

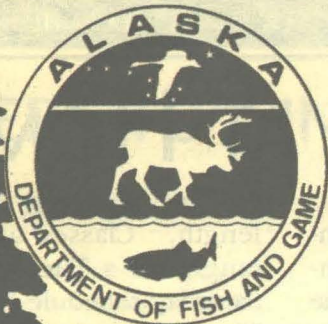


ALASKA HUNTING BULLETIN

Volume 5, No. 2

July 2000





Alaska Hunting Bulletin

A publication of the Alaska Department of Fish & Game

VOLUME 5, No. 2

JULY 2000

JAKES DAY COMES TO ALASKA

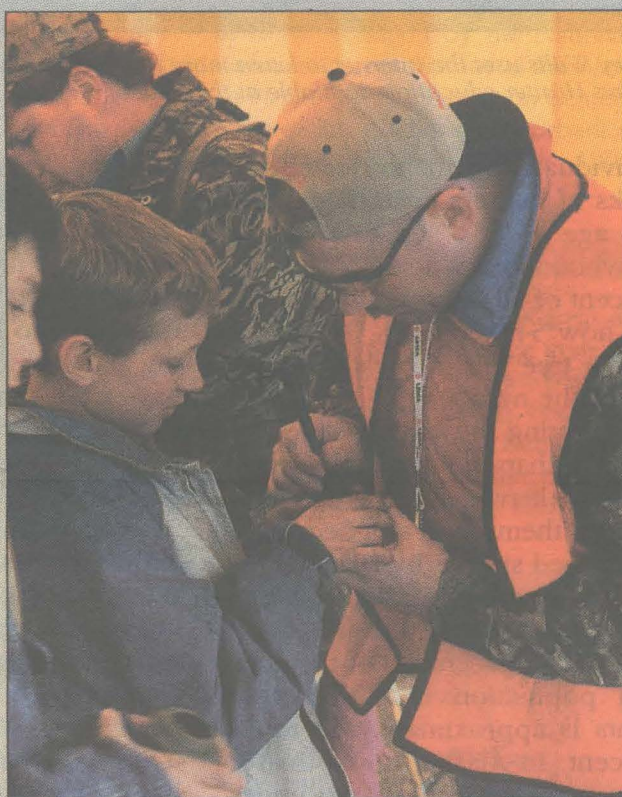
by Tony Monzingo

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

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

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

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



Tyler Renner (pictured) and David Hobbie (in back), National Wild Turkey Federation volunteers teach JAKES the finer points of using a variety of turkey calls. Here Tyler demonstrated how to produce a yelp on a slate friction call.

JAKES was a rousing success due to the cooperation of several Southcentral Alaska sportsmen's organizations including Ruffed Grouse Society and Safari Club International. Hughes and Sabrowski also obtained numerous contributions from local businesses and individuals who joined the effort as partners to introduce kids to the shooting sports.

SEE, JAKES DAY, PAGE 3

OKAY, YOU SHOT IT, NOW WHAT?

by Steven Levi

You see them every hunting season. They're called a lot of things, "city bumpkin," is the term coined by Alaska humorist Warren Sitka. It's also the most descriptive term. These are the hunters who are hell-bent for leather to shoot something but don't have the slightest idea what they are going to do with the game once they bag it. They hit the tundra with harvest tickets and hunting license, and can't wait to pepper the landscape, plugging away at anything that moves — even if it's trees bending in the wind. Then, if they're lucky enough to actually get a moose or caribou, they end up leaving half the meat on the ground and giving the other half to their wives with the words, "Well, I shot it, dear. Now it's up to you to clean it and cook it."

Unfortunately there are more of these hunters than you would imagine. From the trophy hunter who only wants the rack to the highway warrior who refuses to shoot anything further away from blacktop than eye-shot, these individuals make it

SEE, GOOD, PAGE 4

REDUCING BARRIERS

Wanted: New and Younger Hunters

By Tony Monzingo

National statistics regarding hunter recruitment are alarming. The absolute numbers of hunters nationwide slightly increased until the late 1990s but not as fast as the general population. As a result, the percentage of people in the United States who hunt has

continued to decrease. Barely 7 percent of the general population now calls themselves hunters. The decreasing percentage of hunters is likely to result in continued loss of political influence on wildlife issues and ultimately loss of hunting opportunities.

One of the chief reasons for the decline is the continued loss of young hunters. Since the late 1980s the number of hunters under the age of 16 has decreased more than 50 percent.

SEE, HOME, PAGE 2

IN THIS ISSUE OF ALASKA HUNTING BULLETIN

BEAR UPDATE PAGE 4

HUNT ALASKA PAGE 5

SUPERTRAMP PAGE 5

WOMEN IN THE OUTDOORS PAGE 8

NEAT STUFF THAT REALLY WORKS PAGE 9

HOW TO SELECT A GUIDE PAGE 16



Alaska Hunting Bulletin

The *Alaska Hunting Bulletin* is a publication of the Alaska Department of Fish & Game Hunter Information & Training Program.

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This publication released by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game was produced at a cost of \$0.17 per copy to provide information on Alaska Hunting. It was designed by Alaska Outdoors, and printed by the Anchorage Daily News Commercial Printing in Anchorage, AK. (AS44.99.140)

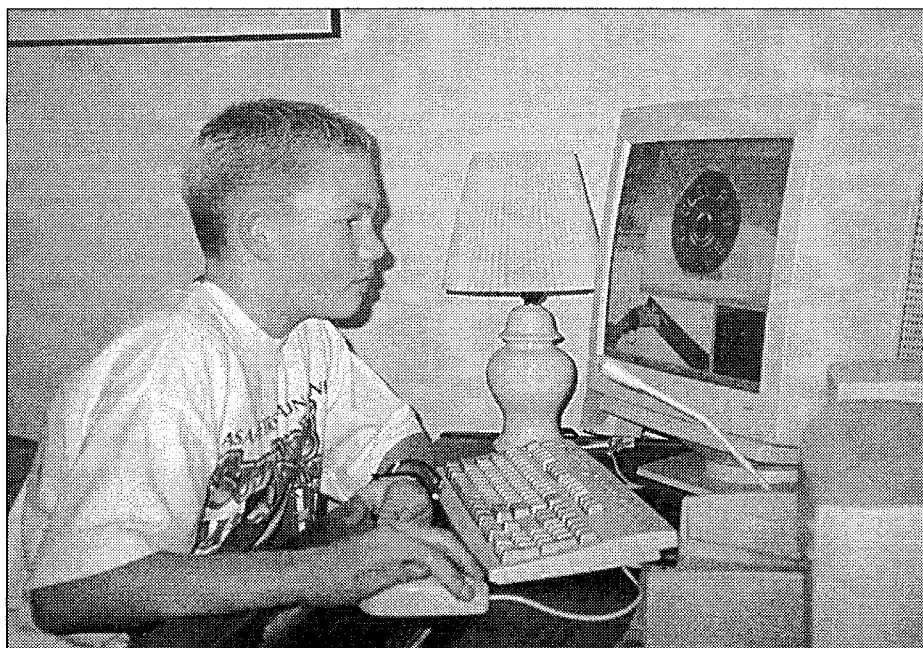
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HUNTER EDUCATION AT HOME

FROM PAGE 1

The average age of a hunter in the United States is 42 and climbing. Studies by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reveal that many

States that have implemented limited youth-only hunts are beginning to show some increase in the number of youth interested in



Casey Willis uses the internet to learn more about ammunition. The internet makes Hunter education available at the click of a mouse.

individuals begin to leave the ranks of hunters once they reach the age of 55. The first of the babyboomers, who make up 40 percent of all hunters nationwide, are now 54 years old. It doesn't take a tree full of owls to know that if the number of young people entering the ranks of hunters is lower than the number of older hunters leaving the ranks that hunters themselves will become a threatened species by 2020.

Ah, you say, Alaska is different. Unfortunately, this is just not true. The percentage of the general population in Alaska that hunts is approximately 14 to 18 percent. In Alaska, fewer than 7 percent of all hunters are under the age of 16. The "average" Alaskan hunter is a bit younger than his outside counterpart. One-third of Alaska hunters are 41 to 50 years old. In absolute numbers this means about one out of every six Alaskans hunt. This percentage keeps Alaska toward the bottom of the top ten hunting states. Wyoming, Michigan, Wisconsin, Texas, and even Pennsylvania top Alaska in the percentage of the population that hunts.

The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), representing almost all the major manufacturers of sporting firearms and accessories, is leading the charge to help recruit new hunters, retain our current hunters, and keep our hunting heritage alive for future generations. Among the key strategies identified by the NSSF to aid in recruitment are mentorship programs for hunters who have recently moved into a new state, increased access to hunting habitat, youth hunts, and providing more convenient access to basic hunter education courses.

Youth hunts usually set aside a specific area and a few days for hunters below the age of 16.

Some states sponsoring youth hunts help match prospective teen hunters with an experienced adult mentor. This makes it possible for prospective young hunters who live with non-hunting parents to try the sport and have a fair chance at early hunting success. Youth hunts are so popular that a majority of states has now adopted this recruiting tool.

You would think that any strong opposition to the youth hunts would come from anti-hunting groups opposing any recruitment of new, young hunters. Unfortunately, that thought would be wrong. The most vocal and intense opposition to youth hunts has come from adult hunters. According to both Arizona and Wyoming Game and Fish Department spokesmen, initial proposals for youth hunts were opposed by hunters who didn't want kids to "take their elk" even though Arizona set aside only 400 out of 12,000 elk permits (3 percent) and two areas for the 4-day kids' hunts.

If hunting is really not just about killing animals, then reasonable, mature, adult hunters must realize that public hunting is likely to be in real trouble unless we are unselfish enough to share opportunities with the next generation. It will not save hunting if only the children of today's hunters hunt. Active recruitment of urban young people, both male and female, is needed to preserve our heritage. Alaskan hunters would be well served to show leadership in developing opportunities for young people to experience the thrill and excitement of the hunt.

A second strategy to make hunting more accessible is to provide new hunters with a variety of ways to acquire their hunter education certificate. At the present time most basic hunter education courses are 22 to 24 hours in

length. Classes are commonly taught on a Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday schedule for two weeks. The National Shooting Sports Foundation has identified these lengthy hunter education courses as a potential barrier to those who would like to become hunters. Taking up four week-nights is too often a burden on potential hunters of school age. Most potential young hunters are also active in organized sports such as baseball, soccer, hockey, and basketball. Most of the games and practices are scheduled after school and on week-nights, conflicting with hunter education course schedules. When young people have to make a choice they often choose to participate with their friends and peers on the athletic field and too often postpone taking that important first step in becoming a safe and responsible hunter. Other youngsters simply can't afford to give up four nights of school studies and homework to attend another class that requires homework. By high school age the demands on time are even greater, with increasing social activities added to busy academic and recreational sports schedules.

