

United Northern Sportsmen'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 74

February 2025

Volume 2

\$12.00

CALENDAR

March 5, 2025

Membership meeting 6 pm

April 3,10,17,24

Firearm Safety Class

Gnesen Town Hall

Complete Information in letter

Range Shooting Hours

Range hours are 8 am to 30 minutes before sunset. Range openings and closing are posted on the ranges and the bulletin board on the Clubhouse building. Also check Facebook and web page for closures or changes.



Another UNS fishing contest was held on January 25, the 71st to be exact. This year the ice was better but the wind and temperatures were not very favorable. In spite of that we had a great turnout and some incredible prizes to give away. There are MANY Thank You's to be given out for this event. We had amazing donations given for prizes; THANK YOU to the businesses that helped us make that possible, the team that put in many miles and hours to get

all the donations/prizes for the contest. There were a lot of comments on how wonderful the prizes were. Thank you to the people who sold tickets, the people who participated in fishing, the Hermantown Trap Team, those who drilled holes, B & B Market for again having the food truck available, St. Louis County Rescue Squad, DNR, our MC Jason Manning, and not to forget the board members for putting the entire event together. It literally can't happen without them. It is a lot of hard work, long hours but also very rewarding. This is just some of the people it takes for this event so JOB WELL DONE to everyone who helped in making this event possible. As I mentioned, it is just some of the people involved in making this event happen and there is an appreciation for everyone involved. We are already talking about next years event and how to make it better in all areas.

UNS 2025 Firearm Safety Training Schedule

Again UNS is providing firearm safety training for children the ages of 11 years old and up. Adults are welcome also. This year the in-class course is going to be held at:

GNESEN COMMUNITY CENTER

6356 Howard Gnesen Road

Duluth, MN

In class dates are Thursday nights in April. Starting April 3rd for four weeks.

April 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th

Class starts at 6 pm and finishes at 9 pm

There is a \$7.50 charge per student with a class limit of 50 students

The field test days for this are

MAY 3rd and 4th. There are 25 students allowed each day

Starting time is 9 am and lunch is provided on field day. You must attend all the classes to test out.

HYBRED FIELD DAY

June 8th

United Northern Sportsman's Club

Starting at 9 am limit 20 students

Lunch provided on field day

HYBRED FIELD DAY

July 13

United Northern Sportsman's Club

Starting at 9 am limit 20 students

Lunch provided on field day

To schedule the classes call Mike Hart (763)245-7268

This is limited availability so call to schedule soon.

ANOTHER NOTE OF INTEREST

We received a letter from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency they are hosting a public forum on Mercury in the St. Louis River Watershed. It will cover how mercury moves through the watershed and fish and there will be a question-and-answer session at the end. There are two separate dates, both covering the same information.

February 26th from 3-5pm at the Minnesota North College- Eveleth Campus Atrium at 1100 Industrial Parkway in Eveleth

February 27th, from 11am-1pm at Fond Du Lac Tribal and Community College Amphitheater 2101 14th Street in Cloquet

Lisa Weidemann is the Community Affairs Specialist who sent the information to us

Her number is (218) 302-6637 if you have any questions requiring this.

UNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Minutes January 8, 2025

Call to Order: by President Jim Weiss @ 6:055 pm.

Conservation Pledge was recited.

Roll Call of Elected Officers: Jim Weiss, Mike Hart, Tina Sund, Vickie Jensen, Eric Hansen, Keith Darsow, Rob Murray, John Kolar, Tim Walburg, Nancy Poppenberg, Sam Haddad,

Appointed Officers: Deanna Dodge, Eric Hansen.

Excused Officers: Jim King, Cord Timo, Tom Kulas

Agenda Additions; Approval: Motion to approve January 2025 agenda with the new additions by Mike Hart. 2 nd by Rob Murray: carried.

Acceptance of Last Meeting's Minutes:

Motion to accept Dec 4, 2024 minutes as corrected by Jim Murray, 2nd by Mike Hart: carried.

Correspondence: Thank You notes from St Louis River Alliance, 2 nd Harvest Food Bank & Wildwood. Gnesen Newsletter, Campground permit Sam.

Treasurer Report/Membership Secretary's Report: Tina Sund – current membership is 1512.

New Memberships/Renewals: Individual Memberships: 23, (4 new) Family Memberships 11, (2 new) 35 renewals coming up and 2-2nd Expired Notices.

