



# The March Of Time: Looking Back And Ahead

JUDY LITTLEFIELD, Skagit County, recently sent us a copy of a 20-question hunter education student test taken way back in 1969. A few things immediately jumped to mind:

- ◆ The student test was a significant enough event that the student who took it maintained the record for almost 40 years!
- ◆ The student who took the test—Alex Moody—is now a certified hunter education instructor in Skagit County.
- ◆ Hunter education testing and training has come a l-o-n-g way in the past 40 years.

Hunter education affects student lives in ways we sometimes cannot imagine. A former neighbor (in his mid-40's) once told me that he couldn't remember any of the names of his high school teachers, but he would never forget the name of his hunter education instructor. Imagine the impact that instructor had in just six or eight hours of working with his student! Regardless of a student's test score or field course performance, instructor decisions can make a life-long impression.

Instructor decisions (See also: *A Fall Of Change: How A Hunting Citation Has Affected My Life*, page 4) sometimes affect the overall hunter education program, and not just

current hunter education students or instructors. Whether it's a useful tip—many of the best ideas we introduce in hunter education come from instructors—or the introduction of a new policy idea, instructors today are much more involved in shaping hunter education. Fifty years of tilling the hunter education soil reminds us that the best gardeners are the ones who are actively working on the ground...you and your fellow instructors! While we may not always agree on all issues, we share the same commitment to safety, conservation and sportsmanship.

Looking back it's easy to identify changes to hunter education. Whether in curriculum, training or testing materials, or how we do business, there's a big difference between where we were in 1957 and where we are today. It's much more difficult to assess where we'll be in the next 50 years. What will hunting in Washington State look like in 2057? How will habitats and wildlife populations handle increasing human encroachment? Obviously, nobody has the perfect crystal ball, but all of us here at WDFW will be counting on hunter education instructors to help us meet the many changes and challenges that lie ahead!

## WOW! 50 Years Of Teaching Hunter Education

THREE INSTRUCTORS have been active instructors for 50 years in Washington:

- ◆ Howard Gardner
- ◆ James Kramer
- ◆ William Newby

Each of these three men were first certified in 1957 and have maintained con-

tinuous certification over the past five decades.

The Hunter Education Resources Organization (HERO) and the Washington Hunter Education Instructors Association (WHEIA) jointly paid for and presented engraved

Browning pump-action shotguns to memorialize their incredible service to Washington's hunters.

Every instructor's contribution to hunter education is greatly appreciated, but 50 years is just *amazing!*

Thanks again to all!

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### Dates To Remember

- March 2-3, Summer PST
- March 16-17, Okanogan PST
- March 31 – April 1, Yakima In-Service

### Important Contacts

- Olympia: 1-800-215-1979
- Chuck Ray: 1-800-468-5006
- E-mail: [huntered@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:huntered@dfw.wa.gov)

# C.I. Reports...?

APPROXIMATELY 250 INSTRUCTORS SERVE as chief instructors each year. Some instructors regularly serve as chief instructor, while others may act in that capacity only once in a great while. Every year there is some confusion about the requirement for completing the *Chief Instructor Annual Financial Report*.

Every instructor who serves as a chief instructor—which means they are listed on the course report as a chief instructor—is required to submit a *Chief Instructor Annual Financial Report*. There are no exceptions and there are no waivers from this requirement. Reports are due by December 31 annually.

Some of the confusion apparently stems from teams which have multiple chief instructors. There are two choices for such teams: (1) Each chief instructor submits a *Chief Instructor Annual Financial Report* for classes in which they served as a chief instructor, or, (2) The teaching team submits one *Chief Instructor Annual Financial Report* which compiles all the data and lists all of the chief instructors for the team. Too many teaching teams in the past have assumed that staff in Olympia know Instructors X, Y and Z all serve as chief instructors on Team A. We only know what you tell us in writing!

Some of the confusion apparently stems from courses which do not charge any course fee. Whether a chief instructor relies on public donations or charges a per student course fee, all chief instructors are required to submit an *Chief Instructor Annual Financial Report*. Obviously, courses which do not charge any course fee will be much easier to complete since the only information supplied will be '0.'

Some of the confusion stems from uncertainty. Remember, we're just a phone call away!

The *Chief Instructor Annual Financial Report* is not simply an exercise in bureaucracy: It provides an audit trail (whether listing zeroes or real dollars and cents) that federal aid auditors regularly review to insure that the Department of Fish and Wildlife is in compliance with financial reporting requirements. Please do your part to comply with this necessary documentation. We appreciate your assistance!

## H.E.R.O. Corner

THE HUNTER EDUCATION RESOURCE ORGANIZATION (HERO) is now inviting all instructors to join. An application is enclosed with this newsletter.

