



Hunter Information & Training Program News

Summer 2021

Coordinator's Corner-Ginamaria Smith

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DID YOU KNOW?

Antlers are the fastest growing tissue in any mammal, and can grow up to an inch a day.



Where did the summer go? Hopefully this newsletter finds everyone with fish-filled freezers and plans for fall hunts. The HIT Program has had a busy couple of months, including changes in staff. Jeff Jemison retired at the end of July after 6+ years as the Juneau Range Manager. Jeff previously held a position with ADF&G from 2007-2015 as a wildlife research technician studying mountain goats and moose. Jeff's enthusiasm for firearm safety and educational programs held at the indoor range will definitely be missed. We wish him the best in retirement and look forward to seeing him around Juneau!



Steve Unfried (Southcentral Coordinator) accepted a new position with the Department of Corrections at the beginning of July. Steve was a part of the HIT Program for two years and plans to continue as a volunteer instructor. Thanks Steve for helping to keep our volunteers engaged and teaching over the past two years, especially with the craziness of COVID the past year. Both positions are in the recruitment process and

we hope to have information about the new team members in the fall newsletter.

SAVE THE DATE-Annual Instructor Meetings

The annual instructor meetings will be held in-person 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 2022 schedule. It's also a chance for us to thank you for your outstanding efforts and volunteer hours in 2021. Please take the time to attend these meetings if you're available.

- **Sunday, November 7th** at the Fairbanks Indoor Range
- **Tuesday, November 9th** at the Snowshoe Gun Club (Soldotna)
- **Thursday, November 18th** at the Juneau Indoor Range
- **Tuesday, December 7th** at the Rabbit Creek Shooting Park (Anchorage)
- **Thursday, December 9th** at the Mat-Valley Indoor Range (Palmer)
- **TBD-Rural Areas Meeting** (Telephone/Zoom)



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Help Us Recruit New Volunteer Instructors



We are always looking to recruit new volunteer instructors. If you know of anyone interested or see a likely candidate during a certification course, encourage them to visit the website (www.huntereducation.alaska.gov) and fill out an application.

There are also printed copies of the application to hand out in all course locations.

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 we'll send HIT Program staff to conduct a training.

We'll be offering the following trainings this fall:

Hunter Education

- **Anchorage:** October 22 & 23- Friday from 6:00pm-9:00pm and Saturday from 9:00am-5:00pm
- **Fairbanks:** November 19-21- Friday from 6:00pm-9:00pm, Saturday from 9:00am-6:00pm, and Sunday from 9:00am-7:00pm (RSO certification)

Bowhunter Education

- **Fairbanks:** October 1 & 2-Friday from 6:00pm-9:00pm and Saturday from 9:00am-5:00pm
- **Anchorage:** October 8 & 9- Friday from 6:00pm-9:00pm and Saturday from 9:00am-5:00pm

Crossbow Education

- **Fairbanks:** October 9-Saturday from 9:00am-5:00pm

NOTE: If you would like to become an instructor of another discipline, please contact Cindy at 267-2187 so she can update your file.

IHEA-USA Membership in Action

Andrew Smith, IHEA-USA Membership Director

Since we offer many industry discounts already, I thought it would be helpful to discuss how to find resources that IHEA-USA provides to educators. One of IHEA-USA Instructor Membership benefits is access to our online hunter education library containing invaluable resources for all Hunter Education Instructors.

The IHEA-USA online library consists of 400 plus assets in several different categories. Of which, over 110 are instructional videos from Hunters Connect and Bowhunter 360. These videos have been scrubbed of any promotional material, so they are fully usable in classrooms. They are also downloadable, in case you don't have access to the internet while teaching. Additionally, you will find over 135 documents/pdf's including archived IHEA-USA journals, teacher tips, various illustrations on everything from different rifle actions to shooting positions, and make-it-teach-it diagrams, just to name a few. Lastly, there are over 125 outdoor and teaching photos for use in promotional materials and classroom presentations.

Members of the IHEA-USA can also upload videos, pictures, and PDFs of their successful presentations to the library, allowing it to continue to grow and adapt as needs change. With new and valuable assets added every week, the IHEA-USA continues to help Hunter Education Instructors with tools all contained in one convenient place. We also offer online courses and meetings to help everyone familiarize themselves with this great new tool.