Hunter education experts from across the nation have analyzed these traditional-length courses and identified a number of areas where time could be trimmed without compromising the key messages of basic firearm safety, wildlife conservation, and the hunter's responsibility to the wildlife resource. Recommendations for improving hunter education delivery include providing potential students with a variety of delivery systems designed to fit our busy lifestyles.

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

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

JAKES DAY A ROUSING SUCCESS

FROM PAGE 1

When the big day came, NWTF member Cindy Hughes registered every kid, and then they were provided a JAKES T-shirt, a one-year membership in JAKES, and a surprise bag full of JAKES materials. Event coordinator Cathy Sabrowski organized the kids into

various calls. According to David, the new JAKES learned to appreciate the variety of sounds made by wild turkeys and practiced the skill necessary to convince a turkey to come to a call.

Participants attended a wildlife conservation station where activities were drawn from the Project Wild books and The Alaska Wildlife

in the wild. Food, water, shelter, and people were all used in this activity to show how a population of animals can fluctuate from year to year. "These activities showed kids that there are many different factors involved in the survival of animal populations. The unexpected visit of a moose in the area and the discovery of moose bones and tracks reinforced this activity," stated Apgar.

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

plenty of Pyrodex® propellant was provided by the Hodgdon® Powder Company. Ted and Paul reported that the kids were really impressed by their ability to quickly learn how to safely load and fire the muzzleloading rifles.

When each group arrived at the archery station, Curtis Lynn and other members of the Alaska Bowhunter's Association teamed to teach the kids how to use a recurve bow and shoot the instinctive method. Participating youngsters then had plenty of time to shoot the 3-D animal and bulls-eye targets. The young archers were also given the opportunity to try out youth-sized compound bows similar to those used by hunters and competitive archers.



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

six groups for the day's activities. According to Sabrowski, many parents volunteered to spend the day as group chaperones, accompanying their group from station to station. As a result, Sabrowski said: "Thanks to the parents and other volunteers, the activity rotation schedule ran smoothly."

Curriculum. These activities focused on teaching the concepts of carrying capacity, limiting factors, and the essential elements of survival for two different animal species. During one activity, kids played a survival game, which used food and space as limiting factors of a bear population. The kids, as bears,

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

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

had to collect cards representing pounds of 'food.' "The amount of food collected in a certain area helped kids realize the number of bears that area could support," said Holli Apgar, activity instructor.

In another activity, participants represented a population of moose that came into contact with many different problems that moose face



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

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

Ted Blankenship, Paul Arns, and Cathy Sabrowski teamed to teach the muzzleloading station. Knight® Muzzleloading provided youth-sized muzzleloaders and

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

SEE, YOUTH, PAGE 7



Yes! I want to receive more information on the next JAKES Day event.

Name: _____
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Return this form to
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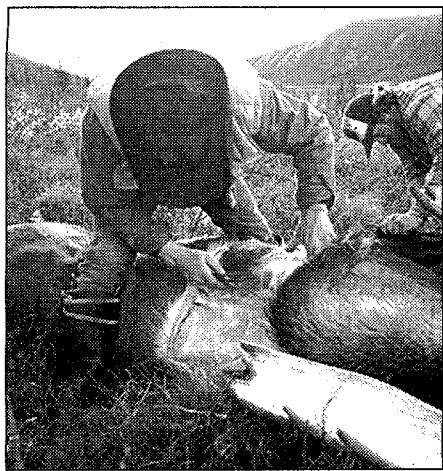
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GOOD CARE IN THE FIELD, MORE MEAT IN THE FREEZER

FROM PAGE 1

bad for everyone else. They leave too much meat in the field, don't properly care for the meat they bring home, and expect everyone to compliment them on being great hunters but would never think about handling the game any further than the back of their pickup in their garage.

"Perhaps the single most important thing to remember



Big game guide, Bob Wener, demonstrates how to take care of a trophy moose in the field. Knowing what to do in the field ensures a better steak on the dinner table back home. photo by Evan Swensen

about hunting," says long-time hunter and outdoorsman Don Lyon, "and let me repeat, the single most important thing about hunting, is understanding that hunting is actually two activities. The first is finding the game. The second is dressing it. When it's on all fours, it's game. After that, it's food. It should be treated like food. A moose on the ground is meals for your family and friends for a year. You should treat that moose with respect. Think of it as 'meals in the round,' and remember, your children are going to be eating what you butcher."

As any experienced hunter will tell you — not that city bumpkins listen — is that hunting is not something that happens after you tumble out of your car and load your .30-06. It is something that happens long before hunting season starts. First, and perhaps most important, is to tell your spouse you are going hunting. You do this for three reasons. First, to explain why you're sneaking out of the house at 3 a.m. Second, to avoid surprising the family with 600 pounds of moose on the kitchen counter when the plan had been to take the kids to the State Fair. Third, so you have room in your freezer for the 600 pounds of meat you expect to bring back.

Something else you should do long before you leave home loaded for bear is talk to your local game processor. This is particularly important if you've never gone through the process before. Preparing wild game for your table is not something that is done casually. It's an art form. The quality of the meat you end up with depends largely on what you drop

on the game processor's counter. If you've never dealt with one before, pay a visit to the processor. Many are former butchers and can give you important tips on what to do with your game between the time you shoot it and drag it into their establishment. Do you know how to age the meat? How much meat should you cut off? What is "clean" when it comes to meat? What will be mixed with your moose to make hamburger? What's the difference between Polish sausage, summer sausage and breakfast sausage? What's mooseroni? What's a hunter's stick? How does your stomach handle Cajun hot links? Do you want jerky? Do some taste testing there in the shop. The last thing you want is 60 pounds of a game pepperoni that your stomach can't hold down.

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

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

In most cases you will not have a choice as to where your game is going down. If you do, right beside the road is best. But that, of course, is the city bumpkin dream. For

BEAR HUNTING UPDATE

by Kate Persons

A healthy and probably increasing brown bear population in Unit 22 makes it possible to increase nonresident bear-hunting opportunity. In October 1999 the Alaska Board of Game increased the number of brown bear drawing permits for Hunt DB685 in Units 22B and 22C from 20 to 27 permits. The number of permits for hunt DB690 in Units 22D and 22E was increased from 5 to 8. The season in Units 22B, 22D and 22E runs from September 1 through May 31 and in Unit 22C the season is September 1 through October 30 and May 10 through May 25. Hunters who are unsuccessful in a fall hunt may return and try again in the spring if they purchase a license and tag for the new year.

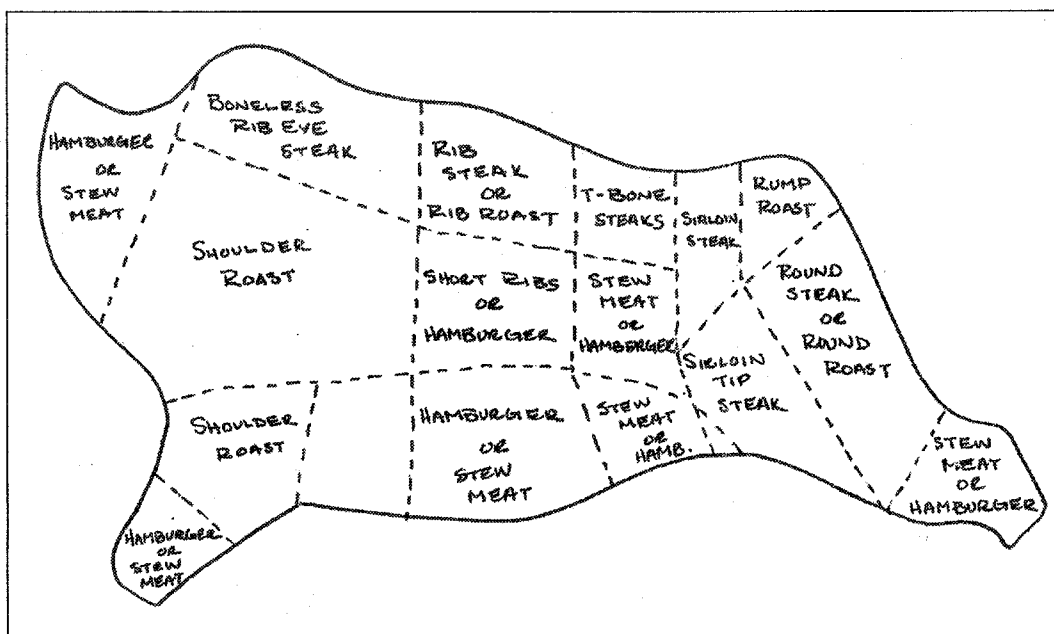
In Units 22 and 23, surplus permits that are not issued in the drawing are available on a first-come first-served basis to any applicant who has a valid nonresident hunting license and a nonresident brown bear tag. BOG action in January 2000 now makes it possible for an individual who has won a brown bear drawing permit the previous year for a hunt in Unit 22 or 23 but was unsuccessful, to obtain a surplus permit for the same hunt the following year. Surplus permits for Unit 22 will be available to hunters or their representatives over the counter at the Nome Fish and Game office, and surplus permits for Unit 23 will be available at the Kotzebue Fish and Game office, beginning five days after the drawing. □

most hunters, the moose is dropped where it is shot and that's often quite a ways from the road. If you are really lucky, the moose isn't up to its knees in water when it falls over. If it is, you'll have to get out your SCUBA gear.

There are no ironclad rules about field-dressing your game. Every kill is different. Generally speaking — unless you are a city bumpkin — use common sense. Some hunters don't want to skin out their game in the field. They use the hair and hide to protect the meat as they are transporting it back to their vehicle. Other hunters prefer to skin the game on the spot and haul the meat back in game bags. It depends on your

animal and then put your hand into the raw meat.

