

Hunter Education Quarterly

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

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My Golden
Opportunity

Change is Good,
Right?



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Administrator's Corner

2015 IS GOING TO BE EPIC!

As I type this article I am helping teach a hunter Education class in Placerville with my good buddies John Kunkle and Bill Gaines. How refreshing being surrounded by 25 starry-eyed enthusiastic new hunters! The exact shot of penicillin I needed after the week of work I had! Also

by Assistant Chief Roy Griffith

gives me time to reflect on this past year's season and the wonderful times afield.

Mattie and I ended our season and kicked off the new year in Nevada hunting chukar with Lt. Mike Norris, HEI's Brian Haack and George Obervstadt, and other friends. Mattie really made me proud with several rock-solid points that were text book and bird recoveries I never would have found without her. Anyone who has hunted these wild birds knows what I mean! If only I could shoot as good as she can point we would be a hell of a team.

Here is some good news... Last week the California Bowmen Association voted to pursue mandatory archery education for new/first-time archery hunters in California. I feel this is a huge step forward to police our own and protect archery hunting. I seek your support on this from all of you. For you bowhunters out there
Department of Fish and Wildlife

who have been on the fence about becoming certified as an IBEP instructor... now is the time.

HOW ABOUT THAT COVER PHOTO!?!

Wow did Deputy Mike Booher make us proud or what! That, ladies and gentlemen, is how you spend an HEI Open Zone Tag!

The good news is next year it could be you! Mark your calendars...do not forget to purchase your three chances for the HEI Open Zone tag this May-it is available for you and only you! Don't forget to get in for your draws and get a youth in for the phenomenal youth hunts available to them. Refer to Mike's article in this Quarterly to give you something to dream about.

HEI TRAINING GUNS SET PURCHASE

I have received many questions from HEIs on this topic. Kathy Mammen and I have been battling with state 'procurement' individuals for over a year on this. Just to let you know we have not given up and are still working on it. Our order is for 600 sets. The order is currently stuck at the Department of General services. Apparently someone there knows more about the needs of the Hunter Education program in California than the guy who has ran the program for the last 10 years...! My Goal remains the same... to have a set in the hands of every active instructor team in the state. The years of you dragging your personal firearms into classrooms risking damage to them or injury to someone should be over.



JOIN ME IN WELCOMING LT SPC ALAN GREGORY

As impossible as it sounds we have found a replacement for Lieutenant Dan! I am pleased to introduce to you Lieutenant Specialist Alan Gregory. Alan brings a lifetime of hunting experience to the family and many creative ideas to build on what Lt Dan started and make it his own. Please refer Alan's introductory article, reach out to him, introduce yourself and welcome him to the family.

2015 HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR TRAINING

By the time you receive this article you should have already received several training reminders. We have gone to great lengths to make this an event to remember. Yes, we are asking a lot of many of you faced with a long trip, but I hope those of you who choose to join us will remember it for years to come.

As a reminder Friday will kick off at 2:00pm and be an afternoon filled with fun friendly 'competitions', lectures, food demonstrations for you and your family. Saturday will be the mandatory training, which, unfortunately, is open to certified HEIs only.

Sarah is establishing a waiting list for spouses on a first come, first serve basis if we do not meet the 400 HEI threshold. Either way, we will have a full list of fun things to do and sights to see to fill the

Saturday for your family! Or they can relax and enjoy the beauty of Squaw Valley. Do understand this is the Tahoe Valley in May... we can be planning everything from wildflower walks to toboggan races depending on the weather.

As I said before, our main goal in all this is to give you and yours something a little different and present an unforgettable conference worthy of your time and travel. For additional details refer your HEI resources page at: www.dfg.ca.gov/huntered/instructor-resources

IT'S BEEN A GOOD RUN

Hunter Education has been a passion of mine since I was a young game warden. I taught my first class when I joined the department in 1990. I officially joined the family as the Hunter Ed Captain for the Northern District in December 2002 then became your state Program Administrator in February 2005.

Twelve years is a long time, I only go over this to remind myself what a good long run we have had. I am proud of what we have accomplished together!

However, as many of you already know, this will be my last article as your state program coordinator. It is time for me to move on and take on some new challenges. On March 1st I accepted a promotion to Assistant Chief over Administration at our headquarters in Sacramento.

I will oversee the Professional Standards Unit, Regulations & Legislation, Telecommunications & CALTIP...oh, and of course

Hunter Education! I hope you did not think I could get away for you all completely (YET)! Soon you will have a new Hunter Education Captain to pick up where we left off. As much as I promise you I will be able to let him or her make the program their own, I will still have oversight of the program and your best interest at heart.

I just want to say from the bottom of my heart what an honor it has been to work with you all over the years and how proud I am to be on your team! THANK YOU for everything you do to pass on our wonderful hunting heritage and your role in protecting our wildlife resources for generations to come! Without you there would not be a Hunter Education Program.

Roy

***Change is not
mandatory...But
neither is survival...***

Northern District

We all survived the holidays and have jumped into the new year in high gear, revved up and ready to go. There is a lot going on this year so I encourage everyone to do their best to keep up with all the information we will be putting out.

This year's Hunter Ed. booth at the ISE show was a huge success as always. Unfortunately, I was sick and missed most of the show. In

*by Lieutenant
Peter J. Blake*

true Hunter Ed. fashion the team of instructors all stepped up and didn't miss a beat. They all covered me spectacularly and I would say the general public never even knew I was gone. I personally thank all of you who participated and apologize for my absence. You all made me very proud. I would like to also give special thanks to HEI Bill Adams who did most, if not all, the pre-show preparations including scheduling. Thank You!!!!

