

# California Hog Hunter

VOL. 9, No. 2

WINTER, 2022

## Trophy hogs and meat pigs are on tap at Schmidt Guide Service

By JIM MATTHEWS

*California Hog Hunter Editor*

Rocky Villanueva was giving me good-natured grief. In our group of eight hunters, I was the only one to have not killed a pig on the trip. It was the last morning of our hunt, and it was rapidly getting past the time when the hogs would be moving in the hot, late-May weather.

Admittedly, I had been a little lackadaisical. I was enjoying talking to Rocky and the other hunters on our trip. I was enjoying the oak grasslands of the Central Coast. I was really getting a kick out of watching hunters shoot their first hogs.

Rocky and his brother Luke are the primary guides with Schmidt Guide Service out of King City these days, although Nessen Schmidt Jr. was helping on this hunt. The senior Nessen, who started this popular guiding operation 47 years ago, has retired since this hunt was held a few years ago, but on my trip he was still supervising and helping skin and break down hogs for their ice-chest trips to new homes.

"You're going to make me look bad if you don't shoot — pigs!" Villanueva had just turned a corner in the dirt road as he was needling me and a group of hogs was streaking along the hillside across a steep, narrow canyon just 75 or 80 yards away. We both said "pigs!" in unison to end his sentence, and he slid the truck to a stop.

I was out of the truck and dropping into a sitting position two steps off the edge of the dirt two-track while stuffing cartridges into the magazine. I chambered a round as I looped the sling under the bicep of my left arm, and swung the rifle on a young meat boar. Excited, the first shot was low and tore a flesh wound through a front leg. I quickly bolted in a second round, swung more smoothly, and broke the shot just before the hog went into a thicket of oak brush. There was a squeal and the pig disappeared from view.

We heard brush breaking and then it was quiet. Standing  
(Continued on Page 2, See *Schmidt*....)



Wild hogs running on one of the 100,000-plus acres hunted by Schmidt Guide Service (above), and a nice meat boar shot by the author with his Howa 1500.







While retired from guiding these days, Nessen Schmidt was still giving a hand in the skinning shed when the author hunted. Schmidt started guiding 47 years ago.

## Schmidt....

(Continued from Page 1)

next to me, Rocky had seen the pig tumbling to the bottom of the canyon. With the action over, Rocky didn't miss a beat in the needling process.

"I haven't seen you move that fast all weekend," he said grinning as he offered his hand to help me up off the ground. I racked the bolt open and ejected the empty case, and grabbed his hand.

"Well, you finally got me within range of a good meat boar even a dottering old man could hit," I said back to him and we both laughed.

We walked 75 yards down the ridge and then slid down the steep hillside to find the hog stone dead at the bottom of the canyon with a shot through the shoulders. I looked back up the steep hillside thinking the recovery process was going to be a lot of work. The Schmidt operation staff was intimately familiar with making tough work easy with the use of winches and long cables with even more rope attached. The truck was backed over to the edge of the canyon, and the pig was pulled up in short order.

With the last hunter tagged

out, we all headed off the ranch we were hunting that day and back toward town, the headquarters, and meat care facilities. Rocky and I talked all the way back and I heard a familiar lament from him that I've heard from every other guide. He wished all hunters were familiar with their guns, handled them safely, and shot well. I told him that just like the Schmidt operation has everything down to an efficient and fun science, hunters need years of experience — and coaching from good guides — to get good at the hunting/shooting craft.

Our hunt had been quick, with eight hunters taking pigs in an evening and morning of hunting.

Schmidt Guide Service has access to over 100,000 acres of private ranch land around King City, all of it with pigs. In the 47 years of operation, the hunter success rates on these hunts is 98 percent-plus. The two percent probably couldn't hit a barn from the inside. The bottom line is simply that the guides with Schmidt Guide Service *will* show you wild hogs within shooting range, meat pigs or quality boars.

Pricing is also among the most reasonable of operations working today. The basic two-day hunt is \$1,000 per hunter with a \$250 deposit at booking and the remainder due at the end of the hunt. This includes two night stay in the hunting lodge, travel on the hunting ranches via Honda Pioneer side-by-sides, and all field dressing and skinning. While the hunt is quoted as a two-day hunt, most of the time hunters fill on the first day of hunting.

The senior Nessen's daughter Sarah Schmidt runs the operation these days, doing everything except the guiding (and she can do that if needed). To book a hunt call 831-809-8843. The website address is [nessenschmidtguideservice.com](http://nessenschmidtguideservice.com).



Martin Correa (left) and Brian Fure were hunting with Schmidt Guide Service when they bagged these two nice meat pigs as part of a company hunt. Eight hunters took eight hogs on this hunt in just one evening and one morning of hunting.





800-338-3220 | HORNADY.COM

# CX<sup>TM</sup>

## A **SOLID** BREAKTHROUGH IN PERFORMANCE

The new CX<sup>TM</sup> (Copper alloy eXpanding) is the most advanced monolithic hunting bullet on the market.

### **MONOLITHIC COPPER ALLOY BULLET**

Highly accurate bullet retains 95% or more of its original weight for deep penetration.

### **ADVANCED HEAT SHIELD<sup>®</sup> TIP**

Resists aerodynamic heating enabling consistently high ballistic coefficients for enhanced extended range terminal performance.

### **OPTIMUM GROOVE GEOMETRY**

Maximizes aerodynamic performance while effectively reducing bearing surface and fouling.

### **NONTRADITIONAL OPTION FOR LARGE GAME**

Compatible in California and other areas that require nontraditional bullets.

AVAILABLE AS COMPONENT BULLETS  
OR FACTORY-LOADED AMMUNITION:

**OUTFITTER<sup>®</sup>**    **CUSTOM<sup>™</sup>**  
**SUPERFORMANCE.**

*New!*



*Accurate. Deadly. Dependable.<sup>®</sup>*





Seasonal changes, even in California, affect how wild hogs behave throughout the year. What this group of pigs is doing today may change completely in as little as a few days. Hunters need to know what wildlife is going to do next to be successful in their efforts to harvest a wild pig.

## Seasonal tips for successful hog hunters

Each year has its seasons — spring, summer, fall and winter — even in California. And each season brings a new set of environmental conditions for wildlife. These changes, for better or worse, impact the lives of wild pigs within California's particular environmental setting. Understanding how these animals react to seasonal change can lead to success.

**Spring (March-April-May):** Most of the precipitation that comes out of the Pacific arrives here during the months of March and April. All up and down the state, repeated storms bring rain that benefits wild lands and farm land alike.

For wild pigs, this is the season of plenty. The abundance of moisture provides an almost instant green-up. This proliferation of vegetation brings many hog favorites, including sweet grasses, wild onions, berries, worms, grubs and a host of other goodies.

The best thing, however, is that pigs don't have to travel far to garner this bounty. It's all around them. With all the food and water they desire, wild pigs are no longer confined to certain feeding locations and water sources.

The animals respond to this abundance by scattering in small groups throughout a given area. Since hogs are not as dependant on sources of food and water developed for domestic stock on private lands as they were during the summer and winter, the animals spill over on to government ground. This is the time of the year when public land hunters can reap a harvest of success, even on public lands which normally have few pigs and little decent hunting.

Even with pigs seemingly everywhere, springtime hunters will still have to work to find them. The weather alone can present many obstacles, not the least of which is muddy roads and sloppy terrain. While hunting when it's wet is never fun, a little rain doesn't seem to faze wild pigs. Even better, when it's overcast and drizzling, pigs can be found feeding all day long. And it doesn't get any better than that.

