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May-June 2018



James S.

Presidents Message!

Now is when we go out as a family. We Camp, Barbecue, Shoot & Fish. May is the Club Barbecue. Fire restrictions could put a damper on it as we may be in **Level 2 Restrictions** meaning no campfires & no shooting. Stay tuned for updates. June is the Fishing Derby, always a great time up on the Rim by Woods Canyon Lake. Little cell phone service, so kids won't be on the phone. Family time, let's do this.

THINGS TO KNOW:

**** Where is my Newsletter? This is a reminder: In January 2018 the PPCI Officers & Board decided to have this Newsletter be sent by e-mail only thus eliminating the hard copy.** There may be some exceptions & there may not. As a result, we're going to need everyone's e-mail information. Please send your e-mail info. to pvcigroup@yahoo.com

***** PPCI has a BRAND NEW EXCITING GUN RAFFLE!** There are 5 firearms in this Raffle & **tickets start at only \$1.00 each.** There is more info. & pictures, look at next page. **You Need NOT Be Present to Win. Draw date in May 2018.** Winners will have a Choice this year. 1st place chooses 1 gun from 5 choices, 2nd Place choose 1 gun from 4 choices, etc.

***The Deadline for the 2018 fall hunts, deer, bighorn, etc. is May 8th by 7:00p.m. for paper applications!**
***** (FIRE RESTRICTIONS PERMITTING!) The date of the 2018 PPCI Campout & BBQ is May 18-20.** Location: **Tentatively** Moqui Draw, last year's spot **(there is a big fire up that way now).** See Map/directions inside. **Raffle Drawing on Sunday if Campout is not cancelled!!!**

***So, with the Raffle Drawing being in May possibly at the PPCI Campout & BBQ on May 18-20, Where do you turn in your PPCI Raffle Tickets & Money?** Bring your Money/Tickets to the PPCI Monthly Meeting on May 2 or the **PPCI Board Meeting on May 16 at Barro's Pizza 3053 W Aqua Fria FRWY** or come to the **(If not Cancelled) PPCI Campout & BBQ.** The Drawing **(If not Cancelled)** will be on Sunday. You can also call Steve at 623-570-1306 & make arrangements BEFORE the Campout as Steve WILL NOT BE going up. We'll let you know more at the May 2 Monthly Meeting concerning possible Cancellations.

***** The HSUS Ballot Initiative to Ban the hunting of mountain lions, bobcats, jaguars, ocelots & lynx has reportedly been Stopped! Also the First Wednesday in July is the 4th "No PPCI Club Meeting in July".**

****To contribute stories, pictures, etc. to this Newsletter send items to: coyotecaller@cox.net** Share your stories/pictures, tips, recipes, etc. with us. We'd like to read them. These articles don't have to be about predators. **Join us on our Facebook Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PVCI.org/>**

Join us on Facebook Page <http://www.facebook.com/pvci.org> PPCI Website <http://www.pvci.org>



Still PPCI PRESIDENT



Ivan C. w/Javelina



Craig Bow Fishing



Coyote coming to Turkey Call



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PVCI HAS A BRAND NEW 5-GUN RAFFLE –PLEASE ASK FOR & SELL SOME TICKETS!!!

IF YOU WIN, YOU PICK & CHOOSE THE FIREARM YOU WANT-1st Choice picks 1 Gun from 5 choices, 2nd picks 1 Gun from 4 choices, 3rd picks 1 Gun from 3 choices, 4th picks 1 Gun from 2 choices & 5th gets what is left.

Your Phoenix Varmint Callers are having another Fundraising Raffle! This Raffle features the 5 firearms listed below. Raffle Tickets for this 5-Gun Raffle will start at the bargain price of ONLY \$1.00 EACH OR you can purchase 6 Raffle Ticket for \$5.00 OR 13 Raffle Tickets for \$10.00 OR 30 Raffle Tickets for \$20.00!!! PVCI Members as usual we really need EVERYONE to STEP UP & SELL just as many of these Raffle Tickets as you can! Tickets should not be too hard to sell with these prizes at these Ticket prices. The Drawing Date for this Raffle will be in May 2018. You Need Not Be Present To Win. **This year you will be able to PICK & CHOOSE the firearm you want!** 1st place chooses one from 5 choices, 2nd Place chooses one from 4 choices, 3rd Place chooses one from 3 choices and so on.

The First choice is the (ATI) American Tactical Imports AR-15 Mills Port 5.56 -.223 Rifle



Images may not match actual Guns

The Second choice is a Ruger American Predator 6.5 CREEDMOOR



The Third choice is a Weatherby PA-08 Upland 12ga. 28-inch pump shotgun



The Fourth choice is a Mossberg Patriot Bantam .308 scoped rifle



The Fifth choice is the Savage Model 64 .22 long rifle semi-auto scoped rifle



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Happy Birthday Day Will H. on May 16th



Would you like for your Birthday, Anniversary or other Special Event to show here? Send your

info to coyotecaller@cox.net

Announcement: the June 6th PVCI Club Meeting will Be the Annual Swamp Meet.

Being Items you want to trade or sell.

They will be no PVCI Club Meeting on July 4,

WHAT DOES AN UP & COMING VARMINT CALLER DO DURING THE OFF-SEASON??? by Eddie M.

