

Alaska Hunting Bulletin



A publication of the Alaska Department of Fish & Game

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New Regulation Requires the Salvage of Spring Black Bear Statewide

A regulation passed in early 1996 requiring the salvage of black bear meat statewide goes into effect this spring.

Spring black bear hunters must now salvage for human consumption at least the four quarters and the meat of the backbone (backstrap) no matter where in Alaska the bear is taken. The regulation applies to bears taken from January 1 to May 31.

The Board of Game passed the regulation following an in-depth review of black bear baiting practices and regulations. The board felt requiring meat salvage would give black bear hunting wider approval among the general public.

Many spring black bear hunters already were salvaging significant quantities of meat in addition to the prized hides, so the regulation does not significantly impact most hunters.

Where black bear hides and skulls must be



Black bear hunters should be aware of important changes in the hunting regulations regarding meat salvage. Photo © by Pat Costello

sealed (GMUs 1-7, 11- 17 and 20: generally the road system and Southeast Alaska), spring hunters must salvage the hide and skull as well as the meat. After May 31, only the hide and

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Moose in Popular Hunting Areas Generally Faring Well: Biologists

by Les Palmer

Alaskans harvested nearly 7,000 moose last year with a statewide success rate between 20 and 25 percent. While moose range from the Misty Fjords area in Southeast to the Colville River on the Arctic Slope, most hunting and harvest occurs where access is relatively simple and moose are plentiful. This generally means along road and river corridors and near population centers, and that is what this report covers.

The following comments by state wildlife biologists who manage these areas will give you an idea about population status and some of the factors influencing moose numbers. They may even furnish some clues about where to head next fall.

KENAI PENINSULA: Game Management Units (GMUs) 7 and 15 On the Kenai Peninsula, the 1996 general hunt yielded 707 bulls, the highest number since 1987. That was the year "spike-fork/50-inch" selective-harvest management began on the peninsula, said Ted Spraker, area wildlife biologist in Soldotna. Last fall's aerial surveys showed an average bull-cow ratio of 27 bulls per 100 cows for the peninsula's general hunt count areas. Before selective harvest, it ranged between 12 and 13 per 100 cows, Spraker said.

"Although the number of moose has not increased the ratio of bulls to cows has doubled because of selective harvest," he said.

The overall moose population on the Kenai Peninsula is "probably doing pretty good" because of the mild winter of 1995-96, Spraker said. This past winter was also relatively mild, except in the northern part of Unit 15(A), where an early, deep snowfall moved moose onto winter range early. Spraker anticipates another relatively average harvest in Units 7 and 15 next fall, probably 600-plus bulls in the general season, he said.

While the present picture appears rosy, the peninsula's moose population can't help but decline, Spraker said. As moose habitat ages, changing from willow and birch to a forest dominated by spruce, it can support fewer and fewer moose. At this point it appears that only a major fire will significantly alter this declining trend in quality moose habitat on the Kenai Peninsula, he said.

"The burns we've had are beneficial, but they're just a drop in the bucket," Spraker said. "We have about 4,000 square miles of moose habitat on the peninsula, and in the past few years we've had enhancement on less than 10. Logging during winter isn't improving moose habitat as much as it could, because there isn't enough soil disturbance to allow for moose browse to establish. Logged areas are all coming back in grass that moose do not eat."

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What Is This Publication?

If this is your first time opening up the *Alaska Hunting Bulletin*, welcome. The Bulletin is a regular publication of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's Division of Wildlife Conservation.

For first time readers, let us say again what this publication is all about. What you will find in the *Alaska Hunting Bulletin* are the "nuts and bolts of practical wildlife conservation as that relates to hunting."

The *Alaska Hunting Bulletin* will not be covering "where to" or "how to" articles. That information is well covered by private publishers. Instead, you will

find in this publication "information about changes in the hunting regulations, habitat management work, hunter education, wildlife research, results of game surveys, and so forth."

We are planning our next issue to be out around the beginning of the 1997 hunting season, and another for early 1998.

We hope you find the information in this issue useful and interesting. If you would like to receive this publication in the mail, we would be happy to enter your name as a subscriber. There is no charge. Please turn to page 3 for subscription information.

PERMIT APPLICATIONS DUE MAY 31 - See page 3

The *Alaska Hunting Bulletin* is a publication of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Hunter Services Program.

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From the Director...The Way I See It

by Dr. Wayne Regelin

Since our last *Alaska Hunting Bulletin*, we have steadily continued the process of transforming the division's Hunter Education and Hunter Services programs. As you may know, we assigned additional staff to the Hunter Education program last fall, and that move is already beginning to pay dividends for instructors and students. I also elevated supervision of the Hunter Education and Hunter Services programs to the division Deputy Director, Ken Taylor. Ken is a long-time hunter with a strong interest in both programs. I appreciate Dr. Steve Peterson's supervision of these programs in recent years, and moved them only because I felt the programs and the hunters they serve would benefit from more direct policy-level involvement at Headquarters.

Just as 1997 began, we hired another new member of the hunter education/hunter services team. I believe you are going to be just as pleased as we are with Tony Monzingo, our new Hunter Services Coordinator. Tony replaces David Johnson, who retired not long ago, but who continues to help out on a part-time basis. Tony comes to us with an extensive background in education and the shooting sports, and experience in law and wildlife work. He is a dedicated and well-spoken advocate for hunting. Tony hit the ground running and is continuing our Alaska Hunting Clinic

Series with even more clinics than last year. He has also been deeply involved with John Matthews and Ken Taylor in the hunter education program development process. Tony is interested in continuing to upgrade the services we offer to Alaska's hunters, and we are going to give him our best possible support from Headquarters.

Our annual volunteer hunter education workshop last February was another recent highlight in the process. Ken Taylor and I attended much of the meeting, and we were both delighted to see the willingness of instructors to take a very active part in forging new directions. Hunter Education runs on volunteer power, and Alaska's instructor corps showed plenty of energy and enthusiasm. We appreciate the fine job John Matthews did in bringing together the pieces and the people for this pivotal workshop. We were pleased to have Newfoundland hunter/conservationist/visionary Shane Mahoney, Montana Hunter Education Coordinator Tim Poole, and trainer Bill Christie as part of the program this year.

One important outcome of that meeting was the recommendation by instructors that we establish a new hunter education steering group. The initial five members of the group agreed to 1) help put together a plan to guide the hunter education program over the next five years, and to 2) advise the divi-

sion on how best to blend the Hunter Education and Hunter Services programs into a single cohesive unit. Initial members of the steering group include instructors Mel Hein of Palmer who is the current president of the Instructors Association, Sarah Jones of Soldotna, Dan Kittoe of Anchorage, and Ted Schenk of Sitka. The Hunter Heritage Foundation of Alaska, a private fund dedicated to hunting education is represented by Eddie Grasser, a lifelong Alaskan with a strong interest in hunting and education. The committee has already begun work and is moving aggressively toward these goals. Additional interests the steering group felt were priorities to be represented in the group included rural Alaskan Native, Interior Alaska, and environmental conservation interests. We will be working with the group to add at least 2 more members before the next meeting.

On another subject, it is no surprise to Alaska hunters that GMU 13 (the Nelchina country) is among the state's most important hunting areas. It's close to our largest population centers and contains good populations of game. It has always been our intention to maintain good hunting opportunities and success rates there. Today, that means we want to maintain an abundance of caribou and work towards an increase in

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Letters to the Alaska Hunting Bulletin

Dear Editor:

This past September while hunting on the Nowitna River the lower unit on my outboard became too well acquainted with a submerged log and resulted in some broken pieces and parts. However, due to the kindness of Mr. Gary Nance

and Mr. Jack Winters our hunt was unaffected by the breakdown of our engine over 200 river miles from the repair shop.

Mr. Nance and his Supercub delivered the broken lower unit to the Boat Shop in Fairbanks the next day. Five

days later, Mr. Winters and his Super Cub returned the repaired lower unit to us on the Nowitna.

The considerate assistance to their fellow hunters by Gary and Jack was greatly appreciated. It is truly a great feeling to know there are still people like these men among us when we venture into the woods.

Thank you gentlemen,
-A.T.
Fairbanks, AK

MAILBAG

We invite your letters to the editor. We reserve the right to select which letters to print, and the right to edit letters for clarity and good taste. Letters are limited to 300 words. Send your letters to:

Editor, Alaska Hunting Bulletin, ADF&G/WC, PO Box 25526, Juneau, AK 99802-5526, or e-mail: marthak@fishgame.state.ak.us or FAX: (907) 465-6142.



Dear Editor,

Our office recently received a copy of the *Alaska Hunting Bulletin*. We would like to include information about our office.

The U.S. Geological Survey Map Office in Fairbanks was officially closed at the end of February 1995. At that time, the Geophysical Institute at University of Alaska Fairbanks began selling USGS maps covering Alaska. We are a state Earth Science Information Center.

Maps in the scale of 1:63,360 (identified by a Name, Letter and number) cost \$4.00 each. Maps in the scale of

Continued on page 4

The 1997/98 Alaska Hunting Regulations: What's New

Here is a summary of some of the most significant regulation changes adopted by the Alaska Board of Game during the past year. By comparing this to your "Alaska State Hunting Regulations No. 37" you will have a good idea of what to expect in the upcoming season. Unless otherwise noted, none of these changes goes into effect until July 1.

This is not a substitute for the 1997-98 regulations book, which will be available around July 1st. It is important to check the new regulations book before going afield.

Newspaper supplements describing drawing, registration and Tier II subsistence permit hunts are now available at many license vendors around Alaska, and from most Alaska Department of Fish and Game offices. Permit applications must be postmarked no later than May 31.

CARIBOU

* Required that in Game Management Units (GMUs) 9B, 17, 19B, and those portions of 19A within the Holitna-Hoholtna Controlled Use Area, all edible meat of a caribou must remain on the bones of the four quarters and ribs until

the caribou has been transported out of the area. The edible meat may be boned from the neck and back.

* Added a Nov. 10-Dec. 10 season for caribou by drawing permit in the Kenai Mountains in GMU 7.

MOOSE

* Required that in GMUs 9B, 17, 19B, and those portions of 19A within the Holitna-Hoholtna Controlled Use Area, all edible meat of a moose must remain on the bones of the four quarters and ribs until the moose has been transported out of the area. The edible meat may be boned from the neck and back.

* Tightened the bag limit on moose for nonresident hunters to 50 inches or four brow tines and shortened the season to Sept. 5-15 in GMUs 17B and 9B.

* Created a Jan. 15-Feb. 15 registration moose hunt for one bull in GMU 19C.

* Extended the Tier II moose season in GMU 13 to Aug. 19.

BROWN BEAR

* Expanded the Western Alaska Brown Bear Management Area to include all of GMUs 17 and 9B.

* Shortened the season in GMU 20D east of the Gerstle River and north of the

Tanana River to Sept. 1-May 30.

* Increased the bag limit for residents to one bear every regulatory year in GMUs 6A, 6B and 6C.

* Extended the season to May 25 in GMU 6D.

* Opened the season 25 days earlier (April 15) in GMU 17.

* Required registration permits for hunting on the Kenai Peninsula; shortened the fall season by nine days and moved it to Oct. 15-31 with no fall season in GMU 15A.

* Extended the season to Sept. 15-May 25 in GMU 14B.

* Required a \$25 resident tag fee and set a Sept. 1-May 31 season in Denali State Park.

BLACK BEAR

* Required salvage of edible meat from black bears taken Jan. 1-May 31; edible meat defined as front quarters, hindquarters and backstrap.

* Required completion of an ADF&G baiting clinic prior to receiving a baiting permit in GMUs 7 and 16A.

