

# United Northern Sportmen's News

**Conservation Pledge: I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully to defend from waste, the natural resources of my country - its' air, soil and minerals, its' forests, waters and wildLife.**

VOLUME 6

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\$12.00

## Club Calendar

**Ranges Closed on Mondays,  
for Maintenance, Reserved Activities**

- Dec. 7     **UNS Board Meeting  
6:00pm, Clubhouse**
- Dec. 14    **UNS Annual Business Meeting  
6:00pm, American Legion Post 71**
- Jan. 4     **UNS Board Meeting  
6:00pm, Clubhouse**
- Jan. 29    **UNS Ice Fishing Contest**

All members are encouraged to attend. Please RSVP Eric at gonefishing0101@hotmail.com. If the meeting is via Zoom a connection will be provided when you RSVP.

**RANGE USE CALENDAR**  
may be found on our Website:  
[www.unitednorthernsportsmen.org](http://www.unitednorthernsportsmen.org)

**SHOOTING HOURS**  
Range hours: 8am to 30 minutes before sunset. All ranges are closed on Mondays. Range opening and closing times are posted on the ranges and the bulletin board on the Clubhouse Bldg. Please obey the rules or lose your shooting privileges.

**NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE:**  
Monthly newsletters are sent before the end of the previous month. Articles are due by the 15th of the previous month. If you have an article you would like share or photos please send to sue@b-green.us. It may be shared space permitting.

**EMAILS WANTED:**  
Remember, the next time you renew your membership, or even tomorrow, send us your current email address so you may receive our enhanced news letter electronically and sooner. Emails may be sent to unsclub@gmail.com.

**UNS HOSTED UMD CLASS**  
This year at UNS, 40 young adults participated in a 2 day UMD Outdoor Skills Class, primarily focused on giving students an opportunity to try shooting sports. They got to shoot on all 4 ranges, did archery, shot clay pigeons, 22 rifles, and a high powered rifle on the big bore range.

UNS would like to thank Gene Bondeson, Tom Harvey, Ronald Cretens, Tim Walburg, Lance Parthe, and Bob Kuettel.

## 2022 UNS ANNUAL MEETING

The UNS Annual Business Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 14th, at 6 pm. The order of business will consist of approval of the 2023 annual budget, the elections of three Directors, as well as any other business conducted for the good of the order. The meeting will be In-Person at the American Legion Post 71, 5814 Grand Ave., Duluth.

### THE ELECTIONS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

This year's annual meeting is entirely in person so elections will be conducted in the usual way.

There are 3 Board Member position terms of 3 years expiring this year and 4 nominees so far:

Maggie Cretens - Incumbent  
Lance Haavisto - Incumbent  
Garret Eliason  
Duane Lasley

Additional nominations from the floor will be called for 3 times at both the Board meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 7th and at the Annual meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 14th. If you have an interest in serving on the Board of Directors this is the chance to be nominated and perhaps voted onto the Board.

Anyone wishing to be a nominee or to nominate some one please contact John Bathke, 612-991-5363, john@b-green.us.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR JANUARY 29TH FOR OUR ANNUAL ICE FISHING CONTEST!!

The United Northern Sportsmen's 69th Annual Ice Fishing Contest will be held on Sunday, January 29th at the Sportsmen Retreat on Island Lake. Information was sent to all club members. For further information call Tom Wasbotten, 763-228-8889.

### UNS NEWSLETTER CHANGES WITH THE TIMES

Beginning in January the paper copy of the UNS newsletter will be published and mailed quarterly to members who have not provided UNS with an email address. A 2 page printed newsletter announcing the details of the Annual Meeting (beginning Dec. 2023), will also be mailed to members who haven't provided us with an email address. The email version of the newsletter will continue to be published every month. The UNS newsletter will continue to be available on the UNS website.

## UNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES, November 2, 2022

**Call to Order:** by President Tom Wasbotten at 6:00pm. **Conservation Pledge** was recited.

**Moment of Silence** for Bruce Akerstrom.

**Roll Call of Officers:** Tom Wasbotten, Lance Parthe, Bob Kuettel, Tina Sund, Jeff Jarvela, Vickie Jensen, Lance Haavisto, John Bathke, Eric Hansen, Ron Cretens, Maggie Cretens.

**Excused Officers:** Keith Darsow, Gene Shaw. **Appointed Positions Attending:** Sue Bathke

**Correspondence:** Gnesen Township Newsletter.

**Agenda Additions & Approval:** Motion to approve the agenda with new additions (M/S/C).

**Reading of Minutes:** Eric Hansen read the minutes from the October 5th Board of Directors meeting. Motion made to accept the minutes as read (M/S/C).

**Treasurer's Report:** Tina Sund as of 10/31/22: Motion made to approve the Treasurer's report and pay the bills(M/S/C).

**Membership Secretary's Report:** Tina Sund as of 10/31/22: Current membership is 1514. Individual Membership renewals: 58 and 4 new, Family Membership renewals: 27 and 5 new. 30 renewals are coming up, 38 2nd notices.

### OTHER REPORTS:

**Web Master:** Eric Hansen: made updates to the UNS website Range Res, Newsletter, Volunteer Hours and posted sight-in days reminder on Facebook page.

**Facilities Committee:** Lance Parthe contacted Dwight Swanstrom Agency re: damage claim to property, John Jones contact attempted re: water line repair

**Range and Grounds Calendar:** Bob Kuettel reminded members that there is only a couple more days of Range Sight-In.

**Incident Report:** Lance Haavisto reported on the inflammatory/threatening comment on UNS web page. John Bathke asked how do we deal with problems like this in future? The Sheriff's Department suggested 1) contact the Sheriff's Dept. so they have it on record. 2) Call 911 immediately.

**Volunteer Awards Committee:** Vickie reported that Tom Harvey has 1000+ hours.

**Communication Committee:** Co-Chairs Maggie Cretens & Lance Haavisto want members to meet briefly after the meeting.

### OLD BUSINESS:

**Website Development Committee:** Lance Parthe will assign page development work in about 2 weeks.

**UNS Youth Outdoor Field Day August 2023** – John Bathke, Maggie Cretens, Lance Parthe: The team will schedule a time to meet at the end of this meeting.

**Annual Deer Rifle Sight-In:** Bob Kuettel reported that we have 2 days, we are about 14 guns short of last year, 102 tickets have been sold for the Fall Fund Raiser, we also sold some memberships and received 2 donations.

**Fall Fund Raiser:** Tina Sund reported on the amount of deposits made so far for this event.

**UMD & DNR Activities on UNS Grounds in October:** Bob Kuettel says we only had 2 classes instead of the expected 3, reported costs per student of about \$4.48 and next year there will be a \$5.00 charge per person (due to increased costs.) Lance Parthe reported Kip Duncan's class went very well, and that over 20 people attended for Firearm Instructor Training.

**Nominations Committee for 2022 Club Election:** Tom Wasbotten appointed John Bathke & Tina Sund, Eric Hansen Volunteered, Keith Darsow & Bob Kuettel were picked by the committee.

### NEW BUSINESS:

**Nominations for Three 3-Year Terms on the Board of Directors:** John Bathke reports that Maggie Cretens & Lance Haavisto agreed to run again, Duane Lasley and Garret Eliason are interested in running for the 3rd position. We can take nominations up to and including the Dec. Annual Meeting. Tom Wasbotten asked for nominations from the floor three times in accordance with UNS policy. No new nominations were made for Board of Director position.

**UNS 2023 Budget Process – Tom Wasbotten** explained the budget process, Tina Sund asked for budgets to be turned in in-person or electronically.

