JAKES DAY COMES TO ALASKA

by Tony Monzingo

JAKES, a term usually applied to an immature male wild turkey, is also the acronym used as the name of the National Wild Turkey Federation’s (NWTF) youth program. JAKES stands for Juniors Acquiring Knowledge of Ethics and Sportsmanship. The JAKES is a nationwide program helping to introduce thousands of youngsters to outdoor field sports as well as ethics and sportsmanship necessary to preserve our hunting heritage.

The Department of Fish and Game, and the local chapter of the NWTF held Alaska’s first JAKES day on April 29 at the Rabbit Creek Range. Sixty-four youngsters, boys and girls ages 9-14, attended and took part in the festivities including loading and shooting muzzleloaders, shooting clay targets, archery, rifle marksmanship, calling wild turkeys, conservation games, and a retrieving dog demonstration.

At the 2000 National Wild Turkey Federation national convention, held in Nashville, officials from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Wild Turkey Federation signed a memorandum of agreement. This agreement pledges cooperation to promote responsible, ethical hunting, shooting sports, and hunter education to the youth of Alaska. Ken Taylor, Director of Habitat & Restoration for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, was instrumental in forging this exciting and dynamic new partnership.

Dean Hughes, president of the Tundra Toms, working closely with Hunter Information and Training event coordinator Cathy Sabrowski, secured broad support for the JAKES’s event.

Okay, You Shot It, Now What?

by Steven Levi

You see them every hunting season. They’re called a lot of things, “city bumpkin,” is the term coined by Alaska humorist Warren Sitka. It’s also the most descriptive term. These are the hunters who are hell-bent for leather to shoot something but don’t have the slightest idea what they are going to do with the game once they bag it. They hit the tundra with harvest tickets and hunting license, and can’t wait to pepper the landscape, plugging away at anything that moves — even if it’s trees bending in the wind.

Then, if they’re lucky enough to actually get a moose or caribou, they end up leaving half the meat on the ground and giving the other half to their wives with the words, “Well, I shot it, dear. Now it’s up to you to clean it and cook it.”

Unfortunately there are more of these hunters than you would imagine. From the trophy hunter who only wants the rack to the highway warrior who refuses to shoot anything further away from blacktop than eye shot, these individuals make it...
The average age of a hunter in the United States is 62 and climbing. Studies by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reveal that many states that have implemented limited youth-only hunts are beginning to show some increase in the number of youth interested in hunting. Some states sponsoring youth hunts help match perspective teen hunters with an experienced adult mentor. This makes it possible for prospective young hunters who live with non-hunting parents to try the sport and have a fair chance at early hunting success. Youth hunts are so popular that a majority of states has now adopted this recruiting tool. You would think that any strong opposition to the youth hunts would come from anti-hunting groups opposing any recruitment of new, young hunters. Unfortunately, that thought would be wrong. The most vocal and intense opposition to youth hunts has come from adult hunters. According to both Arizona and Wyoming game and fish department spokesmen, initial proposals for youth hunts were opposed by hunters who didn’t want kids to “take their elk” even though Arizona set aside only 400 out of 12,000 elk permits (3 percent) and two areas for the 4-day kids’ hunts. If hunting is really not just about killing animals, then reasonable, mature, adult hunters must realize that public hunting is likely to be in real trouble unless we are unselfish enough to share opportunities with the next generation. It will not save hunting if only the children of today’s hunters hunt. Active recruitment of urban young people, both male and female, is needed to preserve our heritage. Alaskan hunters would be well served to show leadership in developing opportunities for young people to experience the thrill and excitement of the hunt. A second strategy to make hunting more accessible is to provide new hunters with a variety of ways to acquire their hunting education certificate. At the present time most basic hunter education courses are 22 to 24 hours in length. Classes are commonly taught on a Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday schedule for two weeks. The National Shooting Sports Foundation has identified these lengthy hunter education courses as a potential barrier to those who would like to become hunters. Taking up four weekend nights is too often a burden on potential hunters of school age. Most potential young hunters are also active in organized sports such as baseball, soccer, tennis, and basketball. Most of the games and practices are scheduled after school and on weekends, conflicting with hunter education course schedules. When young people have to make a choice they often choose to participate with their friends and peers on the athletic field and too often postpone taking that important first step in becoming a responsible hunter. Other youngsters simply can’t afford to give up four nights of school studies and homework to attend another class that requires homework. By high school age the demands on time are even greater, with increasing social activities added to busy academic and recreational sports schedules. Hunter education experts from across the nation have analyzed these traditional-length courses and identified a number of areas where time could be trimmed without compromising the key messages of basic firearm safety, wildlife conservation, and the hunter’s responsibility to the wildlife resource. Recommendations for improving hunter education delivery include providing potential students with a variety of delivery systems designed to fit their busy lifestyles.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game’s Hunter Information and Training Program is a national leader in seeking to provide alternative methods for delivering basic hunter education. Working closely with the National Shooting Sports Foundation, the International Hunter Education Association, and key Alaskan hunting organizations, the Hunter Information and Training Program is developing exciting new delivery systems that will make access to basic hunting education easier for both urban and rural students.

Homestudy courses are being adopted by many progressive state hunter education programs as an alternative system for delivering basic hunter education courses. Colorado, Texas, and Nevada have used home study for several years. Studies of hunter education course graduates in these states have shown that there is no statistical difference between the knowledge acquired through home study and that obtained in a traditional course. Subsequent
JAKES DAY A ROUSING SUCCESS

FROM PAGE 1

When the big day came, NWTF member Cindy Hughes registered every kid, and then they were provided a JAKES T-shirt, a one-year membership in JAKES, and a surprise bag full of JAKES materials. Event coordinator Cathy Sabrowski organized the kids into six groups for the day’s activities. According to Sabrowski, many parents volunteered to spend the day as group chaperones, accompanying their group from station to station. As a result, Sabrowski said: “Thanks to the parents and other volunteers, the activity rotation schedule ran smoothly.”

Every youngster attending JAKES Day had the opportunity to learn basic shotgun shooting skills with the help of professionally certified coaches. According to the coaches, virtually every shooter was successful in hitting the swiftly moving clay targets.

The entire day was a huge success. The JAKES were extremely courteous, well behaved, and responsible in handling firearms. Sabrowski says she is looking forward to partnering with the Wild Turkey Federation and other sportsmen’s organizations to conduct an even bigger event for 2001. If you have a youngster age 9 to 14 and would like to place their name on a mailing list for future JAKES events call, (907) 267-2393.

At the turkey calling station, the JAKES were treated to a demonstration of the various types of turkey calls including box, friction, diaphragm, and shaker calls by David Hobby, an experienced turkey hunter. Each youngster then had the opportunity to practice the basic turkey sounds of clucks, yelps, and purrs on all the

The essential elements of survival, trigger, and breath control. Participating youngsters then had plenty of time to shoot the 3-D animal and bullseye targets. The young archers were also given the opportunity to try out youth-sized compound bows similar to those used by hunters and competitive archers.

prizes including multi-purpose tools, binoculars, and knives.

At the rifle marksmanship station, instructors James Holmes and Brian Hill assisted the youngsters in quickly mastering the basics of range safety, sight picture, trigger, and breath control. After this introduction the JAKES went to work on the paper targets, shooting groups for various

Tim Baker provided a retrieving dog demonstration featuring his well trained chocolate lab, Mocha. Tim involved a number of the JAKES in demonstrating Mocha’s skill at locating and retrieving the “ducks.”