**Summer (June-July-August):** When the heat of sum-

mer begins, everything starts to dry up. Vegetation withers and turns brown and water sources shrink to almost nothing. During these months, wild pigs will have to travel longer distances to meet their daily needs.

Correspondingly, this extended period of movement means that the animals are more exposed during daylight hours. During the summer, shortly after daylight and just at dusk are prime times to encounter hogs along their habitual travel routes.

The one bonus that summer brings for wild pigs is the ripening of grain and row crops in those areas that support agriculture. Hogs will travel for miles to feast upon these favored food crops. On their early morning return to secluded daytime beds, the animals will stop briefly for water.

And it's here, either somewhere along regular travel routes or at a watering location, that hunters can consistently ambush hogs.

The problem is that these locations are generally all situated on private property. Which means that the summer is the best time to book a guided hunt on one these locations.

**Fall (September-October-November):** The fall is a mixed bag when it comes to pig hunting. There are more hunters in the field because deer and upland game seasons are underway.

This tends to spook pigs away from their usual summer haunts. However, in early fall, grain left over from the summer harvest will still draw the animals to stubble fields. Many of the larger oak trees will drop acorns and this will pull the hogs to any area where those majestic trees grow.

In late October, ocean fog may seep inland and blanket the coastal and inter-coastal mountains. Daytime temperatures will drop and the pigs will start to forage for acorns well beyond the borders of private ground, creating another opportunity, just as in the spring, for hunting pigs on your own.

(Continued on Page 5, See *Seasonal tips*....)





Where will this hog be next? The answer is to understand the seasonal stresses she must endure and decide where she might be today.

## Seasonal tips....

(Continued from Page 4)

Once again, this is a great time of the year for public land pig hunters especially the month of November.

**Winter (December-January-February):** Scattered rain will fall during this time of the year. And many days will be overcast and gloomy — perfect for pig hunting. Since the weather has turned cold, it's possible to hunt all day long in relative comfort. And you can run into pigs anywhere and anytime.

Normally, all of the agricultural ground has been plowed, so that eliminates most of these areas as prime pig locations. However, various wild food sources, including wild cherries, manzanita berries, acorns, are available. Pigs will exploit whatever they can find.

Extensive rooting will be seen in the winter. This evidence, left by pigs turning up the ground in search of hidden food-stuffs, can lead to a successful porcine encounter. Public land hunters who know and understand pig sign will find winter the best time of the year to encounter this evidence. And you can often follow fresh sign right to the animals.

**The Bottom line:** Seasonal change is inevitable, and both pigs and humans must get used to it. To be successful, pig hunters must learn to aggressively adapt their hunting tactics to meet the change of seasons. What works in one season, may not work later on in the year. And this is especially true

if you hunt public land.

To find wild pigs with any regularity, you must know how they'll react to environmental demands and then capitalize on that knowledge. You may have to change areas, hunting tactics, and even the gear you choose to take on the hunt. No matter what the season, there are things the successful hog hunter can do to put him or herself in the right spot at the right time to harvest a wild pig. As the Proverbial writer wrote in the Old Testament, "to everything there is a season."

— Durwood Hollis

[All photos with this story were taken by Ron Gayer.]



**California Hog Hunter** editor, Jim Matthews, zeros in on a hog at close range. Knowledge of what the hog would be doing in summer allowed him to get close and ambush this big boar as he came to water.



# Howa™

# SUPER LITE

## KING OF THE MOUNTAIN

UNMATCHED AT AN  
AMAZING 4LBS 7oz

### FEATURING

**Stocky's**  
America's Gunstock Specialist!

**Accublock®**

**LIMBSAVER**  
by SVL™ SHOCK VIBRATION LABORATORY

- ▶ 6.5 Creedmoor and .308 Calibers
- ▶ 20" Blue barrel threaded
- ▶ Suppressor ready ( 1/2 "-28 )
- ▶ OAL - 39"
- ▶ 1 Piece Pic Rail
- ▶ Flush Detachable Mag
- ▶ Available in Kryptek Altitude & Kryptek Obskura
- ▶ 3 Position Safety
- ▶ 2 Stage Match Trigger
- ▶ Tool-less Firing Pin removal
- ▶ Machined Receiver and Forged bolt
- ▶ Large Integral front barrel lug
- ▶ Reliable M-16 Style extractor/ejector
- ▶ Stocky's Carbon Fiber Stock
- ▶ ACCUBLOCK® Superior Lug Bed
- ▶ LIMBSAVER Buttpad

**MSRP \$1,399**

THOUSANDS OF \$ LESS THAN  
**THE COMPETITION**

**LIFETIME  
WARRANTY**

**SUB-MOA  
GUARANTEE**

**H.A.C.T**  
2-STAGE TRIGGER

**KRYPTTEK™**

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: [LEGACYSPORTS.COM](http://LEGACYSPORTS.COM)  
2022 CATALOG OUT NOW - REQUEST YOUR'S TODAY: 1.800.553.4229



LegacySportsIntl



LegacySportsInternational



LegacySportsInt





# An old warrior boar gives first-time hunters a lesson in a hog's toughness

By TIM HOVEY

*California Hog Hunter Senior Field Editor*

A few year back I was hunting a property in northern California for wild pigs. I had hunted the property several times alone, but on this trip, I brought my oldest daughter Alyssa along. She has been hunting with me since she was seven. At that time, she was 15, and all she could talk about was wanting to shoot her first wild pig.

My good friend, Jose De Orta and his son Adrian joined us for the all-day hunt. The plan was to search the property early for pigs moving from their feeding areas toward their beds, and then explore the ranch as the day heated up.

Over the last few months, I had been exploring the property we were hunting, trying to get a better idea of pig movement. Thanks to increased hunting pressure from the landowner and unseasonably hot weather for late spring, the pigs were traveling at night and only moving early in the morning and at last light. I knew our best chance for success would be to hunt early for moving pigs, and then kick around through their remote beds as the day heated up.

We got an early start and hunted hard during the morning. After several hard creek pushes, several miles of hiking, and a handful of pig sightings, the cooler was still empty. We took a break for lunch and did a little glassing. With the day heating up, the pigs were done moving, but we weren't done hunting. With half the day still left, we decided to explore some new areas.

I drove one of the fire roads to the other side of the property. For the most part, I think we all thought the hunt was over. The road dropped off the ridge and leveled off at a heavily grazed meadow. We lazily explored the new area for about half an hour. When we reached the end of the road, we turned around and decided to head home. With the early start to the day and the long hikes, we were all worn out.

On the drive out, we spotted a small pig bed tucked away on the side of a hill. We stopped and glassed it from the road. The bed was almost perfectly round and about thirty feet in diameter. Even though the ground surrounding the bed was turned over and it looked fresh, I wasn't convinced that a pig would be bedded up so close to the road. Jose thought differently.

When the days get hot, or hunting pressure gets high, pigs will spend much of the day lazing around an established bed. These areas are usually heavily brushed providing cover

and located somewhat close to a water source. If the midday weather was hot, I normally spend the afternoon searching for occupied pig beds. Tucked away in deep canyons and usually off the beaten path, pigs would move into these areas to escape the heat and the hunting pressure. Playing the wind and searching for fresh sign, I'd sneak into these bedding areas and stalk



Jose De Orta and his son Adrian along with Alyssa and Tim Hovey (left to right) all put copper into this tough old hog after perfect execution of a hunting plan put all four hunters within range.

within feet of sleeping pigs. I called it kicking through beds, and early in the season it had been a very successful technique for locating pigs any time of day.

