

United Northern Sportmen's News

Conservation Pledge: I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully to defend from waste, natural resources of my country - its' air, soil and minerals, its' forests, waters and wildlife

VOLUME 6

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Club Calendar

Ranges Closed on Mondays, for Maintenance, Reserved Activities

**Apr. 6 UNS Board Meeting
6:00pm, Zoom Meeting**

**May 4 UNS Board Meeting
6:00pm, TBD**

**Jun. 1 UNS Board Meeting
6:00pm, TBD**

All members are encouraged to attend. Please RSVP Eric at gonefishing0101@hotmail.com. If the meeting is via Zoom a connection will be provided when you RSVP.

RANGE USE CALENDAR

may be found on our Website:

www.unitednorthernsportmen.org

SHOOTING HOURS

Range hours are 8am to 30 minutes before sunset. All ranges are closed on Mondays. Range opening and closing times are posted on the ranges and the bulletin board on the Retreat Bldg. Please obey the rules or you may lose your shooting privileges.

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE: Monthly newsletters are sent before the end of the previous month. Articles are due by the 15th of the previous month. If you have an article or pictures you would like to share please send to sue@b-green.us. It may be shared, space permitting.

THREE GUN SAFETY BASICS

- ALWAYS keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.
- ALWAYS keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
- ALWAYS keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.

NON-MEMBERS: AN ONGONING PROBLEM

The shooting ranges at United Northern Sportsmen Conservation Club are a favorite amenity used by many of our club members. Unfortunately, due to the fact we have no gates or fences on our property, many non-members have the perception that we are open to the public. We are a private club, and the use of our facilities is reserved for members only. Non-members use of our facilities creates a plethora of problems. The first and most important problem is safety. The shooting ranges are safe if all the participants know and understand the rules regarding the use of our shooting ranges. As a member of UNS, part of becoming a member is reading and understanding the rules before using the shooting ranges. Non-members may not know about gun safety or range safety. There have been complaints from members about the unsafe behavior of some on our ranges. Most of those people were non-members. Another problem with non-members shooting on our ranges is their tendency to bring in non-paper targets like glass bottles, spray cans, etc. left behind when they're done shooting along with all their spent casings. With the increased use of high-capacity semi-automatic sporting rifles, our ranges are seeing increased wear and tear, and a lot more spent cartridges. The ranges are maintained by volunteers who put in hours of extra work because of non-member usage. The ranges open at 8 am and close half an hour before sunset. The times have been agreed to with the homeowners in the area - a fact that non-members are unaware of. We get complaints of people shooting up to and past sunset, and before 8:00 a.m. in the morning. Liability is another issue. There are also other issues, but these are the most common.

To help curb non-members trespassing and using our facilities, this spring we are making a concerted effort to have the shooting ranges monitored heavily through the months of March, April, and May. After May, our Camp Host arrives and will assume the responsibilities of range monitoring. Several members have committed to being UNS range officers and helping us with this initiative. If you are a member and one of our ranger officers approaches you and asks for your membership, please be courteous. They are there on your behalf. We also would ask if you are using the ranges and there is no range officer present, please don't hesitate to ask other shooters if they are a UNS member. If they aren't a UNS member, tell them this is a private club that is not open for public use and ask them politely to leave. However, this is a good opportunity to suggest they become a UNS member. Membership applications are available on our website which they can mail to our membership administrator. Within a week or two, a membership package will be mailed to them including a set of club rules. Thank you for your help.

The Range Committee

UNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING March 2, 2022

Call to Order (Via Zoom): by President Tom Wasbotten at 6:10 pm.

Conservation Pledge.

Roll Call of Officers: Tom Wasbotten, Lance Parthe, Bob Kuettel, Tina Sund, Gene Shaw, Jeff Jarvela, Vickie Jensen, Lance Haavisto, John Bathke, Eric Hansen, John Jones, Ron Cretens, Maggie Cretens. **Excused Officers:** Keith Darsow.

Members Present: Sue Bathke.

Introduction of Vistors and New Members: Terry Larson and Lisa Blanck.

Correspondence: Long Lake Conservation Camp, Gnesen Newsletter, donation check from member.

Agenda Additions & Approval: Motion to approve the agenda (M/S/C).

Reading of Minutes: Eric Hansen read the minutes from the Board of Directors February 2, 2022 meeting. Motion made to accept the minutes as corrected (M/S/C).

Treasurer's Report: Tina Sund as of 2/28/22: Motion made to approve the report (M/S/C).

