

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

SEPTEMBER 2022

NUMBER 9

\$12.00

Club Calendar

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

- Sept. 3-5 Club and Ranges Closed**
**Sept. 7 UNS Board Meeting
6:00pm, Clubhouse**
**Sept. 17 Ruffed & Spruce Grouse
Hunting Begins**
**Sept. 19 Retired Police Recertifica-
tion Event, Steve Holt**
Sept. 24 Waterfowl Opening
Sept. 24 Take a Kid Hunting Wkend
Nov. 5 Deer Opening - Firearms

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.unitednorthernsportmen.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.

United Northern Sportsmen's Club Fall Sight-In 2022

The Minnesota deer firearms season starts November 5th. We will be having our sight-in dates on October 15,16,22,23,29,30,31, November 1,2,3,4. Our rifle range is open to the public from 8 a.m. to ½ hour before sunset. Check in at the club house before shooting. The fee is \$5 per gun. There will be range officers present at all times. Any members wishing to become range officers, please contact Bob Kuettel at 218-393-2000. There will be a meeting of range officers on Saturday October 8th at 9 a.m. at the club house. We will be reviewing range rules and sign-up sheets for working on the range during the sight-in dates.

United Northern Sportsmen's Club 2022 Fall Fundraiser

It's hard to believe another summer is gone, and the season of autumn is fast approaching. This is the time of year that we hold our Annual Fall Fundraiser and Sight-In. Historically, this is the time of year that supplies our budget with the needed funds to hold kid's events, conversation efforts, and keep up on the maintenance of our facility.

Our 2022 Fall Fundraiser will again consist of raffling off \$1,500 in various gift certificate denomination of prizes at some of our local businesses that have helped support UNS in the past with their donations to us during our club events over the past years. (Marine General, Chalstrom's, Fisherman's Corner, Outdoor Advantage, RJ's Sport & Cycle, Duluth Lawn & Sport, and more). The Gift Certificates will range anywhere between the amount of \$25.00 to \$100.00 each.

Coming soon to a mailbox near you.... will be 5 tickets to buy or sell. Each ticket will be a \$5.00 donation. Please try to sell them to your family, friends, coworkers or by buying them all yourself. If every member committed to buying and selling these tickets, we would be well on our way to funding our events that so many people have come to enjoy, expect, and maintaining the club's facilities.

Our drawings will be held at the Friday November 4th, 2022, at the close of the Fall Sight-In. You do not need to be present to win. Thank you for your continued support in our club.

UNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Minutes August 3, 2022

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

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

Excused Officers: Gene Shaw, Jeff Jarvela, John Jones.

Presentations: Jon Polecheck gave a presentation on Chanterelle Mushrooms, Monarch Butterflies and Thimble Berries. The mushrooms and berries are both delicious & eatable and Monarch Butterflies are now endangered.

Correspondence: Thank You card from Hermantown Trap Team, Gnesen Township Newsletter.

Agenda Additions & Approval: Lance Haavisto added Facebook and Social Media. Motion to approve the agenda with new additions (M/S/C).

Reading of Minutes: Eric Hansen read the minutes from the July 6th Board of Directors meeting. Motion made to accept the minutes as read (M/S/C).

Treasurer's Report: Tina Sund as of 7/31/22: Motion made to approve the financials and pay the bills (M/S/C). We will audit the books after the meeting.

Membership Secretary's Report: Tina Sund as of 7/31/22: Current membership is 1550. Individual Membership renewals: 50 and 7 new, Family Membership renewals: 48 and 17 new. 108 renewals are coming up, 55 second notice.

OTHER REPORTS:

Web Master: Eric Hansen posted range reservations, volunteer hours & newsletter to website and posted Facebook page updates.

Facilities Committee: Tom Wasbotten reports that Lance Parthe built a device to raise and lower the flagpole so flag is easier to change out, Archery bases still need to be worked on.

Range and Grounds Calendar - Bob Kuettel & Lance Parthe: Bob Kuettel reports Steve Holts has a Sept. reservation and Border Patrol is back using the range.

Incident Report: Ron Cretens said there was nothing to report.

Volunteer Awards: Vickie updated Ron Cretens' hours.

Grant Committee: Gene Shaw not present.