* Required completion of an IBEP archery course prior to taking a bear over bait in GMUs 7 and 16A.

* Prohibited bait station within one-quarter mile of certain navigable waters in GMUs 7, 14, 15 and 16.

GOATS

* Shortened the season to open Sept. 15 in GMUs 6C and 6D.

* Increased the number of drawing permits to 250 on Kodiak Island.

* Opened hunting by drawing and registration permit on private land within the Kenai Fjords National Park in GMU 7.

* Extended the season in GMU 14A top Oct. 31.

DEER

* Moved the opening of the antlerless season up one month to Oct. 1.

* Liberalized the antlerless bag limit on Afognak, Raspberry, Shuyak and adjacent northern islands in GMU 8.

* Establish and archery/muzzleloader season along the Kodiak road system Nov. 1-14 for one buck.

ELK

* Extended the season on Raspberry and Afognak islands by 17 days with an earlier opening and a later closure.

PTARMIGAN

* Standardized the bag limit and season

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Permit Hunt Applications Due May 31: Note Important New License & Tags Requirement

May is the month for submitting applications for drawing and Tier II permit hunts around Alaska. Permit supplements describing the hunts and application forms are available at many sporting goods stores and other license vendors around Alaska, as well as Alaska Department of Fish & Game offices.

This year, for the first time, hunters must possess a hunting license and appropriate tags to be eligible for drawing permits. Licenses and tags can be purchased along with the drawing application but most Alaska residents will find it easier just to buy their licenses ahead of time and simply enter the number on their applications.

The only species for which Alaska residents must have tags are brown bear and muskoxen. Only hunters applying for drawing permits for those two species will have to submit tag fees with their applications. If you do not draw a permit, your tag fee will be refunded. License fees will not be refunded.

Nonresidents must have tags for all species. They must submit enough money to pay for the most expensive species for which they are applying. Again, tag fees will be refunded if no permit is drawn but license fees will not.

All applications must be mailed. Applications must be postmarked no later than May 31, and must reach ADF&G by

June 10. No applications will be accepted over the counter at any ADF&G office.

ADF&G staff handling applications say the most common errors they deal with include:

- 1) Duplicate hunt applications (which invalidate all applications for the duplicated hunt)
- 2) Missing or incorrect residency information
- 3) Application for a bow hunting permit when not qualified

Every year, hundreds of party applications are invalidated because of errors on the part of one of the parties. Staff also return dozens of applications unprocessed because they are not postmarked by May 31. Many smaller post offices send their mail to larger offices for initial processing. This sometimes delays applications turned in on the last day, resulting in a late postmark.

Hunters should apply well before the deadline, double check applications for completeness and accuracy, be sure to sign checks and applications where required, and be sure to send adequate funds.

If you have questions about drawing and other permit hunts, you can call one of our toll-free information lines: (888) 255-2655 (Alaska only) or (888) 996-2003 (outside Alaska only).

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1. Mail in the coupon below to ADF&G, *Alaska Hunting Bulletin*, 333 Raspberry Rd, Anchorage, AK 99518-1599
2. Call our 24 hour voice mail and say you would like to be on the mailing list for the *Alaska Hunting Bulletin*. The number is (907) 267-2580. Please be sure to spell out uncommon words.
3. Send us a FAX with your name and mailing address. Please print clearly and indicate you want to be on the *Alaska Hunting Bulletin* mailing list. Our FAX number is (907) 267-2433.
4. Send us an e-mail message with your name and mailing address. Be sure to indicate you want to be on the subscription list for the *Alaska Hunting Bulletin*. Address your e-mail to susanr@fishgame.state.ak.us

Name _____

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State _____

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Telephone _____

Alaska libraries, Alaska Hunter Education & Bowhunter Education Instructors, Alaska Hunting Clinic Series presenters, and Fish & Game Advisory Committee members automatically receive this publication. We also automatically send copies to state and federal agency cooperators and libraries within Alaska. Others on our mailing list - subscribers - have "****" on the first line of the mailing label. If you received this copy and you are not in one of these groups, please let us know if you would like to be on our "subscription" list.

Newsbreaks

Southeast Alaska ADF&G staff are beginning an effort to reclaim fast-fading Thomas Bay moose habitat.

Thomas Bay is an important moose hunting area for southeast Alaska residents. Petersburg Area Wildlife Biologist Ed Crain says his office issued 800 permits last fall, mainly to Petersburg and Wrangell residents, but to some from as far away as Kake and Sitka. About 6,000 acres in the Thomas Bay area were clearcut beginning in the 1950s, and rapidly turned into good quality moose browse. Moose began using the area in increasing numbers, and the area is now one of the better moose producers on the southeast Alaska mainland. In recent years, however, second growth stands of hemlock and Sitka spruce have increasingly shaded out the moose browse. The US Forest Service has thinned the dense second growth on lands it manages, but little work has been done on approximately 1300 acres under state management. The state land encompasses some of the highest quality habitat. Crain says they will begin the work this summer by re-opening alder-choked access roads. With access in, managers will use a combination of standard silvicultural thinning and various experimental treatments. Crain says there is some urgency in the work as the best habitat is rapidly being lost to the fast growing evergreens. He is optimistic that with sufficient funding some of the best habitat can be reclaimed.

A surprised Juneau trapper brought the first known Alaska specimen of a fisher to the ADF&G headquarters early this year. While this large cousin of the familiar marten lives in nearby British Columbia and in the southern Yukon, this is the first specimen observed by ADF&G in Alaska. Anecdotal records and a skull from the Taku River suggest fisher were taken or observed in the Panhandle in the past, but there are no other documenting skins or photographs. Furthermore, British Columbia trappers have taken fishers in the upper reaches of rivers that flow through southeast Alaska, so it would not seem unreasonable to find them in that part of the state. Fishers are heavier than marten with stiffer guard hairs that give the coat a grizzled appearance. Adult males can weigh 20 pounds, although the specimen brought in to ADF&G was a six pound female. One impediment to fisher travel in Alaska is snow over 18 inches deep.

Marten can easily handle deep snow. Marten tend to eat birds and small rodents. Fishers prefer hares and porcupines. This particular fisher was true to his heritage, and carried porcupine quills. A staff biologist who examined the specimen and reviewed the literature believes the animal or her ancestors may have entered Alaska via the Taku River and then traveled north of Juneau where it was eventually trapped. ADF&G will have the specimen mounted for public viewing at an as-yet-undetermined location.

Large numbers of caribou from the giant Western Arctic herd (WAH) moved onto the Seward Peninsula this past winter for the first time in recent memory. While long distance movements are nothing new for caribou, this excursion had a significant impact on the reindeer industry. Early reconnaissance surveys suggested approximately 100,000 WAH caribou had moved onto the peninsula. About half left early in the winter. Most of the herders on the peninsula have reported losses from their herds, which before the caribou came on the peninsula, totaled approximately 12,000 animals. Reindeer readily join caribou groups, and continue to move with them. Radio collars employed by private reindeer herding operations have confirmed the mixing of reindeer with caribou. Early in the winter, the herders were generally unable to prevent losses. As snow began to cover the ground, they used snowmachines to either haze caribou bands away from their reindeer or herd their animals out of the path of the moving caribou. At press time in early April, substantial numbers of caribou remained on the Seward Peninsula.

Kodiak deer appear to be coming out of a moderately hard winter and may have lost much of this year's fawn crop. Deep early and mid-winter snows probably had little effect on adult deer, according to Kodiak wildlife technician Joe Dinnocenzo. This winter's apparent losses alone will probably have relatively little effect on 1998/99 deer hunting, but if combined with another round of fawn or adult mortality next winter, could noticeably reduce hunter success. Deer mortality transects being completed while the Bulletin was in press will give managers a better understanding of actual losses and a better idea of likely effect on the population.

ADF&G recently added two new staff in Fairbanks and transferred an experienced biologist to Galena.

Continued next page

Letters Continued

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1:250,000 (identified with a name only like FAIRBANKS) cost \$4.00 each as well. We also carry a selection of wall maps and special maps on Alaska. The GeoData Center maintains the Alaska High Altitude Photography collection as well as other collections.

We are happy to mail order to customers. Prepayment by either a check or money order is required and checks should be made payable to the Geophysical Institute. We also accept payment using Visa, Mastercard or Discover credit card numbers. There is a minimum postage charge of \$5.00 per package.

Sincerely,
—Connie B. Kalita
Map Office Supervisor

You can contact them at: Map Office, GeoData Center, Geophysical Institute-UAF, 903 Koyukuk Drive, Fairbanks, AK 99775 The telephone number is 907-474-6960.

Dear Editor:

I recently had the opportunity to read an article entitled Hunting for Trophy Meat in the October 1996 issue of the Alaska Hunting Bulletin. I was disappointed to read that your publication encouraged the "head shot" as the preferable location for shot placement in game animals.

Preference of shot placement in the head is contrary to any information which I have ever received from other authorities. Shot placement in the head area many times shatters the skull rendering it unacceptable for scoring as a trophy. While I understand that you are mainly concerned with the meat in this article, you should recognize that breaking the skull plate for any reason violates the Alaska Department of Fish and Game "Evidence of Sex" requirement for many animals with antler restrictions.

As you should know, head shots are a low percentage area for clean kills. A high percentage of head shots are misplaced, resulting in a broken jaw or damaged nasal area of the game animal. These animals will die, but are hard to track. In the mean time the animal suffers from a grievous wound.

A head shot stops the heart of the game animal instantly leaving the majority of the blood within the animal's tissue. This is detrimental to meat quality. Your author states we should "Bleed the animal quickly" but does not tell us how to accomplish this. Cutting the throat of an animal after the animal is dead does nothing to "bleed the animal" but will succeed only in ruining a trophy cape.

I would suggest to you that head shooting an animal intended for meat is quite possibly the worst choice for shot placement. I am interested in your response on this and suggest that a future article might discuss shot placement for game animals intended for meat.

G.O.
Fairbanks

Author Larry Van Daele responds: I appreciate the response to my article. A short brochure will never be able to cover all of the variables that go into bagging and caring for a game animal. It was intended to be a primer in the subject, and hopefully the catalyst for further research and discussion.

Shot placement is the subject of hours of debate among hunters. I knew that when I wrote the brochure. Considering all the variables involved in the hunt, I reduced my decision on a shot placement recommendation to two factors: a quick kill and a shot that would least harm the meat.

There's no question that a head shot causes the least amount of meat damage. The concept of a quick kill being bad for the meat because of blood trapped in the meat is something I had not heard before. I have been involved in many head shot kills. We always bled these animals, however, so the meat quality we obtained may have depended on good bleeding.

Although ADF&G regulations prohibit the willful destruction of the skull plate in 50+ moose hunts, it is not illegal to shoot a moose in the head while participating in one of these hunts. The writer's concern on this subject is something to keep in mind, however. My original brochure was intended for a rural audience where there are few antler restrictions.

I personally believe that head shots are best for optimum meat salvage. However, the writer's points are good and should be taken into consideration before pulling the trigger.

