

Sutter Buttes Chapter's First Annual Junior Pheasant Hunt

November 18th and the 19th, 2006 marked the beginning of an era. The First Annual Sutter Buttes Safari Club International chapter "Junior Pheasant hunt" was established. Larry Munger of South Butte Game Bird Club graciously supplied the hunting fields, and helped with our 200 bird supply needed for our youth event. What a beginning to a great program. With over one hundred fifty adult volunteers, and seventy one young hunters (boys & girls) in attendance, our event began.

Saturday morning started early with a cold but beautiful day. Session one began with a combined attendance of 18 young boys and girls. First order of business, as was true with each session, was a safety talk. Chuck Wyllie, organizer, Director, chairman of the project, and local Hunters Education Instructor, made sure we were all on the same page. Safety first was the message, which means that firearms should be pointed skyward, and only one shell per firearm. No sideways swings, or over the head shots, and nobody moves after the shot until ordered the go ahead from a safety monitor. With the business done, next was the drawing for the Youth Shotgun donated by Roy Whittaker, Owner of the Ammo Outlet. The proud new owner was Wyatt Peters Soliz. Congratulations Wyatt. Let the challenge begin. In our first session fourteen birds were harvested, and a lot of happy young hunters had begun to enjoy a heritage that most of us as hunter have enjoyed for years, and hope to pass on for generations to come.

Session two began after a great BBQ with nineteen hunters. Our lucky winner of the session two firearm, which was donated by Rod Akin, (one of our local members) and owner of the Hunter's Blind in Grass Valley, was Sean Starke. Another successful outing took place with fifteen Pheasants sacrificing themselves for our youth. As the sun set on our first day, anticipation for day two grew.

Day two began cold, with a heavy fog hanging over the fields. But the weather could not dampen the spirits of our junior hunters. The fire pit was burning, and the donuts distributed, as we again signed in our kids and prepared for the hunt. Another firearm to give away, This time the donation came as a combined effort from Pat Kittle, owner of Kittle's Outdoors, and Brent Nobles, owner of Fur Fin & Feathers Taxidermy, both of Colusa. And the happy young winner was Corey Hall. Hope to see you next year Cory. On to the hunt - session three held sixteen hunters, and when all the smoke cleared we had twenty eight birds to tag. Wow, these kids could shoot!

Our final group started the afternoon hunt fourteen strong. With our newest firearm winner, James Harris, leading the troops into battle. A special thanks goes out to Director John Barritt, owner of Badger John's Huntin Stuff, for our session four shotgun. Fourteen kids, twenty five birds. That's a 50% harvest ratio. That's smokin' great job. And we had some first time hunters here. Look out, next year birds.

Overall, our harvest rate for the event ended at 41% with 200 planted birds, and 82 harvested. Our hunters ranged in age from 10 to 16 and in most cases had a father, mother or grandparent in attendance with them while they hunted. Many of our hunters

were first time hunters, having just completing their hunter safety classes. What a success - looking into the eyes of our junior hunters said it all. The chapter had found a project that had proven to be more rewarding then we could have ever hoped, while giving our youth the opportunity to experience Wildlife Conservation first hand.

To all of our Sponsors, Directors, and Members that helped with our event, please accept our thank you for a job well done. To our youth, we hope you enjoyed yourselves, and we look forward to having you be part of our chapter, and the outdoors forever.