**69th Annual UNS Ice Fishing Contest – Tom Wasbotten** proposed January 29, 2023 for the event. A motion was made to hold the 69th UNS Annual Ice Fishing Contest (M/S/C). Tina Sund, Gene Shaw, Eric Hansen, Tom Wasbotten are co-chairs.

**Umbrella Liability Policy Terrorism Rider – Tom Wasbotten** reports this needs board approval. A motion was made to accept this Rider, 2nded, discussion followed. This is a liability policy (M/S/C).

**Snow Plowing Contract – Tom Wasbotten** held a discussion about the proposed contract from the contractor who has done it in the past. There were no other bids. A motion was made to accept the contract, 2nded, discussion followed (M/S/C).

**UNS Annual Banquet – Tom Wasbotten:** The last banquet was in 2019. COVID cancelled it in 2020. Recommendation from the Finance Committee is to not hold it in 2023. A motion was made to not hold the banquet in 2023 (M/S/C).

**Ron Creten's Gift – Tom Wasbotten** read a letter to Ron Cretens & presented his bonus gift.

**Date of Next Meeting & Adjournment:** In Person Meeting at UNS Clubhouse Wed., Dec. 7th, 6pm and UNS Membership meeting at American Legion Post #41 in West Duluth on Dec. 14th, 6 - 8pm. A motion was made at 7:17pm (M/S/C).

Respectfully submitted by Eric Hansen, Secretary.

## 69TH ANNUAL ICE FISHING CONTEST



United Northern Sportsmen Club invites you to join us for the 69th Annual Ice Fishing Contest at the Sportsmen Retreat on Island Lake on Sunday, January 29th from 12:30-3:30pm.

Our Gate Prize is \$1000 & you don't need to be present to win. Additionally, there will be prizes for the largest fish caught:

1st Place \$1000    2nd Place \$500    3rd Place \$250    4th Place \$125    5th Place \$75

For the youngsters, age fifteen and under a \$50 prize, and trophy.

There will be additional prize drawings during the contest for those fishing the contest.

What a wonderful opportunity for some winter fun! As always, we hope for the best possible weather. Shelters are allowed. Everyone on the ice **MUST** have their participation ticket in possession. Participants are allowed up to two holes. All qualifying fish must be caught within the designated area of the UNS Ice Fishing Contest, during the event hours of 12:30-3:30pm. on January 29th & caught by the person registering the fish. All Minnesota fishing rules & regulations apply.

Our event sponsors this year are: Marine General, Minno-ette, Fisherman's Corner, Chalstroms, Outdoor Advantage, Northwest Outlet, and B&B Market. B&B concessions will be here for good food and drinks.

Contact Deanna Dodge, 218-721-3979, pddodge2014@hotmail.com for additional tickets.

### FALL SIGHT-IN AT UNS

The sight-in took place for eleven days, primarily on the weekends. The weather was pretty mild this year and cooperated with our plans. Members and non-members paid \$5.00 to sight-in each gun. This event was open to non-members as well to encourage future membership. This year at the Sight-In 257 guns were sighted and we sold 42 ear plugs, 115 raffle tickets, 7 day passes, and sold 8 memberships. We also had \$43 worth of donations.

UNS would like to thank the following range officers who made it possible by generously volunteering; Vickie Jensen, Howard Farmer, Ronald Cretens, Tim Walburg, Gene Bondeson, Mike Hart, Duane Lasley, Lucas Nordby, Tom Kulas, Tom Harvey, and Bob Kuettel.

### FALL FUNDRAISER

Our 2022 Fall Fundraiser was a great success because of our members who bought and sold these tickets. Thank you, Deanna Dodge for being our ticket chair for this event.

Congratulations to the following winners! Your winning letters/gift certificates were sent via USPS certified mail.