Making the Shot

by Christopher Batin

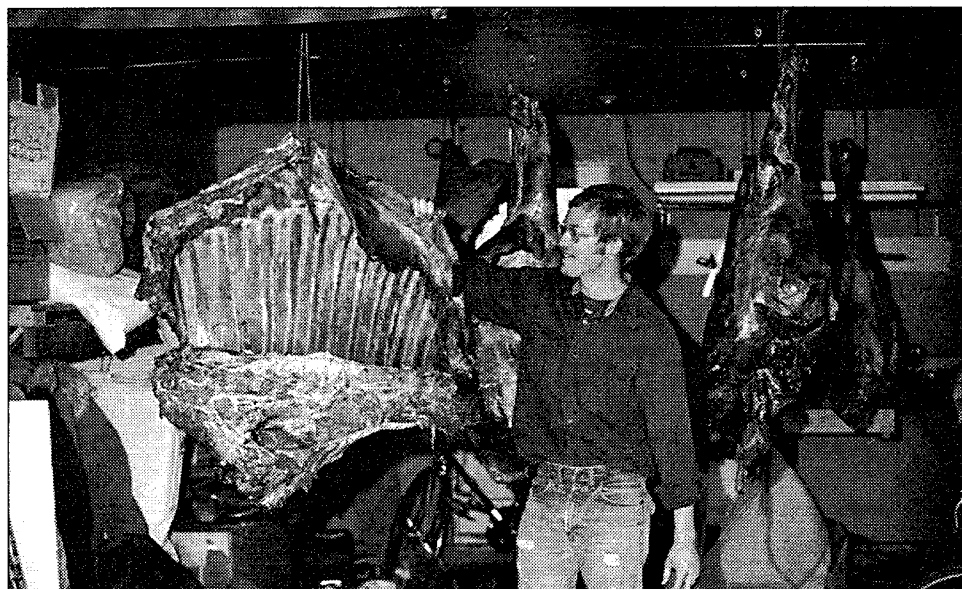
Editor's note: the letter about head shots vs. body shots (see "Mailbag: Letters to the Editor" in this issue) got us thinking about shot placement. It is an important issue from a conservation and ethical perspective: poor shot placement can turn valuable meat into resource loss. It is also a difficult issue because there is not necessarily a single "right answer." For some perspectives on the issue, we asked widely-published Alaska hunting author Chris Batin to put together some thoughts on the subject from his own extensive experience. ADF&G does not necessarily endorse Chris' ideas here, simply because we have not analyzed the issue from a scientific perspective and therefore cannot reasonably comment one way or another. Nevertheless, we believe his ideas are worthy of consideration by the hunting community. Additional discussion on the subject is welcome and we will print letters from readers on this in a future issue if there is sufficient interest.

Just as a wolf instinctively knows how to use its teeth, weight, and energy to subdue a caribou, so does a hunter need to know how to make a clean, sure kill. Because our teeth and nails would have little effect on a full-grown bull moose, we compensate by using a bow and arrow, rifle and ammunition.

Let's stick to rifles, as this is where much of the misunderstanding exists. It's easy to understand why. It's all too easy to be misled by ballistic figures and charts that may have no direct bearing on what it takes to humanely kill game.

Consider the magnum. It's easy to believe that if an animal gets hit with, say, a .300 Magnum, it's going down. Its muzzle energy with a 165-grain bullet is a whopping 3,567 foot-pounds of knock-down power!

It's just not that simple. Knockdown power is irrelevant when it comes to immobilizing a big game animal. Even if



The reward of a well-placed shot is pounds of high quality meat. Hunters with more meat than they need can donate to Alaskan Hunters Fighting Hunger in Anchorage or Hunters for the Hungry in Fairbanks. See article page 14. Photo by David M. Johnson

the animal is knocked off its feet by the bullet's impact, the injury the animal sustains to its nervous, muscular and circulatory systems is, in fact, what determines when and for how long it stays down.

Ammo manufacturers have inundated us with timed exposures of how bullets pulverize ballistic gelatin, suggesting that nothing could possibly survive one of their properly placed bullets. The only thing is, gelatin doesn't have mud-coated hair, thick hide, bones, and sinew, all of which absorb and affect a bullet's energy transfer and expansion. When a legbone is placed in the gelatin, and covered with a thick, tanned hide, these "wonder bullets" might fail to penetrate the legbone.

A killing shot combines skill and properly chosen equipment that provides the fastest means to dispatch an animal. Let's talk about how to do it, and a little bit about equipment.

I believe the heart-lung shot is best

and easiest for Alaska ungulates. A good lung shot is about 1/3 up from the belly line, right behind the front shoulder. A low shot will still strike the lung and take out the heart. A high shot will hit rib bones, spine and tough connective tissue, putting the animal down quickly. We have a margin of error with this shot, which is what makes it so effective. A heart-lung shot ruins little meat, and allows the animal to bleed immediately.

While a moose or caribou can run 100 yards or more with a heart or lung shot, they will quickly go down if enough damage is done to the musculature, circulatory or respiratory system. A clipped lung is usually not sufficient to slow an animal, and we may have a tough tracking job on our hands, especially if the exit hole is small or nonexistent. For that reason, it's important to strike as close as possible to the front of the heart/lung area.

During the thrill of the chase, we can

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Newsbreaks Cont'd

Former assistant area biologist Jim Woolington was selected late last year to replace Galena area biologist Tim Osborne. Osborne was in Galena for 15 years prior to his retirement in January of this year. Before Woolington's Fairbanks assignment, he was the assistant area biologist in Glennallen. The Galena area office covers GMUs 21B, 21C, 21D, and 24, which is generally the drainages of the lower Yukon and Koyukuk rivers. Woolington has been on duty in Galena since mid-January.

Also in January, the Interior region hired Don Young as a Wildlife Biologist. Young was formerly a US Fish and Wildlife Service research biologist. His current duties include management of the region's public services functions, including hunter education and wildlife information. He also participates in a variety of management projects. In addition to strong biologist skills, Young brings to the job an interest in environmental education and teaching. He holds an Alaska teacher's certificate. Before working for the USFWS in Alaska, Young worked as a teacher and for the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Helping Young at the information counter is Tom Seaton, a recently hired and well-qualified wildlife technician. Seaton has a background in small mammal ecology and a particular interest in furbearer management and research. He previously worked with the University of Alaska museum on small mammal ecology in southeast Alaska. Seaton will also be working on a variety of research and management projects.

In the Southcentral Alaska region, new faces include a bear research biologist and a new Hunter Services Coordinator. Soldotna-based Dr. Steve Arthur is a bear biologist assigned to the Kenai Peninsula brown bear project. Arthur came to ADF&G from the USFWS where he worked with polar bears. Earlier in his career, Arthur worked with fishers in Maine. He is responsible for field activities investigating brown bear habitat use, movement corridors, and the effects of development on bears.

Hunter Service Coordinator Tony Monzingo's roots go back to an Alaska homestead in the 1950's. In more recent years, Monzingo has been a

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New Regulation for Spring Black Bear Salvage

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skull must be salvaged. Where sealing is not required (generally rural Alaska), the meat must be salvaged from spring bears. After May 31, either the hide or the edible meat must be salvaged. Refer also to the table to the right.

Many black bear hunters traditionally have salvaged the meat because it is available after moose or caribou meat is depleted from the freezer and because of its taste. Bear fat is sometimes rendered for cooking.

Spring bear meat presents a field preservation challenge. Insects and warm temperatures can harm meat quality, so hunters must be prepared to keep the meat cool, clean and dry. Meat should never be stored in plastic bags where sunshine can rapidly elevate internal meat temperatures. Bear meat should not be hung or aged, but rather processed immediately for long-term storage.

As with pork, black bear meat sometimes hosts organisms which cause Trichinosis. Bear meat should never be served rare, but always cooked thoroughly.

Where	January 1 - May 31	June 1 - December 31
GMUs 1-7, 11-17 & 20 (sealing required: mainly road system)	Hide & Skull & Edible Meat	Hide & Skull
Rest of the state (sealing not required)	Edible Meat	Edible Meat OR Hide & Skull

Newsbreaks Cont'd

teacher, a principal, a shooting sports instructor, and a legal assistant. Before being hired to head up the Division's Hunter Services Program, Monzingo worked in the Southeast Alaska Region as a wildlife technician. According to Deputy Director Ken Taylor, he was hired because of his extensive background in education, because of his ability to work effectively with a wide array of groups and because of a strong dedication to hunting and hunters.

Interior Region ADF&G staff requested and recently received a \$2 million legislative appropriation to build a combination indoor shooting range and hunter education classroom facility in the Fairbanks area. Half the appropriation comes from Alaska's Fish and Game Fund (from fishing and hunting license and tag revenue) and the remainder from the federal Pittman-Robertson fund (from an 10% excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition). The appropriation covers five years, but barring unexpected delays, staff expect to break ground in mid-1998. The new facility will give volunteer hunter education instructors a dedicated facility to teach hunting and shooting skills, and a place to shoot small bore rifles and handguns during the cold months. In order to obtain input from users and shooting sports experts, ADF&G established an *ad hoc* steering committee of sportsmen and educators. The steering committee has already met several times, providing important input on location and design. Siting for the new facility has not been finalized, but will most likely be near the existing ADF&G regional office at Creamer's Field in Fairbanks.

Serious wanton waste problems in southwest Alaska have prompted the Alaska Board of Game to require hunters to leave moose and caribou meat on the bone. Dillingham area biologist Larry Van Daele says the problem has been growing along with the Mulchatna caribou herd. He says as the area has become more popular with both Alaskans and nonresidents, meat waste has become more obvious. Van Daele says many drop off hunters do not appear to be aware of the tremendous quantity of meat on a moose, or the logistic problems of meat care in remote areas, or both. This spring, after hearing

Continued next page

Permit Auction Nets Over \$150,000 for Dall Sheep

by Tony Russ

Although Alaskans are at odds over hunting and access rights, priority uses of game, native rights, management authority, land ownership, etc., all should applaud a recent advance for wildlife conservation. As a result of cooperative efforts by the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (FNAWS), the Division of Wildlife Conservation, and the state legislature, a significant sum has been added to the Alaska Department of Fish & Game's budget. Furthermore, there is a bright prospect that the future will hold more and greater sums of money for state wildlife management.

During the 1996 session Representative Con Bunde (R-District 18) sponsored HB59. This legislation allowed the department to issue a limited number of big game permits to qualified organizations for auction on behalf of the agency. The organization is allowed to deduct its administrative costs and not more than 10 percent of the net proceeds. The organization must use its part to promote game law enforcement or management. The department receives the rest.

This type of permit, often called a Governor's Permit, has been available in several other states for many years. Alaskans have also wanted to offer these permits to bring in funds for wildlife management, but our laws did not allow it. Now we can offer these permits.

The Alaska chapter of FNAWS is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and enhancing Dall sheep populations in Alaska, educating the public about Dall sheep, and professional management of Dall sheep. FNAWS requested and received one Dall sheep permit for auction under the new law. The organization chose last February's National FNAWS Convention in Philadelphia as the auction site to get top dollar for the permit. During the auction, hunters added donations of 25 hours of Super Cub time and a custom rifle. That helped push the selling price up to \$200,000. After deducting administrative costs and the 10 percent that FNAWS may choose to keep, the department will have nearly \$160,000 for wildlife conservation projects.

A hunter from Phoenix named Jerry purchased the permit. Jerry has a long history of supporting wildlife conservation. To date he has paid more than \$1.4 million to FNAWS alone for seven sheep permits. Although he is buying the opportunity to hunt one sheep, anyone who spends this much money is in reality making donations to promote wildlife conservation. He could obviously get a lot more

hunting for his money than just seven chances to hunt sheep.

And, Jerry is only getting an opportunity to hunt Alaska sheep—just like thousands of other hunters this fall. He may choose any hunting area in the state that has an open season for nonresidents, but he has to specify which area before he goes hunting. He has to use a legal weapon for that area. He must also follow all other regulations that apply to non-resident hunters. Basically, all his permit did was to guarantee him a permit to hunt in areas he may have drawn anyway if he paid his five bucks and applied. His permit does not take away from the established number of permits in any area. It is an extra permit for the one area he chooses.

