



HASTINGS ISLAND HUNTING PRESERVE



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MAY 2022

THE 2022 – 2023 SEASON IS RAPIDLY APPROACHING

Thank you for a wonderful 2021-2022 Pheasant Season! We are using the Spring and Summer months to rest, recuperate and prepare for next season. During that time, we will also be hosting a number of “off-season” events, of which we hope you’ll join us.

Danielle Earl, Club Manager

BIRD CARDS

Included with this Newsletter, please find a copy of our 2022-2023 Season Membership Application.

Like many companies, we are experiencing significant increases to our costs of doing business. In particular, the cost of birds (bird-inflation), has taken a large jump over last season. That, coupled with far fewer breeders raising pheasant and chukar in California, means we find it necessary to increase our prices in order to keep pace with the rising costs.

The best way for you to offset these increases is to make sure to take advantage of one or more of our discounts for early deposits or try our Early Season Cards.

The Club is now accepting deposits for the 2022-2023 Pheasant Season. A deposit made by May 31st locks in your price at the discounted Early Cash Price. We also continue to offer a discount on all bird cards and birds cleanings paid by cash or check.

We continue to see an increased demand for Membership. While we’d like to accommodate every Member applying for the 2022-2023 Season, the past couple of seasons have seen us close our membership early. Please keep this in mind, and understand, the priority structure is:

- Existing Members, whose Bird Cards are paid in full.
- New Members, whose Bird Cards are paid in full.
- Existing and New Members, who’ve paid a deposit towards their Bird Card by May 31st and pay there balance by September 30th.

As in the past, we cannot guarantee your Membership for the 2022-2023 season, until your Bird Card is paid in full.

OFF-SEASON ACCESS

Your Club remains open to you during the off-season! Please come out and take advantage of field access at the Club on Wednesday through Sunday, 8:00a to 4:00p.

You may camp or fish overnight, as long as you sign in at the Clubhouse, Wednesday to Saturday.

The Club is closed to all activity from Sunday at 4:00p to Wednesday at 8:00a, and we are closed for the entire month of June, so we can get a little rest.

Chukar are also available for dog training. Even on the warmest days, the early morning hours are cool enough to allow your dog a good run through our green fields and afterwards take them for a refreshing swim in our large ditches or the surrounding river.



December Women’s Hunt Group

PRE-PAID BIRD CLEANING DISCOUNT

Bird Cards and Prepaid Bird Cleaning go hand in hand. Prepaid Cleanings save you money on each bird cleaned and lock you in at a lower price for the entire season.

The enclosed application, has an option for you to sign up for this simple way to prepay for your bird cleanings. We started having the ability to prepay for cleanings a few years ago, and this program has really taken off, due to its obvious savings and convenience.

IMPORTANT DATES

Last Day for Early Cash Price Deposits	May 31, 2022
Club Closure	June 1st to June 30, 2022
New Member Orientations Begin	September 10, 2022
Annual Club Trap Competition Shoot	September 10, 2022
First Day of Pheasant Season	September 24, 2022
Last Day to Pay Off Bird Cards	September 30, 2022
Last Day of Hunting for Early Season Cards	December 16, 2022

THOSE HENS FLY GREAT!

As we all take a bit of a hunting break during the off-season, we were reminded of an email we received from one of our member's Anthony Yaccarine, in which he shared with us, his gratitude for his Veterinarian, Dr. Jennifer Barton.

In short, his email explained: that he has one of the best Veterinarians around; how she was raised in a hunting family in the mid-west; how she knows first-hand the type of specialized care hunting dogs require, from diet and exercise, to conditioning during the off season, along with post-hunt care for our trusted and loved hunting companions.



Dr. Jennifer Barton, Animal Hospital of Soquel

Anthony hosted Dr. Barton for a hunt at Hastings this past season. And, in Anthony's words, "we had a wonderful day in the field, although we missed more birds than we were able to hit, nonetheless, we laughed at each other as the day wore on". It was great day of hunting, and at the end of the hunt while back at the truck, Dr. Barton shook her head and said "man, those hens fly great!"

The moral of his story is, don't pass up the opportunity to invite someone special to join you for a hunt on a gorgeous day at Hastings....and don't forget, the off-season is a great time to visit the Club and help keep your trusted companion, and yourself in shape for the coming season.

SAFETY MUST BE FIRST !!

With as many reminders as we try to give on safety, far too often, we see hunters "rushing the shot," which usually results from the hunter seeing the target bird begin to rise, quickly shouldering their shotgun and shooting, without giving proper attention to where the line of fire is and what lies beyond the target.

