



HASTINGS ISLAND HUNTING PRESERVE



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DECEMBER 2017



The 2017-2018 Season is off to a wonderful start! We enjoy seeing so many of our Members and their families sharing exciting experiences. Please join us at the Club for the festive time of the year. We wish everyone Merry Christmas!

Danielle Earl, the Club Manager

BIRD CARDS

For Members who purchased the Early Season Cards, December 15, 2017 will be the last day to shoot all their birds. After this date, these Members will not be allowed to hunt pheasants, even as guests. If you have an Early Season Card, you are still welcome to use the Club amenities for trap shooting, fishing, and chukar hunts.

The Club will continue to sell the Late Season 20 Bird Cards at this time. Members may also purchase an additional Bird Card at the price at which they purchased their first card, if desired. Please remember, the Pheasant Season will end on March 18, 2018.



Merry Christmas from all of us!

As always, our Members are welcome to buy additional pheasants as extra birds, on a per-bird basis, if desired.

The Club is now accepting deposits for the 2018-2019 Season. The \$300.00 deposit provides:

- ❖ Guaranteed Membership for the upcoming 2018-2019 Season;
- ❖ Best possible prices on your Bird Cards with your early deposit;
- ❖ Use of the Club facilities from March 21, 2018 until the new season opening day for dog training, field exercising, and chukar hunts.

Members can also prepay their bird cleanings at this time.

Since Memberships usually fill quickly, the early deposit is highly recommended to all of our returning Members.

GIFT CERTIFICATES

Are you still looking for that perfect gift idea for your favorite hunter? The Club is happy to offer our Gift Certificates for almost every service we offer, along with all of our merchandise. These stocking stuffers can be tailor-made to include chukar hunts, prepaid bird cleaning, Bird Cards and/or deposits, trap shooting, or even a Mixed Bag Shoot during the Pheasant Season! We can also include, at your preference, items such as Club hats, T-Shirts, license holders, whistles and lanyards, or even Garmin dog collars. Each Gift Certificate is printed on attractive stationery and includes any personalized message or greeting you desire. Please contact the Club Office at least one week in advance if

you would like to purchase a Gift Certificate, so we can ensure you receive it prior to the Holidays.

IMPORTANT DATES

Last day to hunt pheasants on Early Season Card	December 15, 2017
Pheasants Forever Junior Hunt	January 6, 2018
Pheasants Forever Veteran Hunt	January 20, 2018
Special Club closure	February 21-22, 2018
Spring Chukar Hunts begin	March 1, 2018
Pheasant Season Ends	March 18, 2018
Clean-Up Shoot	March 19, 2018

SPECIAL CLUB CLOSURE

Please note, the Club will be closed to all Members for all activities on Wednesday, February 21 and Thursday, February 22. We will re-open for regular business on Friday, February 23, 2018.

PHEASANTS FOREVER YOUTH MENTOR HUNT

This season, the Club is happy to once again sponsor the Pheasants Forever Youth Mentor Hunt. This exciting event gives our newest generation of safe and responsible hunters the opportunity to take two pheasants under the guidance of an experienced hunter. Many Club Members volunteer to assist at this event by becoming Dog Handlers to work the dogs as the youth hunters experience the excitement of a first flush of a rooster. The Youth Mentor Hunt activities include lessons at the trap range on proper gun mounting and stance for shooting, a class on cleaning your shotgun correctly after a hunt, a BBQ lunch, and a raffle for the youth participants. To sign your youth hunter up for this fun day, visit the Yolo County Pheasants Forever Web Page at www.yolopf.org.



YOLO COUNTY PHEASANTS FOREVER YOUTH MENTOR HUNT

BECOMING AN OUTDOORS WOMAN

The Club was glad to sponsor the annual Becoming an Outdoors Woman Hunt in conjunction with the California Waterfowl Association. Our lady hunters arrived in the morning to a beautiful autumn day at the Club. Crisp morning air greeted everyone as they met for introductions and everyone prepared for the hunt. Several of our club Members volunteered as Dog Handlers, and with a Field Guide the groups of lady hunters headed out to harvest fine flying roosters. When the hunts were complete, each woman hunter returned to the Clubhouse where pheasants were cleaned and where all the participants could enjoy a great lunch in the Coffee Shop. Sampler plates of smoked pheasant were available to illustrate one way of preparing a delicious meal with a pheasant from the Club.



BECOMING AN OUTDOORS WOMAN HUNT

WORKING TOGETHER

Hastings Island Hunting Preserve puts its best effort into making sure our Members' hunting experience is both pleasurable and safe. As much as we try to do with improving our field and infrastructure, timing bird releases to provide the best hunting experience, and having a set of Club Rules and Regulations that promotes safety and courtesy, there is also a lot you can do to make hunting at Hastings the best possible experience.