The Alaska chapter of FNAWS has long been a financial supporter of sheep projects in Alaska. Along with other state chapters and the national organization, total FNAWS funding for sheep projects in Alaska and other parts of North America as of May, 1995 approached \$11 million. The money FNAWS retains from the sale of this permit will most likely be used to fund even more projects which benefit sheep.

FNAWS and the Division of Wildlife Conservation have established a working group consisting of Cam Rader and Billy Dunbar from Alaska FNAWS and the division's Southcentral and Interior Regional Research Coordinators, Chuck Schwartz and Ken Whitten respectively. This board will cooperatively identify sheep projects to fund with the state's share of the auction proceeds.

This type of cooperation between hunting/conservation groups and ADF&G can only benefit our wildlife. Hunters have historically paid the lion's share of wildlife conservation funding and will continue to do so if given reasonable opportunities. Department employees and FNAWS members who worked on this project deserve the congratulations of Alaska hunters. This project has helped bridge the gap that I have observed recently between hunters and ADF&G. State wildlife agencies and hunters need each other as much as wildlife needs both of them.

Tony Russ is a lifelong Alaskan, a dedicated sheep hunter and member of Alaska FNAWS. He is the author of the book Sheep Hunting in Alaska, and the editor of The Ram, the quarterly publication of FNAWS in Alaska. For information about Alaska FNAWS, contact the group at PO Box 240065, Anchorage, AK 99524-0065. Tel. (907) 248-9010. E-mail: fnawsak@alaska.net Their URL is <http://www.alaska.net/~fnawsak>

From the Director

Continued from page 2

productivity of the moose population. The Alaska Board of Game affirmed their commitment to this approach by voting at its March meeting to continue the current management plan for this area. We will continue the policy set by the board to reduce the grizzly bear population in order to decrease moose calf mortality. We will closely watch both the bear and moose populations to determine if this approach is successful. We will maintain a healthy grizzly bear population in GMU, but at a lower level.

In the same vein, I want to mention that we share with the board a vision of continuing to seek expanded hunting opportunities wherever game abundance permits. At its March meeting, the Board voted to increase opportunities in a number of areas. Some of these include a winter drawing hunt for caribou in the Kenai mountains, a winter registration hunt for moose in GMU 19C, liberalized Kodiak area deer seasons or bag limits, and a new archery/muzzleloader deer hunt on the Kodiak road system. For more details, please refer to our page 3 article in this issue on what is new in the hunting regulations for the 1997/98 season.

The board also approved some important pieces of the Fortymile caribou plan. At about the same time, we received assurance from key legislators that we would be receiving funding to actually implement key parts of the plan.

Our staff has high hopes the action steps of this broadly-accepted plan will turn around years of poor caribou productivity. This coming fall and winter we will begin non-lethal wolf predation control measures and continue with other existing parts of the plan. In that connection, let me say that all of us continue to be impressed with the willingness of hunters and trappers to give up part of their traditional opportunities to make this plan move forward. Tok area staff tell me that hunters handily met the reduced caribou harvest quota of 150 animals this past season.

Finally, if our staff can help you with questions about wildlife populations or regulations as you prepare to hunt this spring, or as you plan fall hunting trips, please let us know. Our front line information staff in the regional offices continue to improve their ability to serve hunters and other wildlife users, and I know they will be pleased to help.

Dr. Wayne Regelin is the Director of the Division of Wildlife Conservation.

Alaska Hunter Education Instructors Look To The Future

by Barry Whitehill

"Education is the key to all aspects of the hunt," said Shane Mahoney, the passionate guest speaker from Newfoundland; himself a biologist and a hunter. "Deep thinking and sharing ideas have improved mankind. Hunters should not be left out of this realm."

The group he was addressing in Anchorage this past February haven't been left out of this task. He was speaking to volunteer hunter education instructors from all across Alaska as they were about to start an intense day-long process of assisting the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in developing a plan for the future of Alaska hunter education.

Since 1973 ADF&G's hunter education program has certified over 21,000 students in bowhunting and basic hunter education. Averaging over 16 hours per class, the goal is to create safe, knowledgeable and ethical hunters. The Alaska basic hunter education course includes subjects like ethics and responsibilities, firearms safety, bowhunting, wildlife management, survival, game care, hunt planning, and wildlife law. The men and women of the volunteer instructor force are critical to the program's success.

The opportunity for continued learning is what attracts many of these instructors to the program. "Education is not a one way street, it works both ways." Mahoney said. Instructor education is also facilitated by ADF&G. At the Anchorage workshop, in addition to Shane, hunter education consultant Bill Christie from Virginia, shared insights on how to teach the modern student. National Bowhunter Education Foundation President Tim Poole from Montana addressed bowhunting issues.

Recognizing the important role of volunteer instructors, ADF&G challenged the 130 assembled instructors in

Anchorage to identify issues that need to be addressed over the next five years. Working from small groups, the instructors brainstormed ideas for strengthening hunter education in Alaska. The following issues topped the instructors' concerns:

1. Create a mandatory/incentive based hunter education program for Alaska;
2. Increase village hunter education and integration of rural/cultural knowledge;
3. Develop Alaska-specific curriculum material;
4. Expand public relations for hunter education;
5. Improve hunter education instructional materials and training aids; and
6. Broaden volunteer hunter education instructor incentives and recognition.

The task now will be to incorporate this into a strategy for hunter education that encompasses all of Alaska. If done correctly it will create a showcase program for training future generations of hunters. This effort will also do more than train hunters. "Education brings knowledge, knowledge brings tolerance." whispered Shane to the intently listening audience.

Barry Whitehill is a volunteer hunter education instructor, a board member and past president of the Alaska Volunteer Hunter Education Instructor's Association. The AVHEIA can be reached at 142 Frog Pond Circle, Fairbanks, Alaska 99712 or by e-mail: 74124.440@compuserve.com Information about the association can also be obtained at <http://www.outdoorsdirectory.com/akpages/avheia/> on the world wide web.

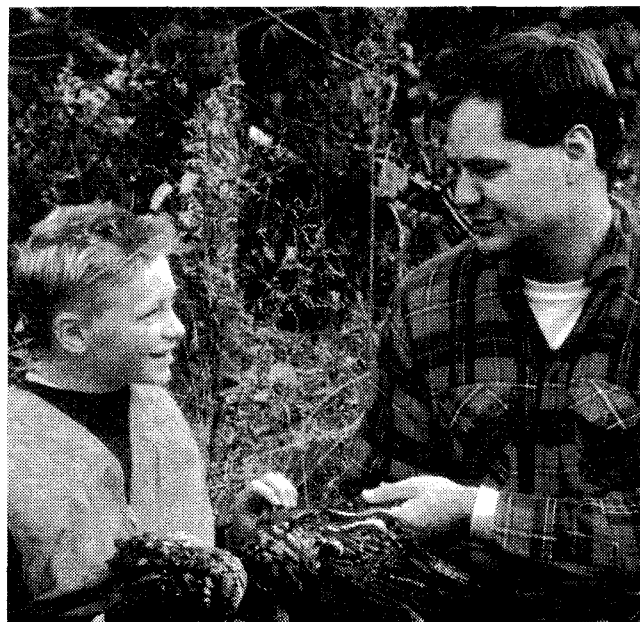
Interested in taking a hunter education course or in becoming a hunter education instructor in Alaska?
Call 1-800-478-4868.

Newsbreaks Cont'd.

testimony from biologists, guides, air taxi operators, Fish & Wildlife Protection officers, and others, the board decided to require hunters to bring out rib and leg bones with the meat attached beginning this fall. The regulation covers Game Management Units 9b, 17, and 19b, and a portion of 19a. A similar regulation has been in effect in the Koyukuk River Controlled Use area for several years, and has apparently eased problems noted there. Requiring meat to remain on the bone makes successful hunters more accountable for the amount of meat in their possession. "It takes a good outdoorsman to take care of large quantities of meat a long way from the road system," Van Daele said, "but it's an ethical responsibility for every hunter."

ADF&G staff are proposing increased protection for important wildlife habitats in a 50-plus square mile area immediately downstream from Skilak lake on the Kenai Peninsula. Area wildlife biologist Ted Spraker and Research Coordinator Dr. Chuck Schwartz say the proposed critical habitat area hosts a portion of the state's second largest winter concentration of bald eagles. Trumpeter swans stage here spring and fall, and up to half the Kenai River's red salmon spawn in the area. It is also important habitat for brown and black bears, wolves, and other wildlife. Schwartz says more than one out of ten of the brown bears believed to inhabit the Kenai have been observed here on a single day, as it is an important fall feeding area. Part of the value of the area comes from the retained warmth of Skilak Lake waters in the fall and early winter. This provides important open water habitats for waterfowl, furbearers, and late spawning salmon. If approved by the Alaska legislature, it would encompass an area south of the Sterling Highway and Skilak Lake Road on both sides of the Kenai River from the outlet of Skilak Lake to Mile 41, including the lower Killey River. The critical habitat designation applies only to state lands. It would not effect activities on private land. Biologists expect no changes in hunting or fishing regulations to result, only a restriction on development detrimental to wildlife on protected state lands.

Hunter education: it's not just for kids. Adults can learn valuable skills as well.



For more information, call your local
ADF&G Wildlife Conservation office or:

(907) 459-7305 Fairbanks
(907) 267-2347 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 receive an Alaska Hunter Education card which is accepted in other states and provinces that require hunter education training.

RANDALL HENDERSON KACYON ♦ SE

Randy Kacyon: An Obituary

Randall "Randy" Henderson Kacyon, a 40 year old Bethel resident died Saturday, November 30, 1996 in a plane crash near Marshall while on a moose survey — a low altitude flight done numerous time. The plane apparently took a nose-dive into a stand of trees. Randy was a wildlife biologist for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Randy was born Sept. 4, 1956, to Henderson and Janet Kacyon in Berwick, Pennsylvania where he graduated from high school. While in high school he was an avid and outstanding athlete competing in Cross Country Track & Field.

He met Georgina Karras of Sitka, while both were attending Sheldon Jackson College. He received the Gold Shield Award for outstanding Christian citizenship. Randy married Georgina Elaine Karras on September 3, 1977, in Sitka.

He began working for Fish and Game part-time in 1976, and spent summers working with the commercial fisheries. A Sitka Fish & Game co-worker called him a "dedicated employee, interested in his work."

Mr. Kacyon received an Associate of Science degree from S.J.C. and, in 1980, a bachelor's degree in wildlife management from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He also attended the University of Wyoming for one year, working on a master's degree.

In 1989 he was named Fish & Game wildlife biologist For the Bethel area. He was credited with promoting cooperative management and research efforts between government and Native groups. His work

helped establish the Kilbuck caribou management plan in which Natives and state and federal agencies share management responsibility.

He loved the outdoors and going trapping, hunting, fishing and camping with family and friends. He also enjoyed bowling and softball. He was always stopping to talk and visit with people.

He enjoyed being with his family and earlier this year attended a family reunion in Pennsylvania in which more than 100 family members gathered.

A relative stated, he was a very outgoing person who touched many lives and excelled in all that he did.

He recently received his certification to be a licensed private pilot and loved to fly. He was a member of the Bethel Lions Club, and was active in youth softball, often volunteering as a coach.

He headed the Nyak Camp to interest young people in the field of science, and worked with the Cub Scouts several years ago.

