

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 68

FEBRUARY 2023

NUMBER 2

\$12.00

Club Calendar

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

**Feb.. 8 UNS Board Meeting
6:00pm, Clubhouse or Zoom**

Feb. 19 UNS Ice Fishing Contest

**Mar. 1 UNS Board Meeting
6:00pm, Clubhouse or Zoom**

**Apr. 5 UNS Board Meeting
6:00pm, Clubhouse or Zoom**

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: 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:

A monthly newsletter is emailed before the end of the month. A printed newsletter will be mailed quarterly, at the beginning of each quarter. 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 newsletter electronically and sooner. Emails may be sent to unsclub@gmail.com.

**On Page 3 take a look at the Club's
Updated Volunteer Awards Program.**

69TH ANNUAL ICE FISHING CONTEST HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED

The 2023 United Northern Sportsmen Ice Fishing Contest has been rescheduled due to cold weather and the associated wind chill advisory. It will now be held on Sunday, February 19th, 2023. The time and location is the same, from 12:30 to 3:30 at 7229 Rice Lake Road on Island Lake directly across the street from the UNS grounds.

Tickets will be available on the day of the contest for \$5 at our clubhouse and are also available at Chalstroms, Fisherman's Corner, Island Lake Inn, & Marine General.

We are hoping for some milder weather by mid-February and invite you to get outdoors for some winter fishing with the family. And if you don't have an ice auger, we will drill some holes for you. To add to your enjoyment, a concession trailer provided by B&B Market will be available out on the ice serving food and drinks before and during the contest.

PRIZES

A \$1000 Gate Prize will be awarded which you do not have to be present to win. In addition to the gate prize, there will be prizes for the largest fish caught as follows:

First Place	\$1000
Second Place	\$ 500
Third Place	\$ 250
Fourth Place	\$ 125
Fifth Place	\$ 75

For Youngsters, fifteen & under: \$50 Prize & a Trophy.

You can also win merchandise provided by our local supporting donors. During the contest, participants may purchase as many one dollar per chance tickets as they wish which can be used for our big drawing at the end of the event. This drawing will be for neat gear such as a Vexilar sonar ice fishing flasher, 40 V Lithium powered ice drilling auger, and other ice fishing equipment. To add to that, we have periodic drawings held throughout the three hour contest awarding more prizes. By supporting UNS fund raising events you are helping to further our youth and conservation activities.

Check us out on Facebook and at www.unitednorthernsportsmen.org.

To get out on the ice, at this time, we are allowing ATVs, track machines, and snowmobiles. Closer to the event a decision will be made whether to allow street passenger vehicles or trucks. As always, shelters are allowed and encouraged.

This event is open to the public so invite your non-member friends to join us. Questions may be directed to event chairs Tom, 218-721-4864, Eric, 218-831-8646, or Tina, 218-591-3304.

UNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES, January 4, 2023

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, Duane Lasley, Jeff Jarvela, Vickie Jensen, Lance Haavisto, John Bathke, Eric Hansen, Ron Cretens, Maggie Cretens. **Excused Officers:** Keith Darsow..

Appointed Positions Attending: Sue Bathke.

Correspondence: Gnesen Township Newslettterr, Thank You letter from St. Louis Alliance.

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

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

Treasurer's Report: Tina Sund as of 12/31/22: Motion made to approve the Treasurer's report and pay the bills (M/S/C). **Membership Secretary's Report:** Tina Sund as of 12/31/22: Current membership is 1495. Individual Membership renewals: 20 and 1 new, Family Membership renewals: 4 and 1 new. Coming up in February 35 renewals, 20 2nd notices.

OTHER REPORTS:

Web Master: Eric Hansen: made updates to the UNS website and Facebook page: range reservations and the upcoming fishing contest!

Facilities Committee: Lance Parthe reports Ron Cretens cleared snow today prior to meeting, parking lots will be cleared for the ice fishing contest, shooters are not cleaning up after shooting, leaving targets and used shot shells. List of maintenance items was shared for 2023 including lawn mower needs a battery, docks need repair in the spring, range backstops needs repairs.

Range and Grounds Calendar: Bob Kuettel & Lance Parthe said there was nothing to report.

Incident Report: Lance Parthe said there were no incidents.

Volunteer Awards Committee: Vickie no new awards.

Communication Committee: Co-Chairs Maggie Cretens & Lance Haavisto said committee met a couple of times.