John Matthews served as chief instructor for the shotgun shooting station. Every JAKE shot clay targets using 20 gauge semi-automatics by Beretta®, Remington®, and Benelli®. "I really enjoy introducing kids to shotgun shooting and I try to keep the information on the next JAKES Day event.

Name: __________________________
Address: ________________________
City: ____________________________ State: _______ Zip: _______

Return this form to
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Division of Wildlife Conservation/Hunter Information & Training
333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK 99518-1599
e-mail: elaine_larimer@fishgame.state.ak.us

Yes! I want to receive more information on the next JAKES Day event.
on the game processor's counter. If you've not dealt with one before, pay a visit to the processor. Many are former butchers and can give you important tips on what to look for as you work with meat. Between the time you shoot it and drag it into their establishment. Do you know how to age the meat? How long should you cut it off? What is "clean" when it comes to meat? What will be mixed with what meat? Most of these take handle. What's the difference between Polish sausage, summer sausage and breakfast sausage? What's your moose? What's a hunter's stick? How does your stomach handle Cajun hot links? Do you want jerk? Do some taste testing there in the shop. The last thing you want is 60 pounds of a game pepperoni that your stomach can't hold down.

Then there's the cost. Not all meat processors charge the same or offer the same package deal. Shop around to see what you game and be very careful about choosing a processor on the basis of price. Cheaper is not necessarily better. Remember, you are dealing with something your family will be eating. Their health depends on how well you choose your game processor. Don't save ten bucks and end up with a cheaper product that doesn't taste good. If you don't care. While you're adding up the numbers, be sure to include the cost of vacuum packaging, packaging and labeling. Most important, decide where you are going to store the 600 pounds of meat. Plan ahead by thinking about what you are going to do with your game.

Once you have secured peace on the family front and know where you are going to take your game, you can start packing for your trip. Like a good scout, be prepared. For anything. Alaska is not known for its consistent weather so plan on doing your field-dressing in the rain. If it's not raining when your game comes down, all the better. But then you've got the flies. Your basic equipment should include a sharp knife for butchering, a bone saw, lots of rope, plastic gloves and game bags. Don't go cheap and use garbage bags. If there are going to be trees in the area where you hunt, you might want to toss in a block-and-tackle arrangement. Paper towels and hand wipes are great to take along as well. Depending on your attitude about bears, pepper spray is a very good idea.

In most cases you will not have a choice as to where your game is going down. If you do, right beside the back of their pickup to compliment them on being great hunters but would never think about handling the game any further. In Alaska, there are three reasons why you're sneaking out of the house. A moose on the ground is for a year. You should treat that animal with respect. Think of it as something that happens long before hunting season starts. First, and perhaps most important, is to tell your spouse about hunting. "Perhaps the single most important thing to remember about hunting," says long-time hunter and outdoorsman Don Lyon, "and let me repeat, the single most important thing about hunting, is understanding that hunting is actually two activities. The first is finding the game. The second is dressing it. When it's on all fours, it's game. After that, it's food. It should be treated like food. A moose on the ground is meals for your family and friends for a year. You should treat that meat with respect. Think of it as 'meals in the round,' and remember, your children are going to be eating what you butcher."

As any experienced hunter will tell you — not that city bumpkin — that hunting is not something that happens after you tumble out of your car and load your .30-06. It is something that happens long before hunting season begins. That's why you're sneaking out of the house at 3 a.m. Second, to avoid surprising the family with 600 pounds of meat on the kitchen counter when the plan had been to take the kids to the State Fair. Third, so you have room in your freezer for the 600 pounds of meat you expect to bring back.

Something else you should do long before you leave home loaded for bear is trot to your local game processor. This is particularly important if you've never gone through the process before. Prepare your game for your table is not something that is done casually. It's an art form. The quality of the meat you end up with depends largely on what you drop bad for everyone else. They leave too much meat in the field, don't properly care for the meat they buried, and expect everyone in their garage.
by Ace Sommerfeld

Most Alaskans remember when a young man perished along the Stampede Trail in 1992 under mysterious circumstances. It was a tragic story, but at the time, few of us knew where things nearly turned fatal.

The book is titled, Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer. He chronicles the last years of Chris McCandless, a hapless wanderer who called himself Supertramp. After drifting across the Southwest for a couple of years, he decided to make Alaska the ultimate adventure. He was dreamy enough to consider walking from the Parks Highway to the Bering Sea.

He didn't get any further than a few miles past the Teklanika River, where he took residence in an old bus and stayed. In early August he mistakenly ate a poisonous plant, and he became physically impaired and unable to fend for himself. About the 18th of August he died of starvation in the bus.

The author is careful not to pass judgement, and I understand why — many of us prefer a solitary campfire in the middle of nowhere, but Supertramp left a message for everyone who considers heading out alone. His life and those who hunt in Alaska must adhere to. His story is centered on getting dry — not keeping dry. You'll always get dry if you make two safe fords than one reckless one.

Supertramp set a pattern early in his wanderings which was bound to catch up with him sooner or later. One option — hug the perpendicularly braided river bars that would have crossed the river a half mile upstream. By staying right we avoided the new falls. Supertramp perished, let's assume for not using a cable and cart like those who hunt in Alaska must adhere to. His preparation was haphazard. He knew when to quit. The weather broke and turned cold. Less than a week after the ordeal, Buck and I hiked back up the valley and fished out tags from my wet backpack. Nine people lived in the cramped quarters for three days until the rain subsided. Helicopters buzzed over the river as we waited. Supertramp's folly was making glacial river crossings unprepared.

Rain pushed the stream over its banks, and we faced a glacial torrent carrying boulders similar to what Supertramp would face on the Teklanika on July 2, 1992, when he tried to walk out to the highway. Buck's map indicated one option — hug the perpendicular valley wall on the right side. By staying right we avoided the water most of the time, swimming through the icy swirl 20 to 50 yards at a time.

Long stretches of flood water forced us over timbered cliffs three times. Well into the rainy night, the map led us overland to an old boxcar the McNutt family had converted into a cabin with a view of Seward across Resurrection Bay. Nine people lived in the cramped quarters for three days until the rain subsided. Helicopters buzzed through heavy clouds searching for us, but we had no way to communicate with them.

Dean never hunted goats again. He knew when to quit. The weather broke and turned cold. Less than a week after the ordeal, Buck and I hiked back up the valley and fished out tags from my wet backpack. Nine people lived in the cramped quarters for three days until the rain subsided. Helicopters buzzed over the river as we waited. Supertramp's folly was making glacial river crossings unprepared.

Supertramp prepared to get his gear dry. Maybe that's why he attempted to cross the bars between the long July days, but most of our hunting takes place in late August and early September when cold nights slow a glacier's melting. Try to cross as early in the day as possible. I pick spots with several bars to climb onto in order to warm up a bit, catch my breath, and compose myself for the next stretch.

Judging a glacial river's depth is impossible, and sudden drops offs are common, so I use a walking stick to test depth and steady myself. If I am carrying a heavy or awkward load, I'll lighten it, and make two fords. It's better to make two safe fords than one reckless one.

