

United Northern Sportmen'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 65

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2020

NUMBER 9/10

\$12.00

Club Calendar

- Sept. 21-22 Rifle Range Reserved:
8am-Noon**
- Oct. 5-6 Rifle Range Reserved:
8am-Noon**
- Oct. 7 UNS Board Meeting
7pm, UNS Retreat**
- Oct. 10 Range Officer
Refresher Training
9-10:30am**
- Oct. 17-18 Fall Sight-In
8am-5:30pm, Rifle Range**
- Oct. 19-20 Rifle Range Reserved:
8am-Noon**
- Oct. 24-25 Fall Sight-In
8am-5:30pm, Rifle Range**
- Oct. 31 - Fall Sight-In
Nov. 6 8am-5:10pm, Rifle Range**
- Nov. 4 UNS Board Meeting
7pm, UNS Retreat**
- Dec. 9 UNS Annual Meeting
6pm, UNS Retreat**

SHOOTING HOURS

Range opening and closing times are posted on the ranges and also on the bulletin board on the Retreat Bldg. Please obey the rules or you may lose your shooting privileges.

RANGE USE CALENDAR

may be found on our Website:

www.unitednorthernsportsmen.org

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE: Monthly newsletters are sent before the end of the previous month. Articles are due by the 15th of the previous month. November's will include the Sept. and Oct. BOD Meeting minutes. December's will include the Nov. BOD Meeting minutes.

UNITED NORTHERN SPORTSMEN'S 2020 FALL FUNDRAISER

With the COVID-19 pandemic, we needed to rethink our Fall Fundraiser event this year. The last two years we held our event during the Sight-In with a Gun Raffle. Due to restrictions we are unable to do the Gun Raffle this year.

Our 2020 Fall Fundraiser will consist of raffling off \$1,500 in various gift certificate prizes at some of our local businesses. They have helped support UNS in the past with their donations to us during our club events over the years (Marine General, Chalstrom's, Fisherman's Corner, Outdoor Advantage, RJ's Sport & Cycle, Duluth Lawn & Sport, and more). As some of these businesses were shut down during the pandemic, they could really use all of our continued support this year.

Tickets will be a \$5.00 donation, and we will be sending everyone 5 tickets. Please try to sell them in your social distance sort of way to your family, friends, coworkers or by buying them all yourself. If every member committed to buying and selling these tickets, we would be well on our way to funding the fabulous events that so many people have enjoyed and expect.

Our drawings will be held at the Wednesday, November 4th Board of Director's meeting. No need to be present to win.

Thank you for your continued support in our club.

2020 FALL SIGHT-IN

The Fall Sight-In will be held this year with new procedures. Because of COVID-19, we will be observing the distance rule of 6 feet. We will use only 7 of the 14 benches. Only seven people will be allowed to wait their turn under the canopy. The check-in will be outside of the retreat building.

Sight-In starts on Saturday, October 17th and continues on Saturdays and Sundays until the Minnesota deer opener. So mark your calendar for October 17th, 18th, 24th, 25th, and the 31st plus the whole week before the opener November 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th. Hours of operation are from 8:00 am to ½ hour before sunset.

Training for range officers will be held on October 10th at the retreat starting at 9:00 am. Training will last one to two hours. Call Bob Kuettel at 218-393-2000 if you would like to volunteer as a range officer.

UNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES JULY 1, 2020

Call to Order: by President Tom Wasbotten at 7:00 pm. Conservation Pledge.

Board members present: Tina Sund, Mike Foy, Bob Kuettel, Tom Wasbotten, Duane Lasley, Judy Foy, Gene Shaw, Vickie Jensen, Lance Parthe, Dan Smestad, and Cody Privette.

Excused Officers: John Bahtke, Lance Haavisto. **Members Present:** Eric Hansen **Correspondence:** None to share.

Motion to approve the agenda was moved, seconded and carried (M/S/C).

Minutes were read and motion to approve the minutes from the June 3rd BOD meeting (M/S/C).

Treasurer's Report - Tina Sund: Presented financial reports as of 6/30/2020. Motion made to approve the Treasurer's Report and pay the bills including 2nd Qtr taxes (M/S/C).

Membership Secretary's Report- Tina Sund: 1,699 current members; Member renewals: 102 singles and 65 combos. 82 second notices were sent.

Committee Reports:

Web Master – Eric Hansen: Made a notice about COVID19 camping and range reservations on Facebook and webpage.

Newsletter Editor – Sue Bathke: Sue not present.

Incident Report – Bob Kuettel: Had an issue with indecent exposure with a guest. Motion to write a letter giving the member a warning and that membership would be revoked if there is another incident (M/S/C). Discussion followed about uncooperative campers. Also, a theft occurred from the target shack. The target shack was accidentally left unlocked. Some ammunition and targets were taken.

Facilities Committee – Bob Kuettel: Steve Holt has the retreat and pistol range on 7//19. All the buildings are nearly complete with new paint. We have spent about \$3,700 on COVID19 related expenditures. We have spent about \$3,000 additional to complete maintenance projects around the property.

Grants Committee – Gene Shaw: Nothing new to share.

Volunteer Awards – Dan Smestad: New sheets are up. Discussion followed about a cash payout of volunteer award.

Finance Committee – Tom Wasbotten: Committee did meet. Most items on the agenda below.

Communications Committee – John Bathke: John was not present.

OLD BUSINESS:

Shooting Ranges Summer Operation – Bob Kuettel: Bob gave overview of the new shooting range hours that were passed at the June 2020 BOD meeting.

Campground Opening w/COVID19 Plan - Tom Wasbotten & Tina Sund: Tom gave overview of the COVID19 response plan to get the campground opened up. Tina gave an overview of the clubs efforts to implement our response plan. The permanent latrines have been closed and we are now using portable Satellite toilets.

Local Donation Requests – Tom Wasbotten: Tom gave overview of the donation requests from local organizations. We will wait another month. Motion by Lance Parthe to suspend charitable donations in 2020. The second was rescinded.

UNS Rules Committee Recommendations – Duane Lasley: Duane gave an overview of the proposed rule changes.

Motion made that there be two types of membership "Individual Membership" – Includes one member, "Family Membership" – Cohabiting couple (or an individual) and children in their household under 18 (M/S/C).

Motion made to clarify that a membership or guest pass is required for anybody that is on the premises except for prospective members touring the facilities and contractors/subcontractors performing maintenance and that a guest pass is for a single calendar day so an overnight stay requires two guest passes. Discussion followed (M/S/C).

Motion made to implement a limit on guest passes so that an individual membership is limited to one guest pass and a family membership is limited to two guest passes (M/S/C).

Umbrella Liability & Property Insurance Update – Tom Wasbotten: Tom gave an overview of the change increasing the coverage on the docks, and of increasing liability coverage. Discussion followed on "hold harmless/waivers".

Website Committee Update – Bob Kuettel: Bob gave an update on website status. Tina did send the needed info. Discussion followed about the "go live" process.

NEW BUSINESS:

SLC Rescue Squad Request – Tom Wasbotten: Tom gave overview of the request from the St. Louis County Rescue Squad to conduct a training exercise at our launch. Motion made to allow the use of our facility on July 11th (M/S/C)..

UMD College Outdoor Skills Field Days – Tom Wasbotten: Gave overview of the need to reach out to UMD to find out if the event will be held. Gene will reach out.

Fall Fund Raiser & Sight-In – Tina Sund & Bob Kuettel: Tina and Bob would like to move ahead with the event. We can shoot every other bench to keep people separated.

AED Storage Case Installation – Tom Wasbotten: Tom gave overview of the need to install the AED storage cases.

Boat Trailer Parking Sign – Tom Wasbotten: Tom gave overview of the suggestion to designate a trailer parking area.

Motion made to place a sign designating the area near the boat launch for day use trailer parking and the area near the garage for camper and guest trailer parking, (M/S/C)

Mice/Rat Issue In Garage – Tom Wasbotten: Tom gave an overview of the mice/rat issue in the garage. There are many droppings causing a biohazard risk. Motion made to clean up the droppings up to \$5,000, Discussion followed. (M/S/C)

Members Sick or in Distress: Don Solem - knee replacement **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn at 9:09 pm (M/S/C).

Respectively submitted by Cody Privette, Secretary. Next BOD membership meeting is on August 5th, 7pm at the retreat.

UNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Minutes Aug 5, 2020

Call to order: by President Tom Wasbotten at 7:00 pm.

Roll call of officers: Tina Sund, Mike Foy, Bob Kuettel, Tom Wasbotten, Judy Foy, Gene Shaw, Vickie Jensen, Lance Haavisto

Excused Officers: John Bathke, Duane Lasley, Lance Parthe, Cody Privette

Correspondence: Was shared.

Agenda additions: Motion to approve the agenda with the new additions (M/S/C).

Reading of Minutes: Eric Hansen read minutes from the July 1st Board of Directors meeting. Motion to accept minutes as corrected (M/S/C).

Treasurer's Report: Tina Sund as of 7.31.20: Motion made to approve and pay bills (M/S/C).

Membership Secretary's Report: Tina Sund as of 7.31.20: current membership is 1722 With 86 single & ?? Combo new memberships, 75 2nd notices sent out.

Committee Reports:

Webmaster – Eric Hansen: Range Reservations updates to website, Facebook page and other updates on COVID-19.

Newsletter: Sue Bathke not present.

Incident Reports: Mike Foy reports campers are spraying water all over the shower room. Tina Sund will laminate a sign for the showers. Bob Kuettel said a deer was stuck on the end of the dock but it did get free and a range officer fell off picnic table when the seat broke, he had minor injuries. Bob thinks it should be turned into insurance. Tom has pictures of the injuries

Retreat Improvements & Maintenance: Randy & Peggy Baumgartner & Ron Ryan painted buildings and brushed-out some campsites. Thank You for your hard work! Tina Sund reports that we have a service charge from Como Oil. Tina will call to find out why we were charged. Lance Parthe replaced the dome on the ice fishing trailer and repaired the other one.

Grants Committee: Gene Shaw received an email from MN DNR regarding grant program applications for 2021. Grants are opening up.

Volunteer Awards: Dan Smestad not present.

Facilities Calendar – Bob Kuettel: The DNR, Jacob Olvie & Daryl Spenser reserved Sun., Aug. 30th, 8am - 4pm PR TR WC 11:30am-3:30pm

Finance Committee: John Bathke not here. Tom reported they had a meeting & will elaborate when they have more

Communication Committee: John Bathke not here. They will work on standard letters.

Budget Report: John Bathke was not here tonight.

OLD BUSINESS:

Website: Bob Kuettel says Dewey is very busy, but is confident that we will get our new website up and running.

Local Donations: Gene Shaw spoke with local Two Harbors' trap coaches but they do not know what events will take place. Discussion followed on what was heard about what events were still happening in spite of the current pandemic.

UNS Club Facilities Rules Update - Communication Committee: Will be presented when complete.

Umbrella Liability & Insurance Update/Property Appraisal: Tom Wasbotten submitted an application to underwriter & is waiting for an answer, Dan Smestad will look for a commercial appraiser for UNS property.

NEW BUSINESS:

UMD: Gene Shaw, they are not answering the phone at UMD. Gene will follow up with another person at UMD.

Fall Fund Raiser & Sight-In – Tina Sund & Bob Kuettel: Event happens in October, Bob Kuettel thinks we can still have the Sight-In and presented detailed potential plans for the event. Tina gave detailed plans for Fall Fund Raiser including \$5.00 tickets with different prizes (other than a gun raffle.) Tom Wasbotten asked for a motion to hold Fall Fund Raiser and run it according to Tina's plan. Motion was made and discussion followed. (M/S/C). Tom on Sight-In event: We should plan to hold event unless something out of our control cancels the event. A motion was made to hold Sight-In event conditional on virus/governor's action (M/S/C).

Dryco Restoration Estimate Mice/Rat Issue in Garage – Tom Wasbotten: Estimate is \$1136.70; Tom will call Dryco to award the contract. Then traps need to be set. Jon had suggestions.

Campground Host: Tom Wasbotten has spoken to a potential candidate and has plans to meet with him in the near future.

St. Louis County Sheriff's Volunteer Rescue Squad Request – Tom Wasbotten: Tom spoke with Sam Sousa about the event: They would like to come out again, on Saturday, Aug 29th. Motion made for the event (M/S/C). Mike Foy was there for the first event & said it was incredible to watch!

Members sick or in distress: Dan Smestad: Surgery, Bill Kleaver: minor injury, Dan Woollett: Grandfather passed

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 8:05pm (M/S/C).

Respectfully submitted by Eric Hansen, Secretary pro tem.

Next BOD meeting September 2nd, 7pm at the retreat.

ST. LOUIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD

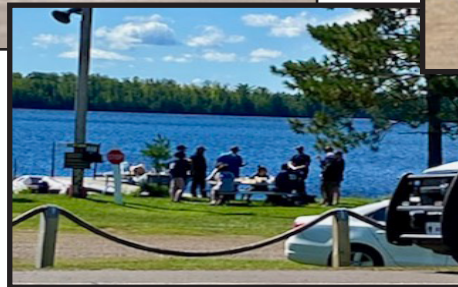
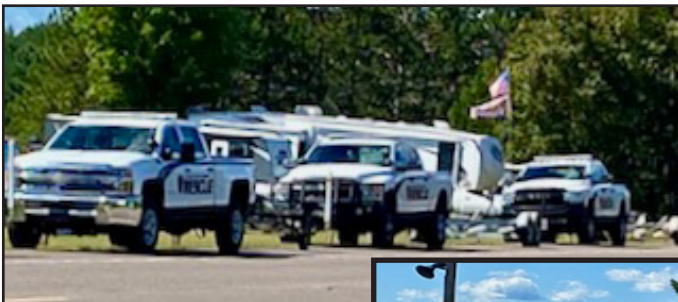
St. Louis County Rescue is 100% Volunteer organization, and has provided search and rescue services for over 62 years in our county. In 2019 the rescue squad provided over 28,093 hours performing over 542 Missions.