Communication Committee: John Bathke reported that the committee will be meeting in the near future. Lance Haavisto requested to be on the committee.

OLD BUSINESS:

Web Site Committee: Tom Wasbotten reports Lance received some feedback from the committee regarding the Home Page design they prefer; it will still be a couple months before it is published on-line.

Memorial Tree Plaques Shortfall: Per Tom Wasbotten the cost is about \$45 per plaque X's 8 plaques. This would run over the Memorial Budget account of \$250.00. See below for solution.

Charitable Donations Budget Shortfall August 2023: Tom Wasbotten reports \$600 remaining in the fund but he anticipates needing about \$1000 for future anticipated requests. Tom is proposing using funds from the Range Stipend account that has unused dollars. This will cover memorial plaques and the charitable donation shortfalls (M/S/C).

UNS Outdoor Field Day August 2023: Tom Wasbotten reports Sara Spindler, Maggie Cretens & John Bathke make up the committee. Maggie says they plan to have a proposal by October's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Newsletter Issues – Tom Wasbotten: We need more help on articles for our newsletter. Related ideas are: reducing the # of issues printed, reducing the # of pages of each issue and making it 100% on-line. Tina Sund reports we spend \$300+ per month on the newsletter. Most of our members get the UNS newsletter online. Lengthy discussion followed.

Annual Deer Rifle Sight-In – Tom Wasbotten: We need a motion to hold event. Motion made (M/S/C). Bob Kuettel is chairperson.

Fall Fund Raiser – Tom Wasbotten: We need a Motion to hold the event. Motion made (M/S/C). Tina Sund is chairperson.

MN Health Dept. Dump Station Variance – Tom Wasbotten: We hope to get another 5 yr variance. Lance Parthe volunteered to check into this. The variance is up for renewal in September 2023.

Water Line Repair: Tom Wasbotten reports that it needs to be repaired soon.

Social Media: Lance Haavisto says we should have a greater presence from board members on Facebook page in the form of pictures, comments, etc.

Next Meeting Date & Adjournment: Next meeting at the UNS clubhouse Wednesday, September 7th, 6 pm. Meeting adjourned at 7:06pm (M/S/C).

Respectfully submitted by Eric Hansen, Secretary.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NATURE RIGHT NOW?

Late July to early August is a busy time in nature.

Although **Monarch butterflies** lay their eggs on milkweed leaves during the first half of June, it isn't until now that we begin to see the caterpillars change into their chrysalis stage. If you have never witnessed this yourself, you can view it on YouTube under Monarch life Cycle. Children really enjoy finding the eggs and caterpillars on the milkweed plants and raising them to adult butterflies in a butterfly house. Monarchs are currently on the endangered species list due to greatly declining populations. Since milkweed plants are their main source of food, we should all protect the plants when possible. For more information [press here](#).

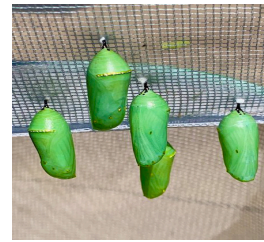
It takes 4 days for the egg to become a caterpillar.



The caterpillar will munch on milkweed for about 2 weeks.



It then crawls into its sac or chrysalis for about 4 weeks before it emerges as a butterfly.



Thimbleberries are an interesting fruit. They ripen the first and second weeks in August. The tart juicy berries are often made into jam or eaten fresh. The berries are as delicate as soft velvet with minute seeds. The leaves resemble large maple leaves and are soft and velvety to the touch, found in open wooded areas. [Look up](#) for more on thimbleberries.



Chanterelle mushrooms start popping out of the duff under conifer and hardwood forests this time of the year. They are gold in color, solid not hollow, have gills that run onto the length of the stem, and are shaped similar to a horn-of-plenty. These are considered edible and choice and are sought by many mushroom foragers. They must be cooked not eaten raw. Do not harvest any mushrooms unless you are absolutely sure of what you have found. [Learn more](#)

Thanks to the thoughtfulness of Jon and Jan Polecheck, the above information (along with some wonderful examples) was presented by Jon Polecheck at our last board meeting and also submitted by Jon and Jan Polecheck for publication in this newsletter.

