



# HASTINGS ISLAND HUNTING PRESERVE



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DECEMBER 2019

*We are enjoying another great Season. Although the Club has had beautiful weather this Fall, the lack of moisture in October and November made for harder than usual hunting conditions.*

*We look forward to seeing you during the holiday season and all of us at the Club want to wish everyone a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!*



## BECOMING AN OUTDOORS WOMAN

The Club hosted this year's Becoming an Outdoorswoman (BOW) Pheasant Hunt on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019. This program is an extraordinary experience for new women hunters. The activities began with a meeting and safety briefing at the Club, where the participants met with their volunteer dog handlers and field guides. Afterwards, the ladies broke into small hunting groups, and with a dog, handler and guide, proceeded into the field for a fun morning pheasant hunt. Hunting was followed by lunch at the Club's Coffee Shop and then a round of trap. We are pleased to host this fun and worthwhile program that introduces new hunters to our sport.



The entire staff at Hastings Island Hunting Preserve wishes you and your family a very Merry Christmas and Holiday Season!

While CWA's focus is clearly waterfowl, we appreciate their providing other hunting opportunities for women. For more information about the BOW program, or to receive information on future BOW events, please contact Sarabeth Gonsalves at CWA: (559) 972-3441, or visit the BOW website at [www.calwaterfowl.org/cwa-bow](http://www.calwaterfowl.org/cwa-bow).

## HENS, HENS, HENS

As we did during the last season, we started releasing Hens at the Club, with the commencement of State Season, November 9<sup>th</sup>.

This will continue through the close of State Season on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, and the Roosters will return just in time for Christmas week. The Hens have been flying well, and they do not tend to run like Roosters. Since hens will not run or scatter across a field, we recommend that our hunters slow down and cover the areas they are hunting thoroughly.

Please feel free to check out our article on *Hens During State*

Season, at our website: [www.hihip.com/hens-during-state-season/](http://www.hihip.com/hens-during-state-season/).

This article explains our thinking on the process and will hopefully answer most questions you may have on this topic. If not, stop by the Club office for a visit, the next time you are here.



## SPECIAL CLUB CLOSURE

Please note, the Club will be closed to all Members for all activities on Wednesday, February 19 and Thursday, February 20. We will reopen for regular business on Friday, February 21, 2020.

## IMPORTANT DATES

Deposits for 2020-2021 Season	December 1, 2019
Early Season ends	December 13, 2019
State Season ends	December 22, 2019
Christmas, Club Closed	December 24-25, 2019
New Year, Club Closed	December 31, 2019
New Year, Club Closed	January 1, 2020
Pheasants Forever Veteran Hunt	February 1, 2020
Pheasants Forever Women Hunt	February 2, 2020
Special Club Closure	February 19-20, 2020
Last Day of Pheasant Season	March 22, 2020
Clean Up Hunt	March 23, 2020

## **BUYING AMMUNITION IN CALIFORNIA**

By now, you are likely aware of the Non-lead and new Ammunition Purchase regulations that went into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. In addition to the prohibition on using lead-based ammunition for hunting, anywhere in California, there are new procedures with which you must comply when buying ANY ammunition in the State. In order to make an ammunition purchase you will need to follow one of the three main methods with the CA Department of Justice:

- ✧ If you have purchased and/or registered a firearm in your name and at your current address, within the last 4 years in California, you probably qualify for a "Standard Eligibility Check", the cost of which is \$1.00 per transaction. As long as Your Driver's License information matches the information in the database from your Firearm registration, the entire process is fast and you will be eligible to buy ammunition here at the Club "on the spot" without any delay.
- ✧ For a fee, you can obtain a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) from the CA Department of Justice. Applications are made online, you submit your fingerprints via a Live Scan (which you can do at UPS stores or local law enforcement offices) and clear the DOJ's background check (which can take a few weeks). Once you receive your COE, it is easily renewed each year. Using a COE for ammunition purchases is probably the quickest and most reliable method. The cost of each COE ammo purchase is \$1.00. This is the method that we have personally decided to use. It requires a bit more up front work, but ultimately it is the most reliable way to ensure that you will not have a delay when purchasing your ammo.

Finally, you can ask for a Basic Eligibility Check. This process will take all your information from your Driver's License, and after a background check by the CA Department of Justice (which may take several weeks), you will receive from them an eligibility form with the dates that you will be able to use it in order to purchase ammunition at the same place where the Basic Eligibility Check was requested.

