

MSSA Newsletter,

May 2nd, 2025

Greetings Missouri skeet shooters!

We haven't put out a newsletter in quite some time so here it goes!

Last weekend was our annual Banquet shoot which was hosted by the United Sportsman Club in Jefferson City this year, and by all indications, it was a huge success. The facilities were great, targets were as good as any I've seen, and the scores were high. Thanks to all the folks who worked behind the scenes to make it happen basically without a hitch. We had 20 plus shooters participate, including several new shooters.

While waiting for dinner to be delivered Saturday, we had an open forum unofficial meeting/discussion with the members who were in attendance. Several items were brought up and discussed at length.

One item was getting shirts for the State Shoot with MSSA logo and even names on them. It is being looked into as we speak.

Another issue was paying dues via the PayPal link on our website. If you use this method, be sure to make the correct selection on the pull-down menu, otherwise it defaults to the regular \$20 versus the discounted \$15.

Another item was brought up by Don McPherson. He has proposed a by-law change that would change when we schedule the annual State shoot. All members will get a chance to discuss and vote on this during our annual meeting at the State Shoot.

We also had some discussion about our MidwayUSA account that we receive our grant from every year to support youth shooting. Our annual grant is a percentage of our account balance so the larger the balance, the larger our grant will be. I'm trying to be more active in fundraising this year so we can add more money to our account. I plan to purchase an item such as a nice cooler to sell raffle tickets for. We appreciate your support when we have this available. While discussing this, David Carr's wife volunteered to make and donate a quilt for the purpose of being auctioned at the State shoot. She said she would make it with a patriotic theme and I'm anxious to see how it turns out. This was a very generous offer on her behalf! Also, I have a friend who is an excellent gunsmith, Don Hansen of Springhill, KS, who offered a free gun fitting session as another item to auction off during the Shoot. He said he would take care of it in one day without waiting. If anyone would like to donate something we could auction off during the State shoot, please let us know. All proceeds will go to our MidwayUSA account.

I personally think we need to do anything we can to help get young shooters engaged in this sport. Things like helping a new shooter get the right equipment, providing ammo, or coaching on the field are some things any of us can do. In a few years, we may not remember helping them, but they will remember!

It looks like we will return to Busch Conservation Range for our State shoot this year. The facilities are great, and the target prices are very reasonable. There is a possibility of Missouri hosting the Zone shoot in 2026. At this time, Busch is probably the site to hold it and if it happens, we will need certified referees. If you are certified please consider helping us run this event next year. If you want to get certified, just get a few folks together and let me know. I will come and do the class which takes 4-5 hours for folks that are familiar with Skeet. I recently did a class at the Lake City Conservation range here near Kansas City. If we apply for a grant from NSSA, the course is free. Otherwise, the NSSA will charge each applicant a \$10 Application fee when we send them in. I can get the grant request submitted if we get a class scheduled.

Just to let folks know, I believe both scheduled shoots in Springfield are now Points shoots! Nice place to shoot, good folks to hang out with, and you get points to go towards the belt buckle race. I hope to see you there.

I wish everyone good luck on the skeet fields this year and if you have concerns or questions, please reach out to any Board Member and we will be happy to assist in any way we can!

Bill McCaulley

MSSA President