This last year we rolled out Samaritan. Admittedly there have been some bumps in the road and I know many of you don't like it. I sympathize with your sentiment. With that being said please be patient, open minded and willing to make an effort. As of January, out of the 338 instructors in the Northern District, only 190 had updated their instructor profile. What does that mean??? It means that when I send out a

group e-mail to all the instructors just less than half are not getting it. That is a problem! The other thing I notice is out of the 190 people who have updated their information this past year a dozen or so have changed their e-mail and they were returned to me meaning even less people received the information I was trying to send out. Please do your best to keep your information updated. If you need help call me and I will get you all dialed in.

The other big thing coming up is the statewide training conference on May 1st and 2nd at Squaw Valley. Everything has been finalized and we are all working very hard to put on an awesome show. Make sure to RSVP and make your reservations early. There is only space for 450 HEI's. I look forward to seeing you all there. If you cannot make it to the training at Squaw Valley you will have to complete the correspondence course. We will not have satellites this year.

Thank you everyone for all that you do.



North Coast District

Well, I made it through the first year as the North Coast District Coordinator. Luckily I work with a great group of HEI's who made life easy on me. It is more enjoyable now as it was in the start because I have gotten the opportunity to know some of you and at minimum at least now recognize everybody's name.

My reflection got me thinking about communication. My door is always open and I am readily available via phone or email. The difficult part is keeping in touch with 190 or so instructors. North Coast District Instructors have done an outstanding job of updating

*by Lieutenant
Bart Bundesen*

their Samaritan profiles with email addresses. It only cost me two \$50.00 dollar gift certificates to get about 75% compliance.

If you are one of the 25% without an email address in Samaritan you are missing the group communication between the NCD HEI's and me. I have found that while the Quarterly article is a good outlet for information there are a lot of you who don't read it. Even writing that sentence I laugh because the folks it's aimed at won't see it. That being said, on a regular basis I get the best response through emails.

Some of the advantages I have seen by having access to email addresses of instructors through Samaritan are scheduling time to get in touch via phone(very Department of Fish and Wildlife

important sometimes), group queries about equipment needs and opinions, updates on training opportunities, and expedited response time to communications from such a large group.

Make sure you keep your contact information up to date so you don't get left behind. Along those same lines if you aren't very good on the computer, or don't use it at all, make sure that I know so I can make reasonable accommodations to communicate with you.

The best part about my first year as Coordinator is that I received exactly 0.0 complaints. If you folks keep this up and continue doing such good work you're going to put me out of a job.

I've tested quite a few new instructors in the past few months. You may receive communication from me in the near future introducing you to someone new in your area. I want to make this standard procedure as I don't want the new folks to get lost in the

masses. Please welcome them in, identify and use their strengths, and improve their deficiencies.

As always if you have any people you think would make good HEI's let me know. I am surprised how many gun clubs, trap clubs, and outdoor shops don't have a class available at least on a quarterly basis. I'd like to start bringing some more of these in the fold if for nothing else but providing more locations for current instructors to add "live fire" to their classes.

On the subject of class locations, I have already in my short time seen some interesting issues. Established class locations suddenly no longer available, or long defunct locations starting back up because they recognized the service they had lost. If you find yourself in one of these situations let me know I will do everything in my power and persuasion to help you out.

In closing I appreciate everything you all do to make this program

run so well. It has been a joy to work with you in the last year and I look forward to many good times in the future. As always, feel free to reach out to me anytime at (415) 892-0073 or bart.bundesen@wildlife.ca.gov Thanks!



San Diego Lt Scott Bringman with a nice spring turkey. Lt. Bundesen did the calling, Wade, Bear and Gizmo crashed the photo opportunity.

Central District

Well here we are in a new year. The hunter education program is growing on many fronts. Your dedication to the program and the work you do is keeping us on our toes. We have to try and bring in tools to help us keep up. Adding the volunteer tracking database, Samaritan, has been one implement to help us keep up with you. If you are not

*by Lieutenant
Shawn Olague*

yet using it, you need to be and essentially have to be in order to keep up with the hunter education program.

We hope to acquire another tool this year that will better serve you and our public when it comes to finding, posting, attending, etc..... hunter education classes. We are hoping to have it approved, purchased and ready to go before

our conference in May. You will be excited about how user friendly it is for the instructor and the student. Let's keep our fingers crossed. It will definitely be a help.

For all intents and purposes, waterfowl season has ended. There is still the late season goose hunt coming as I write this. I hope to get out and show a few of my club members how exciting goose hunting is. A few of them got to experience it this past season. I also got to share the blind with a few first-time duck hunters. Some trips were good, some not as good as I would have liked. Some shot many shells and really helped support the Pittman-Robertson Act. Many times the blind was littered with spent hulls, holes in the sky, and a black lab who was wondering why the ducks are still flying. I also hear I created some animals that are now hooked on pursuing ducks. I am glad they are so excited and love to hear they now

experience a sunrise in the marsh at least once in their life.

This past weekend was a pleasure to see the next generation of hunters pursuing our tradition. It was a tougher weekend than the past Junior hunts, but it was nice to see the kids get enjoyment out of the whole experience. We all need to strive to improve the pre- and post-hunt experience to retain the upcoming generations. If we just focus on the kill there may be some disappointment, but if the whole experience remains memorable and if they long to do it again, it can be considered a success. It is this success that I like sharing and feel blessed to be a part of. This was my son Eric's last junior waterfowl hunt season unless the Feds decide to change something in regards to our law changes and juniors. I don't feel sorry for him. He has had way more opportunities than I ever had. It has been a pleasure seeing him grow up in the field.

have
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passion.
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marsh.
One
needs to

I hope we can see you at our upcoming conference on May 1st and 2nd. I am looking forward to sharing some good times with all of you in the Lake Tahoe area. We will have a blast. Try hard to make it. I will understand if you can't. You will be missed.