I drove across the meadow and parked about 250-yards from the bed. Jose volunteered to hike to the spot and kick through it. I got the kids set up with their rifles and shooting sticks, facing downhill and perpendicular to the bed. Jose shouldered his rifle, checked the wind and decided that dropping in from the top of the bed and working downhill would be best.

The kids were silent and concentrating. The day had been a long one so far, and both Alyssa and Adrian pushed hard, never complaining. The day had started with the hope of getting each kid on their first pig. Now with the triple digit temperatures and the last push of the day, I was losing hope.

It took Jose fifteen minutes to make it to the bed. Once at the top, he gave us a wave, letting us know to be ready. In all honesty, I thought Jose was wasting his time. I just felt that (Continued on Page 8, See *Old Warrior...*)



# Old Warrior....

(Continued from Page 7)

the bed was too small and too close to the main road to hold any animals.

Through the binoculars I watched as he slowly moved through the bed, kicking the thick brush. He was just about in the center of the bush when he stopped suddenly. Jose was chest deep and looking in front of him. He then started wav-



Alyssa Hovey (left) and Adrian De Orta insisted on helping with the field dressing and hauling of the game from the field. It was the first hog hunt for both youths.

ing both arms in the air. This was our agreed upon signal that something was in the bed. At first, I thought he was joking. Without warning, a large boar broke cover near the edge of the small bed and headed out downhill as fast as a pig could run. The sighting was punctuated by Jose, yelling at the top of his lungs, "PIG!"

Alyssa and Adrian spotted the pig and started lining up on him. The pig was running straight away from Jose and within 50-yards it would be racing broadside right across their firing line about 150-yards out. Within seconds the kids would have an open opportunity to kill their first pig.

For a few seconds, we all just watched, waiting for the pig to run into position. Then, without any provocation, the boar suddenly changed course and started running directly at us. The pig was about 150-yards out and closing fast. I told the kids to get the boar in their scopes and to start firing. Alyssa fired first and hit the pig in the head. A puff of dust exploded off the animal's skull, but he never slowed down. Adrian fired next and hit the running boar in the front left leg. The boar stumbled slightly but regained its pace and kept coming.

The next two shots by the kids were clean misses. Despite the firing, the pig kept running right at us. My rifle, a tried and true 30-30 that had taken a few pigs over the years, was out of commission, laying in the truck with a broken lever bolt. As the pig closed the distance, he veered off to our left at about 20-yards and kept running. To keep things safe and since the pig had changed direction, the kids disengaged. I grabbed Alyssa's 30-06, moved to a safe position and fired a

quick shot as the boar crested the hill next to us, hitting him in the back leg.

Since the pig was now clear of where we were and headed toward cover, Jose started firing. With one amazing shot, he hit the boar on the run with a shot to the vitals. Seconds later, the pig dropped from sight over the next hill.

The kids and I jumped into the truck and raced over to where we had last seen the pig. When it disappeared, it was headed out into a grazed field at the base of some rolling hills. If he escaped into foothills, we'd never find him.

Driving faster than I probably should, we rounded the hill and easily spotted the running pig against a field of dry grass. He was still moving fast and headed toward the heavy brush of the low hills and his escape. I made a wide loop and cut the pig off. He changed direction, cut behind the vehicle and made a quick push to make it to the hills. The wounded boar tried to navigate a steep hill, tipped over and slid back down to level ground. He made a weak attempt to get up, but a finishing shot to the back of the neck with my .357 revolver at five feet concluded the shooting.

I stood over the warrior pig and looked at the wounds. Alyssa's head shot hit the pig in the forehead and glanced off the thick skull. Adrian had broken the front left leg but that did little to slow the pig down. My shot missed bone and ended up being nothing more than a non-lethal flesh wound to the back leg. Jose's long shot hit the pig perfectly, puncturing both lungs. The close shot behind the head ended it all. From the first shot to the last, the entire episode lasted less than a minute.

The kids were back at the truck, and for a moment I was alone with the battle-scarred boar. I knelt next to the animal and patted the chest. I'm not ashamed to say that I openly apologized to that dead animal for the excess shots, and I thanked him for the meat that would eventually go to feed two families. As I reviewed the scenario in my head, I felt that, under the circumstances, we had done all we could to end the event quickly.

Since the kids had hit the pig first, it was their first confirmed big game kill. With the rushing pig and the chaos, the kids had handled themselves safely the entire time. They disengaged when the pig had changed direction and only took shots when I instructed them to. Beyond killing their first big game animal, Jose and I were far prouder of how the young hunters had handled themselves in the wild situation.

We took some photos and then showed Alyssa and Adrian how to field dress their first pig. Despite the wounds, we were able to harvest all four hams and two back straps. To complete the experience, Alyssa and Adrian wanted to hike the meat of their first pig back to the truck.

Since that hunt, Alyssa has taken deer, other pigs, predators and upland game. I've watched her learn from her time in the outdoors and seen her self-esteem and personality blossom. Somewhere along the way, she has transformed from a curious little girl into a strong, self-assured, compassionate young woman that shoots straight and understands the value of a hunter's role. I have raised my own hunting partner!



# Lake Sonoma Wildlife Area: Slice of wild hog heaven for archery hunters

Even though hog numbers are way down, the Lake Sonoma Wildlife Area remains a public land gem for archery or crossbow hog hunters who live within reasonable driving distance of the 18,000-acre property surrounding Lake Sonoma.

The wildlife area is Army Corps of Engineers property, which manages the recreation and hunting program in conjunction with the state Department of Fish and Wildlife. The two agencies also get a lot of help from the volunteer Friends of Lake Sonoma organization and vendors that run the marina.

When we first covered this area in the Spring, 2007 issue of the newsletter, archery hunters were reporting from 50 to 70 hogs taken per year. In the early part of the season, the staff at the Corps saw hunter success rates at high as 15 percent.

This year, Brian Emmons, head park ranger, said he has not had a single report of a harvested pig, and said less than 10 animals total have been reported the last couple of seasons. Just four years ago, the harvest was around 40 pigs.

"I'd say pig numbers are down 60 to 70 percent, but I have seen numbers coming back a little this year," said Jayson Collard, who is on the board of the Friends of Lake Sonoma group and an avid hunter and volunteer hunting guide at the area for the Friends group.

The decline in numbers is being blamed on a combination of drought and pseudo rabies, which is not really rabies but in the herpes line of viruses. The virus causes mild, non-lethal symptoms in adult wild hogs, but unweaned piglets can suffer significant mortality. This is especially true if the pigs have any other stresses, like having to resort to lower quality food sources.

The annual archery hunting season this year is ongoing, having started Friday, Nov. 11, and runs through Sunday, March 19. Annual hunting season use permits are a paltry \$35, allowing daily access through the whole near-five month season. There is a check-in and check-out process that can be completed via e-mail.

