



HASTINGS ISLAND HUNTING PRESERVE



7758 HASTINGS ISLAND ROAD, RIO VISTA, CALIFORNIA 94571-1026
DANIELLE EARL, MANAGER

AUGUST 2011

Set Your Sights!

We would like to welcome all of our returning and new members, for another exciting season of hunting! Accompanying this issue you will find all the information and forms you will need for the 2011- 2012 season. Please make sure to get your payments in by September 30th to avoid the Late Price for Bird Cards!

-Danielle Earl

2011-2012 PHEASANT SEASON

Pheasant season begins Saturday, September 24, 2011! Bird cards that are paid in full will be available for pickup at the Club Office starting September 10th. A good tip for making your first hunting trip easier is the early pickup of your bird card(s) and field pass. This will get you into the field much faster on your first day of hunting.

Please make sure you bring your Hunting License with an Upland Validation as we are no longer able to sell Hunting and Fishing Licenses at the Club.

We continue to sell Regular-Priced Bird Cards in 20, 40, and 100 bird increments, as well as our Early Season, "20-Bird" Card. The Regular Priced and Early Season Cards will be available until September 30th. After that date, a **Late Season, "20-Bird" Card** will be the only card available for purchase.

All cards must be paid in full by the earlier of September 30th, or the first day you hunt. If full payment is not received by September 30th, the price of your card will increase to the Late Season Card price. If you prefer to pay by credit card, we accept credit card payments in person, at the Club only.

While we do not mail receipts for each payment made toward your bird card, we will be mailing you a statement in August detailing your outstanding balance, if any. You are always welcome to request a receipt, when making a payment at the Club Office. If you have put a deposit on a 2011-2012 bird card, your statement, enclosed with this newsletter, will show all of your payments recorded through August 15, 2011. Any payments made or posted after this date will be on file at the Club, but will not show up on this statement. This is the only statement you will receive before the September 30th payment deadline. Remember, you must meet that payment deadline in order to avoid an increase to the Late Season Card price.

Please be reminded that we do not provide refunds, for any reason, after September 30th.

If you have any questions regarding the bird cards we offer or your payment history, please call or stop by the Club Office.

FREE ROAM VS. ASSIGNED FIELDS

The majority of upland game bird clubs in California utilize two methods of hunting in their fields: "Reserved / Assigned Field Hunting" and "Free Roam Hunting". Each type has advantages and drawbacks.

In a "Reserved / Assigned Field" environment, the hunter has the exclusive use of a defined area for part or all of his hunt. Typically, a minimum number of birds must be requested in advance by the hunter, and those birds are paid for whether or not they are shot. Major benefits of this type of hunting are: There is a known quantity of birds in the assigned area. No other hunting party is supposed to enter the area during your hunt. Drawbacks include: A smaller area in which to hunt. The hunter pays for all planted birds, whether taken or not. A missed opportunity will result if a bird is flushed and flies out of the assigned area.

Hastings Island Hunting Preserve has always employed the "Free Roam" system. This means there are generally no reserved fields for hunting, and all groups of hunters have equal rights to the open hunting acreage. The major advantages of such a system are: It allows hunters to make maximum use of the terrain, wind, and weather to their hunting advantage. It allows for more natural hunting pattern to be exercised by the dog and hunter. Hunters have the ability to follow up on a missed opportunity and harvest the located bird in a different area or field. This method of hunting allows the Club to utilize a system where the hunter only pays for the birds he shoots. This system is considered by **See page 3.**

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Fall Chukar Hunts Begin	September 1, 2011
New Member Orientations Begin	September 3, 2011
Pre-Season Rooster Shoots	See Article on Pg. 2
Annual Trap Competition & BBQ	September 10 th
Bird Cards ready for pickup	September 10 th
Fall Hunter Safety Course	September 17-18 th
2011-2012 Pheasant Season Begins	September 24, 2011
Last day for Early Season Cards	December 12, 2011

PRE-SEASON ROOSTER SHOOTS

We are glad to again offer our popular Pre-Season Rooster Shoots. We have designated this year's pre-season shoot dates as September 8th, 9th, 15th, 16th, and 17th. Since the afternoons can be warm in September, the field hours for these shoots will be from 8:00AM to 1:00PM.

Due to the limited number of dates, advance reservations are required. The fee for a "4-Bird" Pre-Season Rooster Shoot will be \$100.00 per hunter. Members may bring one guest per shoot.

Since these are pre-season hunts, the birds you take during a Rooster Shoot will not be counted against your bird card. We release plenty of birds for these hunts, but it is up to the hunter to get his four birds. Bird cleaning will be available at the normal price.

For your convenience, the Coffee Shop will be open for lunch from 10:00AM until 1:30PM on these dates.



Cowgirl is one of our rental dogs and she is looking for a good hunting home!

HASTINGS ISLAND DOGS FOR SALE

We rotate most of our rental line out at six years of age. If you are looking for a proven "hunting machine", below is a list of our dogs that are currently for sale.