The reality is your "unintended target" could very well be another hunter, a dog, or a vehicle located in the distance from the intended target. These hasty mistakes can and do result in serious injuries, and damage to property. Indeed, sadly, we lost a rental dog this last season to such an accident. Thank goodness, it wasn't another hunter. Your shot can carry into areas which are closed to hunting, such as "safety zones" or "closed fields" which may be occupied by someone farming or maintaining the Club's fields.



(Top row, left to right) Tom Tealdi, Steve Fessler, Frank Oberti, Steve Eggert, Eric Krutz (Bottom row, left to right) Jeff Oberti, Michael Fessler and Ethan Krutz had a wonderful time at their Chukar Hunt on Sunday. Out of 100 Chukar, they brought in 84 - nice haul, gentlemen!!

ENJOY A CHUKAR HUNT ?

Chukar are a perfect bird for a fun day of hunting with friends or family, during the off-season. We have several options for you to organize a group shoot with these fast-flying and tasty birds.

The "All-Inclusive Hunt" is built for ten or more hunters. It includes 100 or more Chukar, bird cleanings, a continental breakfast, and four rounds of trap. To top off the day, we include a New York Strip BBQ lunch.

If you wish to bring a smaller group, the Club can arrange hunts for 5-9 hunters with these same extras at a similar price, per hunter.

If you wish to enjoy these birds at a lower price and without the extras, we also offer the "No-Frills" hunt, which include 10 or more Chukar, an assigned field for the group, and if desired, bird cleanings.

Chukar hunts are a great way to enjoy your Club during the offseason. Please call the Club office to make a reservation. We hope to see you!



Another important thing to consider, is the distance of the birds before you shoot. If the distance is too close, it will almost certainly result in a "blown-up" bird.

Even a seasoned hunter can have an "off" moment, so it is critically important for everyone's safety that you know what is behind, and around your target.

The Club strives to create as natural a hunt as possible, but the reality is, you're hunting over planted birds and no bird is worth a dangerous shot. We release a lot of birds. Shoot conservatively. There is always another bird waiting for you. If you can't find one, we can help. Flag down a patrolman, or come see us at the Club office. We'll do our best to help you get all of your birds. Be safe, courteous and responsible in the field!!

THE DOG ATE MY HOMEWORK !

Each year, the bulk of our membership places their bird card deposits in time to receive the early pricing, and they then pay off their balances by September 30th. This proactive approach makes a lot of sense and saves our members money.

Each fall we experience the best hunting weather of the Season. October and November are the best months to hunt at Hastings, with the cover still being in great shape, prior to the first frosts of the year. There is good morning moisture in the fields from overnight dew, which helps your dog scent birds more easily. The cool mornings and temperate afternoons are easy on both hunters and their dogs.

This is also the time of year when our fields are less crowded. Even on the weekends, there is rarely a wait to get out in the field, unless there is fog, of course. This is a great time to bring your family, new hunter or guest. We feel that it is the best time of year to hunt pheasant.

But, every year, we have a consistent number of hunters who, for whatever reason, wait until the end of the season to shoot out their cards. Indeed, we have members who pay their card in-full in May, but only come out for the first time in the second week of March!!! They ask for a reserved field and want us to plant 20 birds so they can finish their card in one, rushed and desperate hunt. Why would you do this to yourself? It seems miserable to us.

At the close of each season, we invariably have members who have birds left on their cards and want those birds "rolled over" to the next season. When we explain that we don't do that, they get upset. We always ask, "where have you been?" We have been here most days, since the end of September".

The point is, **DON'T PROCRASTINATE!!!** Come out early in the season and enjoy your Club; you've already paid for it!! Enjoy the great weather, and the beautiful crowd-free fields. Enjoy a fun, leisurely day in the field, and not a race to shoot off your card, before it's too late. We look forward to seeing you in the Fall.



GARRAT AND MIKE EDWARDS WITH SCOUT DURING CLEAN-UP HUNT

LOOKING FOR A STUD?

Our outstanding rental string bloodlines are available to Members through our stud service. If you are seeking hunting or confirmation qualities which our dogs possess



for your next litter, look no further. We provide stud services from our proven bloodlines of hunting dogs: GSP's, Wirehairs and labs.

Please contact Danielle Earl at the Club Office to arrange for viewing, renting of a dog prior to stud services, as well as reviewing pedigree documents and our stud service policies. We will also happily provide you with references from prior clients.