Well it is that time of year again. The official Predator season is over. What are we to do? Well below is a list I've used before that doesn't really change too much. There is still plenty reason to get out, just doing different things.

Well the past predator calling season sure seemed to go by fast & just when you were really starting to see real results too! You had FUN & not just in learning the how-to's of the hunt. There was also the camaraderie with your hunt partners, sharing the outdoor adventure/experience together. The campfire at night, waking up in the mornings, the beautiful landscapes and sharing the success/failures! Now they say that the season is over! **What Are You Going To Do!**

* Well one of the things that many of us do NOT do is to keep on hunting coyotes. Even though the season is year-round in Arizona **and should be**, most of us quit hunting them in late spring/summer (by choice) & let them raise their pups. This ensures that there will be more coyotes in the fall. That is not to say that we won't still pull the trigger on one. If someone (say the Indian Reservations or AZ. Game & Fish; antelope country) invites us on a hunt because they're having problems or one is called in on a spring turkey hunt, well what happens, happens, overall though most of us give the coyote a break. The other predators do have seasons so there is no need to discuss them.

* **Finding elk & deer antlers** are not only fun but can also be profitable. On the spring turkey hunt in New Mexico in 2014, we had some people pull up in their horse trailer, saddle the horses & go riding to look for elk antlers. The top guy said that they'd made about \$4000 so far that year. Every year probably 99.8% of the elk & deer males drop their old antlers & grow a set of new ones. The brown (recent drops) antlers can be worth anywhere from \$9 to \$14 per pound depending upon the market! That means that just one big brown elk antler can bring \$80 or more! The white antlers (1 year or older) also have a price. I myself just enjoy finding them. It's hard for me to part with them even for a price.

* **Hunting the Spring Wild Turkey Gobbler** is another passion that afflicts many. One reason is that you are still calling & trying to fool an elusive critter to you with the added bonus that gobblers are often quite vocal/loud when coming to your calling. The closer they get the louder! Normally when a gobbler gobbles, the hens come to him. You must reverse nature to get a gobbler to come to you! The action can be very, very exciting! I tell the up & coming new turkey hunters, if you are going to become a turkey hunter free yourself of all responsibilities during the months of April & May. No birthdays, no anniversaries, no weddings. Plan your life that way as otherwise you will only create problems for yourself!

* **Attend the PPCI Club & other Activities.** During the fall & winter months a lot of us members are busy hunting however when the hunting seasons are over the Phoenix Varmint Callers like to plan family-oriented events. For instance, the **May PPCI Campout & BBQ May 18-20 (Fire Restrictions Permitting)**, the **June 3rd (Free Fishing Day) PPCI Fishing Contest** including the **Members & Guests Raffle**, the **August PPCI Trail Clearing & August Varmint Calling Boot Camp** are all Club family-oriented Events where you the member are encouraged to bring families & friends. In doing this we ALL get to meet each other, perhaps share a meal or two, share in friendly competition and do work together (Trail Clearing). Once the wife & family get to know some of the folks you may be hunting with it may make it a little easier to get away come hunting season. Also, you the caller get to know the other callers that participate better. You see them, they see you (it's called exposure), you interact & come hunting season who knows? Anytime you get around a fire at night like say the BIG community fire at the BBQ (or if fire restrictions the grill) or the Fishing Contest or Trail Clearing, if you keep your ears open, you run the risk that you might learn things. Invariably there will be hunting stories told, hunting tips given out on what methods worked for this or that, hunting questions answered, etc.

In addition, there are some other Events that many PPCI members also attend each of which is also family-oriented. **The Payson Wildlife Fair** on May 12th, the **July Arizona Trappers Assoc. Convention w/ Miss Rodeo Arizona** helping out and the September **Southwest Fur Harvesters Rendezvous** are other GREAT places to hear the above kind of talk. Of course, you will also hear instructional calling/hunting/trapping seminars at all 3 of these Events. Keep an eye on the Calendar of Events in this Predator Tales for the dates of these upcoming Events.

* **What about going fishing?** Arizona does have some really-good fishing for both warm & cold-water species. There are a few lakes, rivers, creeks & even canals (towards Yuma) and waterholes (Indian Reservations) where fish can be caught. Also, don't forget the Urban Lakes here in town. You no longer need an Urban Fishing License as it's included in the price of a Regular Yearly Fishing or Combo Hunt/Fish License now. **P.S. None of this applies of course** if you have ever fished for Steelhead in your past pre-Arizona life. Almost everyone I have ever met who has done this appears to be SPOILED ROTTEN and in most cases don't want to fish for anything else. It almost seems like they need to go to a Steelhead Self-Recovery Help Group to get over the fun they had. Most certainly the comments & actions that I have observed have made me very leery about ever fishing for that kind of fish. * **Don't forget to stay practiced up in your shooting** at the Range. Also, now is an excellent time for inspecting the gear that you do have & preparing your gear for next year. Another PLUS of our Family-Oriented Events competition is that These Events are designed to help keep your competitive spirit in tune & keep you practiced during the off-season.

