



HASTINGS ISLAND HUNTING PRESERVE



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DECEMBER 2020

We want to wish our Members and their families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
We look forward to seeing everyone at the Club during the Holiday Season!!!

The Early Season has ended and the State Pheasant Season began on November 14th. The Club is releasing mainly hens and some roosters during the State Season, until December 27th.



A RESERVED FIELD OPTION

This Season we have set aside one field (the "Duck Pond") as a reserved field. By making an advanced reservation with the Club office, you are able to have "your own" field from 8:00am to 11:00am, where we will plant a specific number of pheasants, based on your request. Those birds are pre-punched off your bird card, on a "shoot or lose them" basis. After 11:00am you are still welcome to hunt the rest of the Club as usual, where you can shoot more birds like normal or get number of birds that were pre-punched off your card.

While not for everyone, so far, this experiment has worked well for those who wanted a reserved field experience.

That being said, we are committed to remaining a "free roam" Club and do not intend to expand the acreage devoted to reserved fields.



COFFEE SHOP

The Coffee Shop is operating on a reduced menu, reduced schedule and for take-out style dining at the present time. Hours are Wednesday through Sunday, from 10:00am to 2:00pm. As of this writing, outdoor seating is available. Indoor seating will be available in accordance with local and State regulations.

On a daily basis prior to 10:00am, we have coffee, drinks and pastries available at the front counter.

BIRD CARDS

Although we are still selling 20 and 40 bird cards for the remainder of the 2020-2021 Season, the Club began accepting deposits for next year's 2021-2022 Season on December 1st.



Some of the "Elves" at the Club who work daily to make sure that you enjoy your day at the Club! Merry Christmas from our family to yours!

SMOKED PHEASANTS

We all seem to have someone in our lives for whom we do not know what to get for Christmas. Consider picking up a basket and filling it with some gourmet crackers, cheese, a nice bottle of wine and a smoked pheasant or two. The Club has smoked pheasants, which are delivered to us fresh every week. They make a wonderful Holiday gift or tasty treat for you and your family.

SPECIAL CLUB CLOSURE

The Club will be closed to all activity on Wednesday, February 17th and Thursday, February 18th, 2021, for field maintenance. We will reopen on Friday, February 19th, 2021 for business as usual.

IMPORTANT DATES

Deposits for 2021-2022 Season	December 1, 2020
Christmas Eve, open until 2pm	December 24, 2020
Christmas, Club Closed	December 25, 2020
Last Day of State Pheasant Season	December 27, 2020
Club begins releasing Roosters	December 28, 2020
New Year, Club Closed	January 1, 2021
Special Club Closure	February 17-18, 2021
Last Day of Pheasant Season	March 21, 2021
Clean Up Shoot	March 22, 2021
Spring Chukar Season & Dog Training begin	March 24, 2021

RANDY BERRY



Remembering Randy Berry...

We are very sad to share with you that our long-time friend, Randy Berry, passed away at the end of October. Randy struggled with heart disease for several years, but always maintained time to chat with Members about their dogs, or to offer help and assistance in all areas of hunting dogs and field training.

Randy was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1945. Prior to his retirement and becoming a full time dog trainer, Randy had a long career in law enforcement and corporate security.

Randy was a vital part of our Club, having been a member since 1975, and our in-house dog expert for the past 15 years. Randy achieved a National Field Trial Title, as well as numerous other national and regional awards.

Many of you will remember Randy as the person who was always generous with his time and advice on how to help bring out the best in a dog, whether you were his client, or simply a hunter trying to improve you and your dog's skills in the field.

He will truly be missed by all of us at Hastings, and the dog training community.

GARMIN DOG COLLARS

The Club is a licensed dealer for Garmin electronic collars. We offer a discount to all Members for collars purchased through the Club. We have seen and used many different electronic collars here, but Garmin products remain consistent in quality and offer the best range of products for Upland Game bird dogs. A good gift idea may be a new collar for the dog. If you are interested in purchasing a Garmin collar, please take a look at the Garmin collars online, and then call or stop by to place your order with Danielle Earl.