Rainfall influences a river's currents. A small river like the Teklanika will swell after several days of rain. If I had time on my hands like Supertramp, I would've seen my tent up a good crossing, and waited for the right moment to make the plunge. A final thought on crossing any river: At least ten ways to a bad crossing in the hunt. If it sounds like trouble, find another place to hunt.
For several days you hunt really hard. As a hunter who respects the animal resource, you choose to hunt on foot from camp or trail climbing hills, crossing creeks and muskeg, and trudging through tundra tussocks, all the time carrying 10 to 20 pounds of essential survival gear and extra clothes for the rapidly changing Alaska weather. Now you finally find a legal animal, make a skillful stalk and take a well-practiced shot. The "hind" part of hunting is over.

You quickly and competently field dress the animal, keeping the meat cool, clean, and dry. You leave the meat on the bone because it is easier to keep large parts clean and fly-free. Now the hardest work is before you. You must pack the meat back to the trail and to your off-road vehicle or back to camp.

Every successful Alaskan hunter faces this arduous task. A moose’s shoulder, even with the lower leg removed, may weigh 60 to 80 pounds. A moose hind leg may weigh as much as 125 pounds. Although the packing job is always physically demanding, it doesn’t have to resemble torture or inflict physical injury. I'm sure I open myself to suggestions that I am not intellectually aware. Aware that I am not a spectator to nature’s life-and-death cycle but have chosen to assume responsibility for taking a life to sustain my own. Hunters don’t delegate the difficult and often unpleasant job of taking life to others.

Even with the philosophical and direct physical benefits of packing, there is the practical side of how to haul heavy loads over difficult, uneven terrain without injuring or torturing yourself. Early packframes were not much more sophisticated than a frame of 1-by-2's connected by a ladder of slats, covered with canvas duck and hung on the shoulders with narrow straps. These were as inflexible as sheet iron and about as comfortable. The Spanish Inquisitors could have wished they had thought up something equally torturous.

Back in the ’60s the aluminum packframe took the backpacking and mountaineering field by storm. These frames were lighter and came with comparatively lightweight aluminum tubes shaped somewhat like the human torso, at least some human torsos. They, too, were rigid and not easily adjustable to fit the myriad shapes of the human body. They did come with padded hip and shoulder pads that made carrying heavy loads bearable. Advances to aluminum tube frames have been made, largely in their padding and strapping (“suspension system”) but they essentially remain the same as the originals.

Backpackers and mountaineers needed a packframe and bag that hugged and conformed to the body. Loads don’t shift with body-conforming packframes and therefore they provide more stability in difficult terrain. Designers came up with the internal frame pack which has an aluminum or plastic frame sewn inside the pack bag itself. In some versions the aluminum or plastic frame can be partially bent in an attempt to fit individual body contours. For sheep and goat hunters internal frame packs work much better than those with external frames. Moose, caribou, and bear hunters find that internal frame packages rarely have the capacity needed to accommodate large loads, there are few lashing points for irregularly shaped loads such as hides and antlers, and the pack gear and frame are made of noisy rip-stop or cordura nylon.

None of these packs were designed with hunters in mind. Patrick Smith, founder and owner of Kifaru®, himself a longtime Alaska hunter, has designed a pack
YOUTHS ENJOY LEARNING ABOUT THE OUTDOORS

FROM PAGE 3

because they haven’t developed any bad shotgun shooting habits and really try hard to follow directions,” Matthews said. “As a result, almost every JAKE was able to hit a moving clay target by the third attempt.”

Instructors and students alike took a break for lunch. A lunch of hotdogs, chips, baked beans, potato salad, cookies, and juice was provided by local businesses including Fred Meyer, K-Mart, and McDonalds. Lunch was prepared and served by National Wild Turkey Federation volunteers.

During the lunch break, JAKES were treated to an entertaining and educational retrieving dog demonstration conducted by Tim Baker. The demonstration featured Tim’s chocolate colored lab Mocha. Tim and Mocha demonstrated how retrieving dogs locate downed birds by sight and also by following the trainer’s hand signals. JAKES were impressed by Mocha’s efficiency in finding dummy ducks and gave her a big ovation. Everyone also learned that a well-trained retriever is a great conservation tool because the retriever helps find wounded birds as well as birds that land well out in a lake or pond. Sabrowski noted that the entire day was a huge success; the JAKES were extremely courteous, well behaved, and responsible in handling firearms.

How will your children hunt tomorrow?

The Hunter Heritage Foundation of Alaska was established to provide private resources for the effort of training new hunters and educating the public about the benefits hunting brings to wildlife conservation.

Endorsed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the HHFA has been an active partner in the Alaska Hunting Clinic Series since its beginning in 1995. Long term plans include educational projects promoting hunting’s important role in wildlife management and the cultural heritage of Alaskans.

All contributions to the HHFA are tax deductible and will be used entirely for projects that benefit hunting’s future. Please send your contribution to:

Hunter Heritage Foundation of Alaska
PO Box 73902
Fairbanks, AK 99707
Many of the women participating in the State's first Women in the Outdoors Program had never previously used a firearm. Shooting .22 rifles proved to be popular because of the low noise and recoil. Some of the beginners, including Kari Slone, proved to have natural talent to quickly hit small targets with the .22's.

Instructors for the small-bore rifle shooting were Brian Hill and James Holmes. Brian and James introduced small-bore rifle shooting with a safety briefing and instruction regarding basic sight picture, trigger, and breath control. After this introduction the women practiced their marksmanship at candy suckers and bullseye targets. Everyone then played a game of "kick-the-can," using empty shotgun shell cases. According to the instructors, the women enjoyed the hands-on opportunity to shoot a lot of rounds of .22's. Participants also learned that small-bore rifle shooting is an inexpensive and fun activity that can be enjoyed by the entire family.

At the muzzleloading station, instructors Lee Rogers and Cathy Sabrowski briefed participants on the special safety considerations of loading muzzleloaders and handling Pyrodex®, a substitute for black powder. Lee and Cathy indicated that everyone quickly caught on to the steps for safely loading and firing the MK-85 rifles provided by Knight® Muzzleloading. Lee and Cathy obviously did a fine job as many women kept their targets to display the fine groups they had shot with these high quality muzzleloaders.

Shotgun shooters took turns breaking clay targets. Instructors Gale McKnight and John Matthews provided each participant with basic safety information and an understanding of the techniques needed to hit these fast moving targets. Travis Hill volunteered to help the instructors by operating the clay target machines so instructors could focus on instruction. Judging from all the cheering, whoops, and hollers coming from the shotgun shooting cages, everyone had a high rate of success on the clay birds.

Firearm shooters weren't the only ones having a great time and enjoying a lot of success.

Judging from all the cheering, whoops, and hollers coming from the shotgun shooting cages, everyone had a high rate of success on the clay birds.
Great Gear for Alaska Hunters:  

By Tony Monzingo

One of the holy grails of hunting is to find the perfect pack of gear. Most of us use the venerable trial, and mostly error, method of gear selection which leaves us with a closet or even garage full of stuff that didn’t quite work as advertised or hoped. With the permit draw season upon us and another general hunting season just around the corner, lots of hunters are literally gearing up for next hunting season. The Alaska Department of Hunter Information and Training’s popular Gear Clinic has all been sellouts and the aisles of the Anchorage and Fairbanks sporting stores are now being clogged with hunters looking for the newest and finest gear.

One of the chief goals of the Hunter Information and Training Program is to keep hunters informed and assist them in enjoying every moment in the field. Our staff is always on the lookout for gear that really works when it needs to, not in the living room, but hours or even days from the nearest sporting goods store. For the 2000 hunting season we have found a few gems of gear that you should take a close look at before your next hunt.

In our Y2K search we focused on several problems with our present gear. We wanted to see if we could find gear that would improve on what we currently use or that would solve a current problem. The first problem we focused on was the need to mark a camp or downed game.

