



Hunter Information & Training Program News

Summer 2017

Coordinator's Corner-Ginamaria Smith

Inside This Issue

- Coordinator's Corner... 1
- HIT Program Admin 2
- Update to Policy 2
- Helpful Hints to Improve Your Public Speaking... 3
- Steering Group Members Needed 4
- Staff Contact Info 4

DID YOU KNOW?

Since 1939 state fish and wildlife agencies have received over \$56.9 billion from sportsmen and women. Sportsmen and women also contribute to improved access to public lands, recreational shooting facilities, improved water quality, soil conservation, habitat restoration, and hunter and boater safety programs through conservation funding.

-Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation



Gail climbing Lazy Mtn and enjoying retirement!

It always amazes me how quickly time flies during the summer months. I can't believe fall and hunting are just around the corner since it feels like I blinked in May and now it's August. One big change for the HIT Program, was the retirement of statewide Admin. Gail Volt in mid-June. Gail was with the HIT Program for 11+ years. She was affectionately called the "HIT Program's Real Boss" since she kept all volunteer instructors and HIT Program staff on our toes. Her rapport with the public and volunteer instructors, as well as her attention to the small details (paperwork) helped ensure the HIT Program ran efficiently. Folks in all regions of the state recognized her name and knew if they had a question regarding certification courses, she could always be counted on to provide the answer in a quick and efficient manner. Gail genuinely believed in the HIT Program mission and we greatly appreciate all of her hard work and dedication.

As fall approaches and you're heading out into the field hunting, if you haven't already done so, I highly encourage you to sign-up



for Experticity.com. This is an opportunity to enjoy discounts of up to 70% off on some of your favorite outdoor brands and is a small token of appreciation for all of your volunteer time. Experticity.com is an exclusive, experts-only network where you can receive discounts on over 200 top brands (examples: Vortex, Bushnell, Beretta, SOG Knives, Carhartt, Merrell). As an added benefit, Experticity will donate \$5 to IHEA-USA for each instructor who becomes part of this program. Visit www.Experticity.com/iheainstructors to access the deals.

The annual instructor meetings are scheduled for later this fall. These meetings are a great way to meet other instructors, share your hunting stories, provide feedback to HIT Program staff, and help plan the 2018 schedule. It's also a chance for us to thank you for your outstanding efforts and volunteer hours in 2017. Please take the time to attend these meetings if you're available.

- **Sunday, November 5th at the Fairbanks Indoor Range**
- **Wednesday, November 8th at the Snowshoe Gun Club (Soldotna)**
- **Thursday, November 9th at the Juneau Indoor Range**
- **Tuesday, December 5th at the Rabbit Creek Shooting Park (Anchorage)**
- **Thursday, December 7th at the Mat-Valley Range (Palmer)**

Cindy Palmatier-HIT Program Admin



I was born and raised in the heart of the mid-west, Independence, Missouri. As the fifth of five children I was a very big surprise to my parents. My closest sibling is 11 years older and I have a nephew who is

three months older than me. I grew up catching crawdads and garter snakes, as well as nursing bunnies, squirrels, raccoons and birds back to health. My dad had been a big bird hunter in his younger days, and for my 12th birthday I received my own .410 shotgun. We did go bird hunting a number of times, but he was getting older and the city was growing up around us, so mostly we would just go shoot targets or plink cans with a .22. I loved hunting and fishing, and didn't get to do it nearly often enough.

After moving to Alaska in 1986 I worked for roughly 18 years as a Veterinary Technician. I was working for Arctic Animal Hospital when the Exxon Valdez ran aground and I assisted in washing numerous Bald Eagles from that incident. I later took my skills as a Vet. Tech., coupled with my experience handling wild birds, to a job as Rehabilitation Director for Bird TLC. This was an exciting seven years as I was able to work with all manner of birds, both at the medical level and at the training and educational outreach level. I particularly enjoyed taking the birds out into the public to increase awareness and give people an opportunity to meet the birds up close. It was interactions with ADF&G staff during this time that set me on a course to become an ADF&G employee. In 2011 I accepted a position with the State of Alaska in the Business Licensing Division to "get my foot in the



door" with the State. And finally, in 2012 a position with ADF&G opened up in the Sport Fish Division. This was the opportunity I had hoped for and allowed me to work with people who shared my interests. While working for Sport Fish, I also became involved in the Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) Program as a participant, instructor, and general volunteer. I also assisted with Outdoor Youth Days and participated in other events and workshops put on by the HIT Program. Following these experiences, I was very excited to accept the HIT Program Admin position when it became available.

