



# Southern Minnesota Sportsman's Club



## Newsletter For March 2019

### COVERED AT THE FEBRUARY & MARCH 2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

**The board discussed ways to improve membership retention.** As result of that discussion we are:

- Contacting members whose email notifications bounce (we are notified that they are undeliverable) by phone.
- Sending postcards out to members whose renewal is 60 days past due.
- Implemented an amnesty special in March where lapsed members can re-join without paying the additional \$10 fee. To date, 42 people have availed themselves of this option.
- Working on the details of how we can add a subscription option to automatically renew online payments.
- Working on details of how we can send text messages to members that are 30 days past due.

**Range clean-up day will be held on Saturday May the 4th ([Star Wars day!](#)).** I'll be emailing details on this to members but this is your chance to pitch in and help out with a variety of tasks to clean up, fix up and improve the club and its grounds.

**We will be purchasing and installing some more steel gongs** for the 200+ yard range.

**We will again hold Summer Bullseye outdoor shooting on Tuesday evenings.** See the calendar for dates and times. Details on this event can be found [here](#)

Several more [training](#) and shooting events have been added to the club calendar. Check the [online calendar](#) to see what's happening.

**Personal note from your friendly neighborhood club secretary.** You may have noticed that the newsletters are late and infrequent. That's because I have taken on many other responsibilities for SMSC. With all of the other tasks, normal daily life, a full time job and to be frank, the fact that this newsletter being my least favorite thing to do, it will sometimes not get done. You can expect that trend to continue. I would welcome and assist anyone that would like to take this over for me. Otherwise I will continue to write and publish the newsletter but it will likely become quarterly.

I posted an item below for a non-club event that I attend almost every year. Why aren't there more of those? Because nobody ever tells me about them despite the fact that there is a link requesting that information. OK, just after I wrote that Ron Ruehmann sent me a flyer for a trap invitational...but that's the first time in over 2 years people! You must know about some events that you'd like others to know about....let me know, I'll pass it along.

### **Some reminders from past newsletters that are still very relevant**

**We are now alternating new member orientation classes** between the first Thursday of even numbered months and the third Saturday of the odd numbered months. Dates and times are on the [club calendar](#). We hope that this will allow more new members to join and more people to be able to volunteer to help with the orientations. There's an item below asking for [volunteers](#).

**As a club that largely relies on volunteers to get things done, we are always looking for help with projects.** Events and improvements greatly rely on people pitching in and helping with those things. If you are willing to volunteer with projects or have a special skill you would be willing to share and wouldn't mind being contacted and asked to help out, please send an email to [membership@smsclub.org](mailto:membership@smsclub.org)

**A chance to volunteer your time to assist our club:** We are looking for volunteers to help out every other month with our safety orientations. Our goal is to have enough people so that we have two full teams and each team would only need to work every other month. The work is not difficult or terribly time consuming. We need people who can perform some simple data entry, print badges, or present the orientation. We offer on the job training and a generous benefits package (which consists of the warm feeling you get when you help someone out). If you can help us out or have any questions about it, please contact us at

[membership@smsclub.org](mailto:membership@smsclub.org). If you would like to volunteer, here's where you can sign up: [Sign up to help at orientation class.](#)

**Free Firewood** - If you are interested in cutting and removing any of the fallen trees on our property as free firewood (or lumber if you have a sawmill), please contact the Range Manager or email us at [clubmail@smsclub.org](mailto:clubmail@smsclub.org)

**If you require handicapped access to the ranges, please contact our range manager.** The ranges are now locked and normally only accessible through the badge reader controlled gate just east of the clubhouse. You can check out a key for the gate on the west side gate should you require it. If you have an old key, swap it for one of the new ones, the locks were changed in April, 2018.

**SMSC can now accept electronic payments.** Check the membership page <https://www.smsclub.org/join/> for links to pay for membership renewals and more. The Range Manager is also able to accept credit and debit cards as are the team at the safety orientation meetings.

**The April board of directors meeting** will be April 11th, 2019 starting at 7:00PM at the SMSC clubhouse. We welcome all members to attend, ask questions and provide input. Also any non-members who would like to address the board with any business are invited to attend.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**There are many other events including indoor pistol and rifle shooting** listed on the club calendar at <https://www.smsclub.org/calendar>.

