

Whooping Cranes

There is good news and poor news this month. First the good. Preliminary figures for the year 2022 show a profit for the year operation. We had revenues of approx. \$99,000 for the year. We spent a little over \$75,000. We have about 24 Thousand more in the bank now than at the beginning of 2022. We took in (rounded off) table fees of \$52,000. On-line games brought in \$13,000. Memberships of about \$4,000. Rental \$6,000. Donations (for furnace) \$14,000. Some various miscellaneous income. Sounds good. The down side was how this was achieved. We have the money to upgrade the furnace which will be spent in the spring. The city approved a tax abatement for last year that saved us about 11 thousand dollars. That is not assured for this year. We have applied for a similar abatement. We hope to get this again but will not know until into May. Still all in all we seem to be treading water. Right now our on-line play is dropping , but in person face to face seems to be incrementally better. The air conditioning worked well last year so we will be able to put in a smaller less expensive furnace this year than was planned. However the larger snow falls this year are pushing the snow removal costs up.

This brings me to the whooping crane story. In the 1940's the population dropped to 21 birds in 1 breeding flock, A disease or other issue could wipe out the entire flock. With great care the flock had grown to 47 birds by 1957. Since then careful efforts have established a second breeding flock and today the population is estimated at approximate 600 birds, They have survived but it took a lot of co-operation from many to grow them. I feel our club is like the Whooping Crane flock from 1957. We have survived the COVID experience but need to grow our membership to again be a flourishing club. The Friday under 500 game growing. This is offering hope to me that new blood is coming into the club.

This Month we have a STAC on February 13, 15, 17. (Silver Points) The last Monday will be another Unit Championship team game. Some of these do not show up in the book because Mark did not have all the information as this year with re-openings there is a lot of information regarding games that was not available, Watching the monthly report will be important for getting info on upcoming games.

I would like to give a pat on the back to Cathy Walsh. She has been doing great work with new players. Her Wed. night coaching game has grown. A coming under 500 tourney and another set of beginner lessons are all helping to grow interest in newer players.

Have a great month and I hope to see you at the club.

Jerry Mamer