

Hunter Information & Training Program News



Fall 2019

Instructor Notes

Above & Beyond recipients

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

Alex Bortnick (Anchorage)

Alex stepped up to instruct classes during one of our busiest times of year for both instructors and certification classes. He taught three hunter ed classes and one crossbow ed class.



Matthew Jendrusina (Anchorage)

Matthew stayed busy this fall helping the HIT Program out. He taught three hunter ed classes and coached a team for the RCSP Youth Shotgun League for 10 weeks.

Rob Taylor (Fairbanks)

Rob helped instruct six classes during this time period when it was difficult for HIT Program staff to find instructors to teach. He also co-taught a Women's-only hunter ed class which was well received by the community.

We'll be recognizing 1-4 extraordinary volunteer instructors each quarter, so keep an eye out for co-instructors who go "above and beyond" in the next few months and send me an email.

2019 Instructor of the Year Awards-Nominations Needed

Every year the HIT Program recognizes volunteer instructors who have made significant contributions to the HIT Program. We want to recognize those instructors who have gone above and beyond to advance the cause of safe and ethical hunting. The nomination form has been emailed to each instructor and an electronic copy is available online at www.huntereducation.alaska.gov (located on the Volunteer Instructors page). Please take the time to nominate one of your co-instructors who has given extraordinary service to the HIT Program.

Awards are given out for the following categories: hunter ed, bowhunter ed, muzzleloader ed, rural instructor, lifetime achievement, outstanding educator of the year, and apprentice.

Feel free to contact HIT Program staff for teaching statistics and contact information. Try to gather information about your nominee from their co-instructors, significant others, and friends. Nominations must be postmarked by January 15, 2019 which gives you time to help ensure a fellow instructor is recognized for their dedication and willingness to share their passion with others.

HIT Staff

Contact Information

Anchorage:

Gina Smith 267-2196
Kirk Lingofelt 267-2373
Steven Unfreid 267-2241
Katelyn Zonneville
267-2534

Cindy Palmatier
267-2187

Fairbanks:

Bob Hunter 459-7375
Tom Halverson 459-7211

Juneau:

Daniel Gutierrez
465-4345
Jeff Jemison 586-4101



John Halfacre's students from Mat-Su Career & Tech High School completing their proficiency shoot during a hunter ed class

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Coordinator's Corner-Ginamaria Smith

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DID YOU KNOW?

IHEA-USA and partner organizations have created "Hunters Connect" a digital media platform to keep up with the times and enhance hunter ed. There will even be an "Instructor Toolbox" section in the future.

<https://huntersconnect.org/>



Hopefully everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable Thanksgiving, and a fruitful fall hunting season. It's been a busy fall with instructor trainings, the youth shotgun league, certification courses, annual instructor meetings, and of course fitting in some hunting too. It's always great to catch up with so many of our instructors after being out in the field. I look forward to hearing the success stories and about all of the amazing opportunities

that only Alaska can offer to hunters and adventurers.

I'd like to thank Stacey Bradley of Wasilla and Howard Delo of Big Lake who played an instrumental role on the HIT Program Steering Group for the past two years. They gave great feedback on a variety of certification course topics and assisted at the 2018 IHEA-USA Conference held in Anchorage. The years of teaching experience, expertise, and enthusiasm they brought to the Steering Group greatly assisted the HIT Program in ensuring well thought out course offerings.

With the end of 2019 quickly approaching, I highly encourage everyone to join/renew your IHEA-USA membership (\$30). There is also a Lifetime Membership (\$450) option with the following benefits:

- Lifetime Member Card and Certificate signed by IHEA-USA Executive Director
- "Lifetime Member" lapel pin
- Recognition on the IHEA-USA website as a Lifetime member
- Continuing the Heritage #2 Print (16" X 20")
- Getting Ready for the Hunt Print (16" X 20")
- Cabela's brand Duffel Bag embroidered with the IHEA logo and "Lifetime Member"
- \$100.00 Cabela's Gift Card

Information on becoming an IHEA-USA member can be found at www.ihea-usa.org.

We are always looking for photos taken during the certification classes to use in future newsletters, on the ADF&G website, and in HIT Program publications. It's always fun to see what other instructors are doing statewide. You can email your photos directly to me at ginamaria.smith@alaska.gov.



As we approach the holidays, the HIT Program staff wishes you and your family a happy holiday season! Best wishes for a wonderful 2020 filled with health, happiness, and hunting/fishing success!



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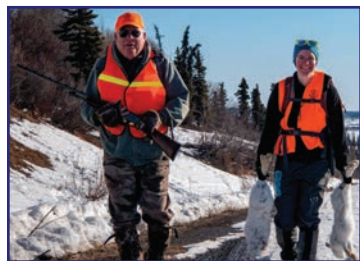
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Welcome to New Steering Group Members

The HIT Program's Steering Group has proven to be a great advisory resource in advancing HIT Program goals and objectives. Please join us in welcoming the new members who will serve a two-year term.

