

Hunter Education post Covid-19

August 25, 2020

Hunter education during the Covid -19 lock down went totally on line and I have heard the number 20,000 stated for the number of first time hunters that have taken the on line class. If the number is true approx. \$380,000 went into the pockets of Kalkomey Enterprises. \$20,000 new hunting recruits will also help NYS and the Conservation Fund dollars as well. One concern that has come up is how to determine who is taking the Class online and who is actually taking the test. One instructor did point out to me that there is no significant difference in the states safety record of states that give the on line class

NY State has just recently informed us instructors that we could start up again on a limited class size basis. That being said prior to Covid a number of our classes has reduced the class time to a one day 7 hr minimum Class with homework to be turned in prior to the Class.

As an instructor that used to teach the class in two three hour evenings, and then a 8 hour Saturday class. Condensing this into one 7 hour day, meant cutting the information given at the class to the bone, relying on the homework to cover a lot of things we dropped. We did range day training in the 7 Hours. As all my students passed since giving the course this way, it has worked but was not very enjoyable to the Instructors. We instructors asked for the state to put together a 7 hour agenda and we have received it. The old adage watch out for what you ask for. In my opinion the outline was not well laid out in terms of time, and makes it an even more packed time schedule, to cover all in their outline.

So where am I going with this, I talked to a few instructors and got a great reply from Brian Krawczyk, Wyoming County region 9 instructor. His suggestion is that we go back to the old state online class. With the homework turned in as proof of taking the class, due three hours of range day and one hour for the test. This would allow or doubling the number of classes possible to give in one day to two. One in the morning and a second one in the afternoon.

I would love to hear from more instructors as to if Bryans suggestion would be something we should try and get the NYS DEC to consider changing to! You can send your comments care of my e-mail address.

Sincerely,

Glen Adams

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