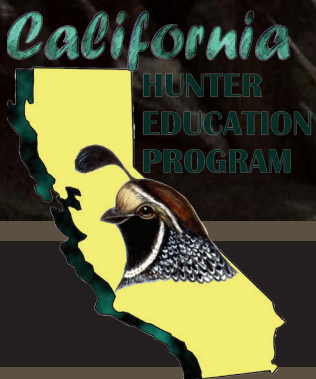


HUNTER EDUCATION QUARTERLY

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

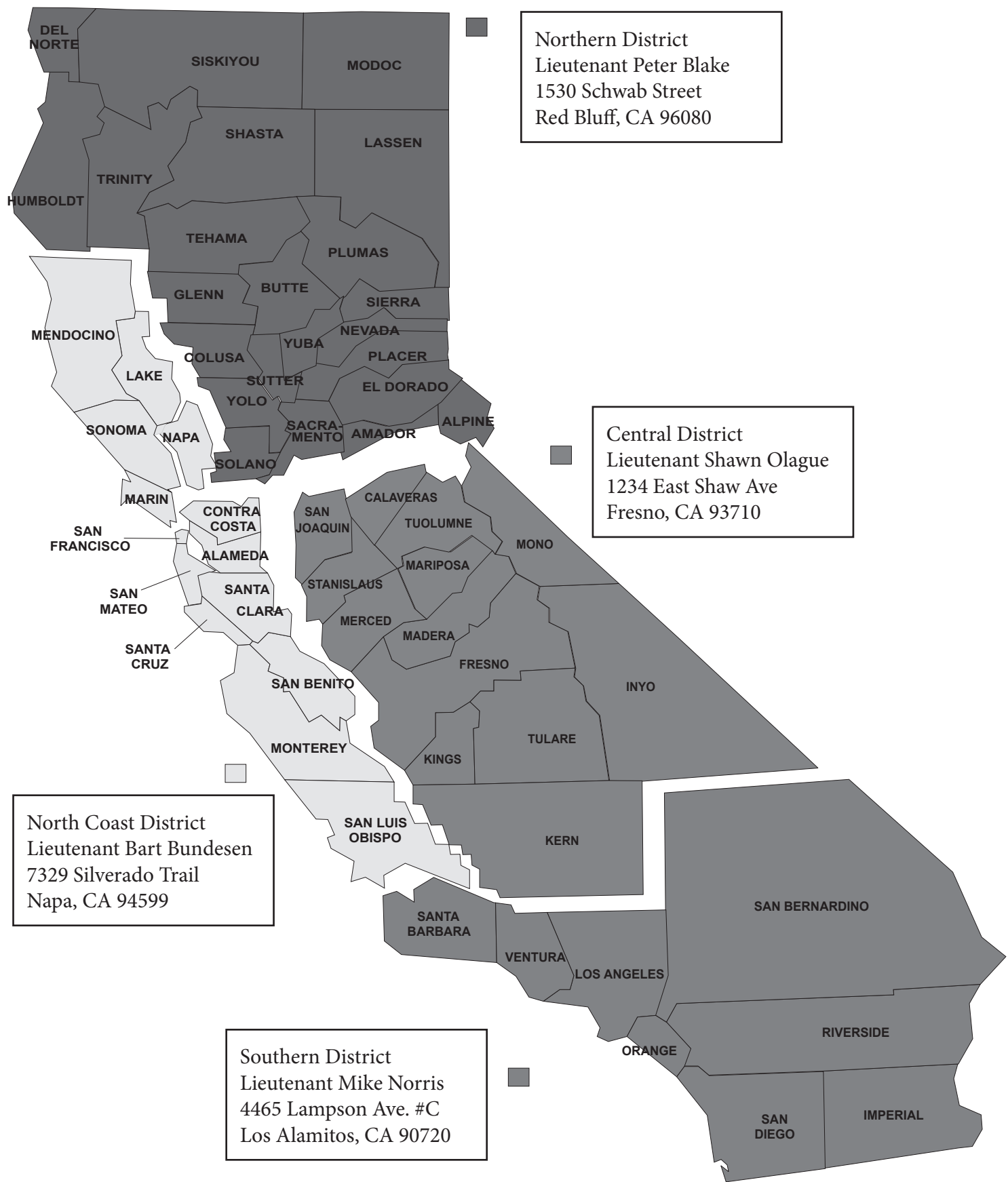
Spring 2017, V. 20 No.1



Check it out! 2017 Conference Photos!



Hunter Education Map



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Cover Photo: Olivia Machado
Taken by her father Rob Machado, her first duck hunt.



Federal Aid Project
Funded by your purchase
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Administrator's Corner

By: Captain Robert Pelzman

One full year of Event Manager! The system is working great and continues to evolve as new functions and customizations specific to California are added. Rather than writing about our stats for 2016, please take a look at the various graphs included in this quarterly.

In January Lt Blake, Lt Olague and I attended the IHEA-USA Hunting Incident Investigation Academy in Tallahassee, Florida. It was a week long look at various techniques used to investigate hunting related incidents. It was great getting to compare stories and issues with Game Wardens from across the Country. The Academy maintains a collection of dismantled shotgun shells displayed in vacuum sealed bags. These displays can help an investigator identify the type of shell used in a hunting incident. They also make for cheap and easy hands-on training aids in a Hunter Education class.



In 2016 we recorded 14 hunter incidents or hunter casualties as we refer to them. Of these, three resulted in fatalities. In most situations there are several factors that contribute to the casualty occurring. Based on information determined during the investigation, we identify the major factor for each casualty. Last year's casualties breakdown as follows:

- Victim mistaken for game – 4
- Victim covered by shooter swinging on game – 3
- Victim out of sight of shooter – 3
- Careless handling of firearm – 2
- Shooter stumbled and fell – 1
- Faulty equipment – 1

Many of you have probably already spoken with Michael Jones, so I figured a brief introduction would be good. He has been an Office Technician at our Law Enforcement Division Headquarters for about the past year and a half. During this time period he earned his Hunter Education Certificate and has developed an interest in the Hunter Education Program. He has taken it upon himself to become familiar with several hunter education specific databases and programs. By doing so he is able to better assist prospective students, current hunters, and HEI's. Michael prepared the following quick introduction and I snapped a quick picture of him at his desk.

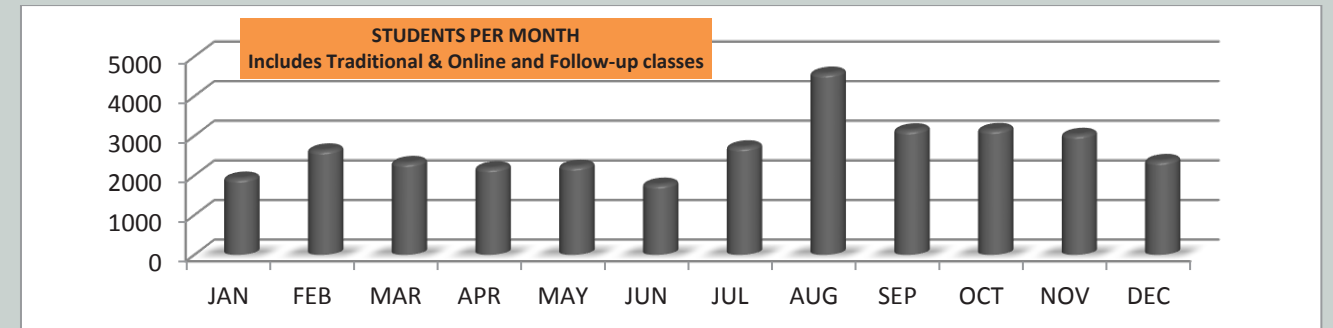


As far back as I can remember, I always wanted to be a filmmaker. Unfortunately, chronic back pain and general malaise snuffed that ambition with a pillow, so I changed my priorities and my goals. After graduating San Francisco State University with a Bachelor of Arts and toiling away at a now-defunct movie theater, I found a job with the Department.



