



Hunter Information & Training Program News

Summer 2019

Coordinator's Corner-Ginamaria Smith

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DID YOU KNOW?

The term "Sniper" originally referred to hunters skilled enough to shoot a Snipe. The word appears to have originated in or around the mid 1700's and was first coined by the British Military in India where troops hunted Snipe, which by virtue of their speed and size, were extremely difficult to shoot.



The summer has been busy with events, certification classes, and trying to fit in fishing, hiking, yardwork, etc. before the snow falls. As such, we'd like to recognize the first instructors chosen to be a part of the "Above & Beyond" Program. These four recipients will receive gift cards provided by the Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation.

Ryan Adam (North Pole)

Summer is often a difficult time to schedule instructors to teach since everyone is busy. Ryan stepped up and helped teach 1 hunter ed, 2 crossbow ed, and 2 bowhunter ed classes in Fairbanks. He filled in for classes that were challenging to staff.



Ed Bosco (Anchorage)

Ed has been a workhorse for the HIT Program for many years, and has stepped up again this summer. He's already taught 3 hunter ed, 1 bowhunter ed, and 1 muzzleloader ed classes in just the past few months. Of his own volition, he took the non-functional firearms from the Rabbit Creek classroom and cleaned them all. He wanted to make sure they worked well for other instructors and the students.

Somerset Jones (Chugiak)

Somerset can always be counted on to take the lead at a Mat-Su Valley hunter ed class. He taught 6 hunter ed classes so far this summer and has already been extremely busy in August. We offered two hunter ed classes at the Birchwood Recreation & Shooting Park, and Somerset hauled equipment and ensured everything ran smoothly at the new location.

Ryan Lorimer (Wasilla)

Ryan became a certified hunter ed instructor in October 2018, and in the spring also became certified to teach bowhunter ed and muzzleloader ed too. This summer he jumped right in and instructed 2 hunter ed and 2 bowhunter ed classes in the Mat-Su Valley. He responded to requests from staff to teach when we really needed it.

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.

Thanks to everyone who has stepped up to help teach classes this summer as we've had lots of interest and full classes. Best of luck during the upcoming hunting season! I look forward to hearing stories and seeing photos at the annual instructor meetings later this winter.



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Annual Instructor Meetings

The annual instructor meetings are scheduled for later this fall/winter. These meetings are a great way to meet other instructors, share your hunting stories, provide feedback to HIT Program staff, and help plan the 2020 schedule. It's also a chance for us to thank you for your outstanding efforts and volunteer hours in 2019. You'll be contacted by your regional coordinator with specifics when the actual meeting date is closer.

- **Sunday, October 27th at the Fairbanks Indoor Range**
- **Wednesday, November 6th at the Snowshoe Gun Club (Soldotna)**
- **Thursday, November 7th at the Juneau Indoor Range**
- **Tuesday, December 3rd at the Rabbit Creek Shooting Park (Anchorage)**
- **Thursday, December 5th at the Mat-Valley Range (Palmer)**



Thank you to the Alaskan Bowhunter Association for sponsoring the meals for this year's meetings.

I've hunted in AK for almost 20 years
I've shot goat, caribou, bear, small game, deer
and fished successfully. I've been
on multiple moose + sheep hunts where animals
harvested. Our family hunts, packs, processes,
cans + eats together.

I can't believe I never took
hunter safety until now!

I think everyone should do this!
At least every hunter.

 Casey Randall

This note was left on the back of a student survey after a June hunter ed class. Also of interest, when asked, "What did you like most about the course?," the student responded:

"The better understanding of conservation, preservation, and the history of wildlife management. Doing it with my daughter ♥"

Help Us Recruit New Instructors

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

Once we receive their application then we'll contact them about attending instructor training. The HIT Program covers travel costs to attend the training or if there are enough interested instructors in an area then we'll send HIT Program staff to conduct a training.

We'll be offering instructor trainings in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau this fall.

[IHEA Instructor Resource Site](http://www.iheda.com)
www.iheda.com



[Alaska HIT Program Site](http://www.huntereducation.alaska.gov)
www.huntereducation.alaska.gov



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Steven Unfreid-Southcentral Region Coordinator



I was born and raised in Southern California. As a teen, I spent each weekend archery deer hunting with my dad (and occasionally with my mom and younger brother) in the foothills of Angeles National Forrest. This was before the advent of the compound bow. Once I realized the potential of the compound, I saved my money (\$114) and bought a Herter's bow with its archaic pulley assembly. Looking back, archery gear has really improved, but even with my Herter's bow, I became much more successful, harvesting a deer most every season.