UNS ASSISTS WITH H.R. 218 QUALIFICATIONS

On June 23, 2004 the 108th Congress passed the Law Enforcement Officer Safety Act H.R. 218. This act allows retiring and retired officers the opportunity to apply for a permit-to-carry a firearm that would be valid in all 50 states. In order to qualify for this permit, they must have at least 15 years of service and a department issued photo ID. The retiring officer must be in good standing and not have any outstanding disciplinary actions. The permits are valid for 12 months and after that they have to reapply and go through the qualification process to extend it for another 12 months.

Since around 2007, United Northern Sportsmen gun ranges have been the home of these annual qualifications. On September 19, over 70 retired officers from as far away as Redwood Falls will converge on United Northern Sportsmen's gun ranges to qualify for their annual permit. Steven Holt, an NRA certified handgun instructor and police firearms instructor along with two certified assistants will oversee the certification process again this year. The process begins with a classroom session and then moves to the pistol range where each retired officer will shoot 50 rounds of ammunition. They will have to demonstrate a high-level of proficiency and accuracy with both right and left-hand operations, along with malfunction drills and safety exercises. After completion of all the requirements they then can apply for the permit. The permit doesn't differ greatly from the civilian permit-to-carry other than it's valid in all 50 states. The permit holder must follow all of the individual state's firearm rules and regulations the same as a civilian permit-to-carry holder.

The ranges at United Northern Sportsmen's Club have also been used by other organizations that need firearm qualifications such as the US Border Patrol and the State of Minnesota Youth Firearm Field Training. The volunteers at UNS work hard to keep the shooting ranges in top condition and are proud to know that these agencies request the use of our facilities because they meet or even exceed their expectations.

Submitted by Lance Parthe

UNS SHOOTING RANGE ETIQUETTE

Since May we have mostly been centered around the fishing and camping UNS has to offer. But the DNR is now announcing the availability of the 2022 Hunting Regulations. One of the things hunters do to get ready for the season is to sight-in their guns. Of course that isn't the only reason for using our ranges. Some come to practice shooting and others for the fun of shooting. We have a big bore or rifle range, we have a trap range, a pistol range, a long gun range, and an archery range. The best way to prevent accidents is to follow gun range etiquette. Here are some tips for gun range etiquette that will keep you and others around you safe and ensure you have a great time when you visit the range.

Review and Follow the Range's Rules

There are all types of ranges out there. Each has its own list of specific rules which are often listed near the shooting area or on their website. Take the time to review the rules beforehand for the range you're visiting and familiarize yourself with them. It's a safe bet that all gun ranges have at least a few cardinal rules about gun handling that everyone should respect, such as never pointing a gun in anyone's direction or, at UNS, to shoot only range-approved targets. It's good etiquette to leave the range better than you found it. But, they may also have fines for shooters that damage property on the gun range, including structural areas. So read through their list, before your visit if possible, and let their regulations seep in.

Always Handle a Firearm Like a Pro

Handling a gun professionally extends to when you're not actually shooting it. All professional gun owners know how to handle a gun responsibly so no one, including themselves, can get hurt. This means automatically removing your finger from the trigger the second you've stopped shooting. This is a memory reflex which often needs to be developed over time, but it will differentiate you as a gun owner that takes shooting seriously. You also never want to point the muzzle at anybody or anything other than your target. So when you're not using the gun, make sure the muzzle is always pointed in a safe direction. When shooting indoors, this means laying the gun on the table with the muzzle pointed towards the targets. The safety catch should always be on when you're not shooting, and all parts of the gun including the chamber and magazine should be completely empty of ammo. If someone wants to see your firearm, these safety precautions must be in check before handing it over to another person.

Respect the Range Safety Officer

Most gun ranges have employees on hand to ensure everyone is following the rules and shooting in a safe manner. Range safety officers have authority above everyone else visiting the range, so treat them with respect. Listen to them if they give gun range commands such as cease-fire, because that means they're making sure everyone visiting the range is safe. This is particularly important when shooting outdoors. The range safety officer won't allow anyone to go downrange to inspect their targets until everyone has emptied their ammo, engaged the safety catch, and has put down their firearm in a safe location. Although they may sound intimidating, gun range employees are friendly and willing to help if anyone has any questions or isn't sure what a particular command means. They can also help refresh your memory on a gun's components and proper handling. Don't be afraid to ask for assistance if you need it.