This is important to remember: In order for a Basic Eligibility Check to allow you to purchase ammunition at the Club, you must have had it requested at the Club to begin with.

The cost of a Basic Eligibility Check is \$19.00. A Basic Eligibility Check will always result in a delay in your purchase and you will not be able to make your purchase on the day you initiate the check.



## **AMMUNITION RULES FOR THE CLUB**

Please be aware, we have already seen several items that you may want to verify before you come to buy ammunition at the Club:

- ✧ Your address must match what is on your Driver's License and be the address you used when you registered a firearm with the DOJ. If you have moved, you will need to make sure you have submitted a change of address request with the CA Department of Justice, and allow time for their database to update. We have found this to be one of the main reasons for denials/rejections when using the Standard Eligibility Check.
- ✧ Eligibility Checks ask for your place or country of birth. If you were born outside of the United States, it is critical to list your country of birth properly to prevent a rejection.
- ✧ If you are applying for an ammo purchase with a COE, you must use the COE Eligibility Check and not a Standard Eligibility Check, or you will be rejected. Make sure you have your COE number with you when buying ammunition.
- ✧ Eligibility Checks are only good for purchases at the store where you submitted the Eligibility Check. We cannot use an approved Eligibility Check from another place of business to allow you to buy ammunition at the Club.

The Club allows non-lead shot sides #5 or #6, in 2-3/4" or 3" shells, for hunting pheasant and chukar. You can still use lead target loads on the Trap Range. The Club offers appropriate ammunition for sale after you pass an Eligibility Check.

## **ROAD ACCESS TO THE CLUB**

As some of you may know, there are two entrances to Hastings Island Hunting Preserve: One is located via Highway 113: The other is across our bridge on the paved roads that come from Rio Vista and Highway 12.

A long portion of the road from Highway 113 is only gravel/dirt for much of its length and is owned by our neighbor. The Club has an easement for access from this direction, but during the winter rain season this road can become muddy and slippery.

Please slow down and exercise extra care and caution. Each year, someone inevitably drives too fast and wrecks on this road.

During wet weather, we recommend that you access the Club from the Rio Vista/Highway 12 side of the Island, as these roads are paved and typically much safer in the rainy conditions.

## PHEASANTS FOREVER

### YOUTH - MENTOR HUNT

We were once again proud to host Yolo County Pheasants Forever for their "Youth Mentor Hunt" on Saturday, October 5th, 2019.

This exciting day in the field paired each junior hunter with an experienced mentor from Yolo County Pheasants Forever. This was typically each junior hunters first opportunity for hunting pheasants over trained hunting dogs. Debbie Rynerson, at the Yolo County Pheasants Forever chapter, is the point of contact for this event, and interested Club Members are encouraged to volunteer their handling skills and dogs for the next junior hunt.

Please visit [www.yolopf.org/events](http://www.yolopf.org/events) to obtain more information, or to volunteer.



PHEASANT YOUTH MENTOR HUNT MADE AN  
EXCITING DAY IN THE FIELD

## WORKING TOGETHER

Hastings Island Hunting Preserve makes every effort to make our member's hunting experience pleasant and safe.

As much as we do via the use of available land, infrastructure, conveniences, saturation of birds and Rules and Regulations; there is also a lot our members can do to insure the best hunt possible.

Our members' hunting styles vary tremendously. Some members use 12ga shotguns, while others use a 20 gauge. We even have members who hunt with bow and arrows. Some people hunt for just a couple of hours, while others prefer to spend the entire day hunting. Some hunting parties harvest just a couple of birds, while other shoot a 20 bird card, or more, in one outing. Some hunters travel all over the club fields during their hunt, while others may spend their entire outing in just one small area.



This group of women hunters looks very happy at the conclusion of the Becoming An Outdoors Woman, held at the Club in October

Perhaps the most common complaint we hear is, what is perceived as, rude hunting habits by some other hunter or dog cutting in front of their path. When this occurs, the Club's Patrolmen and Management attempts to deal with the situation as quickly and appropriately as possible. Admittedly, this often becomes a case of "he said; she said", unless we are actually able to observe the problem. In any case, bad field etiquette is often, at best, rude and often times unsafe.

