



**Editor's Note**

We had a GREAT Christmas Party on December 6<sup>th</sup>! Good food & a good time spent with good people in a good place there at the Mail Carriers Hall....and as usual you PNCI Members show that we care with another AWESOME Donation to the "Dave Kardos" Food Drive put on by Ginger & Gary A.M. plus a Good Portion of the prizes that were present came from YOU the members. THANKS!

January 21st is the date of the upcoming Multi-Club Hunt. This Hunt pits our Club against the other Varmint Calling Clubs in the state to determine who is the BEST! (Bragging Rights) We can Win this year with more participation from YOU. Also, the Club Elections will be in April w/nominations for Officer & Board Member positions. Seriously consider running for a spot as there are many benefits.

**THINGS TO KNOW:**

\*\*\* **THE FURS FROM THE FUR PROGRAM ARE BACK FROM THE TANNERY!!!** The plan is to bring them ALL to the January Monthly Meeting. There they will be laid out for everyone to see. Prices will then be established. Those that donated furs and helped on Fur Prep Day may receive special pricing.

\*\*\* **PNCI holds its Club Elections** in April of each year. Club Nominations should be part of each Monthly Meeting until then. If you would like to run for an Officer and/or Board position or would like to nominate someone then please don't be shy, instead speak up & (say something) when this part of the Meeting is opened. ALL Officer & some Board positions are open. More inside.

\*\*\***PNCI has an BRAND NEW EXCITING GUN RAFFLE!** There are 5 firearms in this Raffle & tickets start at only \$1.00 each. There's much more info. & pictures just turn the page. Need NOT be present to win, Draw date sometime in May.

\*\*\***Jan. 21st IS THE DATE OF THE 2017 MULTI-CLUB HUNT!!!** This Hunt pits our Club against the other Predator Calling Clubs in the state to establish (Bragging Rights). Who is the BEST Predator Calling Club in the state? Map, More inside

\*\*\* **Feb 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 p.m. is the Application Deadline** for the 2017 Arizona Antelope & Elk Fall Hunts!

\*\***MONTHLY MEETING NOTICE:** You are "Strongly Discouraged" from bringing ANY Food/Drink to the Monthly & Board Meetings. Use the Snack Bar w/Food & Drink inside instead. The spending we do here reduces our Monthly Bill.

\***To contribute stories, pictures, etc. to this Newsletter send items to: coyotecaller@cox.net**

**Officers**

**President**  
**Terry H.**

**Vice President**  
**Gary A.M.**

**Treasurer**  
**Ray E.**

**Corresponding Secretary**  
**Larry S.**

**Recording Secretary**  
**Dan S.**

**Board Members**  
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**Steve L.**  
**Craig B.**  
**Ron H.**  
**April B.**  
**Chris B.**

**Predator Tales**  
**Eddie M**  
**Scott B.**

**Membership Chairman**  
**James S.**  
**Hunt Chairman**  
**Ray E.**

**Webmaster**  
**Tommy M.**



**PCVI 2016 Christmas Party**



**Winter Time Hunter Success!!!!**



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## PVCI HAS A BRAND NEW 5-GUN RAFFLE!!!!

Starting in January 2017 Your Phoenix Varmint Callers will be having another Fundraising Raffle! This Raffle will feature 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 some of these Raffle Tickets! They probably won't be too hard to sell with these prizes at these prices. The Drawing Date for this Raffle will be sometime in May. You Need Not Be Present To Win. Buying more than one Raffle Ticket will not only increase your odds of winning it will also increase your potential to win more than one prize! Multiple prizes have most certainly been won in the past. These Raffle Tickets should be available at the January Monthly Meeting.

The **First** prize is the Armalite Model DEF10 (AR10) 7.62X51 MM/.308 Matte Finish



Sugg. Retail Price: \$1049.00

The **Second** gun is a Marlin 1895 Guide Gun 45/70 is, Lever Action, Blue Finish, Walnut Stock



Sugg. Retail Price: \$750.32

The **Third** is a Ruger American Predator Rifle Cal 6.5 CreedMor w/Marksman Adjustable Triger

The **Fourth** is Ruger Action Predator Rifles caliber .22-250



Sugg. Retail Price: \$529.00 each

The **Fifth** is the Walther Arms Heckler & Koch Model H&K MP5 Caliber .22Long Rifle Black with Retractable Stock