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| 1. Sonny | German Shorthair Pointer |
| 2. Cowgirl | German Shorthair Pointer |
| 3. Macey | German Wirehair Pointer |
| 4. Kojack | German Shorthair Pointer |

Utilize our "try before you buy" policy and apply the rental of your dog towards its purchase price. Please contact Danielle for details.

We also have three young (12 months), starter shorthair dogs, for sale. If you are interested in any of the dogs above, please visit the Office or call (707) 678-3325 and ask for Danielle Earl.

8TH ANNUAL TRAP SHOOT AND BBQ

Saturday, September 10th, will be the Club's Annual Competition Trap Shoot and Barbecue. The Trap Shoot is a fast-paced competition for bragging rights. The winner will be pictured in our quarterly newsletter, and their name engraved on the trophy that is on display in the Clubhouse. Beginning at 10:00AM all registered shooters will compete in a regulation, five stand tournament. This event will be shot in five man relays, with a designated puller, official scorekeeper, and standard firing line commands. Participants are restricted to non-magnum, 2³/₄ inch shells, or 2 1/2 inch shells with acceptable gauges of 12, 16, 20, 28, or .410. Shotguns may be over/under, side-by-side, single break, pump, bolt action, or semi-automatic. Guns used in this competition must be capable of legal upland game bird hunting in California, with magazine plugs, etc. Each shooter will require 75 rounds of ammunition for the scoring rounds, and the top 5 shooters will enter the final round, so it is recommended that you bring 100 shells minimum.

The fee will be \$20.00 per shooter. Advance reservations will be accepted prior to the event. Relay placement is random and will be drawn that day at 9:45AM at the Trap Range. After the tournament, trap shooting will be available to all members at half-price. Lunch including hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, chips and soda are included in the price. Additional lunches for non - tournament shooters can be purchased for \$5.00. We will have sprinklers on the lawn to keep the kids cool; the horseshoe pit will be ready for some serious pitching and the trap machine will be stocked with clays. We are looking forward to seeing all our new and returning members for a great day of fun!



(From the left) Jessica Better, Mark Miller, Mike Menasco with guests. Introducing their puppies to the field.

CLEANING ROOM HOURS

Our cleaning room hours are from 8:30AM to 4:00PM. Nevertheless, if you are a member who is hunting by 7:30AM and has finished by 8:00AM, and you cannot wait for the cleaning room to open, please let the counter staff know your situation. They will make an effort to get your birds cleaned and you on your way as quickly as possible.

Continued from Page 1....most hunters to be the most similar to hunting wild birds.

But, to be successful, this system assumes that hunters will assume an increased level of alertness to safety and courtesy, while in the field. As other groups may be traveling in close proximity, or exiting the area to one side or behind your party, or one or more vehicles may either be moving or parked within normal range of a shotgun round, it is imperative that every hunter be aware of his surroundings. This of course should be the case in any hunting scenario.

While safety is paramount, the second item of importance is the concept of courtesy and good sportsmanship. Three main issues occur on a frequent basis that require a Free Roam hunter to make a judgment call as to the proper courtesy that should be shown. They are: Identifying the location of a bird within close proximity and line of travel of a group already hunting in that particular location; what to do when a bird that your party did not produce flies over your party within normal gun range, known as “pass shooting”; what to do when your party is traveling by vehicle and visually locates a bird they would prefer to harvest, known as “road hunting”.

Since all fields and ditches are hunted, if a hunter visually spots a bird from the edge of a field, it is certainly possible that another party is in the immediate vicinity hunting for this or another bird in the same location. To jump in front of another hunter’s path is at best discourteous and at worst creates a safety hazard — and it is also against Club rules. It can also lead to a disagreement between hunters as to who will claim or take the bird.

Road hunting is driving along, spotting a bird, and then jumping out of your car to shoot the bird. Certainly that does not emulate the traditional hunting experience the Club tries to create for our members. It is a poor example for other hunters. While this practice is not specifically against our Club Rules, it often creates several rule violations. Many road hunters will, in their haste and excitement, forget to release and use their dog to participate in the hunt, neglect to verify if there is another hunting party nearby, forget to put on any article of blaze orange, and may even have a loaded gun in their vehicle. In each case, the road hunting group has violated a Club rule, as a result of participating in this type of activity. Without a doubt, our patrolmen give road hunters extra scrutiny.

Hastings’ Free Roam Hunting system, combined with our Club rules, is specifically designed to create a rich, traditional experience of upland game hunting, with a firm commitment to absolute Gun Safety, that we hope you will enjoy. While the Club will do everything it can to make your hunting experience the best possible, we rely on our members to be active partners in that process. We appreciate the safety and courtesy you exhibit in the field and extend to your fellow Club members.

