



# HASTINGS ISLAND HUNTING PRESERVE



7758 HASTINGS ISLAND ROAD, RIO VISTA, CALIFORNIA 94571-1026  
PHONE (707) 678-3325  
E-MAIL: CLUBMAIL@HIHP.COM

DECEMBER 2016



**Merry Christmas!** With the holidays only a few weeks away, the staff at Hastings Island Hunting Preserve sends you Season's Greetings. Thank you for another wonderful year at the Club. We hope to see you during the Holiday season. Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

## BIRD CARDS

We are accepting deposits for the 2017-2018 Pheasant Season. Early deposits for next season are a sure guarantee to get the best possible price for next season's card. As always, we offer a discount for all deposits made by cash, check or money order. If you wish to make a deposit by Visa or MasterCard, we are able to accept your payment at the Club only.

We continue to offer the Late Season 20 Bird Card. Please keep in mind we anticipate closing the membership for 2016-2017 Season around January 1. If you are a current member of the Club hunting this season, you may continue to purchase additional birds or bird cards for the remainder of this season.

We wish to remind everyone with an Early Season 20 Bird Card, that the Early Season ends on December 16, 2016. After that date, you may use the Club's facilities for fishing, trapshooting, Chukar Hunts and other activities, but you may not hunt pheasants for the remainder of the season, not even as a guest.



*Merry Christmas from the Club!*

## CHUKAR HUNTS MIXED BAG SHOOTS

Chukar hunts are available to purchase for all members during the Pheasant Season. These can be purchased in multiples of 10. Chukar hunts are a great way to hold family gatherings or enjoy a day afield with friends. With any chukar hunt, you receive a reserved field, where the chukar are planted for your party. The 100 bird all-inclusive chukar hunt includes a number of extras, such as: a continental breakfast, BBQ New York steak lunch with all the trimmings, four rounds of trap shooting and free chukar cleaning.

During the Pheasant Season, you can combine any Chukar Hunt with the pheasants and create a "Mixed Bag Shoot". We will plant both chukar and pheasant into your reserved field where both species can be hunted by your group. Mixed Bag

Shoots can be arranged with chukar hunts of 20 or more chukar.

Extra pheasants or extra bird cards are available through the Club office to use toward any mixed bag shoot.

Book one soon through the office, *(Continued on page 2)*

## 13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL TRAP COMPETITION

This fall, we held our annual trap competition at the Club. Several excellent shooters participated this year, making it one of the closest shoots ever!

The First round had 9 of the 15 shooters all placing within two clays of each other. Round two saw a breeze kick up more than the first round, this caused some of the shooters that have historically been our top shooters to miss clays, opening the field back up. Round three, the final full round, had three shooters break out *(Continued on page 3)*

## SPECIAL CLUB CLOSURE

Please make a note - in addition to our regular closure dates for the holidays, the Club will be closed to all activities on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday February 21 to February 23, 2017. We will re-open for regular business Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> of February for all members.



## **CHUKAR HUNTS MIXED BAG SHOOTS**

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as the most popular dates fill up quickly.

You can also purchase training chukar individually, or with our training chukar cards, which offer a discounted price per chukar. These 20 Chukar cards are good for a full three months, making them an excellent choice for your dog training needs.



FREISEN FAMILY MEMORIAL CHUKAR HUNT -  
A FINE DAY WING SHOOTING!

## **HOLIDAY TREATS**

Christmas is just around the corner, and so is the abundance of special treats, sweets, and chocolate delights. This also presents ample opportunity for a hunting dog to be exposed to those rich foods and other goodies we humans enjoy at this time of the year.

However, some foods that are safe for humans are quite dangerous and toxic to dogs. Bird skins (turkey, chicken, pheasant, duck), sauces and gravies, pies and desserts, whipped cream, frostings, eggnog or chocolate based foods can cause serious health emergencies in a dog. Onion and garlic are so toxic to dogs that they can cause immediate vomiting and lethargy, along with a lack of interest in further eating, if ingested by the dog. Grapes and raisins contain enzymes that can affect a dog's kidney function to a dangerous level. Avocados can cause heart damage to a dog in very small portions.

Chocolate remains the worst offender. This treat is poisonous to a dog's liver, heart, kidney function, pancreas, and can affect their digestive system functions. It can also increase their urine output, and can quickly cause dehydration and death in a dog that exercises regularly.

Last, the nuts we enjoy in our holiday treats are another concern. They can cause muscle tremors, seizures, paralysis, depression, and vomiting in very small doses. Thankfully, the muscular effects of nuts in a dog are of mostly short duration, and most dogs recover from the ill effects quickly.