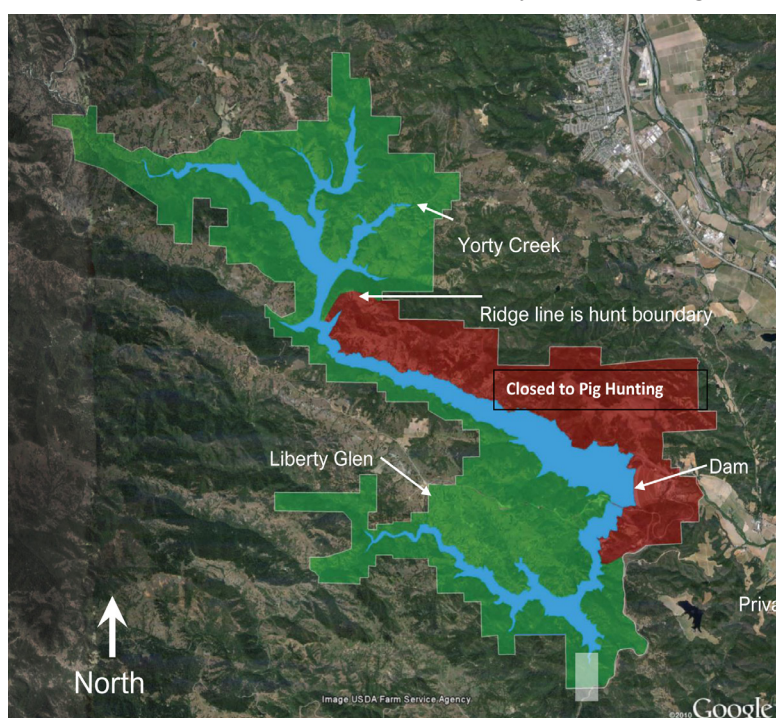
The annual archery hunting permits are available at four locations in the area: The Milt Brandt Visitor Center at Lake Sonoma, the Lake Sonoma Resort and Marina, West Coast Archery in Petaluma, and Turra's Backroom Archery in Santa Rosa.

"For 35 bucks it is a pretty good deal to be able to go for five months," said Adrienne Olufs owner of West Coast Archers with her husband. "But it definitely is not like it used to be. Good hunters used to get a pig nearly every time they went out there."

Collard said that 600 to 800 permits are sold annually, so hunting pressure is usually very light when measured against the size of the hunting area.

Emmons said that he has been patrolling the area by boat recently and he has been seeing the most pig sign in the far upper end of Dry Creek arm of the lake.

While there is road access to many of the hunting areas,



There is 10,000 acres of archery-only hunting area open at the Lake Sonoma Wildlife Area, which is located north of Santa Rosa on Dry Creek, a tributary to the Russian River.

boats provide the best access to the more remote hunting areas, and hunters are encouraged to use OnX, the cell phone mapping application that shows land ownership, so they can be sure they are not straying onto nearby private lands which are off limits. The whole property is fenced, so that should not be a problem.

The Army Corps of Engineer's website, which has detailed hunting information is: <https://www.spn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Lake-Sonoma/>.

The Friends of Lake Sonoma's hunting page is: <https://lakesonoma.org/support-lake-sonoma/hunting-at-lake-sonoma/>.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife's information page on Lake Sonoma is: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Lands/Places-to-Visit/Lake-Sonoma-WA>. The map on open hunting areas is incorrect. Use the map from the Corps of Engineers.



## Boning out wild hogs in the field for transport

Early on in my pursuit of wild pigs, most efforts were direct toward hunting on public land. Such hunts entailed hauling a field dressed pig out of the back country on a pack frame. If I had a companion, then the carcass could be divided in two. Otherwise, the work was a solo assignment. Once back in camp, I still had skinning and quartering work to do.

It didn't take long to realize that a significant portion of what was hauled on my back never reached the dinner table. From that point on, the hide, head, and feet were removed and discarded at the kill site. While there was less weight to carry, the skinned quarters were still fairly heavy.

Taking the butchering process even farther, the entire skeletal structure was removed. Once this was done, the boneless meat fit easily into my pack. The load, while still heavy, was manageable. Today, no matter where I hunt, all of my game is boned out. Learning to separate meat from bones will make the job of packing a wild pig out of the back country a lot easier. The benefit of this activity is that more than half of the live weight of the pig will be eliminated.

**Step One:** After field dressing the pig, remove all four hocks and skin the hide on one side of the carcass down to the spine.

**Step Two:** Remove the front leg by cutting between the leg and the rib cage. This leg is only attached by muscle, so this isn't a difficult chore. Once the leg has been removed, set it aside in a location where dirt and debris will not contaminate the freshly skinned appendage (small tarp, your pack, rock or nearby bush). If there are flies or yellow jacket bees seen in the immediate area, then cover the skinned leg with a breathable cloth meat sack.

**Step Three:** Cut out the back loin (large muscle that lies adjacent to the spine) by cutting along the length of the spine from the hips to the neck. Next, cut straight across the loin at the hip area. With your knife blade positioned horizontal to the spine, cut along the top of the rib cage from the short ribs to the neck. Finally, grasp the loin at the hip area and use your knife to cut it free from the spine and the top of the rib cage. Done properly, the end result will be a completely meat-less spine.

**Step Four:** Grasp the hind leg at the hock joint. Cutting at a right angle to the knee, cut completely around the lower end of the femur bone. Insert your knife blade into the hind quarter and cut down to the femur bone. Extend this incision from the knee joint to the pelvic structure.

**Step Five:** Cut around the pelvic structure, while peeling the entire thigh muscle away from the femur bone. If you've completed this assignment properly, the entire hindquarter muscle group should come off of the bone in one piece.

**Step Six:** Inside of the abdominal cavity you will see two small muscles, one on each side of the lower end of the spine. These tenderloins can easily be removed by some careful blade work.



In alternative method, the steps outlined are reordered. Here, Jim Matthews skins a big boar at the bottom of a deep canyon. He works down from the top without even field dressing the hog. The skin is split down the spine and then peeled down one side to the front and rear hocks and up the neck to the jaw. The loins and both quarters are removed from one side and boned out on the clean surface of the inner skin. All other meat is cut off the skeleton on this side and packed. The hog is then rolled to the other side and the whole process repeated. It is only at this point that the body cavity opened and the tenderloins removed.

**Step Seven:** Trim the other bits and pieces of meat which remain on the carcass. This includes the muscle tissue between the ribs, in the hock area and whatever remains on the rib cage.

**Step Eight:** Roll the carcass over and repeat steps one through seven.

**Step Nine:** There is no simple formula for boning out the front legs. My suggestion is to cut out the large muscle group any way that works best. Afterward, you can trim whatever is left behind.

**Step Ten:** As you bone out the carcass, have a meat bag available for clean storage. Once all of the meat is bagged, hang the bag in the shade where air can circulate around the outside. As soon as possible, get the meat on ice or in refrigerated storage.

— Durwood Hollis



# TURNER'S OUTDOORSMAN

## HOG HUNTER HOLIDAY SPECIALS!

HUNTING • FISHING • RODS • REELS • SAFES

### 1500 APC Chassis Rifle



- .308 WIN Or 6.5 Creedmoor
- Cold Hammer Forged 24" Threaded Heavy Barrel
- Forged Steel Bolt • Two 10 Rd Detachable Magazines
- LUTH-AR Adjustable Buttstock Mounted On 6 Position Buffer Tube • Lifetime Warranty
- Sub MOA Guarantee • Australian Precision Chassis • VPC# HCRA73102, #HCRA72502

SAVE \$50.00

CLUB PRICE ONLY!  
**\$1,149.98**  
Reg. \$1,199.99

## Howa

### Superlite Rifle

KRYPTER ALTITUDE CAMO STOCK!



- 6.5 Creedmoor Or .308 WIN
- New Reduced Short Action • 20" Threaded Barrel
- 1 Piece Picatinny Rail • Kryptek Altitude Camo Stock
- Flush Detachable Magazine • Limbsaver Recoil Pad • Machined Received And Forged Bolt
- Sub-MOA Guarantee • Lifetime Warranty • VPC# HCSL308KAC, #HCSL65CRKAC

SAVE \$80.00

ONLY 4 LBS - 7 Oz.

