Well, February is here, and we have entered the “Dog Days of Winter”. During this time of year there’s not a lot going on here in Michigan. Rockford is having their monthly events as usual so, if you want to get in some early targets, I am sure that they will enjoy having you come out. Schedule planning is the main topic for me and my squad. As I have mentioned previously, we should all give some thought to visiting a new club in the state this year. We need to give our Michigan clubs a well needed boost, especially coming off 2020; and, who knows, you may even come up with a new “go to” club or event. Hopefully, by the time we get back in full swing we will be back to normal and get to enjoy our shooting and friends as in years past.

For those needing to renew their referee credentials, or if you want to become a certified referee, you will find a link on the MSA website with the procedure and who to contact. Attendance at a clinic is not required this year. So, time to renew those credentials and recruit a new ref. Remember your certification is good for 3 years and the cost is just $10.

The Buckle Race schedule is also posted. Print one up and display it at your club if one is not already posted. Remember, the rules have changed for 2021; the mandatory number of shoots has been reduced and shooters will be handicapped to level the playing field in your particular division. These changes should make more shooters eligible and it should be more competitive.

The final bit of news is regarding the “Michigan Points Race Team”. A method has been developed for awarding points for the 2021 team; here is a brief explanation… A participant will receive points for placing in the top 3 at all registered events whether it is HOA, Gauge Event or Class in all shoots here in the state. Now do not get me wrong, you will still be able to compete out of state, but your Michigan shoots will carry twice as much weight as an out-of-state shoot. An example would be if you would go to the Mid-America and win the 12 Gauge Event you would receive pints equal to 5-times the number of participants. So, using a number of 50 in the event, you would receive 250 points. Now, if you attend the Kasle, win the event and there is the same number of 50 participants, you will receive 10 X 50 or 500 points toward your total for the year. Also included in the points awarded is a performance element for shooting one of the highest scores, even if you don’t place in the event. Believe me when I tell you that this is only barely scratching the surface, so look for the complete explanation soon on the website. Again, we are hoping that this will encourage more competition in events and at different times of the year. Points will be awarded retroactively for any events that you may have already shot in 2021. Just think, you may need that magical 50 points to crack the top ten, and there is a smaller shoot on the calendar where you have a chance to get them. Now you have a reason to attend one more shoot. On a final note, the Board of Directors would like your input for a name for our new team. I assigned the arbitrary name mentioned above, but if you have any ideas feel free to forward them along to me or one of the other directors.

Lastly, we come to the “My Thoughts” section of the newsletter. Our country is going through a regime change and questions arise as to how it might affect our sport. Working at DSC, I have seen prices go through the roof for ammunition along with the prices of reloading components. Ammunition at DSC is limited to buying only what you are going to shoot. If you can get them, primers are scarce while being limited to 1000 per trip and powder has gone up by 25%. This will have an adverse effect on our sport, as if it needs it. So, what can we do? Hopefully, we have not turned into toilet paper hoarders because, if we have, we are taking supply from a fellow competitor or someone who may be just starting out. If you are buying components, buy what you need and try not to empty the shelves ahead of the next person. He might be looking to get into the sport but, now, cannot. Be willing to help him/her out with your advice and expertise. Let us all be ambassadors of our sport; at this time, it truly needs it. Always feel free to contact me at ricktraw@gmail.com.

- Rick Trawinski