Keep up the good work and all you do as it all pays forward. And although there are many who do not understand the value of what you do, I do, and I appreciate it. See you soon.



Southern District

We're near the start of a new year so I thought I'd take this opportunity to look back at Hunter Education in the Southern District 2014 and then look ahead at some of the things we can expect 2015.

But first I wanted to ask you seasoned outdoorsman--What is your single most important piece of hunting equipment? What is it that makes or breaks a trip, whether you find game or not, whether

*by Lieutenant
Mike Norris*

you ever shoulder a gun or draw a bow?

I like to ask that question to a class at the start of the survival unit and the answers make for a good discussion on basic gear. You get a variety of answers—fire starter, binoculars, sun/eye glasses, pocket knife/multi-tool. What's yours?

My answer: boots, feet down. Keeping my feet happy and protected from rocks, rain, snow, mud, cold and heat is key. They keep me moving forward—and just as important, backward, finding my way home. They keep me from twisting an ankle, letting me safely go up, down, and across extreme inclines. If I had known how much great boots matter, they would have been the first piece of premium gear I bought—instead of that shotgun.

If I had invested in premium
Department of Fish and Wildlife

boots then, instead of suffering the many cold, slippery, soggy miles that resulted from buying what was on sale, I would have been a happier hunter. Mid-January, I had lots of time to think about that as I hiked the muddy, steep shale and lava-covered slopes of Nevada in boots which took many months of VISA card payments to own—but are worth every penny.

And that's my message to anyone starting out who wants to know the best brand of rifle or bow to buy—I tell them take care of their person first, then worry about things like blue or stainless, walnut or Kevlar. Now, on to business!

First, as always—Thank You All! Southern District HEIs put forth a great effort in 2014, putting thousands of certificates in the hands of would-be hunters. Be very proud of yourselves and when anyone asks what you've done lately, tell them you've been a big part in keeping the hunting tradition alive and well here in California, a state where many would be happy to see hunting go by the wayside. With your help, we're not going to let that happen.

Second, at the risk of jinxing 2015, hunters in the Southern District last year didn't hurt themselves or anyone else last year—no fatalities here in SoCal... not even a peppering was reported! Again, kudos to all you HEIs training hunters to be sure of their targets, mindful of the background, and to always control the muzzle!

Third, much applause for getting

your Income/Expense Reports in! Unsure if it was my nagging—uh--*urging* for you to fulfill a longstanding requirement, but I received more reports this January than in years' past—that means fewer calls and letters from me asking for them—THANKS!

Fourth, I need to report the February passing of HEI Joe Kubasak. Before moving to Washington, the LA County instructor taught mainly at the Angeles Shooting Range above Sylmar. He was a 14-year HEI with 70 classes, 1,661 students and 698 teaching hours to his credit. Thanks, Joe—you Passed It On.

Looking ahead at 2015, we're off to a great start with a number of Southern District HEIs selected to receive NRA training courses and our first-ever statewide HEI Conference slated for May 1-2 in Squaw Valley.

At press time, I knew one HEI who'd already completed a Range Safety Officer course and eight or nine who had signed up for Rifle/Shotgun/Pistol Instructor courses. All will be reimbursed for the tuition costs directly, and they can cover their travel costs thru course fees collected from students upon approval. We expect to offer this opportunity each year, watch for the next announcement and take advantage of the chance to receive advanced firearms training on the State's dime.

(cont on page 11)

Advanced Hunter Education

As was written in the last Hunter Education Quarterly, Lt. Dan Lehman was promoted to Captain. If you haven't done so please congratulate him. I wanted to introduce myself as Dan's replacement. My name is Alan Gregory. My first assignment from Capt. Griffith was to write a bio of myself for the quarterly, so here I go. I am a California native who started hunting at the age of 12 with my stepfather. We hunted deer, pig, upland game, and waterfowl all over the state. I attended Humboldt State

*by Lieutenant
Alan Gregory*



University where I graduated with a B.S. degree in Wildlife in 2000. In 2002, I attended the Fish and Game Academy and became a Game Warden. I started my career working in San Diego County focusing primarily on sport and commercial fishing activity. In 2004, I married my wife Liz who was also a Game Warden in San Diego County. In 2006,

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we transferred back to Northern California. I began working in Calaveras County where the work was more to my liking, hunting related. I immediately started teaching Hunter Education classes to boy scouts, 4H kids, law enforcement officer's kid, and anyone else who wanted to attend. My wife and I were blessed with our first child, a son, in 2007, and a daughter in 2009. More to come of them later. I am currently a Firearms Instructor/Range Master and a Field Training Officer for the Department. During my free time, I enjoy spending time with my wife and kids traveling and doing whatever we can in the outdoors as a family. We are always out

gold panning, fishing, mushroom hunting, and when we can, hunting as a family. I also enjoy hunting out of state, primarily for elk. But my love is still for California and the diverse outdoor opportunities that we have at our fingertips. There is no place like it. These are

very exciting times for me as my children approach hunting age and with a change in job description. My wife was also recently promoted to the Lt. of the Northern District's Natural Resource Volunteer program. Big changes in the Gregory household for sure.

As your new Advanced Hunter Education Coordinator, I have

some exciting ideas for the program and where that will take the sport of hunting in the future. While Capt. Lehman took the program to new heights, I hope to build on that by providing a path to opportunity for the students and all hunters. We currently have over 1,000 volunteer HEI's in California and I know there has to be some ideas out there. Please feel free to call me to discuss ideas you may have. I know we have instructors out there with specific skills and interests. As we are all aware of, it is the volunteer instructors that make our program possible and I thank you all for that. If you would like to help out at one of our clinics please give me a call or send me an email. I look forward to joining the Hunter Education family and doing what I can to continuing the sport of hunting in our great state.

