



# HASTINGS ISLAND HUNTING PRESERVE



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

DECEMBER 2011



## MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

We wish all of our returning members and new hunters a very Merry Christmas and safe Holiday Season. We thank you for the gifts of fun times together at the Club and your continued friendship and patronage. Have a pleasant and prosperous New Year!

-Danielle Earl



### 2012-2013 BIRD CARDS

Early deposits for the 2012-2013 Pheasant Season will be accepted beginning December 1<sup>st</sup>. A deposit of \$200.00 ensures that you are receiving the best possible prices on next season's cards. We will publish next season's prices in February or early March.

*At this point in the Season, if you have not already purchased a bird card, the only card still available is the Late Season Price 20 bird card.*

If you are a current member, you may purchase additional bird cards for the current season at the same discounted rate that you received on your initial card purchase. You may also purchase extra birds individually as you harvest them, on your last hunt.

Monday, December 12, 2011 is the last day that Early Season Cardholders will be able to hunt pheasants this season, although they can continue to use the other amenities of the Club. If you feel you will not be able to complete your Early Season Card and wish to convert it to a Full Season 20 Bird Card, by paying the difference in card prices, you may do so prior to December 12th.

### NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

New members, and anyone who has not had an active membership for the past two or more years are required to attend a New Member Orientation, prior to their first hunt of the season. Orientation classes are typically held Saturday and Sunday mornings through December 31st. Please call the Club for further details.

### PHEASANTS FOREVER JUNIOR HUNT

Yolo County Pheasants Forever will be hosting their Youth Pheasant Shoot again at Hastings Island on January 21 and January 28, 2012. This hunt will be limited to the first 30 youths age 15 and under. Each youth must have a valid California hunting license and will be accompanied by guides and dog handlers. This will be a fun, well organized and safety oriented hunt.

After the hunt, a BBQ lunch and trap shooting will be provided along with a raffle prize for each participant. The final raffle will include a 12 gauge shotgun. Cost for this fun event will be \$35.00 for each youth. To ensure your young hunter may have the opportunity to participate

you may go to [www.yolopf.org](http://www.yolopf.org) to get your Mentor Hunt Entry Form.

Last year Yolo County Pheasants Forever and Hastings Island Hunting Preserve hosted 22 children for a fun filled day of pheasant hunting, trap shooting and raffle prizes! For the eleventh year in a row, the volunteers and dog handlers continued the tradition of successful upland hunting.

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SUE JONES, MADISON MYERS, LAUREN WEBSTER (AND THE REST OF OUR CREW) LOOK FORWARD TO WISHING YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS ON YOUR NEXT VISIT TO THE CLUB!

#### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

First day for 2012-2013 Season Deposits	December 1, 2011
Early Season Ends	December 12, 2011
Pheasant Forever Junior Hunt	January 21 & 28, 2012
Pheasant Season Ends	March 18, 2012

## 7TH ANNUAL TRAP SHOOT

In September, the Club hosted its Annual Trap Shoot and Barbecue. It was a beautiful summer day for the picnic and we had a good turnout for the trap competition. The winner (pictured below, in his younger years) pulled



This year's trap completion winner has been a pheasant hunter all of his life. Want to find out who was this year's winner? Take a look at the trophy plaque in the Clubhouse, where you can also see what he looks like today!

through a tough third round and was able to move to the lead at the end of the final round, edging out our Second Place Runner-Up, Bill Streukins, with an exciting single target win at the very end of the final round.

We wish to thank all of our contestants for their participation in this event. The winner (see the caption) whose new nickname might become "the Kid" will be adding another nameplate to the Perpetual Trophy in

the Clubhouse - he is a past winner. Stop by the Clubhouse to find out the identity of our 2011 Champion!

## ON PATROL

Our patrol Staff is always available to assist you with your hunt. If you need help at anytime in the field or parking lot, please don't hesitate to stop us. We gladly provide "taxi service" to the Clubhouse or your car from the field; we can drive you out to a field at the edge of the Club and you can "hunt back" to the Clubhouse; we can guide you to a more productive and successful area if you are having trouble finding birds; we will gladly lighten your load by taking your birds into the Club, and have them cleaned while you continue your hunt and they will be ready when you return to the Clubhouse; or we will try to assist in any way possible to make your hunting experience more enjoyable.

Our patrolmen are also here to ensure that all Safety Rules and Regulations are followed. If you have a question regarding safety or our rules, they are your resource in the field.

