



# Southern Minnesota Sportsman's Club



## Newsletter For January, 2020

### SURVEY FOR OUR MEMBERS

If you have not already responded to our survey, please do within the next month:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9NB3CWJ>

### COVERED AT THIS MONTH'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

#### **February Board of Directors meeting will be:**

- 7 PM, Thursday, February 13, at SMSC Clubhouse
- Members always welcome.
- Non-members are welcome through the Non-Member Business portion of the meeting.

#### **Financial information was posted in the clubhouse:**

- Financial information was posted in the clubhouse.
- SMSC ended the year with a balance of \$163,525
- Effective January 01, 2020, a **membership price increase** to \$100 took effect. A lifetime membership is 20 times the annual membership fee: \$2,000.
- To date, since Jan. 01, only one check for membership was for \$75. Caretaker returned it, with a reminder that rates are \$100, effective Jan. 1.

#### **General Operations Information:**

- **Indoor range air quality:** Awaiting response to emails sent to Grainger and Johnson.
- **Calendar requests:** None
- **Range Manager Housing:**
  - Best price on a suitable home was found at Winona Homes. Arlington by Skyline Homes, model 2214 specification sheets presented to the board.
  - Three local dealers provided bids. One will order a unit, but they do not do setup.
  - Proposal is to customize the unit, replacing one window with a door to make member access to the Range Manager's Office area easier, and providing more privacy for the Range Manager's family.
  - The process, at this time of year, takes 3 months from order to delivery/setup.
- **Septic / Water:**
  - Plan is to get the septic system pumped as soon as possible.
  - We will also have the well tested.
- **Upcoming Costs:** We need bids for the following costs:
  - home and new piers
  - water, sewer, gas and electrical hookups

- complete removal of old home (vs. simply removing it from the existing piers)
- Board members will get bids. Board will take an on-line vote.
- **Discussions are ongoing about merging SMSC and SMTC into a single club..** Both clubs will meet Monday at 6:00 pm to discuss a potential merger.
- **Life Members:**
  - When a life membership is approved, the member is not notified by email.
  - In the future, the president will send new Life Members a notification email.
- **New Revenue Opportunities**
  - Donations:
    - The renewal note will include a request for donations.
    - (Note that the dues are the minimum a member should expect to contribute to the ongoing operational costs and needs of the club. We really need more than “just dues” from each member.)
  - Raffle:
    - We have studied other clubs’ recent raffles, and found that they are profitable, assuming members will buy (and help sell) tickets.
    - SMSC is considering having a raffle.
    - Key points/considerations are:
      - Can we get members to sell tickets.
      - Can we sell enough tickets to recover our costs?
      - The Board cannot do all of the work.
      - This will be added to the survey for volunteers, to ask if people will sell raffle tickets.
      - We will revisit this item after the results of the survey are in.
- **Grace period for membership renewal:**
  - A member expressed concern that they did not receive a reminder of upcoming membership expiration. The member suggested an extension from 90 days to 180 days to renew memberships. (Note: Board Secretary admitted a failure to send membership expiration notices in one month, which caused this situation.)
  - The Board passed a motion that says the Board agrees to change this policy to allow for an extension to the membership renewal grace period from 90 days to 180 days if the renewing member comes before the board within 180 days of their expiration date and agrees to perform a service for the club (for example, work on clean up day).

### **Activities:**

- See [club calendar](#).
- See [training events](#).

(NOTE: When there is blue, underscored text in the newsletter, click the text to open a drop-down window, then click the blue text in the drop-down window to be taken to the information.)

## **Information from Past Newsletters**

**There is now a waiver box at the gate.**

**New Member Orientation classes** are held on the first Thursday of even-numbered months, and the third Saturday of odd-numbered months. Details are on the [club calendar](#). Click here [to volunteer to help at orientation class](#).

**We need volunteers to help with New Member Orientation classes.** The more volunteers we have, the fewer times we would need each person to work. The work is easy, and takes less than three hours each time. We need people to perform simple data entry, make badges, or present the Orientation material. We will train you. You don't need to be a computer guru. If you can help, or want more information, please contact: [membership@smsclub.org](mailto:membership@smsclub.org). To volunteer to help, click here: [Sign up](#).