In my free time my husband Todd and I enjoy fishing, camping, hiking, and shooting, as well as numerous crafts and hobbies. I am also an apprentice falconer, and hoping to trap my first bird this fall. I am looking forward to working with the HIT Program, but realize Gail has left some big shoes for me to fill, but I'll do my best.

Update to Policy

Students who fail the proficiency shoot and the reshoots must re-register for a course (in-person at an ADF&G office for an instructor-led course or online for a field day) and attend the entire course on another date (i.e. 4-hour online field day or 8-hour instructor-led course). Students completing the online education courses do not need to re-take the online course and repay as their field day qualifier certificate is valid for 365 days after their initial online course completion date. As an alternative, an online student could sign up and attend an instructor-led education course at no additional cost, they would just need to complete the workbook/chapter reviews before the class (i.e. if a student takes the online muzzleloader ed course and realizes they want to learn more about muzzleloaders after failing the proficiency shoot).

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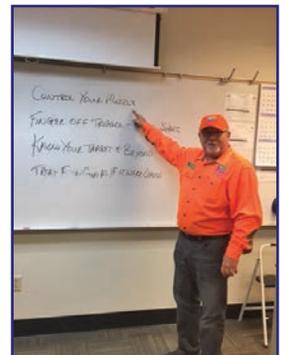


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Helpful Hints to Improve Your Public Speaking Skills

West Virginia Instructor Policy Manual

1. Project your voice
2. Keep eye contact with your audience
3. Try to stand to the side of blackboards and flipcharts
4. Use the podium to your advantage-not to hide behind
5. Dress according to audience expectations
6. Be natural
7. Vary the speed of your phrases
8. State your main points at the onset of your talk
9. Systematically search out examples and anecdotes
10. Have "reserve power"
11. Talk to your audience in terms they understand
12. Point out similarities between you and your audience
13. Ask questions, request a show of hands and otherwise include members of your audience
14. Use names of people in your talk
15. Get attention at the opening sentence
16. Find opportunities to practice
17. Never draw attention to negatives
18. Whenever possible, speak from your own personal experiences
19. Always prepare your opening and conclusion in advance
20. Pick a few members of your audience to watch as "barometers" for your talk
21. Study effective speakers-but be yourself
22. Practice telling stories, jokes, and quotations to make sure you can deliver them when the time comes
23. If you have to recapture control of the group, move to a flipchart or blackboard and begin writing
24. Vary your pace and voice inflection
25. Prepare "teaser" questions
26. Keep on schedule
27. Use "we" to include the audience
28. Remember, don't panic-you know more about your talk than anyone who is in the audience



HIT Steering Group

Lyle Shelnut (Interior) llylenutscars@yahoo.com
Andy Finke (Rural Alaska) bdaf@ptialaska.net
Paul Houser (Southcentral) houserfam9@yahoo.com
Martha Peck (Southcentral) martha.a.peck@gmail.com
Bruce Bowler (Southeast) cozylog@alaska.net

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Instructor Notes

Steering Group Members Needed

On November 1, 2017 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. Martha Peck (Southcentral), Paul Houser (Southcentral), and Bruce Bowler (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 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 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 18, 2017.

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

Lyle Shelnut (Interior) lylenutscars@yahoo.com

Andy Finke (Rural Alaska) bdaf@ptialaska.net

Paul Houser (Southcentral) houserfam9@yahoo.com

Martha Peck (Southcentral) martha.a.peck@gmail.com

Bruce Bowler (Southeast) cozylog@alaska.net

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

Kirk Lingofelt 267-2373

Tracy Smith 267-2534

Marc Much 267-2241

Cindy Palmatier 267-2187

Fax: 267-2323

Fairbanks

Bob Hunter 459-7375

Tom Halverson 459-7211

Fax: 459-7332

Juneau

Jeff Jemison 586-4101

Fax: 586-4107



114 participants from 16 teams from around the state participated in the AK YESS State Shotgun Championship in June at the Birchwood Shooting Park

Alaska Volunteer Hunter
Education Instructor
Association (AVHEIA)

Jim Low 378-5897

akjimlow@mac.com