

Technology In The Class: Chief Sez' "Make It So!"

WDFW ENFORCEMENT CHIEF BRUCE BJORK has been one of the strongest advocates ever for strengthening hunter education in the Evergreen State. Last year, for example, Chief Bjork traded confiscated firearms—reluctantly “donated” to WDFW by various wildlife violators—for the new .22LR, 20-gauge and .223 firearms we now use in training statewide.

Earlier this year, at the Yakima in-service training program, Chief Bjork heard from instructors and instructor associations about the need for computer technology in our classes. In a typical show of support for hunter education, the chief directed hunter education staff to investigate ways to transfer surplus laptop computers from Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Officers to hunter education instructors. Even though the use of surplus laptop computers led to a dead end (detailed below), the chief wanted to honor his commitment to expanding the use of technology in the class. Soon hunter education staff will have 18—that’s right, eighteen!—digital light projectors (DLP) for instructors to use in classroom presentations. If instructors can get the laptops, WDFW can now provide the projectors. You’ve seen Chuck Ray and Dan Boes using

these DLPs for several years and beginning in July they will be available to you, too.

Sideboards first. DLPs are expensive and cannot be shipped to and from instructors. Projectors will be available on a first-come, first-served basis at regional offices. Compliance with an “equipment logbook” is required, so instructors verify what they check out and check back in to the regional office. And, finally, DLPs will not be assigned to instructors on a permanent basis until we have some track history regarding needs, use, distribution issues, etc. (7087)

Why couldn’t we add laptops to the mix? First and most importantly, the laptops in question are all older models that have bounced around in officers’ rigs for years. (No, we don’t have 4x4 laptops yet!) Also, all laptops would be “bare,” meaning that no software would be supplied. Due to other work demands, tech support would also be non-existent. And, finally, state ethics rules would prevent the use of any state laptop for personal e-mails, or any non-hunter education use. All in all, investing in new DLPs seemed the better route to implement the chief’s goal of expanding use of technology in the hunter education classroom.

Please Submit THMFSA Nominees By 11/31

ONCE AGAIN it’s time for written nominations for the Terry Hoffer Memorial Firearm Safety Award (THMFSA). Please submit nominations by 11/31.

The THMFSA is named in honor Fish and Wildlife Officer Terry Hoffer, who

died in the line of duty as a result of a gunshot wound inflicted by a careless hunter. The award recognizes excellence in hunter education training.

Staff review all nominations, with final selection made by a panel including

instructors and officers. The award recipient receives a firearm (valued up to the maximum amount of the award), a plaque and a “traveling trophy.” All nominations must be in writing. No special nomination form is required.

Inside this Issue:

Theft Of Property: What To Do	2
Field Notes	3
10 Tips For Teaching In Public Schools	4
2007 Final PST Schedules	5
Hunter Education Deferral To Be A Reality In The Fall	6

Dates To Remember

- June 22-23, Goldendale PST
- July 27-28, Spokane PST
- November 31, THMFSA Nominations Due

Important Contacts

- Olympia: 1-800-215-1979
- Chuck Ray: 1-800-468-5006
- E-mail: huntered@dfw.wa.gov
- Blog: <http://hunter-education.blogspot.com>

Theft Of Property

FORTUNATELY, THEFT IS RARE in hunter education activities. While there have been a few incidents reported over the years, they have been so infrequent that no policy statement has been required. Alas, Jeff Bull, Wenatchee, reported a camera that came up missing after this year's Yakima IST and Robert Woolsey, Anacortes, phoned in a report of another camera that disappeared during or after a class. Two recent incidents do not mean a crime wave is erupting, but instructors should always:

- ⇒ Emphasize the fact that instructors and students are guests in the facilities being used. Good, responsible guests are warmly welcomed back again and again. Other kinds of guests are not.
- ⇒ Notify students and parents of any theft. Provide an opportunity for the missing item to be returned anonymously within 12 hours. Explain that the next step is law enforcement involvement.
- ⇒ Report any confirmed theft to local law enforcement officials if the property has not been found/returned within the first 12 hours. Confirmed theft is a crime that goes well beyond the boundaries of hunter education training. Delays in reporting can hamper effective investigations. (7249)
- ⇒ Report any confirmed theft to WDFW using the Security & Injury Incident report forms.

