



Your E-Mail Can Help Deliver This E-New\$letter

ONE YEAR AGO we asked whether or not instructors would accept an electronic newsletter substitute for the traditional, printed/mailed newsletter. We noted a plan to switch to an e-format in January 2008 for instructors who provided us with a valid e-mail address. Although very few instructors commented on that initial article, 45% of instructors are now receiving e-newsletters—saving postage, labor and printing costs, paper and time.

If you have an e-mail address but are still receiving paper copies of this newsletter, *pleeeeeeze* take a moment to provide us with your e-mail address.

WDFW is trying hard to incorporate the 4R's (rethink, reduce, reuse and recycle) into daily operations. Expanding the distribution of hunter education e-newsletters is another positive step in that direction.

Consider this simple fact: The 426 instructors now receiving e-newsletters are saving WDFW a minimum of \$1,073.52 in annual postage costs alone (426 x a minimum of .42 postage x 6 mailings per year)! Add in the labor savings (printing the newsletter, creating labels, affixing labels to envelopes, stuffing envelopes and sorting envelopes for mailing) and that \$1,073.52 figure grows larger.

Every dollar `saved' is a one now available for other hunter education activities.

There is no doubt that e-format newsletters offer a huge savings in both time and money. The only remaining question is, "How do we get *your* e-mail address?"

Obviously, you must have an e-mail address. If you haven't given it to us within the past four or five weeks, please e-mail (mikitmjm@dfw.wa.gov), fax ([360] 902-2155) or send us your e-mail address via snail mail. We don't want phone calls because we may not correctly copy down the information. Printed e-mail addresses only, please, so we get accurate information.

We understand there will always be individuals who can only receive a paper newsletter. Whether the issue is no computer, a s-l-o-w computer or personal preference, we want to be sure that all certified hunter education instructors and applicants receive the same basic WDFW information.

All instructor applicants should also send us e-mail addresses. (NOTE: All 214 applicants are currently receiving the paper version...and we can save an additional \$241.92 annually if only 45% of our instructor applicants received e-mail newsletters.)

Have You Sent Your 2009 Class Schedules?

THE 2009 EDITION of *Washington Outdoors* — listing all hunter education class schedules—goes to the printer on December 15th and we're asking all chief instructors to submit class schedules by 12/12.

The single biggest chal-

lenge for the hunter education division is linking public interest with available classes. Our two best tools in providing that linkage are the *Washington Outdoors* booklet and the class schedule information on the agency's web site.

We know it's sometimes

hard for instructors to confirm training dates and locations a year in advance. Listing the month the class will be held and `TBA' still lets the public know that classes are scheduled. We can update schedules on line as dates firm up.

Thanks in advance!

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Dates To Remember

- November 31 – THMFSA Nominations Due
- December 12 – 2009 H.E. Class Schedules Due
- December 31 – Chief Instructor Course Reports

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>

Hunting Incident Data

HUNTING INCIDENTS fall into one of three categories: Intentional discharges, accidental discharges or mechanical failure discharges. A detailed review of the 509 hunting incidents reported between 1980 and 2006 reveals intentional discharges were only slightly behind accidental discharges in our state.

Intentional Discharges (Judgment)

◇ Victim covered by shooter swinging on game	106 incidents	<u>#2 leading incident</u>
◇ Victim out of sight of shooter	52 incidents	<u>#3 leading incident</u>
◇ Victim mistaken for game	47 incidents	<u>#5 leading incident</u>
◇ Victim moved into the line of fire	26 incidents	

Accidental Discharges (Skill)

◇ Careless handling	114 incidents	<u>#1 leading incident</u>
◇ Loaded firearm in a motor vehicle	49 incidents	<u>#4 leading incident</u>
◇ Shooter stumbled and fell	30 incidents	
◇ Unloading firearm	21 incidents	
◇ Loading firearm	13 incidents	
◇ Firearm fell from insecure rest	12 incidents	
◇ Trigger caught on brush	10 incidents	
◇ Removing / placing firearm in/out of vehicle	7 incidents	
◇ Crossing fence / obstacle with a firearm	6 incidents	
◇ Horseplay with a loaded firearm	1 incident	

The top five causes account for 72% of all reported hunting incidents

Mechanical Discharges (Equipment)

◇ Firearm rupture	9 incidents
◇ Defective firearms / equipment	4 incidents
◇ Defective ammunition	2 incidents

Alpen Optics Offers Discounts And Teaching Tools

ALPEN OPTICS (1-877-987-8370 or www.alpenoptics.com) are offering both great discounts and teaching tips for certified hunter education instructors. Contact Chuck Ray or Dan Boes for the confidential 2008 price list—which is only for certified instructor use (not gifts for others). Prices average about 50% of retail cost. For instructional use Alpen Optics offers a PowerPoint© CD (*Frequently Asked Questions About Optics*), a 1-2-3 Focus DVD, and flyers on how to choose binoculars, rifle scope facts, etc. Alpen Optics even offers a discount on certain binoculars to hunter education graduates! Order teaching tools directly from Alpen Optics. A special order form (available from Chuck and Dan) is required for discount purchases.