ARIZONA GAME & FISH EXPO REPORT

March 24-25 were the dates for the 2018 Arizona Game & Fish Dept. Outdoor Expo held at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility in Phoenix, AZ. off of the Carefree Highway. This Event transformed the Shooting Facility into the largest hands-on Outdoor Expo in Arizona with outdoor adventure and fun for the entire family! As in years past admission and parking were totally FREE, as were the shuttles to and from the parking to different points of the event. Once inside there were Loads of hands-on activities, educational presentations/demos & chances to meet with outdoor groups & agencies plus exhibitor booths displaying wildlife & the shooting, hunting, fishing & outdoor sports. PNCI had a Booth at the Event with a decent number of volunteers on both days. Our Mission at these Events is to promote the sport of Varmint Calling and offer folks the opportunity to enter our 5-Gun Raffle. As usual there was a LOT of interest in what we do, and we'll probably see some new faces from this Event in upcoming Meetings.

Last year an estimated 48,000 people attended this event, a new record! The crowds seem larger to me this year. What a Great Idea by whomever in the Arizona Game & Fish Department thought to do something like this. Having an annual event where you give the public a chance to learn about the many wildlife related and outdoor recreation activities possible here in Arizona from practically from A to Z.



PNCI YOUTH TURKEY HUNT REPORT

By Ken E.

Finally, up at Colcord Camp Ground, unloading the truck in a pretty stiff wind, and I find that I left my tent in Phoenix! Another adventure in turkey camp! We had less than the 75 hunters we could have accommodated, which means next year, talk to more friends about bringing their kids up and hunting birds. Seminars were taught, turkey hunting, calling, varmint hunting, and Jerry the eagle guy was there (and, also mentoring).

Wind and snow Friday, snow Saturday morning, and wind Sunday made it an interesting hunt, but we still had one bird brought in and one shot by another group as I called it to us. We watched the kids run up to the bird after the earth shattering kaboom, about 150 yards away!

The AZ Elk Society now has the permanent Ray E. Kitchen as tribute to our former president with a handsome wooden sign that will go to every camp from here on.

Thank you NWTF, AES, PNCI, and AZGFD for all your support and efforts!

MY FIRST COUES DEER

by Mike F.

This hunt started like most, looking over the hunt regulations trying to decide where to put in for deer. I would be hunting with my nephew and PPCI member Spencer. My main goal was to get a tag, so Spencer would be able to experience his first deer hunt. Our first two choices were for mule deer and our third choice was a whitetail hunt in 34B. We got tags for whitetail in 34B which is for the most part the Whetstone Mountains. As soon as I got my tag I started “studying” on coueswhitetail.com. I soon realized that I needed better binos & a bigger pack to carry my tripod & stool.

I decided to use my .270 for this hunt. I loaded some 145g Hornady ELD-X bullets which have a higher BC for long-range shots. Bob J. of PPCI let me on the metallic rifle silhouette range to make a drop chart using my rangefinder and the sighter targets. Bob also “sold” me a pair of Evridge knives I coveted after Ray’s passing knowing that no more of his knives would be made. Rifle’s ready, got new pack, new binos, let’s go hunting!

On my one and only scouting trip I found a large bowl that looked like a great area for hunting. Having a wet spring in this bowl was a plus for sure. On opening morning Spencer and I were hiking in with our headlamps on I found a great place to glass and set up. At about 7:20 I spot a buck out in front of me. He’s not huge but he’ll do for my first Coues deer. The rangefinder says 208 yards. I hold for 200 yards and the gun goes BOOM! I think the buck dropped behind one prickly pear. I looked and saw no buck, however there was a .270 caliber hole in the prickly pear. I missed low and I didn’t see any hair or blood. I later found out that I got an erroneous reading on the rangefinder. The range was really 317 yards. I saw another buck near sundown, too far away to do anything about and that ended day one.

Day two was very slow until just before 6:00 when I saw another buck. This time I got three readings of 270 yards before I rested the rifle on the tripod brace to make the shot. I was happy to say the least! I grabbed my Evridge knife, looked up at the sky and thanked Ray for making such a fine cutting tool before getting to work. After I was about done field dressing, Spencer showed up for some pictures. We had tenderloin for dinner that night.



THE HORSESHOE

by Rick M.

For many centuries the horseshoe has been associated with good luck. Bob P. and I had been hunting unsuccessfully for two days and needed some good fortune. High winds had been our biggest enemy, but we were keeping dedicated to the cause. As we walked into a stand, I found an old horseshoe. We were close to a famous ranch and I was sure the horseshoe was tied to its history. We felt connected to the past. On the following stand we only walked into the field a short distance as the vegetation was high and hid our trucks from view. I noted where Bob was located for safety and as soon as he was in position I sent out some jackrabbit sounds. I scanned to my right then slowly rotated my vision to the left. When I looked left, I noted a coyote about fifteen yards away from me looking at my position. He probably felt the same surprise I was feeling. The coyote reversed his direction of travel and I sprang into action. I wasn’t looking at a timer, but I must have had a coyote in the bag in no more than twenty seconds. Bob later agreed it was well less than a minute. I signaled Bob to hold tight and continue the stand. We had no more visitors but the one I shot was a large male and finally put us on the scoreboard. I won’t go so far as to say our luck came from the old horseshoe, but we are keeping that souvenir just in case.



PVCI GUN RAFFLE – WE RAFFLE OFF A FIREARM EVERY MONTH!!!