Motion by Mike Hart to accept report, 2nd by Tim Walburg, Carried

Other Reports:

Webmaster – Eric Hansen made updates to the UNS website and Facebook page: range reservations, reminders for Ice Fishing contest & Updates on Board elections.

Facilities Committee - Mike Hart, Snowblower was left out and a member called Mike about it. It turns out that Jim was using it and went to get gas!! Thank You to the sharp-eyed member who saw a potential problem!

Range and Grounds – boat launch was repaired today; water level was dropped 5 feet which probably cause the concrete slabs to heave upwards with the freezing.

Incident Reports – none reported

Volunteer Awards – Vickie Jensen suggests changes to program. If you meet the volunteer hours requirement (whether you have a single or family membership) a lifetime membership is earned.

Tim Walburg reached the 500-hour mark. Thank You Tim!

Vickie Jensen made a motion to change the volunteer hours prorated rating and award family membership when volunteer hours are met. 2nd by Tim Walburg, carried

OLD BUSINESS:

Update on Fishing Contest. Eric Hansen, all four permits are in. Tina Sund, kids' trophy is in. Students from UMD won't be here this year to help. Mike Efinger can't be here to weigh fish. Keith Darsow will check with the Hermantown Trap Team to see if they will help out if we offer an additional \$500 donation. 17" thick ice on Boulder Lake last night. No cars or trucks will be allowed on ice, no wheeled ice fishing houses. Rob talked to Russ @ Marine General re: prizes. We have lots of tip-ups, coolers, etc. left over from 2024 to give out for prizes. We will have Mountain Bikes from Ski Hut for raffle prizes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Presentations/Guests – Tina Sund: We had non-member guests at the Annual Meeting who were there with information on work we wanted done. If it happens again, the financials will be moved to the end of the meeting after guests have left.

Mike Hart says Suzy will be here for the February meeting to go over planning for a possible Chili Fundraiser.

Meeting Frequency ideas were voiced regarding the frequency of how often we will meet. (1/4ly, email vote, meet for special event/situations). Suggestion was made to meet 'as usual' for three next 6 months.

Membership Dues Increase - Jim Weiss led discussion on pros and cons for raising dues. Nancy Poppenberg - Average cost camping in MN: \$80-100/night, up to \$110 annual for shooting club in outstate area. \$200-500/year for shooting club in TC area. Tina Sund talked about finances and costs per person to run the club. Discussion followed. Motion by Sam Haddad to raise single membership to \$50 Annual & \$95 for two years and family membership to \$90 annual and \$170 for two years. 2 nd Mike Hart, carried.

New Construction Committee - Jim Weiss: we need a construction committee for future planning for new facilities. Jim Spike King, Nancy Poppenberg, Tina Sund, Sam Haddad, Tim Walburg, Mike Hart are on the committee. Rob Murray & John Kolar agreed to stay on the Grants Committee. They plan to meet on the 2 nd Wednesday of the month, starting with Feb 12 @ 6:0pm.

Ideas for future projects include: Range Berms appearance, Archery Range looks, Handicap Ramp repair, Swing Set, larger Clubhouse, septic system...Keith Darsow volunteered to contact someone about archery range update and come back with info & prices. Mike Hart will come up with a plan, supply list for a Cabana structure for archery.

We discussed knocking out the interior walls in the outhouse, fill in hole, make it into a storage shed. Border Patrol wants storage closer to shooting range.

The Loping Deer, Jim Weiss talked about problems/repairs with it.

Trap Range Mike Weiss area needs to be cleared out but not in the near future.

The Thrower and electrical cords are in trap shack.

Schedule for Firearms Safety Courses: March, one night per week classroom with Saturday Field Day. June and August: One Saturday for Hybrid Field Day.

Mike Hart talked about scheduling classes.

We are still planning on holding YFD in the Fall: 2nd Saturday in August.

Monthly Newsletter changes: Jim Weiss says the Newsletter needs better contact information not just email contact and clubhouse phone number.

Upcoming events: Jim Weiss wants events posted more often in the newsletter.

Members Sick or in Distress: none

Adjournment & Date of Next Meeting: Zoom/In Person Meeting Wednesday

Feb 5, 2025 @ 6:00 pm. At UNS Clubhouse. Motion by Rob Murray, 2nd by Tom Kulas at 8:47 pm: carried.

Submitted by Eric Hansen, Secretary.