Member hunting styles vary tremendously: some Members use 12-ga shotguns while others use a .410ga. We even have members who bow hunt. Some people hunt for just a couple of hours, while others prefer to spend the entire day in the field. Some hunting parties harvest just a couple of birds, while others shoot a 20 Bird Card, or more, in one outing. Some hunters work all the Club fields during their hunt. Others may spend their entire outing in just one small area.

Over the years, we have discovered that the most common complaint, and the one we are hearing with greater and greater frequency, is related to "rude hunting habits" by other hunters. This usually is in regard to some other hunter or a dog cutting in front of your path. But, it also includes pass shooting, not following up on your shot, etc. Such practices are not only rude, but often times they can be unsafe. While the Club tries to deal with these situations as quickly as possible, there is a lot you can do to help improve them.

Employ situational awareness. Before you enter a field, look around at who is already hunting that area and work the field in a way that will not adversely impact those that might have been there first. Pointing and flushing dogs search for birds differently. If you have a big ranging pointing dog, hunting in a crowded area is likely not a great strategy. The Club has over 800 acres dedicated to natural cover and there is over 4,500 acres total on the Island. Find an area that is less crowded. If you have a flushing breed dog, allowing it to work beyond your ability to easily shoot a flushed bird results in cripples and birds that are going to be tired and not fly as well for the next hunter, if that bird is flushed again within a short period of time.

In either case, keep an eye on who is around you and how YOU might be impacting them. Paying attention and showing a little courtesy will go a long way to making you and your fellow hunters' day in the field a lot more fun.

With approximately 42,000 birds planted throughout the season and our limiting the number of hunters in the field to 125 at any one time, there should be plenty of opportunity to fill your card. By paying attention and working together, the hunt should be safe and pleasurable for all concerned.

If you encounter another hunter who lacks field etiquette or you need help finding a more productive area to hunt, please ask our patrolmen for assistance. They are there to help make your hunting experience safer and more pleasant.

14TH ANNUAL TRAP COMPETITION

With a stiff breeze blowing, fourteen dedicated shooters stepped to the line this September for the annual Trap Shoot Competition. After a quick explanation of the rules for the shoot, the squads were drawn and the shooters were off and running. First round scores had three of our contestants tied with a perfect 25. As we entered the second round, the wind picked up, making the shooting quite challenging for everyone. The third round had scoring showing a two-way tie for the lead, and another two-way tie for 2nd place, with the last “top shooter” coming in just behind the leaders. We entered a final round of trap, and with the wind finally dying down, the scores showed Keith Kessler and Orin Koukol tied for the first place, and Chris Hutson just two clays behind.

With a sudden-death shootout in the works, Keith and Orin stepped to the line, to fire three shells at each station. The first unanswered miss would result in our winner for 2017. The pressure was on. On shot 11, Keith Kessler missed the clay, Orin Koukol responded with a solid hit on a hard crossing right shot. 2017 ended one of the closest years of Trap Shooting for the Competition with Orin Koukol taking the trophy, Keith Kessler in second place, and Chris Hutson in third. We wish to thank all of this year’s contestants for the outstanding match, and special thanks to Cliff Fago, Club Member, for volunteering to man the Trap bunker and maintain the machine during the shoot.



14TH ANNUAL TRAP SHOOT WINNER: ORIN KOUKOL

DON'T BE SURPRISED

Have you been stopped by a patrolman only to be asked to show your shot-shells or Hunting License? You might have even been simply driving out to view the fishing areas only to be stopped to ensure you are a Member of the Club. Don't be surprised. In the course of any given day, our patrolmen may stop you and ask for your License and/or field pass, to see your ammunition, or to verify your car license plate is signed in (perhaps all of the above).

It is our belief that such actions not only lower the actual risk of a safety violation that can cause harm to other hunters or their dogs, but they also prevent non-Members from accessing the Club and doing damage or littering the areas of the Club we all enjoy.

WHY IS CRATE TRAINING A DOG A GOOD THING?

Socializing a new puppy to a crate is a critical step in developing a gun dog. Some people see a new puppy in a crate as somehow being “cruel”, leaving the animal in a crate inside the back of a vehicle. Nothing can be further from the truth. In most cases, people who complain about a dog in a crate are simply trying to place themselves in the dog’s position. They are not thinking about what may well be best for the dog. They cannot see how or why a dog would enjoy being in a crate.

