

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

JUNE 2022

NUMBER 6

\$12.00

Club Calendar

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

May 28-31 Club and Ranges Closed

**Jun. 1 UNS Board Meeting
6:00pm, Clubhouse**

Jul. 2-4 Club and Ranges Closed

**Jul. 6 UNS Board Meeting
6:00pm, Clubhouse**

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

SHOOTING HOURS

Range hours are 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 you may 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 or pictures you would like to share please send to sue@b-green.us. It may be shared, space permitting.

THREE GUN SAFETY BASICS

ALWAYS keep the gun pointed
in a safe direction.
ALWAYS keep your finger off the trigger
until ready to shoot.
ALWAYS keep the gun unloaded
until ready to use.

THE FOURTH OF JULY AT UNS

The 4th of July is approaching and we expect many of our members will be wanting to use the campground, picnic area, and boat launch over the 4th weekend. There have been some rules clarifications, so we are including a friendly reminder of the main camping rules currently in effect. We will have volunteer staff onsite over that weekend to answer questions and manage traffic. The complete rules with clarifications is available on our website.

Keep in mind campsite availability is on a first come first serve basis. No member shall in any way, attempt to reserve in advance, a campsite for themselves or anyone else. All members who wish to camp must register their sleeping unit immediately upon arrival and cannot occupy a campsite prior to the arrival of that sleeping unit. A membership is limited to one camping site per day. Married couples, if both chose to have single memberships, cannot double their number of camping days from 14 to 28 if camping together. Campers registering to camp on a site must spend the entire night at that campsite for each calendar day they intend to stay.

We have 37 campsites available including 9 on the lake side. Twenty-three sites now have electrical power hookups as we added 10 late last fall. There is no power at the 9 on the lakeside or the 5 on the hilltop. If camping at one of those 9 sites down by the lake, your sleeping unit must be parked centered on the railroad ties equidistant from each side of the campsite boundary. On all other sites the sleeping unit must be parked centered on the electric pedestals or markers. No sleeping units may be parked sideways on the camping site except on the hilltop.

We limit each campsite to a maximum of two passenger vehicles plus your sleeping unit. If you are a UNS member, but are not camping, you will be asked to park in an area designated for non-camping members. If you are using the picnic areas you may park there.

Keep in mind there are strict limits to the number of guests a member may have on the premises. An Individual Membership is allowed one guest and a Family Membership is allowed two guests. Guests are not allowed to stay overnight and are asked to vacate the premises by 11:00 pm.

You are responsible to see your guests abide by all club rules. The allotted one or two guest(s) must be registered by the member by filling out a \$5 pink non-member guest pass prior to their being on the property or using any of the facilities. This is even if the guest is only planning to board a launched watercraft. If you know a guest is coming, please consider filling out the pass ahead of time.

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UNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Minutes May 4, 2022

Call to Order: by President Tom Wasbotten at 6:00 pm.

Conservation Pledge was recited.

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

Correspondence: Tina Sund has the Gnesen Newsletter and a letter regarding Gnesen Township building a storage building close to our property.

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

Reading of Minutes: Eric Hansen read the minutes from the April 2022 Board of Directors meeting. Motion made to accept the minutes as read (M/S/C).

Treasurer's Report: Tina Sund as of 4/30/22: Motion made to approve the report (M/S/C). Books will be audited on Saturday.

Membership Secretary's Report: Tina Sund as of 4/30/22: Current membership is 1628. Individual Membership renewals: 46 and 11 new, Family Membership renewals: 27 and 3 new. 201 renewals are coming up, 69 second or expired notices.

Gnesen Township Letter: Tom Wasbotten read a letter from Gnesen Township re: building a storage shed near UNS property, they have a meeting scheduled regarding the request on May 18, 2020 @ 7pm Gnesen Community Center.

Other Reports:

Web Master: Eric Hansen made updates to the range reservations on UNS website and Facebook page.