Sincerely
Lt. Alan Gregory



(Southern Dist. cont from page 9)

By now you've received more word on 2015 HEI Training Conference in Squaw Valley and I'm excited—I hope you're able to grab a good number of the 400 spots available. Look for all the details here in the Quarterly and the letters that landed in your electronic and virtual mailboxes. Be there if you can, because in addition to a dynamite speaker, fun field events, and other training, every HEI who attends will receive a "uniform item" guaranteed to turn heads at campfires and tail gates... it's brown, canvas, its maker starts with a C and ends with a t, and it will keep your arms and torso toasty. *The only way to get one is to be there*, so get on up to Squaw Valley.

Remember, you can use class fees to cover your travel costs and it's a great place (next to Lake Tahoe) to take the family.

Speaking of announcements, to all of you (and there's a whole lot) who haven't registered on the Samaritan system—Darn You! If you haven't registered, you will not receive 95% of the emails from the Hunter Education Program because we don't have a way to easily email you. That means you won't receive emails about how to take advantage of offers like the NRA training, special deals offered to HEIs, news about HEI-only hunts, and other HE news. This is because the Dept. of Fish & Wildlife's in-house email system won't allow large group emailings, so get onboard with Samaritan, which does.

Here's how to sign up:

- Log in at <https://ec.volunteernow.com/custom/1398>.
- Your Username is the first initial of your first name (as it is on your instructor card), your full last name, and your four digit HEI number. If your HEI number is 157, then enter 0157. Bill Brown, HEI #0123 would enter bbrown0123
- Your initial password is: pass1234 (not just 1234, it's pass1234). You can customize it once logged in. Once logged in with Samaritan, enter your email/ mailing address and other personal information like shirt size. You won't have to mail in Instructor Scantrons anymore as you'll report that information on-line, and soon you'll be able to participate in voluntary polls/

surveys and other functions.

Hopefully soon, the student Scantrons will be eliminated as well and students will register for your classes electronically.

Finally, I've always wondered how many read my sage words start to finish so as a test, I'm going to run periodic attention checks by rewarding your knowledge of SoCal hunting locales...for this one, I'll mail a super-fantastic Hunter Ed trinket to the first five HEIs who can tell me what type of establishment (I'll accept an approximation) is located at 34°40'52.60" N/119°18'34.10" W....send your answer or other questions/comments/concerns to mike.norris@wildlife.ca.gov. See you at Squaw Valley!



HEI Charlie Gambrell, who's service as an HEI began in 1980 and extended for 34 years, receives a Director's Achievement Award from Capt. Roy Griffith and Lieutenant Mike Norris.

Guns? He's Got *Guns*

So, you've got a couple guns or a friend who has way more than a couple. Maybe you are considering a second—or even third—gun safe to house your treasured shooters. Perhaps you know a collector who has 100 various firearms?

Meet Karl Weschta, a Hunter Education Instructor and Gun Guy who goes to work each day in the company of some 15,000 guns. He manages a collection spanning firearms history, from matchlock muzzleloaders to the first breach loaders to *Battlestar Galactica*-style laser blasters. His office walls are covered—literally—with muskets, machine pistols, derringers, and modern rifles ranging in size from .22 to 30 mm—there's an anti-tank behemoth on top a cabinet holding some of the 300 Kalashnikovs. There's a harpoon rifle, a couple net guns, and several styles of dart guns down the hall.

If you're an average American, chances are you've seen some of these guns in your own living room.

When the Terminator had to be slowed down, Karl helped make it happen with a 3,000-round-per-minute, six-barreled, .30 cal, electrically-driven Gatling gun, the M134. He keeps several on hand, across the aisle from the 81mm mortar tubes and water-cooled M1919 machine guns, two vaults removed from where the Winchester 1887s are racked, around the bend from where a platoon of Brown Bess muskets stand at attention.



When Korean War vet Walt Kowalski needed something to get the gang bangers off his lawn, Karl had just the medicine—an M1 Garand. It was one of 500, stored in alternating muzzle/butt vertical format to conserve space, like so many strands of steel and walnut spaghetti.

When Katniss reached for her bow, to battle contestants from other Districts under the dome while Panem cheers, Karl made sure she held the winning weapon—a customized Hoyt Buffalo recurve.

HEI Weschta manages the firearms department at Independent Studio Services, one of the largest prop houses in the country, where movie makers go to get all the things used to populate a scene. Elsewhere in Karl's building are uniforms, cars, lamps, furniture, signs—you name it—but Karl mans the coolest department: Guns.

In his section are the guns used in

(Pictured below) Arrrrrrggghh! A double-barrel flintlock blunderbuss used in pirate pictures is among several hundred period muzzleloaders kept on hand by HEI Karl Weschta.



Weschta



Winchester and Remington rifles used in the deer hunting scenes of 2014's hit *American Sniper* were outfitted with period optics by HEI Karl Weschta at Independent Studio Services.

so many iconic movies and TV series that you can't begin to name them all but here's a few: *Gran Torino*, *Flags of Our Fathers*, *Letters From Iwo Jima*, *Sons of Anarchy*, *Captain America*, *The Avengers*, *24*, *The Shield*, *Agents of Shield*, *Ironman*, *CSI*, *NCIS*, *Bones*, *Dexter*, *Fast and Furious 6*, the *Transformer* and *Predator* movies, and the upcoming *Terminator 5*. The harpoon rifle used in the filming of *Jaws*? It's there, too.

Quick, what's the most recent gun-centric movie you can think of? That's right—Karl put the hardware in the hands of Bradley Cooper in *American Sniper*.

