PVCI Newsletter – November 2026

Last Youth Elk Hunt

Congratulations, Zander O! Zander successfully filled his last youth elk tag. That is a big milestone for a young hunter, and everyone at PVCI is proud of him. Well done, Zander!



From the Callers

The cool mornings are here, and November is when Arizona predator hunters wait for all year. Coyotes are active, hungry and heading into breeding season, which makes them more responsive to a well-run stand than at almost any other time. The Phoenix Varmint Callers, Inc. has been bringing hunters together since 1967, and this month's issue covers the hunting report, calling tactics, the other hunts sharing our desert, and our club banquet.

Get your gear checked, your rifle zeroed and your wind-reading eyes sharp. Hunt safe, hunt ethically, and bring back a photo and a story for the next newsletter.

November Hunting Report

November is prime time for Arizona predator hunters: coyotes are feeding up for winter and sorting out territory ahead of the January–March breeding season, and they respond well to calling. Coyotes can be hunted statewide all year with no closed season and no tag. You only need a valid Arizona hunting license (required for ages 10 and up, $37 for residents).



What coyotes are doing right now

- Eating heavily. Prey sounds, pup sounds and territorial sounds are the best match for November and December.
- Defending territory. Challenge howls are common, and this year's pups are vocal enough that older coyotes answer pup howls.
- Getting wary. Where big game hunters are working the same country, expect more human pressure and coyotes that have already heard a few callers.

Scout before you call

Coyote numbers and activity vary a lot from one unit to the next. Look for tracks and scat along washes, fence lines and ranch roads, listen for howling at first and last light, and note what food is around. A coyote feeding on rabbits wants rabbit distress; one feeding on rodents may prefer a softer rodent squeal.

Send us your reports

Got a November stand, a good story or a photo? Email pvcigroup@gmail.com or post it on the club Facebook page and we will share the best ones in the December issue.

Coyote Hunting Tips and Tactics

The biggest wins in November come from the stand itself: where you sit, how the wind lies, what you play and how long you stay. Work through this list before every setup.

1. **Hunt the wind.** Coyotes usually try to circle downwind on the final approach, so choose a spot where you can see your downwind side, with the wind in your face or crossing. Never sit with your back to the wind and an open flat behind you.
2. **Match the menu.** Start with what the local coyotes are eating: cottontail, jackrabbit, bird or rodent distress. In November, pup distress, pup chatter and territorial challenge howls also work because coyotes are defending ground and this year's pups are in the mix.
3. **Start soft.** Open with low volume, since a coyote bedded close can hear you before you see it. Raise the volume only after several minutes of quiet. Calls that run a few minutes with long pauses between sequences beat constant noise.
4. **Use the howler with care.** One or two lone howls, then five minutes of silence, can locate a coyote or tempt a territorial one. Hand howling gets old on heavily hunted ground, so go to distress if you get no answer. Save the full breeding-season vocals (female invitation, interrogation howls) for January through March.
5. **Be patient.** Give each stand about 30 minutes. Many coyotes arrive late and slow, and the ones that hang up at the edge often need silence and stillness to commit.
6. **Break up your outline.** Sit with a backdrop of brush or a rock behind you, wear a face covering or sunglasses that kill glare, and keep movement small. Watch for coyotes coming along washes and tree lines, not just across open ground.
7. **Set up a steady rest.** Shooting sticks or a bipod let you stay low and still. Wait for the coyote to stop or slow before you shoot, and take only shots you are sure of.
8. **Change it up.** If a stand fails, move at least a few hundred yards and try different sounds. Do not repeat the same sequence in the same spot.

Stay legal and stay safe

- Electronic calls are legal for coyotes in Arizona, but check land-agency rules, night-hunting rules and open areas before you go.
- Positively identify every target and know what is behind it. A call that sounds like wounded prey can pull in other hunters, dogs and livestock as well as coyotes.
- Tell someone where you are going and when you will be back, carry water, and check the weather and your fuel before heading into the desert.

Other Arizona Hunts and Big Game Hunters in the Field

You will not have the desert to yourself this month: several big game and bird hunts overlap with November coyote calling. Dates below are summaries and vary by game management unit and hunt number, so confirm yours in the AZGFD 2026–27 hunting regulations before you head out.