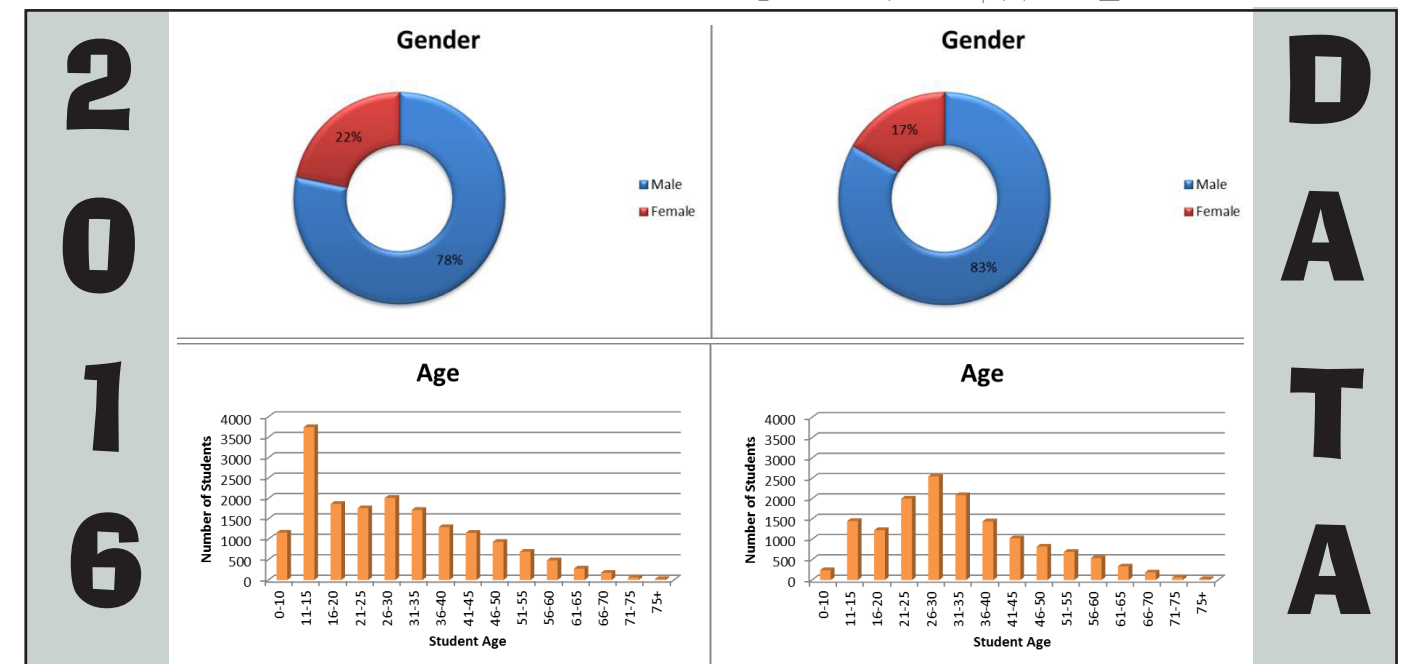
Lt. Blake, Lt. Olague and Capt. Pelzman at the IHEA-USA Hunting Incident Investigation Academy in Tallahassee, Florida

I figured that since I was already fielding calls from instructors and helping prospective hunters enroll in classes, I would be better suited to help if I was more involved in the Hunter Ed Program. I also felt unsatisfied just passing them on to someone else every time, especially if they weren't there that day. I'm not going to join you at any conferences any time soon, but the chances are good you'll hear me should you be looking to call Hunter Ed.



Traditional Hunter Education

Online and Follow-up Hunter Education



Advanced Hunter Ed

By: Lieutenant Alan Gregory

Spring is finally here! The hills are green, the grass is long, and all of the critters are happy. With the copious amounts of water we received this year our wild animals should be well on their way to recovery. Spring brings us one of my favorite hunting opportunities, Spring Turkey. This year is especially special for me since my 9 year old son passed his hunter safety test with a fantastic 96%. I would like to thank HEI Dennis Armstrong for squeezing my son into the class. By the time you receive your quarterly he will have hopefully had the opportunity to harvest his first Wild Turkey.

I am to digress for a little bit. We all teach Hunter Education for different reasons. Ultimately, we are all passing down the tradition of hunting to the next generation. I have heard numerous times from other parents who hunt, that they wouldn't be disappointed if

I would like to thank
HEI Dennis Armstrong
for squeezing my son into
the class.



their child didn't get into hunting. I asked myself, how would I feel if my son or daughter didn't want to hunt? Would I be disappointed, angry, confused, or sad? I believe most parents come to the conclusion that they will accept whatever decision their child makes. To be completely honest, I was going to be disappointed if my son didn't want to hunt. I wasn't going to be disappointed in my child, but in not having the chance to have a wide eyed hunting partner at my side. Why you ask? The answer is long but I will paraphrase. I grew up in Stockton with a single mother who didn't hunt. My mother married my step-father when I was 12. My step-dad hunted and he offered me the opportunity to go with him. I immediately took the opportunity and haven't looked back since. The time I spent in the outdoors with my step father helped make me the person I am today. What would I be doing if I didn't start hunting? How would my life be different? I definitely would not have become a Game Warden. I probably wouldn't have met my wife. Wow how things could have been different. As you all know some of our best friends are the ones we hunt with. I want my son and daughter to have the same chances to experience all the outdoors has to offer. As for now, I have the best hunting buddy I could ask for, my son.

The Advanced Hunter Education Clinics are well under way. Last year I noticed a slight increase in the number of no shows in the clinics. I believe part of that was due to students being able to register for classes as soon as they were posted. This big time gap from registration to class allowed people to forget about the class or have something else pop up. To alleviate this, I posted the classes on the website as I confirmed them, but students were only able to register approximately 3-4 months in advance. We'll see if this makes a difference. It is very apparent that people are giving themselves reminders about the classes. The clinics have all filled in a matter of days from registration opening. As of right now I don't have an open seat in any available clinic. It looks like it is going to be another busy year. I'll be offering the same clinics this year. In addition the first Hunting with Air Guns Clinic will be held in July in Los Angeles County. We will also be offering the Wilderness Survival Clinic in El Dorado County. As I have stated before this program would not be as successful as it is without the support from all of you! Thank you again.



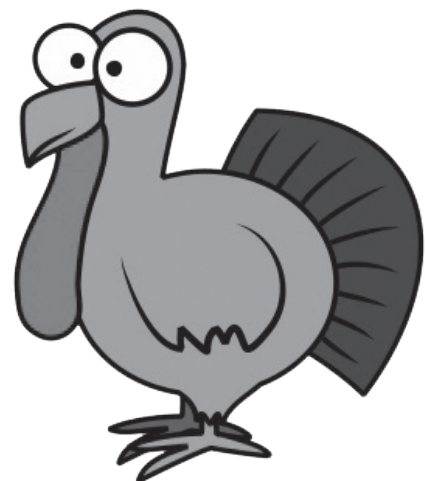
North Coast District

By: Lieutenant Bart Bundesen

Spring is here again, seems like just yesterday we were cleaning up after the 2016 NCD Conference. One of my favorite things about a wet winter it's the beauty it produces as the sun begins to warm the soil. Watching the sunrise and listening to the gobblers respond to a lonesome hen is tough to beat. I hope you all are finding some time to get away, if not I encourage you to find your spot.

Spring is new beginnings and like you all I have existing projects that need to be completed. Despite that I every year I like to look forward and add some goals to that list. One of the things I want to try to work on is how can we "mentor" new hunters as they journey into the field? I always believe the best mentorship comes from friends and family. There is no substitute for Dads, Moms, Uncles, Aunts, etc.....

What can we do as a group? It is time consuming and over whelming when you look at the sheer numbers of students coming out of our classes. Start small is what I'm thinking. If we can educate



these new hunters in our classes where to go, what to look for, and how to get started we can help light that fire that led us all to hunting.

Watching the sunrise and listening to the gobblers respond to a lonesome hen is tough to beat. I hope you all are finding some time to get away, if not I encourage you to find your spot.

As a Department the Advanced Hunter Ed Program is a great start. Lt. Alan Gregory is set on expanding the program to provide more opportunities. Lt. Gregory is actively looking for Instructors like you with expertise in specific subjects to help out with the program.

A quick Google search shows all the major conservation groups have some type of youth/family hunt program. CWA, CRPA, NWTF, DU, RMEF, DU I'm sure you recognize the acronyms, check them out there is something for everyone. From my position I can

help work more with these groups as a partner, finding ways to get our new graduates from Hunter Safety Certification and into an expanded mentorship program.

What can you do? As a member of these programs encourage your local chapters to provide opportunities and mentorship to new hunters. We all need to work together to bolster the recruitment of new hunters in California.

In front of me I have a list of HEI's who did not show any activity in 2016. A quick scan shows some that I know taught but never recorded hours. Remember if there is no record of your time you cannot qualify for Instructor incentives. Please get in touch with me to remedy the situation.

The second category that dominates the list is new instructors who have done nothing after getting certified. Before I address them I have to thank the HEI's who have helped me get new Instructors started. When you take someone in to get their feet wet, you increase the odds they will stick around by tenfold.

If you are a new instructor who is out there twisting in the wind please call me so we can find a willing HEI or teaching team that can help you out. I have reached out to many of you already and I use this forum as kind of a last ditch effort to get you started.

There's a third category on the list and I call it "best intentions" LOL. You come to the Conference or Sat-



ellite and you have the "best intentions" to teach a class but don't. Spring is time to get inspired. Get that calendar out and pick a date, write it down, schedule it with the facility, now you are half way there!

Moving on let's talk class promotion. As I write this for the most part none is needed. The schedule is impacted and very few open spots are available. Last year we had a dip from March-June. I think most of this was tied to the old Free Doc Number, but we have to anticipate it could happen again.

I'm surprised at how little I see

promotion of classes through social media. Look at most of these kids they walk around staring at their phones. If you want them in the class you have to get your information on that little screen of theirs.

I'm finding that I have some options to promote through the Departments social media outlets and I will monitor for classes that need a little help (very few). If you don't know PCHEA has a Facebook page, if you haven't joined it yet please do. I'm guessing they'd be happy to promote classes through this forum.

As a group the North Coast District HEI's are performing at frantic pace. I couldn't be happier with what all of you are doing out there.

Be proud of your accomplishments and I look forward to another great year with you.