Also, beware of toothpicks and tree decorations that can become objects of interest for a dog. This can cause injuries to the dog's mouth or intestinal tract. Be on the

safe side. Keep food treats up where dogs cannot get them and make sure to clean up food spills. Put the garbage from family gatherings and parties in containers where your dog does not have access. Keep decorations up where dogs cannot grab them and chew on them. With a little forethought and planning, the holidays can be enjoyable for both families and their dogs.

## **PHEASANTS FOREVER JUNIOR HUNT**

Yolo County Pheasants Forever Youth Mentor Hunt will be on January 17, 2017. The event sponsors 35 young, enthusiastic pheasant hunters on a fun day afield, in pursuit of ringnecks. If you are interested in volunteering for this event or sponsoring a youth hunter, please visit the Yolo County Pheasants Forever website: [www.YoloPF.org](http://www.YoloPF.org), or pick up an event flyer at the Club office.

## **2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL VETERAN'S HUNT**

Hastings Island Hunting Preserve is proud to sponsor the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Yolo County Pheasants Forever Veteran's Hunt on January 21, 2017. This event is open to all veterans. Guides and dog handlers will be available for this hunt. Last year's hunt was well attended and quite successful! Information on signing up or volunteering for this excellent event can be found on the Yolo County Pheasants Forever website: [www.YoloPF.org](http://www.YoloPF.org)

The Club would like to thank the many Members who volunteer their time and their dogs to make both these events possible.



YOLO COUNTY PHEASANTS FOREVER YOUTH MENTOR HUNT!

## **CROWDED FIELDS**

We appreciate your feedback regarding how we operate the Club. Please do not ever hesitate to visit with the Club Manager, Danielle Earl, about your hunting experience!

One "complaint" we hear from time to time is that our fields are more crowded than in the past. Please know that for more than 20 years, we have never allowed more than 125 people at one time to be in the field - this is irrespective of how many members belong to the Club or how many members show up at the Club to hunt on a given day. Our waiting list on busy days is a testament to this limit on the number of hunters in the field.

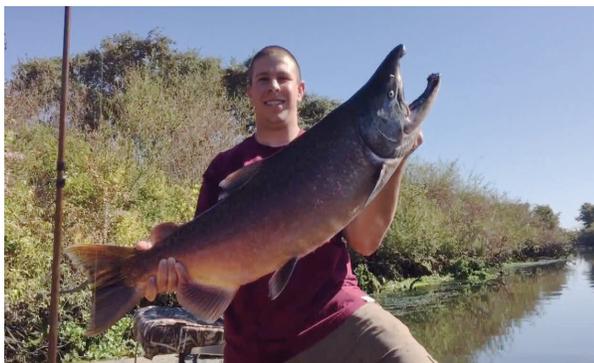
We operate a free roam hunting club, and it is our observation that over time more people have tended to

hunt closer to the main road and Clubhouse and not spread out over the 800 acres of natural cover that we have to offer, much less the 4,700 acres on the entire Island. When we hunt at the Club, we tend to hunt more on the outskirts, and we see and shoot plenty of birds - but we like to walk and we like to actually hunt; not just shoot birds. If you have the same mindset, we hope that you will take the time to hunt and explore the entire Club. We think that you may find yourself having a better and more enjoyable experience on a beautiful piece of property, where you are a member.

## **FISHING AT HASTINGS ISLAND**

Many of our members enjoy the fine fishing opportunities present at the Club. With a variety of surrounding waterways, and many species of game fish native to the area, a few hours with a rod and reel can net a huge fish! We regularly see Sturgeon, Striped and Large Mouth Bass, Carp and Catfish, all being taken from the banks of the levees or from fishing boats launched at our boat ramp, which provides access to nearby public waterways, and most of the Delta.

Fishing is available 24 hours a day, when the Club is open. As with any visit to the Club, members must always sign-in and sign-out at the Clubhouse. If you are fishing, please, use our "Fishing Sign-in Book".



KYLE SIBLEY SHOWING OFF THE RESULTS OF A FUN AFTERNOON FISHING AT THE CLUB!

## **AVOIDING A GUN-SHY DOG**

Having a "gun shy" dog is a common concern for the owner of a new puppy. Every hunter should realize that no dog was ever born gun-shy. In spite of the fact that dogs, just like humans, have different temperaments, genetics mean nothing when dealing with gun-shyness in hunting dogs. The main thing here is how well a dog owner "educates" their dog from the beginning .

The improper introduction of loud noises, even inadvertently, can cause a dog to become gun-shy. Using a nail gun for a home project, fireworks, or shooting over a well-trained older dog while the puppy is nearby can cause this issue. And one thing you should NEVER do is fire a gun

in close proximity to the dog "just to find out if it is gun-shy". This is the certain way to create a "gun shy" dog.

