

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.

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Club Calendar

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

**Feb. 7 UNS Meeting
6:00pm, Clubhouse or Zoom**

**Feb. 17 Annual Ice Fishing Contest!
MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**Feb. 24 RSO Instructor, 10am
RSO Training, 12pm**

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

**Mar. 26-30
Firearms Cert. Course, 6-9pm
Clubhouse**

All members are encouraged to attend board meetings. 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 CAN RECEIVE OUR NEWSLETTER via email. You will not only receive an enhanced version but you will also get it sooner. And, after all, we are a conservation club!

Emails may be sent to unclub@gmail.com.

NEW RULES NOW AVAILABLE!!

CHECK OUR WEBSITE.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

New board, new era for the club. As the newly elected President of the Club, my personal vision for this organization is to be a vehicle for the education of members and their families. Being a 501c(3) tax exempt organization we have an obligation to provide training concerning conservation, fishing, hunting and other outdoor activities. Most of the education will be directed toward the children and grandchildren of members. They are the future of the club. However, it is going to take an effort on the part of the members. We not only need volunteers for Instructors but to help with the maintenance of the facility. If a project needs a number of hands plan to get a call asking for assistance. Members can volunteer a few hours by being instructors, especially for State certified training: Snowmobile and ATV Safety, Watercraft Safety and Trapping Certification. The DNR will usually come to the retreat to train instructors if there are ten (10) or more participants. September of 2022, seventeen (17) persons were trained as Firearms Safety Instructors. UNS should develop a cadre of instructors in these disciplines.

My other goal for UNS is to give all members a voice in how the club is run. This can be accomplished by offering more opportunities for volunteers and by having more voting meetings to insure that the Board is following the wishes of its members.

I will be conducting Minnesota State POST Board Certified Range Safety Officer Instructor and Range Safety Officer training for any members that are interested. Peace officers will receive four (4) hours of CE credits and two (2) hours of CE credits, respectively. The first course will be February 24th, at the Retreat. The instructor course will start at 10:00am and the RSO course will begin at 12:00pm.

Anyone interested in becoming an instructor or to volunteer for classes and maintenance please contact Mike Hart at: 763-245-7268 or preferably, thebrute48@gmail.com.

Mike Hart

2024 ICE FISHING CONTEST

To be Held on February 17th

The United Northern Sportsmen's 70th Annual Ice Fishing Contest will be held on Saturday, February 17th at the UNS Clubhouse on Island Lake. Watch your mailbox for more information and raffle tickets. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Eric Hansen, 218-831-8646, or Tina Sund, 218-591-3304.



UNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Minutes Dec 6, 2023

Call to Order: by John Bathke @ 6:07pm. Conservation Pledge was recited.

Roll Call of Officers: Tina Sund, Vickie Jensen, John Bathke, Eric Hansen, Keith Darsow, Sue Bathke.

Intro of Visitors & New Members: Cord Temo

Correspondence: Thank You from Wildwoods & St Louis River Alliance for our donation, Food Bank donation request, Gnesen Newsletter.

Motion to Approve Agenda & Additions: add Superior Shooters Supply. Motion made to approve the agenda with the new additions (M/S/C).

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

Treasurer's Report: Tina Sund reported as of Nov. 2023. Motion made to approve financial report and pay the bills (M/S/C).

Membership Secretary's Report: Tina Sund – current membership is 1371 New Memberships & Renewals: Individual Memberships: 38, (6 new), Family Memberships 9, (1 new), 40 renewals coming up, and 25 2nd/Expired Notices.

Other Reports:

Webmaster – Eric Hansen made updates to the UNS website and Facebook page: range reservations, upcoming fishing contest, annual meeting and elections.

Facilities Committee: Tina Sund - we have no one to snow blow the ranges and a path to propane tanks, Chad is on board to plow this winter, Keith Darsow asked about update on new locks: Tina Sund reported that Ward is working on it.

Range and Grounds Calendar- Eric Hansen no new reservations.

Incident Report – Vicky Jensen, nothing new to report.

Volunteer Awards – Vickie Jensen, Deanna Dodge reached 1000 hours.

Communication Committee – John Bathke, nothing new.