As Robert Woolsey recently discovered, there is no WDFW insurance that covers theft of property. The instructor/team using the facility is responsible for safety and security while there, and the easiest way to avoid worrying about replacement value is to prevent theft in the first place. The financial burden of stolen property is directly proportional to the value of the missing item. Just about anybody can afford to replace a \$5 pen...a \$400+ digital camera represents a much bigger bite out of the family's monthly food or rent budget. Consider, too, a recommended donation of \$x per student, per class until the entire cost of any stolen item has been recaptured. Most responsible guests will be happy to help.

Temptation is often fueled by opportunity. Careful instructor supervision helps cool fires on both.

3-peat For Bill Montgomery!

Bill Montgomery was very surprised when he was selected as the Pierce County *Sportsman of the Year* at a meeting the night before Yakima in-service training program. He was absolutely shocked two days later when he received the Terry Hoffer Memorial Award in Yakima.

Bill always says, "It's not an award for me. It is recognition of the strength of the team I am privileged to work with. I'm lucky to work with the individuals I do!"

Well, Bill's luck must run in threes, because on May 31 Bill received the *Educator of the Year* award at a Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife ceremony in Olympia. As you can imagine, Bill was practically speechless!

One thing Bill did stammer out was that being a volunteer got considerably more expensive in 2007. He had to take time off without pay to attend the Olympia award ceremony, which followed the two days he took off earlier to participate in the state's first-ever Youth Expo. Thanks again to Bill... and all of his team at the Paul Bunyan Sportsman's Club!

IST OPTIONS

Options available for the annual IST requirement include:

- ◆ Home Study Option. Instructors who did not attend the April 2007 Yakima training will receive a home study packet to complete and return, or they can choose other options below.
- ◆ Instructor's Forum. Attend a meeting in your area with Dan Boes or Chuck Ray. A minimum of 10 instructors is required to conduct a Forum. *Instructors must request this option.*
- ◆ Chief Instructor Waiver. Any Chief Instructor who serves as a chief instructor in three or more classes can request an IST waiver for the calendar year. *Must request this option.*
- ◆ Active Instructor Waiver. A certified instructor who teaches in three or more classes with at least 10 hours' participation *total* can request a waiver. *Must request this option.*
- ◆ Cross-Training Waiver. A certified instructor who teaches with another group for at least 2-1/2 hours can request an IST waiver for the calendar year. *Must request this option.*

Instructors must complete their annual IST requirement by 12/31 to remain active in the hunter education program. Instructors who do not complete the IST will become inactive.

Field Notes: News, Views And More....

Remember

Policy: Instructors charging a fee of more than \$5 per student are required to get approval *in writing in advance!* This policy applies to every instructor and every team.

The **First Aid** policy is enclosed with this newsletter. Please add it to your "mini-guide" as a handy reference. Also, First Aid kits are now available for instructor teams. Note, please, that we provide one First Aid kit per chief instructor—not per instructor on the team.

First Aid kits are available free of charge to chief instructors who do not charge for their hunter education classes. If your team charges a fee, the cost of any kit should come from those course fees. Requests for kits must be through Chuck Ray and Dan Boes.

Jim Brown, Kittitas County, was surprised at our "relaxed" procedures for checking out LaserShot equipment and suggested recently that we institute a better system that protects both instructors and WDFW. Thanks, Jim. We are now in discussions about implementing your suggestions for improvement. (7461)

The "blog" at <http://hunter-education.blogspot.com> offers hunter education staff a very quick (and free!) tool to disseminate information to instructors. If you have a computer and an Internet connection, please bookmark the site and check it at least once a week. We update it weekly on Mondays—even if it's just to note the staff work schedules for the week. Future newsletters will be posted there first, so blog to get the latest news!