As always thank you for all that you do! My door is always open and if you need anything I'm only a phone call or email away: (415) 892-0073 or bart.bundesen@wildlife.ca.gov

Enjoy the Spring Turkey season, take a kid hunting, Turkeys are one of the best ways to get them started. Check out my "Wild" Turkey Recipe on page 10. I figured you'd need it after Chuck Giordanengo tried to get you to eat a Coyote last Quarterly! ☺

"Wild" Turkey Tetrazzini

4 c Cooked and chopped Turkey (smoked will also work, I use the leftovers from a carved bird)
 ½ c Butter
 ½ c Flour
 ½ c Milk
 3 c Chicken Broth

1 ⅔ c Parmesan
 1 c Fortified Sherry
 16 oz Egg Noodles
 16 oz Sliced Mushrooms
 4 Cloves Garlic
 Salt and Pepper to taste
 Mozzarella Cheese to thicken

Cook the pasta 8 minutes, drain, and set aside with the Turkey
 Preheat the oven to 350 degrees
 In a saucepan melt the butter, add garlic, mushroom, sherry, salt, pepper and reduce
 Whisk in the flour
 Add the Chicken broth and milk and bring to a boil
 Add all but ⅓ c of the Parmesan and remove from heat
 Take the turkey and pasta and pour the liquid over the top, if it's not thick enough add some mozzarella
 Stir the mix thoroughly spread evenly in the greased baking dish
 Top with remaining Parmesan
 Bake 1 hour at 350 degrees



Welcome to the Team!

New HEIs started Winter 2016

Robert Govier
Orange County

William Miranda
Riverside County

John Becht
San Diego County

Gary Poteet
Orange County

Terri Reyes
Los Angeles County

Lisa Schoedel
San Diego County

Paul VanDiver
Contra Costa

Stephen Cokeley
Napa County

Naomi Singleton
Sonoma County

Henry Theilen
Contra Costa County
Israel Magana
Santa Barbara County

Tristan Gallagher
Los Angeles County

Gregory Rodriguez
Contra Costa County

David Crichton
San Bernardino County

Donald Vanscoder
Riverside County

Mark Hughes
Los Angeles County

Russell Kuhlman
Kern County

Northern District

By: Lieutenant Peter Blake

This is my first article for the New Year and I can tell you the slow pace of the holidays has definitely come to an end. We have all hit the ground running. In the first month alone I have spent a week in Florida, another year at the ISE show is in the books and classes are being posted onto Event Manager at a record pace. Looking forward things won't be slowing down for a while. We have the Northern District confer-

sponding districts, Fam and Kathy are responsible for the entire state totaling over a thousand instructors. On top of that, Hunter Education is not the only function they are tasked with and often work on projects outside of our program. With that being said, please be aware of this when calling them. A good portion of the calls they get can be answered by simply visiting the Instructor Resource Page. Also your first point of contact should

Lastly I would like to give everyone a huge pat on the back for all the extra time and attention you put forth this past year. For me, 2016 was daunting with the roll out of Event Manager and at times a bumpy transition to the new system. At this point it was absolutely worth all the work and the product we are providing you and the public is awesome. Much of the success was only made a reality by your hard work and acceptance. Thank you!

I would like to give everyone a huge pat on the back for all the extra time and attention you put forth this past year.



ence in Corning, CHEIA is sponsoring a Train the Trainer get together, in the Suisun Marsh, which will also meet the requirements for the annual training and I have scheduled two additional Satellite Training opportunities. I have not yet confirmed the specific dates and times but I am looking at having one in Nevada City and the other up around MT. Shasta. By the time you read this, specific dates and times should be posted on the Instructor Resource Page.

There is an issue I would like to ask for your help with. Fam and Kathy are two of the hardest working individuals I have ever worked with. Unlike the coordinators who are responsible for their corre-

always be your district coordinator. By no means am I telling you not to call them. If you have an issue and you need help, please do. I am asking that before you call them take a moment and ask yourself is this something I can get on my own? A prime example would be requesting the insurance letter or an income and expense form. These are both listed on the Instructor Resource Page. Thank you!

There is more still to come. We are currently looking to expand Event Manager to Instructor Manager which should make things even better once we get there. For the individual instructor this next phase should not require much, if anything, from you. What it will do is make the tracking of your years of service, annual training, income and expenses way more accurate overall improving on the efficiency of the program.

I look forward to working with all of you as we take on 2017. I thank you for everything you are doing to preserve the hunting traditions.

Central District

By: Lieutenant Shawn Olague

Well how did your hunting season go? I had a good year. One in which I was part of another successful Griffith adventure (Did you see his big buck?) and one in which I shared a blind with 15 different people out of the 19 times I went. Duck season started slow this year and did not really get going until I took our intern Matt on his going away duck hunt in mid-December. This was the first time I got a limit of ducks in the season and luckily I continued to get limits thereafter.

er and more knowledgeable citizens to who we are and what we do as sportsmen.

One of my highlights this season was to take a 17 year-old on his first hunt. He had always wanted to go hunting but was without someone to take him. Carson had attended my Youth Fun Day at the Los Banos Sportsmen's this last spring. At this event we aim at maintaining contact with our sporting youth and keeping them excited about outdoor activities. During our closing raffle



My wife is glad the season is over and now it is time to use my spare time to tackle the Honey-Dos and put away all the stuff that piles up around the garage. I will try to do this while also gearing up for all our program demands for the season. My calendar is filling up quickly with conference dates, safety fairs, and education classes for the department and others. The hope is to help carry on the tradition and make our state and its residents safe

Carson chose a duck hunt with me over several available firearms he could have taken home. This made me want to give him the best welcome to hunting I could give him. With the help of CWA I was able to outfit Carson with a set of waders, wool socks and other equipment to get him hunting. He came to me wearing a fleece hoodie thinking he would be warm enough. Luckily I had an extra waterproof jacket to keep him dry for the next day's

hunt. He used my shotgun and put it to good use. Carson killed a nicely cupped gadwall on his first shot. Not a bad start and the pressure was off. After a really great morning of birds all around, Carson finished with a limit of six teal and the gadwall. He was a gentleman at the club and a good one to add to our ranks. I will be taking him again on the junior weekend.

I am proud to see how well you have all picked up the use of event manager for classes. You will hear stats at our conference on all your work. It is definitely a more responsive and accountable system that brings us out of the dark ages of paper filing and storage.

The hope is to help carry on the tradition and make our state and its residents safer and more knowledgeable citizens to who we are and what we do as sportsmen.

Keep up the great work and if you need something, don't be afraid to ask. The best way to get a hold of me is by cell at 209-564-2070. Good luck in all your big game draws. We are starting the cycle all over again and it will be time again before you know it.



Southern District



15th Takayma Hunt

By: Lieutenant Mike Norris

I certified a new HEI in January and she asked me, as I handed her a small bag of hunter ed training aids, “When should I schedule a class so I can be sure I’ll get some students?”

“If you schedule it, they will come!” I told her.

Right?

I pulled up the class schedule on the Internet and showed her the real-time enrollments (I love Event Manager!) for upcoming classes in Southern California—of the first seven nearby classes, six said either Full Event with Wait List or Registration Closed because they had reached full capacity.

Classes full in late January, with deer seasons just a memory and duck and upland seasons all but done? You betcha! People are hungry for HE, lining up for classes even in the off season for season for several reasons.

First, there are those invited to or interested in one of California’s spring or year-round hunting opportunities: turkey, pig, planted pheasant, varmint. I know that when I ask students what they are planning on hunting first, “Pigs!” are always in the top three answers. Poll your students and see what they say.

Second, out-of- state big game applications are looming and proof of Hunter Education is going to be needed, either initially or eventually. You will have both first-time hunters who have been invited to join a hunting party and longtime hunters who lost their historic certifications—or who never took the class but fudged it each year by signing an affidavit that they had—signing up. On Jan. 27, I received the first (from Utah) of several anticipated out-of-state invitations to apply for big game hunts, so I know the motivation begins early.

Third, is the provision in firearms law which allows the holder of a hunting license to purchase a long gun and not obtain a Firearms Safety Certificate? For this reason there was, in the parlance of the President, a Very Tremendous and Huge surge in Hunter Education demand during the final months of 2016. Although some expressed interest in obtaining a hunting license for the purpose of hunting, many sought the license in order to obtain an AR-style rifle prior to

the Dec. 31 implementation of the laws affecting semi-auto rifles.

It was still a mystery is why these folks, who have no intent of hunting, wouldn’t just obtain the Firearms Safety Certificate which can be had for far less effort than a hunting license. Turns out that it’s the hunting license—a valid hunting license—is what’s needed for a non-resident to legally possess a firearm.

Ultimately, I’m glad these non-hunting folks came, because not only were they exposed to the concepts of sportsmanship and conservation, but also because each purchase of a hunting license adds to the roles of licensed hunters, an important figure when it comes to arguing for hunters’ rights and opportunities.

You instructors are doing your part in enabling hunters to get out in the field. And I’m proud of you

You instructors are doing your part in enabling hunters to get out in the field. And I’m proud of you, because you are educating 30,000+ people each year who, like you, will be there keep our tradition alive and well.

Every class you schedule represents another group of educated sportsman, people who will advocate for conservation and not just preservation, people who know the importance of wise use and the danger of non-use, people who will say “Hold on a minute...” when feel-good but perform-poorly bills are presented.

Right?

Good. Now get on those keyboards and schedule some classes!

