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Horicon Marsh Military Hunt participants met a special guest

by Gayle Rydstrom

You'd think having only three returning individuals to an event would be cause for worry. Not so for the second annual Horicon Marsh Military Hunt held Saturday, Nov. 5.

"We had 21 participants and only three were repeats, the rest were new," said Ryan Voy, who, with Chuck Dodge, created last year's inaugural event. "It's great to have so many new Wounded Warriors participating. We want more and more of them to experience duck hunting on Horicon Marsh."

The Wounded Warriors received a surprise during the lunch break when former Green Bay Packer kicker Chris Jacke made an appearance. Jacke ate and talked with those in attendance, as well as posed for pictures. Jacke was part of the 1996 team that beat the New England Patriots 35-21 in Super Bowl XXXI on Jan. 26, 1997. He made 173 of 224 field goals and 301 of 306 extra point attempts during his eight seasons with the Packers.

Voy noted, "Last year, we had a national recruiter looking for guys who wanted to go duck hunting on the marsh; this year, we

had a Wisconsin recruiter so we had a lot more guys from Wisconsin than we did last year."

According to Voy, nine Wounded Warriors hunted Saturday morning. The IAM Union Hall donated the use of the area for sleeping purposes (as well as general usage) and four of the participants took advantage and slept there as they left the boat-house area around 5 a.m. The rest showed up in the afternoon and approximately 10 of them spent the night in the IAM Union

Hall. There were 15 guides available throughout the event.

One attendee was pleased to pass along how impressed he was with most of the regular duck hunters on the marsh. "I understand some of the people involved went out early and reserved some of the hot spots so our group could have some of the best hunting area," he said. "When the other hunters came by to use the area, most of the general public was happy to move somewhere else

when they were told about the Wounded Warriors. I was very impressed with that."

Voy noted there were some changes from last year, including forming the Horicon Marsh Wounded Warriors, Inc. Dodge is the president, Voy is vice president, Troy Kirchoff is the secretary, and Todd Whittaker is the treasurer. Donations to the organization are tax-free, according to Voy.

"We also wanted to get the community more involved so we asked for

donations, and they came through for us," said Voy. In addition to the use of the IAM Union Hall, donations included money as well as food, such as burgers, crackers, eggs, cheese, sub sandwiches, chicken, Italian sausage, hamburger buns, and water, juice, and milk. Jodell Kirchoff and Pat Weidman from Juneau American Legion Post 15 baked desserts for the event.

"The guys really enjoyed the experience," concluded Voy.



Chris Jacke

Chris Jacke, former kicker for the Green Bay Packers, was a special guest at the second annual Horicon Marsh Military Hunt event, held Saturday, Nov. 5. Veterans who had been wounded in combat spent one or both days duck hunting on Horicon Marsh. Pictured with Jacke are some of the veterans who participated in Saturday's hunt as well as some of the organizers and guides. See more photos on page 12. (Gayle Rydstrom / Dodge County Pioneer)