Vander Corley, King County, wrote: "Teaching ethics can really pay off! My 17 year-old son, Nate, entered an essay contest with *Bowhunter* magazine. His essay, entitled "What is an ethical bowhunter?" won an all expenses paid bear hunting trip to Canada last June for both of us! "

Alan Jones, King County, e-mailed:

"Chuck, I have been following up on the issue of meat processors and wild game since your announcement at the Yakima IST. As the editor for the *Bowhunter Education Instructor's Newsletter* I want to put together an article for our instructors if this issue represents a diminution of opportunities for hunters. I contacted Janet Anderson at the Washington State Department of Health and she was unaware of any changes to rules about processing wild game. She does remember some discussions with the Washington State Department of Agriculture about cleaning processing equipment after wild game processing and before processing domestic animal meat, but was under the impression that most wild game processors use separate equipment for custom processing already.

That impression was confirmed when I spoke with Pete Owens of Owens Meats in Cle Elum. He has separate equipment in a separate building for custom/wild game processing.

I have also contacted Bill Armstrong at the Department of Agriculture to confirm whether they have recently promulgated any new rules. I'll let everybody know if I learn any more on this important issue."

New technology raises new questions about hunting legality, and the Airrow Rimfire is one of the most unusual tech items today, combining a full-length arrow with a special .22LR barrel. For big game hunting, this unique tech tool is neither fish nor fowl—unlawful for archery hunting because it uses "... a weapon or device from which a projectile...may be fired by an explosive...as gunpowder." It is also unlawful for hunting big game as a modern firearm because it uses .22 rimfire—not centerfire ammunition.

The unasked question—which I ducked!—is whether such a tech tool could be used for *small* game hunting. Under current equipment regulations it appears that the Airrow is lawful in our state—since both archery and / or rimfire ammunition are legal for hunting.

2008 IST ideas include a featured speaker from the USFWS Ashford Crime Lab—sort of a *Wildlife CSI!* We will also plan to have a presentation on the *Youth Hunter Education Championship* (by Bill Montgomery and Brian Peters), a session on *Recruitment & Sportsmanship* (by Mike Kuttel), *How To Teach The Hunting Pamphlet* (by Fish and Wildlife Officer Eric Anderson), *Forms & Records*, (Jan Ulijohn and Jim Goodman), *Orienteering* (by Randy Mesenbrink), *Using Psychology in Hunter Education* (by Matt Tuttle), and *Preparing Your Teaching Team* (by Kelli Worthen).

Naturally, we also plan to offer a number of First Aid classes so instructors can obtain/retain a current certification card.

Other skills classes that have been popular in the past include Archery, Shotgun, etc.

If you have an idea for an IST class—or an interest in teaching an IST class in 2008—please submit it to Mik in Olympia. Anybody planning to teach a class is also required to submit a lesson plan for their two (or four-hour for skills) block.

Registration for the 2008 IST will begin with the September issue of this newsletter, and will allow instructors to sign up for classes first-come, first-served. Let us know what you'd like. Join the IST fun!

JAN's Corner

Several issues to note this month:

- (1) Please do not put anything (Temporary Certificates, Post-It notes, etc.) between student records. If I miss them, the scanning machine jams—or worse!
- (2) Please place all Temporary Certificates together with Course Reports—not registrations.
- (3) If you have any notes for me, include them with the instructor Course Reports, too.
- (4) Use spaces between items in the address section of the student registration form. I don't know if 24368 Street is 243 68th Street or 2436 8th Street. Spaces are a must! Keep up the good work...Thanks!

Ten Tips For Teaching Hunter Education In A Public School

By Jack Dolan, Medical Lake Chief Instructor

THIS PAST MARCH I was asked to teach hunter education at Cheney Middle School for their after school program. Needless to say I was very surprised at this request but I said, "Yes!" in a heartbeat in hopes that this would open long-closed doors to WDFW/hunter education.

1. How was this allowed in the school and how was it approved?

- a. Hunter education is allowed under the *Safe Schools/Healthy Schools Initiative*.
- b. The school Youth & Community Specialist wanted the program. He, in turn, got permission from the school principal, who got the approval of the school district. I had nothing to do with this. The school was already familiar with the program.
- c. Schools are governed by the district policy. In the case of the district I was teaching at it was okay to have guns in the school for educational purposes, but no live ammunition was allowed at any time. It pretty much comes down to the beliefs and political climate of the school and school district.