Web site: Eric Hansen updated UNS web site and Facebook page with elections, Ice Fishing Contest, Range Reservations.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ice Fishing Contest, Feb 17 Fishing Contest: Tina Sund posters are in, Deanna Dodge has tickets and will drop off at businesses, Mikaela Hernesman set up google drive for prizes collected & sponsor's donations, Tina has copies for advertising, Jason Manning is on board to be MC, Eric Hansen sent request for Ice Fishing Contest permit, other permits will be sent in closer to contest date.

Superior Shooters' Supply: Keith Darsow, contact name changed to himself.

Nominations and Annual Meeting: Cord Timo 2 yr director, Eric Hansen nominated John Kolar for a 2 yr director position. John Bathke made the call three times for nominations. Annual Membership meeting will be in-person ONLY (no ZOOM) which will make voting more secure and less hassle. Held at the Gnesen Town Hall/Community Center December 13, 2023 at 6pm.

NEW BUSINESS:

UNS 2024 Budget: Tina Sund commented. Added Summer Fishing Contest & Picnic which was not in the 2023 budget. Additional items that may need funding are: fencing, lawn mower, waterline and camp host building repair & legal fees.

Fidelity Investment Account: John Bathke spoke how we handle income from this account. Extensive Discussion about possible improvements that could be made to the club and grounds. Motion made to approve 2024 UNS budget (M/S/C).

Special Meeting Club Rules: Sue Bathke and Tina Sund compiled the new rule changes and incorporated them into the rules. Extensive Discussion about rules.

Additional comments: Mike Hart commented on new qualifications for Range Officer certificates.

Members Sick or in Distress: Jim King not feeling well.

Date of Next Meeting & Adjournment: Zoom/In Person Meeting Wednesday, Jan 3rd, 2024 @ 6pm at UNS Clubhouse. Annual Membership meeting December 13, 2023 at Gnesen Town Hall/Community Hall at 6pm. Meeting adjourned by Chair Person @ 7:27pm.

Respectfully submitted by Eric Hansen, Secretary.

UNS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Minutes December 13, 2023

Call to Order: by John Bathke @ 6:01pm. Conservation Pledge was recited.

Roll Call of Officers: Tina Sund, Vickie Jensen, John Bathke, Eric Hansen, Keith Darsow

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

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

Treasurer's report: Comments by John Bathke on increase of total available funds. About 2/3 of UNS moneys were invested in a high yield Fidelity fund rather than let it sit in a low yield account. Tina Sund: Financials as of November 30, 2023. Motion made to approve the report & pay bills (M/S/C).

Membership secretary's report: Tina Sund – Current Membership is 1371.

ANNUAL BUSINESS

Announce Slate of Candidates for Board Positions Each Year Terms: Nominations Committee: Candidates are:

Mike Hart spoke on what on his plans are for what he will bring to the club:

Firearm safety classes, more kids' activities.

Tina Sund would like to see more education for kids at the club.

Jim King (Spike) member since 2000 is interested in teaching kids useful skills.

Rob Murray wants to use his experience in sales to increase membership and get back lost members.

Cord Temo as a trainer he is interested teaching.

John Kohler not present to comment.

Tim Walburg is a certified range safety officer and taught archery.

Nancy Poppenberg is interested in increasing activities/volunteers at the club, also teaching children.

John Bathke financial/business background is interested in seeing support for treasurer in form of UNS finance committee, also teaching firearm safety.

Call for Nominations from the Floor: Chair: John Bathke called three times; No additional nominations.

Formation of Election Committee (3 members): Nominating Committee:

Was not necessary: there are more positions open than there are available positions.

Election of 2024 Officers/Board: Nomination Committee: A motion was made to cast a unanimous ballot (M/S/C). Election was held in accordance with UNS rules.

Installation of Newly Elected Officers: Will be done at the January meeting.

Membership Approval of Board of Directors Recommended UNS 2024 Budget: John Bathke commented on budgeting process. UNS did not have a budget in the past, a budget is a fluid document that can change depending on club needs; for example, unexpected expenses not budgeted for. Tina Sund made note of the following possible expenses: Fencing, Lawn Mower replacement, Camp Host Building Repair and Legal Fees.