When you are hunting from an outboard powered boat or raft on a river it can be difficult to find the camp at dusk, particularly if camp is located off the river in brush or timber, or on a high and dry bank. Since the dusk hours are often the most productive hunting hours, it’s hard to quit hunting in time to get back to camp in full light. Lots of hunters have taken the full 50-cent chamber-of-commerce river tour when they passed a partially concealed camp. Some hunters respond to this crisis of red light by using a duty flashlight or spotlight to locate camp as they float downriver. However, even the innocent use of such a light can cause suspicion of illegal spotlight hunting or bring about an undue temptation when a bankside game animal appears in the middle of your spotlight beam. Other hunters have resorted to use of an emergency strobe light. These incredibly bright, white flashing lights are certainly easy to locate but should be reserved for actual emergencies, since they can result in a conscientious pilot triggering a needless search and rescue mission.

We also have an office file that contains many reports of hunters returning to previously downed game only to find that a brown bear has laid claim to the carcass. Frequently a game animal goes down in a dense thicket of brush or on a featureless piece of tundra. In either case it is all too easy to stumble onto the kill site when you return for a pack trip to get all the meat or the horns or antlers. The results of such unplanned encounters are often unfortunate for both hunter and bear. In extreme cases hunters have lost their lives to hungry, possessing brown bears. This is a classic situation where an ounce of prevention is worth far more than a pound of cure.

For years we have advocated, and practiced, flagging the site of a downed animal with fluorescent orange or pink surveyor’s tape. Most of the time, this strategy works well and you will spot the flagging in time to exercise utmost caution and make plenty of noise as you approach the kill site for the bear was obviously a connoisseur of sheep meat, since it first ate the backstrap. If you crave sweet sheep meat as much as I do, this was no small tragedy. A confrontation was avoided because we had clearly flagged the meat cache. As we returned to camp the bright orange flagging caught my attention. My eyes immediately picked up the bear straddling the willow-thatched meat cache. After circling upwind and lots of noise making and epithets, we watched the bear pick up a ham and stride off into the sunset. (No, the cache wasn’t in a tree, since there wasn’t a tree within 50 miles.)

Just this past fall three of us were returning to the site of a moose hunt our party had taken early that morning. The moose went down in a groove of black spruce. The thick undergrowth consisted of thigh-high dwarf birch. We had previously flagged the site and marked it as a waypoint with our GPS. However, a GPS is accurate only to 30 to 50 yards and the poor light made finding the flagging difficult. As a result, three of us had to scout around for 5 minutes before someone spotted the flagging. The two days later another hunting partner downed a moose a short distance from camp and about two hours before dusk. As a result we had to make a second meat-hauling trip just at dusk. Again the flagging became difficult to spot in the semi-darkness.

Dense timber and brush aren’t always the only times when locating camp can be difficult. Open tundra can be almost as featureless as the sea. When you combine the subtleties of the tundra with windswurts sheets of rain or fog, locating camp can become an adventure in itself.

We realize these situations are all recipes for trouble and vowed to find a better way to mark a camp or downed game. The solution came from a fellow Alaskan hunter who attended one of our gear clinics. As we discussed the need for marking camp and downed game he recommended a little gem called the Micro-Tracker™ from Browning. The Micro-Tracker™ is a 3-inch long xenon-bright, flashing red light powered by two AAA alkaline batteries. The body and lens of the Micro-Tracker™ are made of virtually unbreakable Lexan®, the material used for football helmets, and sealed with an O-ring making the Micro-Tracker waterproof. The body of the Micro-Tracker is bright yellow, which will help if you drop it in the muskeg or lay it down in soft forest dust.

With a set of fresh batteries the Micro-Tracker will emit bright red light for 10 hours, depending on temperature and condition of the batteries. Most Alaskan hunters are visible for one mile as long as 8 to 10 hours, depending on temperature and condition of the batteries. The body and lens of the Micro-Tracker™ are made of virtually unbreakable Lexan®, the material used for football helmets, and sealed with an O-ring making the Micro-Tracker waterproof. The body of the Micro-Tracker is bright yellow, which will help if you drop it in the muskeg or lay it down in soft forest dust.

Two days later another surfing partner downed a moose a short distance from camp and about two hours before dusk. As a result we had to make a second meat-hauling trip just at dusk. Again the flagging became difficult to spot in the semi-darkness.

Dense timber and brush aren’t always the only times when locating camp can be difficult. Open tundra frequently becomes the most difficult to find locates the camp, which is marked with yellow, which will help if you drop it in the muskeg or lay it down in soft forest dust.

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IMPROVED GAME PACKS

system specifically for hunters. Patrick certainly has the background for the job. If you are familiar with top-of-the-line mountaineering packs, you are well aware of the legendary Mountainsmith® packs. Well, Patrick is the "smith" in Mountainsmith.

According to Patrick, he began to design the Kifaru® Longhunter™ because he wanted a quality hunting pack that provided comfort and durability. Patrick found, like most of us, that so-called hunting packs just plain hurt when you have to carry heavy loads. Patrick says he chose the internal frame format for his system because "the frames have won over the expedition world, they simply carry more weight more comfortably, with a lot more stability and greater durability than external frame packs."

Being a hunter, Patrick understood the need to have a way to securely carry a rifle, yet have it almost instantly available. Shoulder slings just don't work for a hunter shouldering a pack so Patrick designed the GunBearer™. The GunBearer™ consists of a cradle for the buttstock of the rifle and a quick-release device to hold the barrel against the pack. The cradle attaches directly to the Kifaru waistbelt. This places the weight of the gun on your hips, where it belongs for comfort. Now the quick-release mechanism your rifle can be more quickly employed for use than if you used a conventional rifle sling. The fully adjustable-for-length GunBearer™ keeps your rifle both handy and secure. Now you can walk through the alder thickets or climb that sheep mountain.

To keep the pack quiet in the brush, the Kifaru® pack comes with a set of fleece panels to cover the black Cordura® nylon packbag. The fleece is reversible from brown all-purpose camouflage to blaze orange for safety when packing out antlers or horns.

Other standard features include a large interior pocket for a hydration system water bladder or a spotting scope. Bungee cord built into the pack provides a great place to carry your rain gear or insulated jacket and there is a zippered pocket inside the pack for keys, hunting license, tags, and harvest tickets.

The Kifaru® system also offers a host of accessories for your pack. You can customize your system with a fleece-lined HandWarmerPouch® that also protects binoculars, camera, and map. A rifle rain cover for Alaska hunting conditions, a waist belt pouch, and side pockets for additional capacity.

Well, to the bottom line, how does the Kifaru® work? In a word: great! What I like the most about the Kifaru® is that you can remove the pack bag and, with the CargoChair, lash heavy, messy loads directly to the frame. You can pack 100 plus-pound loads with the Kifaru® system as comfortably as with any other system currently available. Most of the time when I am hunting away from a base camp I don't want to carry a heavy pack full of gear. I want to carry a fairly light daypack with necessary meat care and survival gear. I also want to carry the clothes necessary for layering in order to meet changing weather conditions. The Kifaru® system includes a TopPocket that detaches from the main pack bag and attaches directly to the frame for use as a daypack. Along with the GunBearer™ this is just the ticket for hunting Alaska big game.