HERO membership is \$10 annually for the fiscal year running July 1 – June 30.

Instructors who join before July 1, 2007 will receive a membership card through June 30, 2008.

According to Mike Moody: "We are working on getting volume discount ammunition for members looking for ways to decrease live-firing costs. We are also looking into the distribution of firearms to be used by members on range days. Also, we offer umbrella cover from the IRS for monetary donations. Bring your questions to the IST in Yakima."

## IST OPTIONS

Options available for the annual IST requirement include:

- ◆ Home Study Option. Instructors who do 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.*

## 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.**

**Hunter education instructors** who have WDFW property (e.g., firearms, archery tackle, etc.) assigned to them must be available to present the property for periodic review. Typically, the property review is only every other year, but may be reviewed annually if required.

Please note that this is an audit requirement for everybody with agency-owned property—including WDFW hunter education division staff.

Last year we experienced some problems in reviewing WDFW property and the result led to a “finding” (read: Black Mark!) against the Enforcement Program. For this year and in all future years we aim for a review process that works for staff and instructors alike. If you receive a notice in 2007 asking you to contact WDFW inventory staff to set up your review, please do not disregard their request. Hunter education division staff are currently not authorized to conduct these inventory reviews. Questions? Call Dan Boes, Chuck Ray or the Olympia office.

**Thanks to all instructors** for responding to the First Aid survey. Results are not yet complete but preliminary data indicate a few misunderstandings. First, WDFW is not imposing any new rule. The Department of Labor and Industries regulates workplace safety (yes, including volunteers) and hunter education division staff were recently told those rules apply to hunter education instructors. Old rule...new application to instructors.

Second, the hunter education division is looking for ways to make things work.... not to gum up the works! For example, public donations and/or class registration fees may be used to pay for required First Aid supplies or training. WDFW may also be able to provide such supplies and/

or training. We won't know what is needed until we have all survey data. We **don't** want instructors to form hard opinions ahead of the facts. For example, some instructors have already said the “new” rule will have a significant financial impact on them, even though WDFW hunter division staff hasn't yet determined what it will/will not provide for instructors (e.g., training, supplies, etc.).

Finally, recognize that any hardship created by this “new” rule is not your problem but *our* shared problem. We will figure out a workable solution, but we need open-minded support from instructors in the field. Once a line is drawn in the sand, it is very hard for individuals on the other side to work together.

**Another point of instructor confusion** from the last newsletter stemmed from the instructor recognition permit postcards. Although everybody received a postcard, it didn't mean that every instructor was eligible to apply for the special recognition permits. Eligibility requirements include a minimum of three years' continues, active certification as an instructor. Some misinterpreted the postcard to read “automatic eligibility.”

Another easy-to-understand point of confusion is simple: Not all instructors know when they were first certified. Instructors who have the new picture I.D. certification card can conveniently refer to the card, which lists the initial date of certification. Alas, not all instructors have the new picture I.D. cards (available again at the Yakima IST in April).

Judy Littlefield offered a simple solution for future permit drawings: Include the initial certification date on the instructor label when we send out the permits. Thanks Judy... it shall be so.

The permit eligibility requirement will remain three years from the date of certification (not the date of application).

**Gun locks** are once again available at the Olympia warehouse. We scored the last available U.S. supply, and you can either lay claim to your locks at the Olympia

office or at the Yakima IST. We will not ship gun locks via UPS or USPS due to high costs. They must be picked up directly from Olympia or the IST. Free!

**Cal Thompson**, Yakima, is a hunter education instructor who is also involved as a volunteer with the Yakima County Sheriff Office Search & Rescue K-9 Unit. There will be a statewide K-9 event September 28 – 30 at the Yakima Sportsman's Park and Cal is asking for sponsors and grants to help underwrite program costs. Cal is directing potential sponsors to contact Teana Robbins, event coordinator, at (509) 952-6202.

**Getting too many telephone calls** for hunter education classes? Lose the phone! Two good options to avoid the phone blues are (1) free e-mail accounts at Yahoo or other vendors, which allow you to respond to hunter education class inquiries at a time of your choosing, or (2) working with local stores (e.g., sporting goods, gun stores, etc.) to handle hunter education student registrations during their normal business hours. Most stores are looking for potential business, why not help direct traffic their way?