He was given the Tlingit name "Geetwein" by his wife's grand-

In Memory of Randy Kacyon

by John Coady, Western & Arctic Region Supervisor, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

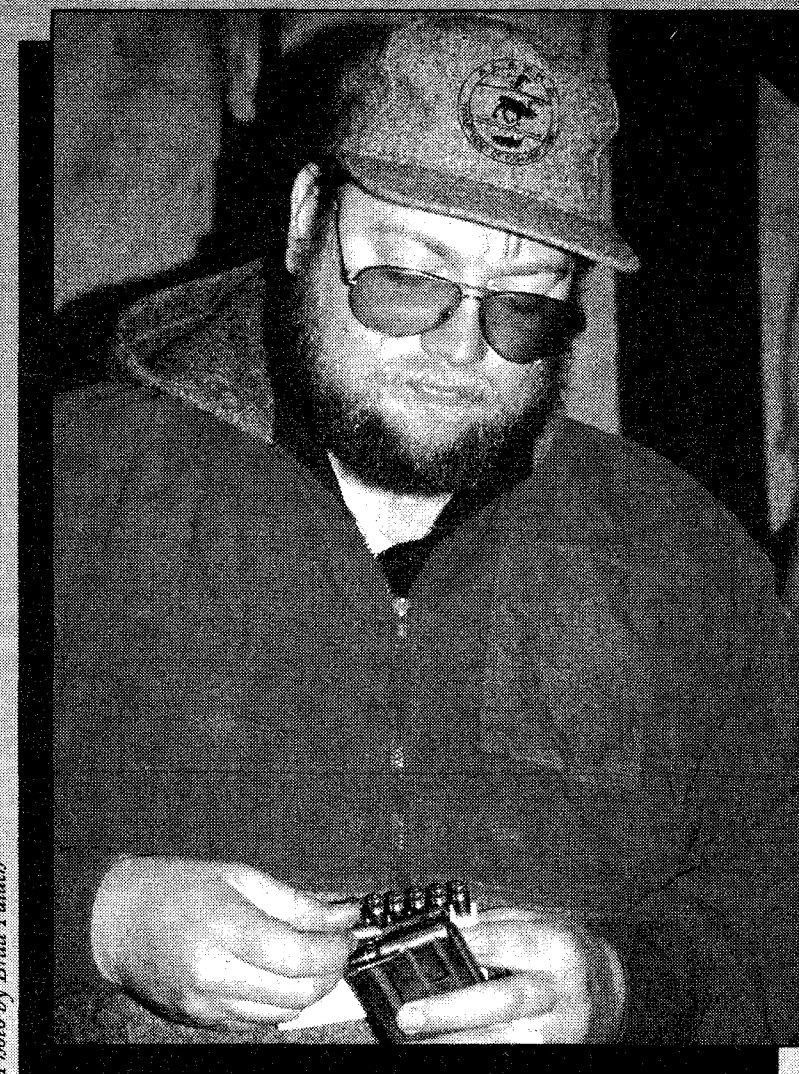


Photo by Brad Palach

A tragic aircraft accident killed Randy Kacyon and his pilot on 30 November 1996 while conducting a moose survey near Devil's Elbow when the Cessna 441Q crashed.

Randy began his career with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in 1976 as a Wildlife Biologist in the Sport Fish Division in Sitka. He worked on the Fisheries Rehabilitation project in 1984 before beginning work in the Wildlife Division in 1986. While working in the Wildlife Division on the Yukon-Kuskokwim National employment for the Wildlife Division in Bethel, and was hired as a Wildlife Biologist in Bethel in 1990.

Randy made many contributions to the management on the Yukon-Kuskokwim National Wildlife Refuge. He was particularly successful in developing cooperative management programs to manage the region. He was active in the (Qauiinguut) Caribou Herd Plan. That Plan, which resulted in an agreement between large hunters and state and federal agencies, fostered an enduring relationship that resulted in an agreement to manage the Herd. Randy was also

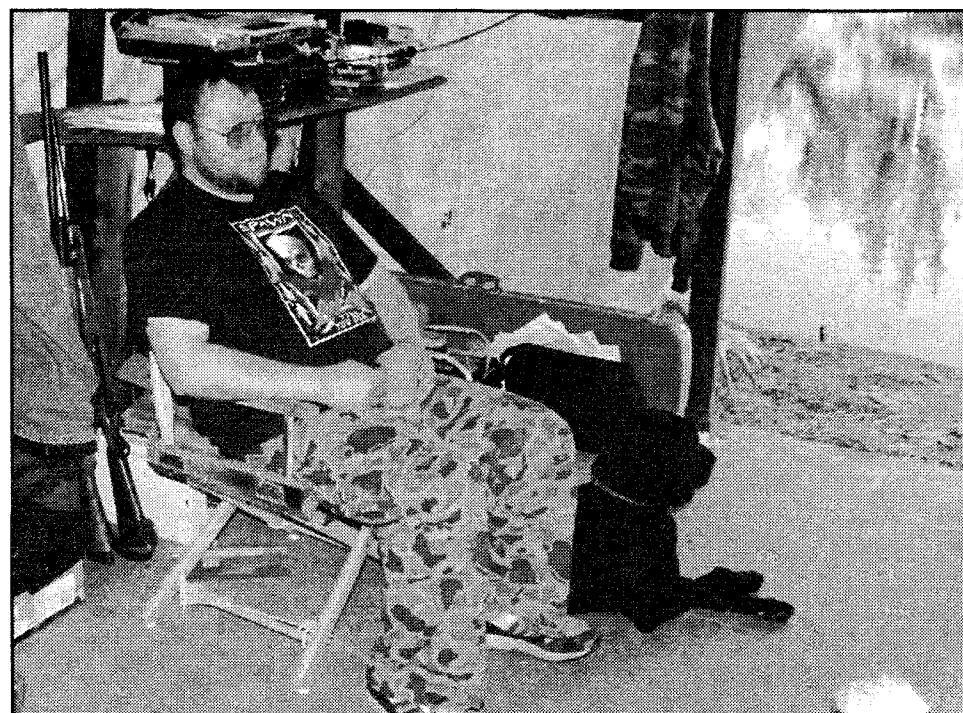
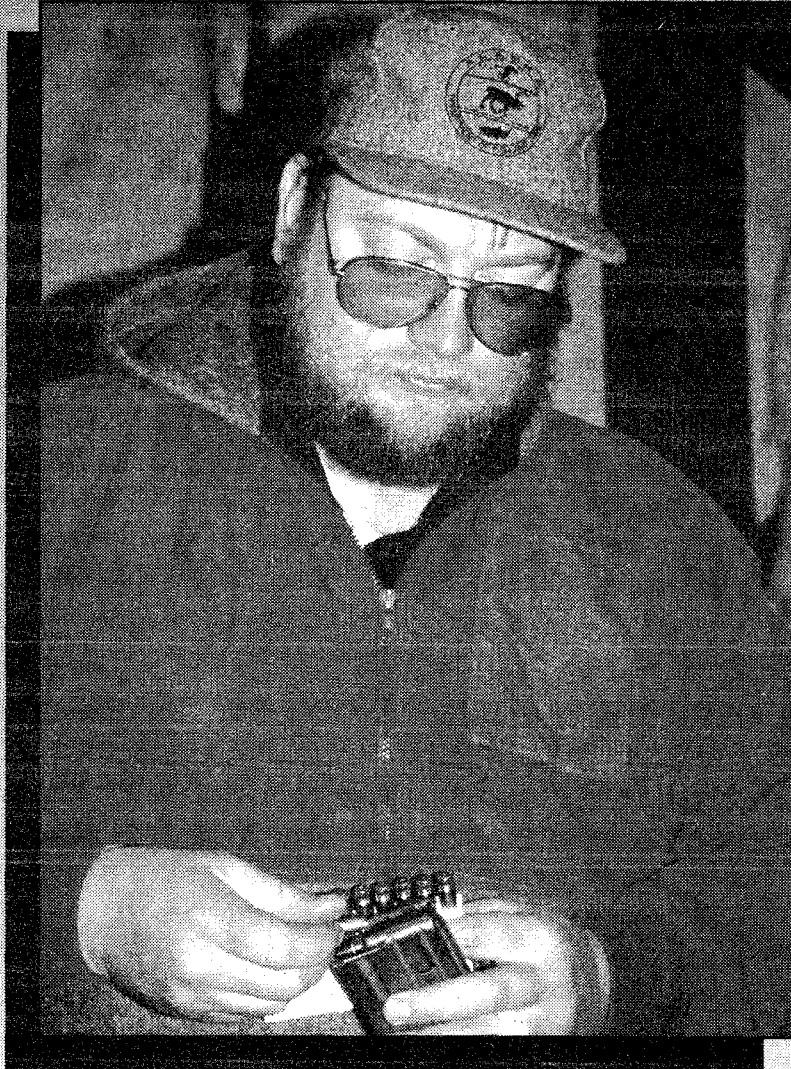


Photo by Brad Palach

In Memory of Randy Kacyon

by John Coady, Western & Arctic Region Supervisor, Alaska Department of Fish and Game



A tragic aircraft accident claimed the life of Randall Kacyon and his pilot on 30 November 1996. Randy was conducting a moose survey on the lower Yukon River near Devil's Elbow when the Cessna 185 in which he was riding crashed.

Randy began his career with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in 1976 as a temporary employee with the Sport Fish Division in Sitka. He worked with the former Fisheries Rehabilitation and Enhancement Division in 1984 before beginning with the Commercial Fisheries Division in 1986. While working for Commercial Fisheries on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, he began seasonal employment for the Wildlife Conservation Division in Bethel, and was hired as Area Wildlife Biologist in Bethel in 1990.

Randy made many enduring contributions to wildlife management on the Yukon-Kuskokwim River Delta. He was particularly successful in developing several cooperative programs to manage wildlife populations in the region. He was active in developing the Kilbuck (Qauiinguut) Caribou Herd Cooperative Management Plan. That Plan, which resulted in meetings between village hunters and state and federal biologists over a 2 year period, fostered an enduring spirit of cooperation, and resulted in an agreement recommending how to manage the Herd. Randy was also instrumental in developing an

innovative brown bear management area in western Alaska, and was working on several other cooperative plans to manage moose, brown bears, and muskox at the time of his death.

Randy was a fine biologist who loved his job. He was also a sensitive man who truly enjoyed people. Commissioner Frank Rue noted that during their brief opportunities to visit, it was immediately clear that "Randy was a caring person-one who cared deeply for the resources and for the people of the region". Randy's ready smile and respect for others won him many friends in villages throughout Western Alaska and elsewhere in the State. Randy also worked very closely with professional staff in other organizations. In particular, he developed an exceptional working relationship with federal biologists with the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta National Wildlife Refuge in Bethel, and was engaged in numerous cooperative projects with them.

Randy's death is a profound personal loss to his colleagues and friends in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Those of us who worked closely with Randy in Western and Northern Alaska are deeply saddened by the loss of this dedicated professional and dear friend. Our heart goes out to his widow, Georgina, and their son, Jeremiah.

SEPTEMBER 4, 1956 - NOVEMBER 30, 1996

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with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as a temporary employee with the Wildlife Conservation Division in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. He worked with the former and Enhancement Division in the Commercial Fisheries Division. While working for Commercial Fisheries in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, he began sea-sonal work with the Wildlife Conservation Division as Area Wildlife Biologist in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.

During his time with the Wildlife Conservation Division, he made many contributions to wildlife management in the Yukon-Kuskokwim River Delta. He was instrumental in developing several cooperative projects with federal biologists to manage wildlife populations in the region. He was also instrumental in developing the Kilbuck River Cooperative Management Plan, which resulted in meetings between village and federal biologists over a 2 year period. His spirit of cooperation, and his recommendations on how to manage wildlife are instrumental in developing an

innovative brown bear management area in western Alaska, and was working on several other cooperative plans to manage moose, brown bears, and muskox at the time of his death.