Normally if you are old enough to own a firearm, can pass a background check and have at least \$5.00 to invest, then you have a unique opportunity EACH and EVERY month to win a firearm at the Phoenix Varmint Callers Monthly Meeting! How do we do it you ask? Well every other month or so the PVCI Board of Directors and Board Members choose a rifle, shotgun, handgun, etc. in advance. Then we here at the BI-Monthly Predator Tales do our best to let you know exactly what those choices will be (hopefully also in advance). Then on the night of the Meeting, with the firearm usually present for all to see, the Raffle Tickets are made available. **Tickets are sold for \$5.00 apiece or lately 5 for \$20 with NO LIMIT on the amount that you may purchase. If you do spend \$20 then your name also goes into another drawing for a Gift Card somewhere. You need NOT be a member to participate.** The Raffle Drawing is usually held that evening and some Lucky Person wins!!! ****All winners MUST be able to fill out and pass a background check****. If you win Steve L. (the guy selling the Gun Raffle tickets) will call you and tell you where & when you can pick up your firearm.

The Gun for May will be a Mossberg 500 Turkey Series, 3” Mag. Mossy Oak Obsession 12ga. Shotgun!!

The Gun for June will be a Mossberg .308 Patriot Rifle w/ scope. Somebody is going to Win! Good Luck to You!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

***LOOK for Entirely NEW Mountain Lion Regulations after June 30th in the 2018-2019 Arizona Hunting Regulations.

April 20 – Hunt-Permit Tags and/or refunds for 2018 Antelope & Elk should be mailed out by now.

April 27 & May 4 – **Arizona Early & Late Spring Turkey Season opener dates. Check your Hunt Regs.**

May 2 - This is the 1st Wednesday. PVCI Monthly Meeting, (Elks Lodge) 6822 N. 57th Drive, Glendale, AZ. 7:00P.M.

May 3 – All Rifle Spring Bear Seasons End. Check your Hunt Regs.

May 4 – Arizona Game & Fish Commission Meetings 5325 N. Stockton Hill Rd. Kingman 86409 (926)-692-7700

May 4 – Archery Spring Bear Season Opens in certain Hunt Units. Check your Hunt Regs.

May 8 - **URGENT! Deadline for the 2018 fall hunts, deer, turkey, bighorn, etc. for Paper Applications by 7:00p.m.**

May 16 - This is the 3rd Wednesday. PVCI Board Meeting possibly at Barro’s Pizza 3053 W Aqua Fria FRWY

May 18-20 – PVCI Annual Campout & Barbecue: One of our largest Family-Oriented Events. Let’s grab the wives, kids, significant others, friends & camp together in the cooler than desert woods. Let’s eat together & have some friendly competition amongst each other. This is an excellent way for you to introduce those you care about to the PVCI members. Location: Moqui Draw. See Schedule of Events, Map /Directions inside. **Fire Restrictions Permitting. May Be Cancelled!**

May 24 – All Arizona Spring Turkey Seasons end.

May 31 – **Day Long Shooting Hours or Night Hunting ENDS in ALL Hunt Units for Coyotes.** Check your Hunt Regs.

May 31 - Tassel-Eared Squirrel Season ends in Hunt Unit 33.

June 2 – PVCI FISHING CONTEST! Free Fishing Day! Let’s do Woods Canyon, Willow Springs & Bear Canyon Lakes & their tributaries with the Official/Measuring/Potluck Camp Spot Location being off of FS Road 84. (See Map, Directions inside). Potluck/Fish Fry Saturday Evening after the Official Measuring. Please bring a dish.

June 6 - 1st Wednesday. (Elks Lodge) PVCI Monthly Meeting, (Swap Meet) 6822 N. 57th Drive, Glendale, AZ. 7:00P.M.

June 8-9 - Arizona Game & Fish Commission Meetings 7200 E. University Mesa 85207 (480)-981-9400

June 12 - Deadline for the 2018 fall hunts, deer, turkey, bighorn, etc. for Online Applications by 11:59 PM

June 20 - This is the 3rd Wednesday. PVCI Board Meeting possibly at Barro’s Pizza 3053 W Aqua Fria FRWY

June 30 - Tassel-Eared Squirrel Season ends in Hunt Unit 31.

July 20-20 - BOWHUNTER HAPPENING 2018 at Mormon Lake. Pre-Register at www.arizonabowhunters.org

July 4 – **NO PVCI Monthly Meeting!** Independence Day! Happy Birthday America! **This is the 1st Wednesday. NO PVCI Monthly Meeting!**

*****NOTE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN: To stay a PVCI Member you MUST PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES YEARLY OR YOU WILL GET DROPPED!** *P.S. DON’T FORGET that we’ll need your **E-MAIL INFO.** Before Jan. 1st as the PVCI Board has decided to do away with the hard copy Newsletter & go to an On-Line Only issue starting Jan. 1st Send your e-mail to pvcigroup@yahoo.com If you receive an E-Mail copy you will be notified by E-Mail that your membership is due. Please submit the proper payment to keep your Membership current. The fee to renew remains \$25 and should be made payable to PVCI. Send payment to PVCI c/o Membership Chairman, P.O. Box 87153, Phoenix, AZ. 85080-7153. For new members the fee is \$35 and the forms are available at the General Meeting. For questions regarding membership, contact the Membership Chairperson Ruth S. 602-524-3586. **RENEWAL FEES HELP THE CLUB!!!** **PVCI MEMBERSHIP COUNT: 174 WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:** Bob C., Anthony C., Lawrence D., Cindy E., Andrew E., Tony G., Clay G., Sandra & Matt H., James J., Dustin L., Dallas L., Will D., Brandon P., Jennifer R., Robert S., Dennis T., Charles T., Robert W. & Brian Z.....WELCOME!!!

