

Hunter Information & Training Program News



Spring 2014

Instructor Notes

HIT Steering Group Meeting Summary

February 7-8, 2014



The HIT Steering Group met in February and discussed a variety of HIT topics. Here is a list of some of the discussions taken by Fred Voss (Secretary):

-Updates from HIT Staff on statewide programs, ie: BOW/ Beyond BOW, Explore Bow hunting, NASP, Youth Shotgun League, Youth Rifle League,

OHFA, Alaska Conservation Camp, YHEC, Sportsman's Shows, SCTP, Mobile Shooting Sports, Alaska Women on Target, Scholastic Clays

-Crossbows: One of the first steps has taken place since there is now a definition of a crossbow in the regulations. The HIT Staff is already taking steps to be ready if and when this issue is addressed. A specific crossbow hunter education manual was passed around. Kalkomey the company that produces our current hunter education booklet and online courses does offer a crossbow class.

- "The Basics of Bowhunting" updated DVD was viewed and the Steering Group agreed that it should replace the outdated video for Bowhunter Ed. classes.

-Instructor of the Year nominations were discussed and voted upon.

-Possible Online Trapper Education class-This class would focus on basic education for new trappers and would include a section on trapping ethics. This type of education and certification has come to the forefront because of the bad publicity this past year. However the bad publicity isn't good for trappers or hunters alike. This class would address some of those issues. This would also open the door to providing some clinics to inform the public and help train and support trappers.

The HIT Steering Group is an advisory committee set-up to be liaisons between the volunteers in each region and the HIT Staff. They are tasked with bringing questions, suggestions, and concerns from the volunteers to HIT Staff. If you have any of these, feel free to contact your local Steering Group member.

HIT Staff Contact Information

Anchorage

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Coordinator's Corner

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Fun Fact:

**The HIT Program has
certified the following
number of students
in Alaska:**

Hunter Ed: 50,752
Bowhunter Ed:
18,880
Muzzleloader Ed:
3,066

**And this number is
increasing every
week as we move
into our busy summer
class schedule.**

It's always a good start when your first day on the job is April Fool's Day! Luckily no jokes were played and I was able to hit the ground running. My first two months as the HIT Program Coordinator have been a blur, but I've thoroughly enjoyed getting to discover the bigger picture that is the HIT Program. So far I've toured the shooting and classroom facilities and met with staff in Juneau and Fairbanks, plus I got to meet a number of the volunteers that help to make our program possible.

For those of you that don't know me, I was the HIT Southcentral Coordinator for the past 1.5 years. I was born and raised in Wisconsin where I grew up hunting and enjoying the outdoors with my father. I completed my Master's degree at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and moved to Alaska with my husband in 2009 to work for Alaska State Parks. I quickly became active with the HIT Program as a volunteer Hunter Ed. instructor, coach for the RCSP Shotgun League, and instructor for the BOW Program. The HIT Program was a perfect fit for me since I love sharing my passion for the outdoors with others, and I learn something new from the volunteers every time that I'm in a classroom.

I am really looking forward to collaborating with the HIT Staff and the volunteers to continue the success of the HIT Program and develop new avenues to perpetuate enthusiastic, ethical, and safe outdoor men and women. A couple of projects that I think we'll be tackling over the next few years is recruiting new volunteer instructors to meet the growing demand for classes, developing a crossbow education course, and developing a trapper education course (possibly similar to the bear baiting online course that stresses ethical practices).

I know that many of you also have some great ideas for the program and I would love to hear them. Feel free to give me a call (267-2196), send me an email (ginamaria.smith@alaska.gov), or stop by and see me at the Anchorage office. Hopefully as I continue to visit more of the regions and cities throughout the state, I'll get the chance to meet more of you as well. Our program can only continue to grow and meet the needs of Alaskan hunters if we all work together. Thank you for all of your support for the HIT Program!

-Ginamaria Smith



2014 Kodiak Brown Bear



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2013 Volunteer Instructors of the Year

Each year, the Steering Committee votes on the “Instructor of the Year” awards at their annual meeting. The nominees are submitted by their peers and allow us to recognize a small portion of the amazing accomplishments of our volunteers. Congratulations to our Instructors of the Year! We are also grateful to those of you who took the time to nominate one of your co-instructors.