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State Workers Give Generously in Memory of State Biologist

Friends and coworkers of wildlife biologist Randall Kacyon, who was killed in a Thanksgiving weekend plane crash, have contributed approximately \$40,000 to an education trust for Kacyon's 16-year old son.

After taxes, a net payment of \$36,665.32 was made to Kacyon's widow for the Jeremiah Kacyon Education Trust. In addition, non-state workers contributed cash donations to the trust, as well as to the Randall Kacyon Natural Science Scholarship fund.

"I'm very proud of our support, and thank each of you for your generosity," wrote John Coady, Region V Supervisor for Division of Wildlife Conservation, in a recent memorandum to staff.

Kacyon and a pilot were killed November 30, 1996 while conducting a moose survey on the lower Yukon River when the Cessna 185 in which they were riding crashed. The cause of the accident is still under investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board.

Kacyon worked for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for 20 years, and served as wildlife Area Biologist in Bethel since 1990. He was respected throughout the region for his many enduring contributions to wildlife management and for fostering a spirit of cooperation between local residents, village hunters, and state and federal biologists.

Jeremiah Kacyon attends high school in Anchorage. He plans to attend the University of Washington.

father, Mark Jacobs, Sr.

"He cared deeply for each member of the family and will be greatly missed by family, friends and those he worked with and for," a relative said.

Survivors include his wife, Georgina Kacyon and his 15 year old son, Jeremiah; both of Bethel, and his parents, Henderson and Janet Chaconne of Berwick, PA; a sister and brother-in-law Brenda and Dan Micgovern of Denver, PA. Fraternal grandmother, Gertrude Kacyon of Berwick and maternal grandmother Fred Fenslemaker of Orangeview as well as numerous aunts, uncles and cousins in Pennsylvania.

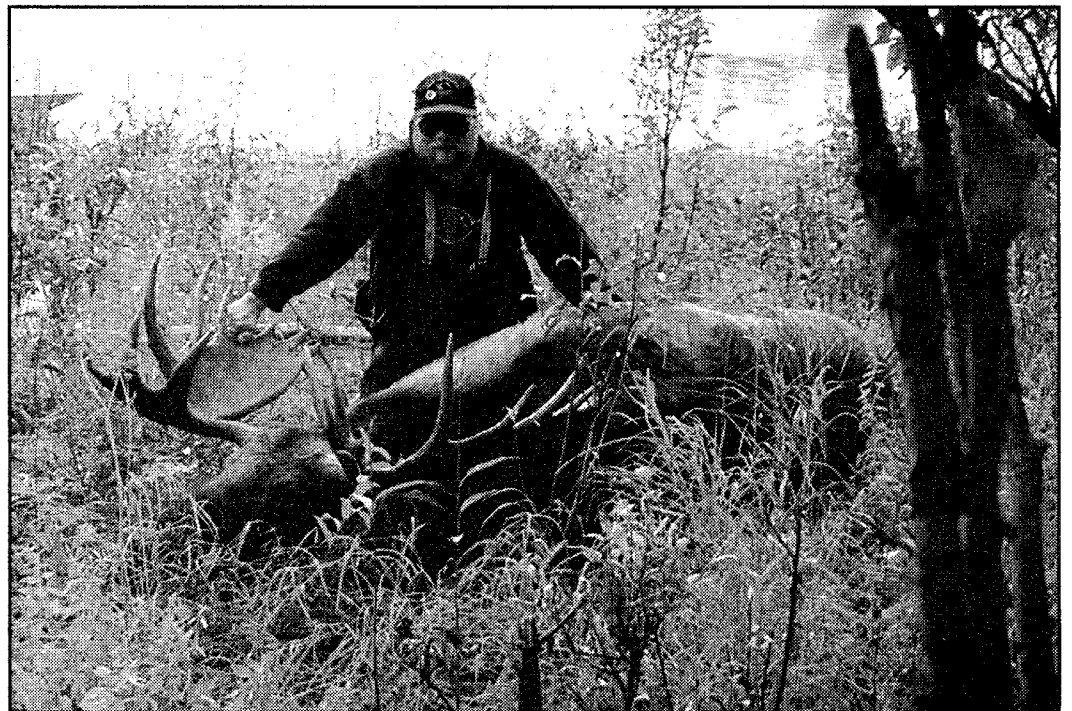


Photo by Brad Palach

New Black Bear Baiting Regulations Designed to Preserve a Hunting Opportunity

by Tony Monzingo

By now you have probably heard the story: effective this spring, new hunting regulations require you to have some education under your belt before baiting in several popular black bear hunting areas.

Briefly, the new regulation requires bait hunters in the Kenai, Mat/Su and Fairbanks areas to complete an ADF&G bear baiting clinic before obtaining a bait permit. The Alaska Board of Game passed this new regulation to make certain that bait hunters were aware of some of the ethical issues, regulations, and conservation principles surrounding this hunting practice. And that's just what our clinics provide—plus a little extra on techniques that we think you will enjoy and find useful.

In Fairbanks over 900 potential black bear hunters registered to attend bear baiting clinics. In the Anchorage and the Kenai Peninsula areas over 800 hunters signed up. If the vast majority of hunters who attend a bear baiting clinic actually register a bait station, these numbers represent a marked increase in the number of Alaska black bear bait hunters.

Increased regulation of black bear baiting has a lengthy history in Alaska. Before 1984, the regulations only provided that a person must have a permit to bait bears. Permits were freely issued from ADF&G offices and the permits placed no restrictions on location of bait stations, types of bait used, or site cleanup after the season ended.

Increased regulation began in 1984 when the Board of Game prohibited bait stations within one-quarter mile of a publicly maintained road or trail, or within one mile of a house or permanent dwelling. Then, in 1987, the Board prohibited hunters from receiving money or bartering for use of a bait station

unless they were licensed guides. That same year the Board limited black bear baiting in Game Management Unit 14C (the Anchorage area) to certain drainages.

The following year, 1988, saw more restrictions. The Board limited the number of bait stations per hunter to two, shortened the season length, and eliminated bear baiting in GMU 14C. Regulations implemented in 1992 provided that no one could take black bear over bait in GMU's 14, 15, or 16 with bow and arrow unless the hunter successfully completed an approved bowhunting course which included a shooting skills test. No one under the age of 16 was allowed to register a bait station.

Last year, the Board required baiters to remove litter and equipment from the bait station site at the end of the hunting season, to salvage the shoulder, ham, and backstrap meat from spring bear, and to attend a bear baiting clinic. Because of the timing of the Board meeting, the new regulations did not effect hunters until this spring.

I have gone through this review of the regulatory history surrounding bear baiting because it parallels rising ethical and public safety concerns about bear baiting. Alaska hunters and Board of Game members have watched bear baiting become illegal in Washington and Oregon as a result of ballot initiatives. Black bear hunting is prohibited in California. Hunters in other western states have fought off ballot initiative attempts to end bear baiting, and the battle continues.

If that's a little tough to chew, there is some good news. Results from numerous surveys of public attitudes toward hunting and hunters reveal that approximately 80% of the non-hunting public supports

hunting, especially for meat. We have to keep in mind, however, that these surveys reveal that three-fourths of the non-hunting public believe that most hunters practice unethical or illegal behavior in the field.

This information, combined with legitimate concerns for public safety in populated areas, and the trend of using ballot initiatives to deny hunting opportunities demanded a bold move to hold the line. The Alaska Board of Game and ADF&G have taken what we believe will be a proactive step to positively affect public attitudes and preserve black bear baiting opportunity.

This proactive step is the implementation of the bear baiting clinic requirement. Department-sponsored bear bait clinics will increase the knowledge of hunters about current bear baiting techniques and regulations. Perhaps most importantly, each clinic's strong ethical component is designed to make hunters aware that the non-hunting public's concerns about ethics, illegal behavior, and public safety must be addressed.

Hunter behavior concerns raised by the public can be addressed by positive hunter behavior in the field. I believe that we hunters remain largely in control of our own fate through strong educational programs, respect for the resource, respect for other recreational users of public lands, and exemplary behavior afield.

Tony Monzingo is the coordinator of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's Hunter Services program. Tony's family homesteaded north of Anchorage in the 1950's, and he maintained a strong interest in the state even while working outside of Alaska earlier in his career. He has a strong background in the shooting sports and education. Tony is a dedicated and articulate hunting advocate, and has approached this new job with enthusiasm.

CARING FOR YOUR GAME MEAT

Memorize these simple field care rules for best table quality from your harvest:

1. Keep it CLEAN

Clean meat is free of abdominal or scent gland contamination - no "guts," urine or feces; has minimal dirt, vegetation or animal hair; and is free of insect eggs

2. Keep it COOL

Game meat should be cooled rapidly as soon after the kill as possible and kept cool. Keep meat out of the sun. Avoid plastic bags.

3. Keep it DRY

Once dried initially, meat must be kept dry. Moisture promotes growth of microorganisms that reduce meat quality.

Spring and early fall hunts add complexity to meat care. Bring supplies to combat insects and heat.

Hunters with more good quality meat than they want for themselves can donate to programs in Anchorage and Fairbanks (see article on page 14 of this issue).

Becoming an Outdoors-Woman™ Coming to Southeast Alaska this Summer

Becoming an Outdoors-Woman is an outdoor skills clinic for women 18 or older. The objective is to provide an atmosphere where women can have fun learning skills that will help them enjoy the outdoor environment. The program will include courses in outdoor survival, firearms safety, sport fishing, fly fishing, boating safety, outdoor cooking, backpacking, hunting, and lots more.

Participants will be on site Friday through Sunday. Each will select four courses. All classes will include plenty of hands-on training. Special activities are planned for each evening. Tuition is \$200 and includes overnight lodging and meals.

This workshop is for you if you have never tried these activities but have wanted to, are a beginner who hopes to gain new skills, or are experienced but want to improve your skills. If you are looking for the camaraderie of like-minded people you will find it at a BOW workshop.

A Becoming An Outdoors-Woman workshop will be held in Juneau, on July 11, 12 and 13 at the University of Alaska Southeast campus. For more information contact Anne Post in Juneau at (907) 465-4327, or Cathie Harms in Fairbanks at (907) 459-7231.

ADF&G Sponsors Third "Becoming An Outdoors-Woman™" Program

More than 70 women attended the Becoming An Outdoors-Woman Program held in early April, 1997 at Chena Hot Springs. This was the first winter program of the on-going series.

Being outdoors in Alaska need not end with the first snow flurries in September or October. The idea of this winter program was to give women basic hunting, fishing and outdoor skills especially relevant to enjoying Alaska's outdoors during the snow months. If the enthusiasm of the participants was any gauge, the idea was a success!

As always at the Outdoors-Woman programs, participants could select from a menu of classes so as to pursue their own individual interests. Classes at this winter program included such foundation skills as safe firearms handling, ice fishing, map and compass and cross-country skiing. There were other specialty classes including skin and pelt care, fur sewing, making firewood, trapping basics, and more.

The Becoming An Outdoors-Woman program series has been well received across the continent, with nearly all state fish and game agencies now sponsoring programs in their states. The program was the brainchild of a University of Wisconsin professor Christine Thomas who found that women were not entering outdoor activities like fishing and hunting because they had not received good, early instruction. Thomas designed a pilot program in Wisconsin in 1990 and since that first program, it has rapidly caught on around the country.