CLUB PRICE ONLY!  
**\$1,199.98**  
Reg. \$1,279.99

### 1500 APC Chassis Combo



M-LOK™

- .308 WIN Or 6.5 Creedmoor
- Cold Hammer Forged 16" Heavy Barrel W/Muzzle Break
- Forged Steel Bolt • Two 10 Rd Detachable Magazines
- LUTH-AR Adjustable Buttstock Mounted On 6 Position Buffer Tube
- Legacy Lifetime Warranty • Nikko Sterling Diamond LR 30MM 4-16x50MM Scope & Bi-Pod
- Australian Precision Chassis With M-Lok • Sub MOA Guarantee • VPC# HFLG30816, #HFLG65C16

SAVE \$50.00

CLUB PRICE ONLY!  
**\$1,349.98**  
Reg. \$1,399.99

## Howa

### 1500 APC Chassis Combo



- .308 WIN • Australian Precision Chassis With M-Lok
- Cold Hammer Forged 24" Heavy Barrel W/Muzzle Break
- Forged Steel Bolt • LUTH-AR Adjustable Buttstock Mounted On 6 Position Buffer Tube
- Legacy Lifetime Warranty • Nikko Sterling Diamond LR 30MM 4-16x50MM Scope & Bi-Pod
- Sub MOA Guarantee • Two 10 Rd Detachable Magazines • VPC# HCRA73107USG

SAVE \$50.00

CLUB PRICE ONLY!  
**\$1,449.98**  
Reg. \$1,499.99

### 1500 APC Chassis Rifle



- 6.5 Creedmoor
- Cold Hammer Forged 24" Threaded Heavy Barrel
- Sub MOA Guarantee • Forged Steel Bolt
- 10 Rd Detachable Magazine • Australian Precision Chassis • Lifetime Warranty
- LUTH-AR Adjustable Buttstock Mounted On 6 Position Buffer Tube • VPC# HCRA72503USA

SAVE \$50.00

CLUB PRICE ONLY!  
**\$1,299.98**  
Reg. \$1,349.99

## Howa

### 1500 APC Chassis Combo



- 6.5 Creedmoor
- Cold Hammer Forged 24" Heavy Barrel W/ Muzzle Break • Forged Steel Bolt
- Two 10 Rd Detachable Magazines • LUTH-AR Adjustable Buttstock Mounted On 6 Position Buffer Tube
- Lifetime Warranty • Nikko Sterling Diamond LR 30mm 4-16x50mm Scope & Bi-Pod
- Australian Precision Chassis With M-LOK • Sub MOA Guarantee • VPC# HCRA72507USK

SAVE \$50.00

CLUB PRICE ONLY!  
**\$1,449.98**  
Reg. \$1,499.99

### 1500 APC Chassis Rifle



- 6.5 Creedmoor Or 308 WIN
- Cold Hammer Forged 24" Threaded Heavy Barrel
- LUTH-AR Adjustable Buttstock Mounted On 6 Position Buffer Tube
- Forged Steel Bolt • 10 Rd Detachable Magazine • Australian Precision Chassis
- Lifetime Warranty • Sub MOA Guarantee • VPC# HCRA72503USG, #HCRA73102USG

SAVE \$50.00

CLUB PRICE ONLY!  
**\$1,299.98**  
Reg. \$1,349.99

## Howa

### M 1500



- .308 • 24" Threaded Heavy Barrel • Sub MOA Guarantee
- Hogue Pillar-Bedded Stock And Recoil Pad • Lifetime Warranty
- 5 Rd Detachable Mag • Two-Stage HACT Trigger • VPC# HKF73102KHf

SAVE \$100.00

CLUB PRICE ONLY!  
**\$799.98**  
Reg. \$899.99

### M 1500 Mini Action



- .223 • 22" Barrel • Sub MOA Guarantee
- Two-Stage HACT Trigger
- 10 Rd Detachable Magazine • Lifetime Warranty
- 3-Position Safety • VPC# HMA60202+

SAVE \$30.00

CLUB PRICE ONLY  
**\$469.98**  
Reg. \$499.99

## Howa

### Mini Action Combo



- 7.62x39 • 3-9MM Scope Included • Lifetime Warranty
- 22" Lightweight Barrel • Hogue Synthetic Stock
- 10 Rd Detachable Magazine • Sub MOA Guarantee
- VPC# HMA60702+GP

SAVE \$80.00

CLUB PRICE ONLY  
**\$599.98**  
Reg. \$679.99

VIEW OUR 48 PAGE HOLIDAY FLYER ONLINE NOW @ [WWW.TURNERS.COM](http://WWW.TURNERS.COM)

Sale Prices Effective: Dec. 15 - Dec. 31, 2022. Layaway Available On Some Items. See Store For Details. Not Responsible For Printed Errors. Limited Quantities. No Rainchecks.

Store Hours: Monday - Friday: 10AM - 7PM • Saturday: 10AM - 6PM • Sunday: 10AM - 5PM

\*Pricing on firearms & ammunition does not reflect governmental or dealer fees for mandated background checks. See store for details. The advertised prices in this mailer are subject to additional terms and conditions. No offer of sale is made unless price and other terms are confirmed in person at a Turner's retail location or on the web at [www.turners.com](http://www.turners.com). This mailer is not an offer to sell a specific item of stock to the consumer. Turner's reserves the right to refuse for any lawful reason to sell any advertised item up to and through the point of sale.

**ARCHERY DEPARTMENT NOW OPEN IN**  
CHINO HILLS, PASADENA  
OXNARD, VICTORVILLE  
FOUNTAIN VALLEY, WEST COVINA  
& PALM DESERT!

**TURNER'S OUTDOORSMAN Discount Club**  
JOIN TODAY AT [WWW.TURNERS.APP!](http://WWW.TURNERS.APP!)







Boars of this caliber are not common, but Sam McGuire says they can concentrate looking for big, trophy boars on one-on-one hunts on the thousands of acres they hunt on central coast cattle ranches.

## SMC GUIDE SERVICE

### McGuire guides hunters to 75 or so hogs a year on Central Coast ranches

Sam McGuire likes to say he's part of a network of guides who work together depending on a client's wants and needs.

His SMC Guide Service out of Paso Robles often teams up with Colby Williams of Williams Guide Service out of King City for spot-and-stalk hunting on "10s of thousands of acres on the coast." If a clients wants to hunt with dogs or on the west slope of the Sierra Nevada because its closer to their home, they team up with Neil Ray and Giant Sequoia Guide Service out of Springville.

"Our success rate is basically 100 percent and we move to different ranches all the time so we don't pressure hogs too much in any specific area," said McGuire. He said his hunters have shot about 75 hogs in 2022 going into December and "we do our very best not to over hunt any one ranch."

McGuire said he prefers to hunt one-on-one or with just two or three hunters on his two-day hunts. Pricing is \$1,250 for one-on-one hunting and \$1,050 per hunter for two to four hunters. There is no increase in pricing if hunters shoot trophy boars on the hunt. The price includes all field care and transportation in the field, with hunters providing their own room

and board while on the hunt. He always reminds hunters not to forget a couple of big ice chests to haul home the meat.

McGuire is as well-known for his custom copper hunting bullets ([www.mcguireballistics.com](http://www.mcguireballistics.com)) which have been in development for 10 years. He says the bullet has "been developed as a killing bullet — for killing really big and tough game really fast at whatever range you shoot 'em at."

McGuire says they "do a lot of mid-day glassing" to find pigs bedded down when most other hunters are napping. Then they either stalk them in their beds. If a close approach is not possible, they set up and his hunters to do long-range shooting with one of his two rifles and his custom bullets, often killing game with a single shot at 400 to 800 yards or more.