Our patrolmen also work hard to prevent trespassing at the Club by outsiders. While we try to recognize as many members as possible, do not be surprised if you are stopped to verify that you are a Club member, who is signed in for hunting or fishing.

## CHUKAR HUNTS AND MIXED BAG SHOOTOUTS!

Chukar hunts continue to be an enjoyable way to spend the day hunting at the Club. While most members schedule their chukar hunt before or after the pheasant season, we offer these hunts all year.

We have several ways you can hunt this flighty and challenging bird. We offer the all inclusive "100-Bird" Chukar Hunt for up to 10 hunters, including a continental breakfast, barbecued New York steak lunch, free bird cleaning, and four rounds of trap, for only \$1,575.00! These events provide a fun and 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 enjoy the challenge of hunting these birds, at a lower price. We offer a price break on purchase in excess of 30 birds. Bird cleaning is available with a "No-Frills" Hunt for \$2.00 per chukar.

Since the Chukar Season overlaps with the Pheasant Season, it is easy to arrange a "mixed bag shoot" in a specially assigned field for your party during the Season, hunting both Chukar and Pheasant in a single event.

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 validation. If you need a four-legged hunting partner for these Chukar hunts, we have excellent dogs for rent.

## HOLIDAY HOURS AND RESERVATIONS

The Holiday Season at the Club can be an active time, with families and friends coming to try out the new hunting gear they received for the holidays. Since these are historically some of the busiest times for the Club, we would recommend you take advantage of the extended reservation periods we offer during this time. The Office Staff will be glad to take your advance reservation up to 2 weeks prior for the period of December 23rd to January 2nd. This will ensure that your party, once checked in at the counter by 7:30am, will be guaranteed entry into the fields with the first hunters of the day.

Our special Holiday Hours are listed below. Please mark your calendars, accordingly.

**December 24th:** Field Hours are 7:30am-11:30am  
Club will be closing at Noon.

**December 25th:** Club is closed, Merry Christmas!

**December 31st:** Field Hours are 7:30am-4:00pm

**January 1st:** Club is Closed, Happy New Year!



From Left to Right: Bob Tasker, Tyler Tasker, Steve Peterson, Blake Peterson and Smokey. Celebrating Tyler's 15th Birthday at the Club!

## **GUN CARE**

Many hunters prevent rust on their shotguns by rubbing down the gun with some type of water displacing product. Many choose products like WD-40. This is a good product for the intended job, but be careful when you apply it. Products like WD-40 can seep into wood, especially if the inside surface of fore-end and butt stock have not been previously sealed. Most shotguns come from the factory with no sealant having been placed on the inside surface of the wood. WD-40 can eventually cause the wood to weaken, and possibly break after repeated recoil. Be sure to apply the WD-40 to a rag first, and seal the inside wood surface prior to wiping down your gun.

## **HASTINGS ISLAND WEBSITE!**

Next time you are surfing the Internet, take a look at the Club's website: [www.hihp.com](http://www.hihp.com)

You can access all of the membership forms and Club Rules and Regulations, as well as Club information concerning the various activities that come with your membership. Also included are driving directions and maps for your guests who might be meeting you at the Club for the first time, as well as contact information for the Club Office.

Feel free to send our website to your guests to allow them to review the Clubs Rules and Regulations they will be responsible to follow when they visit.

## **HI-GRADE IMPORTS IS BACK!**

Harry Marx, owner of Hi-Grade Imports Fine Firearms, will return to the Club on December 30, 2011, with several collector grade examples of European field and upland guns. If you were lucky enough to see him on his last visit, you know that Hi-Grade Imports is well known throughout the west as an outstanding supplier of collector and custom-fit Shotguns. Harry really has some exceptional firearms. We are fortunate to provide our members with the opportunity to view and peruse this very nice set of guns. Harry will also have a number of collector and field grade guns for sale.

## **Junior Hunt continued from Page 1**

Each of the youths had multiple opportunities to knock birds down under the watchful eye of the chaperones in the field. Additionally, the children took turns honing their shot gunning skills at the Trap Range and took home more than \$700.00 in raffle prizes. Paul Loduca took home the Grand Prize of a Benelli Nova Bantam weight 12 gauge Shotgun!

The continued success of this event can be credited to all of the volunteers: The Dog Handlers and their wonderful dogs, the Safety Chaperones, the Mentors and all of the many support positions from cooks to trap range volunteers, which is a long list!

## **CLUB GIFT CERTIFICATES FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

Many of our members and their families have enjoyed our popular gift certificates for holiday gifts or stocking stuffers. Our gift certificates, printed on special stationery and available in any denomination, can be used towards any of the Club products or services, such as bird cards, bird cleaning, chukar hunts, and merchandise.