SUMMER FIELD WORK

During the summer, you may see tractors and equipment working the Club's fields. We use this time to help prepare the fields for the coming Season. We attempt to work the ground in each field, every few years. This helps level the soil and knock down the grass clumps that develop over time. Occasionally, we burn fields for the same reasons and to reduce unwanted weeds and insects.

The Club is located on a working farm. If you see workers or equipment in a field, please stay away. If you see an airplane spraying a field, please do not enter that field. While this should be common sense, we are amazed how often members ignore these warnings.

In order to maintain our healthy, green cover we irrigate our fields throughout the entire off-season. This means your favorite field might be flooded. The front counter can tell you which fields are being irrigated, and to assist you in deciding where to run your dog.

Several members have asked why we replant Club fields in the fall and not during the off-season. Our natural grasses are best planted in the fall to establish strong stands that will last many years. Planting in the summer heat does not work well for these grasses, thus the fall planting.

When you visit the Club, please check the large map behind the front counter, to see if any areas on the Island are closed to Club activities. Please also consider the size and difficulty of passing heavy machinery when passing on the island roads, and please do not park along a road in a way that would block that equipment from passing.

We are committed to maintaining the Club's fields at the highest quality. After several years of drought, we hope that you notice the condition of our fields, compared with many other locations not blessed with the same access to water.

NONAGENARIAN HUNTER, BILL DAVIS

A fellow hunter, Lance Bishop recently suggested via a Facebook post, that we should run a profile story on William "Bill" Davis. We took Lance up on that great suggestion, and reached out to Mr. Davis himself to get his backstory, what initially lured him to hunt Hastings Island, and what motivates him in renewing his membership year after year. Below, please find his story, edited and condensed:



William "Bill" Davis and Zsi-Zsi

"I am a ninety year old widower, as my wife passed on years ago. I was raised on a farm, but spent most of my early life in Universities. I was very happy to be offered a job at U.C. Davis, as it was just the kind of professional setting I desired, a campus located in a small city featuring a strong research emphasis in biology and agriculture. The last twenty years on campus were spent chairing the Departments of Anthropology and Oriental Languages. Of course, now I am retired and a proud member of the U.C. Davis' Half Century Club.

So, why Hastings Island you ask? During the late 1980s, two friends and I were hunting a pheasant club, east of Stockton. Unfortunately, the club experienced lease problems, and went out of business. As we looked for other hunting alternatives, we did try a number of other clubs, which provided a reasonable driving distance from the Sacramento-Davis area, but then, in speaking with a friend, whom was a then-current Hastings member, not only did he suggest we try Hastings Island, he invited us serially, as his guests.

We immediately and unanimously agreed that Hastings was by far the most pleasant and best managed of the alternatives, and so joined in 1990. I have never regretted that decision, and sadly both my old friends have passed, so now my dog Zsi-Zsi and I do most of our hunting alone, and I've returned every year since first joining.

In terms of my hunting style, I prefer the classic American double guns-such as Ithaca NID,L.C. Smith, and A.H. Fox. (All of which require expensive shells, as steel shot are not accepted).

Those were the guns carried by hunters, whom I admired in my youth during-the 1930s and 40s. Since then, they've all been pretty-much put out of business by magazine guns, which were less expensive to produce, and just as effective.

If you've seen me in the field, you probably know I am particularly fond of Vizsla's, and my dog Zsi-Zsi (Placer Gold) is currently the only other member in my household. She is now seven years old, and showing some gray, but still moves like a puppy. Looking back, the other four Vizslas, with whom I previously hunted, each managed to hunt until their twelfth year.

Ending on that note, I've sent in my deposit for the 2022-23 hunting season, and with some hope I get to hang around a while longer, my pal Zsi-Zsi and I hope to see you, as usual, on the bridge."

"CLUB PRICING" ON ALL GARMIN PRODUCTS

The Club is a licensed dealer of Garmin products and, while you are likely aware that we sell electronic dog collars, you may not be aware that we can also get Garmin wearables (watches, etc), handheld GPS, marine, auto and aviation accessories, etc. You can check out Garmin's full line of products at: www.garmin.com

Compare our prices and you will find we have some VERY competitive pricing - even when compared to what you will find online, or on sale.

In order to get the best pricing, we do not hold inventory in stock at the Club. But we will order items for you directly from Garmin. You choose your item; call us to get our dealer pricing; pre-pay us for the item, either over the phone or at the Club office; and your item arrives at the Club office within a week or two. We do not take returns, so be sure what you order is what you want. Even with that limitation, I think that you will find our pricing to be very compelling to purchase your Garmin products from us.

The sport watch that I purchased at Christmas was priced lower than anything I found elsewhere.



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