Rich Graham (Southcentral)

Palmer
richgraham.ek@gmail.com



Rich has been a volunteer hunter ed instructor since 2004 and a bowhunter ed instructor since 2006. He was the 2018 Hunter Education Instructor of the Year. Professionally he has been involved in fish and wildlife management for most of his adult life. As a retired

Alaska Wildlife Trooper, Rich is particularly concerned about students understanding the role our laws and regulations play in the management of our natural resources. He likes to challenge all of his students to become ambassadors of the HIT Program objectives once they leave the class.

Larry Boyle (Southcentral)

Anchorage
larryboyle@alaska.net



Larry has been a volunteer hunter ed instructor since 1996, teaching in Dutch Harbor, Fairbanks, and Anchorage. He always makes sure to explain the importance and impact of hunter/shooter contributions through the Pittman-Robertson Act funds. Passionate about firearms

safety and hunting ethics, he was one of the founders of the Aleutian Rod & Gun Club and AIMCOMM. Larry and his wife have been instructor/volunteers for the Becoming An Outdoors Woman program for over 10 years, and received a Governor's Award as Outdoor Educators of the Year in 2018.

Welcome to Our New Volunteer Instructors

We wish to extend a warm welcome to all new volunteer instructors who have joined us since the publication of our last newsletter. Congratulations and welcome aboard!

Hunter Education:

Anchorage: Richard Behnke, Patrick Dodd, Elise Donaghy, Abigail Jendrusina, Clint Renfro, Michael Sciotti

Brevig Mission: Winfred Olanna Jr.

Chugiak: Benjamin Matthews

Eagle River: Frederick Transburg, Ryan Wood

Ft. Wainwright: Rebecca Styron

Galena: David Wightman

Golovin: Carlos Bravo-Navarro

Homer: Douglas Baily

Juneau: Daniel Gutierrez, Dan Hubert, James White

Ketchikan: Corey Padron

McGrath: Brett Gibbens

Ninilchik: Jeramy Lemons

Nome: Sara Germain, Ashley Westbrook

Palmer: Gloria Clow, Angel Romero, Steven Unfreid

Soldotna: Cassandra Hajicek, Peter Heid

Ward Cove: Tessa Hasbrouck

Bowhunter Education:

Anchorage: Patrick Dodd, Ana Harrington, Craig Starr

Ninilchik: Jeramy Lemons

Palmer: Steven Unfreid

We are always looking to recruit new volunteer instructors. If you know of anyone interested, have them visit the website (www.huntereducation.alaska.gov) and fill out the application.

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Daniel Gutierrez-Southeast Region Coordinator



It is my pleasure to formally introduce myself to you all. My name is Daniel Gutierrez and I am the new full-time HIT Program Southeast Coordinator based out of the ADF&G Douglas Office.

I am formerly from the great state of Texas where I was born and raised. I was a business owner for the past 20 years, with the last five being a franchisee for Truly Nolen Pest Control. In 2018 my family and I left our life in Texas and moved to Juneau. My family consists of my wife Jennifer who is one of the infusion nurses at Bartlett Regional Hospital and two sons Gunnar, age 15 who goes to Thunder Mountain Highschool and Hunter, age 13 who goes to Floyd Dryden Middle School.

Due to my passion for shooting sports and hunting, 10 years ago I set out on a journey to become a certified firearms instructor so I could assist the local BSA council in reviving its program. After getting my certifications for Rifle, Pistol, Shotgun and muzzle loading I was able to attend the National Camp School where I was certified as a Shooting Sports Director. I later went to the NRA headquarters in Virginia to receive my credentials to be a Training Counselor for the said categories along with being a Chief Range Safety Officer. For those Scouters in the instructor pool, I have completed Wood Badge, served on two Wood Badge courses, staffed an NYLT course, and attained my fourth bead as an NYLT course director. I am also a member of the Order of the Arrow as a Vigil Honor member and recently received my Silver Beaver award.



As the Southeast Coordinator I hope to be able to support instructors as much as possible, so please feel free to contact me at (907) 465-4345 or daniel.gutierrez@alaska.gov.



National Sporting Clays Association Hall of Fame Inductee



Congratulations to longtime volunteer Clayton Rue for being inducted into the NSCA Hall of Fame. Clayton was recognized for his contributions to the sport as a shooting instructor during this year's National Shooting Championship in San Antonio, Texas. Clayton has been a professional sporting clays instructor for over twenty years and during that time has continuously volunteered his time as a coach/instructor/target setter for the Rabbit Creek Youth Shotgun League. He is a NSCA Level III Instructor who travels the country certifying other instructors and assisting with the set-up of new sporting clays courses. He is also a Senior Contributor to Clay Target Nation magazine, having published over 60 technical articles over the past four years.

IHEA Instructor Resource Site

www.ihea.com

Login: instructor Password: gohunt

Alaska HIT Program Site

www.huntereducation.alaska.gov

Login: huntered Password: heinstructor



HIT Steering Group

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