Karl extensively researched each rifle actually used in combat by Chris Kyle. He sourced the basic sniper rifles, and added each of the components added to it, down to its flat finish paint. Other guns used in the film had to be true to their era as well, including the two rifles used in the deer hunting scenes—a Rem. Mod. 721 w/period Weaver scope and a Win. Mod. 54, equipped with "The Texan" scope held in a Williams mount.

Authenticity is paramount, so the same efforts by Weschta and his team went into equipping Mark Wahlberg and the others in *Lone Survivor*. For other films, where there is nothing to guide them except imagination, ISS' firearms department will create

(Continued on page 15)



Walt Kowalski's M1 Garand, used in *Gran Torino*, and one of the Gatling guns from the final battle scene of *The Last Samurai*.

NRA Instructor Training

By: David Matthews, NRA Training Counselor

The **NRA Instructor Training Program** is designed to train experienced shooters to teach in NRA Basic Firearm Training courses as NRA Certified Instructors. Instructor training courses are conducted by ***NRA Certified Training Counselors***.

NRA Instructor Training Courses teach candidates how to teach firearm safety and shooting skill to others using the NRA instructional methodologies and training materials.

Instructors may be certified in each or all of the following ***discipline groups***: Pistol, Rifle, Shotgun, Personal Protection (In the Home and Outside the Home), Reloading (Metallic and Shotgun Shell).

As an instructor candidate, you will be required to complete a pre-course questionnaire, assessment and qualification exercise. Pre-course qualification normally consists of three parts: (i) a written test to assess the candidate's knowledge, (ii) a practical exercise on unloading procedures to assess the candidates gun handling skills and attitudes on safety, and (iii) live fire exercises to assess the candidates shooting skills.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has authorized NRA Instructor training for the following instructor certifications: 1) Basic Instructor Training (BIT), 2) Range Safety Officer, 3) Shotgun Instructor, 4) Rifle Instructor, and 5) Pistol Instructor.

This training is given in two parts.

Part One consists of basic instructor training (BIT), and consists of a six-hour class. This class is generic to all discipline groups pertaining to instructor training, and is required only once every two years regardless of how many discipline groups you become certified to teach.

Part Two consists of each particular *discipline group* such as Pistol Instructor, or Rifle Instructor. These discipline specific classes are generally held on a different day and vary in length. Rifle Instructor is a 14-hour class, generally held on 2 days. Shotgun Instructor is an 11-hour class, generally held on 1 day. Pistol Instructor is a 10-hour class, generally held on 1 day. Range Safety Officer is a 10-hour class, generally held on 1 day.

For example, if you were to be certified as a Pistol Instructor, you would be required to attend the Basic Instructor Training (BIT) class (6 hours), then also attend the discipline specific class of Pistol Instructor (10 hours) for a total of 16 hours of training. To be certified for subsequent Instructor ratings (Rifle, Shotgun, etc.) you would only be required to attend the discipline specific class, as the BIT would have already been taken (as long as more than 2 years since the BIT had not elapsed).

I will be happy to answer any of questions about the training, the process or to schedule your training. Please feel free to contact David Matthews at Firearm Training Institute (FTI) on our website (www.firearmtraininginstitute.com) or call me on my cell at 408-506-1884.

Have you moved or changed your address?

Log into Samaritan and update your volunteer profile! Be sure we have your current mailing address and email so that you get the latest and greatest updates! <https://ec.volunteernow.com/custom/1398/>. Contact the your coordinator or the Hunter Education office to get your username and password.

(Centerfold cont. from page 13)

something, such as the double-slide/single grip pistol thing used in *The Green Hornet*. They have a well-equipped machine shop to build such things, including futuristic working flame throwers and mock photon blasters.

There's enough AR-platform rifles (about 1,250 of them) to outfit an army battalion, and for battles set in earlier times, about 150 Enfields, 500 Springfields, a boatload of Krags and several hundred Winchester lever rifles and assorted Colonial-era muskets. Alongside those are about 100 Rem. 870s, some 200 Mossberg pumps (sawed-off/pistol grip avail.), and 100 Win. Mod. 12 and 97 pumps as well.

As for handguns, well—you name it, it's likely there: Desert Eagles, pearl-handled pimp pistols, Colt Single Action Army revolvers, and a S&W Mod. 29, which Harry Callahan famously described as “the most powerful handgun in the world.”

Karl said he has always had a passion for history, one which is serving him well on his current assignment—researching and sourcing firearms to be used in an upcoming film starring Matthew McConaughey as Newton Knight. Weschta said his challenge is coming up with several hundred correct percussion cap rifles for the battle scenes.

“There's no way we'll be able to come up with that many truly vintage rifles, so we're having to order Italian-made reproductions,” he said. The picture will be the first *Department of Fish and Wildlife*



Maximum Minigun—When one needs to put a lot of virtual lead downrange in the virtual world, producers come see Karl, one of California's HEIs who keeps several M134s on hand. Also available, if the shot calls for it, is a 30mm Soviet anti-tank gun.

Civil War film *ISS* has supplied guns for, hence the need for such a large order. “It is a challenge to put together this package of Civil War guns, it's a real learning process.”

Although he's immersed in guns now, it wasn't always the case. Karl began working at *ISS* 19 years ago, working with regular props. The growing gun collection caught his eye and he eventually switched to that department, picking up more and more firearms knowledge.

“Most of my training has been on-the-job, learning as I went.”

He's also a fairly new hunter, having picked up the sport about 10 years ago after taking a Hunter Education class at the nearby Angeles Range. “I wasn't too successful at first, and my first big game hunts were on the Tejon Ranch. After \$1,500 worth of trespass fees, I still hadn't even

seen a pig,” Karl laughed.