## JAN's Corner

*Student and course records are once again starting to pour into the hunter education office. Please remember to double-check student records before submitting them for processing to Olympia. Remember that paper clips, staples, Post-It® notes, ink, poor erasures and coffee stains (sadly, I've seen it all...and more!) on student records will prevent them from running through our scanning machine. Worse, they could destroy our very expensive machine. Please help me by taking a few minutes before mailing records to Olympia.*

# A Fall Of Change: How A Hunting Citation Has Affected My Life

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TO START OFF WITH I want to describe the way I was raised. I want to paint a picture as to why my story changed not only the way I conduct myself in the woods, but also how I deal with my kids, my family, people at work, and how I now make decisions. I grew up in an area where I spent many hours in the woods and fishing the local streams. From a young age I had a thirst for the outdoors and lived to wet a line, hike in the hills or just hear about old times from the men who lived them. Both of my parents had very strong values. Integrity and pride meant everything to my parents. I learned honesty and strong morals with every breath of every day and this is the way I have raised all five of my kids. I consider myself "Old Fashioned" and made many decisions this way. It is these ideals that I went against last fall and caused a lot of stress in my life and household for the last four months. In October 2006 I violated the law and received a major ticket.

For opening weekend of modern firearm season we hunted in eastern Washington. My two sons, ages 14 and 11, both drew mule deer doe tags for the area. Both boys were excited to have a chance at a mule deer buck yet still have the backup option to take a doe. I did not carry a gun because of an earlier horse accident. I was actually looking forward to not having a rifle with me so I could concentrate a little more on my boys. Although we saw a few deer the first day of season, there were none we wanted to take, mostly because they presented poor shots. My boys are confident shooters and have spent many hours on the range but they only take standing broadside shots.

On the second day of the season there were a lot of deer moving through the area. After about an hour we spotted a doe on the ridge above us, about 200 yards away standing broadside looking downhill. We glassed her for about five minutes and my son said he decided to fill his tag at that point. He steadied his rifle, took a shot and missed. I told him to try again and the second shot put the deer down. I was very proud of him. I shook his hand, gave him a hug and we said a prayer of thanks. When we got to the deer I lifted its head and that is when things went sour. There were two small spikes behind the ears that we could not see when we were spotting the deer. I explained to my son that we needed to call a warden and turn in the deer. I told him not to worry. At that point a small truck came driving up and two hunters got out. One of the guys told us they had seen the deer earlier and knew it was a spike. They said we needed to get out of there. They explained that this happens all the time and it is almost impossible to see small spikes behind those big mule deer ears and for this reason doe tags should not be given out. The man explained that the same thing happened to his boy the day before and told us not to feel bad but just leave. Now I was starting to panic and my head was plugged. The two men left and I talked to my son. I was not listening to myself. I knew better but the panic mode really kicked in. I was worried about protecting my son. You always hear you will lose your hunting rights, lose your gun, lose your truck and pay expensive fines. I panicked thinking my son would never hunt again.

We stayed one more day before returning home. The next afternoon I received a phone call from the men I was hunting with telling me that two wardens had visited our camp. They had been asking about us killing an illegal deer. At that point I called the warden and explained the entire situation not leaving out a single detail. Being honest with the warden was the first step to easing the guilt I was carrying. The local sergeant wanted me to write out in detail what happened and bring it later that week to the WDFW office in Wenatchee.

Now I had to deal with my family, friends and the instructors that I teach with. That evening my wife and I sat our kids down and explained what happened and had a long talk about honesty and how I listened to someone I shouldn't have. Then came the real hard part, talking with the men I teach Hunter Ed with, the local wardens I'm involved with and friends. Telling the local warden about the whole incident was pretty rough. Next I called each of the men I teach with; they explained that everyone makes mistakes and sometimes they are handled wrong. But they also said life goes on and we all need to make something positive happen out of this situation. My family, my fellow instructors and my friends in the neighborhood and the hunting community immediately gave me strength and support.

My life has now changed. I had always assumed I stood for what was right. I thought of myself as rock hard in my convictions. I had looked at myself as above someone that may break a hunting law or put a kid in a compromising position. Now I was on the other side of the fence. I felt I no longer stood for what was right. I felt that all the hours I had put in teaching ethics and talking about sportsmanship had gone to waste. But with the help of family and friends I turned this around. I wanted to use what I had done to better the ideals I believed in. I felt I had the tools to instill into a future hunter, to listen to what they know is the right thing to do and not follow a negative influence. I was humbled enough to understand that mistakes happen and I was not above making one. Now I could teach a student to stand up and truly be accountable. I have also found a whole new chapter to teach on wildlife identification. As far as how this has affected my family, I am more compassionate to my kids when they say "it was an accident" or "I forgot". I try to listen when they give me an excuse for something they have done and let them explain themselves a little better. I try to understand why they have done something a certain way and talk to them about it. There may be a reason for the mistakes they have made. I want to help them correct it and be accountable. Now I am much slower to come to a conclusion about something. I try to put things into perspective and understand why something happened. I now can truly understand what the word "support" means. Many people supported me with understanding and prayer through this whole ordeal. My wife was the most supportive of all. She understands how much Hunter Ed means. Most of all she showed me what the word "Forgive" means and she has helped me to forgive myself for a mistake I made...but will never forget.