I’ll see you soon, either at a class, at our April 22 conference in Chino, or at one of the make-up events held afterwards. Keep your field reports and photos coming and thanks again for doing what you do.

This Point's for You!!!

By: Lt. Bart Bundesen



Since it's the first Quarterly of 2017 I'm going to try to touch on multiple "This Points for You". Some of these may be repetitive but they are based on questions that continue to reoccur.

What has changed with the lead law in 2017? Nothing, the implementations in 2016 continue and the next phase does not come into effect until, July 1, 2019. So just as last year: nonlead shot will be required when taking upland game birds with a shotgun, except for dove, quail, snipe, and any game birds taken on licensed game bird clubs. In addition, nonlead shot will be required when using a shotgun to take resident small game mammals, furbearing mammals, nongame mammals, nongame birds, and any wildlife for depredation purposes.

How long do i have to have to enter my class results? From page 18 of the policies and procedures manual: paperwork must be accurately completed and submitted to the Hunter Education Program within 30 days of comple-

tion of the course.

This is a policy that needs to be updated but still exists. With the new way we process results we are doing our students a disservice by not completing results quickly. I would say many of you are getting them done day of the class and for that I applaud you, but some are still waiting quite a while. The student advantage of purchasing online is stalled every day class results are held up.

Why are results held up? In a perfect world the student should have certified record of Hunter Education in 24 hours from the time results are submitted. If you are a co-instructor or non-primary instructor the results cannot be submitted until your volunteer hours are completed. So please help out your fellow instructors by getting your hours inputted in a timely manner.

Can the Coordinator stall out the results? Yes I can, but I try not to. All of us generally try to pass approval duties

for our Districts on to another Coordinator when we will not be available. From time to time other duties get in the way and we're not in the office. If you need to contact other Hunter Ed Staff they will be happy to help.

Everything is completed, but the student contacted me and they can't buy I license online. Why? This was an occasional problem that should be almost completely solved by a February 2017 software patch. If for some reason this happens to you always remind them they can take their Hunter Ed Certificate directly to any License Agent and purchase a Hunting License. You can also refer them to Fam Saeturn for assistance with their online account.

Are there tests available for languages other than English? Yes. If you were at a Conference this year you have seen them. If not Captain Pelzman completed a project and now we have multiple options for languages other than English.

Where do I find this information? Where do I find any information? First is the Quarterly and past copies.

I don't save past copies! Fam has done a great job with the Hunter Ed Instructor Resources page and past copies are available there.

What else is on the Instructor Resources page? That is for you to answer: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Hunter-Education/Instructor-Resources>

I still talk to all types of HEI's who haven't visited this page. Fam has done a great job of trying to make it a one stop shop for HEI's and works hard to keep the information updated as much as possible.

Hope you found this helpful I know class admin can be a little dry sometimes. Thanks for all you do and if you have any specific questions let us know.



2017 Hunter Education Instructor Conference



2017 Hunter Education Instructor Conference





Stephen Benke

26,962...And Counting!

By: Lieutenant Mike Norris

So, you think you’ve taught a couple classes in your time, have a few students to your credit, have watched things change?

Bet you a case of (non-lead) shells you haven’t had 26,962 students sit before you. Yes, the comma is in the right place and you read that right—twenty-six thousand, nine-hundred sixty-two students.

How is this possible?

“I started 33 years ago, when it was wild and wooly and not much regulation. One day we had 400 people in the class, it was craziness!” recalled Stephen Benke, “There were seven or eight of us teaching and people would rotate thru the different sections.”

With 2,387 hours of hunter ed instruction to his credit, Benke (#1362) is the longest serving HEI at the Rahaaug’s hunting/shooting organization, part of a Southern California institution that has introduced generations to hunting and target shooting. Located in Corona, the venue, which features a duck club, planted bird hunts, sporting clays, and rifle/pistol ranges, has hosted Hunter Education courses since its inception.

His dad was an instructor there and so he joined the team. “There was no 25:1 rule back then,” chuckled Stephen, “We’d regularly do classes with a couple hundred people in them in the summertime.”

I joined Stephen and the current cadre of Rahaaug’s HEIs—Chriss Bowles, Jorge Camargo, and Casey Rasmussen—for his 240th class. His mastery of the material was complete and he delivered it with the smooth confidence and poise that comes from a 40-year teaching career at Whittier Christian High School, where he teaches 9th and 10th grade history and Bible courses.

The enhanced administration of our Hunter Education Program has meant the days of 400-student mega-classes are over, but Stephen isn’t unhappy with the changes. “Things are much more professional now—the manuals we use, the procedures, the administration. There’s much more organization now compared to when [HEIs] used to just kinda do our own thing.”

A lifelong bird hunter who loves both the blind and upland walkabouts, Benke prefers the traditional course format because it allows him to incorporate stories from the field to illustrate points, something the time constraints of the follow-up course largely prevents.

“I like to weave stories into the material and people have come up and told me they really enjoy them.”

Asked if he’s also seen a change in hunter ed students, he said the only change he’s seen is the ethnic diversity in today’s classes. When he started, classes were only offered in English. Nowadays, there’s likely to be Spanish, Chinese, and Armenian spoken amongst his students. Unchanged, though, is an exam





HEI#
1362

Pictured above: Sadie, Steve and Abby while duck hunting.

-Continued from Page 25

failure he observes as two to three percent, almost always amongst the very young or non-English-speaking students.

Like many long-time California residents, Stephen has watched his hunting world change from pasture to pavement. Gone are the days when he could hunker in the goose pits which dotted the fields off the 15 Freeway or hunt the sloughs and ponds along the Santa Ana River for ducks after school as a kid. Dairies gave way to development in the Corona/Norco/Chino area.

“As recently as the 80s, honkers would lift off from those fields by the thousands. In the 70s, I’d watch flights of geese all day long. Then they got to building, and little by little, all the fields I used to hunt as a boy went away.

“That’s what’s hardest for a kid now—he’s got to go three hours to go hunting.”

Although the close-by hunting opportunities have largely disappeared for him, Stephen kept in the field nonetheless, raising litters of Labradors and from a series of dogs he raised and trained himself. A trip to Los Banos as a boy with his dad helped convince him he

needed a dog.

“I’d shot a mallard on a really cold, foggy day. That bird dove down into a hole and held on and I went in after it. I don’t think I’ve ever been so wet and cold in my life!” he recalled, laughing. “My dad gave me the keys to our F250 so I could go back and warm up.”

Stephen is looking forward to finishing out his tenure as a high school teacher next year and try and do a dream hunt. “A South Dakota pheasant hunt—that’s going to happen someday! To have roosters blow up right in front of you...that’s what I’m dreaming about.

He’s also eager to Pass On The Tradition to the youngest members of his family.

“I really want to take my grandson out. If God leaves me enough time, I’m going to get him hunting and spend some it with him out in the field.”

South Dakota pheasants and hunting with a grandson—a man can’t ask for much more than that.



Coot,
the other Dark Meat

By Chuck Giordanengo

Coot, Mud Hen, Mud Duck, different names, same bird, and the brunt of many jokes. You may have heard about this recipe for cooking coot. It calls for a pair of well cleaned coot breast, void of all skin and fat then placed in a hot skillet with olive oil, butter and garlic, browned on both sides and rare in the middle. Once the cooking is done, you throw the breast meat away and eat the skillet. All kidding aside, I’m here to say that coot meat has a following. In fact, you may know of someone that has actually eaten coot. I do, my brother who was an occasional waterfowl hunter would include in his bag of mallards and pintails, a few coots. He was always trying to convince me that if cooked properly, coot tasted just like beef. “Heck coots eat grass just like a cow”, he would say. Well I’m sorry that I never tried coot cooked by my brother, he passed away a few years ago. So with coots always flying around at the duck club I started wondering if I were to harvest a few, how would I go about cooking them. So to the internet I went, and found loads of recipes. Credit for these two recipes go solely to Jerome Lipetzky and Sal DiMercurio. So now that waterfowl season has ended, I have a few coots in the freezer, and using the recipes below, I’ll be giving them a try in memory of my older brother Enjoy.....

Sicilian Coot

- Saving only the breast and thighs from 3 coots, remove all the skin and fat.
- Rinse the meat, place in a bowl and cover with milk
- Add a shot of Brandy, and a shot glass of freshly chopped garlic
- Cover and place in the refrigerator over night
- Remove from the refrigerator, drain and allow to come to room temperature
- Coat with seasoned flour and fry until lightly browned
- Place the meat in a baking dish, sprinkle with chopped garlic and rosemary cover and bake for 1.5 hrs.
- Serve over steamed rice and enjoy



Tacoots for Two

- 4 skinless coot breasts, 1 small yellow onion diced, 1 small green bell pepper diced
- 3 tomatoes diced & 2 avocados diced, iceberg lettuce sliced
- 1/4 pound Monterrey jack cheese shredded, 1 package slivered almonds, 1 small can chopped black olives, corn tortillas, 1 tsp dried oregano, & 1 tsp dried thyme, La Victoria Salsa Ranchera (hot), & La Victoria Salsa Brava, garlic salt, & black pepper, Canola oil
- Boil coot breasts until cooked through. Let cool, remove from bone and shred by hand. Add a small amount of oil to heavy pan and sauté onion until translucent. Add coot and stir for a few minutes. Add bell pepper and half of the diced tomatoes and stir for several minutes before adding 1/2 cup of Ranchera sauce, slivered almonds, continue to stir for several minutes more. Add 1 tsp each of oregano and thyme along with garlic powder and black pepper to taste. Set aside covered to keep warm. Fry corn tortillas in oil and fold, providing both stiffos (crispy) and limpos (soft). Spoon meat filling into tortilla shells and garnish with remaining tomatoes, diced black olives, lettuce, shredded jack cheese and Salsa Brava.



