

PALATKA SKEET CLUB, INC.
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November 2, 2020

Dear Member,

Our annual election and membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 in the clubhouse at 7:00 PM to elect those who will govern and guide the Palatka Skeet Club during the coming year.

Our utility, insurance and operational costs have continued to rise, and our target costs have increased 7 percent this past year. Your Board of Directors have been able to hold the overall club cost down and made the decision to hold membership dues at the present level along with the cost per round. We have absorbed the last two electric rate increases along with continued operational costs of the campground to the point where we must raise the cost per night for a single 30 amp plug to \$18 and 50 amp service to \$20 a night to generate additional revenue to operate and maintain our campground at a breakeven point.

We are constantly challenged to maintain and improve our club with a small volunteer labor force to help contain costs. This year we were able to utilize several people from the court system with mandated community service hours for minor offences. This has been a win-win for the club and community. Another measure to contain costs and minimize target loss your board is researching the option of installing token/smartcard readers for the skeet fields.

As the Covid outbreak started in mid-March your Board decided to close the club for the month of April. We are sorry if this caused you any inconvenience. But rest assured we did not stop making improvements as you may have noticed the target and shot drop area was cleaned up with new distance markers installed. Several hundred yards of broken targets was hauled and used for fill behind field 7 for the upcoming 5 stand platform. Clay Electric Cooperative has donated poles that will be used in this project.

In June, the club once again hosted a Youth Camp for aspiring young shooters. We limited the camp to 31shooters this year due to COVID restrictions. The Program Director also reduced the cost per youth shooter from \$135 to \$65. Because of the Covid outbreak NSSA was unable to give the usual grant of \$1000 to the program this year because of their own revenue losses. Lawry Targets donated 50 cases of targets with the club suppling the remainder at cost. Thanks again to the certified instructors who volunteered their time and expertise to make it a success.

As most of you are aware fields 2 and 3 have been closed for use most of the summer. Our neighbors at the water department had a couple of grievances with the use of the fields. Their main concern was some of our lead shot was traveling into their work areas and there was one reported minor injury. So as a preventive measure your club president contacted the city manager and we voluntarily closed the fields to prevent any other complaints. To that end Coastal Netting in California has been contacted to design a shot curtain for our fields. Currently the total cost is unknown. The upside of this capital investment is this will be a modular system and can be purchased in stages and will enable us to go back to a full 7 field facility.

In late September your directors met with the Palatka city manager and was granted permission to do some under brushing and clearing in the shot fall zone as this will help ensure we can recover as much lead as possible later this year or first of next year. The company contracted for the cleanup will provide documentation for soil ph.as required by our environmental plan for lead remediation.

Recently the rules for federal aid to the states for the Covid 19 changed making 501C3 organizations like ours eligible for the grant money. Your club was able to secure \$10,000 from Putnam Cares for the use in stopping Covid 19 to that end you will be seeing soon hands-free upgrades i.e. toilets, sinks, soap, and towels dispensers in all the restrooms at the club. The bathhouse is having a total make over with all new fixtures paint and lighting.

As a member you have benefits not available.to the general public, such as-the ability to purchase components and ammunition at dealer prices, and the use of the clubhouse for private social events. Our RV camping area is also available for use by you and your guests.

Enclosed you will find your annual Membership Renewal Form, which must be returned by December 31st, if you are to remain a member in good standing. Even if you are a "Life Member", please fill out the form.in its entirety and return it since we use this information to keep you updated and informed throughout the shooting year. ***Why wait and possibly forget the December deadline please consider filling it out and mailing it with your check today!***

Please visit our updated website frequently at: www.palatkaskeet.org for all of the latest club news, and show your support by renewing your membership and attending our general membership and election meeting.

Terry French
President PSC

Encl: Membership Renewal Form