John explained that we are approving just the regular budget not the Additional expenses as noted on the 2024 budget. Tina Sund commented, expenses include acquiring a new riding mower, old one is in rough shape and could be risky to operate. She explained the 2024 budget details, especially increase in expenses due to current economic conditions. Tina Sund: Tina reviewed the budget for 2024. A motion was made to approve 2023 Budget (M/S/C).

August 17, 2023 Rules Changes: Rule Changes, Tina Sund reviewed the Rule Changes, a discussion followed in particular the number of guests allowed per member (10). A motion was made to allow 6 guest per member, dropped due to lack of 2nd. A motion was made to a change in **Guest Information:** "10 guests" will be changed to: "number of guests allowed is 4 adult guests per membership, not including children (under age of 18)" (M/S/C). One opposed. A motion was made to remove: "Subsequential day passes can be purchased for up to 3 nights" from **Campground Information (M/S/C)**. No opposed votes. A motion was made to change: Membership Guests Passes are not available for overnight use to: "Membership Guests Passes are not available for overnight guests over the age of 18." (M/S/C). No opposed votes.

Sue Bathke thinks we should have a Membership Survey; discussion followed on what to include and when to survey. The previous informal survey was brought up. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

For the Good of the Order: John Bathke. Nothing to add tonight.

Adjournment: by Chair at 8:15pm

Respectively submitted by Eric Hansen, Secretary.

Next Annual Meeting December 11, 2024

UNS FIREARMS SAFETY CERTIFICATION COURSE

UNS will be sponsoring its first Firearms Safety Certification Course in years. This is a five (5) day course NOT the online course. Field days for the online students will be scheduled in the near future. There are twenty (20) slots for students. Held March 26-29 from 6pm to 9pm and on March 30th from 10am to 3pm at the clubhouse. The course is open to members first. This is on a first come first served basis. If a student registers for this course they MUST attend all five days, no exceptions. Member instructors that received training in September 2022, are encouraged to attend, especially on March 30th. To maintain an instructor certification, you must conduct a course at least every two years.

To register please contact Mike Hart at: 763-245-7268 or preferably: thebrute48@gmail.com

COURSE POSSIBILITIES

The following is a list of courses that may be offered throughout the year if there is an interest expressed by the membership. This Club has a 501c(3) tax exemption as an educational organization. Therefore, the board believes that the members should be afforded opportunities for conservation, hunting, and fishing courses. These courses should get the children of members involved in the club. The minimum age is 12 years for most of the training. Because there is a limit on class size, if there is a large interest in any class more than one can be held. Member's children get preference on a first come first served basis.

Any questions may be directed to Mike Hart at: 763-245-7268 or preferably: thebrute48@gmail.com

Firearms Safety Certification	Bowhunting Certification	Snowmobile Safety
ATV Safety	Watercraft Safety	Trapping Certification
Fly Fishing	Fly Tying	Map and Compass
Flint Knapping	Tree and Plant Identification	Muzzle Loading
Martin Nesting Box Construction	Camping	Winter Camping
Dutch Oven Cooking	Primitive Fire Making	Harvesting Nightcrawlers
Knot Tying		

THE MINNESOTA HARVESTER HANDBOOK

This resource -- developed by the University of Minnesota Extension with the help of a broad network of contributors -- demonstrates the breadth and diversity of useful natural resources found in and around the state's woodlands and forests throughout the year. This book features information divided into seasons:

Spring (maple syrup, fiddlehead ferns, yellow morels)

Summer (birch bark, multiple mushroom species, wild rice)

Fall (balsam boughs, tree cones & seeds, pine, dogwood, and fall mushrooms)

Winter (Basswood, Chaga, and firewood)

This book, written by authors David Wilsey & Julie Miedtke includes basic tenets of harvesting and helpful fact sheets on each species. It provides a point of entry to the world of natural resource gathering that can be used in conjunction with other plant identification resources. It cost \$24.95 and is available through the University of Minnesota Extension.

[Click here if you wish to order online.](#)

UNITED NORTHERN SPORTSMEN'S NEWS

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2024 Board of Directors

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