



# Predator Tales

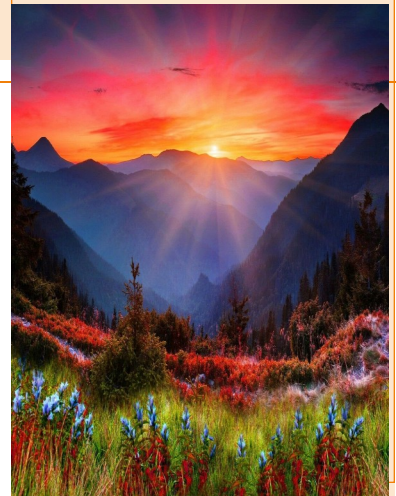
## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I hope you all have had a great summer and are now ready to start the hunting season. September starts our monthly scramble hunts beginning with the novice hunt. Septembers meeting we had a panel discussion and video for all the novices that wanted to learn a little more about the process and what to do and not to do.

This also a good time to get involved with the pin program. The pin program is not a competition but rather a system to record and acknowledge individual club member's personal achievements. The entry fee is a one-time cost of \$10.00 as long as your membership stays current. The pin program runs year-around.

I want to thank all our volunteers that helped make all our summer activities such a success.

Craig B, President



### PRESIDENT

CRAIG B

### 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

TIM N

### CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

RAY K

### RECORDING SECRETARY

DAN S.

### TREASURER

GAIL B

### PAST PRESIDENT

GARY M

### BOARD MEMBERS

WAYNE W.

ROD B

ZHARA B

## GEORGE KNOX BOOTCAMP

AUG 2-4 , 2024

We had a great turnout this year and the event was a big success. We had several animals harvested including some foxes that were shot by a couple of ladies who were out for their first time.

We would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make it a successful event.





## 2024 BOOT CAMP



*“Meetings are now being broadcast live over Facebook”*

### LIVE MONTHLY MEETINGS ON FACEBOOK

The monthly meetings are being broadcasted over Facebook each month.

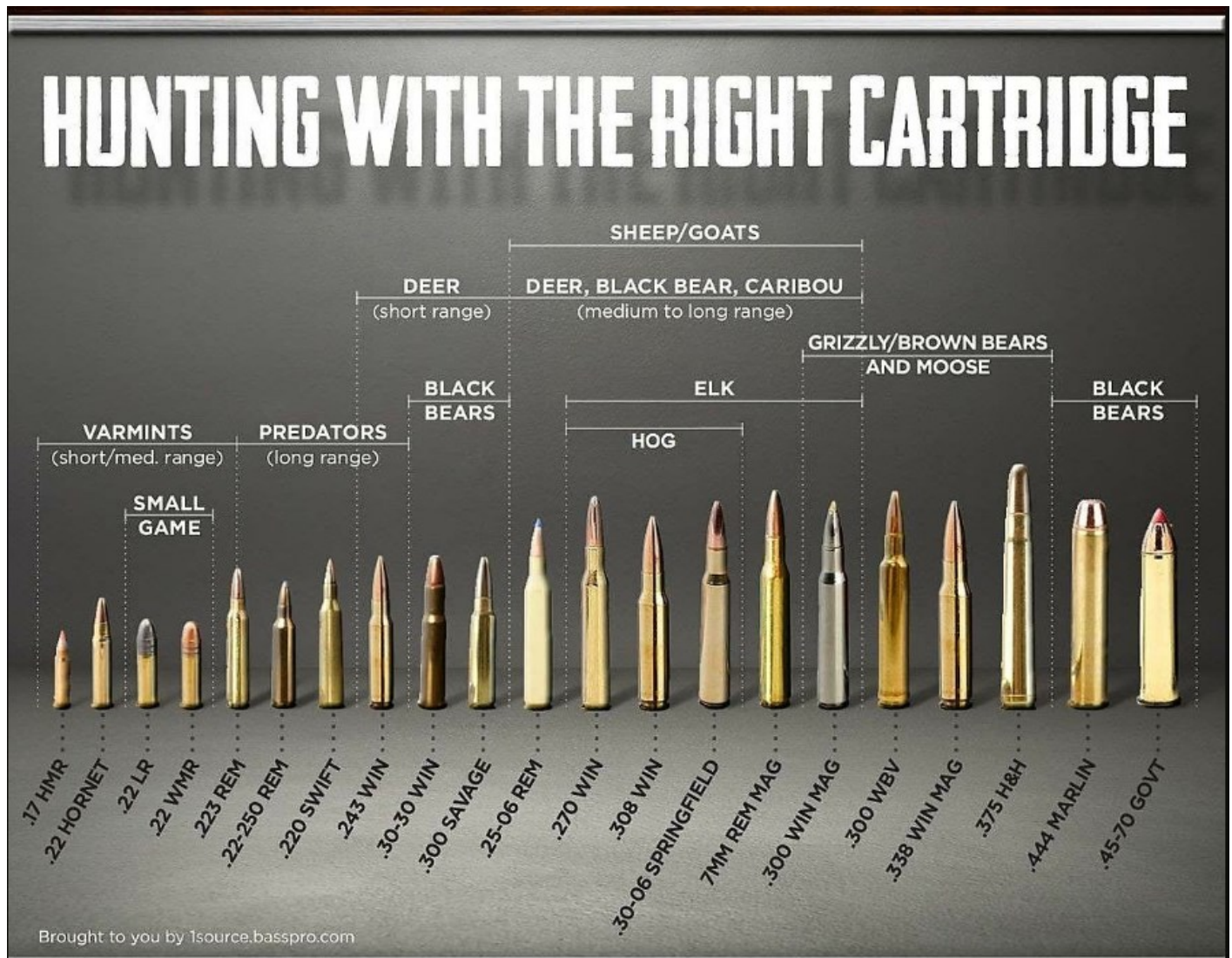
On the 1st Wednesday of the month, sign on to PVCI's Facebook page at 7:00 pm. As soon as Ray K. Gets the camera running it will appear on the Facebook page. Just click on it to watch the meeting live.