OLD BUSINESS:

Website Development Committee: Lance Parthe – no progress to report.

UNS Youth Outdoor Field Day August 2023 Update – John Bathke, Maggie Cretens, Lance Parthe John has not heard from Cody Privette yet.

Board Approval of Updated Volunteer Awards Program: Vickie Jensen & Tom Wasbotten. Motion made and seconded to pass the UNS Volunteer Program with latest changes, Tom led the discussion regarding latest changes (M/S/C).

69th Annual Ice Fishing Contest – Chairpersons: Tina Sund, Gene Shaw, Eric Hansen & Tom Wasbotten. Permit updates from Eric. Tina spoke about upcoming radio spots, Deanna Dodge received about \$3000 in ticket sales, ice updates from Jon Pol-check and John Bathke. There are reports of a lot of slush on Island Lake. We will make continual updates on ice conditions. Pre-contest meeting on Sat., January 28th at 9:00am.

Dump Station Variance MN Dept of Health – Lance Parthe: Lance contacted Callie Harrison, the new person from Dept of Health, we will ask or a permanent variance, paperwork will be filled out on Friday.

NEW BUSINESS:

Club Donations to the Community 2023: Tom Wasbotten spoke on the donation recipients from last year. Bob Kuettel talked about the history of UNS donations to the St Louis County Sheriff's Volunteer Rescue Squad. Tom spoke about other organizations UNS donates to.

February Board Meeting date change: Tom suggested delaying one week to give us more time to get organized after the ice fishing contest. A motion was made to hold the February meeting on Feb 8th (M/S/C).

School of Fish: Tom Wasbotten, Jeff Jarvela spoke about contacting Mike Frisch from School of Fish about hiring him for this event.

Members Sick or in Distress: None.

Date of Next Meeting & Adjournment: In Person Meeting on Feb. 8th at 6:pm. Motion made to adjourn meeting at 6:57pm (M/S/C).

Respectfully submitted by Eric Hansen, Secretary.

UNS VOLUNTEER AWARDS PROGRAM

Effective 01/01/2023

As a member of the UNS Conservation Club you are encouraged to volunteer your time to help our club maintain its facilities and operations, and to help keep our fundraising activities successful. To thank you for spending your valuable time helping UNS, members will earn volunteer hours. These volunteer hours may be used for extra nights of camping, free membership, gift cards, or merchandise. If you currently have volunteer hours or milestones reached in the previous program, they will be grandfathered into the new program.

1. Any hours earned but not yet logged, under the grandfathered program, must be turned in by March 1, 2023.
2. As of January 1, 2023, hours must be turned in within 3 months of performing them.
3. Hours are not transferable to any other member.
4. You may not earn award hours performing duties that your position with UNS is being compensated for.
5. You may include 1 hour of travel time if you are going up to UNS solely for the purpose to volunteer.
6. You can submit your volunteer hours either via email to unsvolunteer@gmail.com, at the slot in the door at the clubhouse, or to a board member.
7. Adults under a Family Membership cannot combine hours, each adult member accumulates hours individually (no children may earn hours).
8. You must use the 14 camping days allowed in your membership before you can use volunteer hours for camping. Hours not used for other awards can be used towards extra camping days (2 volunteer hours equals 1 night of camping).

AWARDS

Hours volunteered can be submitted and used towards UNS logo merchandise, memberships, gift cards, extra nights of camping, etc.

50 Hours

UNS Hat

100 Hours (pick one)

Fleece Jacket

1-year free Individual Membership or prorated for a Yearly Family Membership

250 Hours (pick one)

Jacket (summer)

\$100.00 gift card

3 years free Individual Membership or prorated for a Yearly Family Membership

500 Hours (pick one)

\$200.00 gift card

5 years free Individual Membership or prorated for a Yearly Family Membership

750 Hours (pick one)

Jacket (winter)

\$250.00 gift card

7 years free Individual Membership or prorated for a Yearly Family Membership

1000 Hours (you get both)

\$300.00 gift card

Lifetime Individual Membership or prorated for a Yearly Family Membership

HOW TO EARN VOLUNTEER HOURS

- Time spent working on volunteer committee tasks
- Setting up/taking down campground fire rings and picnic tables
- Picking up and bagging trash on facility property
- Picking up brass/garbage on gun ranges (see Camp Host)
- Making targets for gun ranges
- Mowing the grass
- Weed/grass trimming
- Brushing the trap field
- Cleaning out fire rings/grills
- Cleaning the shower house
- Raking pine needles
- Picking up brush
- Trimming up dead branches on trees
- Raking goose droppings on lakeside of highway
- Clean picnic tables
- Clean inside club house
- Clean windows on club house
- Special/Fundraiser Events held by UNS