I also enjoyed waterfowl hunting with my dad and uncle, trapping, and fishing. But growing up, my passion was archery since the bow season was six months long. And my passion was fanned by watching Fred Bear on the American Sportsman show each Sunday.

In 1980 I came to Alaska as a youth volunteer and worked in Glennallen for the summer. Falling in love with the state, I joined the U.S. Army with Alaska as my first duty assignment. I was stationed at Ft. Greely where I managed to harvest black bear and my first +50" bull moose. Following my enlistment, I attended the University of Alaska in Fairbanks where I met my wife Kathe and earned my B.A.

College summer days were spent in Glennallen with her folks. There we spent our days fishing and floating the Gulkanna and Klutina rivers for kings with friends and family. Falls were spent hunting the Denali Hwy for moose and caribou and the Wrangell's for Dall sheep. (Side note, our "honeymoon" was spent on the Denali filling our freezer with bou).

Career wise, I've spent eight plus years as an educator; five years as an assistant big game guide in Alaska; and 20 years on active duty, retiring at the rank of lieutenant colonel. In this current season of life, I look forward to passing on my passion for the outdoors to the next generation of hunters. Note: this tradition is alive and well with my own four kids and nine grandkids. My two oldest sons are accomplished outdoorsmen in their own right where they hunt, trap, fish, and guide.

Other life interests include: photography; writing; reloading; woodworking/building; international travel/ministry; web design; landscaping; and art.

I'm totally thrilled to be given the opportunity to work with our new hunters, dedicated volunteers, and join the amazing team at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.



Steven with a guided client's ram two years ago



As Southcentral Coordinator, Steven will be working closely with instructors and students in the following areas: Anchorage, Mat-Su Valley, Glennallen, Kenai Peninsula, and Kodiak.

Steven can be reached at (907) 267-2241 or steven.unfreid@alaska.gov. Please join us in congratulating Steven on becoming part of the HIT Program team.

Steven's oldest son and granddaughter on a Dall's sheep hunt last fall

HIT Steering Group

Lyle Shelnut (Interior) lilenutscars@yahoo.com

Andy Finke (Rural Alaska) bdaf@ptialaska.net

Stacey Bradley (Southcentral) staceybradleyak@yahoo.com

Howard Delo (Southcentral) hodelo@mtaonline.net

James Plosay (Southeast) jrplosay@gci.net

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Instructor Notes

Steering Group Members Needed

On November 1, 2019 there will be three open seats on the HIT Program's Volunteer Steering Group. The openings will be from our Southcentral and Southeast regions and each seat is a two-year term. Howard Delo and Stacey Bradley (Southcentral) and Jim Plosay (Southeast) have been a tremendous asset to the Steering Group over the past two years.

The duties of the Steering Group are as follows:

- advise HIT Program Coordinator and staff on a wide range of issues pertaining to hunting and firearms safety
- establish/maintain open communication between volunteer instructors and staff
- periodically monitor and review program goals, objectives, and policies
- provide ongoing recommendations on program curriculum (study manual, workbook, test, and lesson plans)
- provide input to improve the Volunteer Instructor Incentive Program
- represent instructors and program participants
- attend teleconferences and one in-person meeting in Anchorage

To apply, submit a one-page letter of interest describing your background and addressing how your membership on the Steering Group would benefit the HIT Program.

Letters can be emailed, faxed, or mailed to Gina by September 16, 2019.

If you have any questions about being on the Steering Group, feel free to contact a current member. The HIT Program Steering Group has proven to be a great advisory resource in advancing program goals and objectives. The members have consistently served both the volunteer instructors from around the state and ADF&G, and we look forward to continuing with this tradition. If you have any questions about the application process or the Steering Group, feel free to call Gina.

Course Forms on Instructor Webpage

Extra course forms can always be downloaded and printed from the secure instructor webpage. The webpage can be found at www.huntereducation.alaska.gov (choose the link to "Become a Volunteer Instructor" and then scroll down to "Active Volunteer Instructors"). The login is huntered and the password is heinstructor.

If you notice that any supplies are running low at a facility, please let your local HIT Program staff know so they can refill the stock before the next class.

HIT Staff

Contact Information

Anchorage:

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Fairbanks:

Bob Hunter 459-7375
Tom Halverson 459-7211

Juneau:

Jeff Jemison 586-4101



Photo taken during a recent crossbow ed field day.
Thanks Steve Dewan.

**Alaska Volunteer Hunter
Education Instructor
Association (AVHEIA)**
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