Now we come to what really divides the professional from the bumpkin: gutting. It's a messy job made worse by the fact that your bullet may have punctured a few vital organs. Open the body cavity carefully. You don't want to open any more internal organs. Start at the anus and slit the skin all the way to the neck. Use your bone saw to cut the pelvic bone and the brisket, the bone connecting the ribs, all the way to the neck. Then reach into the body cavity and cut the windpipe. This will allow you to scoop out the guts. It won't be as easy as this article makes it



Meat is not the same texture on all parts of the animal. Some meat is good for steaks while others makes excellent stew meat. Before you start cutting, make sure you know which meat you want to save as steaks and roast and which is good for hamburger and sausage. If you don't know, take this graph to your butcher and ask.

preference as well as on where the animal went down. If you can winch the carcass off the ground to bleed the meat, all the better. Keep your game bags handy so you can cover the raw meat as quickly as possible so it won't pick up hair, grass, feces or other items that will make it inedible. If you are working in the body cavity, don't touch the outside of the

sound but you have to get the guts out and away from the meat in the body cavity as soon as possible. Use your knife to help you get the guts out. Save the heart and liver. But before you plop the liver into your game bag, make sure you have removed the bile sac. You are going to have to cut the sac off so be careful and make sure you

SEE, PACKING, PAGE 14

SUPERTRAMP

by Ace Sommerfeld

Most Alaskans remember when a young man perished along the Stampede Trail in 1992 under mysterious circumstances. I just finished reading a book on the subject. It cleared up some eighty-year-old questions and reminded me of hunting trips I've made where things nearly turned fatal.

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

He didn't get any further than a few miles past the Teklanika River, where he took residence in an old school bus in late April. On July 2 his journal indicates he was getting weak and decided to return to the highway. The Teklanika had gone from a gentle stream to a raging glacial river. It forced him back to the bus. His condition deteriorated. In early August he mistakenly ate a poisonous plant, and he became physically impaired and unable to fend for himself. About the 18th of August he died of starvation in the bus.

The author is careful not to pass judgement, and I understand why ... many of us prefer a solitary campfire in the middle of nowhere, but Supertramp left a message for everyone who considers heading out on his own. His life and death can be a checklist of do's and don'ts for all Alaska hunters.

With no disrespect intended a more fitting title for the book would have been *Into a Bus*. By Alaska standards Supertramp wasn't off the beaten path. An ounce of precaution and even less savvy would have gotten him through one more bungle.

Perhaps Alaska hunters have responded negatively to Supertramp's demise because many of us have been in far worse predicaments, and lived to tell about it. Nobody intends to get in trouble, but quite often hikes "a little way from camp" turn into ordeals we're not prepared to face. Taking nature for granted has cost many lives.

Supertramp set a pattern early in his wanderings which was bound to catch up with him. An earlier reckless canoe adventure into dangerous and unfamiliar regions of Mexico should have taught him the value of a map, but it didn't.

The importance of a map was instilled in me on my first mountain goat hunt in 1976. A faded topo played a major role in saving two partners and me. Buck Green was a veteran goat hunter. Dean Harmon and I were

cheechakos. I was 22, four months in Alaska, and ready to try anything. The day before season we set out in a downpour, and camped on a knoll above a glacial stream. A siesta after the five-hour hike seemed like a good idea, but three guys in a tent built for two didn't work. I woke up in a drenched sleeping bag. Dean and Buck were already awake and making plans. Making a fire was impossible. Ten minutes later we were backtracking. Going downhill this time, we moved faster until the trail hit level ground.

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

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

Dean never hunted goats again. He knew when to quit. The weather broke and turned cold. Less than a week after the ordeal, Buck and I hiked back up the valley and filled our tags on a superb autumn afternoon. Such is nature and those who hunt in Alaska must remember that if adversity intimidates you, your hunting career will probably be short.

The difference between our trip and Supertramp's folly was basic bush survival every hunter in Alaska must adhere to. His preparation was haphazard. According to the book, he could have crossed the river a half mile in either direction of the Stampede Trail. A map would have shown him a cable and cart spanning the river downstream. He could have walked upstream to braided river bars that would have made fording possible.

I don't know what the weather or river conditions were on July 2, 1992, but some speculation can teach a beginner in glacial river crossing some valuable lessons. Before any more readers scorn me for not using a cable and cart like Mr. Krakauer ten months after Supertramp perished, let's assume that option doesn't exist. As I rack my brain I can come up with one other cable crossing a river in Alaska. How's that for romantic

irony, it's as if the cable were there for him and he didn't know it.

Anyway, back to the serious matter of crossing a glacial river. The depth of a glacial river changes constantly. It may not have made much of a difference for Supertramp what time of day he attempted to cross the bars because of the long July days, but most of our hunting takes place in late August and early September when cold nights slow a glacier's melting. Try to cross as early in the day as possible. I pick spots with several bars to climb onto in order to warm up a bit, catch my breath, and compose myself for the next stretch.

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

Rainfall influences a river's conditions. A small river like the Teklanika will swell after several days of rain. If I had time on my hands like Supertramp, I would've set my tent up on a good crossing, and waited for the right moment to make the plunge. A final thought on crossing any river: study ways to avoid fording before the hunt. If it sounds like trouble, find another place to hunt.

I have serious doubts about Supertramp's thoughts of keeping his gear dry. Maybe that's why fording wasn't an option. You can get chilled to the marrow and be okay if you have the ability to build a fire and get dry.

All my preparation for a hunt is centered on getting dry — not keeping dry. You'll always get wet in Alaska. The trick is to get dry at the end of the day or after a river crossing. You can be miserable all day provided you have a high-quality, dry sleeping bag to crawl into.

About a dozen years ago I was above the Toklat River in Denali Park and ran across a small down-filled sleeping bag. In an effort to keep the environment as pristine as possible, I snatched the bag, tote sack and all. Since then the 18-ounce bag has been a permanent fixture in my backpack. On three occasions I've coupled it with a space bag, not blanket, and spent a halfway comfortable siwash alongside a partner who was ready to shoot me for snoring so loud. The thanks I get for keeping bears at bay. Also in my pack are fire-starting gear, heavy wool socks, balaclava, and waterproof mittens that don't leave their plastic bag until I'm desperate.

Supertramp prepared to get himself out of what he got into. Think ahead and behind. "We're

SEE, GETTING, PAGE 13

HUNT ALASKA

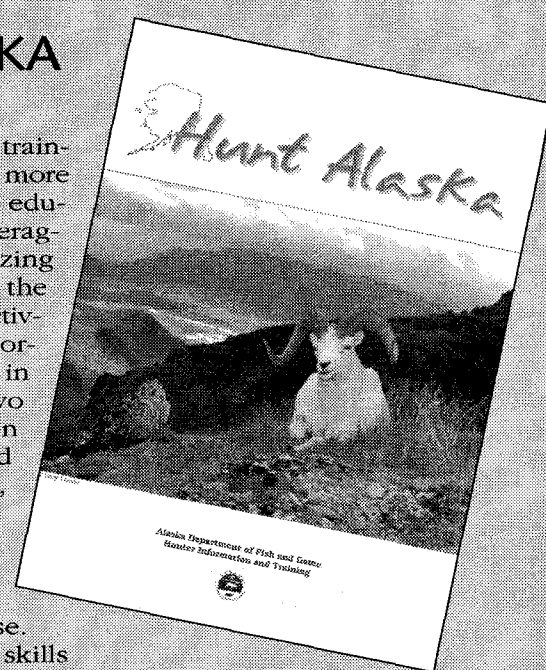
Over the years hunter training has included more and more material until basic hunter education courses are now averaging over 20 hours. Realizing that such courses may be the first step into a life long activity, what are the most important elements to include in that first course? After two years of work, a citizen advisory committee agreed that safety with firearms, wildlife conservation and management, responsibility and ethics, and shooting competency were the basics needed in the course. They agreed that other skills and knowledge were not less important but that not all things could be adequately covered in one beginning course.

To address those concerns additional components have been added to the Hunter Information and Training Program. First was the hunter clinic series. Each clinic focuses on a single topic for 8 to 12 hours. Second was the development of a meat care video. The most recent addition is the Hunt Alaska booklet.

The Hunt Alaska booklet was designed to be a stand-alone document that would be included in hunter education course kits and also be available to interested persons upon request. The manual covers a

wide variety of topics including rifle and cartridge selection, optics selection, guides, outfitters, air-taxi operators, shot placement and bullet selection, sighting-in and maximum point blank range, physical fitness, game recovery, meat care, big game animal profiles, navigation, water treatment, what to do in bear country, and a complete section for planning a hunt. Wherever possible photographs were used to illustrate a topic or point.

Hunt Alaska is a reference resource for anyone planning to hunt in Alaska or anywhere else. It will be available for distribution by July 15, 2000. □



THE JOY OF PACKING GAME - THE SEARCH FOR THE ULTIMATE HUNTING PACK

For several days you hunt really hard. As a hunter who respects the animal resource, you choose to hunt on foot from camp or trail: climbing hills, crossing creeks and muskeg, and trudging through tundra tussocks, all the time carrying 10 to 20 pounds of essential survival gear and extra clothes for the rapidly changing Alaska weather. Now you finally find a legal animal, make a skillful stalk and take a well-practiced shot. The "hunt" part of hunting is over. You quickly and competently field dress the animal, keeping the meat cool, clean, and dry. You leave the meat on the bone because it is easier to keep large parts clean and fly-free. Now the hardest work is before you. You must pack the meat back to the trail and to your off-road vehicle or back to camp.

Every successful Alaskan hunter faces this arduous task. A moose's shoulder, even with the lower leg removed, may weigh 60 to 80 pounds. A moose hind leg may weigh as much as 125 pounds. Although the packing job is always physically demanding, it doesn't have to resemble torture or inflict physical injury.