We will be happy to include your personalized greeting, and we will be glad to either mail the certificate to you or directly to the recipient.

Please stop by the Office to place your Gift Certificate order for this Holiday Season!

## **WINTER WEATHER**

Winter can bring some unpleasant changes in the weather at the Club. In particular, we have roads that when wet must be closed off to prevent members from becoming stuck in the mud. While a road may be "roped off", it does NOT mean the fields behind them are closed. The ropes are simply there to prevent you from entering hazardous driving areas.

Morning fog can occur at this time of year. Please be aware that our Club rules require everyone to wait out any fog delays in the Clubhouse. No one is allowed in the fields until adequate visibility exists in all open hunting areas.

Wet cover can be difficult for our members. Remember that we have "strip mowed" four different fields in with various types of cover to allow for easier access. The large aerial map on the wall behind the front counter will note which fields are strip mowed, closed, and list any changes to the fields and roads due to weather.





STEW CUNNINGHAM AND GRANDDAUGHTERS, AMBER 3 AND HANNAH 5. ENJOYING A DAY OF HUNTING WITH THEIR GRANDFATHER.

## **HIGHLY TRAINED DOGS FOR SALE**

The Club maintains an excellent line of rental dogs. If you have ever rented a dog from the Club, you already know how well trained and versatile these dogs are. Our rental dogs have the benefit of extensive training by Randy Berry. Randy has won first place in the AKC Pointing Breed Gun Dog Championship two years in a row. He not only provides the initial training regime but continues to “tune up” our rental dogs as needed. These dogs put up and retrieve hundreds of birds each season and are literally hunting machines.

At the age of 5 to 7 years, we typically sell dogs on our rental line to make room for younger dogs. This creates the opportunity for you to purchase a very well trained dog with an incredible amount of hunting experience. All of our dogs are AKC registered and many have impressive blood lines.

In you have interest in purchasing one of the dogs we will have for sale, you might be interested in our rent to own program. This program allows you to rent a dog up to four times throughout the season and apply the rental cost to the sale price of the dog. This allows to really assess whether a specific dog might be right for you.

Please contact Danielle in the Club office for further details.



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## **TRI-TRONICS DOG TRAINING COLLARS**

Hastings Island Hunting Preserve is pleased to now be a Tri-Tronics Dealer. This means that we will be able to offer the best electronic dog collars, directly to our members.

One of the greatest dog training tools ever invented, the electronic dog collar can be a very helpful item when used correctly. It can also become an enemy, if used incorrectly. When the collar is used on a fully trained hunting dog, it will assist in keeping the dog focused on the hunt and greatly improve the overall experience. If used simply for disobedience, the dog will simply see it as a punishment, and not understand why they are being punished for something they have a normal desire and instinct to do in the field. This type of improper use can ruin a dog for a day, or even longer if abused.

There are many various manufacturers of electronic collars. We feel Tri-Tronics offers the best combination of capabilities to meet your training requirements while hunting. While we feel Tri-Tronics is the best and most durable collar, brand is not as important as how the collar is used in the field. The normal use for collars is to act as a reminder to the dog to pay attention to what they have already been taught. The dog must first have a firm grasp of the various hunting commands it will receive in the field before a collar is ever used.

Dogs should be taught these lessons well in advance of the hunt, and should be introduced to the collar during normal training sessions. You should not give a dog any command you are not in a position and prepared to reinforce with a correction, if necessary.

Randy Berry, of Von Steuben Kennels, is available to help you learn the proper use of your Tri-Tronics collar and get the most of your dog while hunting.

Please contact the Club to purchase a Tri-Tronics collar or arrange for a lesson in proper training techniques with Randy.

## **CARING FOR MOUNTABLE BIRDS**

Many of our members have expressed interest in having game birds mounted for a trophy case or wall display. It is important to take special care when shooting, retrieving and handling birds to be mounted.

Here are a few tips on how to preserve a bird until you are able to deliver it to the taxidermist: First, do not field dress the bird. Carefully wipe away the blood and dirt with a paper towel or soft cloth. Take care to clean in the direction of the feathers. Smooth ruffled and broken feathers as neatly as possible. Wrap the bird with a inner layer of newspaper and an outer layer of plastic, taking care not to damage the beautiful tail feathers. Freeze the wrapped bird as soon as possible.

Careful attention to preservation of the natural beauty of your bird will help to insure impressive display.