*Everyone pitching in to help set up camp.*







We've all been there, the perfect stand set up, the wind is just right, your calling is sounding oh-so-sweet, and that predator pops out from around a bush 40 yards out and BLAMO! The perfect shot!!! But then one of several things happen:

- 1) Wiley drops for a short dirt-nap, but upon reconsideration decides to get up and go walkabout!
- 2) You arrive upon the designated spot to realize that gorgeous bobcat has now been turned into three smaller bobcats, or
- 3) Mr Coyote gets low and lean and exits stage left at MACH 5 with his tail on fire!
- 4) Yogi Bear shows up for a picnic basket and you realize you brought a pea-shooter! (Apologies to the millennials reading this - you'll have to google pea-shooter)

For this month's article I wanted to touch on a question that gets a lot of attention in most hunting camps and is a big question on every new predator hunters mind. What caliber weapon should I be using to be most effective in harvesting my prey?

Basspro was kind enough to post the image above that sums it up nicely. Adding to that, my opinion (since I get to write articles) so that's where we're going to start. I'll save shotguns, optics and ammunition selection for another month so stay tuned for that!

My preferred rifle caliber for small-mid size predators lies somewhere between 20 and 24 calibers. For those that want to shoot a lot, practice a lot, and are on a tight budget, it's hard to beat a 223. Ammunition is readily available, fairly inexpensive, and recoil is very mild.

Avoid the French fries at lunch tomorrow and you can step up to a box of 204 Ruger or 22-250 which I'd put at the top of my list. Both can be fur friendly with the right bullet and are similar in downrange energy.

243 and 6mm top the energy level and would be my largest choices unless I thought I might call in a lion or bear. 22lr, 17HMR, 22Mag would not make since I generally prefer calling coyotes. Good hunting my friends, be safe and good calling!



## 2024 PPCI BANQUET

Planning is already starting of the annual PPCI Banquet. It will be on Saturday, December 7, 2024. We have already hired a caterer who will be preparing and serving food. As usual we will be having a silent auction and a public auction for lots of goodies. We need all the members to solicit donations for the auctions. Any donations given are tax deductible. Just see a board member for a copy of our receipt we use for donations.

Tickets are now on Sale. \$30.00 per adult, \$20.00 for 12 and under and Free for under 2. See Ray K. for tickets. Don't forget the can food drive. Bring 10 cans of food or a case of water for an addition door prize ticket.



## RECIPE CORNER

### Crockpot Venison Pepper Stake

- 2 lbs steak from deer or elk
- 1 can Tomatoes (16 oz size)
- 1 large onion, sliced
- 2 medium green peppers, sliced
- 6 oz. mushrooms, sliced
- 3 tbsp soy sauce
- 2 tbsp blackstrap molasses
- 1/2 C. flour
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp black pepper

Cut steaks into strips. Mix flour, salt, and pepper in a bag and shake the steak fingers. Put steak into the crockpot and dump the remaining flour mixture on top. Add all other ingredients. Cover and turn crockpot to high for one hour. Reduce heat to low and cook for 9 to 10 hours. Serves 4 to 6.

