



# HASTINGS ISLAND HUNTING PRESERVE



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## AN INTERESTING END TO THE SEASON

We hope that this newsletter finds you and your family well. Thankfully, everyone at the Club has remained healthy.

As you are likely aware, the Club closed to all activity just prior to the scheduled end of the Season, when Solano County instituted its Shelter in Place Order. As of this writing, we remain closed. We intend to re-open as soon as the Shelter in Place Order is lifted and we feel that it is safe to do so.

Because of the recent mandated closure, it is our very strong intent to open the Club during the month of June 2020, when we would normally be closed. Please check our website for updates.

We were very happy to be able to provide our members with over 1,700 birds in a very short period of time at the close of the Season. Those birds were provided in order to help members fill out their cards and we waived bird cleaning fees during that time.

I hope that anyone who took advantage of our offer gave a big 'thank you' to Danielle and the rest of her crew. Danielle, Janel, Jon, Manuel and Miguel all worked incredibly hard to get you those birds. As the Club's owner, I am very proud of the job that they did and the dedication that they showed to our members. When you next see them, please let them know how much you appreciate them.

## RESERVED FIELDS

The Club has always operated on a free roam, punch what you shoot, basis. This is what differentiates us from most other clubs and we do not plan to depart from that platform. Nevertheless, every year we hear from members who say that they would benefit from being able to reserved an assigned field. So, for the 2020 - 2021 Season, we are

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## 2020 - 2021 BIRD CARDS

Bird Cards are now on sale for the 2020-2021 Season, which will begin September 26th and end March 21st, 2021. An application with our pricing accompanies this newsletter and can also be found on our website.

The easiest way to ensure the best pricing on all of our cards is to make a deposit toward the cost of your card by May 31st, and pay the remaining balance by September 30th. We honor any postmarks prior to June 1st, but starting then, the price of all our cards increases to the mid-tier level. Remember, you can always change your mind and get a full refund, prior to September 30th, but after October 1st, we do not offer refunds, for any reason.

The 2020 State Pheasant Season is November 14 to December 27th. During that time we release mostly hens, but you will still find roosters sprinkled throughout the fields.

Hens during State Season, ensures roosters until late February / early March, and better flying hens during the time that we are releasing them.

**Pre-Paid Bird Cleaning** remains the best and by far the most economical way to have your birds cleaned by the Club. Pre-Paid Bird Cleaning fees are due when you make the deposit on your bird card. Pre-Paid Cleaning are not available after the first bird is punched off your card.



Matt Pudge (left) had a great day hunting with his guests Paige, Preston and Steve Cubbler earlier this Season. It is always great to see the next generation of hunters at the Club having fun.

## IMPORTANT DATES

Deposits Due for Early-Season Discount	May 31, 2020
Spring Hunter Safety Course	To Be Announced
Chukar Hunts and Dog Training	Ending of Shelter in Place
Pre-Season Rooster Shoots begin	September 5, 2020
New Member Orientations Begin	September 5, 2020
Club Trap Shooting Competition	September 12, 2020
2020-2021 Pheasant Season Begins	September 26, 2020
Becoming An Outdoorswoman Program	October 10, 2020
Early Season Ends	December 11, 2020

## Reserved Fields

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going to try an experiment. We are going to set aside one field that will be divided into sections, which may be reserved ahead of time and up until 11:00am each day. After that time those fields return to free roam and you are welcome to hunt the remainder of the Club. When you reserve one of these sections, you will tell us how many birds you wish to shoot. We will plant that number (plus a few extra) and those birds will be “pre-punched” from your card. Shoot’em or lose them. You will be welcome to shoot more birds than you ask for, but obviously those additional birds will be punched off your card, or paid for as “extra birds”, if you have reached your card’s limit of birds.

Rest assured that we are NOT moving toward becoming a pre-punch, assigned-field Club.

We think that the free roam system is the best approach to trying to replicate a wild bird hunt. But, we recognize that some members will benefit from having a field to themselves, for a portion of the day. Hopefully, this experiment will result in everyone having their best possible hunting experience.

## STEEL SHOT AND PHEASANT HUNTING

Unfortunately, we have had to switch over to non-lead shot shells in California for hunting. While there are a number of non-lead shells to choose from, if you use steel shot, remember the adage that “speed kills”. Seasoned hunters were accustomed to shooting and hunting with lead. Lead shot carried farther, because its density was much heavier and so it did not lose velocity as quickly as steel shot does. Steel shot loses about 30% of its velocity in the first 10 yards.

For example, when shooting a 12ga 2¾” #5 shot shell, the velocity of the pellets as they leave the barrel is around 1,500fps (feet per second). At 15 yards, this has dropped to 831fps. At 45 yards, it has slowed to only 325fps and no longer has sufficient energy to wound or kill a pheasant. In contrast, the same 12ga #5 shell, manufactured to 1,100fps velocity at the barrel is, at 15 yards, only traveling at 716fps, and by 45 yards, has slowed to a marginal 261fps. It is questionable, even at 700fps, if there is enough energy remaining in the shot to kill a bird the size of a pheasant.