Hunter Education Web Site Now Sports A New Look

CHECK OUT the revised hunter education web site at:

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/huntered/index.html>

The new look is only part of the site's improved features. Click on the *Basic Hunting* class schedules link and you will quickly notice that "class contact" information (listing instructor e-mail addresses or phone numbers) is updated weekly to remove contact information (thus reducing after-class phone calls and e-mail traffic).

Most importantly, the revised site makes it much easier for new visitors to find information they need. We hope to add a special section soon just for certified hunter education instructors. Send us your ideas!

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.

Greg Koehn, Newport, read his class the newspaper report of the 14 year-old hunter who mistakenly shot and killed the 54 year-old hiker and Greg said "...you could have heard a pin drop." Throughout the class the incident came up many times as Greg noted "This was a needless act that never should have happened." At the end of class Greg had students recite the *Hunter's Pledge* on the back of the hunter education certification card and he dedicated the pledge to the 54 year-old victim.

Jeff Nation, Pierce County, recently wrote about this encounter: "On opening day of the modern firearm season I witnessed a VERY SCARY situation. I hunt in a fee-access area. As we were coming out from hunting there was a truck parked within 50 yards of the gate. The driver and passenger were talking with a Fish and Wildlife Officer. I am always the curious one, so as my partner was unlocking the gate I was watching the officer and the truck.

All of a sudden, BOOM! A rifle discharged inside the truck. After the officer got his feet back on the ground he had the driver get out and then walked around the truck. He also had the passenger get out and he took the passenger's rifle to further inspect that it was *really* empty. When it was all over and done and the dust cleared, it was evident that the passenger had almost shot himself in the foot. The bullet went through the floorboard and hit the front tire, which produced a flat. I witnessed a bullet go through the

floorboard, a shot tire, some frayed nerves and some very lucky people that actually did dodge a bullet.

What really bothered me about this incident is that the careless hunter received a ticket for only \$271.00 True, he also had his fee access authorization revoked, but he put himself and a lot of other people in harm's way. There was a small bright spot in that it wasn't his truck that he blew a hole in!"

Ron Poppe, Wenatchee and Steve Mills, Tenino, are like many other chief instructors who keep detailed information on students in their classes. Recently both Ron and Steve shared the tracking forms they use for their students....and both forms provide valuable information.

Ron tracks *everything* on his computer—from student test scores and dropout rates to temporary certification numbers. If there is a question about student records or performance, Ron can answer it quickly.

Steve's form is less detailed than Ron's but equally effective. Steve focuses his attention on student performance, so naturally his form lists student successes and failures by category, average scores, etc.

Although chief instructors are not required to go through such extra effort, it clearly helps instructors on the team identify the strengths and weaknesses in individual classes.

Student tests are now available in three different languages, including Spanish, Russian and Vietnamese. While most students do well with our standard English tests, some students require test questions in their native language to fully comprehend the meaning of the test. As with all of our student tests, please remember that no student should ever retain a copy. Testing integrity requires instructors to insure that exams are returned to and retained by the teaching team.

Attaboys (and girls) and kudos:

"While my son is 10, I am 42 and technically do not need the hunter education class. However, from what I saw and learned, I will be taking it with my other son shortly. Hunting pretty much skipped a generation in my family, but we are now taking it up. My son got an 18-pound tom of the opening day of the youth hunt! Now my 6 year-old daughter has said that she plans on taking hunter education when she is 9 or 10 years old so she can hunt with her brothers and her dad."

"An outstanding job was done by the instructors! Their honesty, enthusiasm and interest in the sport was fantastic. I was very pleased to see the values of hunting safety taught the way they were. It was a great improvement over what I remember 40+ years ago!

"I thank you and appreciate all the time and effort your instructors took and gave to help me be a better and safer hunter. I hope that the rest of your classes will be as respectful and eager to learn how to be a safe hunter!"

JAN's Corner

Thanks again to all instructors for the special efforts in submitting timely and accurate student and course records. It's easy to see that chief instructors are catching most mistakes before the records come to the Olympia office.

One small detail to remember is the necessity of checking "Yes" or "No" on the live-firing section for *every* record. Even if a student is marked as "incomplete," the box must be checked....or the record will not run through the Scantron machine.

Keep up the good work in class and enjoy your fall hunting season!

What Does A Chief Instructor Do?