I'm sure I open myself to suggestions that I'm at least a couple of cards shy of a full deck, but packing meat, in many ways, is my favorite part of the hunt. First, it gives me time to reflect on the fact that the moose, caribou, sheep, or bear is a product of a fragile envi-

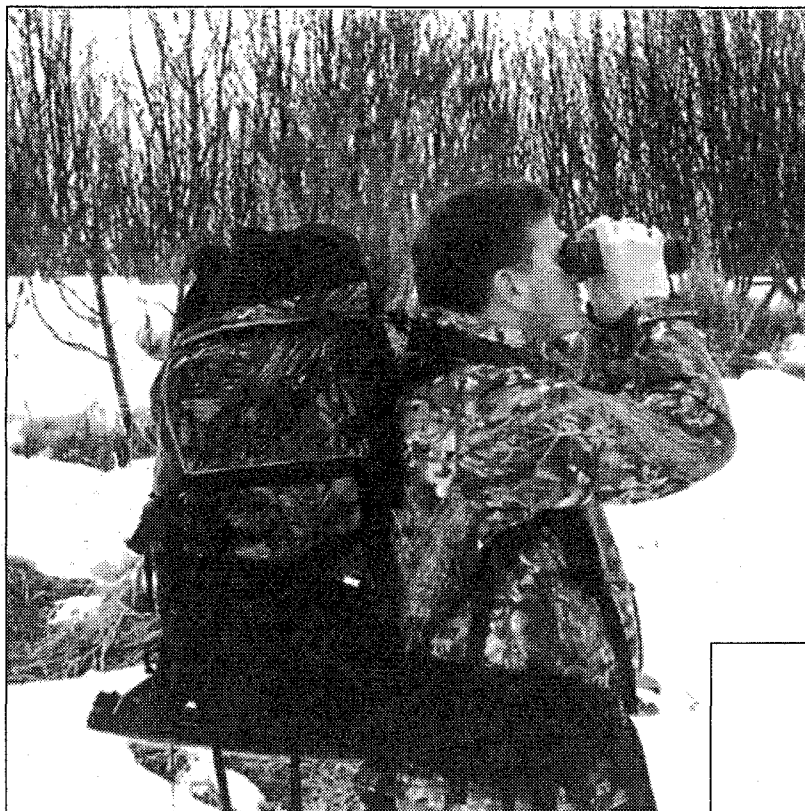
ronment I have helped to conserve and protect by purchasing hunting licenses and memberships in hunter-conservation groups. Second, with nearly every step I take, I will be thinking of all the savory meals I can share with family and friends. Third, the hard physical labor helps make me appreciate the effort required to provide natural food for myself and family in a traditional manner. Finally, packing the meat keeps me intellectually aware. Aware that I am not a spectator to nature's life-and-death cycle but have chosen to assume responsibility for taking a life to sustain my own. Hunters don't delegate the difficult and often unpleasant job of taking life to others.

Even with the philosophical and direct physical benefits of packing, there is the practical side of how to haul heavy loads over difficult, uneven terrain without injuring or

torturing yourself. Early packframes were not much more sophisticated than a frame of 1-by-2's connected by a ladder of slats, covered with canvas duck and hung on the shoulders with narrow straps. These were as

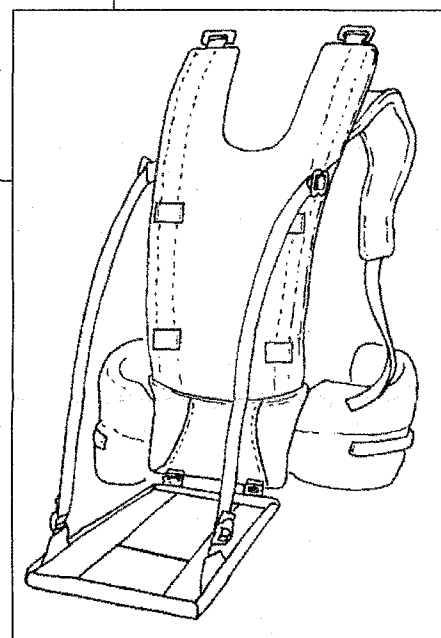
inflexible as sheet iron and about as comfortable. The Spanish Inquisitors could have wished they had thought up something equally tortuous.

Back in the '60s the aluminum packframe took the backpacking and mountaineering field by storm. These frames were lighter and came with comparatively lightweight aluminum tubes shaped somewhat like the human torso, at least some human torsos. They, too, were rigid and not easily adjustable to fit the myriad shapes of the human body. They did come with padded hip and shoulder pads that made carrying heavy loads bearable. Advances to aluminum tube frames have been



The new Kifaru® game pack. Each pack is customized for individual hunters gender, weight, and height. (Above)

The Basic structure of the Kifaru® Pack. (right)



Learn to Get the Most Out of Your Hunt!

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME

Professionally taped in Alaska by Alaskans. This video, featuring biologists and expert hunters, leads you step-by-step through the process of field dressing a moose. Follow these professionals as they recommend the tools and equipment you need for effective field dressing. Learn the best shot placement that quickly takes game with a minimum loss of meat. Running time: 53 minutes.

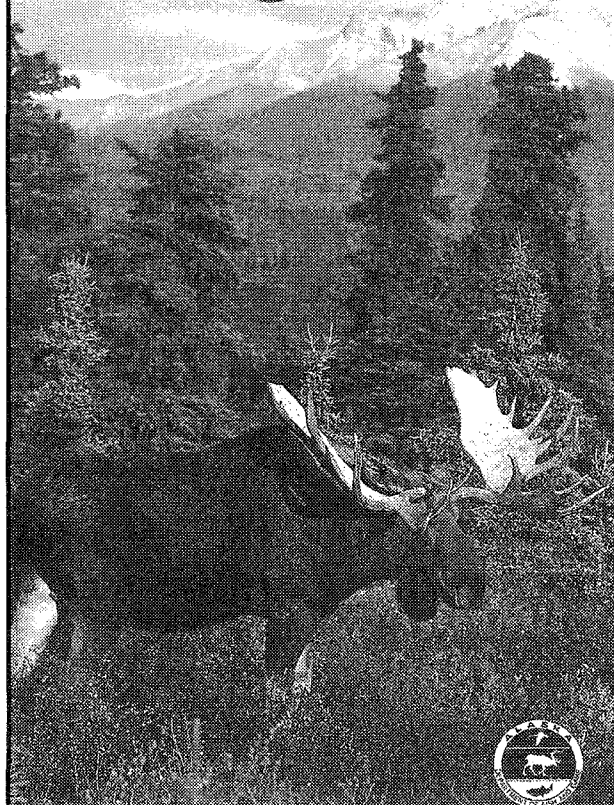
To order with Visa or Master-

Card call (907) 267-2187.

VHS Cassette Cost \$15⁰⁰

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Presents

Field Care of Big Game



made, largely in their padding and strapping ("suspension system") but they essentially remain the same as the originals.

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

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

YOUTHS ENJOY LEARNING ABOUT THE OUTDOORS

FROM PAGE 3

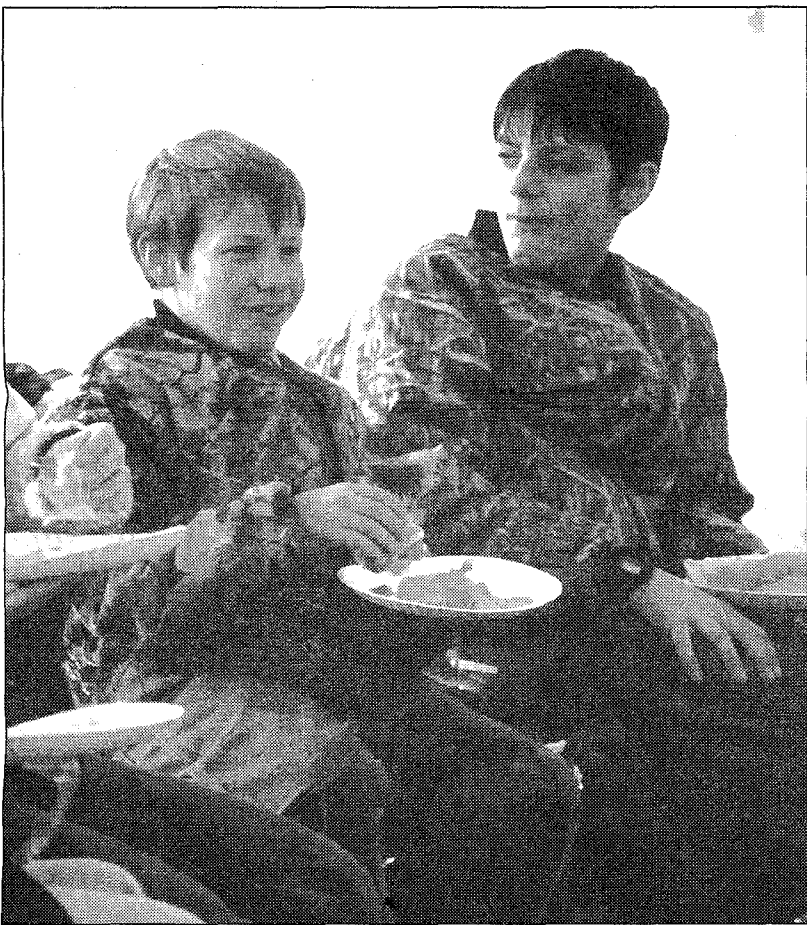
because they haven't developed any bad shotgun shooting habits and really try hard to follow directions," Matthews said. "As a result, almost every JAKE was able to hit a moving clay target by the third attempt."

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

During the lunch break, JAKES were treated to an entertaining and educational retrieving dog demonstration conducted by Tim Baker. The demonstration featured Tim's chocolate colored lab Mocha. Tim and Mocha demonstrated how retrieving dogs locate downed birds by sight and also by following the trainer's hand signals. JAKES were impressed by Mocha's efficiency in finding dummy ducks and gave her a big ovation. Everyone also learned that a well-trained



Curtis Lynn of the Alaska Bowhunter's Association looks on as JAKES take aim at 3-D archery targets. For most of the JAKES this was their first experience with a real bow. As you can see from their shooting form, they quickly learned the basics.



Looks like really happy campers! A couple of JAKES chow down during lunch provided by many local businesses including K-MART, Fred Meyer's, and McDonalds. The lunch was prepared by volunteers from the tundra Toms Chapter of the national Wild Turkey Federation.

retriever is a great conservation tool because the retriever helps find wounded birds as well as birds that land well out in a lake or pond.

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



HOW WILL YOUR CHILDREN HUNT TOMORROW?

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

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

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

Hunter Heritage Foundation of Alaska
PO Box 73902
Fairbanks, AK 99707



*For More Information on
Hunting in Alaska!*

VISIT THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME AT:

[http://www.state.ak.us/adfg/
wildlife/wildmain.htm](http://www.state.ak.us/adfg/wildlife/wildmain.htm)

WOMEN IN THE OUTDOORS

by Tony Monzingo

Anchorage-based Tundra Toms Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, the Alaska Chapter of Safari Club International, Southcentral Alaska Chapter of Ruffed Grouse Society, and the

Rifle Range in Anchorage. The Department's Hunter Information and Training Program's activity coordinator Cathy Sabrowski reports the event was a sell-out with 40 women in attendance both days. According to Sabrowski everyone participated in small-

Instructors for the small-bore rifle shooting were Brian Hill and James Holmes. Brian and James introduced small-bore rifle shooting with a safety briefing and instruction regarding basic sight

loading muzzleloaders and handling Pyrodex®, a substitute for blackpowder. Lee and Cathy indicated that everyone quickly caught on to the steps for safely loading and firing the MK-85 rifles



Lee Rogers and Cathy Sabrowski, members of the Hunters Information and Training Program staff introduced forty women to muzzleloading. Here, Ashley Dean, one of the participants prepares her muzzleloader for firing at bull's-eyes targets downrange.