## CALIBER HIGHLIGHTS— 204 RUGER

I get asked quite frequently to talk about one of my favorite predator calibers, small in stature, but in grand in nature, let's talk about the diminutive **204 Ruger**.

Designed in 2004 by Hornady and Ruger, the 204 Ruger was the second-highest velocity cartridge ever commercially produced. High ballistic coefficient, speed, rapid expansion and low (think 22lr) recoil put this round near the top of my list.

32 and 40 grain bullets top off at **4200+** and **3900+** fps respectively. For those able to find the 45g Speer soft nose, velocities approach 3600fps. (Consider the average 16" AR is pushing 2700fps)

The 204 Ruger was produced by necking the 222 Remington Magnum down to 20 caliber. Available in bolt guns an AR platforms, this one is a no-brainer. Being able to shoot at a target

and actually see the round hit a coyote through the scope without getting rocked off? It's a sight you won't soon forget!

Why am I such a fan? Having either harvested or assisted in harvesting 300-400 coyotes (estimated) with this round and seeing the results, I think would qualify me and my partner as qualified to sing its praises. Ammunition is readily available as well as components for those reloaders out there. Included in this article are real life targets all fired out of my personal weapons, and I have yet to find a bullet that won't go sub 1/4" consistently when I do my part. With a 200 yards zero, the 204 Ruger easily keeps rounds in the boiler room out to ~300 yards without any holdover, and ballistically outperforms the 22-250 out past 400 yards.

While projectiles under 39 gr are available, those are best suited for smaller varmints, rabbits, fox and prairie dogs as they tend to "splash" on coyotes and aren't heavy enough to penetrate into the boiler room. 39gr Speer TNT's, and Hornady 40gr and 45 gr Vmax all perform exceptionally well, and I've taken the 45gr out to 600 yards successfully. For safety reasons I've blotted out my load data but suffice it to say it's hard to find a bad load using Varget and Hornady brass. CCI primers are recommended if being used in AR's due to the harder primer cup.

When not reloading, Fiocchi 40g ballistic has been my go-to commercial round. It's REALLY hot, really accurate, and available in 50 round boxes. I've had excellent luck reloading the brass multiple times. Hornady Superperformance 40 gr is slightly less accurate (3/4" groups) and not as fast as advertised. Both work well in AR15's and feed reliably. On a fun note, my wife and girls love shooting this round as they are both able to group sub MOA with my daughter accomplishing 1/4 moa on several occasions. Owning an accurate caliber provides a lot of confidence to the shooter, make shooting more fun, and hopefully you will all get the chance to shoot one of these either in the field, or at an upcoming event!

One word of caution! Because the 204 Ruger and 223/5.56 are so similar in size, I've found in necessary with my old eyes to color-code my rounds when loading. 223's (Sierra ballistic tip bullets) are GREEN and my 204 Ruger are RED ballistic tips. My weapons are not able to go into battery using the wrong round due the tiny length difference, but I would highly recommend a similar practice if you are lucky enough to own both cartridges. You'd also hate to drive 3 hours to get there and realize you brought the wrong rounds!! So good hunting, good calling, and good shooting! Be safe and good luck this season!



8:32				
< Back				
inches MOA mils				
Range (yds)	Velocity (fps)	Energy (ft-lb)	Path (in)	Drift (in)
0	3600	1151	-2.0	0.0
50	3409	1032	-0.3	0.0
100	3227	925	0.7	0.0
150	3052	828	0.8	0.0
200	2885	739	0.0	0.0
250	2724	659	-1.8	0.0
300	2568	586	-4.9	0.0
350	2418	519	-9.2	0.0
400	2273	459	-15.0	0.0
450	2132	404	-22.6	0.0





PHOENIX VARMINT  
CALLERS, INC

*Established in 1967 the Phoenix Varmint Callers, Inc. has continually pushed for better conservation legislature and practices. As one of the oldest premier non-profit outdoor sportsmen and conservation organizations, we are committed to the safety and promotion of our sport.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 18, 2024	Board Meeting, Dennys, 5161 W. Thunderbird
October 2, 2024	Club Meeting, 7:00—9:00 pm, American Legion post 29, 6827 N. 57th Dr. Glendale
October 5 & 6, 2024	Club monthly Scramble Hunt
October 5 & 6, 2024	Disabled Veterans Predator Hunt
October 16, 2024	Board Meeting, 7:00 pm , Dennys , 5161 W Thunderbird Rd.

September meeting kicked off the hunting season with the Novice Hunt.

Phoenix Varmint Callers, Inc  
PO Box 87153  
Phoenix, AZ 85080-7153

E-mail: [pvcior1@gmail.com](mailto:pvcior1@gmail.com)



YOUR LOGO  
HERE

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE