

As I write this we are in a warming spell and it will be 45 degrees warmer today than two days ago when our temperature hit -31. Today will be a balmy 14 degrees, t-shirt weather for sure. With the winds finally settling into the 10 to 15 miles per hour from 30 to 40 mph last Friday, it actually feels balmy.

Buffalo Gun Club cancelled their Jackpot Shoot on Sunday due to cold--first time this year for a cancellation. Those brave souls have a knock-down drag-out fight going on over there with 9 different winners in 9 weeks; last week one lone shooter took over top honors with a 48x50, John Kelly of Cokato! That will be a contested spot for many more weeks. Minneapolis Gun Club is also pounding out the targets for Jackpot on Saturday mornings. Please visit these two clubs and support them. Overhead does not stop just because there is snow on the ground.

Our Minnesota Trap Shooting Association board meeting for December is over. Lots of topics and some good discussion was had. The ATA is going to have a discussion with possible changes in the 18 – 19 yard line. It is believed the voting will be up to the Delegates from each state in August.

Congratulations goes out to the Amateur Trapshooting Association for their acceptance into the MidwayUSA Endowment program. The ATA has agreed to donate \$250,000.00 to the MidwayUSA account, which will be matched 2 to 1 for every dollar. This will allow a 5% perpetual (forever) draw annually to grow youth shooting and memberships for the AIM program. It is a proven program that has over one hundred million dollars invested into it. This program has huge “perks” and is a great leap for the youth shooters of the ATA and the ATA as a whole. Congratulations and thank you to Lynn Gypson, John Burke and the whole ATA EC board on taking this step.

Coach training, the NRA Level 1 Shotgun Coach class, is starting soon, with locations all across MN. Email Sally at minnesotashotgun@icloud.com to reserve a date and time. Remember we try to keep the classes down to 25 per session.

It is with great sadness and our sincere condolences, that we must report the loss of several friends and shooters of Minnesota.

Minnesota lost **Arthur R. Hessler** of St. Cloud, MN. on November 22nd. Art was born in St. Paul, MN. on March 8th, 1924. He served in WWII in the US Army Air Corps. Art was an avid outdoorsman enjoying fishing, hunting, trap shooting and spending time with his family. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather.

Art is survived by his children Kathy Hessler, Jim (Nadine) Hessler, daughter in law Jennifer Hessler, Grand Children, Paul and Patrick Hessler and Heather Ostlund, David (June), Daniel and Mike Hessler, Kelly (Jason) Murphy and three great grand children. He was preceded in death by his wife Laura, his parents Dick and Laura Hessler, sister Betty Birch and Brothers Jim and Bob Hessler. Art will be missed by the shooting communities.

Minnesota also lost Mr. **David Hale Reynolds**, David passed on November 15th, 2016. He was 73 years old. David was born in Minneapolis on September 8th, 1943 and grew up in Deep Haven, MN. He attended Minnetonka High School and joined the Navy after graduation. David married Cheryl Allyson Frantum for Alden. David was a member of the Wells Pistol and Rifle Club, Owatonna Gun Club, the NRA and the ATA. He enjoyed Trap shooting, rifle and pistol, Dog obedience, horse showing, photography, travel and boating. He will be missed by our small shooting community.

And sadly our own club lost a founding member on Friday. The Buffalo Community lost, **Neil Frederick Ebeling**, on Friday December 16, 2016. He was 68. Neil was born July 26, 1948 in Monticello, MN. He attended and graduated from Buffalo High School and graduated in 1966. Neil joined the Marines and was sent to Vietnam in April 1968. He returned home and married Vicki Schleif in 1973 and had two Sons, Eric and Ryan. He has two grandchildren. Neil enjoyed trap shooting, hunting, fishing, photography and Astronomy. Neil was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and a great story teller. He will be missed.

Please remember to hug your family every day. Tell them what they mean to you. Leave no doubt. Please accept our sincere condolences to the family's listed above.

On behalf of the Minnesota Trapshooting Association, its board members, members and friends and my Family, please have a safe and very enjoyable holiday season.

I am honored to be your delegate. I thank you for allowing me to be of service for you. Should you have any questions or concerns please email or call me. I can be reached at Mark@airclimatecontrol.com or at 612-703-6155.

Mark Stevens
ATA Delegate (MN)