NORTHERN MINNESOTA COUNTIES: A STEP AHEAD

Aitkin and Carlton: A step ahead

Article by Mark Jacob

In 2014, Aitkin and Carlton counties began conducting 'bat surveys' in their county managed forested lands. The impetus was an increasing threat of disease by white-nose syndrome, which is decimating forest-dwelling bats. In 2016, the counties committed to considering the bat in their forestry activities by developing a "Habitat Conservation Plan" for three at-risk bat species (northern long-eared, little brown, and tri-colored). This is a story of that process, involving many partners. [Read More.](#)



Little Brown Bat

TWS RESPONDS TO BALD AND GOLDEN EAGLE RULEMAKING

The Wildlife Society, in partnership with TWS' Renewable Energy Working Group, submitted comments to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service showing their support for proposed revisions to the implementation of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and make additional suggestions.

The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, adopted in 1962, prohibits the take of bald (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and golden (*Aquila chrysaetos*) eagles. The act protects nests and eggs in addition to live birds. The USFWS issues permits for incidental—or nonpurposeful—take of eagles for numerous reasons, including when necessary for “the protection of other interests in any particular locality.” These permits are issued provided that the incidental take is compatible with the preservation of eagles.

The USFWS proposal outlines a general permit option for qualifying projects to expedite the permitting process and improve compliance, notably from wind-energy groups. General permitting eligibility and requirements would be specified into four sections, including incidental take for permitting wind energy, incidental take for permitting power lines, disturbance take, and nest take. The proposal also included removal of third-party monitoring requirements for incidental take permits, updates to permit fees, and clarification of definitions. [Press Here for More.](#)



PUBLIC CAN DOCUMENT ELK OBSERVATIONS USING NEW ELK SIGHTINGS TOOL ON THE DNR WEBSITE

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will conduct aerial elk surveys beginning the second week of January. DNR staff will survey the Kittson County and Grygla elk herds in northwestern Minnesota and the border elk herd in both Minnesota and Manitoba. The surveys are typically conducted each year during the winter, weather permitting.

Aerial survey information is used to monitor elk populations and help the DNR make decisions about future elk management and harvest regulations.

"We have sufficient snow cover now to start our elk surveys," said Doug Franke, acting assistant regional wildlife manager and elk survey coordinator. "We anticipate the surveys will be completed in about two weeks." DNR pilots will fly surveys during daylight hours at an altitude of approximately 200 to 300 feet.

The DNR is also asking for help from those who have recently seen elk in their area. People are encouraged to contact their local DNR office with sighting information: People can also document observations using the elk sightings tool on the DNR website (mndnr.gov/elk/elk-sightings.html).

These reports provide an important supplement to data from our aerial surveys and help us better understand elk movement and distribution in Minnesota.

ELK TRAITS:

Body: Reddish, lighter brown; legs are darker.

Neck: Chestnut brown. Rump: Pale yellow/tan.

Tail: Short, yellow/tan color.

Antlers: Four to six or more ivory-tipped tines off of heavy, dark-colored main beams that sweep back toward the body (mature bulls); long spikes on yearling bulls.

Length: 6½ to 8 feet.

Height: 4½ to 5 feet at the shoulder.

Weight: Males (bulls) weigh 700 to 900 pounds;
females (cows) weigh 500 to 600 pounds.

Range: Mainly in far northwestern Minnesota centered around Lancaster and Caribou in Kittson County and Grygla in Marshall County but individuals are appearing more widely.



SPECIAL FISHING REGULATIONS FOR ISLAND LAKE RESERVOIR

A reminder for ice fisherman that there is a special walleye regulation: All from 15" to 20" must be immediately released. Possession limit is 10, only one over 20" is allowed in possession.

For DNR Fishing Regulations [GO HERE](#).

UNITED NORTHERN SPORTSMEN'S NEWS

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2023 Board of Directors

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Sgt at Arms Bob Kuettel	218-393-2000
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Newsletter Editor Susanne Bathke	612-991-5364
Camp Host Ron Cretens	218-349-8510

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