Sugg. Retail Price: \$499.00

## ANNOUNCEMNTS:



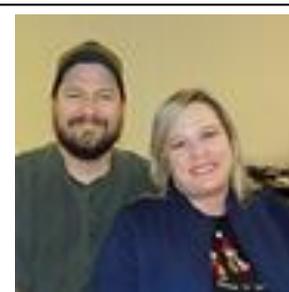
Happy Birthday Day  
Scott B. 68 on Jan 1



Happy Birthday Day  
Craig B. 68 on Jan 12



Congrats to Mike & Rebecca F.  
married 35 years on Jan. 28th



Congrats to Gary A. &  
Ginger Mc married 19  
years on Feb. 28th

## BOBCAT BEGUILLED!

by Nathan S.

This past Friday morning I was headed to Payson, Arizona for work. I decided throw in my gear and leave a little early so I could make a couple of stands. I had scouted a couple of areas on a previous trip to Payson and had a good-looking area picked out. I had seen coyote sign on some of the dirt roads and in the wash bottoms.

Well, I got to my parking spot about 10 minutes before shooting light. I threw on my pack, grabbed my chair and my .22 magnum and headed off. I crossed a dry wash bottom and set up against some thick brush looking to the West and downwind. I called for about 15 minutes and then decided to cut my losses and move on my next stand since I didn't have a lot of time. I got back to the car and quickly threw everything in and drove just to the other side of the Highway. I had seen on Google Maps online that there was a nice canyon there with thick brush surrounding a good sized open area in the wash bottom.

As I was walking to the stand I noticed what looked to be fresh Coyote tracks. Now I was getting excited! I found a tree to set up under that would keep me out of the sunlight that was about to crest the horizon. This location gave me a 180-degree line of sight and I was able to see the biggest opening in the wash bottom and down a trail about 50 yards. The wind was lightly blowing straight in the direction I was watching. Perfect.

I sit in the silence a couple of minutes and waited for the birds to resume chirping happily and then I begin to call. I chose to begin with a bite-down call as they offer a lot of variability and can easily make a multitude of sounds. At first I began with the quietest and highest pitched sound I could get it to make. I did this for a couple of sets which totaled about 5 minutes. Then I decided to turn up the volume and the intensity to really get the sound to fill the canyon. After about another 5 minutes of calling this way and not seeing anything, I was about to switch over to my open reed call, hoping that it might reach even a little further into the canyon.

As I finished the final sequence that I planned to do with the bite-down call, I peeked over to my far left. Though a thin bush that was right next to me, I saw the first bobcat that I had ever called in. It was the most glorious sight! She was sitting about 40yds out in the grassy open area of the wash and the first rays of sunlight were making her furry outline glow a bright golden yellow. Instantly my pulse quickened! I was no longer in control of my breathing as the adrenalin took over! But then I noticed that she was just sitting there, looking towards me curiously without a care in the world. I regained my composure and began scheming. I knew I had to lean forward in my chair to shoot around the bush that was in next to me.

I waited with baited breath until a flitting bird caught her attention and then I began to move. Too quickly though! Instantly her gaze was locked on me again and I froze! We stared at each other for what seemed like an eternity (but was probably about 5 seconds). Then another bird flitted by her and her gaze left me again...and I moved. Slowly this time, I crept forward in my seat, readjusted my legs and got my crosshairs on her. I was still not very steady as I was aiming off-hand. She still seemed content just looking at me and watching the birds occasionally so I decided to bring my knee up to rest my elbow on. I get perfectly aimed on the center of her chest and slowly squeeze the trigger. BOOM! The sunlight shines on the powder blast for a moment as I hear the autumn leaves rustling on the ground in a frenzy. At the blast, she went running straight away from me back towards the heavy cover she had come from. I watch and listen to try and get a bead on where she heads off too and within about 4 seconds, silence. Again, the adrenalin sets in as I came to realize how fortunate I just was!

I get up and put my pack on, rack the bolt again just in case and carefully work my way to where I last saw her. Halfway over to the area she was in, I notice that there are very fresh bobcat tracks in the wet sand. She must have walked in to the area just after I did that morning. So, I'm walking in and I see very heavy brush in the direction she went and no blood. Uh Oh. I start towards it carefully, hoping I don't spring a wounded cat! Suddenly, I see her lying in the bottom of the wash in the open. She hadn't gone 50 feet from where I shot her! Upon examination, I see that I hit her perfectly centered in the top of her chest. I forgot to compensate for the fact that that she was only 40 yards out and my rifle was zeroed at 100 yards. I'm glad it got the job done quickly! I am looking forward to getting her hide tanned because she is the first bobcat I've hand-called in and shot on my own and only the third predator I have put down. What a blast!