2. Money and course fees?

- a. Under the *Safe Schools/Healthy Schools Initiative* funds are available for ammo, targets and even a school bus to bring students to the range for live-firing day. I turned it all down as I have funds that I raise for hunter education throughout the year to cover the costs of ammunition and targets. I didn't even want the school bus as I wanted parents to have some quality time with their children. Plus, I wanted parents to help pull traps!

3. Class registration and who can register?

- a. All class registration was handled by the school office, picked up and returned by a prescribed time.
- b. When students picked up their registration packet I made sure they had a complete class schedule and the old *Parent Agreement Form*.
- c. Only students in Cheney Middle School can register for class. This is a school security issue and I think that it is a very valid point. The school did allow parents to attend and I did have two parents attend. The parents were required to check in at the front office. (7313)

4. Bubble forms and school busses.

- a. I don't know what *you* know about kids, paperwork and school busses, but trust me: It can be a death sentence to your bubble form! Jan deserves a lot better than torn up bubble forms when you mail your class report and registration forms to Olympia.
- b. I used the information from the *Parent Agreement Form* supplied by the student and filled out the form and had the parents sign it on range day. If I see the parents before range day, I will have them sign it at that time.

5. Notifying local police.

- a. It is a good idea for everyone. Other parents will be picking kids up at school and they won't know about your class. All they will know is that they see a person unloading guns on school grounds. Do local police and all parents a favor...notify them!

6. Using learning contracts.

- a. I've been using learning contracts for 18 years and they have come in handy on more than one occasion. Students today can miss a class, fail to turn in homework, etc., and be excused for it. A learning contract can put a stop to it right then and there.
- b. Learning contracts let students know they will have fun—but they will need to work for it and be responsible for their actions.

7. Background checks and your teaching team.

- a. School asked me to do a background check even though one has already been done on instructors by WDFW. I did it any way since they asked. I told the school that other team members had been checked by WDFW and they were okay with that.

8. Class hours and your teaching team.

- a. This can be a problem since after school programs start at 3:10 p.m. Most instructors are still at work. I was lucky because I had four members of my team who could make it during the week. Range day on Saturday was no problem at all.

9. If you drop a student.

- a. Make sure you notify school authorities and the student's parents. You don't want students telling parents they are at a hunter education class activity when they are actually someplace else (they are probably not supposed to be).

10. Teaching in the school and food for thought.

- a. Your students have been at school and at their desks all day, and now they are scheduled for an added two hours with you. You had better include a lot of student interaction and involvement to keep them excited and wanting to learn. If you want to know how well you are doing, just look at the body language of your students. All your answers are there!

In summary, it was enjoyable and challenging. Students and the school loved it and they want us back next year!

From The Desk Of Lt. Mann, Enforcement Program

MORE HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS are now wearing the same WDFW long-sleeved and WDFW polo shirts worn by Dan Boes and Chuck Ray. Well, that's because those instructors paid for the shirts themselves!

WDFW has approved instructors' use of agency logo shirts as hunter education uniform items. Naturally, any such use is restricted to appropriate venues (e.g., classes, sports shows, fairs, and meetings, etc.).

To simplify the ordering process, hunter education division now order pre-paid shirts only two times per year. The last order deadline was January 31.

If you wish to purchase either the button-down long-sleeved shirt (with embroidered WDFW logo) or the short-sleeved polo shirt (with embroidered WDFW logo) we must have your check in the Olympia office by 5:00 p.m. August 3. Checks received after that date will be held until the next order deadline in January.

All shirts are produced to order, and there may be more than a three month delay between the order deadline and the actual receipt of the shirts. Please be patient! The

Style (with logo)	Size	Color	Cost
Polo shirt	S, M, L, XL	Khaki or green	11.50
	XXL	Khaki or green	13.50
Long-sleeve	S, M, L, XL	Khaki or green	21.75
	XXL	Khaki or green	23.75

prices and shirt sizes are in the table above. (7168)

Checks should be made payable to WDFW / HED Suspense Account. Include a note indicating size, color and quantity required. Send checks to hunter ed in Olympia.

Sizes beyond XXL are available, for an additional \$2.50 more than the cost shown above.