UPCOMING EVENT: PAYSON WILDLIFE FAIR – MAY 12, 2018 by Eddie M.

On Saturday **MAY 12, 2018** the town of Payson will host the **24th Annual “Payson Wildlife Fair!”** This Wildlife Awareness Fair held at Green Valley Park in Payson comes alive with a multitude of wildlife & outdoor fun activities for the whole family. Catch a monster-sized trout, cruise the lake in a canoe, try your hand at archery or touch a live snake, there is something for everyone! People come from all over the state for this one-day event. It’s a good day up in the cool air of Payson. There will be booths from many local & state organizations, pellet gun & archery ranges plus door prizes for the kids such as free fishing rods & lures. Live wildlife will also be on display, the Fair celebrating Arizona’s great outdoors and diverse wildlife. Smokey the Bear has also been known to make an appearance. For the Event, Green Valley Lake (one of the Urban Lakes) will be double-stocked with hundreds of lbs. of trout (including some HUGE incentive fish) & open to all to fish for FREE from the hours of 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m. Equipment and bait plus instruction are provided at the Free Fishing Booth at the Fair. The Event lasts from 9:00A.M. to 3:00P.M. and offers lots to do. **Admission is Free. PPCI will have a booth at this Event promoting the sport of Varmint Calling.** There’s always **Lots of Interest!** Volunteers needed to help run the booth. The Payson Wildlife Fair is a cooperative effort between AZGFD, USDA Forest Service, Mogollon Sporting Assoc. & Payson Parks & Recreation Dept. After the Event I’m headed for the woods to call turkeys. Need help?

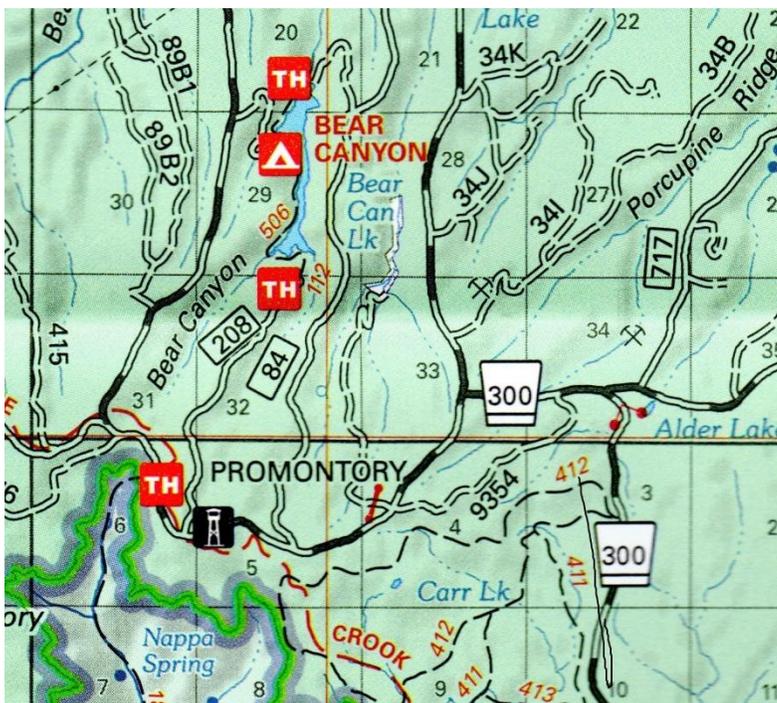
UPCOMING EVENT: PPCI ANNUAL FISHING CONTEST – JUNE 2, 2018 FREE FISHING DAY!!

PURPOSE: To find the **BEST Fisherman in the Club in both the adult & kids category.**

WHERE: Woods Canyon, Willow Springs & Bear Canyon Lakes & their tributaries with the Official Camp Location being off FS Road 84. (See Map below).

DATE: Saturday June 02, 2018, **FREE FISHING DAY.** **TIME:** Daybreak until 5:00 p.m. You can check-in anytime during the day however the **FINAL** check-in will be between 5:00 to 5:30PM at the Official Camp Location on FS84. **ENTRY FEE:** None, in fact a fishing license is not even required as this is Free Fishing Day and no license is required to fish on all public state waters except on the Indian Reservations. **Questions Call Kirk D. 623-866-3036.**

Contest Open to All PPCI Members plus their families & friends (need not be a member) who may be interested. There will be 2 categories: Adult – ages 14 and older and children – ages 13 and under. 1st Place prizes will be awarded for the longest fish and the longest stringer. The longest stringer will be the total of all the fish caught. We will start with a limit of 1 prize per person so if the same person has both the longest fish and the longest stringer, he/she will choose their prize first and the 2nd longest fish gets the 2nd prize. **NOTE: All fish species in these 3 lakes are eligible for the Contest. The trout limit is 6 fish. Only boats w/electric motors on Woods Canyon. Gas-powered 10HP limit okay on Willow Springs.** In addition to the prizes for longest fish & stinger, there will also be a **Free Members & Guests Raffle!** **You need Not fish in the Contest or be a member to be eligible for this Raffle however you DO need to be present.**