Remember That You Can Call a Cease Fire

The command "cease-fire" doesn't have to be shouted by only the range safety officer. It's everyone's responsibility on the range to use the command if they see something that looks unsafe. If another shooter is unwell that's an excuse to call a cease-fire. It can also be used if someone inadvertently wanders onto the range area. Good gun enthusiasts will always look out for everyone else and the safety of others.

Don't Touch Someone Else's Equipment

It's tempting to want to pick up someone else's gun especially if it's brand-name gear you've had your eye on for a while. However, that unfamiliar firearm may be loaded—plus, it's just poor manners to touch someone else's possession without asking for permission to do so. Most gun enthusiasts are more than happy to share information about their purchase and let someone else hold it, but you should ask first. They need to ensure their firearm is completely empty and they may not wish to be interrupted between rounds. Don't touch anyone else's bag or equipment unless you have permission to do so. And don't shoot at someone else's target; this can confuse them and throw off any progress they think they're making.

Don't Interrupt Another Shooter

It's unsettling to be interrupted in the middle of a round, even if it's just a tap on the shoulder. It's also dangerous; some people may instinctively whirl around to face you while still holding the gun pointed outward. The one exception is if you see another shooter doing something that can compromise the safety of themselves and others. In this case, most gun ranges will allow you to shout, "Cease fire!" and a range safety officer will handle the situation. If you wish to talk to another shooter, wait until they're finished with a round and can safely engage with you. You wouldn't want to be interrupted when you're concentrated on hitting your target. Respect another person's personal space, and their shooting time.

Pick Up Any Litter

Don't leave behind any ammo boxes, water bottles, brass casings (if they're your own) or other trash. Deposit it in provided trash bins and leave the range neat and clean for other shooters to enjoy. The one exception is sweeping up other shooters' brass casings. Some people like to keep their brass. Follow these Gun Range Etiquette rules for a safe experience.

VOLUNTEERS *NEEDED* TO TEACH FIREARMS SAFETY CLASSES

This will be the last appeal for club volunteers. I'd like to thank those that have volunteered to be trained as a Firearms Safety Instructor.

The response has, however, been quite disappointing. In response to the article in the newsletter and elsewhere there have been only seven (7) people that have volunteered. Two of whom aren't even members! I had hoped that 1% of the membership would provide 15 instructors. The current response rate is less than 0.33%.

I have received dozens of calls looking for a Firearms Safety Instructor. I know that a number of those inquiries have been made by club members. Well, here's your chance to correct that shortage problem. The training is open to both men and women. With enough trained instructors there may be a commitment of a day or two a year to provide training.

I'd like to thank you in advance for your participation.

Anyone willing to attend the training and be a Firearms Safety Instructor please contact Mike Hart at 763-245-7268 by text or voicemail. If you have questions please call, I don't do lengthy texts.

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.

UNS SHOOTING RANGE RULES

Some important rules to remember when planning to use the UNS shooting ranges include:

All ranges are operated on a first come first served basis, unless otherwise posted for closures. Please exercise common courtesy, common sense, and good sportsmanship for a safe and enjoyable experience.

Ranges are open 8:00 am to 1/2. before sunset. All ranges are closed on Mondays.

Children under the age of 18 years of age must be with a parent or legal guardian Member at all times on all shooting ranges and archery areas.

- Shotgun patterning is to be done on the rifle range only.
- Only clay pigeons can be used on the trap range.
- Only UNS authorized metal gongs can be used on the 200- and 300-yard ranges.
- Centerfire rifles, black-powder arms, shotguns, or handguns larger than 45 caliber are prohibited on the pistol range.
- Automatic firearms, and trigger activators, bump stocks, or machine gun conversion kits are prohibited as per State of Minnesota Fully Law MS609.67.

NO ALCOHOL OR FDA CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES shall be used prior to or during range use.

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 unsclub@gmail.com.

UNITED NORTHERN SPORTSMEN'S NEWS

PO Box 161108, Duluth, MN 55816

www.uns-duluth.com

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