Include your name, shirt style, size and quantity and colors ordered. Please print legibly!

2007 Pre-Service Training Classes: Remember *New "Fee"*

LISTED BELOW are the final new instructor training classes remaining for 2007.

Pre-Service Training (PST) is one of the requirements for new instructor applicants.

Please note that all new instructors are required to attend a training session prior to certification.

June 22 - 23	Goldendale
July 27 - 28	Spokane

There is no exception—every new instructor is required to successfully complete the PST prior to certification.

Signing up for a PST training is painless process. Simply check the PST training dates, decide which location and dates best meet your schedule and call hunter education program staff toll-free at 1-800-215-1979. State your name, telephone number, your preferred PST training dates **and send in your \$25, refundable registration fee to either Chuck Ray (east) or Dan Boes**

(west). Then you're done!

Registration for all PST's must be made at least seven days in advance of the scheduled training dates. PST attendees receive and study materials in advance to prepare for the PST. There is pre-class work required and, therefore, we actively discourage last-minute registration.

PST enrollments are limited. Once a PST location has reached its maximum enrollment, registration will be closed for that location. In simple English, that means first-come, first-served.

A minimum number of new applicants per location is required to conduct a PST program. If we have too few applicants for a given location, we will cancel that training session. All participants will be notified in advance in event of cancellation.

As always, contact Chuck Ray (eastern Washington) or Dan Boes (western Washington) if you have any questions. (5035)



The 'No - Show' Problem Addressed Via \$25 "Fee"

AS MENTIONED SINCE LATE LAST YEAR the disturbing percentage of "no shows" (individuals who registered but failed to attend a PST) has been a growing staff concern.

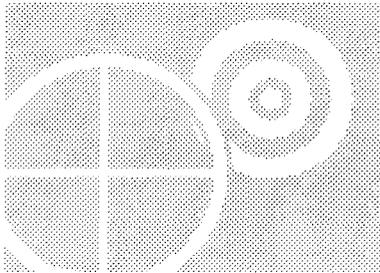
Beginning in February 2007 we implemented a **fully-refundable** \$25 reservation fee from PST candidates to deal with the problem of 'no-shows.' Just show up and cheerfully get your money back at the PST. Alternatively, cancel in advance and get your money refunded. Applicants who fail to attend (or cancel) their scheduled PST will see their \$25 donation go to a worthy hunter education cause. The concept has worked *GREAT* so far!

The fee is not intended to raise money; it's designed to insure that interested applicants demonstrate and honor a commitment to attend the PST they signed up to attend.

Hunter Education Deferral To Be A Reality By Late Fall

GOVERNOR GREGOIRE SIGNED ESHB 1249 on April 21, creating a once-in-a-lifetime, one license-year deferral of hunter education training. The measure passed the State Senate and House with near unanimous support and received support from both state hunter education associations as well as from local and national sports organizations.

New language in RCW 77.32.155 states: "(2)(a) The director may authorize a once in a lifetime, one license year deferral of hunter education training for individuals who are accompanied by a nondeferred Washington-licensed hunter who has held a Washington hunting license for the prior three years and is over eighteen years of age. The commission shall adopt rules for the admini-



stration of this subsection to avoid potential fraud and abuse....

(c) For the purposes of this subsection, "accompanied" means to go along with another person while staying within a range of the other person that permits continual unaided visual and auditory communication."

Although the new law technically becomes effective 90 days after being signed (July 21), it probably won't be operational until the fall

months. The reason is the legal time delay between filing administrative regulations for consideration by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission and subsequent adoption. Hunter education staff had hoped to expedite commission consideration of rules under an emergency regulation, but the consensus now is that more time-consuming, standard filing practices apply to this new law.

For updated information on where and when the commission will consider rules required under section (2)(a), please check the hunter education web log at <http://hunter-education.blogspot.com> (7395)

Hunter education staff will track deferral requests and monitor field performance after implementation to determine compliance levels.

THE WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Online learning now available at www.hunter-ed.com/wa/

Email: huntered@dfw.wa.gov

Blog: <http://hunter-education.blogspot.com>

"Safety First"

**[We're on the Web at
wdfw.wa.gov]**