As soon as we get the fish officially measured & the Fish & Raffle prizes are all given out, it’s time for our **Potluck/Fish Fry Dinner** at our Official Camp Location on FS 84. **This is a Potluck so please remember to bring a dish. Also, an extra frying pan, fish batter, aluminum foil, etc. to help with getting the fish fried up would be nice.** We have really had some wonderful dinners in the past & many consider this the BEST part of the day, eating & mingling with the other Club members & company. There is a small fee to stay overnight at a campsite on most of these Lakes and once inside the Recreation Area you must stay in a campground. If you sleep in the National Forest outside of the Recreation Area you won’t be charged. That is our plan, to camp for Free outside of the Recreation Area on FS Road 84.

***** DIRECTIONS Camp Site*****

Coming from HWY 260, At the top of the rim turn onto FS 300 “Rim Road.” Travel approx. 10.8 miles to FS 84. Turn right on FS 84 and go 1/2 mile to the Camp Site. It will be on the right-hand side. Look for the Signs.

HUNTING STORY

by Wayne W.



It was about 4:30 in the morning when the alarm clock went off & woke me out of a restless sleep. I had been waiting all week for the upcoming weekend and I was pretty stoked and excited for the varmint hunt. I had loaded my gear into the truck the night before, so I was almost ready to go. I ran through the list again in my mind of all the gear that I would need and wondered (like always) what I was forgetting. All that was left was to pull the guns out of the safe & I'd be on my way!

It was only a couple of short miles to Craig's house and he was already outside organizing his gear as I pulled in the driveway. As I shut off the truck and walked up into the driveway, I was greeted with that big familiar grin, as Craig asked, "You ready to kill some coyotes?" and his smile grew even bigger. I chuckled a little bit and said, "Let's do it!" So, we loaded the gear and off we went, ready to start the adventure!

It was still dark as we pulled down the street and turned onto the main road. We had only covered a half mile or so when a coyote ran out of the dark off of a neighboring side street and ran across the road in front of us, dodging some cement pillars and disappearing into the dark brush alongside the Agua Fria River. Could this be a good omen?? LOL This guy was pretty safe, being in the city limits but it was just the charge we needed to get amped up for a successful day! Boo-Yah! Let's get some dogs!!

As we headed on down the Highway, I plugged in the little 12V oven and pulled out the homemade breakfast burritos that my wife had made special for this trip. Bacon, egg, cheese and potato burritos are a favorite main-stay breakfast for us when we have a long drive. 30 minutes later, the smell of warm tortillas and eggs lofted through the cab, letting us know it was time to eat!

We were only a mile or so from our first stand when we pulled over to gear-up. We donned the rest of our camo, loaded the guns and doubled checked everything. Silent mode and ready, the hunt was on! We had scouted this area two weekends prior, so we already knew where we would set up to catch the slight wind drifting from the southwest.

The "coyote highway" was a well-worn game trail that cut directly through our calling grounds and was well within shooting range from where we set up. A quarter mile down to the left was a dense thicket where we hoped to call them from and off to the right was an area thick with small game and rabbits where they might be hunting for an easy snack during the night. As we picked a spot and backed into the brush, we hoped that the incoming animals would use the path of least resistance, which happened to be our shooting lanes.

This was my stand to call, so as I pulled out the Porath Triple Play and tucked it under my face mask, I looked over and Craig gave me the nod that he was ready. Waah, Waah and here we go! I started small, with short breath and started to build. About two minutes in, as I started to build the momentum, I remembered my 2 daughters, laughing and making fun of me and Craig for making the "O-face" when we called. They said we looked so funny because we contorted all up and made monkey "o-faces" and to them it was hilarious! I started laughing, which totally messed up the seriousness of my call, so I had to take a second and start over again. I was sure Craig was sitting in the bush, wondering what-the-heck I was laughing about.

About six minutes into the call, the first set of ears popped up at the far end of the range, looping clockwise around the base of a tree and coming in steadily at a fast trot. Hot-Dang! Here we go! I shifted the call to the left side of my mouth and as I dropped down into the scope, I saw the second set of ears come around the same tree! Having hunted with Craig before, we both knew the scenario. We've always seemed to be on the same wavelength when we hunt, so I knew he would hold off until I got the first one in as close as possible and he would cover the furthest animal. I steadied the crosshairs on the incoming coyote, trying to center them the best I could as the coyote was bouncing up and down coming in. Craig and I spent a significant amount of time shooting golf balls and swinging targets, so I was confident when I timed it, head up, head down, centered and WHAMMO! The first coyote took a solid hit in the center of the chest and did a full back flip, talking the full shockwave of the bullet and landing dead in his tracks. It could not have been more than a quarter-second later the second coyote took a similar hit and smacked the dirt!