Membership Secretary's Report: Tina Sund as of 2/28/22: Current membership is 1640. Individual Memberships: 26 with 1 new, Family Memberships: 13 with 5 new. 135 renewals are coming up, 9 expired memberships.

Other Reports:

Web Master – Eric Hansen: Eric made Winter Fishing Contest updates to the UNS website and Facebook page.

Facilities Committee: Per Lance Parthe nothing new. Members have been using the ranges and they are in good shape. Tom Wasbotten asked Howie Farmer to monitor the ranges which will start in a couple of days.

Range and Grounds Calendar: Bob Kuettel & Lance Parthe said there were no new reservations for March.

Incident Report: Lance Parthe reported that there were none since the last meeting.

Grants Committee: Gene Shaw will get info on the "Keeping Kids Outdoors" program from the DNR.

Volunteer Awards Committee: Vickie Jensen had nothing new to report.

Communications Committee: John Bathke had nothing new to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Campground Committee and Volunteer Committee: These committees will meet soon.

NEW BUSINESS:

Complimentary Memberships: Tom Wasbotten asked board to award two complimentary memberships: A family membership to Jason & Brianna Manning for their work with the Winter Fishing Contest and a single membership to Mark Nelson from Bobcat of Duluth for plowing the parking lots for the fishing contest. Motion made (M/S/C).

Long Lake Conservation Camp: Tom Wasbotten asked John Bathke from the Communications Committee to write an article for the newsletter informing members how their kids could be awarded a 'scholarship' to LLCC.

Web Site Approval Development: Eric Hansen gave the board a report from our meeting with Don Bremmer on his experience and the web committees' recommendation to hire him to develop a new web site for UNS. John Bathke talked about Don's bid to do the work: \$3000.00 for development, which includes training for board members to learn how to make updates to the web. We would like to get Board approval to pay for the work since it's not in our budget for this year. Motion for Board to have Don Bremer proceed with web development was made and 2nd. Tina Sund asked to be involved with financials and membership options. (M/S/C).

Fund Web Site Development: Tom Wasbotten discussed if we should wait until the 2023 budget or make a onetime request to fund the work in 2022. Motion to spend up to \$3500. from our reserves for Don Bremmer to develop our new web site (M/S/C).

Summer Fishing Contest: Tom Wasbotten spoke with Gene Shaw about plans to hold a summer fishing contest.

Members sick or in distress: Virginia (Toots) Davidson passed away.

Next Meeting Date & Adjournment: Wednesday, April 6th, 6 pm via Zoom. Motion made to adjourn at 6:46 pm (M/S/C)

Respectfully submitted by Eric Hansen, Secretary.

THE WILD ROLLERCOASTER WE CALL “SPRING”

March has been living up to expectations. When I started writing this more than two weeks ago the midday temperature here in Northern Colorado was hovering near +10 F (~ -2C) and snow was tumbling down. Now that we're eight weeks past Groundhog Day we're in the 70s. Day to day weather changes this time of year in the middle of North America can be huge. After our mild and nearly snow-free fall and early winter, we have had plenty of cold and snow. You can now track your precipitation accumulation and comparison with the estimated average for your location. You can also explore any state, county or station (or year) by [clicking here](#) and [a tutorial for using the tool is found here](#). So far, we can only provide the averages for the U.S., but a group in Canada is providing a similar product for Canada –fun times!!

There were furious wildfires in portions of TX, OK and NM as well as major dust storms. Severe thunderstorms are rumbling into the Mississippi Valley. And in the Upper Great Lakes area it probably still felt a lot more like January than spring. What comes next? Well, that depends on where you are. For our southern states, the last bites of winter are about done. And for those of you who happen to be in the Bahamas, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, and the Florida Keys – we know your song – ‘Winter? What’s that?’ But for areas farther north or higher in elevation there can still be several more weeks that look and feel a lot like winter – except, of course, for the ever-longer daylength. The old saying that goes “As the days grow longer, the storms grow stronger” just may be true. The flat stratus clouds that characterize winter give way to taller, thicker and occasionally explosive cumuliform clouds which bring the potential for hail, intense rains, high winds and tornadoes. For the next several weeks as the transition from winter to summer progresses, be ready for just about anything – especially in the battle grounds between north and south where airmasses [duke it out](#).

Revvng up for a new season — Ready, Set -- GO!!!

Regardless of world affairs, our local weather will always be important and worthy (or downright demanding) of our attention. Whether you took the winter off from observations or not, this is a good time to take a close look at your gauge. Clean it out and check for leaks. Make sure the gauge is installed such that the top of the gauge is level and protrudes above nearby objects (like deck railings, etc.) so that rain does not splash into the gauge. Also, check to make sure no trees, bushes or other vegetation has grown into your gauge’s field of sky view.