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

Alaska Department of Fish and Game combined to fund, organize, and conduct Alaska's first Women in the Outdoors program. Women in the Outdoors is a highly successful program founded by the National Wild Turkey Federation and dedicated to introducing women to outdoor field sports and conservation activities, including shooting sports.

The clinic was held April 25 and 27 at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's Rabbit Creek

bore rifle, muzzleloader, shotgun shooting, and field archery.

The women were divided into four groups of ten. Each group rotated between two, one hour long activity sessions each evening. The activity sessions were separated by a meal prepared by volunteer cooks including Brian Hill, Paul Arns, Jim Sabrowski, and Jeff Sabrowski. Everyone also shared in a specially decorated cake commemorating this first-in-Alaska event.

picture, trigger, and breath control. After this introduction the women practiced their marksmanship at candy suckers and bulls-eye targets. Everyone then played a game of "kick-the-can," using empty shotgun shell cases. According to the instructors, the women enjoyed the hands-on opportunity to shoot a lot of rounds of .22s. Participants also learned that small-bore rifle shooting is an inexpensive and fun activity that can be enjoyed by the entire family.

At the muzzleloading station, instructors Lee Rogers and Cathy Sabrowski briefed participants on the special safety considerations of

provided by Knight® Muzzleloading. Lee and Cathy obviously did a fine job as many women kept

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



Is this a great looking group or what? Participants and instructors pose for the first group picture of Women in the Outdoors. The first-in-Alaska event was held at the Department of Fish and Game's Rabbit Creek Rifle Range on the New Seward Highway.

their targets to display the fine groups they had shot with these high quality muzzleloaders.

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

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

NEAT STUFF THAT REALLY WORKS

Great Gear for Alaska Hunters:

By Tony Monzingo

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

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

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

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

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

For years we have advocated, and practiced, flagging the site of a downed animal with fluorescent orange or pink surveyor's tape. Most of the time, this strategy works well and you will spot the flagging in time to exercise utmost caution and make plenty of noise as you approach the kill site for

The bear was obviously a connoisseur of sheep meat, since it first ate the backstrap. If you crave sweet sheep meat as much as I do, this was no small tragedy. A confrontation was avoided because we had clearly flagged the meat cache. As we returned to camp the bright orange flagging caught my attention. My eyes immediately picked up the bear straddling the willow-thatched meat cache. After circling upwind and lots of noise making and epithets, we watched the bear pick up a ham and stride off into the sunset. (No, the cache wasn't in a tree, since there wasn't a tree within 50 miles.)

Just this past fall three of us were returning to the site of a moose one of our party had taken early that morning. The moose went

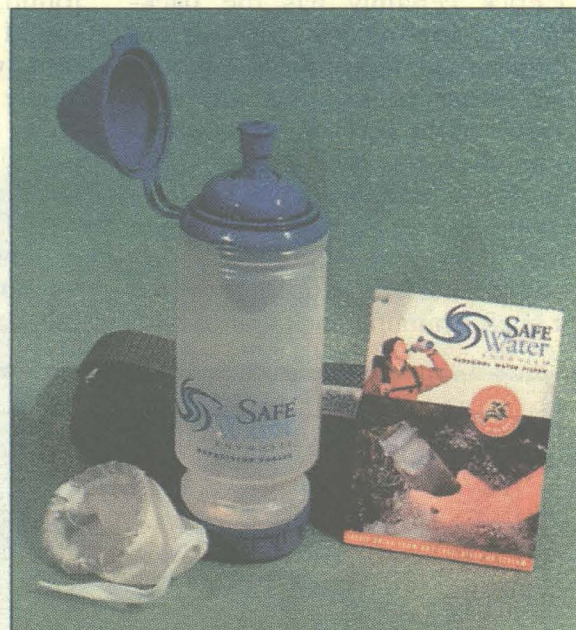
down in a grove of black spruce. The thick undergrowth consisted of thigh-high dwarf birch. We copiously flagged the site and marked it as a waypoint with our GPS. However, a GPS is accurate only to 30 to 50 yards and the dense growth and poor light made finding the flagging difficult. As a result, three of us had to scout around for 5 minutes before someone spotted the flagging.

Two days later another hunting partner downed a moose a short distance from camp and about two hours before dusk. As a result we had

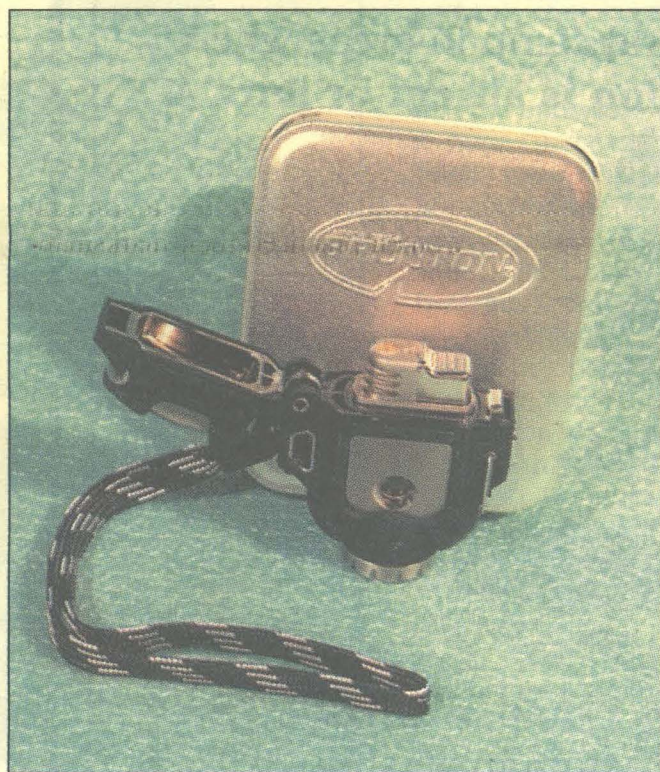
to make a second meat-hauling trip just at dusk. Again the flagging became difficult to spot in the semi-darkness.

Dense timber and brush aren't the only times where locating camp can be difficult. Open tundra frequented by large herds of caribou can be almost as featureless as the sea. When you combine the subtleties of the tundra with windswept sheets of rain or fog, locating camp can become an adventure in itself.

We realize these situations are all recipes for trouble and vowed to find a better way to mark a camp or downed game. The solution came from a fellow Alaskan hunter who attended one of our gear clinics. As we discussed the need for marking camp and



The SafeWater® filter system of interconnected, omnidirectional pores, 2 microns in diameter, is so good that it will remove 99+ percent of all bacteria and protozoans including the dreaded Giardia, Cryptosporidium, and E. coli. As a bonus, the filter system also removes such dangerous contaminants as industrial wastes, insecticides, lead, and mercury, that can cause a wide variety of health problems.



Brunton® Helios™ Stormproof® lighter has a piezo-electric ignition, no batteries or flints required. The flame reaches an intense 2,000+ degrees Fahrenheit.

another pack full of game meat. However, there are times on the tundra when there simply isn't anything substantial or tall enough to attach flagging to. In dense brush, even with the aid of a compass or GPS, you may have some difficulty relocating the exact spot and surprise yourself by stumbling onto the flagging, and therefore the kill site, without sufficient warning. Remember, a GPS doesn't give you direction of travel unless you are moving. In difficult terrain you may not be able to move quickly enough for the GPS to properly operate and give you a good bearing back to the downed game.

Three years ago I lost one-half of a sheep to a beautiful tricolor grizzly at a Brooks Range camp.

downed game he recommended a little gem called the Micro-Tracker™ from Browning. The Micro-Tracker™ is a 3-inch long xenon-bright, flashing red light powered by two AAA alkaline batteries. The body and lens of the Micro-Tracker™ are made of virtually unbreakable Lexan®, the material used for football helmets, and sealed with an O-ring making the Micro-Tracker waterproof. The body of the Micro-Tracker is bright yellow, which will help if you drop it in the muskeg or lay it down in soft forest duff.

With a set of fresh batteries the Micro-Tracker will emit bright pulses of red light, which are visible for one mile for as long as 8 to 10 hours, depending on temperature and condition of the batteries. This little gem attaches to almost anything because it has both a clip and a lanyard ring. My hunting partners and I are going to include the \$12 Micro-Tracker in our gear for this hunting season. It will help make anyone's hunts more enjoyable and safer.

Another problem commonly faced by hunters is maintaining a safe, potable supply of water for cooking, drinking, and personal hygiene. Most Alaskan hunters find themselves hunting well away from villages, towns, and cities. However, mere distance from civilization does not mean the waters in the ponds, lakes, streams, and rivers will be pure. Almost every natural source of water in Alaska has one or more bad "bugs" that can make you sick and prematurely end an expensive hunting trip.

The most common "bug" is the tiny, microscopic, single-cell cyst of an animal called Giardia Lamblia. Giardia is spread into the water from the feces of common

IMPROVED GAME PACKS

FROM PAGE 6

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

According to Patrick, he began to design the Kifaru® Longhunter™ because he wanted a quality hunting pack that provid-

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

Being a hunter, Patrick understood the need to have a way to securely carry a rifle, yet have it almost instantly available. Shoulder slings just don't work for a hunter shouldering a pack so Patrick designed the GunBearer™. The GunBearer™ consists of a cradle for the buttstock of the rifle and a quick-release device to hold the barrel against the pack. The cradle attaches directly to the

Kifaru waistbelt. This places the weight of the gun on your hips, where it belongs for comfort. With the quick-release mechanism your rifle can be more quickly employed for use than if you used a conventional rifle sling. The fully adjustable-for-length GunBearer™ keeps your rifle both handy and secure. Now your hands are free to wade through the alder thickets or climb that sheep mountain.