As if all the above were not enough, each Kifaru® is custom-fit for gender, weight, and height. Prices for Kifaru® systems run from approximately $180.00 for a basic frame and duffel to a complete LongHunter™ system for approximately $525.00. Call or e-mail the folks at Kifaru®; they will provide personal service and a lifetime, no-questions-asked guarantee. Remember the overuse of a popular phrase but "don't leave home without a good pack." I know come hunting season, I won't.
2000 Basic Hunter Education Course Schedule Summer 2000

Amchorage Area Basic Hunter Education Course Schedule Summer 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Clinic</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 6–17</td>
<td>2 Tues. &amp; 2 Thurs.</td>
<td>6:30-9:30 p.m.,</td>
<td>6/10 (6-9 pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Location: Rabbit Creek Rifle Range</td>
<td>9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (six sessions)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 11–22</td>
<td>2 Tues. &amp; 2 Thurs.</td>
<td>6 – 9 p.m.,</td>
<td>6/4 (9am-5pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Location: Rabbit Creek Rifle Range</td>
<td>9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (six sessions)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 8–19</td>
<td>2 Tues. &amp; 2 Thurs.</td>
<td>6 – 9 p.m.,</td>
<td>6/21 (6-9 pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Location: Rabbit Creek Rifle Range</td>
<td>9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (six sessions)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 12–23</td>
<td>2 Tues. &amp; 2 Thurs.</td>
<td>6 – 9 p.m.,</td>
<td>6/16 (6-9 pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Location: Rabbit Creek Rifle Range</td>
<td>9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (six sessions)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information call:
Hunter Information & Training Program
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Anchorage at (907) 207-2373
Or sign up at Hunter Information Center
333 Raspberry Road

2000 Mobile Shooting Schedule

The Mobile Shooting Sports Program is now offering clinics in Southeast Alaska. If you are interested in attending one of the following clinics please contact the nearest Fish and Game office for location and details.

City   Clinic               Date/Time

Ketchikan Non Toxic Shotgun Clinic 5/5 (6-9 pm)
Contact Boyd Porter 225-2475 5/7 (9am-5pm)

Ketchikan Bear Hunting & Wounding Loss Clinic 5/8 (6-9 pm)
Contact Boyd Porter 225-2475 5/9 (6-9 pm)

Wrangell Muzzleloader Certification 5/25 (6-9 pm)
Contact 874-3822 for more information 5/31 (9am-5pm)

Petersburg Muzzleloader Certification 5/19 (6-9 pm)
Contact 772-3801 for more information 5/24 (9am-5pm)

Petersburg Reloading Clinic 5/22 (6-9 pm)
Contact 772-3801 for more information 5/25 (9am-5pm)

Sitka Muzzleloader Certification 5/26 (6-9 pm)
Contact Jack Whitman 747-5449 5/27 (9am-5pm)

Sitka Reloading Clinic 6/1 (6-9 pm)
Jack Whitman 747-5449 6/2 (6-9 pm)

Sitka Non Toxic Shotgun Clinic 6/3 (6-9 pm)
Jack Whitman 747-5449 6/4 (9am-5pm)

Juneau Reloading Clinic 6/8 (6-9 pm)
Contact Neil Bartes 465-4207 6/9 (9am-5pm)

Juneau Non Toxic Shotgun Clinic 6/10 (6-9 pm)
Contact Neil Bartes 465-4207 6/11 (9am-5pm)

Haines Non Toxic Shotgun Clinic 6/16 (6-9 pm)
Contact Neil Bartes 465-4207 6/17 (9am-5pm)

Tok Muzzleloader Certification 6/21 (6-9 pm)
Contact Craig Gardiner 865-2971 6/22 (6-9 pm)

Anchorage Area Bow Hunter Education Course Schedule Summer 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#16</td>
<td>Saturday, June 24:</td>
<td>3:00 pm shoot Field Section Only</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#17</td>
<td>Monday, June 26:</td>
<td>6:30 pm-9:30 pm Classroom Only</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wednesday, June 28:</td>
<td>6:30 pm-9:30 pm Classroom Only</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#18</td>
<td>Saturday, July 29:</td>
<td>8:00 am-5:30 pm 1:00 pm shoot Complete</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Classroom * Field) Field Section</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#19</td>
<td>Thursday, August 3:</td>
<td>6:30 pm shoot Field Section Only</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course Location: Rabbit Creek Range (Seward Hwy near Potter Marsh)
For more information call the Alaska Department of Fish & Game in Anchorage at (907) 467-2373

Fairbanks Area

Basic Hunter Education Course Schedule Summer 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Clinic</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 15, 17, 19, 22, 24 &amp; 26</td>
<td>Mon-Wed-Fri 6:30-9 pm Adults &amp; Children</td>
<td>1501 College Road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 12, 14, 16, 19, 21 &amp; 23</td>
<td>Mon-Wed-Fri 1-4 pm Adults &amp; Children</td>
<td>1501 College Road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 17, 19, 21, 24, 26, 28</td>
<td>Mon-Wed-Fri 6:30-9 pm Adults &amp; Children</td>
<td>1501 College Road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This schedule is subject to change.

Palmer/Wasilla

Please call the Alaska Dept of Fish and Game, Palmer office (746-6300) for further information on Basic Hunter and Bow Hunter Education Courses.

Scheduled Basic Hunter Education Course

Oct. 3-14 Tuesday/Thursday 6-8:30 pm, Saturday (8am-2pm) Location: (Sign up at the Palmer office)

Juneau/Douglas

For the next available Basic Hunter and Bow Hunter Education courses please contact:
Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game
Douglas office
Area Biologist, Neil Bartes
(907) 465-4267

This schedule is subject to change.
GEAR THAT MEETS THE DEMANDS OF THE ALASKA OUTDOORS

From page 9

Alaska mammals such as beavers, muskrats, moose, caribou, and deer.

Hunters can easily get Giardia, commonly called "beaver fever," by drinking contaminated water or even using forks, knives, or other utensils that have been washed in contaminated water. Until just a few years ago, I mistakenly believed that unless you drank contaminated water, you could avoid Giardia. This misconception was rudely dispelled on a 10-day float-hunting trip on an interior river. My partner and I filtered all our drinking water or treated it with iodine tablets. What we didn't know did hurt us. First, iodine tablets lose effectiveness in the sub-freezing temperatures we encountered. Second, we didn't filter or treat the water we used to wash dishes and eating utensils. We erroneously thought that the hot soapy water would "wash away" the Giardia. It doesn't. About five days into our trip the typical symptoms of stomach cramps, gas, and diarrhea began. Trust me on this one, Giardia can prematurely end a hard-earned hunting trip. Only a round of expensive prescription antibiotics would "wash away" the Giardia.

The most reliable way to prevent both Giardia and Cryptosporidium is to boil all the water you will use for drinking, washing dishes, personal hygiene, or cooking. Boiling water for a full three minutes will kill both the protozoans and all the viruses in contaminated water. Additional boiling is not helpful and wastes fuel.

The problem with boiling all the water you will need is that it takes a lot of precious, expensive fuel. If you are on a fly-in or back-country hunt, you don't want to haul any more fuel than absolutely necessary. If you try to minimize use of water you will likely end up dehydrated. Dehydration, even mild cases, results in loss of energy, makes you feel colder, impairs your judgment, that can cause a wide variety of health problems. If you want to be sure and kill all the viruses too, simply add iodine tablets to the water in your SafeWater® bottle.