Hunter Ed. “Instructor of the Year”



Rick Sterling has lived in Fairbanks since moving to Alaska in 1972. He works as a flight instructor and aircraft mechanic. He has been a Hunter Ed. instructor for 11 years and a Muzzleloader Ed. instructor for almost 3 years. Rick has volunteered over 440 hours with the HIT program.

He also volunteers with the Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC) and AIM-Comm. Rick is a fantastic mentor for new instructors and helps them to develop confidence in their presentation and class organization.

Bowhunter Ed. “Instructor of the Year”



Steve Latz lives in Kenai and has lived there since 1986. He worked in the oilfield industry and retired 5 years ago to spend more time with his family and volunteering. Steve has

been a Bowhunter Ed. instructor since 1989 and has instructed over 350 students. He is also a long time member and officer for the Kenai Peninsula Archers. Steve works tirelessly to promote archery and hunter ethics in his community and the state of Alaska.

Rural “Instructor of the Year”



Brian Marvin is a science teacher at the Nome Beltz Junior High School. He has been a Hunter Ed. instructor for 9 years and a Bowhunter Ed. instructor for 11 years, and is the local ADFG “go to” instructor when it comes time to schedule classes in Nome.

Brian is an active member of the Nome Sportsman’s Association and is also an instructor for the NASP Program, which was introduced to Nome schools in 2013. His dedication in promoting our programs has helped to bring hunter education into rural Alaska classrooms.

Another NASP Success Story



Jordan Wheeler from Bethel took first place out of 76 girls to win the 4th Grade Girls Division of the IBO 3-D Challenge at NASP Nationals held on May 8-10 in Louisville,

Kentucky. She placed 18th out of 418 in the NASP Nationals. Jordan won the Alaska State NASP Tournament in her Division which earned her the chance to go to Nationals. Great Job Jordan!! If you’re interested in helping to get NASP into your community, contact Kirk at 267-2534.

IHEA Instructor Resource Site
www.ihea.com

Alaska HIT Program Site
www.huntereducation.alaska.gov



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Did You Know?

Firearm & Archery Excise Taxes



In class we often mention the Pittman-Robertson Act and the Federal Excise Taxes that people pay on outdoor equipment. Here’s an easy explanation of the taxes and benefits!

Excise Taxes

- 11% tax on Archery Equipment (bows, quivers, broadheads, points, & arrow shafts)
- 11% tax on Firearms & Ammunition
- 10% tax on Pistols, Handguns, & Revolvers
- Custom duties



Wildlife Restoration Account

- \$522.5 million in 2013



Distribution of Funds to State Agencies

- Multistate Conservation Grants
- Hunter Education
HIT Program-\$1,061,500 (2013)
- FWS Administration
- Wildlife Restoration Program



Welcome to our New Instructors

Basic Hunter Education:

Akiak: Chance Cunningham, Jarvis Edwards
Akutan: Benjamin Poelman
Anchorage: Dan Carey, Ralph Radford, Paul Ritz
Aniak: James Kvamme
Dillingham: Mike Myers
Ekwok: Corey Nicoli
Fairbanks: Levi Lewellyn, Josh Harville, Tim Shilling
Ft. Wainwright: Jeff Ellis
Galena: Robert Nunley
Kenai: Jerry Peterson
Ketchikan: Robert Albright
Klawock: Jose Rubio
Manokotak: Jason Alsept
New Stuyahok: David Walcott
Norvik: Christopher Hatch
Ouzinkie: James Poelman
Sitka: Jayson Christner, Kyle Ferguson, Chad Goeden, Joseph Hazelaar
Soldotna: Thomas Anthony, Jacques Kosto, Ben Stimmel
Sterling: Greg Landeis
Teller: Matthew Sperl
Wasilla: Matthew Stouffer

Bowhunter Education:

Anchorage: Dan Carey
Anchor Point: Steve Mastre
Fairbanks: Allen Dart, Levi Lewellyn, Joshua Leaders
Kenai: Jerry Peterson
Soldotna: Thomas Anthony, Jacques Kosto, Jason Okuly

Muzzleloader Education:

Anchorage: Dan Carey, Paul Ritz
Eagle River: Thomas Siekaniec, Chris Tomsen
Palmer: Greg Shepard
Wasilla: Chris Hansen

HIT Steering Group

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