Let’s begin with the most obvious reason for crating a dog that is traveling to hunt — the dog’s safety and welfare. A loose dog in the back of a vehicle presents a direct hazard to the driver and passengers. Dogs cannot compensate quickly for sudden changes in speed caused by braking a vehicle, and rapidly become a four-legged missile in a car forced to stop unexpectedly. They also have a tendency to move around, as a natural exploration of the smells and sights they are experiencing. This means they also move often into a position where they obstruct the driver’s view, or the driver’s motions. Both of those are prime reasons for vehicle accidents. Finally, the dog may well depart a moving vehicle unexpectedly. It is not wearing a seatbelt, it might be tied in by a short lead rope, but the dog, for any number of reasons, may decide to either jump out on their own, or be thrown, from a moving car. This is the point at which you are likely to lose your hunting companion permanently. Dogs do not survive exiting a moving vehicle. At best, they are injured for life; at worst, they never make it to the veterinarian’s emergency office.

Second, dogs are pack animals. When born, the dam keeps her litter close, and in tight confines. This allows the puppy room to stand or turn around as they grow, but it is also a zone of protection and sanctuary they learn to rely upon quickly as they begin to grow. The dog crate, socialized to a puppy and used every time they travel, will rapidly trigger a similar response and instinctive memory to the puppy. The crate becomes its protective safe space within the vehicle, where it knows it can remain safe from harm while inside.

How big should a crate be? We see many people thinking “the bigger the better” for making the dog “happy”. This idea does not translate to a dog and its crate. You should purchase a crate that is large enough for the dog to lay down, stand and turn around in. A crate size can grow as the dog grows to adulthood.

Be a responsible and safe hunter, not just for yourself, but for your canine companion as well. Don't trust their safety (and yours) in a moving vehicle to luck, a short rope, or other occupants of the vehicle. Keep everyone safe while experiencing hunting. It begins with the first trip to the Club.



HOLIDAY HOURS AND RESERVATIONS

Please keep in mind the Holiday Hours for the Club.

As the Holiday period is typically a busy time at the Club, we are taking Reservations for the period between Saturday, December 23 and Sunday, December 31, weekdays included. If you arrive to check in by 7:30am, these advance reservations ensure your party will be among the first group of 125 hunters allowed into the field on that day. The Club never allows more than 125 hunters in the field at any given time. Walk-in members are taken on a space-available basis until the fields are full. Afterwards, we operate based on waiting lists.

Our special Holiday Hours are:

Dec 24, 2017:	Field Hours: 7:30am-12:00pm. Club closes at 2:00pm.
Dec 25-26, 2017:	Club is closed - Merry Christmas!
Dec 31, 2017:	Club is open all day
Jan 1-2, 2018:	Club is closed - Happy New Year!

Please mark your calendars accordingly.

IMPROVING FIELDS

You may have noticed the two fields of new, fresh cover and flattened terrain in the northwest corner of the Club, Fields 2 and 3. These fields are part of the Club, open to hunt, and in locations where we regularly release pheasant.

The Club's practice is to take one or two of the fields in the worst overall condition out of service in April and improve them by the new season start. Root balls of grass, deep cracks and divots in the ground are removed. The fields are floated, the ground is levelled and drained properly. At the end of the process the fields are re-seeded with plants beginning to grow in August and producing a fully refreshed field by September. It is easy to walk, great for larger groups, a good place to take veteran hunting dogs.

This year's floating and re-planting of the two fields is the fourth consecutive year for the Club. The overall effect is easily seen in the field in front of the Club, Field 55, which was done in 2016. One can also see the difference in Field 13, at the end of Rooster Road.

We hope this practice will provide a better hunting environment and more accessibility for our Members and their guests. We look forward to continuing improvement of our fields in order to generate progressively better areas for each Season.



TONY SACCO WITH FIRST PHEASANTS OF 2017-2018 SEASON

NON-LEAD AMMUNITION REQUIREMENTS FOR CALIFORNIA

Many of our Members have questions about the pending laws concerning non-lead ammunition requirements in California and how they are scheduled to be implemented. The Club is a **California Licensed Game Bird Club**. As such, we fall under the requirement that non-lead ammunition must be used for all hunting purposes, starting July 1, 2019. Please note, this is different than the statewide Upland Game Bird hunting requirements which began on July 1, 2016. The law specifically excludes Licensed Game Bird Clubs from the earlier date requirement. It establishes the July 1, 2019 regulation as the requirement for this Club. It is also worth noting that the current laws on non-lead ammunition apply only to hunting. You will still be allowed to use lead-based ammunition for Trap Shooting (target shooting).

If you have any questions on the implementation process for non-lead ammunition, you can obtain more detailed information at California Department of Fish and Wildlife website:

www.cdfgnews.wordpress.com/2015/05/14/nonlead-ammunition-requirement-approaches/

or

www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/lead-free/



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