ANNUAL CLUB TRAP COMPETITION

This year marked the Club's 20th anniversary of our Annual Trap Competition Shoot. We had a small field of competitors this September, but the weather was perfect for our 20th consecutive shootout. The competition shaped up quickly as two shooters began to outpace the rest of the pack. By the final round, the race was to see which of these two would manage to pull out the winning score.

Congratulations go to Chris Hutson, a long-time competitor, for his first ever winning score. At 94 out of 100, Chris will be added to the perpetual trophy on display in the Clubhouse.



CHRIS HUTSON (RIGHT SIDE) WAS THE WINNER OF THE CLUB'S 2020 TRAP SHOOTING COMPETITION. CALEB WILSON (LEFT SIDE) CAME IN SECOND PLACE. CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH OF YOU!

CLUB WOMEN'S NOVICE HUNT

Due to CWA's cancelling this year's Becoming an Outdoorswoman Hunt, the Club decided to step in and hold a special Women's Novice Hunt in October. We provided these first time hunters with instruction and training on Upland Gamebird Hunting. The women worked with guides and dogs for their first experience in the field. Everyone got a bird and had a great time.



(Left and Right sides) Member John Staggs and friend David Devicienzi - mentors and dog handlers - took novice hunters Kathleen Olson, Victoria Smith, Christina Nae for their first hunt at the Club's Women's Novice Hunt. These first time hunters learned about gun/field safety, strategies for effectively hunting Upland Game and working dogs. Everyone got their first birds!

FIRST AID FOR DOGS

Taking good care of your dog will help them perform at their peak, every hunt. Among the many concerns for dogs are taking good care of their eyes, ensuring they remain healthy and hydrated in warm weather, and removing debris, burrs, and foxtails from their coats and paws. Another common concern is the maintenance of energy while the dog is running for extended hunts in the field.

Here in the California Delta, one of the most common types of cover grass is Sudan Grass. The syrupy pollen makes the seeds stick to whatever disturbed the grass. For our gun dogs, this most often means the seeds will fall and stick all over the dog, including onto their muzzle and into or under their eyelids. For these sticky seeds, removing them promptly will prevent expensive eye infections in your dog. A simple solution we use at the Club is to buy a refillable plastic bottle, like those used for ketchup while camping. Fill the bottle with lukewarm water, and while holding the dog's muzzle still, use the fingers on one hand to hold open the eyelids, while squeezing the water in along the dog's eye, so the water flows from outwards to the muzzle. It will flush the sticky seeds out onto the muzzle at the corner of the eye, where you can easily wipe them away with your finger.

As with the natural grasses of the Delta, the various weed varieties also drop their seeds when the fall weather patterns arrive. For the more common cockleburs and foxtails, these can present serious threats to the overall health of our dogs if not removed within a short period of time from their coats or paws. We recommend every dog that runs in the field receive a good, careful bath at the dog washing station located at the Clubhouse, as soon as your hunt is finished. The tables allow you to elevate your dog and examine the coat and paws as you wash them clean of debris, seeds, burrs and foxtails. You can easily see where any burrs of foxtails have bound themselves into the dog's fur, and carefully remove them by hand or with a comb.

During early autumn and late spring, it is important to keep your dog properly hydrated. Dogs do not release heat or cool down as we do. They only have two methods to release excess heat, panting and water immersion. For this reason, we highly recommend everyone carries a water bottle for their dog. Not only can the dog drink water often, you can also pour it onto the dog's coat and allow them to cool down. Watch your dog on any warm day in the field to ensure they do not overheat.

Finally, we want to recommend that everyone consider carrying a small sealable bottle of Karo corn syrup in your field kit for your dog. Many times a dog will run out of usable energy in the field. Gun dogs will not typically just stop hunting when this occurs. They will run themselves down to a point of collapse. The only certain solution to assist the dog at such a time is to administer a dose of rapid-digesting energy. Karo corn syrup offers an excellent choice. The energy boost will allow the dog to quickly recover enough to begin drinking water and allow it to walk out of the field.

THE CLUB ONLINE.....

Our website and Facebook page are a great place to get up to date information regarding the Club. They are also a horrible place to leave us a message.

If you need to contact us, please do so by calling the Club office at (707) 678-3325. We rarely monitor messages left on Facebook.