**Our club relies on volunteers to get things done. We often need help with projects.** Events and improvements require our members' help. If you are willing to volunteer, please send an email to [membership@smsclub.org](mailto:membership@smsclub.org)

**Free Firewood** - If you are interested in 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).

**SMSC can now accept electronic payments.** The Range Manager and the team at the **New Member Orientation** classes can accept credit and debit cards. For links to pay for membership renewals and more: <https://www.smsclub.org/join/>.

**Lifetime memberships cost \$2,000.** You may purchase one at any time.

**Your thoughts and ideas** to make the club more useful or user-friendly are appreciated. PLEASE SHARE THEM WITH US, either at the monthly Board of Directors meetings or by emailing them to: [clubmail@smsclub.org](mailto:clubmail@smsclub.org). Also, send communications to SMSC or its Board of Directors to the same email address.

**You are responsible to keep your email address current.** The club uses email and the club 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 come from [smsscmembership@gmail.com](mailto:smsscmembership@gmail.com). Please add this address to your list of approved email addresses. You must have a valid email address on file to be notified of your renewal date. This newsletter is emailed and published on the club's web site. It contains information you need to know. If you do not provide the club with an email address, you must go to the club's website -> [click here](#) <- to stay current on important club business, rules, etc.

**Change in membership/guest details:**

**Membership** is for the member ONLY. The member's spouse or partner, who shares the same address, per information on their driver's licenses, may have their own badge for range

access if they pay the badge fee (\$10), complete the Safety Orientation, and provide a completed Waiver.

**If you bring a guest/guests, you are responsible for them** and their actions while on the range. Badge holders must supervise and take responsibility for their guests at all times. Badge holders are legally responsible for any damage caused by themselves or their guests, including the consequences of any bullet fired.

Each guest (including children) must provide SMSC with a signed and dated waiver form before entering the range. A parent or guardian must sign the waiver for each minor. Download and print the waiver form before coming to the range at:

<https://www.smsclub.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/waiver.pdf>, or get a copy of the waiver from the box at the gate, and complete it before entering the fenced area of the range.

Provide the Range Manager with the waiver before entering the range, or deposit it in the box at the Range Manager's home.

**Guests:** Badge holders may bring family members as guests to the range. Up to three non-family guests are also permitted. All guests must be known to the badge holder.

The badge holder and guests must limit their range use to a maximum of three adjacent firing points (lanes). The badge holder and guests must stay together at all times.

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

## **NON-CLUB EVENTS**

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

## **ADDITIONAL 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. You should regularly review our Standard Operating Procedures (S.O.P.). You can download SOPs [here](#).

**To keep everyone safe**, members who violate a posted range rule will receive a warning on their first offense. Another offense may result in range access suspension until review with the Board of Directors to determine if/when to allow access again.

**Every member must badge in and out. Do not allow anyone to tailgate (i.e., come through the gate with you),** either entering or leaving the range, other than your own family and your personal guests. Your SMSC ID badge must be visibly displayed at all times inside the fenced-in (range) areas. **You must badge out of the range!** This is to help ensure we know who is using the range. Do this for your own protection.

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

**Before driving to the range,** check the on-line calendar to ensure the range is open and that no special event is scheduled for the time you plan to come and shoot.

<https://www.smsclub.org/calendar>

**If you require handicapped access to the range, contact our range manager.** The range is now locked, and is normally accessible only through the badge-reader-controlled gate just east of the clubhouse. You can check out a key for the west-side gate should you require it.

**2020 Board of Directors and Officers:** (Terms expire 12-31 of the stated year)

Dean Black (2022), President  
Ron Ruehmann (2020), Treasurer  
Michael Swenson (2022), Secretary  
Ron Carlson (2021)  
Dale Meyer (2020)  
Eric Welhaven (2021)

Brian Rognholt (2021), Vice-President  
Hilary Melville (2019), Co-Treasurer  
Butch Barton (2021)  
Anthony Deveau (2020)  
Marta Toth (2020)  
Chuck Willingham (2022)