Number and Name	Prize Gift Certificate	Number and Name	Prize Gift Certificate
1562 TOM J. GAUTHIER	\$ 25 Blue Max	0591 MATTHEW BAUER	\$ 50 Chalstrom
5135 DAN URSHAN	\$ 25 Duluth Grill	4353 KATHY ROULEA	\$ 50 Fishermans Corner
0998 TED DAHLGREN	\$ 25 Harley Davidson	0059 KEITH ANDERSON	\$ 50 Marine General
5346 RODNEY J. OSWALD	\$ 25 Island Lake Inn	4355 KATHY ROULEAU	\$100 Blackwoods
3744 WANDA TAYLOR	\$ 25 Walmart	5811 TROY BERGSTEDT	\$100 Bullians
4252 LIBERTY KENNELS	\$ 50 Chalstrom	3393 MASON MEYER	\$100 Chalstrom
5845 GARY R. YOUNGQUIST	\$ 50 Duluth Lawn & Sport	3116 HOWARD A. MAKI	\$100 Duluth Lawn & Sport
1107 WILLIAM DIBBELL	\$ 50 Fishermans Corner	3911 KEITH & MARIA PAULSON	\$100 Fishermans Corner
1629 GREG GOLDMAN	\$ 50 Marine General	3075 JASON LUKOVSKY	\$100 Marine General
5086 DAVE TORRANCE	\$ 50 RJ's Sport & Cycle	4753 ROBERT SPINDLER	\$100 Outdoor Advantage
5848 MIKE MARUCA	\$ 25 Island Lake Inn	1087 DUANE DEMARIS	\$100 RJ's Sport & Cycle
4450 DEBORAH GEORGES	\$ 25 Blue Max	1273 LARRY ERICKSON	\$ 25 Island Lake Inn
0714 KURT CARLSON	\$ 25 Duluth Grill		
0555 JERRY BRAIEDY	\$ 25 Harley Davidson		
3850 DAVID PAASO	\$ 25 Island Lake Inn		
1802 DUSTIN HALL	\$ 25 Walmart		

## DNR OFFICERS URGE CONTINUED CAUTION ON THE ICE AS CONDITIONS REMAIN VARIABLE

Remember no ice is 100% safe. Have a plan, carry safety equipment and let someone know where you are and when you expect to return. If possible, fish with a partner.

Law enforcement and natural resources agencies such as the DNR all have issued numerous news releases urging people to put safety first on the ice. Unfortunately, you can't legislate common sense.

A photo popped up last week (Nov. 26th) on social media showing a small plane that landed on Upper Red in an area where the ice was 2½ to 3 inches thick. How long would it be before the first ice rescue of the season, an event that has unfortunately become all too common on Upper Red in recent years. Turns out, it would be two days.

The rescue of more than 200 anglers Monday on Upper Red was all over the news earlier this week, and it wasn't a situation of someone falling through thin ice. It all started when a strong gust of wind separated a large section of ice from the mainland along the southern shoreline. Upper Red is shallow and among the first lakes in Minnesota to freeze, but several days of warm temperatures made the ice unstable. Not everywhere, of course, but definitely in the area where the sheet of ice broke loose Monday. When you get a strong south wind on a very early sheet of ice, this is very commonplace,

Fortunately, there were no casualties, and the rescue reportedly went smoothly, but the incident undoubtedly put the lives of dozens of responders – including personnel from the Beltrami County Sheriff's Office, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources conservation officers, Kelliher Fire and Rescue, Red Lake Nation Fire, Lake of the Woods Sheriff's Office and other water rescue agencies – at risk.

The ice on Upper Red was anywhere from 4 to 7 inches thick last weekend. That's enough for walking, but when cracks form, conditions can deteriorate in a hurry. Best advice is to wait until ice conditions are safer, preferably on a day that isn't windy. And with the return of colder weather now upon us, the wait shouldn't be long.

"This is an important reminder that ice conditions can change very quickly, particularly in the early ice season," the DNR said in its Facebook post. "Even though you may be fishing on 4 inches (or more) of ice, strong winds can quickly break up a sheet of newly formed ice. **If you choose to go out on early ice, always keep an eye on changing conditions, wear buoyant gear and have ice picks accessible.**"

**Be safe and be smart. It's worth the wait.** The rush to get out there can cloud people's judgment – especially if the wall-eyes are biting, as they usually do on Upper Red this time of year.