But he kept at it and still recalls his first boar. “I saw him and proned out. I was so, so excited, breathing hard..I had to slow it down. But I dropped him and he ended up rolling down into a canyon that took 2.5 hours to get back out of.

“I had caught the bug!”

Karl said it was the prospect of introducing his own sons to the sport and having them catch that bug as well which prompted him to become a HEI himself. So he and coworker Joe Dantona—another firearms specialist—became HEIs and teach groups of 10-15 friends and coworkers in his company's conference room.

There is, of course, no shortage of demonstration firearms.

My Golden Opportunity

By Mike Booher, HEI, Mono Co.

For me, a hunter's education class can be 2 to 4 adults, kids and/or Marines. That is normal when you live in a town of 600 in Mono County. Yet I don't mind doing them. I always tell myself that I am promoting the sport and a way of life that I love. But, as luck would have it, I just finished a class with 12 or 13 students; a very large class for me. Then the call comes.....me and Fish and Game started playing phone tag. It wasn't Lt. Shawn Olague, who is my district coordinator. He knows how to track me down. Nope, it was coming from Sacramento. I kept thinking, I must be using 10 year old forms again or I must not have checked all of my paperwork thoroughly. I must have done something wrong. After all, that's a big class for me.

After several days of calling back and forth we finally connect. The conversation starts with "I have some good news and some bad news for you". I ask for the bad news. I'm told that I didn't draw X12. The zone I live in. I figure that the guys in Sac were having a slow morning and my name was drawn out of the hat and the lucky winner got to call and disappoint me. "Don't you want to hear the good news?" Sure, why not. I was then told that I was awarded the special opportunity tag for Hunter Education Instructors. I about fell over. I kept saying "wow" and "I can't believe this",

Department of Fish and Wildlife

and maybe a few other expletives. As we continued our conversation, I was told that they were happy that someone with my volunteer years drew the tag. I had to ask, "How many years have I been teaching?" 19 years came the reply. I thought to myself that couldn't be right. But looking back it certainly was.

I then had to call a couple of buddies and brag about the tag. That was fun until that evening when I brought out the maps and started planning what I considered the California hunt of a lifetime. Living and hunting in an X-zone for 28 years has been a dream come true. But the two hunts that I've always wanted to do were just down the road, G-39 and G-3. I thought about some outstanding hunts to the north of me, but in

the end, I decided to hunt just two zones.

My next calls were to the two biologists who know these zones inside and out. A great big thank you goes to both Tim Taylor and Mike Morrison for taking the time to talk to me and to mark up some maps. Tim and I are personal friends and he has helped me teach classes whenever I've asked. Mike regularly fishes up my way and I hope to get to know him better. Thanks again guys.

Maybe the hardest part of this whole deal was not hunting until November. The G-39 hunt was outstanding. I was seeing 25 to 40 bucks a day. Most were smaller with a few 4x4's worked in. No shooters though. It had been



explained to me that the zone was totally weather dependent. Weather is something that didn't happen.

Then it was on to G-3. My scouting weekend was fruitful. We saw a lot of bucks and seven shooters. I was getting excited. I was lucky enough to have several friends who came along. We camped in the zone and enjoyed each other's company. There might have even been a lie or two told. Opening weekend was a bust for us. We hunted high in the little bit of snow there was. We saw plenty of bucks, just no shooters. We also talked to lots of fellow hunters. All were friendly and were thankful to have drawn the zone.

Thursday of the opening week we headed down early in the morning. High winds were the order of the day. Pulling a trailer and loaded

for a week of hunting made driving very slow. We hunted our first three hours without seeing a deer. We were beginning to think the high winds were going to shut us down. We moved location and started to see bucks up high. Five in this group, seven the next ridge over. No shooters though. We saw several bucks lower on the mountain. All were with doe's. With my buddies looking high in the snow line, I glassed to my right and saw a buck that looked good. He was a long ways off but I could tell he was tall and had good mass. I had my hunting partners take a look. He looked good. He was a lot lower on the mountain so we hesitated to move too close. That turned out to be a non-issue. He was with four does and was distracted. He was a nice 4X4. His antlers were also clean. Not one broken point. For me, I started to over-think the decision of taking

that buck. We had just arrived and were planning to hunt for the week. Would we get weather, maybe see that record book buck? I told my buddies that I was going to take the shot. He was the biggest buck I had ever had the opportunity to hunt. So for me, he was the right choice. Thanks to my good friends for being there with me.

As you can tell from the photographs, my hunt was successful. I can't thank the men and women who work at Fish and Wildlife who work so hard to support the Hunter Education Program. To my fellow instructors, teach your passion for hunting and your respect for our wildlife and habitat.....everything else will fall in place. Last but not least, good luck in next year's incentive drawings.

Posting Your Class on the CDFW Website

Effective immediately EMAIL your class posting requests to HunterEd.classpostings@wildlife.ca.gov. This email was created to help classes get posted to the Internet in a more timely manner. The website will be updated once a week, generally mid-week. Be sure to include, County, City, Date, Location, Contact name and number or email. Any missing information may delay the posting of your class schedule.

My First Turkey

By Tyler Rehner

My grandpa Dave and his friend, Roy, brought me out on my first turkey hunt on a friend's property. We were chopping firewood for the owner when she told us that there was a flock of 11-12 turkeys up a small hill scratching in the horse corral. I quickly got my gun and headed up the hill. We waited until the turkeys had left the horse corral. Then they began to head down the hill. Since you can only shoot one a day we had to wait until one separated from the flock. One got spooked and straitened its neck and looked at us, it was a hen, just what we



wanted. I raised my gun to my shoulder and the last thing it saw was a piece of #4 federal shot. It rolled several times and came to rest against a log. As we approached it, I noticed it had a beard and I had been so sure it was a hen. We brought it back to Roy and he said it was a bearded hen. I had no idea there was such a thing as a bearded hen but bearded or not, I shot Thanksgiving dinner this year.