### **NON-CLUB EVENTS**

**Bill's Gun Shop in Robbinsdale is holding their Shooter's Show** in their Robbinsdale location on April 5-7. This is a really fun event which I have attended many times. Get some friends together for a road trip and shoot some new guns for the price of ammo and super discounts on the .50 BMG and machine guns. [Click for details.](#)

**Dave Schroeder Memorial High School Invitational.** [Click here for details on this high school trap invitational.](#)

**Have an event related to shooting sports or archery that you'd like to have included** in an upcoming newsletter? Send an email to [clubmail@smsclub.org](mailto:clubmail@smsclub.org).

## **RANGE INFORMATION**

### **Range Hours:**

0800-SUNSET MON-SAT

0900-SUNSET SUN

For sunset time each day, go to: <http://sunrise-sunset.org/us/rochester-mn>

**Every member is responsible** to know, follow, and enforce firearms safety and all posted rules at all times. We suggest you regularly review our Standard Operating Procedures (S.O.P.), you can download them from [here](#).

**If you bring a guest, you are responsible for them** and their actions while on the range.

They must also provide us with a signed and dated waiver form. You may download and print the waiver form ahead of your trip to the range:

<https://www.smsclub.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/waiver.pdf> or you may get a copy of the waiver from the Range Manager. Please provide the Range Manager with the waiver before entering the range.

**To keep everyone safe**, members who violate any posted range rule will receive a warning on their first offense. The second offense will result in range access suspension until review with Board for the purpose of reaching a decision regarding when to allow access again.

**Do not let anyone through the gate with you**, either coming in or going out, other than your immediate family or your ONE personal guest. **Every member must badge in and out.** Your SMSC ID badge should be visibly displayed at all times inside the fenced-in (range) areas.

**Eye and ear protection is required** at all times for everyone inside the fenced-in area.

**You must also badge out of the range!** This is to help ensure we know who is using the range. Be sure that you do not allow anyone to "tailgate" when entering OR LEAVING the range. Everyone should badge in and out. Do this for your own protection.

**Before driving out to the range**, be sure it is open by checking out the online calendar at <https://www.smsclub.org/calendar> to ensure that no special event is scheduled.

**Change in membership details:** *Membership is for the member ONLY. The member's spouse or partner, sharing the same address, per information on their driver's licenses, and their*

*children or grandchildren under age 18, living at the same address, are allowed on the range with the member for no additional charge. Spouses or partners, with the same address, may have their own badge for range access if they pay the badge fee (\$10), complete the Safety Orientation, and provide a completed Waiver.*

**Club WiFi guest password** is “clubhouse” (without quotation marks).

**You are responsible to keep the club notified of your current email address.** The club uses email and the website ([www.smsclub.org](http://www.smsclub.org)) EXCLUSIVELY to communicate with members. If your email address changes, please notify us via email at [clubmail@smsclub.org](mailto:clubmail@smsclub.org). We use email to notify members of their renewal date, those emails will come from [smembership@gmail.com](mailto:smembership@gmail.com) please add it to your list of approved email addresses. If you do not have a valid email address on file, you will NOT be notified. This newsletter is also emailed, and it is published on the web site. It contains information you need to know. Without email, you must go to the club’s website to stay current on important club business, rules, etc.

**Safety orientation class/badge replacement** dates and times are on the calendar at [www.smsclub.org](http://www.smsclub.org). Classes are not necessarily always on the same day each month, nor will classes always be held at the same time. Our next class is Thursday, December 6, 2018. Registration starts at 5:30 PM and the class starts at 6:00 PM.

**You may purchase a lifetime membership.** The current price is \$1500. The fee was raised in February of 2015, and announced at that time.

**Your thoughts and ideas** on how the club may be more useful or “user-friendly” to members are appreciated. PLEASE SHARE YOUR IDEAS WITH US at the monthly board meeting or by emailing them to: [clubmail@smsclub.org](mailto:clubmail@smsclub.org) Communications to SMSC or its Board of Directors should also be sent to this address.

**Your 2019 board of directors and officers:** (Terms expire 12-31 of the stated year)

Dean Black (2019), President	Brian Rognholt (2021), Vice-President
Ron Ruehmann (2020), Co-Treasurer	Hilary Melville (2019), Co-Treasurer
Michael Swenson (2019), Secretary	Butch Barton (2021)
Peter Brooks (2019)	Ron Carlson (2021)
Anthony Deveau (2020)	Dale Meyer (2020)
Marta Toth (2020)	Eric Welhaven (2021)