Facilities Committee: Lance Parthe reports he and Ron Cretens headed to The Range to pick up used conveyor belts. The lake is rising about 1 foot per day, Lance & Ron pulled up parts of the concrete to make repairs to the ramp, Lance picked up cast iron dock brackets to replace the aluminum dock leg brackets. We could use more old fire hose for dock bumpers. Need to build a new ramp for archery & we need new targets. Trap throwers need new springs, need to install permanent supports for the gongs, plumbing repair needed for camp host bldg, need to tear out old plumbing in NE corner of camp host building, trap building is falling apart: Lance will form a committee to make decisions, a few trees died over winter & need to be removed or replaced. Need new #'s on electric posts, need new updated literature for camping, no geese so far so we may not need flags to scare them away. Vickie Jensen suggested installing screens on camp host building. Tables & docks will be put out this weekend.

Range and Grounds Calendar - Bob Kuettel & Lance Parthe: Police range site-in has been rescheduled for Sept 19th.

Incident Report: Per Lance Parthe we had one shooter on Monday (ranges are closed Mondays).

Grants Committee: Gene Shaw reported no updates.

Volunteer Awards: Vickie Jensen reported Hike Hart's and Ron Cretens' 100-hour jackets are in! Tina Sund reports that Howie Thompson picked up his jacket.

Communication Committee: John Bathke was not present.

OLD BUSINESS:

Procedure for Awarding Requests for Charitable Organizations - Tom Wasbotten: Any changes to procedures should be for next year. Tom spoke on how the procedure was handled in past years. We currently have only one request. Tom is asking for a committee to be formed. Maggie Cretens and Sara Spindler volunteered.

Website: Lance Parthe reported on the development on our new web site. He will let us know when the rough draft is ready to view, and we can comment on it.

Accounting: Bob Kuettel reports committee has not met yet.

Volunteer Awards: Vickie Jensen reports that committee has not met yet

NEW BUSINESS:

DNR Letter from Deserae Hendrickson, DNR Area Fisheries Supervisor. Tom Wasbotten: DNR is asking for input on fishing regulation changes. They wanted to give UNS the opportunity to provide input.

Lakeview Christian Academy Donation Request – Tom Wasbotten: So far, we donated to UMD Rod & Gun Club and to Ana Woollett for LLCC. A motion was made to donate \$500 to Lakeview Christian Academy Trap Team, After a 2nd discussion followed (M/S/C).

Summer Fishing Class for Kids: Gene Shaw spoke about holding the fishing class & suggested delaying it until July. It could be held @ the MN Power Picnic Pavilion, or in UNS garage.

Request for Approval of Campground Rules Changes: Lance Haavisto summarized proposed campground rules changes. Motion made to approve changes to the Campground Rules with an 'Up or Down' Vote. After the 2nd a lengthy discussion followed (M/S/C).

Keith Darsow asked if future meetings could be attended via ZOOM. We will set it up.

Next Meeting Date & Adjournment: In Person meeting at the clubhouse Wednesday, June 1st, 6 pm. Motion made to adjourn at 7:36 pm (M/S/C).

Respectfully submitted by Eric Hansen, Secretary.

Guest parking will be restricted to off site roadside parking during major holiday weekends or events or other times when 28 or more campsites are occupied. See the camp host for guest parking at other times. On weekends like the 4th of July, the grounds can become quite congested when all or a majority of our campsites are occupied. As members please help us with these parking issues.

Members or nonmembers may not leave personal property, including motor vehicles, overnight on UNS property except if you are overnight camping at the UNS campground.

For safety reasons all shooting ranges will be completely closed from Saturday, July 2nd through Monday, July 4th. We expect to see many members including their children on our grounds during that weekend and want to insure the well being of all. You may shoot up through Friday, July 1st and again starting on Tuesday, July 5th. Sorry about the inconvenience to our many shooting sports members.

We hope you will all enjoy your 4th of July. If you spend time with us, as members of a private club, help us to see that everyone follows the rules. We know most of our members are great, help with maintenance and chores, are respectful and pleasant, and wonderful to be around. Thanks!

THE OLDEST RIFLE ARTIFACT FOUND IN MINNESOTA

BRAINERD — Ray Nelson was overjoyed to lay his eyes again on a historic discovery and it's easy to see why. This rifle relic was found on the shoreline of Lower Hay Lake on the Whitefish Chain in the 1960s by F.t. Gustavson.

Ray has been doing research for over 35 years looking to ID the relic gunstock in hopes of determining how it got to be there. It's curious unknown history has kept him looking for it and the process keeps revealing more stories from its day and age. After all these years of search, it appears to be the oldest rifle artifact found thus far in Minnesota.