Mike Vaiana

HEI# 0053

Mike Vaiana's start date with the California Hunter Education program is May 25, 1965, if you do the math that's 52 years. I tried to give Mike his 50 year a couple year's back but when I called for his ring size Mike said, "No I missed a couple years".

So based on his honest math, Mike Vaiana now has 50 years with the program. Since I missed about 49 years of Mike's tenure I got a little help from his fellow Contra Costa County instructor Jim Clark.

Jim related that Mike has taught 10-12 classes per year for as long as he's known him, so about 30 classes over the last three years.

Mike teaches mostly as part of "Team Contra Costa" at the USI range in Concord, but sometimes teaches solo. The traditional classes still include live fire -- about half of classes each year are traditional and half are on-line review.

Mike has coached high school trap shooting teams at De La Salle (he started the program) and Clayton Valley.

He is a member of California Waterfowl, Ducks Unlimited, SCI and other conservation groups. Mike is a past director of PCHEA.

Jim indicated he admires Mike's dedication, adaptability and diligence required to accumulate 50 years of service offering 10-12 classes per year ----as well as the enthusiasm and energy he still brings to every class.

Jim thinks (and I agree) Mike's adaptability is and especially strong trait. Think of the change Mike has embraced over 50 years, non-toxic ammo, mountain lion protection, and the addition of computer records to the program.

Jim pontificates, "Do the coordinators ever recall a complaint from Mike?"

The answer is "no" because Mike trusts the Department to work through the big picture while he aims to spread the joy of outdoors, safely and respectfully enjoyed with friends and family. Fifty years, while remaining positive and enthusiastic, is a uniquely rare contribution.

Thanks for 52 err 50 years Mike! Here's to many more.



50+
Years of Service

Let's Talk Bowhunting

By: John Waddles, HEI# 3413



Hello everyone it's been awhile since my last article but I want to assure you the CA/Bowhunter Education program is alive and well. The class numbers are up and attendance is great. I would like to thank all of the Bowhunter Education instructors because without you this program could not exist. Your untiring efforts have made this program great and growing thanks again for a job well done.

January the International Bowhunter Education Program (IBEP) operated the youth archery range during the International Sportsman Expo in Sacramento. Jim Williams, the region II IBEP chairman, and I have run this range for several years but we couldn't have done it without the support and help of all the archery clubs, instructors and archery pro shops in the area. I would like to thank them for all they do and continue to do to support this program. This year will be Jim's last year of helping run the archery range and I would like to thank him for all of his dedicated service. The range has about 1500 to 2000 shooters a year in 2 ½ days of operation and every shooter has a personal instructor. Managing the number of instructors along with the setup and tear down of the range is a difficult task and Jim has done it every year in an outstanding manner.



Last year the Hunter Education program introduce Kalkomey Enterprises Event Manager and I am very happy about the number of IBEP instructors that are using the program. The program gives the student more information and make it easy to register for IBEP classes. It is also less paperwork for the instructor and the department. All instructors scheduling classes remember that the archery deer seasons in California starts in July and August so schedule your class accordingly.

The 2016 deer season has come and gone and I hope everyone had a wonderful time in the field. I enjoyed this year deer season even though I wasn't successful in California. I did harvest a nice little 4X5 whitetail deer in Washington. But I see by my email that several of my past students did quite well this season. Lt Peter Blake harvested a nice forked horn (2X2) in A-1, Alvin Worthy took a nice 3X3 in D-3, while Carlo Rodriguez bagged a 4X7 in A-12 great going guys. Next year with a little luck, maybe I'll draw one of the special instructor tags and get me a big buck. But until then remember to pick a spot and shoot straight see you in the field.

Dear Bart,

I finished My traditional hunter education class this weekend at Sunnyvale Rod and Gun Club in Cupertino. As a complete new comer to the sport I was a bit nervous and unsure of myself and what to expect.

I must say this class exceeded all my expectations, I feel confident and excited about my first rifle purchase and attending the advanced hunter training in April.

Learning about and then being able to use different fire arms was very helpful.

The instruction staff of Peter, John and Sol were Fantastic, especially Sol. He may be hard of hearing but his knowledge base seemed unlimited.

I don't usually do "feed back" but in this case the service was so great and the reward so high, so keep up the good work!

from msgilbrecht@comcast.net

See Page 30 for Photos

HEI#
1206

HEI#
4199

HEI#
3753

Dear... Letters



DEAR BART,

I JUST COMPLETED THE HUNTER'S TRAINING COURSE WITH CHUCK, JIM, MARY AND ANN. IT WAS A GREAT EXPERIENCE. I HAVE TAUGHT UNIVERSITY CLASSES, SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS AND CURRENTLY MANAGE A DAY PROGRAM FOR ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES. I KNOW WHAT IT TAKES TO BE AN EFFECTIVE INSTRUCTOR AND THESE PEOPLE PUT THEIR HEARTS AND SOULS INTO THIS TRAINING. THEY WERE PROFESSIONAL, INFORMATIVE, PATIENT AND HUMOROUS. IT WAS ONE OF THE BEST TRAINING SESSIONS I HAVE EVER ATTENDED ON ANY SUBJECT. I FEEL CONFIDENT IN THE KNOWING I RECEIVED THE BEST AND MOST CURRENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON HUNTING. I TRULY ADMIRE THE INSTRUCTORS. WHAT AMAZES ME IS THEIR PASSION AND DESIRE TO HELP OTHERS LEARN - AND THEY DO IT AS VOLUNTEERS! ALL I CAN SAY IS PLEASE TELL THEM THANK YOU! I AM NOW GOING TO LEAVE A POSITIVE COMMENT ON YELP.

MOST SINCERELY,
ROGER L. YOUNG

HEI#
3773

HEI#
3961

HEI#
4271

Dear Lorrie,

I just wanted to say thank you to you, John & Garth for a great class! I appreciate you all taking your personal time to do this and am glad that CA (and hopefully most other states) require it before being able to obtain a hunting license. It was a lot of information in a short period of time and i thought you all presented it very well.

Have a great week.

Maria

HEI#
2100

HEI#
2191

HEI#
3179

Dear Bart, Kathy and Fam,

On behalf of all the instructors at Marin RGC, Richmond RGC and Wing & Barrel Ranch, let me say a HUGE thank you for the excellent conference you put on yesterday.

The content was thought provoking, the organizational logistics were very well planned and the venue was up to the challenge of accommodating a large group.

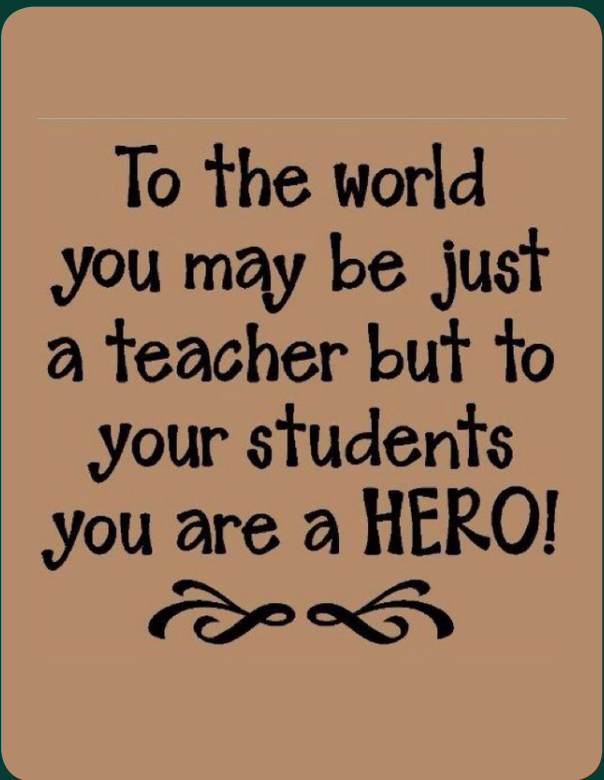
I'll share some further thoughts in due course after debriefing with the other HEIs, but let me go on the record right now on behalf of the team and say thank you for all your hard work.

Best regards,

Your Marin, Richmond and W&B team

Share some positivity
and write to us!
Email:
fam.saeteurn@
wildlife.ca.gov





New Resource for Hunter Education Instructors Now Online at IHEA-USA.org

Hunter Education Instructors now have access to a new resource that can provide them with additional methods and teaching tips to help them as they prepare for and present their classes. Titled the "Instructor's Toolbox," it is part of the IHEA website and Hunter Education Instructors across all 50 states can access the information.

The Instructor's Toolbox has been developed by the IHEA Instructor Advisory Committee (IAC) that was formed in 2012, and was tasked with, among other things, developing teaching aids to assist instructors in the presentation of their classes. In 2013, the IAC asked Hunter Ed Instructors across the nation to respond to a survey which included questions about specific teaching techniques and teaching aids they have successfully used in presenting their classes. The IAC received a great

many responses and decided that since there were so many great ideas, a method to share these with all instructors needed to be developed. Hence the "Instructor's Toolbox" was started and will be an ever-growing, dynamic resource, that additional "teaching tips" can be added to in years to come.

