

Hunter Information & Training Program News

Summer 2015

Coordinator's Corner-Ginamaria Smith

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DID YOU KNOW?

The Alaska Survival Bandanas have arrived!

Since the OutSmart booklets are no longer available, the HIT Staff developed a Survival Bandana with lots of important information. These bandanas will be made available to all instructors to hand out to students in all course disciplines.



It's hard to believe that it's August already since I'm not really sure where the summer went. The HIT Program has had a busy couple of months, including changes in staff. Ray Johnson, (Interior Fish & Wildlife Tech) retired in May after 5 years and Frank Zmuda (Southeast Coordinator) retired in June after 10 years with ADF&G.



Ray Johnson

for seven years. He was awarded both the 2008 Alaska Hunter Ed Instructor of the Year and the 2008 International Hunter Ed Instructor of the Year sponsored by IHEA and Federal Cartridge Company. Ray and his wife, Judy Johnson, are both one of only a few instructors that have logged over 1,000 hours of teaching time. Ray's hard work, organizational skills, enthusiasm, and sense of humor will be greatly missed. We wish them both the best in their new endeavors and hope that they enjoy living back East.

Zmuda was not only the HIT Southeast Coordinator, he was also the Range Manager of the Juneau Indoor Hunter



Frank Zmuda

Education Shooting Range. His strong background with a variety of ranges, target systems, and firearms made him a great match for the dual position. Zmuda could

Before becoming HIT staff, Ray was a volunteer instructor for all three course disciplines

always be counted on to have good stories from his African hunts, or he could be easily encouraged to discuss his plans for future "dream" hunts. His plans for retirement include spending time in Michigan, Hawaii, and chasing the elusive Mountain goat that he was unable to harvest during his working years in Southeast. Good luck Z!



Jeff Jemison

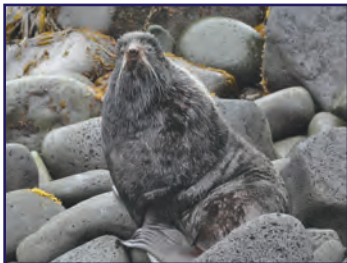
where he began studying mountain goats and moose in 2007. A New England native, he began his career teaching video production at cable television stations and public schools in Massachusetts, which he continued after his move to Juneau in 1999. He is an avid pistol hunter, SCUBA diver, and fishing enthusiast and spends his free time tracking animal sign in the old growth forests, diving for crab, and photographing wildlife. His favorite jobs have included radio tracking and collaring wild ungulates, guiding multi-day canoe excursions in remote locations, teaching middle school students camping and wilderness survival skills, building custom homes, and as a video editor. He looks forward to teaching safe firearms and archery skills and providing an assortment of outdoor hunting and shooting clinics to residents throughout southeast Alaska. Please join us in welcoming Jeff to this new position and to the HIT Team!

The HIT Program is pleased to announce that Jeff Jemison is joining our staff as the new HIT Southeast Coordinator. Jeff Jemison comes to the HIT program from a position as a wildlife research technician at ADF&G

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Going to Extremes: HIT Staff Provide Continent's Farthest West Hunter Ed Class



Northern Fur Seal

Travel to Alaska's far-flung corners is part of the job for HIT Program staff, but few places here – or anywhere else in the western hemisphere – are more remote than the Pribilof Islands. On May 27, HIT's Lee Rogers and

Ginamaria Smith journeyed to St. Paul Island, the largest of the Pribilofs, to conduct Hunter Education Instructor Training and a community hunter education course. Located four hours by plane west of Anchorage in the Bering Sea, St. Paul Island is the Pribilofs' population center with 532 people. The Tribal Government of St. Paul Island considers firearms safety and conservation education to be high priorities and encouraged employees, Stacy Bourdukofsky and Aaron Lestenkof to become instructors. Supervisor Pamela Lestenkof, certified as a hunter education instructor in February, was instrumental in setting up this opportunity.



Crested Auklet



Russian Orthodox Church in harvesting reindeer. After hunting with a friend and bagging a reindeer herself, Stacy told her kids that if they wanted to hunt with her they needed to get their hunter education certification.

St. Paul Island is home to reindeer locally managed through an annual hunting season. Stacy grew up in the Pribilof Islands and became interested in hunting when her kids expressed interest

Aaron grew up on St. Paul Island and has always had an interest in firearms and hunting. As Island Sentinel for the Tribal Government, he monitors rookeries and marine mammal haul-out sites and is extremely knowledgeable about local wildlife and hunting culture. Aaron looks forward to sharing his firearms and hunting knowledge with future hunter education classes.



The hunter education course provided by HIT's Rogers and Smith was conducted over two days. The classroom portion was held at the school library, and the field course and shooting proficiency at the local rock quarry. Students were quick to demonstrate the "Four Rules of Firearm Handling Safety,"

their shooting skills, and safe firearms handling. The importance of never shooting at sky-lined animals or across roads was stressed during the field course, since the hilly terrain of St. Paul Island encourages these dangerous behaviors. The ptarmigan and snowshoe hare cut-outs were a little out of place, since neither species are found on the island, but the students did a great job discussing shoot/don't shoot situations.

During a conversation about whether to shoot at the caribou/reindeer cut-out, it was quickly pointed out that the smaller reindeer are typically harvested on St. Paul Island because of the residents' preference for their meat over a reindeer with large antlers.

