

April 2024

“April showers bring May flowers”, and they also bring events, scores, and a whole lot more. The Board is meeting April 6th to primarily discuss and lay all the groundwork for the State Championships in August. We are hoping to make our State’s premier event, again, one you will not want to miss. So, get out that Sharpie, mark it on the home calendar, and put it on your phone to commit yourself to a weekend of fun, friends and, of course, skeet shooting!

This month there is a full docket of events for you to participate in. Starting with the weekends, we have the four-gun events. The Springtime Open at DGC kicks off the month, followed the next weekend by the first Buckle Race event of the year, The Noah Banning at Grand Blanc. The next weekend we cover the whole state with one west side and one east side event. The Springtime Open at Rockford and the Clark Brown Open at DSC allow all of Michigan to be out shooting skeet on one day. Following those two is the second Buckle Race event, the Genesee 500 at Genesee. If that isn’t enough, Rockford, DSC and North Ottawa have mid-week events for you to scratch your shooting itch.

April also brings national recognition, and we’ll begin with our state’s Krieghoff All-American Team members. Let’s start off with “our” reigning High Over All World Champion, Brent Edwards on the Open First Team. If you haven’t seen Brent since this feat or would like to have your issue of Clay



Target Nation autographed, make sure you stop him, congratulate him, and ask him humbly for an autograph; I am sure he will accommodate you. Also, on the Sub Junior team, Hilde Versluys. If you don’t know Hilde, she is the one on the skeet fields with the smile that will brighten the darkest day. Max Versluys and Jeremy Salisbury are our Junior team reps, while Andrew Bielman and Sean Rosencrantz round out Triple Sub. Continuing on, we have Ben Gallup and Jason Johnson, Sub-Sub Senior; Al Magyar, Senior; Dave Schiebel, Veteran; and Matt Wright, Military on their respective teams. Making the Krieghoff Team is an amazing accomplishment, so make sure you congratulate your friends on their fine year.

Now, if that isn’t enough for you, we have more kudos to go around in the Class All-American teams. Starting off with AA, which includes Andrew Bielman, Jason Johnson and Sean Rosencrantz. B Class is represented by Jerry Kott, Dan

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Panczyk, David Boomstra and Max Versluys. Go figure on that one! LOL. While Class C is represented by the incomparable Jerry Davis and Mike Baker. With all that being said and documented, in the words of Bugs Bunny, “Th-th-th-that’s All Folks! I personally, and I am sure all of the Board of Directors, would like to congratulate each and every one of the aforementioned MSA members on a job well done in 2023, and would like to challenge the rest of us to try and have our five minutes of fame next year. Remember, just like a lottery ticket, you can’t win if you don’t play so get out there and break some clays!

Final thoughts time... The last two summers I have returned to mentoring some of the junior shooters at DSC. As I am sure you have heard at Hall of Fame speeches, many inductees have been mentored at one time or another in their shooting careers, and I cannot think of a better way to give back to our sport. More often than not, I get more satisfaction out of seeing the juniors do well as opposed to my own shooting. There is no better feeling than watching a young protégé break their first 25, 50 or even 100. I am always preaching about giving back to the game by refereeing, but if that isn’t your bag, try mentoring. I am sure all involved will have memories that will last a lifetime.

As always, you can reach me at ricktraw@gmail.com with your questions, comments or ideas. See you all soon!

- Rick Trawinski