



By the time you receive this year's year-end newsletter it will be a new year. Northstar Sportsmens Club wishes everyone had a very Merry Christmas and safe journey into the New Year. So, without any further ado, let's run through the club's activities for 2011.

April--We had another successful banquet again this year. Once again, we went with the more popular prime rib dinner along with the wild game hors-d'oeuvres. Tickets for the dinner were slightly increased over last year. The club's net take this year was a little less, but the increased cap for spending on better quality firearms was the difference. A quick thank you to John Eaton and Doug Braker for co-chairing this event and to those volunteers for soliciting the local merchants, and to those volunteers that make sure all the small details are worked out to keep things running smoothly.

The weekend archery event held in April was again successful.

May--The club opened for the season on May 4th. Trap, skeet, and Sporting Clay teams were being formed for the summer league.

A registered trapshooting tournament was held on May 29th. Though only a dozen shooters show up at each of these shoots, most shoot 12 or more rounds of trap each. Hard-core shooters they are!!

June--A new automatic sporting clays machine was added to the springing teal station. The original manual machine was putting the club's personnel in an unsafe position in front of the shooters.

Carl Berg, along with a few other volunteers rebuilt the platform for the new machine for better stability and access to reloading. Carl also completed work on the machine tower, by installing a roof to better protect the two machines from the elements.

This year the board instituted a better election process. Most of you should have received in the mail, besides a ballot, two envelopes for return to the club. By following proper parliamentary procedure, the open balloting process of the past was not correct, and it will now be conducted with a sealed, secreted ballot. An election committee will be chosen each year to collect nominations and see that the process is conducted properly.

Thanks to the parents, uncles, aunts, grandparents and neighbors for bringing the kids out to the range each Wednesday night for the youth trapshooting program. We had 17 kids participate this year. Most saw significant improvement from last year's shooting. A special thank you to the kids for conducting themselves as very mature young adults.

Berm and bench work was completed on the rifle range.

One way signs were installed on the rifle range and sporting clays road to ensure the flow of vehicles moves in the correction direction.

Will Pehling and his crew again helped with the Leech Lake Walleye Tourney. The club received \$3000 for the help.

July--Some may have noticed early that the club began staying open on Mondays and Tuesdays, as well as the original days and hours of operation. The hope was to give more access to the tourists making the Walker area part of their summer vacation. It was a slow start but, eventually it began to pay off with more non-members shooting clay targets than members.

This was the earliest part of the season the club has ever needed to purchase clay targets. Each year we would order one-half of a semi-truck load. This year we ordered again but with 5 pallets over half a load.

It has come to the club's attention that occasionally, some demo sporting clays machine become available. The board approved the purchase of a automatic rabbit thrower if one comes available. This new thrower will ensure that the employees remain in a safe area and to help speed up the squads.

August—No time to catch their wind for the employees at the club, with a constant flow of shooters; members and tourists, the days began to get long. The new Monday and Tuesday hours were drawing a lot of new shooters.

George Jurgenson and his crew entertained the kids again with the Youth Day at the Range on Aug 20th.

A final decision was approved by the board on the size of the new building: 30ft x 36ft, to be put up in the spring of 2012. Monies have been budgeted for the construction and cement slab work.

A hi-def antenna was donated to the club so the shooters can enjoy the football games during the fall on Sundays.

The youth trapshooting league finished up the season with an awards program, potluck dinner, and an evening of shooting games, at the club.

The two traphouses were in dire need of repairs. Freezing and thawing had caused the walls of the houses to buckle severely. Neill Kinder and Carl Berg donated their time and equipment to ensure minimal interruption of daily shooting to have both houses rebuilt and back-filled correctly.

The last archery shoot of the year was held at the end of August. Approx. 75 archers participated during the two day shoot.

September--This month began with the memberships' annual meeting and the election of new board members. The club welcomed two new board members, Brian DeGrote and Bonnie Conrad, and returning board member Doug Braker. Immediately following the meeting, the board convened to elect new officers. President of the club will be Carl Berg, Bonnie Conrad as VP, and Doug Braker as Secretary/ Treasurer.

The club continued to show its support to local law enforcement agencies, by providing a place for them to shoot.

October--During June and July, Doug Braker worked on writing an application for a grant from the Friends of the NRA for the youth shooting program. The deadline was the end of July. On October 30th, he was notified that the Friends of the NRA had granted Northstar Sportsmens club \$3500 worth of ammo for the youth program.

The board approved to sponsor, along with the American Legion, a fundraiser for the Wounded Warrior Project. The Wounded Warrior Project provides support for those returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. Doug Braker and Bob Moore are co-chairing this event. The day will consist of trapshooting, rifle shooting, and handgun shooting. Keep an eye on the club's website nssclub.org, and for flyers around the area for the details.

November—Since the club began offering a special site-in for the deer hunters, it was again a very busy few days for the guys at the club helping out the procrastinators the last few days before the opener.

For the newly graduating high school seniors, the board has set up an application process for scholarships. The amount for each of two scholarships has been doubled from \$250 to \$500. The gender discrepancy has been removed and other rules have changed as well. Applications must be received by **April 1, 2012**. Check it all out on the club's website at <http://www.nssclub.org/>

Jan, Feb, March(2012)--The club will be open during January, February, and March for a little cold weather shooting. The dates will be the first and third Sunday of each month, providing there is not a snow storm the preceding couple of days and that the temperature is NOT below +10 degrees. It's highly recommended to call one hour prior to the opening of the club to ensure it will be open.

Bob Moore was again chosen to manage the club's daily activities for 2012.

Memberships that have renewed and purchased a key through the mail, can obtain their key at the club during open hours.

The following is a chart showing participation at the club this past year and the preceding three years...

	Trap	Skeet	Spt Cl	Rifle	Handgun	Archery
2011	2227	1896	503	520	518	33
2010	1780	1352	549	640	335	64
2009	1108	975	528	513	280	45
2008	1146	1228	655	510	262	96

So, there's a brief summary of the past year. If you're interested in more details, all of the past BOD minutes are posted on the club's website. Unapproved minutes from the most current meeting are also posted within two weeks.

Attached you should find a list of events taking place at the club during 2012. If you have an event not listed or see something incorrect, please notify me ASAP and I'll get it added to the website.

Also, don't forget, you can re-new your membership by downloading the application found on the club's website, and sending it to Northstar Sportsmens Club...PO Box 21...Walker, MN 56484

Cordially Yours,

Doug Braker

Secretary-Treasurer