The Toolbox was designed around the newly-accepted IHEA Standards and the major heading areas follow those outlined in the standards. Each major heading has numerous subheadings that encompass the total Hunter Education arena. The IAC then identified specific "teaching tips" from the survey responses that applied to the headings and inserted them under the specific heading. So, if a Hunter Education Instructor wanted to add or present a specific topic in a different way, he or she could go to the Toolbox, look under

the appropriate heading, and find which "teaching tips" might be available to assist in presenting their class.

The "Instructor's Toolbox" is available online through the IHEA website. It is located under the "Instructors" portion of the home page. The process for using the Toolbox on the website is a drop-down menu that identifies major headings. There are also links to related topics and a method for instructors to send in additional training aid ideas and teaching tips to add to the Toolbox.

The IAC will continue to accept and request additional "teaching tips" that might be added to the Toolbox in the future. The "Instructor's Toolbox" is a dynamic, growing resource available to Hunter Education Instructors and gives them ideas and methods that they can use to enhance and improve their already outstanding classes.■





Robin Welch

HEI# 0539



It is with both a sad and uplifted heart that I share with you the passing of one of our finest HEI Robin Welch. Robin was a true American hero who lived life to the fullest. He was introduced to hunting and fishing by his father at the young age of six and was hooked for life. While serving his country as a US Air Force pilot in the Korean War his jet crashed leaving him paralyzed from the waist down. The injuries did not slow Robin down or change his love of life, the outdoors, or flying!

In 1971, Robin earned his Ph.D. in Wildland Resources Science from the School of Forestry and Conservation at the University of California Berkeley. Robin had a rewarding and successful 40-year career working in the space station and remote sensing areas of Stanford Research Institute, Earth Satellite Corporation, managing the Western Regional Applications Program (WRAP) at NASA, teaching

at Texas A&M University; he retired from the Lockheed Space Station Program in 1992. Additionally, Robin combined his love and knowledge of the outdoors with his flying skills and built a successful business as a photo pilot and owner of his aerial survey company Airview Specialists Corporation. However, his 40 year career in the remote sensing industry required most of his time and energy and paid the bills!

Along with his incredible wife Thalia, Robin continued to live life to the fullest hunting, fishing and Abalone diving even to depths of 20 feet to harvest a delicious meal few are brave enough to pursue!



Robin was and always will be an inspiration to all who knew him. I will never forget his smile and positive attitude.

I am thankful Robin's adventures led him to our Hunter Education Program where he served the Department of Fish and Game as a Hunter Education Instructor for over 30 years touching and enhancing the lives of thousands of students. In 2007 I was honored to recognize Robin as the state's Hunter Education Instructor of the Year. Robin was and always will be an inspiration to all who knew him. I will never forget his smile and positive attitude. I started this describing my feelings as uplifted. Right before Robin passed he told Thalia not to worry about him, he would be waiting for her and looking forward to having his legs back and flying in heaven soon! Robin left us with the same class he lived; cherishing each and every second of his life! God Bless You Robin! I will see you on the other side!

-Roy Griffith, retired Captain Hunter Education

HUNTING WITH HUNGARY

By: Lt. Peter Blake



Earlier this past summer I was sitting in my office when the phone rang and I answered. On the other end was the foreign voice of yet another telemarketer. Lately I had been getting a lot of these and my patience with these folks was pretty thin. After a few moments of not really listening to the gibberish, using my very stern “cop voice”, I proceeded to explain they had reached a law enforcement line and I had no interest in whatever scam or sales pitch they were portraying. As I proceeded to hang up the phone I paused as I heard the voice on the other side pleading with me that he was interested in hunter education. I immediately realized I had made a mistake. This was definitely not one of my finer moments.

After apologizing, I started listening to the individual on the other side and he explained that he was going to be visiting the USA from Hungary and wanted to try and hunt while he was here. I did my best to try and explain the process, walking him through the procedures required to get a Hunter Education certificate, obtain a license, and then some of the most basic laws depending on what he was wishing to hunt. We probably talked on the phone for over an hour. After hanging up I called Lt. Shawn Olague and relayed what had happened. Shawn said, wow I think that guy tried to call me as well. I hung up on him thinking he was one of those scamsters. We both laughed but thought it was

pretty cool someone would come to the other side of the world to hunt here in California.

Over the next few months I ended up corresponding with my new Hungarian friend whose name was Gergely Nagyfugedi on a fairly regular basis. Even though Hungry is a free democracy there is limited to no hunting opportunity. Basically if you are not part of the elite nobility or privileged you cannot hunt and guns are even more restricted. Kind of makes you ponder about the direction our state is currently going. The other thing that was definitely apparent was how hard a time Gergely was going to have on his own. Gergely seemed to be a competent person but the reality was the

In the end I couldn't see passing the opportunity to share the sport of hunting with someone from the other side of the world so I invited him to stay with me and I would show him what I could.

extent of his hunting experience was limited to shooting squirrels with a homemade sling shot. After some very extensive internet research Gergely put together a plan to hunt domestic deer, a non-game species, because he had already missed out on the draws, he was going to be somewhat limited on travel, and this would help save money because all he would need is a hunting license. Mind you he was going to be staying in the bay area while attempting to do all this. I could see the train wreck coming and knew I had to see if I could help him out.



I started brainstorming and reaching out to people to try and come up with ideas on how we could get this guy from the other side of the world out to partake in some of the hunting traditions we all love. After much deliberation I came to the conclusion Gergely needed someone to mentor him. Who better than myself the Northern District Hunter Education Coordinator??? With all the chaos happening in today's world you can imagine the look on my wife's face when I pitched inviting a total stranger from the other side of the world to stay with us. I would be lying if I told you I wasn't a little apprehensive.

After doing some research, mostly creeping Gergely's Facebook page, it seems he was a pretty normal person. I even learned that he was a contestant on Hungary's version of America's got Talent, where he shows off his proficiency with one of his slingshots. His video is on YouTube and is pretty cool to watch. In the end I couldn't see passing the opportunity to share the sport of hunting with someone from the other side of the world so I invited him to stay with me and I would show him what I could.



Gergely was speechless when I invited him and after the initial shock we started coordinating our schedules and putting a plan together. Gergely was travelling to the US for work and would be available starting on the Friday after Dove season opened through the weekend. Besides Dove season there wasn't a lot going on but we would make the best of it and at the very least I would



show him some awesome country.

I picked up Gergely from the Chico bus stop on Friday morning and brought him back to the house. Up to this point I still wasn't sure how to pronounce his name correctly and was saying it as it is spelled, as I am sure most of you who are reading this are. The correct pronunciation is: “Ger-Gay”. As we were driving back to the house we had the normal small talk trying to get to know each other. I was having a little difficulty understanding him due to his accent but for the most part things were going good. After a little bit Gergely got a little serious and asked me, what does your wife and family think of you inviting a total stranger into your house? I responded, honestly we were all a little worried.” I then asked what his wife thought of him travelling to the other side of the world and staying with strangers. He explained that she and all his co-workers were convinced we were going to cut him up into little pieces and eat him. We both laughed as it was pretty funny.

After getting all settled and up to speed with his HE certificate we headed off to the local sporting goods store



which happened to be owned by HEI Jon Hays to get all his licenses and stamps. Jon got him all dialed in and then we met up with HEI Tom Arnold and his son to go out for an evening Dove hunt. Knowing Gergely's inexperience with firearms I was pleasantly surprised of how safe

Continue on Page 38-

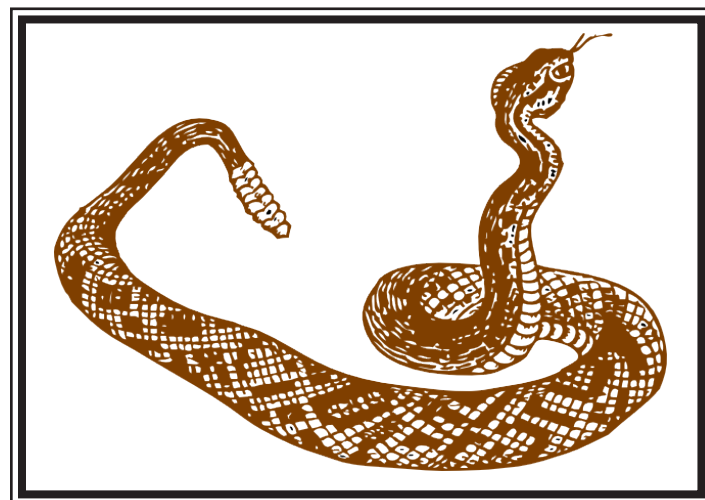


ly how to clean the dove and I made him clean the snake and on the BBQ they all went. Now I must tell you that putting a snake on the BBQ after it has been skinned, gutted and seasoned then watching it slither around is just not normal. I'm just saying. After eating it I must admit I liked it and would eat it again! What a feast we had.



The next morning we got up early and headed up to the mountains to see if we could harvest a few Quail or possibly a Grouse with our bows. They call it hunting for a reason and we ended up only getting one Quail and another Rattlesnake. Even with the limited harvest the day was awesome and we got the opportunity to hike around some of the prettiest country the west side has to offer.