This was an exciting experience for me and I could not have done it without the time that my grandpa and Roy spent hunting with me. I can't wait until I go turkey hunting again.

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Now Available, 10 Commandments of Gun Safety poster. Limit 2 per instructor. Contact Kathy Mammen with requests.

10 COMMANDMENTS OF GUN SAFETY

1. **TREAT EVERY GUN WITH THE RESPECT DUE A LOADED GUN. THIS IS THE CARDINAL RULE OF GUN SAFETY.**
2. **Carry only empty guns--taken down or with the action open--into automobile, camp or home.**
3. **Always be sure barrel and action are clear of obstructions, and that you have only ammunition of the proper size for the gun you are carrying.**
4. **Always carry your gun so that you control the direction of the muzzle, even if you stumble.
Keep safety on until you are ready to shoot.**
5. **Be sure of your target before you pull the trigger.**
6. **Never point a gun at anything you do not want to shoot--whether loaded or empty.**
7. **Never leave your gun unattended unless you unload it first.
Store guns and ammunition separately beyond reach of children or careless adults.**
8. **Never climb a tree or fence or jump over a ditch while holding a loaded gun. Never pull gun to you by the muzzle.**
9. **Never shoot at a flat, hard surface or the surface of water.**
10. **Avoid any mind altering drugs or alcoholic drinks before or during shooting.**

www.dfg.ca.gov/huntered



Change is Good, Right?

By Sarah Brar

All good things must end and change is good, right? This change is both good and bad with a little sad thrown in.

I've been with the Hunter Education program for 13 years (15 with CDFW) and I think this is the first article I have written for the Quarterly, and will now be my last and only one. I accepted a promotion with the Secretary of State's office and my last day at Hunter Ed and Fish and Wildlife was May 31st. 13 years though!! So much has happened with this program in that time and I have been so proud to be a part of it. This job



has allowed me to learn many new things and given me experiences I never would have had in a more "normal"

state job. Not to mention all the exotic game meat I've tasted at all the pre-conference events!

I have TONS and tons of great memories spent with hunter ed instructors all over the state. I can't even begin to write about them or I'll fill

up the whole quarterly. There is no way to tell you all how sad I am to leave the hunter ed family, this is really bittersweet for me. Not to mention the Hunter Ed Team, Roy, Kathy, Peter, Shawn, Bart and Mike. They are all like family to me and it's always hard to break up the family unit. I would only leave for a promotion, and to a job I know I would love as much as this one, so I couldn't say no when I was offered exactly that. I will be at the Squaw Valley training! I put in too much work on this conference to not attend when it's right around the corner hahaha. Please find me; I'd love to say hello and goodbye to everyone up there.

Thank you, to all of you, for your dedication to the Hunter Education Program, and your patience and kindness to me over the years. I'll see you at Squaw!



2015 Hunter Education Training at Squaw Valley May 1-2, 2015

Registration is quickly filling up!

The event—the only HEI Training Meeting of the year—will be held May 1 and 2 at The Village at Squaw Valley. For HEIs, Steven Rinella, star of the MeatEater sportsman show, anchors the event as the keynote speaker. We think you will find his message informative and uplifting. The day will be packed full of information to help you teach your courses including a peek at Event Management, and retired Game Warden Terry Hodges, author of a popular series of warden stories. If you are bringing family members a variety of side trips are available in the Tahoe/Truckee area to fill their time while you are training.

A discounted lodging rate is available at The Village and HEIs can check out their options by going to <http://j.mp/CADepartmentofFishWildlife> or calling 888-767-1907 and mentioning you are part of the California Department of Fish & Wildlife's Hunter Safety Training. Instructors attending as a group may wish to consider a multi-room suite; it can be the more affordable option.

Remember, you may use class fees to offset your training meeting expenses. You are free to stay anywhere you wish, of course, and there are many lodging options in the greater Tahoe City/Truckee area, each about 20 minutes away. Request California State Government rates when making your reservations.

Just because you have a room booked, does not necessarily mean you have a spot reserved at the training! Make sure you are on the list or you could potentially be turned away at the door.

It's Election Time Again for PCHEA:

If you're in the North Coast District we're looking for nominations for the following open positions on the board of directors:

- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Director

Please send your Nominations by April 24th TO:

PCHEA nominating committee
PO Box 374
Boulder Creek, CA 95006-0374

Thank you

Chuck Giordanengo, President PCHEA

This Point's For You

By Lieutenant Bart Bundesen

Lately I have had quite a bit of correspondence regarding the new California Department of Justice Firearm Safety Certificate (FSC) Program that changed on January 1, 2015. The program requires firearm purchasers to acquire an FSC and complete a safe firearm handling demonstration.

The program was originally the Handgun Safety Certificate Program, but that changed to include long gun purchases/acquisitions made January 1, 2015, and thereafter. The new requirement was named the Firearm Safety Certificate (FSC). Once an FSC is obtained, it can be used for both handgun and long gun purchases/acquisitions.

Firearm Safety Certificates are acquired by taking and passing a written test on firearm safety and completing a firearm safety demonstration. The certificates are valid for 5 years, but a safety demonstration must be performed for each firearm make and model purchased. If you purchase a Remington 870 that same safety demonstration does not apply to the Remington 1100.

A valid Handgun Safety Certificate can still be used to

purchase/acquire **handguns only** until it expires.

So how and why does this apply to the Hunter Education program?

