

## **Valley Waterfowl 2009-2010 Hunting Information**

By Ron Tobeck

Valley Waterfowl Board Member/Blind Coordinator

Once again it is time to prepare for the upcoming waterfowl season. Last year many of you were able to take advantage of the fine hunting opportunities provided by our organization. This year we have again been able to expand our hunt areas, and have added a fourth blind. Last year we started with four blinds but due to a lack of water, we lost the Delevan blind early in the season. Hopefully water will not be a problem with the blinds this year. Because of numerous past problems with the Delevan blind, we will not be returning there this year. The four blinds that we have are located on three separate properties. All of these blinds are four-man blinds. Once again this year I will be the coordinator of our hunting program. As such, I will manage all hunting applications, storm day requests, and will be the contact person for all information pertaining to Valley Waterfowl blinds.

All of these blinds are pit blinds which are located in rice. The McRae Blinds East and West (Richvale Area) are located northwest of Gridley and are the same blinds that we hunted there last year. This property is located on approximately 300 acres and there are only three blinds total on the property, two of which are only for Valley Waterfowl use.

The third blind is the Harbison Road blind located approx. 2 miles South of Delevan Refuge. This is a new blind for us this year. This blind is located in a complex of several blinds and due to its location, is supposed to be one of the best shooters on the property.

The fourth blind, also new for us this year, is located on Butte City Duck Club property. Last year we hunted a Butte City Duck Club blind near Biggs but our blind this year is in a totally different area. It is located off Z Road just south of the Closed Zone of the Llano Seco Unit of the Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area. It is reported to be a better shooter than the Butte City blind we had last year.

Exact directions to these blinds will be available in the weeks ahead, and as I did last year, I will email directions to all hunting members as soon as I have them.

Like last year, we did try to locate our fourth blind in the Grasslands area for our southern members but found that there were a very limited number of blinds available and none of them met our needs.

Our draw hunts will be conducted similar to last year. Every hunter who is interested in hunting on one of the Valley Waterfowl properties **MUST** complete and return a draw hunt application and a signed release of liability waiver for each individual hunter. Please make sure your writing is legible and include an email address if you have one. In addition all adult hunters 16 years and older will be required to pay a \$35 hunt fee in addition to their yearly membership fee. This fee **MUST** be submitted with the hunt application. Both the hunt application and the release of liability form are attached to this news letter and will be available on our web site. Hunt days will consist of Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays throughout the season. However, like last year, we have expanded the hunt days to include foul weather days. If there is a rain storm forecasted for a non hunt day (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday) any member can call Valley Waterfowl's hunting line and request to hunt on that storm day. The storm must be forecasted two days in advance and a request to hunt must be made two days prior to the requested hunt day. To prevent calls from coming in at all hours of the day and night, we will only be accepting hunt requests that we receive between 2PM and 5PM two days prior to the storm day. A second requirement for those who wish to hunt the storm days is that they have a release of liability on file. If there is no 2009-010 release of liability waiver on file for the member they will not be permitted to hunt or access the Valley Waterfowl properties.

Due to factors related to the rice crop and water availability, etc., it is uncertain when our properties will be open for hunting. Also, keep in mind that we are experiencing drought conditions in our Northern California water delivery systems and may not have water available to all blinds through the end of the season. Information regarding the opening dates of our blinds will be published on our web site as soon as it is available. We suggest that you complete and return both the hunt application and liability waiver as soon as possible. Each application allows a selected member to bring a guest, however, that guest is also required to be a Valley Waterfowl member who has paid his membership and hunting fee and submitted a release of liability waiver. Any hunters who are currently not Valley Waterfowl members can print a membership form from our web site and submit that

form with the \$35 membership fee. This can be included with the hunt application.

The 2009-010 hunt application and waiver will contain a phone number for our hunting line. This number should be used for questions regarding hunting and to request storm day hunts. Please note that waivers **MUST** also be completed for the guest that is listed on each application. It is required that applications and waivers be received by Valley Waterfowl at least fourteen days prior to the requested hunt days. For more information please visit our web site at [www.valleywaterfowl.org](http://www.valleywaterfowl.org).

As I did last year, I will notify you via email or phone of a hunt date and blind. If you decide to cancel this date, you must notify me via email or phone no later than 48 hrs. Prior to the hunt date. Failure to comply with this requirement will severely lessen your opportunity for future hunts. In addition you are required to notify me within 48 hrs. after you hunt of the results of your hunt. How many hunters shot how many ducks/geese. It is preferable that this be done via email to limit the number of calls to our hunt line. The email address is [lizron@comcast.net](mailto:lizron@comcast.net). If I am not available via phone and you do not have access to a computer, please leave the hunt results on my voice mail. It is important that we have this info. for our hunters during the course of the season, and this info. is critical to our decision on whether to lease a particular blind the following year.

We at Valley Waterfowl strive to provide a quality hunting experience for our members, and we will continue do our best to provide quality hunting opportunities.