In the end, six students received their hunter education certifications and the class became the farthest west hunter education class taught in North America.



**Shooting proficiency at
the rock quarry**

IHEA Instructor Resource Site
www.ihea.com



Alaska HIT Program Site
www.huntereducation.alaska.gov



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The Importance of “Body Language”

The following material is taken from The Interpreter’s Guidebook.

We communicate with our arms, face, and posture. As Sigmund Freud said, “No mortal can keep a secret. If his lips are silent, he talks with his fingertips, betrayal oozes out of him at every pore.”

Communicate through facial expressions.

Some experts claim that 55% of understanding messages is from facial expressions, not words. In our culture, eyes are especially important. Look at your audience all the time. Make friendly eye contact with everyone.

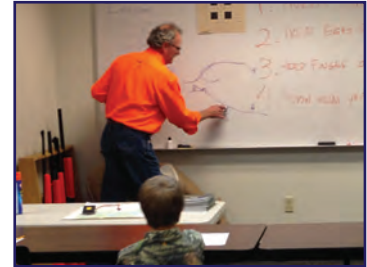
Communicate through posture.

Alert posture conveys confidence. Use body language to punctuate ideas.

Avoid distracting mannerisms.

Don’t let nervousness spill out into distracting mannerisms. Guard against:

- weight shifting
- body rocking
- table/podium leaning
- arm swinging
- hand hiding
- clothes fidgeting
- foot scuffling
- pacing



Communicate through gestures.

Punctuate and describe points in the lesson with your hands. Use natural, unexaggerated gestures. Be tasteful and understated. Good gestures do not call attention to themselves. They fit the content of the message and reinforce ideas.

Walk with purpose

Ducks waddle, ostriches strut, elephants trudge, and panthers stalk. The way you walk conveys your image. Every movement should have purpose; it should either draw your student’s attention or punctuate an important point.

Welcome to Our New Instructors

Basic Hunter Education:

Cantwell: Christopher Bitz, Margaret Stang

Fairbanks: Mary Last-Downs, Aidan Hunter, Kathleen Meckel

St. Paul Island: Aaron Lestenkof, Stacy Bourdukofsky

Bowhunter Education:

Eielson AFB: David Edwards

North Pole: Aaron Degnan

Muzzleloader Education:

Eielson AFB: David Edwards

We are always looking to recruit new volunteer instructors. If you know of anyone interested, have them visit the website (www.huntereducation.alaska.gov) and fill-out the application. Once we receive their application then we’ll contact them about attending instructor training. The HIT Program covers travel costs to attend the training or if there are enough interested instructors in an area then we’ll send HIT Staff to conduct a training.

HIT Steering Group

Steve Shiell (Rural Alaska) sshiell@pwscc.edu

Ed Bosco (Southcentral) edbosco@gci.net

Rick Sterling (Interior) alaskawindfall@alaska.net

Ted Sandhofer (Southeast) Chairman cedarpond@gci.net

Fred Voss (Southcentral) Secretary fvoss2@gmail.com

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Instructor Notes

Steering Group Members Needed

On November 1, 2015 there will be three open seats on the HIT Program's Volunteer Steering Group. The openings will be from our Southcentral and Southeast Alaskan regions and each seat is a two-year term. Fred Voss & Ed Bosco (Southcentral) and Ted Sandhofer (Southeast) have been a tremendous asset to the Steering Group over the past two years.

The duties of the Steering Group are as follows:

- advise HIT Program Coordinator and staff on a wide range of issues pertaining to hunting and firearms safety
- establish/maintain open communication between volunteer instructors and HIT staff
- periodically monitor and review program goals, objectives, and policies
- provide ongoing recommendations on program curriculum (study manual, workbook, test, and lesson plans)
- provide input to improve the Volunteer Instructor Incentive Program
- represent instructors and program participants
- attend at least three meetings per year (two teleconferences and one in-person (Jan/Feb in Anchorage))

To apply, submit a one-page letter of interest that describes your background and addresses how your membership on the Steering Group would benefit the HIT Program.

Letters can be emailed, faxed, or mailed to Gina by September 21, 2015.

If you have any questions about being on the Steering Group, feel free to contact a current member.

Steve Shiell (Rural)- sshiell@pwscc.edu

Ed Bosco (Southcentral)- edbosco@gci.net

Rick Sterling (Interior)- alaskawindfall@alaska.net

Ted Sandhofer (Southeast)- cedarpond@gci.net

Fred Voss (Southcentral)- fvoss2@gmail.com

The HIT Steering Group has proven to be a great advisory resource in advancing HIT Program goals and objectives. The members have consistently served both the volunteer instructors from around the state and ADF&G, and we look forward to continuing with this tradition.

If you have any questions about the application process or the Steering Group, feel free to call 267-2196 or email ginamaria.smith@alaska.gov.

HIT Staff Contact Information

Anchorage

Gina Smith 267-2196

Lee Rogers 267-2373

Kirk Lingofelt 267-2534

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Gail Volt 267-2187

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Fairbanks

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Juneau

Jeff Jemison 586-4101

Fax: 586-4107

**Alaska Volunteer Hunter
Education Instructor
Association (AVHEIA)
Jim Low 457-2637
avheia@eagle.ptialaska.net**