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

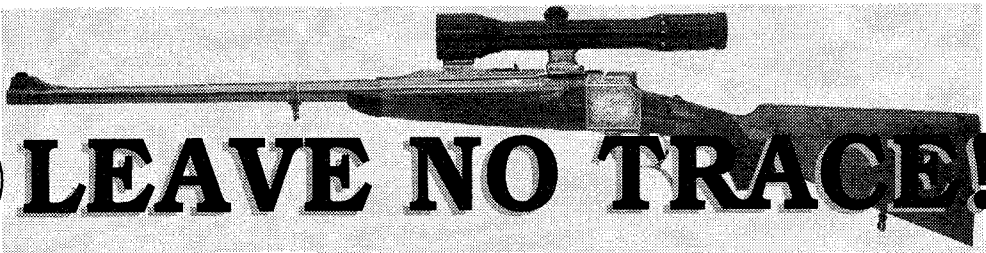
Other standard features include a large interior pocket for a hydration system water bladder or a spotting scope. Bungee cords built into the pack provide a great place to carry your rain gear or insulated jacket and there is a zippered pocket inside the pack for keys, hunting license, tags, and harvest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

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



Well, to the bottom line, how does the Kifaru® work? In a word: great! What I like the most about the Kifaru® is that you can remove the pack bag and, with the CargoChair, lash heavy, messy loads directly to the frame. You can pack 100-plus-pound loads with the Kifaru® system as comfortably as with any other system currently available.


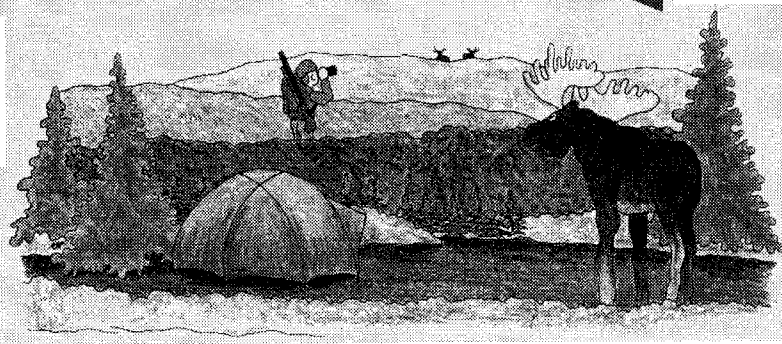
Most of the time when I am hunting away from a base camp I don't want to carry a heavy pack full of gear. I want to carry a fairly light daypack with necessary meat care and survival gear. I also want to carry the clothes necessary for layering in order to meet changing weather conditions. The Kifaru™ system includes a Top-Pocket that detaches from the main pack bag and attaches directly to the frame for use as a daypack. Along with the GunBearer™ this is just the ticket for hunting Alaska big game.

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


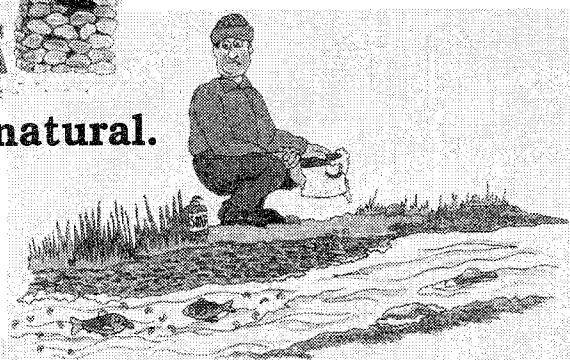


LEAVE NO TRACE!


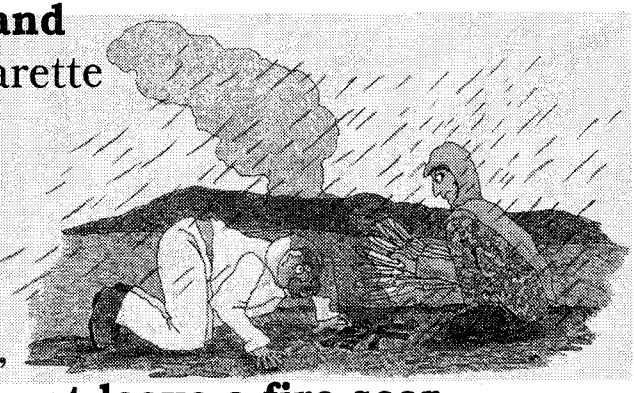



⊕ Travel and camp in areas where
vegetation is absent or durable.

⊕ Keep the area wild and natural.
Don't build structures or
blaze trees. Remove any
flagging, rope, etc.

⊕ Camp, wash and bury
human waste at least
**200 feet from water
and trails.**

⊕ Pack out ALL food and
trash (used shells, cigarette
butts, foil, etc.).

⊕ A lightweight
stove is practical,
easy and **does not leave a fire scar.**

For additional information on Leave No Trace skills and ethics, contact your nearest Bureau of Land Management or Forest Service Office. Additional information may be found on the world wide web at <http://www.lnt.org>.

2000 BASIC HUNTER EDUCATION COURSE SCHEDULE

Amchorage Area Basic Hunter Education Course Schedle Summer 2000

June 6 – 17	2 Tues. & 2 Thurs., 6:30-9:30 p.m., 2 Saturdays, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.(six sessions) Location – Rabbit Creek Rifle Range
July 11 – 22	2 Tues. & 2 Thurs., 6 – 9 p.m., 2 Saturdays, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. (six sessions) Location – Rabbit Creek Rifle Range
August 8 – 19	2 Tues. & 2 Thurs., 6 – 9 p.m., 2 Saturdays, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. (six sessions) Location – Rabbit Creek Rifle Range
September 12-23	2 Tues. & 2 Thurs., 6 - 9 p.m., 2 Saturdays, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Location – Rabbit Creek Rifle Range (six sessions total)

For more information call:
Hunter Information & Training Program
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Anchorage at (907) 267-2373.
Or sign up at Hunter Information Center
333 Raspberry Road

2000 Mobile Shooting Schedule

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

City	Clinic	Date/Time
Ketchikan	Non Toxic Shotgun Clinic	5/5 (6-9 pm) 5/7 (9am-5pm)
Ketchikan	Bear Hunting & Wounding Loss Clinic	5/6 (9am-5pm)
Ketchikan	Reloading Clinic	5/8 (6-9 pm) 5/9 (6-9 pm)
Wrangell	Muzzleloader Certification	5/13 (6-9 pm) 5/14 (9am-5pm)
Petersburg	Muzzleloader Certification	5/19 (6-9 pm) 5/14 (9am-5pm) 5/20 (9am-5pm)
Petersburg	Reloading Clinic	5/22 (6-9 pm) 5/23 (6-9 pm)
Sitka	Muzzleloader Certification	5/26 (6-9 pm) 5/27 (9am-5pm)
Sitka	Reloading Clinic	6/1 (6-9 pm) 6/2 (6-9 pm)
Sitka	Non Toxic Shotgun Clinic	6/3 (6-9 pm) 6/4 (9am-5pm)
Juneau	Reloading Clinic	6/8 (6-9 pm) 6/9 (6-9 pm)
Juneau	Non Toxic Shotgun Clinic	6/10 (6-9 pm) 6/11 (9am-5pm)
Haines	Non Toxic Shotgun Clinic	6/16 (6-9 pm) 6/17 (9am-5pm)
Tok	Reloading Clinic	6/21 (6-9 pm) 6/22 (6-9 pm)

Anchorage Area Bow Hunter Education Schedule Summer 2000

Course #16	Saturday, June 24:	3:00 pm shoot Field Section Only
Course #17	Monday, June 26: Wednesday, June 28:	6:30 pm-9:30 pm 6:30 pm-9:30 pm Classroom Only
Course #18	Saturday, July 29:	8:00 am-5:30 pm 1:00 pm shoot Complete (Classroom + Field) Field Section
Course #19	Thursday, August 3:	6:30 pm shoot Field Section Only

Course Location: Rabbit Creek Range (Seward Hwy near Potter Marsh)
For more information call the
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
in Anchorage at (907) 267-2373

Fairbanks Area Basic Hunter Education Course Schedule Summer 2000

Call 459-7206 or 459-7306 to sign up for the following classes.
To reserve your seat, pick up your student packet at the ADF&G office at 1300 College Road. Cost of class is \$5.00

May 15, 17, 19, 22, 24 & 26	Mon-Wed-Fri 6:30-9 pm Adults & Children Hunter Education Facility 1501 College Road
June 12, 14, 16, 19, 21 & 23	Mon-Wed-Fri 1-4 pm Adults & Children Hunter Education Facility 1501 College Road
July 17, 19, 21, 24, 26, 28	Mon-Wed-Fri 6:30-9 pm Adults & Children Hunter Education Facility 1501 College Road

This schedule is subject to change.

Fairbanks Area Bow Hunter Education Course Schedule Year 2000

Call 459-7206 or 459-7306 to sign up for the following classes.
You must pay the \$5.00 class fee and pick up a student packet to reserve your seat in the class.

Jun 5-7	6-9 PM Includes Shoot. Call to sign up for class. Just show up for shoot June 7 if you have completed class work. Class: Hunter Ed. Bldg. Shoot: Creamer's Farmhouse
June 25	9 AM - 6 PM Includes Shoot. Call to sign up for class. Just show up for shoot at 3 PM if you have completed class work. Class: Hunter Ed. Bldg. Shoot: Creamer's Farmhouse
Jul 10-12	6-9 PM Includes Shoot. Call to sign up for class. Just show up for shoot July 12 if you have completed class work. Class: Hunter Ed. Bldg. Shoot: Creamer's Farmhouse
Jul 23	9 AM - 6 PM Includes Shoot. Call to sign up for class. Just show up for shoot at 3 PM if you have completed class work. Class: Hunter Ed. Bldg. Shoot: Creamer's Farmhouse
Aug 6	9 AM - 6 PM Includes Shoot. Call to sign up for class. Just show up for shoot at 3 PM if you have completed class work. Class: Hunter Ed. Bldg. Shoot: Creamer's Farmhouse
Oct 2-4	Oct 2-3: 6-9 PM Oct 4: 5-8 PM Includes Shoot. Call to sign up for class. Just show up for shoot at 5 pm Oct. 4 if you have completed class work. Class: Hunter Ed. Bldg. Shoot: Creamer's Farmhouse
Oct 8	9 AM - 6 PM Includes Shoot. Call to sign up for class. Just show up for shoot at 3 PM if you have completed class work. Class: Hunter Ed. Bldg. Shoot: Creamer's Farmhouse
Nov 12	9 AM - 6 PM Classroom only. Shooting exam must be completed at later date if you have completed class work. Next shoot will be spring 2001. Hunter Ed. Bldg. 1501 College Road

This schedule is subject to change.

Palmer/Wasilla

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

Scheduled Basic Hunter Education Course

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

For the next available Basic Hunter and Bow Hunter Education courses please contact:

Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game
Douglas office
Area Biologist, Neil Barten
(907) 465-4267

GEAR THAT MEETS THE DEMANDS OF THE ALASKA OUTDOORS

FROM PAGE 9

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

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

Even at this I think we were lucky. Many remote Alaskan waters also contain a microscopic single cell protozoan animal named Cryptosporidium. This little beast produces the same basic symptoms as Giardia but commonly adds a fever, making you really feel ill.