FISH AND GAMES LICENSES

Due to the implementation of Fish & Game’s new Automated License Data System (ALDS), we are no longer able to sell hunting and fishing licenses. We apologize for the inconvenience that we know this will cause many of our members. However, as we explained in our May 2011 newsletter, the ALDS system is not compatible with the remote location of the Club. We wish this situation was different. You may purchase hunting and fishing licenses online or find a local agent by going to www.dfg.ca.gov -Click on “Licenses” scroll down to the bottom right and click on “License Agent Search” to find a licensed agent.

ITEMS TO REMEMBER

You can pre-pay your bird cleanings. Many members find this to be much more convenient than paying for cleaning each time you hunt.

We also offer Waterfowl cleaning for our members here at the Club. Ducks can be cleaned for \$4.00 and Geese for \$5.00.

Smoked Pheasants are available throughout the Season on an exchange basis — you trade a freshly shot bird, plus the smoking fee, for one of our “smokers”.

We offer Dry Storage — no utility hookups — and long and short term reserved parking for RV’s and boats. Please stop by the Club Office for the current rates and availability. If you think that you would like to rent a space in our trailer park, ask the Office to put you on our waiting list.

The Club sells blaze orange t-shirts and hats, as well as field legal and trap ammunition, and dog training supplies. We also have a selection of custom hats, as well as t-shirts in long and short sleeve.

Our first class Kennel facility is available to all members for Dog Boarding needs. Our “Doggie Hilton” is one of the best places for your canine companions during vacations or travel.

MOVING....ADDRESS CHANGE

Please remember that the Post Office will not forward or hold most Club mail. Although we utilize Return Service on all non-deliverable mail, please alert the Club Office to any change of your address, so we can continue to send you important Club information, in a timely manner.



CHUKAR HUNTS START SEPTEMBER 1ST

If you're anxious to get an early start on your hunting this Fall, you may want to consider one of our popular Chukar Hunts. These hunts are available starting September 1, 2011 and continue through May 31, 2012. We offer an all inclusive "100-Bird" Chukar Hunt, including a continental breakfast, barbecued New York steak lunch, free bird cleaning, and four rounds of trap, for only \$1,575.00. This fun event can accommodate up to ten participants for an exciting day of hunting.

For those that hunt in smaller groups or prefer to forgo the extras, we offer the "No-Frills" Hunt. Starting at a minimum of ten Chukar for \$160.00, the "No-Frills" Hunt is a great way to get back into the swing of hunting. Additional birds can be purchased for friends and family. For thirty or more chukar, a price break is available. Cleaning is available with a "No-Frills" Hunt for \$2.00 per chukar.

As always, we will continue to have individual training chukar available for use in the designated training field for any member with a valid hunting license and upland game bird stamp. Reserved Chukar Hunts are also the only way that a hunting party can normally reserve a field at the Club.

Also, if you need a four-legged hunting partner for Chukar hunts, we have excellent dogs for rent.

HUNTER SAFETY COURSE

We will be hosting our Fall Hunter Safety Course on September 17th and 18th. The fee for this class is \$10 per student. This course is limited to thirty participants, so we recommend that you sign up early. Hamburgers, fries and sodas are available for lunch each day for a small fee. Participants and their families are welcome to spend Friday and/or Saturday night at the Club. The Clubhouse will be open 24 hours a day during this weekend event.

Please call or come by the Club Office for details and to make a reservation.



(From the left) Wayne Hayes, Stephan Bauer, Suzy Bauer, Julia Hensel and Tim Hensel. Participants of the Vizsla Club of Northern California Fun Day!

REGULAR FIELD MAINTENANCE

As the Pheasant Season begins the Club has strived to present well-groomed hunting fields to our members and guests. These efforts require the occasional field closure, either for terrain maintenance, irrigation, or other cover needs. Such closures of the Club fields are temporary and necessary.

Typically, our cover grasses are thick and tall in September and degrade as the season progresses. While some hunters and their dogs have difficulty hunting in this type of cover, it is necessary to start the season with lush fields to ensure we have adequate cover for the entire season.

We will strip-mow a couple of fields, for those hunters that have difficulty elsewhere on the Club. Please consult the front counter for the location of those fields.

The Club is located within Hastings Island Land Company. This working farm produces several crops that continue into the Fall before final harvest. The fields typically remain closed to hunting until later in the season, when final harvest is made, and the fields are ready to lie fallow for the winter. At that time, we are notified, and those fields then become open for general hunting. Although we do not generally release into those areas, the pressure exerted on the released birds during the fall produces some birds from these outlying areas later in the winter.

Occasionally, our farm fields are sprayed with agricultural chemicals. If a field is closed; stay out. These areas are temporarily closed in order to ensure the safety of both you and your dog.

The entire property, both the Hunting Preserve, and the Land Company are depicted on a large aerial map behind the front counter in the Clubhouse. We recommend that you refer to this map, for any temporary closures or other information such as wet or irrigated areas, prior to your hunt.

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