For more information, contact Sam McGuire at SMC Guide Service at 805-710-2434 or e-mail [smcguire572@gmail.com](mailto:smcguire572@gmail.com). The Facebook page is [www.facebook.com/Smc-GuideService/](http://www.facebook.com/Smc-GuideService/), and the Instagram page is [www.instagram.com/smcguideservice/](http://www.instagram.com/smcguideservice/).

## BRYSON HESPERIA RESORT

### Newbies take note: In-depth hog hunting seminar included on semi-guided hunts

Deedy Loftus of the Bryson Hesperia Resort offers a comprehensive wild hog hunting seminar as part of the semi-guided hog hunts she has on private ranches near the resort out of Bradley.

While Loftus' website describes the seminar as a "tour," of the property you will hunt, it is really a Hog Hunting 101 college-level course on how to hunt wild hogs — in addition to showing you the best places on the ranch you will be hunting during the hunt.

"I really teach them how to hunt pigs," said Loftus. She shows hunters pig sign — from tracks to wallows to beds to feeding areas — and how to understand that sign. She teaches them about wind, hog habits, finding and hunting water sources, and how to pattern pigs. She talks about the importance of shady slopes in the warmer months.

"The biggest key to pig hunting is understanding the importance of north facing slopes," said Loftus. "Those areas are 15 degrees cooler and they have good cover for the hogs. If they don't have these places, they will clear out of an area once it gets hot."

The seminar takes up the first morning of a day hunt. Hunters then hunt that evening on their own and the following day or two, depending on how many days a hunter books.

The non-guided hunts are \$350 per day and the hunter needs to make arrangements for room and board. Loftus also offers fully-guided hunts, working with 50-year hog hunting veteran Tom Willoughby on the guided hunts. Those hunts are \$1,200.

For more information, contact Loftus at 805-472-0163 or by e-mail at [deedyhunting@gmail.com](mailto:deedyhunting@gmail.com). Her website is [brysonresort.com](http://brysonresort.com).



## GOLDEN RAM SPORTSMAN'S CLUB

### Guided wild hog hunts are offered on three Golden Ram leased properties

The Golden Ram Sportsman's Club is a membership club that leases 14 properties representing more than 100,000 acres in Northern and Central California. The club reports on its website that it has 450 members. The properties include deer, bear, wild hog, waterfowl, small game, and upland bird hunting opportunities.

Fewer people know that one-time guided hog hunts are available on three of the ranches, according to guide David King, who runs the hunts. One of the ranches is in Potter Valley while the other two are in the Paso Robles region.

All are run as two-day hunts, and King said the success rates are very high. Pricing is \$1,200 for a two-day hunt in the Paso Robles area, which hunters providing their own room and board. All field travel and field care is provided on these hunts. If a hunter wants an all-inclusive package with room and board included, the price is \$1,500. The fee for the Potter Valley hunt, which includes room, board, and all field care, is \$1,750.

For more information on the Golden Ram Sportsman's Club, Inc., call the main office at 916-941-7880 or visit the club's website at [goldenramhunting.com](http://goldenramhunting.com). For information on the guided hog hunts, contact David King at 925-518-9280 or via e-mail at [roper92529@gmail.com](mailto:roper92529@gmail.com).

## TRINITY GUIDE COMPANY

### Long-time bear and fly-fishing guide now guiding hogs in near Weaverville

Alex Ross, a well-known northern California fly-fishing and bear guide, headquartered in Douglas, is now running a limited number of hog hunts on piece of private ground he's just secured. He expects to take six to 12 pigs per year off the 600-acre property.

David Foley of Los Angeles was Ross' first client on the new property (see photo) and took a nice boar with a Tikka 7mm Remington Magnum shooting Hornady GMX bullets.

Foley said "copper bullets have been wonderful. I've had no trouble with them at all" in his personal hunting and guiding operations. "I believe whole-heartedly, it's about shot placement. The bullets perform."

All of Ross' hunts are spot-and-stalk, including his black bear hunts conducted on public land. Ross takes from four to five bears each year on these hunts and they are all conducted on foot. Ross said he is running his wild hogs hunts the same way — on foot with all the game packed to vehicles on his back.

Pricing for a two-day pig hunt is \$1,500, which includes all accommodations, food, and field care while hunting. Hunters

only need to bring firearms and their personal gear.

Ross is currently in the process of building a website for his bear and pig hunting program, but until then, he can be reached via phone at 831-246-1254. His e-mail is [thetrinityguide@gmail.com](mailto:thetrinityguide@gmail.com). You can get more information about Ross' fishing program at the website [thetrinityguide.com](http://thetrinityguide.com).



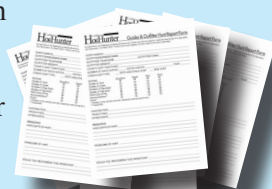
David Foley of Los Angeles hunted with Trinity Guide Company on its new wild hog property and took this nice boar shooting a Tikka 7mm Remington Magnum using Hornady GMX bullets.

#### TELL OTHER READERS ABOUT YOUR HUNT

Want to share your hunt? Fill out the PDF form and get your hog photos and stories published

**California Hog Hunter** makes it easy to share information about your hunt with an on-line form you can download, fill out, and return to us with a photo or two to go with your information.

We'll try to get in as many of these photos and stories as possible. Of course, big hogs and good photos, kids with first hogs, important guide information, and great yarns will get the nod over blurry photos and stories too good to be true. Help out those guides and outfitters who made your hunt a great one and let other readers know how good a job they do. The PDF form on one the California Hog Hunter website (see page 16).







Olivia Rosa (left photo) and Abigail Hamman shot these two nice boars while hunting on the Twisselman Ranch out of Santa Margarita earlier this year. The hogs were shot within a short time of each other using the same 7mm-08 Ruger American rifle. Both were one-shot kills.

## TWISSELMAN RANCH

### Two whopper boars collected by cool-as-ice first-time female hunters

Patrick Hamman and long-time hunting buddy Eric Rosa were proud dads when daughters Abigail and Olivia, respectively, both collected nice boars when hunting on the Twisselman Ranch earlier this year.

The Southern California Inland Empire residents were on a two-day hunt and hunted barley fields early mornings and evenings with guide Nolan Twisselman.

"The girls both practiced and used the same 7mm-08 Ruger American rifle," said Patrick Hamman. "They both made multiple stalks on pigs that ended up being sows."

Eric Rosa and his daughter Olivia were able to stalk within a 150 yards of a big calico boar. At the shot, the pig ran about 10 yards and flipped over dead.

"After the excitement, my daughter Abigail was very excited to try and get one after that," said the elder Hamman. "We found another boar not 10 minutes later and were able to get within 100 yards. She made a perfect heart shot and

dumped him on the spot.

"I can say this — we were two very proud fathers. We were both a little worried they couldn't do it. It's interesting that as boys when we first had our scopes on our first big game animal, we were shaking like a leaf. But the girls were not phased. We were also impressed that they wanted to help field dress and skin them," said Patrick Hamman.

Hamman said he had hunted a few times with the Twisselmans, but had never seen boars as big as the two the girls took on this hunt. Beginner's luck should never be discounted when hunting big game.

The Twisselman family has been running hunts on 80,000 acres of private ranch land for 28 years, and have a great reputation in the guiding community. Wild hog hunt packages start are \$900 per person, and a \$100 per person deposit is required to hold a booking date. Additional hogs are \$500 each. Prices include all transportation on the ranch, lodging, and field care.