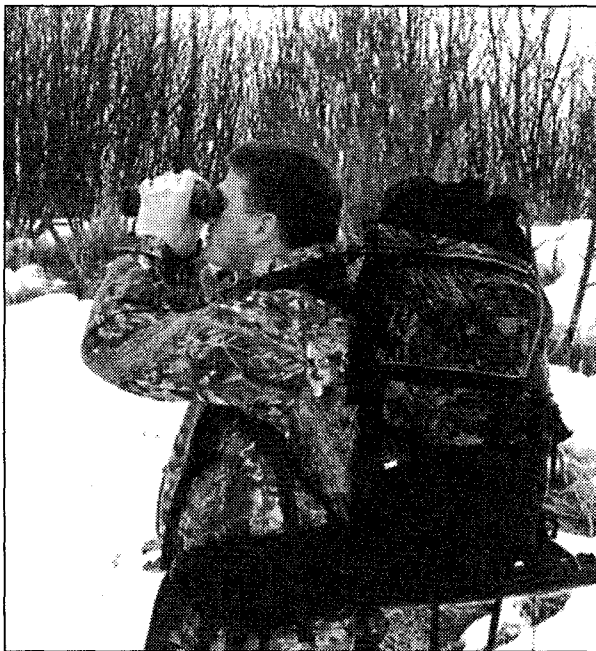
The most reliable way to prevent both Giardia and Cryptosporidium is to boil all the water you will use for drinking, washing dishes, personal hygiene, or cooking. Boiling water for a full three minutes will kill both the protozoans and all the viruses in contaminated water. Additional boiling is not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

The problem with boiling all the water you will need is that it takes a lot of precious, expensive fuel. If you are on a fly-in or backpacking hunt, weight considerations mean that you don't want to haul any more fuel than absolutely necessary. If you try to minimize use of water you will likely end up dehydrated. Dehydration, even mild cases, results in loss of energy, makes you feel colder, impairs the function of the kidneys, and can result in impaired judgment. Doctors tell us that we

need to drink at least one gallon of water a day. When we exercise we need to drink even more water. So what's a body to do?

I have found two outstanding, easy-to-use, and reliable products from a Durango, Colorado company called SafeWater Anywhere™. I made sure to purchase two of each using the Murphy's-Law-like philosophy that anything that works too well will go out of production.

The first product is a portable, 1-liter-sized squeeze bottle with an integral pre-filter and filter. The SafeWater® filter system of interconnected, omnidirectional pores, 2 microns in diameter, is so good that it will remove 99+



The new Kifaru Game pack system. For more information on this pack see page 6.

percent of all bacteria and protozoans including the dreaded Giardia, Cryptosporidium, and E. coli. As a bonus, the filter system also removes such dangerous contaminants as industrial wastes, insecticides, lead, and mercury, that can cause a wide variety of health problems. If you want to be sure and kill all the viruses too, simply add iodine tablets to the water in your SafeWater® bottle.

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

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

Most of us simply don't consume enough liquids when we are hunting. The resulting low-grade dehydration keeps the body from working at peak efficiency. SafeWater® has the answer in the form of a simple In-Line Filter. Simply purchase a hydration bag, usually a tough plastic bag that fits in your daypack or packbag. Hydration bags come with a long tube that reaches over your shoulder and lets you take frequent sips without having to stop and dig out a

water bottle. The problem with hydration bags in the Alaska outback has been the fact that you had to fill them with filtered or boiled water. If you ran out during the day, you just got thirsty, and dehydrated.

SafeWater®'s in-line filter is installed in the hydration bag's drinking tube. You simply cut the plastic tube, insert the filter, and fill the hydration bag from any river, lake, stream, or other water source. A stainless steel sediment pre-filter will help remove the common sediments and the oft present, flour-fine glacial silt. The filter is easily disassembled to clean a clogged pre-filter. With the in-line filter in place just start drinking! If you want to be sure and kill all viruses, then simply add iodine tablets to the hydration bag. The primary filter will remove all the iodine and iodine taste as well as the "plastic" taste common to hydration bag systems. Like the SafeWater® bottle, the in-line system will filter 200 gallons of water, more than enough for the thirstiest hunter.

The only gap in the SafeWater® line of products is a system that will conveniently filter large quantities of water for general camp use. Kim Rappleye, executive vice president of SafeWater®, says that product will soon be ready for market. According to Kim, SafeWater® will introduce a passive water system that will basically work like a large hydration bag. Simply fill a large plastic bag with water and hang it upside down. The water will filter itself while you are out hunting! Hard to beat a deal like that. No more pumping or scrubbing away at clogged pump filters, and no more Giardia or Cryptosporidium.

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

My search for the ideal source of flame for general hunting purposes and survival has ended. I have added the Brunton® Helios™ Storm-proof® lighter to my pack. In fact, I put one in my survival kit and intend to keep another in a buttoned shirt pocket. The Helios is truly a refined piece of engineering, not merely another butane lighter. There are several key features that make the Helios an indispensable piece of gear. First is the fact that it is almost unfailingly reliable. The Helios™ has a piezo-electric ignition, no batteries or flints required. The flame reaches an intense 2,000+ degrees Fahrenheit. That is not a misprint. This little sucker is hot and burns so cleanly that in bright light the flame is virtually invisible. When the lighter is ignited, a white glow is visible through a small white ceramic flame window. Do not attempt to verify that the flame is invisible by placing a pinky over the top of the lighter! If you do, the 2,000 degrees will give new meaning to the term "searing heat." The flame is fully adjustable for altitude and the cap opens nearly a full 180 degrees

SEE, STUFF, PAGE 13

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



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

(907) 459-7211 • Fairbanks
(907) 267-2373 • Anchorage
(907) 465-4265 • Juneau

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

STUFF THAT REALLY WORKS

FROM PAGE 12

so you can get the flame close to the work. The Helios is easily and quickly refillable and carries a lifetime mechanical warranty.

Of all the features perhaps the most important to Alaskan hunters in the field is the fact that the Helios Stormproof lighter can withstand winds of 70 to 80 miles an hour. When the going gets tough, this little lighter will probably get going.

One word of caution when using any butane-fueled device in cold weather. Butane does not work when the temperature drops below freezing. Keep your Helios in an inner pocket or wear it on a neck lanyard inside an outer gar-

ment. If you do, the lighter can be used to extremelt low temperatures, down to as much as - 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

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

Browning™ products are available at many local sporting goods dealers in Alaska. SafeWater™ products can be found in some sporting goods or backpacking type stores. SafeWater™ can also be reached directly at (970) 247-3999 or on the web at www.safe-wateranywhere.com. Brunton™ can be reached by phone at (307) 856-6559 or on the web at www.brunton.com. □

WOMEN OUTDOORS

FROM PAGE 10

Elaine Larimer, Jack Frost, and Curtis Lynn led the archery course instruction. After learning how to safely use a recurve bow, everyone had the opportunity to shoot 3-D foam animal targets or bulls-eye targets. Jack also introduced everyone to compound

munity support was recognized and appreciated by all the women in attendance," Sabrowski said. Special thanks to Dr. Ken Eberle, Dr. Ken Wynne, and National Bank of Alaska for their support toward introducing women to the outdoors. Finally, thanks to our sponsors Leica, Ox-



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

bows similar to those commonly used in bow hunting.

Cathy Sabrowski says that many local businesses also contributed to the Women in the Outdoors program. According to Sabrowski, Pepsi-Cola, K-Mart, Wal-Mart, Costco, Fred Meyer, Dreyer's Ice Cream, Great Harvest Bread Co. and Pizza Hut made significant food contributions to the program. Door and grab bag gifts were donated by Alaska Club, Alaska Computer Brokers, Inc., Border's Books and Music, FS Air Service, Glacier Brewhouse, Kart-Zone, Moose's Tooth, My Lord's Floral Center, Paint Your Pot, Inc., Peter Glenn, Sea Galley, and Take Flight Alaska. "Wide-spread com-

Yoke Originals, Inc., Winchester, and Federal Cartridges for supplying the essential materials that made this program a success.

As a result of the Women in the Outdoors program, many women inquired about regular shotgun shooting opportunities. Cathy Sabrowski is planning to put together several women's teams for a fall clay target-shooting league. Sabrowski has also announced another program dedicated to introducing women to the field sports for the evenings of June 27 and 28 at Rabbit Creek Range in Anchorage. If you are interested in participating in the fall league or the summer clinic please call Cathy Sabrowski at 267-2393. □

GETTING OUT

FROM PAGE 5

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

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

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

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

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

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

Supertramp let his ideals get in the way of practical bush thinking. Living off the land and being alone under a northern sky make good Jack London stuff, but when it comes to making a go of it in Alaska, he would have been better off with a Boy Scout manual and partner.

It's possible to hunt solo. Flying out to the peninsula and hunting caribou a few days by yourself isn't foolhardy. To date I've harvested three billies and two rams alone. Those trips took place a long time ago. Nowadays two is not a crowd when it comes to hunting.

Part of the reason I hunted alone was the belief that a partner would be more harm than good. At times I turned into a babysitter, but I have myself to blame for some of it. Choose your partner wisely. Co-workers and bowling buddies can test a friendship on a serious hunt. If you are a novice hunter try to partner up with a veteran the way I did with Buck.

The author points out with a hint of pride how Supertramp lived for nearly four months and all he brought with him was 25 pounds of rice and a .22 rifle. The thought of arrogance was building throughout the book and finally couldn't be avoided with the mention of the rifle.

Supertramp put himself above the law by not purchasing a hunting license like everyone else does. He hunted out of season. From songbirds to moose, everything was there for him to abuse. Imagine shooting a moose with a .22.

I'm not saying his disrespect toward other creatures did him in, but arrogance and nature don't mix. Eventually people like Supertramp push the laws too far, and pay. Some learn from their mistakes, some don't.

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



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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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

PACKING IT OUT

FROM PAGE 4

don't spill its contents. Move the gut pile as far from the game as possible. It's going to attract flies.