In addition to those of us who have taken the winter off, there are also nearly 2,000 of us who have signed up in the past 18 months to participate in CoCoRaHS but have never quite gotten started. There are another 5,000 or so who signed up in the last five years, got set up and began reporting - and then stopped. We’d love to have you back. The more dots there are on our daily precipitation maps, the better we know how much water we have to work with. There is never a bad time to start measuring and reporting, but this is an especially good time.

Some “final” words about snow – at least for this season...

When I wrote in early February, I left out the most common way to effectively melt snow to get a quick measurement. It’s the “add hot water” method. The only trick is to make sure you measure and note the amount of water you add so you can subtract that from your total– the more snow you have and the greater its water content – the more warm water will be needed. [Here is a short video showing the process.](#)

And snowpack depth. My request last month only seemed to encourage five or six of you to try this measurement. So, let’s try this again. I know it’s late in the season, but I just want you to know that the measure of the snowpack depth provides a great deal of useful information. In our very snowy regions, watching the snow depth increase and decrease as we move through March tells a lot about the potential weight (snow load) and water content. This helps hydrologists predict spring river levels and ground water recharge. Yes, direct measurements of SWE (Snow Water Equivalent) is best, but just a decent estimate of the average depth of the old snow, and how it’s changing from day to day – until it is totally melted – is incredibly helpful. Give it a try.

“Snow load” refers to the weight of snow on the surface below and is typically given in units of pounds per square foot or in Kilograms per square meter. If you’ve ever done construction and needed to get a building permit, then you’ve had to design and then build the roof and the structure that holds up the roof to withstand the “design snow load” for your area. Furthermore, you’ve needed to fully satisfy the more-than-likely hard-nosed building inspector. What is referred to as the “design snow load” is typically the 50-year return period snow load.

Some of us have a few minutes of extra time each day, and a desire to gather and share additional weather/water information. CoCoRaHS has added dimensions which turns our volunteer efforts into a water resource monitoring network. Hail reports, significant weather reports, snowfall, snowpack depth, Snow Water Equivalent (SWE), Comments, ET and soil moisture measurements are all opportunities for those of us who want to help above and beyond the daily precipitation report. All of these reports are found in the left-hand menu of your data entry page. Hail season is already here across much to the south and ramps up quickly in the next few weeks as more and more thunderstorms venture farther north. I’ll send out another Catch very soon to hopefully stir up greater interest in reporting hail. Check out the website at [CoCoRaHS.org](#).

Written by Noel Doesken, The Catch, March 31, 2022

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR CAMP AT THE LONG LAKE CONSERVATION CENTER

The United Northern Sportsmen's Club is proud to announce the Long Lake Conservation Center camps are open again this year and we are giving scholarships.

Send some lucky kids to camp! The programs take place from June - August. The camps include Forkhorn Camps, Outdoor Explorer Camp, Astrology Camp and Fishing Camp. More information for this is posted on LongLakeCC.org. If you have any kids or grandkids interested have them email or write a note to Tom Wasbotten, 218-721-4864, twasbotten@outlook.com.

UNS SHOOTING RANGE RULES

Some important rules to remember when planning to use the UNS shooting ranges include:

All ranges are operated on a first come first served basis, unless otherwise posted for closures. Please exercise common courtesy, common sense, and good sportsmanship for a safe and enjoyable experience.

Ranges are open 8:00 am to 1/2 hour before sunset. All ranges are closed on Mondays.

Children under 18 hr years of age must be with an adult Member at all times on all shooting and archery areas.

Shotgun patterning is to be done on the rifle range only.

Only clay pigeons can be used on the trap range.

Only UNS authorized metal gongs can be used on the 200- and 300-yard ranges.

Centerfire rifles, black-powder arms, shotguns, or handguns larger than 45 caliber are prohibited on the pistol range.

Automatic firearms, and trigger activators, bump stocks, or machine gun conversion kits are prohibited as per State of Minnesota Fully Law MS609.67.

NO ALCOHOL OR FDA CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES shall be used prior to or during range use.

EMAILS WANTED: Remember, the next time you renew your membership, or even tomorrow, let us know your email address so you may receive our enhanced newsletter electronically. Emails may be sent to Tina Sund.

UNITED NORTHERN SPORTSMEN'S NEWS

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unsclub@gmail.com

2022 Board of Directors

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