The highlight of the day was when we got home, which was well after dark. Now unbeknownst to me, Gergely and his wife had an agreement that they would check in with each other every twelve hours. Something about me cutting him up and eating him I think. By the time we got home we were way past his check in time and Gergely's wife's last message went something along the lines as; you had better call me or I am going to call the "California police"!!! After getting ahold of and assuring her that I had not cut Gergely into a bunch



-Continued from Page 37

and competent he was with my son's shot gun I had loaned him. After only a couple of misses Gergely was able to get his first Dove. I am sure many of you have felt the feeling of sharing in the hunting experiences with other people on their first hunt but I for one will tell you it never gets old. By the end of the night we bagged enough Dove for a meal and headed back for the house. On our way out Tom heard a Rattlesnake buzz and we stopped to check it out. I don't particularly like snakes, never have and never will. After a little discussion we decided Gergely would like to eat it so we killed it and took it home. Once home I showed Gerge-



HUNTING WITH HUNGARY : *Gergely Nagyfugedi*

of pieces and eaten him we found the whole situation quite funny.

The next day I took Gergely over to the Gray Lodge Wildlife Area where we met up with Refuge Manager Andy Atkinson. Andy gave us a tour of the wildlife area and showed us a myriad of cool things. That afternoon we stayed at the refuge for an evening Dove hunt. This turned out to be the most successful hunt of the entire trip. After killing a couple of sunflowers, out in the middle of the field and getting better acquainted with his firearm, Gergely went six for six on the Dove that came in to us. We ended up scraping out a limit between us and went home for another wild game feast.

This pretty much concluded Gergely's hunting adventures here in the states and I dropped him off at the train station the next morning around 3:00am to start his journey home. Two days of straight travelling later Gergely checked in to let me know he made it home safe and sound.

I must admit inviting a complete stranger, literal-

ly from the other side of the world, to come into my home and go hunting may be a little bizarre but in the end this turned into one of the greatest experiences ever. The friendship and bond formed by Gergely and I over something so simple as going hunting are nothing less than awesome. We still stay in touch and recap the memories shared out in the field. I would hope you all get the opportunity to experience something similar. Pondering over my life I can honestly say some of the most meaningful and best friends I have today were because of the hunting traditions and the experiences shared out there in the field. I would challenge each and every one of you to take someone hunting. Who knows, you may just create one of those lifelong friendships that as we all know are not all that common.





BILL LEET

HEI# 0087

Here's to celebrating Bill Leet's fifty years with the Hunter Education Program. Bill started with California Hunter Ed in 1964. He had been with the San Francisco Police Department for three years and was asked by Tom Moore to join the team.

Bill's first class was taught at the San Francisco PD Academy where they had 20 students. He taught there for a while until he had an opportunity to purchase a house in Milbrae, just south of San Francisco.

Bill joined the Coyote Point Gun and began teaching Hunter Ed there. One of HEI Gary Shweid's first memories of Bill Leet was when Gary had just starting out teaching Hunter Ed. He was team teaching a traditional class with the late Don Del Grande. During a portion of the class on firearm safety and specifically how safeties are mechanical and not to be trusted, Bill pulled the trigger on a blank loaded 12 gauge. Needless to say he got his point across to the students and the other instructors.

Gary asked Bill to "WARN him, and maybe using .22 blank instead of a 12 gauge next time!" The show and tell was not used again.

I had the pleasure to sit and talk hunting, work, hunting, and some more hunting with Bill. I took great joy in listening to his stories from years past. It also helped that Gary was there so the two of them could trade a few barbs about years gone by. I think we could have talked for hours, and you can tell the passion that Bill has for our hunting traditions.

Gary especially enjoys telling the story about a time when they were hunting mule deer in Wyoming. Bill decided to take a big muley that was missing its entire antler on one side. When asked why he decided on that particular animal his response was something to the effect that "It will make an interesting mount".

It was interesting in deed as a slow moving taxidermist took three years to complete the mount. By the time Bill picked it up he had forgotten that his deer was missing an antler. He was hopping mad until Gary reminded him that it was his idea! Gary said the sheepish look on his face was wonderful.

Gary summed it when he describes their last hunt. They got tags to hunt elk in Wyoming and got drawn for a great X Zone Deer hunt in California. Problem was they were at the same time and Bill had been taking chemo treatment for recently diagnosed cancer.

Gary was certainly worried about his health, but not Bill. "We are going to Wyoming and that is that" While they weren't successful in Wyoming, it was great to see his attitude in the face of such life obstacles.

Gary said, "I only hope that I can learn from his love of hunting, should I find myself in such similar circumstances. He is a great hunting partner and a great Hunter Education Instructor. "

Thanks Bill for 50 great years!

With heavy hearts, we are sad to announce that Instructor Bill Leet has passed on since this interview. We thank Instructor Leet for all of his hard work, dedication, and for making a difference in so many people's lives. Our condolences to his family and loved ones.





Bruce Ivey

HEI#0294

Bruce's love of hunting, fishing and the outdoors began as a child growing up in Montebello, CA, where he hunted rabbits and travelled with his family to the Eastern Sierra to trout fish. After Bruce graduated high school, he moved permanently to the Owens Valley when he took a position with California Fish and Game conducting deer surveys and trapping chukar in Inyo and Mono counties; he was hooked. Bruce would soon marry a local gal named Elsie, and they would spend the next 62 years together, sharing their love and passion for the outdoors with their family and many friends.

Bruce began teaching Hunter Education classes in 1976, and his dedication and passion for passing on the hunting tradition has been uninterrupted ever since. In 1985, Bruce's son Steven (HEI 563) joined Bruce, and they greatly enjoyed contributing as a team for many years. Now the tradition continues as the third generation of Ivey's begins their journey in the HEI program: Steven's son Eddy, who has been helping teach classes since the age of 12, and Bruce's granddaughter-in-law Joey are becoming HEI instructors, with the intent to continue the tradition of encouraging the love of hunting and fishing in future generations. Bruce always had a special ability for inspiring those around him, and his years of dedicated service and countless contributions to the hunting community will be deeply missed.

By Joey Peterson
& Steve Ivey



2016 Hunter Ed Open Zone Deer Tag

By Marc Kenyon



Have you ever had one of those days?

I don't mean one of those dreadful days where everything seemed to go wrong or where you couldn't seem to get anything done at work. I mean one of those days where just the opposite happened - where everything seemed to go right? Not a normal day. But one of those days we all dream about where everything just clicks.

Never had one of those days? Me either, until Tuesday.

It started out like any other normal day...

The morning plan was the usual: shower, breakfast, coffee, kiss the wife & kids, drive to work, check emails and the calendar, get my staff lined out for the day, figure out what needs to be done to prep for the 10 o'clock meeting.

Everything was chugging along like normal until I walked in the door at work.

I was met at the front desk by my buddy Erik, who accompanied me on a highly successful elk hunt to Wyoming last year. "Hey man, check your drawing results," he said. "I struck out again."

"That's right," I thought, "draw results should be posted today."

Malia, the gal who sold me my tag applications queried the ALDS system for me.

"Yep, successful draw for X7b," she said.

"Really?" I asked.



Marc Kenyon hunting wild chicken

"Of course, only six preference points," she added.

I was ecstatic. I'd been putting in for the deer drawings since I moved to California from Montana 7 years ago. I had been scoping out X7b for a couple years now since another buddy, Adam, had told me about the toad his dad pulled out of there a few years ago. My mind immediately went to planning for the hunt, but I pulled myself back into reality, and work.

The 10 o'clock meeting started a bit early when the contractor came down the hallway at a quarter-till 10. No problem, right? I'll just grab Justin, my biologist, and head to the small conference room where we're supposed to meet.

"Hi Kyle," I said. "Great to put a face with the name." Kyle is a geneticist I have contracted with from the University of Wyoming. I'd been working with his supervisor, Dr.

Ernest, for some time on other research projects, but I had never met Kyle. He's working with me for the next couple years and I wanted to get him lined out on his project.

After our discussions had pretty much wrapped up, Justin and I invited Kyle out to lunch. There was a nice little sandwich shop down the road that I like - it's quiet and has great food.

We drove in separate trucks because I needed to head to the Capitol for a meeting later that day. I needed to get on the road by 1:00, and it was just after noon.

We grabbed our seats and ordered our lunch - the "Angry Road Man" is a staple for me at this joint. We had just started up a conversation about some technical aspects of our project when I noticed my phone ringing.

I thought to myself "That's odd.

Why would Robert Pelzman be calling me?" His name showed up on the caller ID on my screen.

Robert now oversees the CD-FW's Hunter Ed program now that my 'favorite miniature warden,' Roy Griffith, had retired. I normally get phone calls from wildlife officers throughout the state as the Department's Human-Wildlife Conflict Program Coordinator (one of my many roles). But Robert's name was among the last I'd normally expect.

Then I remembered that the drawing results came out today. My heart started racing.

"Hello, this is Marc," I answered.

"Hey Marc, what are you planning to do this fall?" Robert asked.

"That depends on what you have to tell me," I stated.

"Well, you drew the Open Zone Deer Tag," Robert said.

"You've got to be kidding me," I replied.

"Nope. It's all yours buddy. Congratulations."