Many times these problems stem from two divergent hunting styles trying to utilize the same hunting space. About half of our members hunt over pointing breed dogs. Similarly, about half hunt over retrievers, used as flushing dogs. A small minority of our members hunt over true flushing breed dogs and a few even use some non-sporting breed dogs.

The philosophy of an upland pointing breed dog is to range well out to where the birds hide, point or set them in place, and hold there until the hunter arrives to flush and harvest the bird.

Flushing breed dogs are meant to hunt within the range of the gun; perhaps 20 to 40 yards. Their job is to locate the bird and put it in the air (or flush). To harvest the bird, the hunter must be within gun range when the bird is flushed by their dog.

Retrievers were not originally bred for the purpose of hunting upland game, but rather to retrieve downed game shot by the hunter. Typically, they would sit calmly in a blind or boat, until called upon to retrieve downed birds. Over the years, we have called upon retrievers to perform upland searching and flushing duties, as well. Again, members hunting over one of these dogs would want the dog to range only within the distance that the hunter can effectively down a bird.

So the end result is that we may have up to 125 hunters spread out over 1,000 acres; half hunting with wide ranging pointers and half hunting with close working flushers/retrievers. It is incumbent upon both types of hunters to recognize with whom they are about to share a



field, as they move from one field to another. Clearly you need to find a field providing enough "hunting space" to accommodate the hunting style of your dog. If you have a pointer, you probably need a lot more space, then if you are using a flushing dog. In either case, you need to be able to control your dog for the conditions. If it is apparent that you are about to enter a field where a different style hunting dog is already working; use discretion and go a different direction.

With nearly 40,000 birds planted on the Island over a 6 month period, there are plenty of birds for all our members. By paying attention and working together, every hunt should be safe and pleasurable for all concerned.



AMBER, CHRISTINA, HANNAH AND KENNETH CUNNINGHAM  
ENJOYED A DAY OF HUNTING AT THE CLUB

## UPCOMING SEMINARS AT THE CLUB

The Club Manager, Danielle Earl, in conjunction with Randy Berry of Von Steuben Kennels, will be offering a pair of useful and informative seminars at the Club during the upcoming holiday Season. The first one will be on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019. This class is *The Choices, Use and Purposes, of Electronic Dog Collars for Upland Game Hunting*. If you have ever had any questions about which collar to obtain or use, or when to begin using an e-collar, or even what settings are the correct ones for a hunting dog, then this is the class for you!

The second seminar is scheduled for January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This class is designed for every new hunting puppy owner. *The "Do's and Don'ts" of a Hunting Puppy's First Year*, promises to be an interesting and helpful day. Members will learn about bird introduction, handling and obedience in the field, expectations for each stage of development, proper exposure to hunting conditions, proper gun training techniques, and how to set their new hunting partner up for success!

Seating is limited for both classes, so advance reservations through the Club Office are highly recommended. Please call and book your spot today!



## PHEASANTS FOREVER WOMEN'S HUNT

We are proud to host the Yolo County Pheasants Forever in their New Hunter Women's Hunt. This event is scheduled for February 2nd, 2020. The hunters will enjoy a day in the field with a guide, a dog handler, and an opportunity to harvest pheasants as they develop the skills for enjoyable hunting.

Many of the Club's members like to volunteer to assist in these events. If you might enjoy being a volunteer, please contact Debbie Rynearson at (916) 448-2724.

If you might know someone who would like to participate in this event, they can sign up at [www.yolopf.org](http://www.yolopf.org).

## YOLO COUNTY PHEASANT'S FOREVER VETERAN'S HUNT

We are proud to once again sponsor the Yolo County Chapter of Pheasants Forever in their Annual Veteran's Hunt. This event provides a great way to give back to our Veterans with a wonderful day in the field on birds. Several Club members volunteer to show their appreciation for all our Veterans do for us, providing trained hunting dogs and handling them through their hunts.

If you are interested in assisting as a volunteer for this event, please contact Debbie Rynearson at (916) 448-2724.

## HIHP ONLINE

If you have not already seen it, please visit the Club's website at: [www.hihp.com](http://www.hihp.com).

You can access membership information and pricing, as well as download the Membership Application and check the Club's Rules and Regulations. You will also find easy-to-follow driving directions, in addition to maps and photos of our Club, and surrounding towns and highways. The website is often where you can find all of the latest information related to Club activities.

If you are having difficulty contacting the Club by phone, much of our important information can be found on the website, including a calendar of activities.



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