To operate the SafeWater® you simply unscrew the bottom of the bottle and dip the bottom in a lake, stream, or river water source until the bottle is full. The O-ring sealed cap prevents contamination of the drinking nozzle during the filling process. A 25-micron pre-filter mesh located at the bottom of the squeeze bottle removes most of the sediment and silt (with Alaska's glacial streams and rivers this is a must). After filling the bottle all you have to do is gently squeeze the bottle and out comes fresh, clean, and healthy water.

A SafeWater® squeeze bottle's filter will treat 200 gallons of water and is easily replaced. The 1-liter size is ideal for hunting where water sources are few and far between. The 1-liter size is fits easy in a daypack or an inside coat pocket when the temperatures are below freezing.

Most of us simply don't consume enough liquids when we are hunting. The resulting low-grade dehydration keeps the body from working at peak efficiency. SafeWater® has the answer in the form of a simple Inline Filter that can be purchased separately. The Inline Filter is easily attached to the hydration bag. The filter is so good that it will remove 99+ percent of all bacteria and protozoans including the dreaded Giardia, Cryptosporidium, and E. coli. As a bonus, the filter system also removes such dangerous contaminants as industrial wastes, insecticides, lead, and mercury, that can cause a wide variety of health problems.

Dehydration, even mild cases, results in loss of energy, makes you feel colder, impairs your judgment, that can cause a wide variety of health problems.

Every hunter should routinely carry several devices for starting fires, lighting lanterns, igniting stoves, sealing ends of nylon cord, and many other uses in the field. I always carry a supply of strike-anywhere matches in a waterproof container. I also routinely carry a couple of disposable butane lighters. These inexpensive little lighters usually serve the purpose. However, there are times when the strike-anywhere ignition system fails. More importantly, they simply don't work reliably when the wind is really blowing. Trying to keep a wooden match or a disposable lighter lit on a fall Alaska Peninsula hunt is a study in futility. A contortionist doesn't have anything over the trays and turns a hunter will make with his body attempting to shield a feeble flame from the fickle wind. And then, there's the time when you may truly need a hot, wind-proof flame to start a fire for survival.

My search for the ideal source of flame for general hunting purposes and survival has ended. I have added the Brunton® Helios™ Storm-proof® lighter to my pack. In fact, I put one in my survival kit and intend to keep another in a buttoned shirt pocket. The Helios™ is truly a refined piece of engineering, not merely another disposable butane lighter. There are several key features that make the Helios™ an indispensable piece of gear. First is the fact that it is completely windproof and reliably. The Helios™ has a piezo-electric ignition, no batteries or flint required. The flame reaches an intense 2000+ degrees Fahrenheit. That is not a misprint. This little sucker is hot and burns so cleanly that in bright light the flame is virtually invisible. When the lighter is ignited, a white glow is visible through a small white ceramic flame window. Do not attempt to peer into the window to try to determine if the flame is invisible by placing a pinky over the top of the lighter! If you do, the 2000 degrees will give new meaning to the term "scaring." The spark is free of oxygen and the heat is so powerful that the cap opens nearly a full 180 degrees

For more information, call your local ADF&G Wildlife Conservation office or:
(907) 459-7211 • Fairbanks
(907) 267-2373 • Anchorage
(907) 465-4265 • Juneau

Most classes are taught winter and spring. Training includes firearms and outdoor safety, wildlife conservation, and hunting ethics and responsibility. Graduates are issued an Alaska Hunter Education card which is accepted in other states and provinces that require hunter education training.
STUFF THAT REALLY WORKS

FROM PAGE 12

so you can get the flame close to used to extremelt low tempera­
tures. There you have it. Three new tough, this little lighter will proba­
ably go quickly refillable and carries a life­
time mechanical warranty. Of all the features perhaps the most important to Alaskan hunters in the field is the fact that the Helios Stormproof lighter can withstand winds of 70 to 80 miles an hour. When the going gets tough, this little lighter will proba­
ably get going. One word of caution when using any butane-fueled device in cold weather. Butane does not work when the temperature drops below freezing. Keep your Helios in an inner pocket or wear it on a neck lanyard inside an outer gar­
mment. If you do, the lighter can be used to extremelt low tempera­
tures, down to as much as - 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

There you have it. Three new pieces of gear that really work for the Alaskan hunter. Now's the time to gear up for a great hunt.

Browning™ products are available at many local sporting goods dealers in Alaska. SafeWater™ products can be found in some sporting goods or backpacking type stores. SafeWater™ can also be reached directly at (970) 247-3999 or on the web at www.safe­wateranywhere.com. Brunton™ can be reached by phone at (307) 856-6599 or on the web at www.brunton.com.

WOMEN OUTDOORS

FROM PAGE 10

Elaine Larimer, Jack Frost, and Curtis Lynn led the archery course instruction. After learning how to safely use a recurve bow, everyone had the opportunity to shoot 3-D foam animal targets or bulls-eye targets. Jack also intro­
duced everyone to compound bows similar to those commonly used in bow hunting. Cathy Sabrowski says that many local businesses also con­
tributed to the Women in the Outdoors program. According to Sabrowski, Pepsi-Cola, K-Mart, Wal-Mart, Costco, Fred Meyer, Dreyer's Ice Cream, Great Har­vest Bread Co. and Pizza Hut made significant food contribu­
tions to the program. Door and grab bag gifts were donated by Alaska Club, Alaska Computer Brewhouse, Inc., Paint Your Pot Inc., Peter Glenn, Sea Galley, and Take Flight Alaska. "Wide-spread com­
munity support was recognized and appreciated by all the women in attendance," Sabrowski said. Special thanks to Dr. Ken Eberle, Dr. Ken Wynae, and National Bank of Alaska for their support toward introducing women to the outdoors. Finally, thanks to our sponsors Leica, Ox­

Elaine Larimer of the Hunting Information and Training Program, introduces the women to field archery. According to Elaine, many of the women took to the sport like ducks to water, and are looking forward to purchasing their own bow equipment in the near future.

GETTING OUT

FROM PAGE 5

getting game no matter what," has been the death knell for scores of hunters. From overloading aircraft to harvesting game in dangerous places, considering the conse­quences may save your life.

A common mistake moose hunters make is harvesting an ani­
tal too far from a pick-up point. Most of the time it's no more seri­
ous than making more work than you bargained for, but it can turn fatal. You run the risk of losing meat, missing your pick-up time, or injuring yourself.

My moose hunting partners set a one-mile limit on packing. A mature bull will yield 500 pounds of boned meat. Two hunters in good shape should be able to com­
plete the task in three or four trips, depending on the load. Under Alak­
a law games, all meat must be retrieved before hide and headgear. I know hunters who left antlers and capes behind after struggling for days to meet the legal requirement of harvesting game.

Hunting Dall sheep and mountain goats takes more plan­
ing than hunting other Alaska game animals. They require a tremendous amount of walking, and everything you need to stay alive for a week or more must be on your back. And that's only to get into decent hunting territory.

Keep in mind if you are suc­
cessful you'll be packing out more than double what came in. It becomes important to keep your in-load to a minimum. My inexpe­
rienced goat hunting partner in 1999 cut a 60-pound pack down to 35, including his rifle before I was through with him.

Try to allow twice the time going out as you need going in. After hiking long days in rough terrain on a meager diet you won't be moving as fast. I have gotten an entire goat and all my gear out in single trips, but it's no fun. Sheep are another story. Unless you have the backbone of a grizz­
y, and the stamina of a sled dog, make two trips.

