

# MINNEWAWA SPORTSMENS CLUB ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

January 2025

## CURRENT BOARD

Angela DeWitt  
President/Secretary

Kevin White  
Vice President

Jack Brula  
Treasurer

Directors:  
Scott Besser  
Randy Johnson  
John Montour  
Marston Pearson  
Anthony Pierce  
Chuck Quale  
Jim Ryan  
Joel Smith  
Dan Westberg

Gambling:  
Sue LaValla, Manager  
Kim Nelson, Asst. Manager

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It's been another busy and productive year at the Minnewawa Sportsmen's Club! We are excited to share that, for the first time in many years, we have a full board of directors. A special welcome to our newest board member, Joel Smith! Joel has already been a tremendous asset, lending a hand at the gun range and enhancing our presence on Facebook. Welcome aboard, Joel!

We also want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our members. Your support is the backbone of the Minnewawa Sportsmen's Club. Without you, there wouldn't be a club—and that means no gambling revenue to give back to our community. By being a member, you are directly contributing to the betterment of our local community.

In our fiscal year of July 2023 – June 2024, we have donated approximately \$167,000.00 back to the community and persons in need. This includes donations to: MDHA, City of McGregor, MAC Bird Busters, Friends of Don Sather, Aitkin County Search and Rescue, Rice River Senior Citizen Club, MN United Snowmobile, Long Lake Conservation Center, McGregor School, McGregor Senior Scholarships, Cromwell School, American Legion, Habitat for Humanity, McGregor Legion Auxiliary, Something Cool, Inc., Riverwood Hospital, Salvation Army, Aitkin School, Special Olympics Aitkin, Forgotten Heroes, Tri Community Food Shelf, LMA, City of Tamarack, several persons in need, and various vendors for the kids' parties.

That is amazing for a small community! Thank you to all that visit our sites and participate in the gambling operations.

We have several gambling sites in the area. Gambling funds are how we can give back to the community and help area organizations or people in need. When you are out and play Bingo, Pull Tabs, Meat Raffles or E-Tabs/E-Bingo, those proceeds stay in our area to support our community. We want to thank all our sites for allowing us to serve them: Banns, Red Rock, Big Sandy Lodge, Jackson's Hole, Sandy Beaver, Eagle Point (seasonal), and MN National Golf Course.

## EVENTS

We had the annual Summer and Christmas Kids' Parties this year. They were both a success. The kids had a good time and made lots of memories. Thank you to all that volunteered at these parties. We couldn't do it without you! Next year the Summer party will be on July 19, 2025 and the Christmas Party will be on December 13, 2025.

The Fishing Contest will be held out from Banns on February 1, 2025. So far, it appears to making some ice. Hopefully it will make a great event outside this year! Raffle tickets are out for purchase.

Pay memberships online using  
the QR code



The Annual Meeting will be on July 12, 2025 at 9:00 AM at the Club House on Goshawk Street in McGregor. We would love to see you at the next one.

Make sure to mark the events on your calendars so that you don't miss out on the fun!

## TRAP

The Minnewawa Sportsmen's Club Summer Trap League was a great success this year!! We had a great group of shooters that ended their season on August 27th. Kevin also had a small FALL Adult Trap League as well, smaller group of shooters, but still a good time for all! We would like to thank all the shooters and sponsors who participated, we greatly appreciate you and look forward to next season!

Now, onto the Winner's Circle!

### Team:

1st Place: Horton's Heroes - Dan Belden, Walt Ford, Bob Gripple, Ben Horton, and Luke Horton

2nd Place: Minnewawa Sportsmen's Club - Scott Besser, Kelli Crowther, Wyatt Crowther, Paul Nelson, and Sam Nelson

3rd Place: Hillcrest Resort - Tony Carr, Trevor Carr, Stu Montrude, Mark O'Brien, Mel Paich

### Individual Shooters:

1. Top Male - Scott Besser

2. Top Female - Sam Nelson

## MAC BIRD BUSTERS

This Spring, we had a total of 54 athletes- McGregor-27, Aitkin-19 and Cromwell-8. We placed 4/6 in the 8A conference 1. Our high gun male was Wyatt Crowther (A) hitting 227/250 and our top gun female was Ava Guida(M) hitting 222/250 targets. 39 athletes participated in the state tournament in Alexandria MN in June.

Our athletes are ranked by their shooting average. Novice 0-14.99, Junior Varsity is 15-18.99 and Varsity is 19-25. We offer a lettering program for our athletes, To earn a varsity letter an athlete needs an average of 19 or higher. The athlete receives the letter respective to their school, signed by their athletic director.

We also offer a second shot gun discipline. 5-stand was introduced in the fall of 2022. This past spring team had 5 athletes and they participated in the state tournament in Marshall, MN placing 7/8. Top gun was Wyatt Crowther (A) and most improved was Cole Aho (C)

This Fall, we had 45-50 athletes. What a great group of athletes!

Thank you volunteer coaches, safety officers, scorers, parents, grandparents, chauffeurs and community for your continued support of this sport.

## MEMBERSHIPS

Annual memberships are Due on January 1, 2025. You can pay online through our website or if you scan the QR code on the first page of this newsletter, it will take you to the membership page. You can also mail in your renewal using the enclosed membership form. An individual membership is \$30/year. A family membership is \$40/year.

We do not send out anything for paid memberships. We are also often asked what people get for their membership. As a club, we do not have a lot to offer in ways of membership benefits. The biggest benefit to being a member is it ensures that there is a club. Without a club, there would be no gambling, and the community would miss out on thousands of dollars in support. There are a couple of other benefits, a discount at the Trap Range and a discount on renting the Club House. The longer you are a member, the bigger the discount for renting the club house. We are always addressing this to see what kind of idea we can come up with. If anyone has any ideas to share, please let us know.

We want to thank all of you for being a part of the Minnewawa Sportsmen's Club. We appreciate all of you!