## From The Desk Of Lt. Mann, Enforcement Program

THE 2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION is now in full swing and there are two bills (as of this writing) that address hunter education issues. Before briefly outlining them, I offer a reminder that state employees—including hunter education staff—are prevented by law from directly influencing legislation. Staff can provide information upon request concerning the fiscal or workload impacts, but they cannot express or direct support or opposition to current bills.

House Bill 1249 is a proposed revision to 77.32.155, enabling legislation which establishes hunter education training in our state. If enacted into law, HB 1249 will create a once-in-a-lifetime, one license year deferral of the hunter education training requirement. It also authorizes a fee for implementation of the deferral. The bill is very similar to legislation previously enacted in Ohio, Texas and other states. The bill allows a one-time deferral for an individual who has not yet completed hunter education to hunt (with proper licenses and tags) providing there is a licensed adult hunter to provide immediate supervision.

Senate Bill 5791 is a new law modeled after similar leg-

islation in Arizona. If enacted into law SB 5791 would authorize school districts to offer firearms safety as a one-term elective. A key feature of the proposed legislation is that "...instructors shall be certified by the department of fish and wildlife." In short, the bill would allow local school districts to offer hunter education training as part of their regular curriculum and for student credit.

The Washington Hunter Education Instructors' Association (WHEIA) supports both bills. WHEIA legislative liaison Bob Brown (jaeger6@qwest.net) can provide answers to specific questions instructors may have.

One legislative question recently received in the hunter education office concerned whether instructors could wear their instructor vests, shirts or caps while meeting with legislators. The answer is, "Yes," providing instructors clarify that they are representing themselves or their hunter education teaching team—and not WDFW.

Ultimately, any bills adopted by the legislature and the governor establish new policy direction for hunter education. I'll update you if/when new directions are known.

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

LISTED BELOW are new instructor training classes 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.

March 2 - 3	Summer
March 16 - 17	Okanogan
April 20 - 21	Silverdale
April 20 - 21	Kittitas
May 11 - 12	Burlington
June TBA	Location TBA
June 1 - 2	Yakima
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.** 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.

### *The 'No - Show' Problem Leads To New \$25 "Fee"*

AS MENTIONED IN THE LAST SEVERAL NEWSLETTERS the increasing percentage of "no shows" (individuals who register but fail to attend a PST) has been a serious concern.

We now require a fully-refundable \$25 reservation fee to deal with this. Show up and get your money back. Applicants who fail to attend as scheduled will see their \$25 donation go to a worthy hunter education cause.

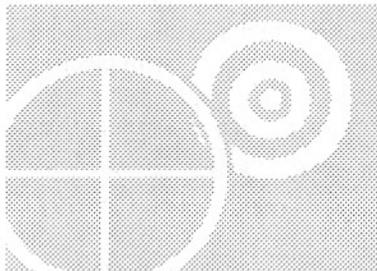


# Certification Steps For New Hunter Education Instructors

THE BEST RECRUITERS for hunter education instructors are existing instructors. Indeed, a large number of instructors serve today simply because they were asked by a current instructor to help teach a class.

This article is designed to review the steps required for new candidates to attain certification.

- ⇒ Application. The application should be signed, dated and returned to Olympia.
- ⇒ Background Check. This is done by WDFW staff. Local fish and wildlife officers must approve applications.
- ⇒ Initial Examination. Sent directly to applicants by Dan Boes and/or Chuck Ray.
- ⇒ Instructor Training. Applicants must successfully complete the



Pre-Service Training (PST) program. A \$25 refundable reservation fee is sent to Olympia at the time the candidate registers for the PST of his/her choice. (**NOTE:** Some applicants have been incorrectly told by current instructors to send a \$25 check with their initial application. The \$25 fee is designed to get the applicant to the PST. They show up and get their money back.) A second component of

training is for applicants to assist in at least one class.

- ⇒ Certification. Once all steps are documented, the application is forwarded to Mik Mikitik for review and certification. The certification date is the date Mik signs the application, not the date of the original application.

Application *packets* are available from Chuck, Dan or the Olympia office. Please be sure to request the application *packet*—not just applications—since the packet provides more details than the application.

Also, please note that most applicants are *dropped* if they have not been certified within 12 months. Special extensions beyond 12 months may be granted, with sufficient justification.

## THE WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Online learning now available at [www.hunter-ed.com/wa/](http://www.hunter-ed.com/wa/)

Email: [huntered@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:huntered@dfw.wa.gov)

*"Safety First"*

**We're on the Web at  
[wdfw.wa.gov](http://wdfw.wa.gov)**