Aaarr! Aaarr! I instantly went into a yelping dog pouring as much pain and excitement into the call as I was able to muster. After a minute or so of that, I reverted back to the normal baby cottontail, only this time with more pain and anguish. Looking over at Craig, I knew something was up; he had shifted position and was scanning the area to his right. It was only another two minutes into the call when out of nowhere, another coyote came flying across the open area in front of us, this time directly in and at full speed! Wham! Wham! This dog took two shots to the chest and somersaulted back as Craig and I both fired simultaneously. Our first stand of the day and we had gotten a triple! Wowsa! As we climbed back into the truck, it was hard to contain the excitement. What would the rest of the day hold for us?

-Cotinued-



As we pulled up to our second area, we had a lot of confidence. Maybe too much confidence. There were a lot of tracks in the area and even though we had hunted this area before, we had left it alone for months, being careful not to saturate our areas too much. Being so excited to hit the second spot, I was overly anxious to find a spot to sit and too fast, spooked a coyote on the way to the stand. DANG IT!! He popped up and took off before I could even get my gun up. DANG IT again!!! We were there nonetheless and determined to call something in. Craig setup on this stand and because of the terrain, we sat low, backed up into the brush, each one picking his lanes. Craig started up with a gentle “waaah’ wahh,” like a baby bunny separated from his Mummy. Craig has talent for “putting his lips on a rabbit” and the tone and pitch is like Momma ringing the dinner bell. As I’m sitting there, concentrating on the tone he is using, we see it, another set of ears coming in, bouncing just above the

bushes. It keeps coming and coming and I’m thinking, “Doesn’t Craig see it?” “Why doesn’t he shoot it?” CRAP! Little did I know Craig was just drawing it in, playing the game, “Nothing like beating them at their own game” he later tells me! BOOM! Craig gives this coyote the smack down from about 10 yards, dead without even a flinch. Holy Crap that was awesome!

Craig instantly jumps back on the call, a few minutes pass and off to my left I see movement and sure enough, it was the coyote that I had spooked not so many minutes earlier! I lined up on it and BOOM! The coyote was GONE! I didn’t see him in the scope, I didn’t see him run off but I didn’t hear the slap of the bullet either. I sure hope I hit him! Craig looks over and gives me the two-finger sign....” Did you get him?” I give him the thumbs up, acknowledging the double and praying and worrying at the same time I hadn’t missed that last one and was going to have to eat crow for confirming I’d gotten him down. Craig ends the call and dang I better get up and hope I got that dog. I still can’t see him and start my zig-zag hoping to see some fur, some blood, some sign of something! I’m out to 50 yards now and still not a sign. I’ve got that sinking feeling in the pit of my stomach but decide to keep looking. At 75 yards, I finally see the lump of hair, laid down on the backside of a bush. Dead in his tracks, it was lights out!

We got four more in the day and a half that followed those two stands. Each one was different and a memory of its own. It seems with each new stand and each new hunt, we are learning something new and something we did wrong or could have done better. We learn to read each other better and know how the other is going to react. Hunting is like any other sport, no different than golf, basketball or running. The more you do it, the better you get at it.

Great hunting partners are hard to come by and I am blessed to have such a great partner and a true friend. It was about 12 years ago when Craig first asked me if I would be interested in varmint hunting. He invited me into his home, showed me his passion, his furs and it stuck with me for 10 years until I joined the Club and started hunting again. This is a passion I hope to pursue until the end of my days!

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by Scott Banner

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TALES OF A COUPLE SPRING GOBBLERS PLUS SOME TIPS!

by Eddie M.

By the time you receive this Newsletter the 2018 Spring Gobbler Season will be in full swing! Many there will that go after the Spring Turkey Gobbler. Many there will also be that come home with no Gobbler. The reasons are many with inexperience or not really knowing what you are doing and/or thinking that you can get one road hunting probably being at the Top of the List. I'll tell you a couple of my successful Spring Gobbler stories. Perhaps these stories will be worth reading & just maybe you will learn something to do or not do on your next wild turkey venture!

This story takes place in New Mexico. One of my favorite times of the day to go after a gobbler if the morning doesn't work out is between the hours of 10:00a.m./12:00 noon. During the earlier seasons, Toms will sometimes follow the hens all day & gobbling action is slower. As the season progresses the hens will start leaving the Tom one by one to go & sit on their nest & often around 10AM or so, the gobbler finds himself all alone. Gobbling can often pick up then as now Toms will be more likely to be out searching for hens to mate with. If you can just get a Tom to hear you during this time, he will quite often want to see you. So how do you get a gobbler to hear you?

What I often do is something called prospecting. Prospecting is walking in the woods sounding like a hen or hens. I will cluck a few times, do some purrs & then yelp loudly so that the sound carries. My favorite place to try prospecting is on a long ridge with big trees that sticks out into wild country & that has no roads below. Instead I want a river, creek or just the canyon bottom to be below. My theory is that in wild turkey country somewhere on that ridge there's a gobbler & the longer the ridge the more chance of multiple gobblers.