In order to avoid the problem, you must ensure proper training, in particular, introducing gunfire at appropriate time and manner. This should occur at the training stage when the dog is totally relaxed, confident and comfortable with being handled in the field and finding birds. Gun training is a long process and patience is the key. Allow the animal to accept the conditioning at his own pace, and resist any temptation to "speed up the process".

When the dog is running, responding to commands, finding birds and enjoying the field, it is time to focus him on excitement about the bird. The goal is locating the bird with such enthusiasm, that the gunfire goes unnoticed. Engaging a friend hunter and working through a detailed plan is the best practice. Stationing the gunner 50-75 yards away with a blank pistol is a good beginning. Remember that being further away is better than being too close. When the dog finds the bird, flush the bird as usual and have the gunner fire a blank. Carefully observe the dog and if any negative reactions are noticed, wait and make a new attempt later, after working the dog on a few more birds. In case of true fear reactions, moving on in a positive but firm manner is highly recommended, instead of showing affection. Only after seeing that the dog keeps its interest on a bird, rather than the gunshot, should the gunner can be asked to move closer in order to make more tries.

Once the dog is comfortable with the sound of blanks, it is then possible to switch to low-base shotgun shells of smaller gauge and continue the training in a similar manner as described above, slowly moving up the scale of louder noises.

## **13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL TRAP COMPETITION**

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from the rest. They were only four clays apart in scoring spread.

The final round saw some exciting target shooting. The lead see-sawed across four of the five final shooters, as the erratic wind affected each participant differently.

As the last four clays in the round came out, the winner was determined. Congratulations go to Jack Rexroad, who took first place!

Congratulations also go to Second Place, Gino Basso.



13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL TRAP SHOOT WINNER: JACK REXROAD

## HOLIDAY RESERVATIONS AND HOURS

The holiday Season at the Club can be an active time, with families and friends joining us for full days of hunting. Since these days are historically among the busiest days of the year, we recommend that you take advantage of the extended reservations offered during this time. The Office Staff will be glad to take a reservation for anytime during the period from December 23, 2016 to January 2, 2017.

An advance reservation ensures your party will be guaranteed entry into the fields with the first hunters of the day.

Our special Holiday Hours are:

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016: Field Hours are 7:30am-12:00pm.  
Club closes at 2:00pm.

December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016: Club is Closed - Merry Christmas!

December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016: Field Hours are 7:30am-4:00pm.

January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017: Club is Closed - Happy New Year!

Please mark your calendar accordingly.



RANDY BERRY (CENTER) IS PICTURED WITH JUDGES  
AND WINNING DOG "SONNY",

## ANOTHER NATIONAL CHAMPION!!!

Randy Berry of Von Steuben Kennels, and our resident dog trainer, won first place in the Gun Dog Championship at the German Shorthair National's in Eureka, Kansas, with "Sonny". Sonny is a three year old German Shorthair Point, owned by Club member Lou Tonelli.

Randy and Sonny competed against and beat 126 dogs, representing the finest GSP's in the country, in order to win this title. Congratulations to Randy, Sonny and Lou!!!

## GIFT BASKETS



The Club is excited to offer Gift Baskets for sale this holiday season! These baskets are made to order and come stuffed with a variety of goodies that we offer at the Club.

Our gift baskets can include all sorts of items like: whistles & lanyards, HIHP Club hats in orange, blue or green, Club Tee-Shirts – short of long sleeve in white, orange or grey, shotgun shells, smoked birds, prepaid bird cards and birds cleaning, training bird and chukar cards, Garmin collars, and gift certificates for dog rentals and dog boarding,

We will also gladly create and include customized gift certificates for birds cards (this season and next), chukar hunts of all sizes, and trap shoots.

Let us help you find the perfect combination of hunting items to make that special hunter in your life smile on Christmas morning.

Please feel free to stop by the front desk, or call the Club office, and we can help you customize a beautiful gift basket that meets both your shopping needs and budget.

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

Last day to hunt pheasants on Early Season Card	December 16, 2016
Pheasants Forever Junior Hunt	January 17, 2017
Pheasants Forever Veteran Hunt	January 21, 2017
Special Club closure	February 22-23, 2017
Pheasant Season Ends	March 12, 2017
Clean-Up Shoot	March 13, 2017
Spring Chukar Hunts begin	March 15, 2017



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RIO VISTA, CALIFORNIA 94571-1026

PHONE: (707) 678-3325 FACSIMILE: (707) 678-1604

E-MAIL: CLUBMAIL@HIHP.COM