Nelson is the former president of the Friends of Old Crow Wing. The Ironton, Minnesota, resident is a member and a founder of the Crow Wing County Muzzleloaders Club, which was formed in 1977.

Nelson built a replica of the historic rifle relic to visualize the full-stocked profile and architectural look the old firearm had in its heyday. The relic has a thin engraved, brass, feathered, water serpent-shaped side plate similar to early forms of gun side plates, especially guns traded to Native Americans.

Nelson realized it was much different than any rifle stock he had seen after closer inspection. He solicited opinions from antique rifle experts, who told him they had not seen anything like it.

"It is well known that the Indians always have the guns of their deceased relation deposited in a broken condition in their graves which deprives the rising generation from benefitting. The stock of the gun and the barrel are directly broke ahead of the trigger guard," wrote John Askin, an Indian Department agent, in 1813. Nelson said that may explain why only the butt-stock of the rifle was found by Gustavson in its broken condition.

"When I first saw this relic gunstock in the Crow Wing County museum in the 1980s, I knew it was unique for our location here in Minnesota. It was totally out of place, in my mind, at the time," Nelson said.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service's laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin, was able this past winter to identify the gunstock wood as birch, which was more commonly used in gunstocks made in Denmark, Sweden and Norway, according to Nelson.

"Based on comparing several documented arms from northern Europe, it still appears the relic's closeness in architecture began in southwest Germany near the French and Swiss borders," Nelson said. He determined the rifle has attributes from the Odenwald region of Germany, near the Neckar and Rhine rivers on the French border. Immigrants from Germany and Denmark came to America in the early 1700s to become traders.

"The developing trade with Indian populations and a new country full of game and furs made it worthwhile to ship firearms to America for sale and trade," Nelson wrote in his notes. Many traders would give their best rifles to Native American chiefs to keep up business ties with them. The water level of Lower Hay Lake would rise and fall throughout the year, which could stir up artifacts along the shoreline during low water conditions.

"However close some of these old firearms have come to near duplication of the Lower Hay relic, none have yet been found with the relic's unique narrow, slim and flowing blend of gun furniture architecture," according to Nelson.

**SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR CAMP
AT THE LONG LAKE CONSERVATION CENTER**

The United Northern Sportsmen's Club is proud to announce the Long Lake Conservation Center camps are open again this year and we are giving scholarships.

Send some lucky kids to camp! The programs take place from June - August. The camps include Forkhorn Camps, Outdoor Explorer Camp, Astrology Camp and Fishing Camp. More information for this is posted on LongLakeCC.org. If you have any kids or grandkids interested have them email or write a note to Tom Wasbotten, 218-721-4864, twasbotten@outlook.com.

**LONGTIME NORTH SHORE CONSERVATION OFFICER
NAMED CO OF THE YEAR**

May 6, 2022

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Conservation Officer Kipp Duncan has been named the 2021 DNR Conservation Officer of the Year, which is an annual award presented to an officer for outstanding overall career performance.

Duncan works the Duluth East station, where he's been since 2007. He was stationed in Two Harbors from the beginning of his DNR career in 2001 until transferring to Duluth. In his more than 20 years with the DNR, Duncan has become a familiar face to anglers, hunters and others in the area. He frequently speaks at community events and safety education classes, and maintains high visibility as he works to protect the North Shore's natural resources and the people who use them.

In addition to his regular duties, Duncan also works with new conservation officers in his role as a field training officer.

"The people of Minnesota are lucky to have a conservation officer like Kipp working for them, and I can't think of a better example for our newest officers," said Col. Rodmen Smith, director of the DNR Enforcement Division. "Kipp reflects the values and mission of the Enforcement Division and sets the bar for the high expectations we have of our conservation officers."

In addition, Duncan also received The Minnesota Chapter of the Wildlife Society's Law Enforcement Award and was named 2021 Minnesota Wildlife Officer of the Year by the Shikar Safari Club International.



*Photo by Steve Kuchera,
Duluth News Tribune*

EMAILS WANTED: Remember, the next time you renew your membership, or even tomorrow, let us know your email address so you may receive our enhanced newsletter electronically. Emails may be sent to Tina Sund.

UNITED NORTHERN SPORTSMEN'S NEWS
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2022 Board of Directors

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