If you are not already a member of the IHEA-USA, it's easy to join now for only \$20.00. With membership, you'll receive access to our incredible library and valuable instructor discounts as well as belong to a community of hunter educators and friends.

www.ihea-usa.org/membership/

IHEA Instructor Resource Site

www.ihea-usa.org/special-offers-for-instructors/

HIT Program Site

www.huntereducation.alaska.gov



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Steering Group Members Needed-Southcentral & Southeast

On November 1, 2021 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. Rich Graham and Larry Boyle (Southcentral) and Jim Plosay (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 (we'll be updating the hunter ed lesson plans this fall/winter)
- 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 describing your background and addressing how your membership on the Steering Group would benefit the HIT Program.

Letters can be emailed or mailed to Gina by September 15, 2021.

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

Updated Hunter Ed Test



We updated the written test for the instructor-led hunter ed classes. The test questions match the language found in the hunter ed student manual/workbook and are based on a selection of the online course test questions. After a lengthy review by the Steering Group and HIT Program staff members, we feel these test questions are less wordy and will help illustrate the important points/messages that we want hunter ed students to take away from the class. All true/false questions have been removed as well as "all of the above" questions to bring us in line with national standards.

HIT Program staff will update paperwork cabinets and boxes with the new test. The instructor website has also been updated in case you need to print additional copies in the future. The orange laminated instructor answer keys do not need to be updated as we matched the correct answers from the old and new test questions. We will work on updating the instructor lesson plan this fall/winter so the references to the test questions are correct. We'll also be looking closely at the lesson plan in response to continued complaints from students and instructors that the classroom portion of a hunter ed class is boring, too lecture-like, and too long. Please feel free to give HIT Program staff feedback on how your students do on the new test.

HIT Program Steering Group

Cordell Gray (Interior) cords180@yahoo.com
Andy Finke (Rural Alaska) bdaf49@gmail.com
Larry Boyle (Southcentral) larryboyle@alaska.net
Rich Graham (Southcentral) richgraham.ek@gmail.com
James Plosay (Southeast) jrplosay@gci.net

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Instructor Notes

Above & Beyond Recipients

We'd like to recognize the following instructors for going "above and beyond" during the second quarter.

Isaac Lampe (North Pole)

Izaac became an instructor in the fall of 2020 and has jumped in with both feet. Izaac taught 3 hunter ed classes and 4 bowhunter ed classes this summer. Unfortunately he'll be PCSing with the Air Force shortly, but we're thankful he's helped out so much during his time stationed in Alaska.

Roy Hartz (Palmer)

Roy re-certified to become an instructor in October 2020 and we're definitely happy to have him back after an 8-year hiatus. Roy taught 5 bowhunter ed classes this summer in the Mat-Su Valley which helped to certify 49 students. He was always willing to help out when additional instructors were needed.

Kevin McGaha (Anchorage)

Kevin has been an active bowhunter ed instructor since the fall of 2017. Kevin taught 5 bowhunter ed classes this summer which certified 51 students. He's taught alongside longtime instructors and new instructors, and it's been great to have some consistency with our Anchorage bowhunter ed classes.

Matt Conner (Soldotna)

Matt taught 4 bowhunter ed and 1 hunter ed classes this summer. He also conducted a NASP training which certified 10 teachers to be NASP BAI's so they can offer NASP in their community. Thanks Matt for all your help!

Of note, we also had three instructors who taught 10 or more classes during this time frame. These instructors have previously been recognized as Above & Beyond Recipients, however we wanted to make sure their continued support of the HIT Program was recognized as well.

Cordell Gray (Fairbanks)

Somerset Jones (Chugiak)

Paul Houser (Palmer)

Thanks to the Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation for providing Cabela's gift certificates to help us recognize our Above & Beyond recipients. We'll continue to recognize 1-4 extraordinary volunteer instructors each quarter, so please keep an eye out for co-instructors who go "above and beyond" in the next few months and send HIT Program staff a nomination email.



HIT Staff

Contact Information

Anchorage:

Gina Smith 267-2196
Kirk Lingofelt 267-2373
Katelyn Zonneville
267-2534
Cindy Palmatier
267-2187

Fairbanks:

Tom Halverson 459-7211

Juneau:

Daniel Gutierrez
465-4345



Jennifer Todd and her 4-year-old son with her first caribou. She participated in our BOW Big Game Rifle class, and said taking the class helped her technique and build her confidence.