Supertramp put himself above the law by not purchasing a hunt­
ing license like everyone else does. He hunted out of season. From songbirds to moose, everything was there for him to abuse. Imagine shooting a moose with a .22. I'm not saying his disrespect toward other creatures did him in, but arrogance and nature don't mix. Eventually people like Super­
tramp push the laws too far, and pay. Some learn from their mis­
takes, some don't.

Supertramp put himself above the laws of nature by refusing to plan properly, and take the adventure seriously. One topographic map instead of a book by Tolstoy would've lightened the in-load, and could have saved his life.

Yes! I want to receive more information on the next Alaska's Outdoor Women Program

Name: ____________________
Address: ____________________
City: ____________________ State: __ Zip: _____

Return this form to: Alaska Department of Fish & Game Division of Wildlife Conservation/Hunter Information & Training Box 333 Raspberry Street Anchorage, AK 99518-1599 email: elaine.larimer@fshgame.state.ak.us
before you haul them back to the vehicle. Don’t just dump the meat into the bed of your truck, and feel that you’re taking good care of your game meat. Tie the bags down. Make sure there isn’t anything next to the game bags that will tear them, like a tire jack. Tie everything down and, if possible, put a tarp over the game bags. Treat the game with respect; your children are going to be eating it all winter.

This, of course, sounds a lot easier than the butchering actually is. Field dressing takes a lot of time and hauling the meat back to your vehicle is going to take the better part of a day — if you’re lucky. Expect to be eaten alive by flies and be very sore for the next week.

It is going to take you a few days, to get that meat to the game processor. That’s normal and aging is a good idea as long as you do it properly. If you have some special place where you can store the game meat, keep temperature as low as 40 degrees Fahrenheit. A young moose should be kept about five days while larger animals can stay for up to 10 days. If you are planning on using your garage as the aging area, plan wisely. Make sure it is well ventilated and play it safe, keep the car out of the garage for the ten days. A warm car will change the temperature in the garage and if the garage is not well ventilated — well, you can figure that out for yourself.

Once the game meat has aged, it’s time to be processed. Hopefully you have talked with a game processor before you proceed to the next step. Game processors are not going to take meat that has hair, blood, sinews, hooves or feathers mixed in with the meat. If the animal was in rut, you’re out of luck. The meat also has to be boned. Particularly, look in the brain area, because the head isn’t over until you’ve eaten the meat. So play it smart. Don’t jam your freezer full of vacuum-packed bags of I-don’t-know-what-it-is-but-it’s-all-moose.

Schedule your meals so you’ve eaten all the meat BEFORE you go hunting again. Wild game is not an inexhaustible natural resource. Be smart, shoot only what you can eat and eat all you shoot.

FROM PAGE 2

studies show that home-study course participants are equally as successful on their traditional-course counterparts. In fact, since homestudy has been implemented, hunting fatalities in Colorado have declined to an all-time low.

One key advantage of home study is that the student controls the pace and schedule of learning. This flexibility can reduce interference and conflict with school and athletic activities. Some students may finish in eight hours while others will take 15 to 20 hours to master the written material. To make access to the home study course even more convenient, Alaska Department of Fish and Game’s hunter education staff will initiate the planning necessary to have the course available online. Students could then access the course anywhere in Alaska, at any time. After completing the home study manual, students also complete a day-long field course.

The field course is competency based, which means that students must demonstrate the skills needed to carry a firearm safely into the field and in the presence of other hunters, backpackers, bikers, and hikers. It only takes a few minutes for a trained hunter education instructor to determine if the student has truly revealed he or she understands the basic firearm safety rules. Field courses are made up of several ‘stations’ where students demonstrate the ability to safely enter and exit a vehicle or boat with an unloaded firearm, cross obstacles such as streams, and make proper choice in ‘shoot-don’t-shoot’ situations. The final station of a field course is live fire. The purpose of the live fire is to determine if what students can control the muzzle of a loaded firearm, assess the students’ understanding of a basic sight picture, and reduce student fear. Students must show the instructor that they can safely load and unload a firearm with the proper ammunition. Students then take five shots at a stationary target. If they can place four out of five shots in a group that is equivalent to an 8-inch group at 100 yards they will receive their hunter certification card, good for life in all 50 states. John Matthews, Alaska state coordinator for hunter education, says that the Alaska home-study hunter education course may be available by January 1, 2001.

Another method of delivering the basic hunter education course is by videotape. Since most homes, even those in rural areas, have a VCR, this makes a videotape course accessible to most Alaskans. Because the presentation of information on a video can be carefully scripted and edited, the 20-plus-hour traditional course can be shortened by 3 or 4 hours. The prospective new hunters can view the videotapes at their convenience and complete a student workbook that reviews key questions and concepts. The student can then take the field course to complete the basic hunter education certification.

For hunters in a real hurry, the Hunter Information and Training Program is gearing up to provide a “challenge” course that will be chiefly available in the major population centers. Many Alaskan hunters who travel outside to hunt for the first time find that they cannot purchase a license in many states without possessing a valid hunter education card. Too often this means buying a license, getting their forms completed, and returning weeks or days before their departure date. A “challenge” course would work a lot like getting a driver’s license. You pick up the student manual, study the manual, and report to a Fish and Game office to take a written test. You may have passed the test, you report for a field day. If you pass the field course, including live fire, you can receive your hunter education course.

The traditional course will continue to be available for hunters who prefer the structure and format of the classroom setting.

The success of these alternative delivery systems relies on a core group of highly trained volunteers who will conduct the competency-based field days. These dedicated volunteers will assess the student’s understanding of the course, provide support and their ability to physically and mentally control a firearm under often difficult field situations.

While we are currently also aiding the Hunter Information and Training Program’s hunter education partners. Shooting sports programs such as the Boy and Girl Scouts, and the NRA can provide private sector training in the basic marksmanship skills for those young hunters who need additional training to complete the live fire portion of the basic hunter education field course.

Ultimately, the purpose of these alternative delivery systems is to reduce the chance that potential hunters might perceive hunter education as a barrier to the recruitment of new hunters. Hunting accidents and fatalities are at an all-time low in states where hunters must complete a basic hunter education class.

Alternative delivery methods must provide greater access to hunting, increase hands-on, hard-earned gains in safety and public attitudes towards responsible hunters.

www.state.ak.us
WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION ON ALASKA HUNTING

PRIVATE SERVICES

The following businesses provide information about hunting in Alaska, either in their publications or on a consulting basis.