I was speechless (which is rare for me). My heart was pounding. I had a lump in my throat. My mind was racing.

My mind was racing. I couldn't maintain a single coherent thought. My lunch companions were gawking at me with quizzical looks on their faces.

"Oh man. No way. This is freakin' amazing." I could only piece together elementary sentences through my excitement. "I can't thank you enough," I was finally able to muster.

"No, thank you for being a Hunter Ed instructor," Robert insisted. "Actually, you were the second person in the drawing, but the first person didn't meet the qualifications," he added. "We had a good conversation and he understands. But his misfortune is your good luck. Now go call your buddies. We'll be in touch with more details."

You see, hunter ed instructors in good standing get three drawing opportunities for the Open Zone Deer Tag, whereas your general hunter gets only one. And to qualify for the draw, instructors need to have taught a class for each of the previous three years, have their classes loaded into the Kalkomey system, and have all their paperwork turned in. I'm not entirely sure what happened to the first guy, but whatever it was proved fruitful for me. I truly feel for him though, because I can only imagine how I would feel if I were in his shoes.

My favorite miniature warden, Roy, who you all know and is retired, called to congratulate me a little later. I thanked him profusely, for he championed this tag opportunity through the regulations process at the Fish and Game Commission. Now, getting this tag approved was no small feat. And it's because of Roy's herculean effort that I now

had this wonderful opportunity. Roy also let me know that he drew G3 and that I could call on him if I needed anything.

So, amid the meetings during the remainder of the day, all I could really think about was how I'm going to pull this off. I mean, I'm a biologist for the Department of Fish and Wildlife. I can't mess this up and give biologists a bad name. I'm also a hunter ed instructor, and I feel I owe something to the rest of this brotherhood. I feel I owe something to the first guy. Maybe I don't, but something inside me tells me that I do.

My mind was racing the so many thoughts:

"I need to hunt in as many zones as I can."

"I need to thank Roy, Dan, Regina, Robert and the first guy for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."



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“I need to seal the deal.”

“I need to get back in shape.”

“I need to celebrate tonight and start working on that tomorrow.”

“I need to write about this.”

Planning...

Now that I drew the Open Zone Deer Tag, I needed to start planning. So much goes into something like this. While I’ve planned out-of-state hunts, this was different. When hunting in Colorado or Wyoming for elk, I’ve already picked out the zone I want to hunt; I already know where to set camp; I know what gear to pack. It’s automatic.

But this was different. I was planning to hunt multiple zones in California. I was going to be hunting for about three months. I would need places to stay. I would need a muzzleloader to expand my opportunities. I would need to know what zones produce big bucks and good opportunities.

The last was the biggest challenge, and one that would haunt me for the remainder of the deer season. Where to go? And while my mind ran wild with the possibilities, my wallet and wife reigned me in. I needed to figure this one out.

I started out by looking at the Department’s on-line statistics. Deer take over the past few years can be found on the website and in the Hunting Digest. But statistics only get you so far. I started talking with my friends.

That turned out to be more challenging than I thought. I had figured that all my friends would have similar attitudes about where I might find the ‘X,’ but I was mistaken. I remember talking with Steve, and he mentioned going to the coast; “How often do you have the opportunity to take a record coastal blacktail?” he mentioned. “You can get a mule deer on many other hunts, including out-of-state” he added. He was right. Drawing a highly productive blacktail zone would be difficult.

Then I spoke with Adam. “Dude! You need to try Anderson Flat. Big deer hang out there...if there’s weather to push them down.”

He was right too. That area just outside the National Park could produce big bucks, but that hunt is really weather-dependent. Tough to forecast that far out, especially in the middle of a drought.

My college buddy, Robert, was eager to chime in. “I’ve been looking at M9 (Devil’s Garden muzzleloader hunt) for a few years. My dad and I are trying to build points to go up there.”

He was right. The late smoke-pole season up there can be really productive if the weather pushes the big bucks down out of Oregon. Plus, that area is a really interesting spot to hunt - it’s such a different habitat type, and I find the area fascinating.

Craig, my former supervisor, had a different spot. “Doyle,” he said. Let me know if you go; I’ll let you know which rock to sit next to. All the deer that come out of the high country have to walk past this spot.”

Doyle? I thought to myself. While I vaguely knew of the area (X6b), I didn’t recognize this as a big buck producing spot. “I’ll check into it,” I said.

Then, of course, Alan reiterated what I already knew. “You can’t go wrong with either Round Valley or Goodale,” he bellowed. Of course. Those late season rifle hunts are a buck hunter’s paradise.

Then, I figured if nothing else panned out, there was always the either-sex hunt in San Diego County. I’m not above hunting late-season does. I mean, how many people can say they shot a doe in California? A trophy in its own right due to the sheer paucity of hunters who have bagged a doe in California, I thought to myself.

Could I fit all these in?
Could I possibly have
enough vacation time to
hunt all these zones? Of
course not. Now I needed to
prioritize, but how?

The answer finally came after I pulled out a calendar alongside the reg book. I plotted all my choices into a calendar. When I was done, I noticed there was quite a bit of overlap. “Hmm. I’ll need to weed some of these out, and maybe work a week or two in between seasons just to keep the bills paid,” I said to myself.



Montana

By this time, the plan was starting to solidify. I’d start with X1 and X2 by camping right in the middle of the two. That way, I can also learn the area for the Devil’s Garden M9 muzzy hunt which is carved out of the western portion of X2 alongside Highway 139 up in the Modoc National Forest. There’s a week break in between X2 and M9 which would allow me to minimize the use of my vacation days. My buddy Erik is a new HEI that Alan and I had recently recruited. I miraculously got him to agree to let me borrow his travel trailer so I can have a luxurious deer camp and still use my pickup. I found a nice RV camp in Tionesta that I gave me a nice veteran’s discount. I’d leave the trailer there for a month which would allow me to hunt the general rifle season and the muzzy hunt. I’d pull the trailer home afterward.

If I didn’t tag out in that spot, I planned to go to Doyle and hunt

the M3 muzzleloader season. Erik once again agreed to let me use his trailer which I felt confident in finding a spot to park. I scoured the area and found a nice campsite up in the Fort Sage Mountains at a BLM OHV park with a new pit toilet - pretty swanky by my standards. I called Craig back and he told me of some spots to try to find.

I would then take a couple weeks off and then head to Goodale for the G3 rifle hunt if Doyle didn’t pan out. Alan and I had to teach an Advanced Pig Hunting Clinic on the G3 opener. I figured that would be fine by me since I like to hunt in areas with few other people. Not getting there until after the opener would afford some time to let the other hunters tag out and leave. Now, my favorite miniature warden, Roy, had been fortunate enough to draw G3 this year. He had lined up a place to stay outside of Big Pine. He invited me to stay

with him, and that he and his buddies would be providing food. All I had to bring was my gear and a cot. I felt like royalty.

For the next couple months, I was searching the internet for other hunters’ pictures of their deer from these areas to keep me motivated. I prepared my own freeze-dried meals. I kept at the gym to prepare my body for the miles to come. I scouted the areas by looking at online aerial imagery. I talked to people to get their ideas they were willing to share. I borrowed a smoke-pole from a really good friend. I talked with wardens who patrolled the areas I was planning to hunt.

By the first part of October, I was as ready as I was ever going to be.

To be continued.



In Memory of Bud Todd

HEI#0230

Service, Service, and More Service

When I sit down with volunteer hunter education instructors, especially more senior ones, the thing I come away with is how much they have served their country and community. Most of them have served their whole lives and did not just start serving through hunter education. Most of the time hunter education is just a blip on their service resume.

Before Bud's passing I was able to sit down with him. Bud came from military family, served in the military and has descendants serving too. Bud enlisted in the Navy at age 18 in 1948. He stayed in for 25 years reaching the rank of Commander. As a Navy pilot, Bud had over 200 landings on nine different navy carriers.

Upon leaving the Navy, Bud returned to his childhood home of Miramonte. He completed two years at Fresno State to earn his teaching credential. Bud started his hunter education instructor service in 1975 while teaching at Tehipite Middle School in Fresno. This middle school had a program called the California High School Cadet Corp. When Bud first arrived the program consisted of about 22 students and before Bud left the program it was up to 95 kids. Bud was able to take his career to his hometown in Miramonte. Bud worked as a teacher/principal and then as principal in Miramonte.

Bud enjoyed teaching. He served his community as an instructor for many years not just in the school but in hunter education as well. He raised two daughters and a son, and has two grandchildren. His son has served in the Army and his granddaughter is in the Navy. The Todd family has been a service family. Thank you Bud for sharing your time with us: your service in our eyes has been more than a blip. You have helped keep the tradition alive.



Where's Ed?

Olivia, Rob, & Ryan Machado
Junior Waterfowl day at
Lt. Olague's Duck Hunt.
Los Banos

HEI Steve Balbo & son,
Brandon Balbo at the
Canada De Los Osos
junior turkey hunt



Joseph Painter (Larry Angus
student) with his first
pheasant at a hunting club.
Btw, the dog is also in training!

Hunting, fishing, traveling,
students, family & friends, we want to
see it all! Share a photo of your
adventures with us. Email:
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Title your message, "Where's Ed", and
include your HEI#, your location and a
short caption.



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Horray
Kathy!

25

**Years of Service
with the state**



CONGRATULATIONS!



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