



## Spring/Summer Newsletter

### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

There is an important change to how, when and where we will hold the all-members meetings in the future. See page 5 for details.

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# SMSC/SMTC MERGER

The merger of the Southern Minnesota Trap Club into the Southern Minnesota Sportsman's Club is complete. After several years of discussions between the two clubs we have finally completed this process. We would like to thank everyone who worked on getting this done, it wasn't always easy but we are looking forward to reaping the benefits of having one club.

What does this mean for SMSC members who aren't members of the trap club? Nothing changes. You can still shoot trap using your own thrower when there aren't any SMTC events going on. Be sure to wear your badge when you do this and if you bring a guest a signed waiver is required. You can still shoot at SMTC events as a walk on non-member (paying a slightly higher rate than members pay).

What does this mean for SMTC members? Nothing much changes. You still pay your SMTC dues, you have the same rights and privileges you did before the merger. You will need to fill out an SMSC waiver if you haven't done so already and you will be provided with a 'Trap Shooter' badge that will identify you as an SMTC member so that you can shoot trap on the range outside of SMTC events. Wear this badge when you come out to the trap range and our range manager will know immediately that you belong here and aren't trespassing.

You are probably asking yourself, "Why go through all these discussions and negotiations to merge the two entities if nothing changes for our members?" If so, you're asking yourself a good question. For an answer, think of a duck gliding across Silver Lake. On the surface it looks like it is just gliding effortlessly across the water without effort. To most club members, that's what SMSC and SMTC look like, they just glide along. But under the surface that duck is paddling like mad. Clubs like SMTC and SMSC require a lot of work to keep running along too. In the past, SMTC leased the land that the trap range and trap clubhouse are on from SMSC. It was a fixed rate regardless of how good or bad a year they had. In addition, they had their own board of directors which had to be insured. By merging the two club into one, they can still have a board of directors but as part of SMSC, they are covered under the insurance that SMSC already has just like the High Power Rifle Club and Bullseye League. Instead of leasing the property, SMTC will now pay SMSC a percentage of the monies collected from their per round fees. This benefits the trap club because if we have another year like 2020 where you can't hold events and there aren't many rounds purchased, they don't pay much into SMSC and by paying only a set percentage, they never pay more than they take in ensuring that they remain viable. This rate can be adjusted in the future to make it equitable for both groups.

Going forward we would like to have a couple of SMTC members serving on the SMSC board of directors at all times to ensure that they have good representation. Presently Ronn Carlson does this and does a great job of it but more is better. I can tell you from experience that it works. Your author joined the SMSC board to push for safety and technology updates and to make sure that the Bullseye League is represented. We have a new server, up-to-date secure software to protect our data and members, ring camera/doorbell on the range manager home, improved ventilation for the indoor range to name a few items. So, this is a call to the trap shooters out there that would like to see changes; it can be done.



# CLEANUP DAY 2021



Our annual cleanup day was very productive. We repaired a large number of pistol target hangers, replaced the 50/100/200 target backers, and did a number of normal cleanup operations. We had a couple of special projects this year. The well head was insulated to prevent it from freezing up in very cold weather. We also focused on replacing a number of the overhead baffles on the pistol range.

The sacrificial boards and steel plates on the baffle supports needed to be replaced too but we didn't get the steel in time to do this work. We have the steel now and have scheduled another work day (morning) on July 17. The pistol range will be closed from 8 AM until Noon or until the work is completed. We don't expect that it will take 4 hours if we can get a few folks to help us out. Please come out and assist with this if you can.

We would like to thank the following people for all their hard work on cleanup day in addition to a number of others that asked not to be mentioned by name:

Matt Bashaw  
Dean Black  
Harold Bolton  
Mark Briske  
Jake Chapman  
Dave Erickson  
Jame Haase  
Dave Holtegaard  
Tom Kastner  
Mark Kautto  
Jason Reeve  
Brian Rognholt  
Michael Swenson  
Eric Welhaven  
Chuck Willihgnanz



# 2020/2021 ANNUAL ALL MEMBERS MEETING

The annual all members meeting was held at 11:00 AM on cleanup day, Saturday May 15, 2021. This meeting served as the 2021 and make-up meeting for the 2020 meeting which had to be postponed due to the global pandemic.

