

# Brothers in arms

Duck hunt draws soldiers,  
veterans together

By MEGAN SHERIDAN  
Staff Reporter

HORICON — Horicon has always been proud to support the service men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces. So, it's no surprise that they found a way for these soldiers to enjoy a past time not often available to those living away from home: Duck hunting.

On Saturday and Sunday, a dozen area hunters got together to take more than 15 active duty and veterans from Wisconsin and Illinois out on the Horicon Marsh to join in two days of hunting. The soldiers were invited to arrive Friday evening to stay through the weekend and were given ample meals and accommodations.

The idea is the brainchild of Ryan Voy and Chuck Dodge. The two decided to start organizing the hunt last Memorial Day.

"For two years we've been talking about it and this past Memorial Day we were up camping and staying up on the other side of the marsh and we went out for a boat ride with a bunch of our friends and we just said 'Lets do this,'" Dodge said.

"We started planning it then, and I have a contact person in the military and he helped us organize."

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Citizen Staff/Megan Sheridan

**Israel Martinez, an active duty Marine stationed in Milwaukee, watches as Billy Hanke cleans the feathers from a duck shot earlier in the day.**

## BROTHERS

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As participants were organized on the military end, hunters began volunteering their time and their boats as word spread of the hunt.

"That was just word of mouth," Voy said. "Just talking to our friends and their friends and asking if they want to help out and lend their boat and be a guide for a day. I don't think one person turned us down

The Saturday morning hunt began early and was already quite successful by lunchtime.

"It started at 4:30 in the morning and we had breakfast at the boathouse and then hit the marsh," Dodge said. "Everybody got shots. We can't guarantee that they can

hit them, but that's their problem, a perfect morning so far."

The soldiers and veterans, some seasoned hunters, had enjoyed the day thus far as well.

"It's been a lot of fun" said Rick Greenhoe who is an active member of the U.S. Navy stationed in Great Lakes, Ill. "We got a couple birds this morning."

For many, it was their first time visiting the Horicon Marsh.

"It's a first time for me out of the Milwaukee area coming out here," said Israel Martinez a California native who is an active member of the Marine Corps stationed in Milwaukee. "It's all new to me."

All of the soldiers and veterans that came up agreed that the hos-

pitality they were given was beyond expectations.

"It's been a great time, everyone has treated us really well, food, places to stay," said Rob Brown of Huntsville, Ala. also stationed in Great Lakes, Ill. "We've been treated like royalty."

With a successful weekend, the group hopes to hold the event again next year and possibly expand.

"We just wanted to get to get together and give something back," Dodge said. "We grew up on the marsh so we thought it'd be a good idea. Veterans normally like hunting too. They're outdoorsmen, so we wanted to give them a good free hunt."

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