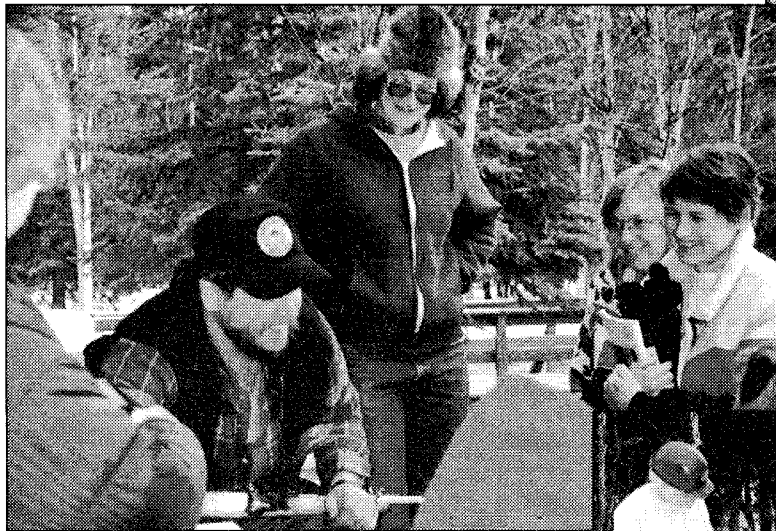
The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is sponsoring a continuing series of these programs. The first was held at Chena Hot Springs Resort in 1995 and the second at a camp east of Palmer in 1996. The next Alaska program will be held in Juneau on July 11-13. For information about this program, call Anne Post at ADF&G in Juneau at (907) 465-4327. The programs usually fill up early, so potential participants should call as quickly as possible. Additional information about this program can be found in an article in this issue of the Alaska Hunting Bulletin.

Other Outdoors-Woman programs are being planned for Alaska. For general program information, call Alaska coordinator Cathie Harms at ADF&G in Fairbanks at (907) 459-7231.

Firearms safety is a pre-requisite class for many students who want to pursue shooting skills at Becoming an Outdoors-Woman programs. Here Jessica Nava Baker demonstrates the mechanisms and safe handling techniques of handguns.
Photo by Joe Nava



Alaska Trappers Association's Mark Knapp demonstrates trapping basics—in this case, skinning skills.



'Skinning and Pelt Care' class members learn the basics with snowshoe hares.



'Making Firewood' taught by Marlene Blomberg of Palmer was another popular outdoor skills foundation class. Students got hands on training and safety instruction.

"Becoming An Outdoors-Woman"

Photos by Sharon McLeod-Everette



Not all classes dealt with hunting or fishing. Some, like the cross-country skiing class taught by Ev Weinrich of Beaver Sports demonstrated foundational outdoors skills.



Each participant in the 'Fur and Skin Sewing' class learned to cut out a pattern from elk hide or rabbit fur to sew during the workshop. This class was taught by Athabascan native elder Doris Ward of Fort Yukon and Bob Hunter of ADF&G.

Where to Find Information on Alaska Hunting

PRIVATE SOURCES

The following businesses provide information about hunting in Alaska, either in their publications or on a consulting basis. Additions or corrections to this information are welcome. Contact Hunter Services Program, ADF&G/Wildlife Conservation, 333 Raspberry Rd, Anchorage, AK 99518-1599.

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) 455-8000.

Alaska Outdoors: Publishes *Alaska Outdoors* magazine and books on Alaska outdoor activities. Free catalog. 7617 Highlander, Anchorage, AK 99518. Phone (907) 349-2424. E-mail alaskaod@alaska.net

Fishing and Hunting News-Alaska: Publishes twice-monthly magazine with information about Alaska hunting and fishing opportunities and results. PO Box 19000, Seattle, WA 98109. Phone (800) 488-2827.

DeLorme Mapping: Sells the *Alaska Atlas & Gazetteer*, a large-format book of topographic maps and other information covering the entire state. PO Box 298, Freeport, ME 04032. Phone (800) 227-1656 X7000

Outdoors America Communications: Publishes the 144 page *Outdoors Alaska Directory of Hunting and Fishing* and www.outdoorsdirectory.com a world wide website with Alaska fishing and hunting information. PO Box 609-HB, Delta Junction, AK 99737-0609. Phone (800) 561-5880. E-mail: akhb@outdoorsdirectory.com

OTHER STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES

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.

Anchorage office
605 W 4th Ave Ste 105
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 271-2737

Fairbanks office
250 Cushman Street
Fairbanks, AK 99701
(907) 456-0527

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

Tok office
PO Box 359
Tok, AK 99780
(907) 883-5667

FEDERAL AGENCIES

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 in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Ketchikan or Tok.

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, contact:

US Fish and Wildlife Service
1011 E. Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99503
Tel. (907) 786-3487
FAX (907) 786-3495

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, 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) 586-8806
FAX (907) 586-7892

Chugach National Forest (Prince William Sound, eastern Kenai)
3301 C. Street Suite 300
Anchorage, AK 99503
Tel. (907) 271-2500
FAX (907) 271-3992

Tongass National Forest (SE AK):
Chatham Area (northern panhandle)
204 Siganaka Way
Sitka, AK 99835
Tel. (907) 747-6671
FAX (907) 747-4331

Stikine Area (central panhandle)
PO Box 309
Petersburg, AK 99833
Tel. (907) 772-3841
FAX (907) 772-3314

Ketchikan Area (southern panhandle)
Federal Building
Ketchikan, AK 99901
Tel. (907) 225-3101

FAX (907) 225-5626

Bureau of Land Management
The BLM manages most federal lands not administered by NPS, USFWS, and USFS — some 87 million acres. 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 (912)
222 W 7th #13
Anchorage, AK 99513
Tel. (907) 271-5555
FAX (907) 272-3430

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 can provide fast service over the counter or by mail or telephone for people out of state:

US Geological Survey
Earth Science
Information Center
4230 University Drive,
Room 101
Anchorage, AK 99508-4664
Tel. (907) 786-7011
FAX (907) 786-7050

NOTE: We intend to publish this information in future editions. Please forward your suggestions for additional Alaska hunting information resources to Editor, Alaska Hunting Bulletin, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, PO Box 25526, Juneau, AK 99802-5526 or e-mail: marthak@fishgame.state.ak.us

1997/98 Alaska Hunting Regulations: What's New

Continued from page 3

dates in GMUs 6D, 7, 11, 13, 14, 15, and 16 to 10 per day with 20 in possession with a closing date of March 31.

WATERFOWL

- * Prohibited waterfowl hunting with firearms on Finger Lake in GMU 14A.
- * Expanded the portion of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge open to hunting and allowed annual registration to be done by mail.

LYNX

- * Reopened the hunting season on the Kenai Peninsula, Nov. 10-Jan. 31.

RED FOX

- * Reopened the hunting season in GMU 14, Sept. 1-Feb. 15.

HUNTER EDUCATION

- * Effective Aug. 1, 2000, anyone born after Jan. 1, 1984, must have attended a hunter education course before hunting in GMUs 7, 14 and 15.

Keeping Track of Alaska Legislation Important to Hunters

The Alaska legislature annually considers an array of legislation of interest to hunters. In most cases, the administration takes a position on these bills and communicates its reasoning to legislators.

With Internet technology, it is now possible to easily obtain information about bills under consideration, including the Department of Fish and Game's position on them.

A computer system used by the Alaska Legislative Affairs Agency allows review of state statutes and tracking of individual bills and related information. World wide web users can find this information at <http://www.legis.state.ak.us/> ADF&G staff provide information on agency positions on these bills and links to other "hot issues" at <http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/FISH.GAME/geninfo/hot/hotissue.htm>

General information about Alaska wildlife and hunting can be found at <http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/FISH.GAME/wildlife/wildmain.htm>

Juneau ADF&G staff in Juneau have been tasked with frequently updating the information contained on the Department of Fish and

Game's web site, so if you haven't checked it recently, it may be worth another visit.



Alaska Hunting Clinic Calendar for Summer and Fall, 1997

Date	Subject	Community/Times	Ticket Sales Begin
JULY			
11-13	Becoming an Outdoorswoman	Juneau (call 465-4265 for site and times)	
11	Small game hunting 7 PM - 9 :30 PM	Anchorage	June 20
12	Sheep & goat hunting 9 AM - 5 PM	Anchorage	June 21
18	Caribou hunting for women	Anchorage	June 27
19	Caribou & moose hunting 9 AM - 5 PM	Anchorage	June 28
19	Caribou & moose hunting	Soldotna (site and time TBA)	June 28
25	Caribou hunting for women 9 AM - 5 PM	Fairbanks	July 4
26	Caribou & moose hunting 9 AM - 5 PM	Fairbanks	July 5
AUGUST			
2	Caribou & moose hunting	Soldotna (site and time TBA)	July 12
15 -17	Waterfowl /Shotgun Skills	Juneau (call 465-4265 for site, time, and fee)	
OCTOBER			
4	Deer hunting 9 AM - 5 PM	Anchorage	September 13
11	Moose hunting (tentative)	Palmer	

Tickets are required for admission to clinics, and advance registration is required for Becoming an Outdoorswoman. Youth under 16 and seniors 60+ may obtain free tickets to the species specific hunting clinics. Tickets to species specific hunting clinics may be purchased for \$10 at Mountain View Sports Center and Barney's Sports Chalet in Anchorage, Chimo Guns in Wasilla, and at Down Under Guns in Fairbanks beginning on the dates shown. Clinic locations and times will be printed on the tickets. The information on this calendar is subject to change.

For 24 hour clinic information call (907) 267-2531 in Anchorage and (907) 459-7333 in Fairbanks.

Alaskan Hunters Fighting Hunger Kicks Off in Anchorage

by Les Palmer and David Johnson

Under a new program endorsed by the Department of Fish and Game, Anchorage area hunters with more game meat than they need can donate it to someone who will put it to good use. A similar program has been in operation in Fairbanks for a number of years.

The eventual goal of "Alaskan Hunters Fighting Hunger" is to distribute the meat of donated deer, moose and caribou among the more than 200 non-profit agencies in the Food Bank of Alaska's statewide network. The Anchorage area program began last October.

Jack Doyle, Anchorage-based Executive Director of Food Bank of Alaska, has seen this type of program succeed in other states.

"My wife and I were in Virginia about five years ago, visiting a food bank," Doyle said. "While we were there, we ran into this 'venison for the hungry' program, and we started exploring what was going on around the country. We're modeling our program on what we know is working Outside, and trying to think of how to make it fly in Alaska, knowing that it just ain't the same."

In states where deer have become a nuisance in urban areas, "venison for the hungry" programs thrive, Doyle said. But Alaska doesn't have a nuisance problem—at least not to the degree some states have with deer.

Doyle said he still has a few kinks to work out of the program, but none that a little Alaskan ingenuity and generosity won't straighten out. Air carriers, guides and outfitters have expressed a willingness to help move meat from the field to the food bank, he said.

"Some guides already have arrangements with villages in the Bush," Doyle said. "The idea is to ensure that no meat is wasted, not to take it from some area where it might be used."

Some Anchorage meat processors have agreed to process donated meat at cost. To date, funds to cover the cost of processing have been donated by the Alaska Gun Collectors Association and Chuck Doyle. Further cash donations would be welcomed, Doyle said.

Fairbanks Community Food Bank Service Executive Director Samantha Castle Kirstein says the program has been a vital part of their food collection efforts for six years.

"Hunters bring in tons of meat each year," Kirstein said. "It comes in halves, quarters, and already cut up and frozen in 2 pound packages."

Kirstein said the food bank provided food assistance to over 8,000 households in 1996, including about 25,000 people.

"The quantity of meat needed to serve these large numbers of local people is hard to come by and this Food Bank is very grateful for hunter donations to the program."

She said that many of the recipients have traditional needs or health problems and this type of meat is very appreciated.

"The tradition of sharing is alive and well among Alaskan hunters," Kirstein said.