For more information on hog hunts on the Twisselman Ranch operated out of Santa Margarita, contact Joel Twisselman at 805-459-0782 or drop an e-mail to [jctwisselman@aol.com](mailto:jctwisselman@aol.com). The website with more information is [www.twisselman-ranch.com](http://www.twisselman-ranch.com).



## California Hog Hunter index of wild hog hunting guides statewide

The following is a listing of guides and outfitters in California running hog hunts on private land. It is here as a convenience for *California Hog Hunter* readers. Hunters, guides, and outfitters are encouraged to provide us with information on operations not listed here so we can make this listing as complete as possible. The listing is alphabetical by operation, guide, or ranch.

Adventures West Recreation, P.O. Box 2675, Paso Robles, CA 93446. Contact: Keith Hartman at 805-674-1623. E-mail: keith@adventureswestrecreation.com. Website: www.adventureswestrecreation.com.

All Season Outfitters, 9670 Martin Lane, Prunedale, CA 93907. Contact: Tony Phelps at 831-214-7073. E-mail: pighuntcalifornia@gmail.com. Website: www.pig-hunt.com.

Alpha Wildlife Services, 8359 Elk Grove Florin Rd., Ste. 103-338, Sacramento, CA. 95829. Contact: Raymond Perez at 916-737-8423. E-mail: alphawildlifeservices@gmail.com. Website: www.alphawildlifeservices.com.

B&B Outfitting and Guide Service, 1739 Crystal Ct., Los Banos, CA 93635. Contact: Bill Marchese. Telephones: 209-827-6193 office; 209-704-1011 mobile. E-Mail address: winchesterandbnm@att.net.

Big Horn Canyon Ranch, Moreno Valley, CA. Booking: 1-951-202-1722. E-mail: wagnerhunters@gmail.com. Website: bighorncanyonranch.com.

Bitterwater Outfitters, P.O. Box 51, San Miguel, CA 93451. Contact: Clayton Grant at 805-610-4521. E-mail: hunt@bitterwateroutfitters.com. Websites: www.bitterwateroutfitters.com and the California Hog Hunts website at californiahoghunt.com.

Bryson Hesperia Resort, 75364 Bryson Hesperia Road, Bradley, CA 93426. Contact: Deedy Loftus at 805-472-0163. E-mail: deedyhunting@gmail.com. Website: brysonresort.com.

Bucks Boars and Birds Hunting. Contact: Todd Renz at 831-750-5027. E-mail: todd@bucksboarsandbirds.com. Website: bucksboarsandbirds.com.

Camp Five Outfitters, 77502 Hog Canyon Rd., San Miguel, CA 93451. Contact: Dawson Work at 805-610-5864. E-mail: camp5outfitters@att.net. Website: www.camp5outfitters.com.

Central Coast Outfitters, P.O. Box 6896, Santa Maria, CA 93456. Contact: Alfred Luis at 805-260-5991. E-mail: aluis@centralcoastoutfitters.com. Website: centralcoastoutfitters.com.

Conservative Game Management, 1448 Fontana Road, Paso Robles, CA 93446. Contact: Chase Morisoli at 805-610-3624. E-mail: cmorisoli@gmail.com. Website: huntcgm.com.

Dash Ranch. Contact: Dave Morrow at 530-941-2112. E-Mail: dashranch@frontier.com. Website: www.northerncaliforniahunting.com.

Frontera Hunting, P.O. Box 371, San Ardo, CA, 93450. Contact: Clay Avila at 805-423-3679. E-Mail: clay@fronterahunting.com. Website: fronterahunting.com.

Giant Sequoia Guide Service, Springville, CA. Contact: Neil Ray at 559-359-6166. E-mail: giantsequoiags@gmail.com.

Golden Ram Sportsman's Club, Inc., PO Box 4152, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762. Contact: David King at 925-518-9280. E-mail: roper92529@gmail.com. Website: goldenramhunting.com.

Hog Canyon Hunts, Paso Robles, CA. Contact: Tim Testerman: 805-550-3584. E-mail: hogcanyonhunts1@gmail.com. Website: www.hogcanyonhunts.com.

Hog N Dog Guide Services, P.O. Box 127, Lockwood, CA 93932. Contact: Tim Koester at 831-262-7302. Website: hogndogguideservices.com.

Hogs Wild (South Fork Ranch), P.O. Box 355, Coalinga, CA 93210. Contact: Rifle guide, Jeremy Fairbanks at 559-707-9159. Archery guide, Larry Greve at 559-935-5788 or mobile 559-269-0564. Website: hogswild.com.

Hoss Hog Guides & Outfitters, Willows, CA. Contact: Mike Gardner at 916-606-4558. E-mail: hosshogadventures@yahoo.com. Website: https: www.hosshoghunting.com.

Indian Rock Ranch, Glennville, CA. Contact: Ron Gayer. E-Mail: elkron98@gmail.com. Website: theguidesguidetohunting.com.

Kika Worldwide, Cholome, CA. Contact: Jake Franklin at 909-702-0515. E-mail: info@kikaworldwide.com. Website: kikaworldwide.com.

Lockwood Hunting Services, P.O. Box 833 Ukiah, CA 95482. Contact Tim Lockwood at 707-888-2859. E-mail: tim@lockwoodhuntingservices.com. Website: www.lockwoodhuntingservices.com.

Lost Valley Outfitters, 8545 Rocky Canyon RD Atascadero, CA 93422. Contact: Casey Nick at 805-674-1010. E-Mail: hunts@lostvalleyoutfitters.com. Website: lostvalleyoutfitters.com.

Oakstone Outfitters, P.O. Box 171, Bradley, CA 93426. Contact: Chad Wiebe at 805-622-9485 or 805-622-9485. E-mail: info@oakstoneoutfitters.com. Website: oakstoneoutfitters.com.

Jim Palm, Parkfield, CA. Contact: Jim Palm at 805-235-4080. E-mail: cjpawn10@yahoo.com.

J.P. Guide Service, 22990 Eden Canyon Rd., Castro Valley, CA 94552. Contact: Josh Peixoto at 510-706-4653. E-mail: jpguideservice@yahoo.com. Website: www.jpguideservice.com

Pastori Guide Service, Eureka. Contact: Rick Pastori at 707-599-7384 (cell). E-mail: pastori@humboldt1.com.

Raahauge's Hog Hunting (Rankin Ranch), Corona, CA. Contacts: Lincoln and Britta Raahauge at 951-334-1018. E-Mail: raahaugeshog hunting@gmail.com.

Rumpus Hunts, P.O. Box 26330, Fresno, CA 93729. Contact phone: 559-707-3225. E-mail: rumpushunts@gmail.com. Website: rumpushunts.com.

Red Bank Ale & Quail Outfitters, P.O. Box 8295, Red Bluff, CA 96080. Contact phone: 530-529-9435. E-mail: Hunting@RedBankOutfitters.com. Website: redbankhunting.com.

Rocky Ridge Hunting Club, 12055 Pettyjohn Rd., Red Bluff, CA 96080. Contact phone: 530-586-3114. E-mail: rockyridgehuntingclub@yahoo.com. Website: rockyridgehuntingclub.com.

Roth Guided Hunts, P.O. Box 26, Lockwood, CA 93932. Contact: Logan Roth at 831-682-5376 or Ed Roth at 831-320-7790. E-mail: edrothhunt@gmail.com. Website: rothhunting.com.

Sacramento River Guide. Contact: Kirk Portocarrero at 800-670-4449 or 530-515-5951. Website: www.sacriverguide.com.