Our president Dean Black recounted the details of many accomplishments we made in the past year and a half:

- The new member orientation was moved to an online process to allow our membership to grow without in-person meetings. In addition, a potential member can use this process whenever it is convenient for them rather than find time to attend a scheduled meeting.
- The range manager's home was replaced. This entailed a lot of work and money. The old home was a 1970's mobile home which was well past its useful lifespan. The board investigated many options and decided on a new mobile home at a cost of about \$108,000.
- The east shed was repaired and much work was done to prevent water from seeping into it.
- The pistol range berm was covered with a layer of mulch to better prevent ricochets.
- Our berm height was doubled at an incredibly low price, essentially the cost of the fuel to deliver 52 truckloads of fill.
- The archery range has new targets, clean and updated paths.

Our club treasurer Hilary Melville gave a brief rundown of our finances:

- The new home was purchased with cash for \$108,000. Because our club is solvent enough to do that, so there are no loans or finance fees. That purchase took our savings down considerable of course.
- The annual dues were raised from \$75 to \$100 in 2020 and that allowed us to remain viable.
- The indoor range ventilation needed to be improved. We obtained quotes and plans from outside sources ranging from \$60,000 to over \$110,000. We used our own member's expertise and some home-grown solutions and have greatly improved the airflow for less than \$1000.
- We sent out requests for donations from our life members and received many generous donations.

We held and vote and elected Dale Meyers, Anthony Deveaux, Jamario Ayers, and Jidong Zang to the board for a 3-year term. The membership also approved the change to the bylaws required to merge SMTC and SMSC so that trap-only members are considered non-voting members of SMSC who are not required to pay annual SMSC dues and do not have access to the rifle/pistol/archery areas of the club.

Anthony Deveaux presented some information about the Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus. There is a link to them at the bottom of our home page at <https://www.smsclub.org> Please take a few moments to learn more about this important organization.



# ANNUAL ALL-MEMBERS MEETING AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION DATE CHANGE

At the May all-members meeting one of our members suggested that we permanently move the all members meeting date to coincide with the cleanup day. An informal poll of the attendees confirmed that almost everyone in attendance agreed that this would be a good idea. The weather is certainly nicer in the spring than the fall and it we do not incur the expense of renting a location that we haven't filled in some time.

At the June board of directors meeting this topic was discussed. It was decided that that we will continue this process going forward. As a result, the terms of the current board members will be extended to May 31, extending the current board members terms by 5 months to facilitate this change. Going forward, new board members would take office on June 1st after the May all members meeting.

As it was this year, working on cleanup day isn't a requirement to attend the meeting. But this change certainly makes attendance at the all members meeting easier for those who care enough to help out on cleanup day.

## SMSC YOUTH GROUP

We would really love to have an organized group to work with youth and new shooters. It is necessary for the future of our club to introduce people to shooting sports. Getting young people involved is especially important. But our efforts to set up events in the recent past have all failed because of a lack of volunteers. We really need to have at least one person to whom this mission is important enough that they would be willing to take on or assist in a leadership role. If you would be willing to help out, the gift of your time is the greatest gift we could ask for. Please reach out to us if you would like to help or even take on a leadership role. As always you can contact us at [ClubMail@SMSClub.org](mailto:ClubMail@SMSClub.org)

## YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dean Black (2023), President

Jidong Zhang (2024), Co-Treasurer

Michael Swenson (2023), Secretary

Butch Barton (2022)

Anthony Deveau (2024)

Eric Welhaven (2022)

Brian Rognholt (2022), Vice-President

Hilary Melville (2023), Co-Treasurer

JaMario Ayers (2024)

Ron Carlson (2022)

Dale Meyer (2024)

Chuck Willihnganz (2023)

*Terms expire on 5/31 of the year indicated.*