Yes, prospecting this is just what I was doing around 11:00a.m. I was walking slowly about 1/3 of the way down from the top of the ridge & sounding like a hen. When doing this hen talk if you ever get an answer back from a hen or hear a gobble, find a tree fast! I'd been at this for some 45 minutes but I had hope. The gobble was sudden, close & shook the woods with its ferocity, surprising me a little! Quickly I gauged how far/close the Tom was & found a tree to set up on. I wanted it to be big enough so that my shoulders didn't stick out. Then I positioned myself so that I was pointed towards where I thought the Tom might appear and ALSO so that I was comfortable. I clucked on my aluminum slate call, receiving an automatic answering Gobble! I clucked twice more then purred 3 times & put my shiny-faced call beside & slightly behind me. Then I lifted the shotgun in the Tom's direction & waited. The next Gobble was closer & louder as were the next two. Then the Tom was in sight! He was all fanned out strutting & putting on a show there in front of me. I followed his movements with the barrel of my shotgun on his head/neck area, keeping my cheek on the stock and everything lined up. Closer & closer the Tom came still strutting! Then the Tom came out of his strut & lifted his head/neck to look for the hen he'd heard. I put the bead about mid-neck & pulled the trigger, BOOM! The #5 turkey load dropped the Tom in his tracks! No matter I ran to the Tom & found & grabbed the bird by its feet then lifted him in the air with his chest towards me. All was still, then the gobbler started flapping its wings. I held on until he quit flapping then laid the Tom down & admired him. The distance was 17 steps! That was Gobbler #12 back in 2006.

Next was the 1st Hunt in New Mexico. 2015 had so far turned out to be a tough year! The main thing that seemed to be missing in most of our regular areas was the turkeys themselves. If turkeys are living in an area, they leave sign like tracks, scratching & poop. There was very little if any sign in many areas near both our 1st stop & our main camping area. The 1st morning, I heard one gobbler however it was in the distance & not up where I was. I still headed in that direction, closing the distance some & did find some recent gobbler poop. I then did one of my tricks that sometimes works for me. I started to yelp loudly mainly in the gobbler's direction & walked back & forth several times on a stretch of land for a time & then I shut up. Did the tactic work? Well I did eventually get a gobbler to sound off way down below. He gobbled several times then I heard a shot, then another & later a couple more. Did someone kill the gobbler?

I stayed longer yet eventually went back to the truck & decided to leave this area & take a long drive. I have a theory that **even if the turkeys aren't talking where you are, somewhere on the mountain they are talking & quite loudly, you just can't hear them.** My mission in driving away was to find an area that had poop. If I could just find some poop I'd know that there were birds in the area. I did find sign & heard gobbling that evening. I tried to pinpoint where he was the best I could & drove out after darkness fell. The next morning Ivan & I returned in the darkness & did call him in. This gobbler lived for another day (Ivan). When you pull the trigger make sure you're lined up & have your cheek fully on the stock. Also aim for mid-neck or where the neck meets the body & not the moving head.

That night Ivan roosted 3 gobblers & pinpointed them as best he could. He also waited until darkness before he left to pick me up in a different area. We returned in the dark of the morning & headed uphill towards the now 2 gobbling birds. We split up each taking a different side of the hill. I let the gobblers know that I was there with some clucks, light yelping & purring then mostly shut up. Both frustrated gobblers eventually made there way downhill & one came into view. The aim for the head/neck area dropped the gobbler behind a log at 31 steps. I ran & held its feet up also. This act sure helps the birds stay pretty at picture-time. This was Gobbler #35, a 2-year-old w/ 7" beard. Ivan killed 2 jakes later in hunt.

UPCOMING EVENT **ARIZONA TRAPPERS CONVENTION – July ?????** by Eddie M.

The Arizona Trapper Association (ATA) are having their Annual Convention. They have provided no information on when or where. This is a Great Annual Event that brings together many trappers/predator callers from all over Arizona & beyond. There are usually trapping & calling demos, fur prep & handling tips. Free to enter Contests such as the trap setting, pie eating, musket throw & ladies frying pan toss & maybe a fun predator calling contest where you can win money for 1st Place. There are also trapping, calling & other supplies for sale (including cage traps), fur pelts, crafts, etc. plus a Silent Auction, assorted kid's competitions, great food and much more. If you would like to set up to sell or advertise your wares just let Event Chairman Brent P. 520-678-0254 know so they can schedule where to put you. Entry into the Convention is usually FREE! This Convention is the "Survival Event of the Year" for the ATA as this is their Main Fundraiser. Consider donating something for their Auction. Hope to see you there! This is one Event that I DO NOT LIKE TO MISS! **Miss Rodeo AZ.** also there! Try their face book page for more information.
<https://www.facebook.com/Arizona-Trappers-Association-Az-ATA-171247389577403/>

PVCI MONTHLY HUNT REPORT

MARCH CLUB HUNT: This was the last Club Hunt for the 2018-2019 Hunt Season. There were 17 hunters that ventured forth for the Hunt. The Total Harvest was 16 coyotes & 5 Foxes. The next **Club** Hunt will be the Novice Hunt in Sept. 2018.

1st Place: Craig B., Wayne W.
Total: 11 coyotes

2nd Place: Tim N. & Sean Y.
Total: 3 coyotes & 1 Fox

3rd Place: Tommy M. Ricardo G & Steve W.
Total: 2 Foxes

HUNT PICS



Mory T.
w/Called & Shot
Bobcat-2018



Terry H.
W/2017
Coues Buck



Ivan C.
w/2018 New Mexico
Turkey



Tommy M.
w/2017 Bear Skull



Ricardo G.
w/Mory's 2018 Bobcat

Larry S.

Finally got something down south, Javelina. These animals sure do follow a pattern once you figure it out - Cowabunga !!!



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