Alaska Guide Report: Publishes the quarterly Alaska Guide Report. Hunting consultation available on a fee basis. PO Box 205250, Anchorage, AK 99520-2520. Tel: (907) 336-5797. E-mail: agri@alitaska.net. Web URL: www.alitaska.net/sagri

Alaska Hunter Publications: Publishes Alaska hunting books and bi-monthly journal, The Alaska Hunter. Provides consultation on Alaska hunting on a fee basis. Free catalog. PO Box 83550, Fairbanks, AK 99708-3550. Tel: (907) 459-4500. E-mail: chrisbush@alaska-hunter.com. Web URL: www.alaskahunter.com

Alaska Outdoors: Publishes Alaska Outdoors magazine and books on Alaska outdoors activities. Free catalog. 7517 Highway 11, Anchorage, AK 99518. Phone: (907) 349-2414. E-mail: alaskaocd@alaska.net. Web URL: www.alaskaocd.com/sub.html

Fishing and Hunting News-Alaska: Publishes twice-monthly newspaper with information about Alaska fishing and hunting opportunities and results. PO Box 19000, Seattle, WA 98101. Phone: (907) 488-2827. Web URL: www.fhnews.com

DeLorme Mapping: Sells the Alaska Atlas & Gazetteer, a large-format book of topographic maps and other information covering the entire state. PO Box 288, Fairbanks, AK 99702. Phone: (907) 452-5931. Web URL: www.delorme.com

Outdoors America Communications: Publishes the 144-page Outdoors Alaska Guide to Alaska fishing and hunting and a world-wide website with Alaska fishing and hunting information. PO Box 669-HB, Delta Junction, AK 99777-0666. Phone: (907) 561-5888. E-mail: akbb@outdoorsinc-tory.com. Web URL: www.outdoorsinc-tory.com

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME (ADF&G/Division of Wildlife Conservation)

Southwest Alaska
PO Box 210020
Douglas, AK 99924-0220
Tel. (907) 596-4265
FAX (907) 596-4272
Web URL: https://www.state.ak.us/local/ag/askgame/FISHGAME/wildlife/regions/1.tcl

Southcentral Alaska
355 Raspberry Rd
Anchorage, AK 99518-1599
Tel. (907) 276-2182
FAX (907) 276-2435
email: wcinfrm@fishtgame.state.ak.us
Web URL: https://www.state.ak.us/local/ag/askgame/FISHGAME/wildlife/regions/2.tcl

ALASKA PUBLIC LANDS INFORMATION CENTERS (APLICS)

The Alaska Public Lands Information Centers (APLICS) in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Ketchikan and Tok are a joint project of the Alaska Departments of Commerce & Economic Development (Division of Tourism), Fish and Game, and Natural Resources, and the US Departments of Agriculture (Forest Service) and Interior (Bureau of Land Management, Fish & Wildlife Service, Geological Survey, and National Park Service). The APLICS have a wide variety of information about recreational uses of public lands in Alaska. Web URL: http://www.nps.gov/aplic/cen/

Anchorage office
605 W 4th Ave Ste 105
Anchorage, AK 99501
Tel: (907) 271-2727

Fairbanks office
250 Cushman St #1A
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Tel: (907) 456-0527

Ketchikan office
50 Main St.
Ketchikan, AK 99901
Tel: (907) 228-6220

Tok office
PO Box 519
Tok, AK 99790
Tel: (907) 883-5667

While most species may be hunted on national forest, refuge, or BLM lands in Alaska, hunting may be closed or restricted on some federal lands. Please consult the Federal Subsistence Hunting regulations or the federal land management agency below if you plan to hunt on federal land.

National Park Service
Hunting is permitted in some units of the national park system in Alaska. National preserves generally are open to hunting. Hunting is prohibited in Denali, Katmai and Glacier Bay national parks. Only persons living in certain areas of Alaska may hunt in other park units.

For additional information on hunting in lands managed by the National Park Service, contact one of the Alaska Public Lands Information Centers (APLICS) in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Ketchikan or Tok. Web URL: www.nps.gov

US Fish & Wildlife Service
Hunting is permitted in most areas of the national wildlife refuge system. Hunting regulations are shown in the Alaska hunting regulations. For additional information about hunting on lands administered by the USFWS, please direct questions and comments to:

USFWS, AK
101 E Tudor Rd
Anchorage, AK 99503
Phone: (907) 786-3309
FAX: (907) 786-5405
Email: chuck_young@fws.gov
Web URL: http://www.chuckyoung.fws.gov

US Forest Service
Virtually the entire national forest system in Alaska is open to hunting. For details of hunting seasons, bag limits, and areas on the national forests, consult the Alaska hunting regulations. For other information about hunting in national forests, the web URL for the Alaska Region is http://www.fs.fed.us/ak/ or contact one of the following offices:

USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region
(for general, region-wide information)
PO Box 21628
Juneau, AK 99802-1628
Tel: (907) 786-1628
FAX: (907) 786-7408

Chugach National Forest
(Prince William Sound, Kenai Peninsula)
350 C. Street Suite 300, Anchorage, AK 99501
Tel: (907) 271-2750
FAX: (907) 271-3992

Tongass National Forest
(Southeast AK)
Chatham Area (northern panhandle)
204 Sitka Bay Road, Sitka, AK 99835
Tel: (907) 748-6071
FAX: (907) 748-6072

Burea of Land Management
The BLM manages most federal lands not administered by NPS, USFWS, and USGS—some protected areas and virtually all of this land is open to hunting. There are some federal restrictions to use of motorized vehicles in certain areas. Additional information on hunting uses of BLM-administered lands may be obtained from:

BLM Alaska—External Affairs
222 W 7th #13
Anchorage, AK 99511
Tel. (907) 271-5555/FAX (907) 272-5340 per call 12/17/97

Where to obtain USGS maps
US Geological Survey topographic and other maps can be obtained by mail order or over the counter in several Alaska locations. Some Alaska sporting goods or outdoor stores stock high demand maps. There are retail stores in larger Alaskan communities that specialize in maps. The USGS maintains a map distribution office at Alaska Pacific University in Anchorage that carries a wide variety of maps. Map Office, Geoda (s) Data Center GeoPhysical Institute-UIAF 903 Kuskov Drive Fairbanks, AK 99775. Tel. (907) 474-6960

NOTE: We intend to occasionally publish this information in future editions. Please forward your suggestions for additional Alaska hunting information to Editor, Alaska Hunting Bulletin, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conserva-
HOW TO SELECT A GUIDE

Excerpted from Hunt Alaska

A registered Alaskan guide must accompany hunters who are not Alaska residents or they must hunt with close relatives within the second-degree of kindred who are Alaska residents when hunting brown/grizzly bears, Dall sheep or mountain goats. Also, look in the Alaska Hunting Regulations for definition and a complete list of who qualifies as second-degree of kindred. Non-resident alien hunters must have a guide for hunting all species of big game.

Guides improve the chance of finding game.

The chances of killing an animal improve if one hires a guide or travels to remote areas. Individuals who lack precise knowledge of game distribution, access and Alaska geography, yet attempt to put together hunts themselves may face frustration and disappointment.

On the other end of the scale is the fully guided hunt. It is expensive, but the chances of killing an animal are high. The best guides deliver 80-100 percent for most big game species. In addition, guides are familiar with their areas and possess equipment that the average hunter might not care to purchase for one time use.

However, a guide’s knowledge, experience and equipment do not come cheaply. Although figures vary from guide to guide, expect to spend $8,000-$12,000 for a brown/grizzly bear hunt, $4,000-$6,000 for a sheep hunt and $1,500-$3,000 for a goat hunt. Moose and caribou are often part of a mixed-bag hunt and prices vary considerably.

The best way to find a reliable guide is by references.

Check among your hunting partners. Have any of them hunted in Alaska before? Or do they know someone who did? Which guide did they use?

Many guides attend outdoor shows and conventions in the "Lower 48" during the winter. They have booths and promotional material. Try to attend one near you. This kind of personal acquaintance will pay dividends later. Ask the guides for references and follow up on them.

Another avenue is the advertising section found in the back of many hunting and outdoor magazines, or in commercial directories. They offer a starting point for identifying guides that specialize in the species or area in which you are interested.

A list of licensed Alaska guides is available. The list includes guide-outfitters and assistant guide-outfitters and the areas for which they are licensed to operate. If you are interested in obtaining the licensed Alaska guide list, contact the Division of Occupational Licensing (see back cover for address). Another source is the Alaska Professional Hunters Association who represents many guides and outfitters.