

Environmental Conservation Officer James D. Hunt



ECO Jim Hunt and K-9 Matz

Environmental Conservation Officer Jim Hunt has been serving the Division of Law Enforcement since March of 1996. Jim attended the NYSDEC's 11th Basic School for Uniformed Officers in Oswego, NY. His initial assignment to the field was in Region 1, where he patrolled the Suffolk County area of Long Island. In 1997, Jim transferred to Region 6 and spent two years patrolling Jefferson County. In the fall of 1999, He transferred to Region 9 and his current assignment patrolling Wyoming County. Jim is married and lives in Wyoming County with his wife and two young sons.

Jim has an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from Genesee Community College and a Bachelors Degree in Legal Studies from the University of Buffalo. Prior to being hired as an Environmental Conservation Officer, He was employed as a Police Officer at SUNY Geneseo.

Jim attended the Defensive Tactics Instructor school and the Instructor Development School in 1998 and became certified to teach General Topics and Defensive Tactics by the Department of Criminal Justice Services. He went on to be certified as a Firearms Instructor and as an instructor in Full

Spectrum Force Training. Subsequently, ECO Hunt has instructed many training courses for the Division of Law Enforcement's Basic Training Schools, In-Service Schools and specialized training events. His expertise has also provided a benefit to the other agencies that he has instructed over the years.

Officer Hunt was asked to join the Division of Law Enforcement's newly created Technical Support Group in 2000. As a member of this team, he received specialized training in areas such as electronic surveillance, AC/DC theory, high-risk camera installation, land navigation, forward observer techniques and rope insertion/extraction techniques. While part of this team for three years, Jim traveled to the Division of Law Enforcement's Training Academy at Oswego on a monthly basis to attend regularly scheduled training sessions to maintain the high level of skill and technical expertise required for the specialized duties of the Technical Support Group. Jim participated in a number of unique surveillance assignments in various parts of the state during his tenure with this unit.

Jim has also been trained and certified in Standardized Field Sobriety Testing, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement and Advanced Snowmobile Operator's Training.

In 2004, Officer Hunt was selected to join the K9 Unit and was trained and certified as a K9 Handler. He and his K9 partner, Matz, immediately established themselves as a valuable asset with a series of successful investigations during that fall hunting season. With K9 Matz locating important evidence, ECOs in both regions 8 and 9 were able to successfully conclude a number of Hunting Related Shooting Investigations and criminal investigations involving the illegal taking of deer. In addition to their enforcement work, Jim and Matz have conducted numerous demonstrations of K9 responsibilities and abilities to many organizations. Jim's presentations are always well done and Matz's performance is always impressive. Because of this they are constant demand.



Snowmobile Enforcement

ECO Hunt always likes to remain busy and enjoys his work. During the winter months, Wyoming County is one of the premier snowmobiling centers of the Western New York area. During this time, Jim makes a special effort to ensure the safety and well-being of the snowmobilers by conducting snowmobile patrols and details. His efforts are recognized and appreciated by the snowmobile enthusiasts that come to the area.

This is another area where Jim has become recognized as an expert. His knowledge of the snowmobile law and familiarity with the local trails are known to the other law enforcement agencies in the county and he is frequently called upon to assist them. During the winter of 2004/2005, Jim was contacted by Wyoming County Sheriff, Farris Heiman and asked to set up and lead a detail to target snowmobiling while intoxicated. Jim made all the arrangements and ran the detail that included Sheriff's Deputies, State Police and additional Region 9 ECOs. A number of tickets were issued for snowmobile violations and two individuals were arrested for snowmobiling while intoxicated.

During the past winter seasons, ECO Hunt has conducted many more snowmobile details that have included other ECOs, Park Police Officers, State Troopers, Sheriff's Deputies, and Village of Arcade Police Officers. Those details have resulted in thousands of individual snowmobile checks and hundreds of tickets issued for violations of the snowmobile law.

ECO Hunt's efforts in this area of enforcement have helped to make Wyoming County a safer place for the snowmobiling public.



Youth Waterfowl Hunt

During 2005, ECO Hunt teamed with a local veterinarian and sportsman to organize and conduct the first Youth Waterfowl Hunt to be held in Wyoming County. The event provided the opportunity for area youngsters to attend a waterfowl identification and hunting safety course on the first day and, then, to participate in a supervised hunt on the second day. The event was a success and each fall since has grown in attendance. The event has expanded and now is conducted jointly with officers from Region 8.

With Jim's tireless efforts to organize and promote this event, more sportsmen have gotten involved and more businesses have provided financial support. Most importantly, Jim's initiative has introduced numerous young hunters to the sport of waterfowl hunting who may never have experienced this opportunity. The continued success of this event will introduce many more young hunters to the sport.



Environmental Conservation Officer Jim Hunt is an officer of the highest caliber who is dedicated to serving the people of New York State and protecting the state's natural resources. We thank him for his service and hope you will too, if you have the opportunity.