



EAGLE RIDGE SPORTING CLAYS

CALL
CLUB



ONE OF THE MOST SCENIC SHOOTING CLUBS IN THE MIDWEST IS ALSO ONE YOU MAY NEVER HAVE HEARD OF – EAGLE RIDGE SPORTING CLAYS AT LEWISTON SPORTSMEN’S LEAGUE, SIX MILES OUTSIDE OF THE SMALL NORTHERN MICHIGAN TOWN OF LEWISTON.

**A REPORT BY
DANA FARRELL**

**ABOVE: KIM JONES GETS
READY FOR A TARGET.**

Eagle Ridge, or “Lewiston” as Michigan shooters know it, is home to the Northern Michigan Sporting Clays Championship, an absolute gem of an annual event which has been held Labor Day weekend the last four years running.

Dating back to around 1945, Lewiston Sportsmen’s League moved to its current location when they purchased this 120 acre former ski resort in the early 1980’s. With its massive ridgeline, this 150 member club can boast some of the loveliest panoramic views of any sporting clays facility in the Midwest. As sporting clays Chairman, Jerry Boron, says, “you can see for 20 miles from the top of our hill and our nearest neighbor is one

mile away.” Autumn views are breathtaking – but a visit to Lewiston any time of year will make for a memorable one with its rugged, wooded hills and north woods atmosphere. Surrounded by miles of State and Federal land with vertical diversity that one would expect from a former ski resort, it has by virtue of the natural terrain what many other clubs strive for by using raised shooting platforms and trap towers.

The course winds its way up the edge of a long, tree-lined ski hill with stations positioned to shoot overlooking a wide forested valley. Mid way through the course, the path meanders up to the highest ridge with incredible open views of the distant

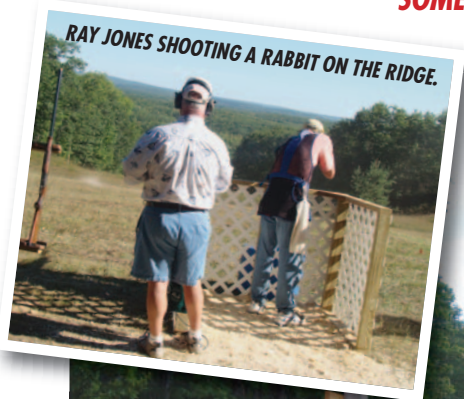


END OF THE ROAD – WALKING BACK TO THE CLUBHOUSE.



EAGLE RIDGE'S PAVILION.

BECAUSE THE CLUB IS IN A HIGH SNOW AREA, THEY ADJUST THE COURSE DURING THE WINTER BY CLOSING THE HIGHEST ELEVATION STATIONS AND RELOCATING SOME TRAPS TO SHORTEN THE WALKING DISTANCE.



RAY JONES SHOOTING A RABBIT ON THE RIDGE.



BARRY WILLIAMS SHOOTING A PAIR WITH DANA FARRELL OBSERVING.

countryside. After a short walk (or ride if you're lucky) down the other side of the hill, the last station is positioned at the bottom, near clubhouse level.

This one mile, fully automated course features 14 stations open to members and public alike and is a 15 minute drive from the comfortable lodges and conveniences of the nearby town of Lewiston. The town itself, with a seasonally fluctuating population of roughly 8,000 in summer to around 2,000 in winter, relies mainly upon tourism dollars with a small number of inhabitants tied to light industry and logging.

Because the club is in a high snow area, they adjust the course during the winter by closing the highest elevation stations and relocating some traps to shorten the walking distance. During the summer season a cart is not necessary for the physically fit, but can provide welcome relief to those who either don't want the exercise or might have trouble negotiating the hilly terrain.

The recent 2008 Northern Michigan Championship, Lewiston's premier event, featured \$10,000 in prize money, provided with the help of generous sponsors. Almost 100 shooters competed this year, treated to a splendid weekend of beautiful northern Michigan weather,

unparalleled scenery, catered food and great targets. Every shooter was provided lunch both days of the Main Event and received an event tee-shirt – perks that Eagle Ridge builds into their entry fee. 5- Stand, Long Bird and High/Low side games kept both shooters and spectators engaged while some participants spent down-time in their motor homes and campers parked on site. The clubhouse remained open throughout the weekend for the convenience of those who wanted to set up camp on club grounds.

The weekend featured a 100 bird Pre-lim on the Friday followed by a 200 target Main Event shot over Saturday and Sunday. A class shooter Mike Oakley shot a strong 93 on Friday to take HOA in the Pre-lim. Master class shooter Jeff Mitchell (91) took RU, followed home by Steve Armstrong (90).

Tom Mack shot a 97 on Saturday and a 95 on Sunday for a total score of 192 and event HOA. Dan Vandenheuvel (175) took M1, followed by Jeff Mitchell (176) at M2 and Jason Huf (175) in M3.

In addition to this Labor Day event, Lewiston also celebrates every July 4th with their Firecracker Shootout and holds a handful of registered events throughout the year. If you're passing – call by. You'll enjoy the visit. ■



SPORTING CLAYS CHAIRMAN JERRY BORON AWARDED 2008 NORTHERN MICHIGAN CHAMPIONSHIP HOA TROPHY TO TOM MACK.