SC2 Outdoors, 18825 Country Hills Dr., Cottonwood, CA 96022. Contacts: Shawn and Shelly Chitten at 530-999-8003. E-mail: shawn@sc2outdoors.com. Website: https: www.sc2outdoors.com.

Schmidt Guide Service, LLC, 204 Bitterwater Road, King City, CA 93930. Contact: Sarah Schmidt at 831-809-8843. Website: nessenschmidtguideservice.com.

Shed Canyon Outfitters (formerly D.J. Peck's Hunting and Guide Service), Palo Robles, CA. Contact D.J. Peck at 805-835-8365.

Skyrose Ranch Hunting, 69430 Deer Valley Ranch Rd., San Miguel, CA 93451. Contact: Jared Christensen at 805-434-8641. E-mail: jared@skyroseranch.com. Website:

SMC Guide Service, Paso Robles, CA. Contact: Sam McGuire at 805-710-2434. E-mail: smcguire572@gmail.com.

Tejon Ranch, P.O. Box 1000, Tejon Ranch, CA 93243. Contact Mike Campo at 661-663-4210. E-mail: huntinfo@tejonranch.com. Website: hunt.tejonranch.com.

Twisselman Ranch, 7645 Cattle Dr., Santa Margarita, CA. Contact Joel Twisselman at 805-459-0782. E-mail: jctwisselman@aol.com. Website: www.twisselmanranch.com.

Trinity Guide Company, Douglas City, CA. Contact: Alex Ross at 831-246-1254. E-mail: thetrinityguide@gmail.com. Website: thetrinityguide.com.

2M Hunting, Paso Robles, CA. Contact: Matt Murry at 831-601-5228. Website: 2mhunting.com.

Western Wildlife Adventures, 236-A W. East Ave Ste No 349, Chico, CA 95926. Contact: Chris Hall: 530-894-1400. E-mail: chris@wildlifeadv.com. Website: www.wildlifeadv.com.

Wild Pig Hunting Guide Service, Cloverdale, CA. Contacts: Steven and Sage Taylor at 707-894-7794 or 707-321-0953. E-mail: wildpighunting@comcast.net. Website: www.wildpighuntingguideservice.com.

Wild West Outfitters, Hollister, CA. Contacts: Holden Renz and Brian Granger at 831-801-1166. E-mail: wildwestoutfittersbbc@gmail.com Website: wildwestoutfittersllc.com.

Williams Guide Service, King City, CA. Contact: Colby Williams via e-mail at williamshunting@hotmail.com. Facebook: @williamshunting.

Tom Willoughby Guide Service, King City, CA. Contact: Tom Willoughby at 831-385-3003.



## Getting *close* adds in a little adrenaline

One of the things that has always appealed to me about hog hunting is the exhilaration of trying to get as close to the game as possible. Between pigs' generally poor eyesight and their general tolerance of natural sounds like a leaf rustling a little, close stalks are generally possible.

I'm a little awed by the new generation of hunters who have the skills and equipment to make those cross-canyon shots of 500 to 800 yards routinely. I just think about how much they are missing. I like getting close.

I remember the time I watched a group of hogs feed up a canyon and made a good educated guess where the pigs would be topping out on a saddle at the head of the canyon. Then I sat and waited 30 feet off the edge of that trail with a wonderful replica lever rifle in a .454 Casull, breeze in my face. The pigs came into view 100 yards away moving along the trail at that ground eating pig-pace trot. I started getting even more excited. It was like a New Year's eve count down — 75 yards, then 50, then 25, then 10. They were filing past and for some reason, a big boar stopped not more than 30 feet away. I walloped him and he squealed and died. I was shaking.

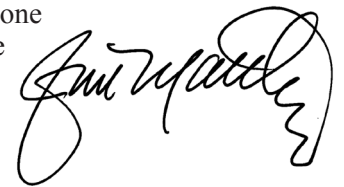
While I still get excited when I shoot them at 75 or 100 yards — the range where most of my hogs have been taken — when they are inside 20 yards, my palms get clammy and I'm shaking just a little. It is just thrilling.

Year ago, I hunted with guide August Hardin and we let a group of hogs come within about 40 feet of us before I shot a young boar in the skull. He dropped instantly and didn't

move....at first. But then the dead boar started a reflexive leg pedal that slowly started him downhill. We were so close that August ran over below the pig and put a big, booted foot on the animal to stop his progress down the steep hill and a long drag back to the ridgeline where we stood (and where we could drive the truck). So, there's a practical application to being close sometimes.

It is amazing how many times I have shot pigs inside that magic 20 yards. Most of the time, it was when I was able to get ahead of moving pigs, set up right next to their intended path and then shoot one. Or turn down the shot and scare the bejeebers out of them for the fun of it.

Long-time friend and guide Ron Gayer once stalked a group of sows and piglets across open ground so I could get photos of a crouched hunter with pigs in the background. I followed him just a few steps behind and we would both freeze anytime one of the sows would lift her head up from feeding. Amazingly, we kept getting closer and closer. When Ron was about 15 feet from the nearest piglet, he shot into the dirt above one of the sows. It was mayhem with pigs squealing and running in all directions. We both dropped our gear and started chasing piglets and I dove for one of the striped babies and came up empty. We were howling with laughter. You can't have tales like that if you shoot them across canyons.



## About Us

**California Hog Hunter** is published four times per year with digital issues coming out each quarter. The publication is wholly sponsored by the Turner's Outdoorsman chain of shooting, hunting and fishing stores across California and Arizona, Legacy Sports International, importers of Howa, Pointers, Citadel firearm brands, and Nikko-Sterling optics, and Hornady Manufacturing, makers of ammunition, reloading supplies, safes, and shooting equipment.

**California Hog Hunter** is dedicated to bringing you information on where to hunt wild hogs throughout the state on both public and private lands. We also strive to keep you informed on news and products that relate to hog hunting in California.

**SUBSCRIPTION:** Free. All issues are available on-line.

**EDITORIAL:** All copy is staff- or reader-produced. Readers and guides are encouraged to provide feedback on public and private land hunting opportunities and stories and photos about their hunting experiences. PDF forms are available on the **California Hog Hunter** website for readers and guides to make sharing information about hunts and guide operations easier.

Staff and Contact Information:

**Editor & Publisher:** Jim Matthews, (909) 887-3444 or [odwriter@verizon.net](mailto:odwriter@verizon.net)

**Editors In Memoriam:** Durwood Hollis (1940-2020) & John Higley (1937-2020)

**Senior Field Editors:** Tim Hovey ([timhovey4197@sbcbglobal.net](mailto:timhovey4197@sbcbglobal.net)), Bob Robb ([bobrobb2@aol.com](mailto:bobrobb2@aol.com)), Ron Gayer ([elkron98@bak.rr.com](mailto:elkron98@bak.rr.com))

**Field and Consulting Editors:** Gary Berz, Mike Etienne, Lee J. Hoots, Andy McCormick, and Jerry Springer

**California Hog Hunter**

P.O. Box 9007

San Bernardino, CA 92427

(909) 887-3444 office

(909) 553-0408 mobile/text

e-mail: [odwriter@verizon.net](mailto:odwriter@verizon.net)

The current digital issue and all backissues of **California Hog Hunter** are available on our website at [www.outdoornewsservice.com/california-hog-hunter](http://www.outdoornewsservice.com/california-hog-hunter).

All issues are free to download and share. Whole issues or portions of issue may be posted and shared on other websites. The publication is produced as a service to hunters, so sharing is welcome.