By Jack Dolan, Nine Mile Falls and Vern Smith, Medical Lake

SOMEHOW A RECENT DISCUSSION are with hunter education staff wound up with me (Vern) volunteering to write an article about the responsibilities and duties of a chief instructor. After thinking about everything I do each teaching season I decided to do what a good friend always does and called my good friend Jack for his ideas on the subject. We agreed to write the article together: Hopefully our combined 44 years of hunter education teaching experience will help give the article more credibility.

The title "chief instructor" implies some sort of elevated position far above the level of the regular volunteer instructor. Well, t'ain't so! It is five per cent title and 95% hard work and responsibility. Being a good chief instructor starts by understanding the importance of and being willing to spend the time and energy required to apply yourself to four major skill areas, including, (1) administrative, (2) being knowledgeable in many areas, (3) networking, and, perhaps most importantly, (4) people skills.

You take responsibility to give whatever amount of time is required to ensure that each and every class is well-organized, equipped with audio-visual aids, charts, movies, firearms and all others required for hands-on or demonstration purposes, and that it will be taught by the best instructor team you can assemble. Remember, you are responsible to see that each class is presented in an enjoyable, interesting and professional manner. Your students can range from 8 up to 70+ years of age. It is your responsibility to ensure that you and your team are capable of varying the presentation to accommodate all age and interest levels while also ensuring that all required subject matter is thoroughly covered. Now let's take a look at each of these four areas:

Administrative Skills

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Finding a suitable classroom with sufficient seating and lighting. | 12. Coordinating and scheduling instructors for specific Subjects and dates. |
| 2. Locating a range facility and adjacent outdoor field test area. | 13. Updating charts and AV aids. |
| 3. Preparing the tentative class dates and schedule. | 14. Updating your HE team as may be required. |
| 4. Scheduling range and field test facility dates. | 15. Preparing the after-class <i>Instructor's Course Report</i> . |
| 5. Providing WDFW with advance class schedules. | 16. Maintaining a record of fees or donations received and A list of all expenses paid. |
| 6. Preparing advertising and posters for class dates. | 17. Preparing the <i>Annual Financial Report</i> . |
| 7. Communicating with WDFW for new policy or law changes. | 18. Preparing the live-firing range and field test safety rules. |
| 8. Preparing the Master Lesson Plan / or updates. | 19. Accepting responsibility for all safety matters in class And on the range. |
| 9. Preparing "Do's and Don'ts" for student. | 20. Ensuring that your team meets the mandated First Aid Requirements. |
| 10. Ordering WDFW classroom supplies. | 21. Coordinating with local WDFW Enforcement Officer. |
| 11. Preparing for preregistration with instructors and students. | 22. Being prepared for things that haven't come up before! |

Knowledgeable

The chief instructor should be thoroughly familiar with the subject matter in every chapter of the student handbook and should be able to teach any subject at any time in the event that a teaching team member is not able to make it to class for that session. The chief instructor should be very familiar with the contents of the current WDFW Big Game Hunting Rules and Regulations pamphlet so that students' questions can be answered and various sections of the rules clarified in a timely manner. Of course, questions can be further clarified by your WDFW Enforcement Officer during his/her scheduled classroom time. Usually most students' and parents' questions pertain to hunting big game and turkeys.

The chief instructor must be fully knowledgeable of all WDFW hunter education policies and procedures and that they are fully implemented and followed by the teaching team. Occasionally, some particular situation may require a WDFW-approved deviation, but not too often. It is your job to get it.

Networking

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|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Recruiting other certified instructors to help. | 5. Contacting or chief instructors to share teaching ideas. |
| 2. Recruiting potential new instructors from class. | 6. Contacting potential sponsors for support of all Hunter education classroom activities. |
| 3. Seeking guest speakers to enhance the class. | 7. Contacting local news media for news articles. |
| 4. Contact other state agencies for class speakers. | |

People Skills

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|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Always displaying enthusiasm and professionalism. | 6. Ensuring the team encourages/motivates the students. |
| 2. Always supporting and encouraging the team. | 7. Identifying potential chief instructors on the team. |
| 3. Emphasizing that we are a team—not individuals. | 8. Using tact/discretion in correcting instructor behavior. |
| 4. Talking to parents about student's behavior in class. | 9. Ensuring that disabled persons always feel welcome. |
| 5. Handling student discipline problems. | 10. Addressing parent questions which disrupt class. |

Yes, being a chief instructor does require a lot of time, work and energy, but the personal rewards and satisfaction that it brings after each class cannot be measured. After all, you and your team really helped prepare your students for success!

From The Desk Of Lt. Crown: Profile Of A Chief Instructor

SOME INDIVIDUALS THINK a chief instructor must be a wizened veteran with decades of experience before rising to the challenge. The term sounds imposing enough that it may be too intimidating for a new instructor to even consider. Looking for more answers, I directed Mik Mikitik to research the ranks of our current chief instructors and provide a profile of an “average” chief instructor. You may find the results somewhat surprising.