Hunt	What is open in November	Notes
Deer (rifle and muzzleloader)	Unit-specific hunts, including one around Nov 13–19; others run Oct 23–Nov 5 and Dec 11–31	Draw permit-tag
Fall javelina	Hunts 5504 (Nov 20–29) and 5508 (Nov 20–26); youth hunts run through Nov 29	Some nonpermit areas are open all year
Elk	Late archery hunts in November; late rifle hunts late Nov into early Dec	Draw permit-tag
Desert bighorn sheep	Seasons run Oct 1–Dec 31 depending on herd and unit	Draw permit-tag
Bison	Nov 13–17 and Nov 20–24	Draw permit-tag
Fall turkey	General hunts run into mid-November in some units	Check unit dates
Dove (late season)	Opens around Nov 20	Verify dates and bag limit
Chukar	Open through early February 2027	Daily limit of 5

Be aware of big game hunters in the field

Predator callers sit still in camouflage and play sounds that attract attention. Other hunters can walk toward your call while looking for game, and you may not know they are there.

- **Assume someone else is out there.** Know which hunts are open in your unit before you pick a stand, and think twice about calling near areas with a lot of tag holders.
- **Wear orange when moving.** Arizona does not require hunter orange, but it is strongly recommended when hunting with or near others. Put on an orange hat or vest while walking in and out, and consider a bright marker on your pack or vehicle.
- **Speak up.** If you see or hear someone approaching, call out in a clear voice and stay behind cover until they respond. Never wave a rifle or caller toward a person.
- **Positive ID, always.** Do not shoot at movement, sound or a flash of color. Be sure of your target and your backstop.
- **Respect their hunt.** Big game tags are hard to draw. If another hunter is stalking nearby, move on and find another stand.
- **Talk to landowners and ranchers.** Cattle, ranch hands and other users share the same country.

2026 Holiday Banquet and Fundraiser: December 5

Our Holiday Banquet and Fundraiser is Saturday, December 5, 2026, with a catered dinner, cash bar, raffles, and silent and live auctions. Buy tickets by December 1.

Detail	Information
Date	Saturday, December 5, 2026
Doors / dinner	Doors open 6:30 PM, dinner at 7:00 PM
Location	American Legion Bingo Hall, Glendale, AZ
Tickets	$30 adults, $20 kids 12 and under
Ticket deadline	December 1, 2026
Buy tickets	Purchase tickets online

Food drive: Bring 10 canned goods or a case of water for the Desert Mission Food Drive and receive a raffle ticket for a prize.

Online raffle: You do not have to attend to take part. Get raffle tickets here. All funds raised go to PVCI programs, events and activities throughout the year. Check your own state's laws on out-of-state raffles.

Donations to PVCI may be tax-deductible depending on your situation. Ask a board member if you want documentation, and consult a tax professional for advice.

Questions about the banquet? Email pvciorg1@gmail.com or see a board member.

See you in the field, and at the banquet. Hunt safe.

Sources

Season dates and rules change, so confirm everything against AZGFD before you hunt. Checked October 28, 2026.

- Phoenix Varmint Callers Inc: banquet, raffle, veteran hunts, bingo, club history
- AZGFD 2026–27 Arizona Hunting Regulations (PDF): javelina hunt dates
- Arizona Hunting Seasons 2026–2027 (StateHunting.org): deer and bison dates
- Arizona small game seasons 2026–27 (Hunting Locator): coyote, chukar and license information
- Arizona hunting season guide (onX Hunt): elk and sheep season windows
- Arizona 2026 turkey and dove seasons (StateOutdoors): fall turkey and late dove dates
- Coyote hunting laws in Arizona (Animal of Things): license and electronic call rules
- Blaze orange regulations for every state (Hunter-Ed.com): Arizona hunter orange guidance
- Arizona bans predator hunting contests (KNAU)
- Coyote calling: match the hatch (Carolina Sportsman)
- Coyote calling tips for late fall (Field & Stream)
- Coyote calling basics (Heartland Lodge)
- Coyote vocalization: when to call (Grand View Outdoors)