

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 73

January 2025

Volume 1

\$12.00

CALENDAR

January 25, 2025

Annual Ice Fishing Contest
Location: Island Lake
United Northern Sportsman Club
12:30-3:30 pm

February 5, 2025

Membership Meeting 6 pm
UNS clubhouse
All members welcome

March 5, 2025

Membership Meeting 6 pm
UNS clubhouse
All members welcome

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.

It's a new year and busy at UNS with a lot of news. First of all, we have welcomed a new President to the club; Jim Weiss. Jim and his wife have been club members for many years, so he brings in a beneficial knowledge of the club in its entirety. He's got great ideas for the future of the club, which you can read in his letter to the membership later in this letter. For now, of utmost importance at this time is the UNS's 71st Annual Ice Fishing Contest to be held on January 25th. The contest starts at 12:30 and ends at 3:30. Again, we have many amazing prizes to be given away. There is the Gate Prize drawing which is \$1,000.00 and you need not be present to win. There is an additional \$2,000.00 in prizes for the 1st through 5th largest fish and a trophy and \$50.00 for the child group (age 15 and under). It doesn't stop there, there are additional prizes that are drawn during the entire contest, so you have multiple ways to win prizes throughout the day.

We have also received a very generous donation from a member who wishes to remain anonymous for two youth model mountain bikes. These bikes are from Ski Hut and there is a girls bike and a boys bike. Tickets for this drawing are \$10.00 each or 3 tickets for \$25.00. What an incredible surprise this will be for someone. We are very fortunate and thankful for this incredibly generous donation. This event is UNS's main fundraiser for the year so please have your tickets turned into Deanna Dodge by the 22nd of January. With all this being said, pack up your gear, bundle up and join in this spectacular contest to win some amazing prizes. Tell your friends also, it is open to everyone. Tickets can be purchased at Chalstroms Bait on the way up to the contest or right at the gate on the day of the contest. Remember portable houses are permitted and holes can be drilled for you too. B & B market is also going to join us again this year so you can purchase a warm meal during the event also.

Note From the President

Hello everyone, At the December 2024 membership annual meeting I was honored to accept the position of President of your United Northern Sportsman Club for a 3-year term.

As of this year our club has been active and continuing to grow for 80 years. Starting with 13 members in 1945 and growing to over 1500 members today. That feat alone should give all involved a great feeling of accomplishment. This accomplishment is all due to dedicated past leadership, members, and support of the local businesses throughout the area. I am looking forward to trying to carry on that tradition.

My name is Jim Weiss and I'm a 30-year member. Early in my membership I was elected to the board of directors and after a couple of years I was elected to Vice President, under at that time, President Joe Roberts. I was very fortunate to have Joe as a mentor. He always stressed that it wasn't the size of the project you were doing, it was the impact that it would make for the facility or the members that would benefit from it. That Philosophy has stuck with me for my 30-year membership.

During my membership I have been involved in Ground maintenance, building and set up of the Archery Range, Trap Range, Layout and set up of the Campground and early stages of electrical power to the camp sites.

During a recent walk around of the facility I noticed some things that were in need of repair, replacement, or upgrading. All of those will be addressed early this Spring so we can focus on upgrades and additions for the facility during the summer season,

I would like to remind everyone that this club is a member owned club and the continuation and growth of it is the responsibility of the members. So please donate your time at any of the fund-raising events or work events, whether you donate an hour or a day it will help make successful events or projects easier.

As summer inches closer I'm already looking forward to sitting by a campfire with friends and discussing daily life or sitting at the ranges trying to hit the little circle in the target at 100 yards. If you see an old grey-haired guy wonder into your campsite or walking towards you at the range it's probably me. I'm looking forward to seeing old friends and introducing myself and meeting new ones.

In closing I would like to say thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve such a great opportunity to serve such a great organization. - Jim Weiss

OTHER CLUB NEWS

UNS will be 80 years old this year which is an amazing milestone to achieve. There is not another club like this in Minnesota where being a member you can camp for 14 days and have the opportunity for more days with volunteer work hours; have use of a rifle range from 25 yards to 300 yards, a pistol range, and shotgun/trap range and an archery range. Not to mention a boat launch and dockage available for your boat. We have also just been informed from Minnesota Power/Allete that we have permission to use the swimming area just south of the club where there is an enclosed swimming area and an available bathroom. That takes away any worries for parents about children swimming around fishing boats and motors and crowded docks. A true win win situation for all.

As with all things in life the club's costs have gone up significantly, and to help members understand the value of this club I did some investigating. The average cost in the State of Minnesota to camp for a basic campsite is \$30.00 to \$70.00 per night. For a luxurious campsite it is \$80.00 to \$120.00 per night. With that being said, a weekend camping trip could cost anywhere between \$60.00 to \$240.00 for just a campsite, for only 2 nights.

We are also aware that members do not use the club for camping, but only the rifle/pistol ranges. Memberships for those vary greatly also. There is one local club and they charge between \$35.00 to \$70.00 per month for a basic membership and \$60.00 to \$130.00 per month for higher end plus a \$150.00 initiation fee.

It is obvious where this is all going. The club's memberships are no longer covering the costs of maintaining the club. Membership dues have to cover many expenses of the club. These include but are not solely limited to:

Maintenance/repairs/improvements/insurance on buildings, equipment and grounds,

Our (The Clubs) commitment to conservation

Free educational classes we offer for kids and adults.

And yet the fundraisers are still needed to continue with this also. This is a very small, unique club and the membership is what is needed to continue this organization.

As of April 1st 2025 membership dues are going to increase. The new breakdown of fess is as follows.

Single 1 year membership	\$50.00	it was	\$35.00
Single 2-year membership	\$95.00	it was	\$68.00
Family 1 year membership	\$90.00	it was	\$62.00
Family 2-year membership	\$170.00	it was	\$120.00

The increases are truly minimal if it is broken down into a general timeline (From memorial day to Labor day) the club is open for its members it is an astonishing .55 cents a day for a single membership and \$1.00 per day for a one year family membership.

This is still an incredible value for the money you get in what this club offers with your membership. As stated, the rate increase will go into effect on April 1st, 2025. If you choose to renew your membership before that time it will remain at the current prices and those are listed above for your convenience.