First, more than 25% (n = 254) of our current hunter education instructor corps has served as a chief instructor during the past year. That figure is quite a bit higher than I imagined. That level of participation speaks well to a shared responsibility for leadership that many teams clearly foster among themselves.

Second, I was pleased to learn that the largest numbers of chief instructors (46%, or 118 individuals) come from individuals who have been certified within the past eight years. Here, too, this fact reveals the talent and enthusiasm that new(er) instructors bring to the ranks of the hunter education program.

Third, looking at the numbers of chief instructors certi-

fied before 1990, I am continually amazed at the level of dedication evident throughout the instructor corps. Today we continue to have instructors who served as pioneers—who began teaching in 1957—leading high-quality, high-content hunter education training activities.

On paper the chief instructor may be simply defined as an instructor who is responsible for the paperwork for a particular class, but the fact is the chief instructor serves as the nucleus for the hunter education team. That nucleus may remain the same over time or it may morph and migrate from individual to individual on the team—but the influence of the nucleus is ever-present.

In 2009 we will implement a change to our instructor training program. Originally designed only for chief instructors, the 2009 program now encourages existing instructors to attend with their chief instructors to learn from and share with fellow teaching teams. The regional approach—with one session per WDFW region—will allow teaching teams to meet regional enforcement supervisors and staff as we continue to build upon past hunter education successes. I hope to see you there!

New Instructor Training Process To Change In 2009

THE PRE-SERVICE TRAINING program has long been a feature of new instructor training. Popular and well-received by participants, it was also inefficient with only one-third of PST graduates completing the instructor certification process. In its place Chuck Ray and Dan Boes will soon be working more closely with designated instructors to mentor new instructor applicants and better prepare them for their future roles.

Applicants who have already completed the PST will continue to follow the current certification process.

Applicants who have not completed a PST as of November 1 will follow the new process below:

1) Application and background check. Nothing will change here.

2) Instructor mentoring. Applicants will be assigned to key instructors, who will mentor applicants

through the certification process.

Applicants will work with mentors on applicant testing materials, studying the instructor manual, reviewing policies and procedures, practicing classroom instruction, using forms and records, live-firing and field course activities.

Applicants who successfully complete all steps and receive approval from the mentor may proceed to the final step in the certification process.

Applicants who do not complete all requirements or who need more time working with their mentor(s) may take an additional year to complete the process.

3) Training / Practical Application. Four to six weekend sessions will be held annually in locations across the state. Applicants must attend and actively participate in

conducting a hunter education course taught along with other instructor candidates in an area requiring additional hunter education training. The candidate should be well-prepared via the mentoring process and will be evaluated on preparation, instruction and quality of effort.

Chuck Ray and Dan Boes will serve as lead evaluators for the practical exercise. Applicants will receive mileage and per diem reimbursement to participate in the practical class.

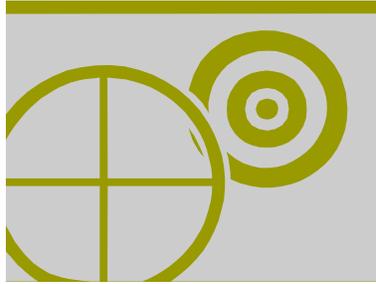
Dates and locations for the four to six practical application will appear online in the hunter education blog in December and in the January issue of this newsletter.

Please direct all comments to Chuck Ray or Dan Boes.

The Deferral Program: Summary Of Our First Year

THE HUNTER EDUCATION DEFERRAL was a source of great interest to instructors as the concept grew into a legislative bill and finally into operation last year.

The hunter education deferral allows individuals who are at least 10 years of age to apply for a one-license year, once in a lifetime hunter education waiver. Hunting with a mentor (who must be Washington-licensed for at least three years) the deferred hunter may purchase a license and participate in any general hunting seasons. Deferred hunters must remain within normal voice *and* unaided visual distance of their mentor hunters. Close supervision is required.



The deferral costs \$20, with all funds earmarked to cover hunter education costs in processing the deferral. Deferred hunters receive a “deferral” card which they must carry afield (also noted on their hunting license documents), along with basic safety information and hunter education class schedule information.

The program kicked off September 5, 2007 and there was

lots of public interest during the first year. A total of 955 individuals applied for a deferral by June 30, 2008. To the best of our knowledge, there was only one citation issued to a deferred hunter in 2007, when a mid-20s hunter was hunting without his mentor.

The majority of first-year applicants for a deferral were adults—not juveniles.

A total of 112 deferred individuals successfully completed hunter education training by June 2008, with one student who enrolled but did not complete the course and one student who failed after obtaining the deferral.

THE WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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