and leave it at that. To whichever camp you belong, neither of you is wrong. You just agree to disagree, something that this entire country has forgotten how to do. Hopefully, we skeet shooters will handle it better than the general populous.

As always feel free to contact me with your thoughts or questions at ricktraw@gmail.com.

- Rick Trawinski