Les Palmer is a free-lance writer and dedicated hunter education instructor. He lives on the Kenai Peninsula. David Johnson is a retired ADF&G biologist who is serving as editor for this issue of the Bulletin.

HOWTO DONATE MEAT

State game regulations require hunters transferring meat to record the transaction. The "Transfer of Possession" form included in the Alaska hunting reg-

ulations book, with one copy for the hunter and one for the recipient of the meat will work nicely.

ANCHORAGE:

Call Food Bank of Alaska, at (907) 272-3663 weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. After hours and weekends, call Jack Doyle, at (907) 344-9933.

If you're flying into Anchorage from the field, Food Bank of Alaska employees will meet you at the airport, given advance notice. Or, they will meet you at Wayne's Meat Market (405 W. Benson Blvd.) or Alaska Sausage and Seafood (2914 Arctic Blvd.).

FAIRBANKS:

If the meat needs to be processed, drop it off at Interior Alaska Fish Processors on Dale Road and mark it "Food Bank." If you have questions, call Samantha Castle Kirstein at 45-SHARE (457-4273). Hours are M-F 10-4, but staff are in and out every day. Kirstein says if you leave a message, they will return the call.

Making the Shot

Continued from page 5

easily identify the outline of a shoulder, and unfortunately, it is all too easy focus the crosshairs on the shoulder rather than the obscure body lines that mark the heart-lung area.

Commit this to memory now: a shoulder shot isn't the same as a heart/lung shot. The shoulder is one of the toughest areas to send a bullet through. It invariably sends lead and copper fragments through pounds of prime meat.

Now, obviously, we don't want to make a lung shot if we need to stop an animal quickly. Here a spine or shoulder shot is preferred. A quick-stopping shot is also wise for species such as goats, which can either stand in one place before dropping, or catapult themselves off a ledge and into an inaccessible area after being hit. In other words, it's best to sacrifice a front quarter than lose a complete animal. But, I believe we should always strive for a shot that kills quickly and minimizes damage to meat.

Other examples of where we might consider an quick-stopping shot is a moose on the edge of a lake or river, or into the shoulder of a brown bear that has spotted us. Another might be wounded game that is fast disappearing.

Here is my basic recommendation: for most ungulates, we should stick with

a heart/lung shot. It's the most deadly in the long run, and it's an easy shot that minimizes meat damage.

Here's another recommendation: we're best off sticking with heart-lung shots until recent bullet groupings at the range prove that we can place a bullet accurately in a variety of positions and at a variety of ranges. And always avoid the temptation of shooting at distances so far we have to put salt on the bullet to keep the meat from spoiling before we get there!

There are many things that go into making the optimum killing shot that are beyond the scope of this article: things such as sectional density and ballistic coefficient. In regards to accuracy, there is the issue of harmonics, as some rifles shoot some bullets more or less accurately than others. If you want to learn more about these, talk to your gunsmith or check out some handloading books.

I've personally stopped using standard factory bullets and inexpensive factory loads because test studies show these bullets often don't have the weight retention and controlled expansion under a variety of conditions as do the newer bullets. I concur with these observations based on my kills over the five years since I've seriously started to use the new-generation Trophy Bonded, A

frames, Barnes-X and Fail-Safe bullets.

I do know other hunters, however, who swear by the factory and traditional bullets. Veteran brown bear and Dall sheep guide Joe Want swears by factory loaded Remington Core-Lokt bullets, and says they perform adequately.

For blacktail deer, caribou and sheep, a Nosler would be an excellent choice for a heart-lung shot, where there is minimal bone and tissue to penetrate. Also, these bullets are less likely to exit the animal. For larger game species, such as goat, bear, and moose, the new-generation bullets are probably our best choice, especially if we might be faced with making a shoulder or quick-stopping shot.

Here are a few final suggestions:

* It's important that we know our shooting limitations. All my Alaska big game hunting is done with two rifles: a .30-'06 or a 338 custom. I'm not a believer in an arsenal of 20-plus rifles because I don't have time to stay proficient with many different firearms. But I can with two.

* Shoot a variety of loads and see which bullet performs best in your rifle and at the ranges you typically shoot game.

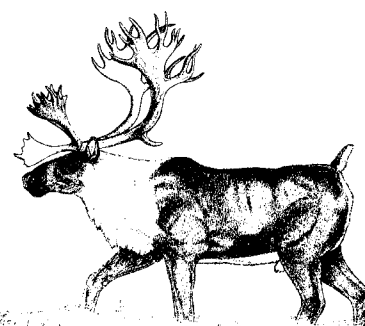
* Practice year round.

* Before season, practice trigger squeeze and the mechanics of marksmanship, which is as much a mental activity as it is physical training and coordination.

* And finally, remember that you decide the shot. The bullet always obeys your preliminary actions of sight picture, trigger squeeze and follow-through.

See you at the rifle range.

Chris Batin is editor of the Alaska Hunter and author of the 416-page, award-winning book, "Hunting in Alaska: A Comprehensive Guide." Autographed copies are available from the author. Write Alaska Hunter Publications, POB 82222, Fairbanks, AK 99708 or call 907-455-8000 or via the internet at www.alaskahunter.com



Pen and ink drawing by Michael R. Keeney

THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE



*** HONORING ***

*** HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS ***

The members of the Twentieth Alaska Legislature join all Alaskans in saluting the volunteers of the state's Hunter Education Program.

Since 1973, this dedicated corps of hunters has worked with the state Department of Fish and Game's Division of Wildlife Conservation, volunteering their time, energy and money to pass on their experience to others to send safer, more capable and more responsible hunters into the field. These volunteers are outdoor enthusiasts of all ages, backgrounds and experience who are united by their deep love for the wilderness, their respect for wildlife, and their desire to share the unique Alaskan hunting experience.

The volunteers take weeks of unpaid training and frequently spend their own money to buy, build, or repair equipment for use in their weekend-long classes. Each year volunteers donate more than 4,000 hours of classroom time, and spend additional thousands of hours in preparing and requalifying for their courses.

To date, nearly 19,000 Alaskans have won certification in basic hunting and firearm safety skills, and more than 5,600 others have been certified after taking a specialized bow hunting class. In 1995-96 alone, nearly 200 volunteer instructors presented 72 basic classes and 84 bow-hunting! classes. With class size averaging just 11 people, the program offers a high level of personal instruction that would be the envy of any private college.

While the Department of Fish and Game administers the program, this vital effort simply could not continue without its volunteers. As compensation, these teachers earn only the personal satisfaction of furthering the responsible, ethical use of Alaska's wildlife resources, and of making hunting a safer, more enjoyable pastime for all.

The Twentieth Alaska Legislature applauds the true Alaskan spirit of the Volunteer Hunter Education Program, and wishes the department, the instructors and their students continued success in their mission.

Signed: Gail Phillips
Speaker of the House

Mike Miller
President of the Senate

Con Bunde
Prime Sponsor

Cosponsors: Representatives Dyson, Kohring, Ogan, Ryan; Senators Parnell, Green, Donley, Wiken, Duncan, Lincoln, Pearce

Date: February 14, 1997

Moose Generally Faring Well

Continued from page 1

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA VALLEY: GMUs 14(A), 14(B), 16(A) and 16(B) In general, the outlook for moose in the Mat-Su area is good, said Herman Griesse, area wildlife biologist in Palmer. "We came out of a winter a year ago with basically no snow," Griesse said. "That had a good effect on calf production last spring. We saw in the fall a substantially higher number of calves in all areas we surveyed. We're expecting around 70 percent calf survival in 14(A) this winter, and that means we should have a pretty fair crop of spike-forks throughout the valley."

Last fall, most moose harvested during the general season in 14(A) 14(B) and 16(A) were spike-forks, Griesse said. Including the late-season spike-fork hunt, the reported harvest came to almost 700 total bulls, with 400 being spike-forks.

Last year's harvest in 14(A) included about 50 bulls in the under-50-inch-but-3-brow-tine category, and another 50 bulls in the 50-inch category, Griesse said. The bigger bulls were about twice the harvest of recent years.

"This coming fall will be our fifth year of spike-fork/50-inch management," Griesse said. "All our antler data suggest the majority of the five-year-olds reach 50-inches. We should see a big jump this coming year of those that are in the 50-inch category, because those bulls protected the first year of spike-fork/50 with be in their fifth year."

The moose population in Unit 14(A) is "really healthy," Griesse said. The department has a population objective of 5,550 moose, but has managed to keep the population at around 5,600 to 5,800 moose.

"In 14(B), our objective is around 2,700," Griesse said. "We're still just over 2,000, so we've got a ways to go there. It's been a number of years since we've had a mild winter in 14(B) and northern 16(A). In fact, the moose in northern 16(A) have been hit three years out of the last seven by deep snow, so they remain at a low density."

The southern portion of 16(A) is doing well. It's the same story in 16(B), with the northern part of the unit at low density and the central part doing fairly well, Griesse said.

NELCHINA/COPPER RIVER BASIN: GMUs 11 and 13 About 1,000 moose were harvested last fall in GMU 13 and about 40 in GMU 11, said area manager Bob Tobey, in Glennallen.

"We're below objectives," Tobey said. "We have had six or seven bad winters, starting in the late '80s or early '90s. Our calf recruitment hasn't started kicking in yet. In some areas we need some milder winters, and in other areas we need less predation."

Tobey said he expects the hunting prospects this fall

to be about the same as last year.

"Last fall, the bull-cow ratio overall was 19 (bulls per 100 cows), so it was up only a fraction from the last two years," he said. "Calf production was better. Going into the winter we had more calves than we've had for a while. However, in some of the most popular hunting areas, we're seeing a high harvest and lower than unit average bull:cow ratios."

INTERIOR: GMUs 20(A), 20(B), 20(C), 20(F) AND 25(C) "Unit 20(A) is one of the best areas in the state," said area biologist Bruce Dale in Fairbanks. "We've got among the highest moose densities in the Interior, about 2.3 moose per square mile over the whole 5,036 square mile area, and even higher densities in the central flats and foothills."

The most recent aerial survey of unit 20(A) indicated that it contained approximately 11,500 moose with a healthy 42 calves per 100 cows, Dale said.

"We get some good moose concentrations, especially in the center of 20(A)," he said. "We had a large harvest last fall—over 650 moose. We're expecting another good year."

Survey data is lacking in some areas, Dale said, but he noted that populations appear to be remaining at the low levels common for 20(C), 20(F), much of 20(B) and 25(C). Unit 20(F) continues to be "tough hunting," he said.

INTERIOR: GMU 20(D) North of the Tanana River, populations are "a little on the low side," said Delta Junction area biologist Steve DuBois. Bull-cow ratios tend to be a little higher because a lot of the country is inaccessible and difficult to hunt, he said. South of the Tanana, population densities are higher, calf-survival is higher, but bull-cow ratios tend to be lower because there's quite a bit of hunting pressure, he said.

Preliminary numbers for 1996 indicate hunters took 207



Moose populations are generally doing well in popular hunting areas around Alaska, according to recent ADF&G surveys. This one was taken by first-time moose hunter Marilyn Kubat, wife of guide Wayne Kubat. Photo by Alaska Remote Guide Service

moose, with 115 taken south of the Tanana River, 87 taken north of the Tanana River, and the remainder "unknowns." Some 693 hunters reported, about 50 more hunters than in 1995, DuBois said.

"In northern 20(D), the moose population is probably limited by predation," DuBois said. "In southern 20(D), I think the population is actually growing. We have a lot of available habitat, but (the population) is just taking awhile to grow. We've had several major fires and a lot of land clearing, so we're waiting for the moose to catch up."

Les Palmer is a free-lance writer and dedicated hunter education instructor. He lives in Sterling on the Kenai Peninsula.

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