We will update our website www.hihp.com and Facebook immediately, when there issues of importance—for instance, when we faced the mandatory COVID-related closure at the end of last Season.

Our website also has a lot of useful information regarding the Club: access to the Club's application and pricing, a copy of the Rules and Regulations, a list of upcoming events and the various activities scheduled at the Club. You can also find easy to follow, driving directions here, and maps of the facility and surrounding towns and highways. Contact information for the Club office is available on our website also.

If you have a worthy photo from a fun hunt at the Club that you would be willing to let us post on Facebook, please stop by and see or call Danielle at the Club office.



CWA President, John Carlson - along with Holly Heyser (pictured above left), CWA Director of Communications and fantastic photographer - introduces Rue Mapp (pictured above right) to Upland Gamebird hunting on Veteran's Day. Rue has founded a non-profit to introduce and expand outdoor opportunities for a broader community. Thank you John, Holly and CWA for continuing to promote hunting in California!

WINTER ROAD AND ROAD CONDITIONS

Eventually it will rain.....with the onset of the winter weather, keep in mind that access to the Club from Highway 113 is not advised during, or shortly after, rainy conditions. We highly recommend accessing the Club using the Rio Vista side of the Island, via Liberty Island Road to our bridge and the paved roads that lead to the Clubhouse.

The Club does not own the dirt "back road" from Highway 113 and its condition has seriously declined over the past few years. Every year, someone seems to end up having a mishap on this stretch of road. We highly recommend that you avoid it.

On the Club, we close our dirt/gravel roads when it rains. We do this for safety and to better maintain the road for the entire winter. Although those roads are "roped off", the fields beyond are still open for hunting. Please respect the road closures: Don't take down ropes and drive on the closed roads. Please do not park in front of gates or roped off roads—we may still need access in an emergency.

ENJOY A CHUKAR HUNT

Chukar are a fun alternative to pheasant and a great way to extend your hunting season. Several options are available for your group to shoot these fast-flying birds. The all-inclusive hunt is built for ten or more hunters. Included is a continental breakfast, 100 or more Chukar, bird cleaning, and four rounds of trap. Top this off with a New York Strip BBQ lunch, with all the trimmings. The Club can arrange hunts for 5-9 hunters with all these amenities at a similar price per hunter, if you wish to bring a smaller group.

If you desire to enjoy these birds without the extras, we also offer the "No-Frills" hunt. These include 10 or more Chukar, an assigned field for your group and bird cleanings are available if wished. The Club offers a price break for hunts of 31 to 90 birds.

Chukar hunts are also available during the pheasant season. This is a great way to create a "mixed-bag" hunt for your group. These hunts can be scheduled 11 months out of the year. Some popular dates can book up early, so advance reservations are highly recommended.

HOLIDAY HOURS

Please note the following Club hours during the Christmas and New Year`s holidays:

- ❖ Christmas Eve – December 24th: 7:00am till 2:00pm
- ❖ Christmas Day – December 25th: Closed
- ❖ New Year`s Day – January 1st: Closed

On Christmas Eve, hunters will need to be out of the fields by 12:00pm, as the Club will be closing at 2pm.

GIFT CERTIFICATES

Are you looking for the perfect stocking stuffer for the hunters in your family? Consider Hastings Island Hunting Preserve Gift Certificates. Printed on our outdoor theme stationary, each certificate includes your personal greeting, as well as a description of your gift.

Gift Certificates can be purchased for any amount, and can be used toward any of the products and services the Club offers. This includes bird cards, deposits, dog rentals, merchandise, trap shooting, chukar hunts, bird cleaning services and training birds.

You can purchase Gift Certificates at the Club office any time during the Holiday Season.



Tara Griffin generously donated her time to work her dog for a recent hunt at the Club. She is pictured above, with Eric Lindberg.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATIONS

Please keep in mind that all new Members, or any Member returning after more than two years from not maintaining a current membership, are required to attend a new member orientation class. These classes have limited seating, and occur on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays, at 8:00am and again at 10:00am through December. Beginning in January, 2021, class dates will be limited to only a few days per month. We recommend that if you are required to attend one of these classes, that you schedule to do so as soon as possible.



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