

## May 2024

The year has started, and we already have one month of competition under our belts. Some of you have traveled out-of-state to much warmer temperatures while others have gritted it out here in Michigan. Truthfully, "gritted" is the correct term for it, as April's weather has not really helped matters. It has been cool to cold and windy most of the weekends. However, Michigan shooters in the words of Lou Raden, "Shoot in all weather conditions." I hope you all have gotten out to participate in our sport.

Speaking of getting out, May brings a number of events for you to participate in. Kicking off the month is the aforementioned Lou Raden at Detroit Gun. This is a Buckle Race event so get out there and get some of your "required" scores posted. The following weekend is a new event, the "Iron Butterfly". All of you older rockers from the 60's are hearing In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida playing in your head right now, as I know I am. But I digress; must have been those 60's drugs – LOL. Anyway, Colleen, Chrissy and the crew at Grand Blanc are going to put you to the test with a 2-day, "Friday, and Saturday" event. Doubles will be on Friday and twin 150 .410's on Saturday. Sunday May 19th features two events: the Shane Holton Memorial at Grand Blanc and the MTA Kickoff, obviously, at the MTA Trap Grounds in Mason where they will be shooting the 12



& 20 Gauges. Along with the general populous events, the SCTP also has events on May 18th at DSC and MTA. Last, but not least, we have the mid-week events at Rockford, North Ottawa, Gun River and DSC. So, it is time to get after it and "shoot" Michigan.

Now comes a little "soap box" preaching. First, for the most part, we have all been MSA members for a good number of years and we all know our dues need to be renewed on January 1st. I also realize some of you may wait until your first event to renew. Kathy and I have been tracking down members who did not renew on Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, nor at their first shoot. The form (we now have a new fillable pdf) on the MSA website makes it easy for you, so please try and make it easy on us and send in the form or let shoot management at an event know you need to renew. Secondly, now that you are signed up, if for any reason you need to

## President's Message

cancel out of an event, *please* let shoot management know ASAP. As we try to keep costs in check, it benefits the people running the event if they know how many participants they will have. This helps to curb the cost of referees or lunches (if being provided), plus it is just common courtesy. Thirdly, now that you are registered, make sure your Classification Card is up to date. Too many try to depend upon the NSSA website, which isn't always current. Maintaining your average card is something that every member should know how to do, and do it after every shoot.

Finally, I know factors in our sport are continuing to affect our participation. Reloading costs are still up, and I personally feel that is where they will remain; hopefully, not go higher. Target costs are rising, but we Michigan shooters keep fighting the good fight. We have past member clubs continuing to throw targets and we even have a new club getting into the mix. Let's get out and support their efforts! With as much going against us, let's keep skeet a game for everyone and not just for the wealthy, as it first began. The friendships I have made are worth their weight in gold and I will continue to do my little bit to help it along. I hope you will too! Drop me a line at [ricktraw@gmail.com](mailto:ricktraw@gmail.com) if you have any questions or just feeling like chatting.

- Rick Trawinski