One is that some HEI's were also teaching the Handgun Safety Certificate Class in addition to their Hunter Education Courses as a way to provide an additional public service.

So are we lead to believe that they would also have to teach long gun safety after 10 hours of it in Hunter

Does this also apply to the safe gun handling demonstration?

Yes, the exemptions to the safe handling demonstration include all the exemptions from the FSC requirement.

So in the end the DOJ has recognized the Hunter Education class as at least the equivalent to their Firearm Safety Certificate.

Hopefully this was helpful; I anticipate with the new long gun addition to the law the Hunter



Education team will see increased demand for classes, when it becomes knowledge that a hunting license satisfies the requirement. I also think this is a question many of you will run across in the future.

Ed?

The answer is no! Here is DOJ's exemption, "a person issued a valid hunting license is exempt from the FSC requirement for **long guns only**" (Pen. Code, § 31700, subd. (c).)

Joe Kubasak, HEI

By HEI Reece Talley

On Feb 1 we lost one of our own. Joe Kubasak, a Hunter Ed. Instructor for over 15 years, passed away after a very brief struggle with pancreatic cancer. He left behind a son, Jeff, a daughter, Jessica, and his wife of many years, Jayne.

Of course Joe also left behind a bevy of friends and acquaintances.

My relationship with Joe goes back to the early 70s when we grew up together in Burbank. Back in those days we knew many of the same people but we never really hung out together. It wasn't until early 2002 that we ran into each other and our friendship grew. I began helping Joe and a few other guys teach Hunter Education classes.

I'm a high school teacher by profession and Joe and the guys kept after me until I got certified. Over the years we hunted doves out in Lancaster, and quail and chukar all over the Mojave. We also worked the Heritage Hunts together and shot ducks out at the Fin and Feather club.

An avid outdoorsman, Joe loved fishing Alaskan salmon and recently enjoyed shooting ducks in Columbia with an old buddy from our group. My fondest memories are of the weekly late night shoots we held at Oak Tree Gun Club. Whether shooting skeet with him and his son Jeff, or breaking clays with his prized Blaser out past the 28-yard fence on the trap range, Joe was a great shot and a fun competitor. Most of those nights ended

up with our gang closing down Oak Tree and enjoying a few glasses of wine while we fibbed about our shotgun prowess.

Joe was also active in scouting. When his son made Eagle Scout a decade ago, Joe continued on with Scouting by helping with their annual shotgun merit badge qualifications.

Last year Joe relocated to Spokane and we lost touch. I learned of his passing from his son Jeff, who teaches math at my high school. Joe was a good man who loved his kids and he loved his wife. Cantankerous at times and wildly free spoken, he could be tough to deal with if he figured you had wronged him.



Most importantly though, he was one of us--a lover of the outdoors and a proud member of a very long line of hunters and sportsmen that dates back to the foundation of our great nation.

Joe, I'm going to miss you. May God grant you the rest you so richly deserve. Oh, one more thing--if they have Heritage Hunts in heaven, Lt. Norris says you absolutely have to stay off the dike!

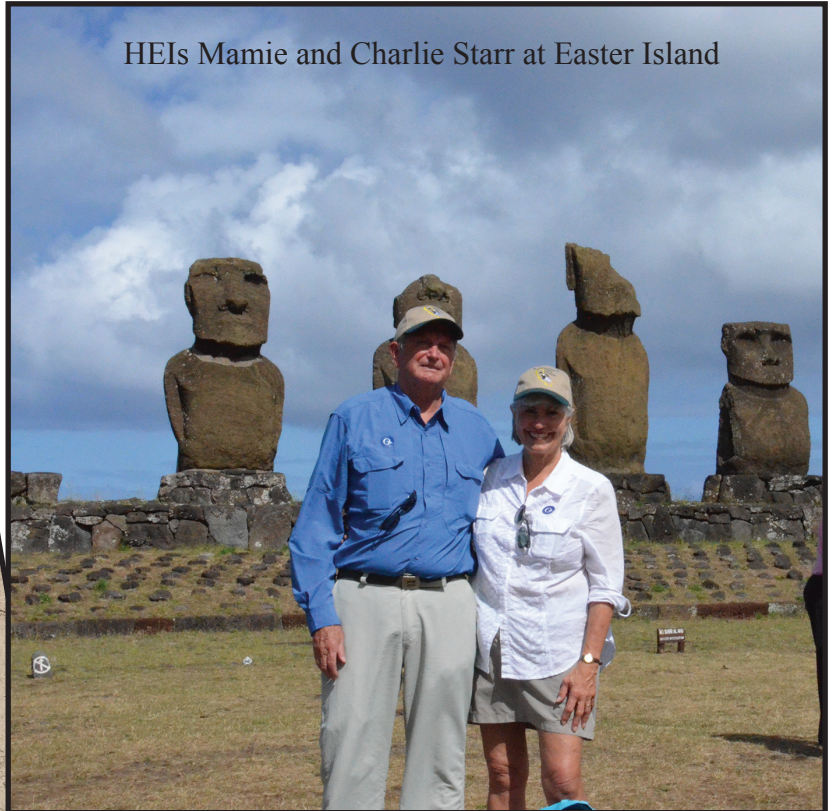
Where's Ed?

Don't see your picture? Don't be discouraged!! I can only fit so many in each Quarterly so be sure to keep an eye out for your submission. Keep sending your photos in, we love them. Don't forget to take your hat and camera next time you go on vacation and take pictures in unique locations!! Thank you! - Sarah

HEI Darell Freeman at Wister state reserve at Salton Sea



HEIs Mamie and Charlie Starr at Easter Island



HEI Mike Mullins ,his dog Ranger with two warden kids from San Joaquin county