- 153 wilderness search and rescue for 156 individuals.
- 99 water operation's, including 10 fatality recovery missions and 20 saves.
- 188 motor vehicle accidents on county roadways, involving 15 heavy extractions and 11 landing zones for helicopter evacuation set up by rescue squad personnel.
- 55 medical responses.
- 47 miscellaneous operations including a major storm damage response.

United Northern Sportsmen was proud to host the St. Louis County Volunteer Rescue squad with the use of our facilities where they held two events this summer on Island Lake in which they trained in water rescues. They practiced close-quarter maneuvering, swim rescues, serpentine, and other competencies in a variety of watercraft.

In the past our UNS donations were instrumental in helping the squad purchase their very first rescue vehicle in the late 1950s.

We appreciate all of their support in our Summer and Winter Fishing events.



Managing buckthorn: Hand pulling? Chemicals? Goats?

Late summer and fall is a great time of year to control many invasive plants. Buckthorn is one of Minnesota's most aggressive invasive plants. Although heavy buckthorn infestations may seem overwhelming, there are a variety of ways to manage it if you're strategic. Learn about the [who, what, when, where and how](#) of controlling buckthorn.

YOUR RIVER ADVENTURE AWAITS!

The St. Louis River Alliance is proud to share The St. Louis River Estuary National Water Trail video. All are encouraged to help spread the word by sharing this with friends, family and followers. SHAREABLE LINK: <https://vimeo.com/455866559>

The St. Louis River Estuary National Water Trail project is a direct result of a cleaner river and decades of restoration work. The National Water Trail is a multi-use waterway enabling the public to experience the St. Louis River Estuary amidst the urban landscape of the Twin Ports. By providing access to wild space in an urban area, the National Water Trail enables more people an opportunity to build their own memories and relationships to the St. Louis River.

The St. Louis River Alliance depends on community engagement and exists for that purpose. Please consider supporting our work by becoming a member today.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

If you are interested in being on the Nominating Committee contact Duane Lasley, 218-310.4273, duanelasley@gmail.com.

DRIER SPRING, SUMMER LEADS TO PHEASANT REBOUND

Pheasant index exceeds 10-year average in many parts of the state.

Pheasant numbers are booming compared to last year and hunters can expect to see more birds when the season opens on Saturday, Oct. 10.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' annual roadside pheasant survey showed a 42 percent increase in the state pheasant index from 2019 and a 37 percent increase over the 10-year average, including an eye-brow-raising 146 percent increase over last year in southwestern Minnesota.

"The weather this spring and summer was favorable for pheasants and enabled more hens to raise chicks, which drove the increase," said Tim Lyons, DNR upland game research scientist. "We didn't get hit by spring snow storms or heavy rainfalls like in 2019 and that really is what let hens nest earlier and be successful."

Though the spring was cooler than average, rainfall was at or below average across much of the state.

"Successful nests earlier in the breeding season also means that chicks will be in better shape going into the fall and winter, which can improve their odds of survival," Lyons said. The peak pheasant hatch was approximately four days earlier than average this year.

This year's statewide pheasant index was 53.5 birds per 100 miles of roads driven. All regions of the pheasant range reported an increase in pheasant counts, with the southwest reporting the greatest increase—there, observers counted 90.5 birds per 100 miles, a 146 percent increase compared to 2019.

Hunters can use the DNR's online mapping tools to find wildlife management areas at mndnr.gov/wmas, and the [DNR Recreation Compass](#) to help locate state hunting grounds and private lands enrolled in the Walk-In Access program. The 2020 August Roadside Survey report, a map of pheasant hunting prospects, data for other surveyed species, and information on hunting regulations and bag limits are available on the DNR [pheasant hunting page](#).



[Learn more about the pheasant!](#)

*Ring-neck Pheasant
Phasianus colchicus*

*Photo: Becky Matsubara
Audobon Field Guide*

UNITED NORTHERN SPORTSMEN'S NEWS
PO Box 161108, Duluth, MN 55816

www.uns-duluth.com
unsclub@gmail.com

2020 Board of Directors

President Tom Wasbotten	218-721-4864 763-228-8889
Vice President Bob Kuettel	218-393-2000
Secretary Cody Privette	218-260-2932
Treasurer Tina Sund	218-591-3304
Sgt at Arms Duane Lasley	218-310-4273

Membership Tina Sund	218-591-3304
Webmaster Eric Hansen	218-831-8646
Newsletter Editor Susanne Bathke	612-991-5364
Camp Host	

Directors:

John Bathke	612-991-5363
Kyle Berg	218-491-4634
Judy Foy	218-591-2391
Mike Foy	218-390-2391
Lance Haavisto	906-235-8483
Vickie Jensen	218-591-5619
Lance Parthe	218-349-5555
Gene Shaw	218-348-2191
Dan Smestad	218-349-8101