

Game of Logging Professional Chainsaw Classes

What are they?

There are four phases in the Professional Chainsaw Classes consisting of one full 8 hour day of hands on training for each phase. Each phase contains 204 hours of classroom work during the morning with the rest of the day spent in the woods.

What is taught in each phase?

- **Phase I** – Starts with the basics of safety, personal protective equipment and saw safety features are discussed. General chainsaw safety is next, with a discussion of the reactive forces of the bar & chain and the parts of the cutter tooth. Next we're ready to discuss the Open Face Felling Technique including the notch & hinge, the five step preplan, and how we are going to get the tree to do what we want. After lunch it's off to the woods for the hands on bore cutting exercise. Now we're ready to preplan the cutting strip so we'll know how to fall the trees in order to keep residual damages down. It's time now for the cutting demonstration by the instructor. After discussion of the instructor's tree, each person will preplan and cut their own tree, under the watchful eye of the instructor. Sometime during the afternoon, the instructor will demonstrate how to safely cut a bent over sapling, commonly called a spring pole. Scores will be kept throughout the day.
- **Phase II** – Starts in the classroom again with a review of the Phase I. Questions are answered after the participants have had a chance to sleep on the previous day's experiences. Phase I and II are generally held back to back. Now we get into the meat and potatoes of the day, maximizing your chainsaw's performance. First, we'll discuss general chainsaw maintenance, carburetor settings, and bar maintenance to help you get 100% from your saw. Next, we'll discuss the cutter tooth and filing techniques to help you keep the 100% that your saw is giving you, better to work smarter than harder. Now, we're off to the woods for chainsaw inspections and hands on chainsaw filing. After lunch we'll go back to our cutting strip and the instructor will demonstrate cutting a more difficult tree using wedges. After taking pre-topping information, the instructor will demonstrate limbing and topping options. Next, each person will again preplan and cut a tree, laying it where the instructor wants it. Sometime during the afternoon each person will cut a spring pole. Scores will be kept throughout the day with prizes awarded to the highest scoring individuals.
- **Phase III** – Phase II and III are generally separated by at least one month for practice. Again we will start in the classroom with a review of Phase II. After any questions, we'll jump right into the most interesting class so far. We will be dealing with difficult trees, so we'll need a tool to help us figure out if it's possible to these trees to do what we want them to. That tool is the Pro-Sight Card. While in the classroom you will learn the basics of the Pro-Sight. Next, we'll move out to the woods to learn the first of three

parts of the Pro-Sight, height measurement. Next, we need to know the diameter at breast height or the segment length in inches. Then we'll need to know the amount of weight distribution in feet. Now we can put these three pieces of information into the charts on the Pro-Sight and find our total Segment number. The Segment number plus the instructors experience will tell us if it is possible. Next, each person will again preplan and cut a tree, laying it where the instructor wants it. Each person will also limb and top their tree. Scores will be kept and prizes will be awarded to the highest scoring individuals.

- **Phase IV** – Phase III and Phase IV are generally separated by at least one month for practice. Phase IV is generally always held entirely in the woods. Phase IV's focus is to take what everyone has learned and use it in an actual job type situation at normal work speeds. Participants will be able to use everything they have learned because we'll be using the "Total Cutting System" to work as safe and as productive as possible. First we'll start out by figuring out a rough harvest plan using a topomap. Next, we'll walk the strip we decided to cut first, fine tune our plan for that strip, and then pick a place to start. Now, we will start with the first tree and work up the strip with one participant cutting and topping each tree as we come to it. All trees will be laid as close to one direction as possible. This will virtually eliminate any residual damage to the remaining stand. Scores will be kept and prizes will be awarded to the highest scoring individuals.