

# Hunt Oregon 2021

by Randy Isackson



Randy Isackson  
with his 1941  
Model 12 16 ga

A very unexpected phone call from a guy named Frank O'Leary brought the news that my name had been drawn for the upland bird hunt at HUNT OREGON. Very exciting news and the plans started to be put into place.

The group of guys that usually let me tag along with them (as my age brings wisdom to the group) are all involved with agriculture, so plans had to be made around harvest, holidays and don't forget Covid-19. With all these factors mid-January dates was set for our hunt even though there were concerns about travel over the mountains between Nebraska and Oregon during the winter. Now that a date was determined all we had to do was drive there, 17 hours of road time. The trip went fine good roads, interstate the whole way, and good weather made the time fly as we all got to see new country. Our only

mistake was stopping for the night 5 miles to late, don't plan on a night out in Oregon during a Pandemic!

Up early the next day, Thursday, we were off to our destination, HUNT OREGON near Pilot Road, OR just south of Pendleton. We were greeted by Hannah the hunt manager at the ranch. Hannah is a young lady with a lot of energy and enthusiasm for her work. After a quick change of clothes, we were off to hunt.

At the part of the property that is called the Sheep Ranch we met Frank O'Leary and his lovely wife Marianne along with their Deutsch-Kurzhaar's dogs, which were there to make our hunt that much more enjoyable. Thus, started several days of enjoyable hunts for Pheasants, Chukars and Huns. We spent time in CRP fields, along creek bottoms and pushing weed patches, all great habitat. Hunting with good dogs and great handlers made every flush just that much more memorable.



(L to R) Connor Schwanz, Randy Isaakson, Joe Wahlgren,  
Adam Gunnerson, Brandon Schwanz, and Josh Hamilton

On the Friday we had just finished a hunting down Birch Creek, and all walked back to the pickup, put our guns away and noticed that Sadie, the dog we were hunting with, was gone. We looked around and called and lo and behold, here she came from about 70 yards away with a pheasant we had shot earlier in a flurry of birds and had not realized it had gone down. Great work!!

After all the hunting miles, it was great to go back and have meals that Carol, the lodge cook, had ready for us. Smoked steak, barbequed ribs, grilled salmon were all on the menu, plus hearty breakfasts and lunches. You sure don't lose any weight on this trip. Thank You Carol!

We had to leave a little early on Saturday because of winter weather threatening the trip home. But we all left with memories that won't soon be forgotten. I want to Thank the DKNGA organization for this opportunity. And I want to Thank HUNT OREGON for their donation of this hunt and all their people involved. And I for sure want to Thank Frank and Marianne for providing their dogs and guiding skills. This was truly a once in a lifetime trip for our group.

Randy Isackson