"I tell people to use common sense, and if you're questioning it, don't go out," DNR conservation officer Nicholas Prachar said, quoted in the Bemidji Pioneer story. "It's ultimately up to the person going out there to make sure they're doing it safely."

The Minnesota DNR, on its Facebook page, issued a follow-up reminder Tuesday, urging people to think before heading out on the ice. They also posted a video clip of DNR conservation officers using an airboat to reach anglers stranded on the wrong side of the open water during Monday's rescue on Upper Red.

*Parts of this article from Brad Dokken, Dec. 2nd, Duluth News Tribune's Northland Outdoor,  
and from the DNR.*

## ARROWHEAD ICE FISHING AND WINTER SHOW Duluth Entertainment Convention Center

The timing is usually about right, just as some Northland ice is getting safe enough to fish on, and just as excitement is building for winter outdoor fun.

The Arrowhead Ice Fishing & Winter Show, set for Dec. 9-11th, is a chance to kick some tires on new gear and walk away with likely the best deals of the season. Over 100 exhibitors will be on hand.

No longer plagued by the supply-chain shortages of the past two ice seasons, dealers have lots of inventory. If you have the money to plunk down, you can walk out carrying ice fishing lures, rods and reels, shelters, augers, electronics, towable ice fishing campers, snowmobiles, ATVs and ice fishing clothing. Press here [for more details](#).

*John Myers, Nov. 25th, Duluth News Tribune, Northland Outdoors*

## MEGA MUSKIE IN ISLAND LAKE!!



Matthew Kreft of Duluth caught & released this 46-inch muskie at Island Lake on June 4th, the opening day of Minnesota's muskie season.

However...

if one googles "[muskie caught at Island Lake Minnesota in 2022](#)" you also get another side of muskies biting in Island Lake. One girl in May got 24 stitches.

*Photo contributed to the Trophy Room of the Duluth News Tribune.*

## THE VOYAGEURS WOLF PROJECT CAUGHT A COUGAR ON CAMERA IN THE GREATER VOYAGEURS ECOSYSTEM FOR THE FIRST TIME.



*Credit: Voyageurs Wolf Project*

Scientists with the Voyageurs Wolf Project caught a cougar (*Puma concolor*) on a trail camera in the southern part of the Greater Voyageurs Ecosystem this past October. That's the first footage of the animal in the area. There have been only 59 verified cougar observations in Minnesota since 2004, according to the state Department of Natural Resources. None of those previous observations occurred in the Greater Voyageurs Ecosystem, although they had been close. The researchers think the Minnesota cougars are transient young males traveling from breeding populations in the western Dakotas. Watch the video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-3vBfXAOOs> or [press here](#)

### UNITED NORTHERN SPORTSMEN'S NEWS

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[unsclub@gmail.com](mailto:unsclub@gmail.com)

#### 2022 Board of Directors

President Tom Wasbotten	218-721-4864 763-228-8889
Lance Parthe	218-349-5555
Secretary Eric Hansen	218-831-8646
Treasurer Tina Sund	218-591-3304
Sgt at Arms Bob Kuettel	218-393-2000
<hr/>	
Membership Tina Sund	218-591-3304
Webmaster Eric Hansen	218-831-8646
Newsletter Editor Susanne Bathke	612-991-5364
Camp Host Ron Cretens	218-349-8510

#### Directors

John Bathke	612-991-5363
Maggie Cretens	218-349-6399
Ron Cretens	218-349-8510
Keith Darsow	218-390-4557
Lance Haavisto	906-235-8483
Jeff Jarvela	218-461-6007
Vickie Jensen	218-591-5619
John Jones	218-576-3740
Gene Shaw	218-348-2191