

WUF Shooting Clinic a hit with women and youths

BY PAT YOUNG
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ARBUCKLE — The Wilderness Unlimited Foundation (WUF) sponsored a Youth and Women's Shooting Clinic on May 4 and May 5 that introduced 33 novice shooters to the safe use of rifles, shotguns, and archery equipment.

Wilderness Unlimited (WU) member-mentors spent 2 to 3 hours with each of three different groups of youths and women, teaching them the proper techniques for shooting the various types of weapons, and then gave them plenty of practice shooting at targets to reinforce the lessons.

With the recent increase in firearms sales spurred on by the intense pressure being put on the government to bolster gun control laws, prospective gun owners and users have been looking for an easy way to find out about the ins and outs of firearm usage.

With the growing interest in gun ownership, WU Director Rick Copeland said that future clinics would most likely be opened to all novice shooters, regardless of gender or age.

Women have become a big part of the new gun buying trend and this clinic helped give the 14 adult female participants a chance to pick up some low cost experience shooting small-bore rifles at paper targets, and shotguns at clay pigeons.

A separate class on archery was also offered to round out the experience for those interested in target shooting and hunting with bow and arrow. For many of the participants, this was the first time they had ever held a gun or picked up a bow.

The morning started out with shooters breaking up into three groups and heading to the separate rifle, shotgun, or archery ranges that had been set up by the WU mentors and volunteers. The first group on the rifle range included Jennifer Villarreal of Hanford. Before that day, Villarreal had only fired a 9mm handgun at a shooting range and had never shot a rifle. She brought her son, Joshua, along to the clinic after hearing about it from her sister, who is the secretary of the Colusa 'Friends of the NRA'. "Shooting is something we've always been interested in and I jumped at the chance to come after we heard about the clinic — we've been having a great time."

WUF Hunter Education Instructor Dennis Corvello was running the shotgun class and had a number of women breaking clay targets after a short introduction to the proper way to mount and point the gun.

Rebecca Jensen of Colusa attended the clinic to get more experience shooting a variety of guns and brought her young son out for an introduction to the safe handling of firearms. Jensen is the co-chair of the Colusa "Friends of the NRA," and understands the need for the public to see that firearm use is a sacred



JENNIFER VILLARREAL of Hanford attended the clinic with her son Joshua and had a great time. She had never fired a rifle before, but was a quick study in the proper technique for using open sights.



DIANA CAWTHORN, in black, showed perfect form while shooting a bow for the first time. She said the clinic was a great value and appreciated WUF for offering the public a low cost opportunity to attend.

WON On-The-Spot

constitutional right.

Heather Wang of Fremont said she hadn't fired a gun since she was kid. "This is the first time I've ever shot at clay targets, and I was excited to actually break one! I came to the clinic to relearn the proper use of firearms and was very happy I came." Maria Rivas of Union City admitted that she had fired a shotgun at a WU Picnic at the Waterloo Club in Stockton several years ago. "It's been a while since I went shooting, and I was nervous and excited to come to this clinic." She must not have been too nervous, because she broke several clay targets with a 20-gauge over-and-under. Maria's 10-year-old daughter, Marissa, was shooting for the first time. The young lady broke a clay pigeon with a .410 single shot shotgun — no small feat for a beginner!!

Expert instructor Robert Moore worked his magic at the archery range. Youngsters and women were fitted with bows and arrows and shown the proper method and form for finger shooting at targets. After a long practice session, shooters who wanted a bigger challenge were taken out into an open field and given the opportunity to shoot at full body 3D targets. Diana Cawthorn had never shot a bow and arrow before and thought that Robert Moore was a very knowledgeable and helpful instructor. "This class alone was well worth the \$20 fee for this clinic. What a great event the WUF offered to youths and women."

At noon, the participants were treated to a barbecue lunch of hamburgers and hot dogs cooked by this writer, and featured potato salad, pasta salad, drinks, and a wide variety of cookies, cakes, and brownies for dessert, courtesy of Karen Ellison of the Colusa Friends of the NRA. After lunch, the groups switched venues and headed back out to the ranges. Everyone had an opportunity to experience all three sites by the end of the day, and were welcomed back on Sunday if they wanted to get more practice. Rifle shooters who were ready to move to the next level were offered the chance to shoot centerfire rifles that are legal

for deer hunting.

With the growing interest in gun ownership, WU Director Rick Copeland said that future clinics would most likely be opened to all novice shooters, regardless of gender or age. Several dads who brought their kids to the clinic had never fired a gun, but were given the opportunity to rectify that problem. To a man, they enjoyed the experience and knew that shooting could easily become a family affair. For more information on the WUF Shooting Clinic, contact WUF Director Jenna Perry at (510) 692-9831 or jenna@wildernessunlimitedfoundation.com.



MARIA RIVAS from Union City brought the whole family to the WUF Shooting Clinic. Rivas said she shot clay targets before at a WU Picnic several years ago. Maria's experience showed, as she broke several clays under the guidance of WUF Hunter Safety Instructor Dennis Corvello.



THESE FEMALE shooters, both youths and adults, enjoyed the shotgun class at the WUF Shooting Clinic. Left to right were: Maria Rivas, 10-year-old Marissa Rivas, Guillermina Quiteno, Heather Wang, Sissy Elliot, Renee Ross, and Rebecca Jensen.

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