Once you have the guts out, the hard work begins. The best move is to remove the head from the carcass. This will make it easier to work around the game, particularly if the animal has a rack or antlers. Most hunters remove the legs next. One at a time, pull the legs back and cut the meat around the hip and shoulder joints. If the animal is large, you may want to saw off the lower part of the leg to make it easier to transport. Skinning the quarters is at your option. Although the meat is lighter without the skin, it also becomes more easily contaminated with hair, blood, soil, etc. If you do skin it, make sure you put it in game bags. If you don't skin it in the field, make sure you skin the game as soon as possible. The point of keeping the skin on is to protect it as you are transporting it. Leaving the hide on too long will delay cooling and reduce the quality of your meat. For an alternative method of dressing big game watch the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's video "Field care of Big game."

Another mistake city bumpkins make is walking back to their vehicles with a load of meat and no firearm. This is a very dangerous move. Think about it. You are carrying raw meat that can be smelled for miles. You also probably have a fair amount of blood on your clothing and possibly some liquid from the body cavity. Thus dressed you are a walking menu card for bears. And in some parts of Alaska the bears are very large and can be aggressive. If you encounter a bear, Alaska law states: You may NOT take a bear or any other wild animal because it is attracted to the animal you have harvested. You may if threatened defend yourself. Contact Fish & Game for more information.

Take as much meat as you can. First, because wild game is excellent on the dinner table and, second, because it's the law. Be sure to bring back the ribs and the backstrap. Once again, be sure to place them in a game bag

before you haul them back to the vehicle. Don't just dump the game bags into the back of your truck and feel that you're taking good care of your game meat. Tie the bags down. Make sure there isn't anything next to the game bags that will tear them, like a tire jack. Tie everything down and, if possible, put a tarp over the game. Treat the game with respect; your children are going to be eating it all winter.

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

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

Once the game meat has aged, it's time to be processed. Hopefully you have talked with a game processor before you proceed to the next step. Game processors are not going to take meat that has hair, blood, sinews, tundra or fecal matter mixed in with the meat. If the animal was in rut, you're out of luck. The meat also has to be boned.

Finally, keep in mind that the hunt isn't over until you've eaten the meat. So play it smart. Don't jam your freezer full of vacuum-packed bags of I-don't-know-what-it-is-but-it's-all-moose.

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

YOUNG AND OLD ALIKE

FROM PAGE 2

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

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

The field course is competency based, which means that students must demonstrate the skills needed to carry a firearm safely into the field and in the presence of other hunters, backpackers, bikers, and hikers. It only takes a few minutes for a trained hunter education instructor to determine if the student has truly read and understands the basic firearm safety rules.

Field courses are made up of several "stations" where students demonstrate the ability to safely enter and exit a vehicle or boat with an unloaded firearm, cross obstacles such as streams, and make the proper choice in "shoot-don't-shoot" situations. The final station of a field course is live fire. The purpose of the live fire is to ensure that students can control the muzzle of a loaded firearm, assess the students' understanding of a basic sight picture, and reduce wounding loss of game. Students must show the instructor that they can safely load and unload a firearm with the proper ammunition. Students then take five shots at a stationary target. If they can place four out of five shots in a group that is equivalent to an 8-inch group at 100 yards they will receive their hunter certification card, good for life in all 50 states. John Matthews, Alaska state coordinator for hunter education, says that the Alaska home-study hunter education course may be available by January 1, 2001.

Another method of delivering the basic hunter education course is by videotape. Since most homes, even those in rural areas, have a VCR, this makes a videotape course accessible to most Alaskans. Because the presentation of information on a video can

be carefully scripted and edited, the 20-plus-hour traditional course can be shortened to 3 or 4 hours. The prospective new hunters can view the videotapes at their convenience and complete a student workbook that reviews key questions and concepts. The student can then take the field course to complete the basic hunter education certification.

For hunters in a real hurry, the Hunter Information and Training Program is gearing up to provide a "challenge" course that will be chiefly available in the major population centers. Many Alaskan hunters who travel outside to hunt for the first time find that they cannot purchase a license in many states without possessing a valid hunter education card. Too often this realization comes only a few weeks or days before their departure date. A "challenge" course would work a lot like getting a driver's license. You pick up a student manual, study the manual, and report to a Fish and Game office to take a written test. Once you have passed the test, you report for a field day. If you pass the field course, including live fire, you can receive your hunter education certification on the spot. The traditional course will continue to be available for hunters who prefer the structure and format of the classroom setting.

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

Live fire testing will also aid the Hunter Information and Training Program's hunter education partners. Shooting sports programs such as conducted by 4-H, the Boy and Girl Scouts, and the NRA can provide private sector training in the basic marksmanship skills for those young hunters who need additional training to complete the live fire portion of the basic hunter education field course.

Ultimately the purpose of these alternative delivery systems is to reduce the chance that potential hunters might perceive hunter education as a barrier to the recruitment of new hunters. Hunting accidents and fatalities are at an all-time low in states where hunters must complete a basic hunter education class. Alternative delivery methods must provide greater access to hunting while preserving these hard-earned gains in safety and public attitudes towards responsible hunters. □



**Yes! I want to receive my
FREE COPY of the Fish & Game
Alaska Hunting Bulletin.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Return this form to
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Division of Wildlife Conservation/Hunter Information & Training
333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK 99518-1599

www.state.ak.us/

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.

Alaska Guide Report: Publishes the quarterly Alaska Guide Report. Hunting consultation available on a fee basis. PO Box 202520, Anchorage, AK 99520-2520. Tel. (907) 338-5797 E-mail: agr1@ptialaska.net Web URL: www.ptialaska.net/~agr1

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. E-mail: chrisbatin@alaska-hunter.com Web URL: www.alaskahunter.com

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 Web URL: www.alaskaconnect.com/sub.html

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

DeLorme Mapping: Sells the Alaska Atlas & Gazetteer, a large-format book of topographic maps and other information covering the entire state. PO Box 298, Freeport, ME 04032. Phone (800) 452-5931. Web URL: www.delorme.com

Outdoors America Communications: Publishes the 144-page Outdoors Alaska Directory of Hunting and Fishing and a world wide website with Alaska fishing and hunting information. PO Box 609-HB, Delta Junction, AK 99737-0696. Phone (800) 561-5880. E-mail: akhb@outdoorsdirectory.com Web URL: www.outdoorsdirectory.com

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

Southeast Alaska

PO Box 240020
Douglas, AK 99824-0020
Tel. (907) 465-4265
FAX (907) 465-4272
Web URL: <http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/FISH.GAME/wildlife/region1/rgn1home.htm>

Southcentral Alaska

333 Raspberry Rd
Anchorage, AK 99518-1599
Tel. (907) 267-2182
FAX (907) 267-2433
email: wcinfctr@fishgame.state.ak.us
Web URL: <http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/FISH.GAME/wildlife/region2/rgn2home.htm>

Telephone numbers:
(907) 267-2347 General hunting information (recordings and staff)
(907) 267-2373 Hunter education
(907) 267-2182 Wildlife Conservation regional office staff
(907) 566-0130 Rabbit Creek Rifle Range (recording only)
(907) 267-2304 Nelchina caribou herd information (recording only)
(907) 267-230 Mulchatna caribou herd information (recording only)
(907) 267-2310 Fortymile caribou herd information (recording only)

Interior Alaska region

1300 College Road
Fairbanks, AK 99701-1599
FAX (907) 452-6410
Web URL: <http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/FISH.GAME/wildlife/region3/rgn3home.htm>

Telephone numbers:
(907) 459-7206 and 459-7306
General hunting information
(907) 459-7313 Wildlife conservation staff
(907) 459-7211 Hunter education
(907) 459-7386 Recorded hunting information
(907) 267-2310 Fortymile caribou herd information (recording only - Anchorage number)
(907) 267-2304 Nelchina caribou herd information (recording only - Anchorage number)

Northwest Region

Pouch 1148
Nome, AK 99762
Tel. (907) 443-2271
FAX (907) 443-5893
Web URL: <http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/FISH.GAME/wildlife/region5/rgn5home.htm>

ALASKA PUBLIC LANDS INFORMATION CENTERS (APLICS)

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

Anchorage office

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

Fairbanks office

250 Cushman St #1A
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

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

National Park Service

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

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

US Fish & Wildlife Service

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

USFWS, AK.

1011 E. Tudor Rd
Anchorage, AK. 99503
Phone: (907) 786-3309
FAX: (907) 786-3495
Email: chuck_young@fws.gov
Web URL: <http://www.r7.fws.gov/contact.html>

US Forest Service

Virtually the entire national forest system in Alaska is open to hunting. For details of hunting seasons, bag limits, and areas on the national forests, consult the Alaska hunting regulations. For other information about hunting in national forests, the web URL for the Alaska Region is <http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/> or contact one of the following offices:

USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region

(for general, region-wide information)
PO Box 21628,
Juneau, AK 99802-1628
Tel. (907) 586-8806
FAX (907) 586-7840

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

(Southeast AK)
Chatham Area (northern panhandle)
204 Sigana 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) 772-5895

Ketchikan Area (southern panhandle)
Federal Building, Ketchikan, AK 99901
Tel. (907) 228-6202 FAX (907) 228-6215

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 — External Affairs

222 W 7th #13
Anchorage, AK 99513
Tel. (907) 271-5555 FAX (907) 272-3430 per call 12/12/97

Where to obtain USGS maps

US Geological Survey topographic and other maps can be obtained by mail order or over the counter in several Alaska locations. Some Alaska sporting goods or outdoor stores stock high demand maps. There are retail stores in larger Alaskan communities that specialize in maps. The USGS maintains a map distribution office at Alaska Pacific University in Anchorage that can provide fast service over the counter or by mail or telephone for people out of state. In Fairbanks, hunters may obtain maps at the Geophysical Institute's map office.

US Geological Survey

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

Map Office, GeoData Center
Geophysical Institute-UAF
903 Koyukuk Drive
Fairbanks, AK 99775
Tel. (907) 474-6960

NOTE: We intend to occasionally publish this information in future editions. Please forward your suggestions for additional Alaska hunting information 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 Mention in this publication of commercial goods or services does not constitute an endorsement by the State of Alaska or the Alaska Department of Fish & Game.

HOW TO SELECT A GUIDE

Excerpted from Hunt Alaska

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

Guides improve the chance of finding game.

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

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

However, a guide's knowledge, experience and equipment do not come cheaply. Although figures vary from guide to guide, expect to spend \$8,000-\$12,000 for a brown/grizzly bear

hunt, \$4,000-\$6,000 for a sheep hunt and \$1,500-\$3,000 for a goat hunt. Moose and caribou are often part of a mixed-bag hunt and prices vary considerably.

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

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

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

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

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



Return this form to
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Division of Wildlife Conservation/Hunter
Information & Training
333 Raspberry Road.
Anchorage, AK 99518-1599

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