It therefore becomes very important to closely examine the specs on every box of steel ammunition you buy. For pheasant hunting purposes, you should not consider buying ammunition with a rating of less than 1,350fps velocity at the barrel, and preferably, stick to only those shells which provide 1,500fps or greater, of barrel velocity.

This is the best way to ensure that you are killing and recovering the pheasants you shoot at, instead of merely crippling them.

If you have questions, or would like recommendations on steel shot or other types of shells, please feel free to call the Club Manager or stop by the Club Office, before your hunt.

## AMMUNITION PURCHASES IN CALIFORNIA

Many of our Members ask regularly about how the recent changes in Non-lead shot and Ammunition Purchase Laws have impacted the Club.

At this time, the Club allows non-lead 12ga and 20ga shells of 2¾” or 3”, in #5 or #6 shot size, for hunting pheasant. We think Bismuth and Heavy Shot most closely mimic the ballistics of lead, but understand that for cost reasons most of our members are going to shoot with steel shot for upland game. We continue to allow smaller shot sizes and lead shot for shooting Trap at our Trap Range. We sell and have in stock 12ga and 20ga ammunition for pheasant hunting and trap shooting.

Please be aware that in order to purchase ammunition in California, you must first pass a State Eligibility Check that we can perform via computer at the Club. This process can go quickly and smoothly for you, if you are prepared in advance. If you are not prepared, it can be an exercise in frustration.

There are a few helpful hints in the ammunition purchasing process, which can greatly improve the time required in the Eligibility Process:

- ✧ Register with the California Department of Justice to obtain a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) Number. This is the most foolproof method of making “on the spot” ammo purchases. Go to: <https://oag.ca.gov/firearms/cert-eligibility>
- ✧ Remember the telephone number which you used to register your firearm in the last 5 years in California. It must match the one entered in the Department of Justice Database or your purchase will be denied.
- ✧ Ensure your Driver’s License address matches the address on file from your registration of a firearm registration that occurred within the last 5 years in CA. Non-matching addresses result in denials. If you have moved, you can update your address CA DOJ CFARS website: <https://cfars.doj.ca.gov/login.do>
- ✧ If you are a citizen of another country, both your Passport and your Resident Alien ID Card must be present, in addition to a valid CA Driver’s License.
- ✧ If it has been more than 5 years since you registered a firearm in CA, you will not be in the system and your purchase will likely be delayed.

Please feel free to call the Club before you want to buy ammo and we can walk you through the steps and let you know what documentation you will need to successfully and quickly complete your ammo purchase. We are here to help you and happy to do so.

## LOOKING FOR A STUD?

Our outstanding Rental String bloodlines are available to Members through our stud service. If you are seeking qualities that our dogs possess in your next litter, we provide stud services from our proven hunting dogs. Call Danielle Earl at the Club Office to arrange for viewing or renting these magnificent hunting dogs, viewing pedigrees, or for current stud service prices and policies.

## OFF-SEASON DOG ACTIVITIES

The Club hosts a number of AKC dog trial events during the off-season. These events are an excellent way to meet breeders and dog trainers, while watching their dogs run in events for score. If you are seeking a new puppy or a trainer who specializes in your particular breed of dog, the Club is the right place to be on the weekends.

In a normal season, the Club closes during the last couple weeks of March. Many of our members simply “put their hunting dogs away” for the off-season; just to bring them out in the following September to hunt again. Even though



Leslie Anderson and “Sherlock” achieved their Senior Hunter designation at a Club-hosted Hunt Test, last Spring at the Club. Leslie’s smile says it all. Congratulations on all of your hard work!

those dogs may get some off-season exercise, it is unlikely to be as strenuous or enjoyable for them as hunting. And as you might suspect, it can be dangerous to bring an exuberant, overweight, out of shape dog out to hunt in the September heat. These dogs are athletes that need to keep maintain their exercise in the off-season.

Hastings fields are open during the off-season for dog training, exercise and competitive events.

A number of Pointing Breed Dog Clubs sponsor AKC Walking Field Trials and Hunt Tests at Hastings during the off-season: German Shorthaired Pointer Club, Vizsla Club, Weimaraner Club, Irish Setter Club and the Brittany Club to name a few. Participating in these activities, and the required commensurate training, are great ways to have fun with your dog and give him exercise during the off-season.

Field Trials are competitive and generally only the winning dogs earn points toward a title. On the other hand, in Hunt Tests, all participating dogs compete against a Standard Performance and all Qualifying dogs can earn credit toward an AKC Title.

Hunt Tests allow participants and their dog, the

## OFF-SEASON HUNTING AT THE CLUB

There are several ways to extend your hunting season at the Club: Dog training, organized Chukar Hunts, “Mixed bag” and pre-Season Rooster Shoots.

If you want to maintain your dog’s stamina and increase their hunting skills, training your dog over Chukar, during the off-season, is a cost-effective and great way to do it. The Club sells chukar cards in increments of 20 birds, or you can buy individual chukar to use for dog training. You pick up the training birds at the Clubhouse and then release them in our fields, as best suits your training program.

We also have organized Chukar Hunts and are happy to tailor them to meet your needs. This could be anything, from small hunt for just one or two people, to our 100+ bird Chukar Hunts, designed for up to 10 people. Our 100+ bird hunts include a continental breakfast, steak lunch, bird cleaning and trap shooting.

Immediately following or just prior to the start of the pheasant season, we can create a mix-bag (pheasant and chukar) shoot for you and your group. Select the mix of birds that you want to hunt and we will ensure that you have an exciting, fun day in the field. We can also prepare breakfast and/or lunch for your group.

Beginning in early September we have our pre-Season rooster shoots. Those are reservation only, fixed price hunts held on several Friday, Saturday and Sundays in the weeks leading up to the start of the Season. They are a great way to tune up your dog (and yourself) for the start of pheasant season.

If you have interest in any of these hunts, please stop by the Club Office for a visit, or call the Club Manager, Danielle Earl. We can help you extend your hunting season and keep you and your dog in great shape for the coming season.

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opportunity to earn titles at the three major levels: Junior Hunter, Senior Hunter and Master Hunter. Advanced titles can be attained in each category, after the basic title is earned. While not impossible, earning these titles involves a lot of work and dedication. These aren’t “feel good” trophies.

We hope this brief overview provides you with some insight and the confidence to feel comfortable participating in the Hunt Tests and Walking Field Trials sponsored at Hastings Island.

**Please remember to check the Club website for updates on AKC Hunt Test and Field Trial Dates. Current conditions have resulted in many re-scheduled events.**

## YOUR GUEST; YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

The Club's patrolmen make a concerted effort to identify hunters that are being unsafe or lacking courtesy in the field. Sadly, our patrolmen are finding an increasing number of these people to be guests of members.

You are responsible for making sure that your guest understands and follows the Club's rules. Their violation may well result in you losing your bird card.

To that end, our patrolmen may stop you to ask for your hunting license, field pass, or to check your ammunition. Know the Rules. Don't be the next poster child on our *Wall of Shame*.

## FISHING AT HASTINGS ISLAND

The Club offers excellent fishing opportunities during the off season. Catfish, black bass, striped bass and sturgeon can all be found in the local waters. Whether you enjoy fishing from our levees, or launching your boat from our boat ramp, we have lots of fishing options for our Members and their guests. Remember that you must sign-in using the separate Fishing Sign-in Book, whenever you fish at the Club.

We also have numerous prime picnic spots and several convenient BBQ pits around the Club. Complete a day at the Club with a round or two at our Trap Range!

## "CLUB KENNEL"

Dog Boarding remains open during Shelter in Place, all summer and throughout the year. Spacious runs provide plenty of space for your favorite canine hunting partner. Exercise periods are available while your dog vacations at our Kennels if you desire them. We can feed our hi-energy performance diet, or your food, at your choice.

Advance reservations through the Club Office is highly recommended and evidence of vaccination for your dogs is required.

We offer boarding for both members and non-members, and a discounted price for any dog staying more than 30 days. Please contact the Club office to make a reservation or for additional questions regarding boarding your dog in our kennel.

## HASTINGS ISLAND WEBSITE

In addition to calling the Club office, our website at [www.hihip.com](http://www.hihip.com) is a great resource for you to access information regarding the Club. Posted there, you will find membership information, descriptions of the different types of birds cards and pricing, as well as copies of the Club's application, Club Rules and Regulations.

Although we occasionally post to Facebook and Instagram, please note that we rarely check those sites for messages. If you want to contact us, the best way is still to call the Club office at (707) 678-3325.

## HUNTER SAFETY COURSE

The Club has every intention and expectation of holding a Spring Hunter Safety Course. For obvious reasons, we have yet to schedule the exact date, but as soon as the situation allows, we will post that information on our website and the Club's Facebook page. You are always welcome to call the Club Office for updates. We look forward to seeing the next generation of hunters at the Club for this great class, taught by member, Mark Phelps.

## REMEMBERING JACKIE.....



DANIELLE EARL AND JACKIE MARTIN

Jackie Martin, or simply "Jackie" as most of you and your families knew her, started in our Coffee Shop in 1981 and worked at the Club and lived on the ranch for the next 37 years, until she retired in April 2018.

Always quick with a joke or spicy retort, Jackie was Danielle's sidekick and a fixture in the kitchen, before being promoted to kitchen manager in 2003. Country music and occasionally a little rock and roll playing in the background, she served thousands of visitors to the Club and their families each season.

It is with heavy heart that we share with you that Jackie passed away in February, after a struggle with cancer. Jackie is in a place with peace, making her sugar cookies and listening to Johnny Cash. Jackie, you will truly be missed by all of us.

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