**Some Bobcat Calling Tips:** Be sure to call after a good rain or snowstorm. The predators will be hungry. Bob B. Try calling the thick brush around & leading to waterholes esp. if lots of songbirds. This is good rabbit cover too. Lee E. Try calling washes esp. if the edge cover is thick. Lots of quail in the area helps. Gary A.M. A stool to sit on really makes it easier to sit still when making 30-45 minute stands. Make sure to look through & not just at the brush. Study Calling area before calling.

**P.S.S \*Many more Bobcat Stories to follow, hope they lead to your own Successful Hunt!**



## PVCI CHRISTMAS PARTY REPORT

Thanks to YOU, the PVCI Member, family & friends we had another GREAT Christmas Party at 3720 W. Greenway Road on December 6th. This was the first Christmas Party at our new location and things went well eating Good Food with Good People in a Good Place, the Letters Carriers Hall. Smiles were everywhere, it was like an infection. Some of the faces seen at the Christmas Party, you only see that one day out of the whole year and yes, that will make you smile.

Did you notice the number of donations that were present? Yes, Event Organizer, Ruth & James S. did a Good Job procuring Donations from the various Outdoor & Sporting Goods Companies however a LOT of the donations were from YOU the members. Without your generosity & support, things may have turned out a lot different and certainly we wouldn't have raised the amount of money that we did. THANK YOU



## KNOW YOUR PREDATOR: THE BOBCAT (LYNX RUFUS)



PVCI has had phenomenal success on bobcats this hunting season. In this issue of Predator Tales we wanted to share some of the bobcat success stories from our members as well as inform you more about this remarkable animal. For you new guys, be persistent and keep calling. A bobcat could be in the works for you also as you will see. Perhaps we will call this the first annual bobcat issue.

The bobcat is a member of the feline family and on average weighs between 15-25 pounds although some large males have been known to tip the scale towards 50 pounds! They have a short round face, a very short 6-7 inch tail, triangular shaped ears with tufts of fur at the ends, and cheek ruffs. The fur color can range from light gray through yellowish brown to reddish brown, and markings may vary from tabby stripes to heavy spotting. The fur is soft. Average height is about 22 inches at the shoulder.

Bobcats are found in almost every type of habitat in AZ. even the fringes of metropolitan areas yet prefers the rocky, brushy hillsides when available. Though it may look like a soft pussycat, the bobcat is quite fierce and has been recorded taking down mature deer and bighorn sheep as well as domestic sheep and goats. Their preferred diet however, consists mostly of rodents, birds, lizards, snakes, and insects, with cottontail rabbits their favorite prey. When cottontails are scarce then hares both jackrabbit and snowshoe are made use of.

The bobcat roams freely at night and is often abroad during the day except in the peak of the summer. Bobcats do not dig their own dens, if a cave or crevice is not available they will choose a hollow log or tree or den in a dense thicket of brush. Territories can range from ½ of a square mile to 25 square miles depending on habitat and the sex of the cat. Females occupy much smaller areas than males and normally do not associate with other females. Males range wider than females and their home range will overlap those of both sexes.

Mating is similar to that of house cats. Bobcats can bear young at any month of the year, but generally the breeding season is mid January to March. After a gestation period of 63 days, 1-7 kittens (usually 3) will be born. They are blind and weigh 4-8 oz. The kittens open their eyes after 10 days and are weaned at 2 months. At 3-5 months the mother takes them out of the den to teach them to hunt up until they leave their mother at 8 months old. The littermates may travel together for some time after leaving mom. The male bobcat has no role in raising the kittens. In fact in high-density bobcat populations the males kill a high percentage of kittens. Males are usually fertile by their first year but females don't usually have their 1<sup>st</sup> litter until they are 2 years old. One litter per year is the norm. Lifespan in the wild is 12-14 years however in captivity they have lived to 25 years. Besides man the mt.lion is one enemy they must be careful of.

**CALLING TIPS:** While cats live in a variety of life zones, there are 2 features that attract and hold bobcats in all regions. Rocks of any kind from gravel to boulders and thick brush or ground cover such as shrubs, cedars, briars, etc. Rocks & brush offer several key elements that suit a cats needs. For one they hold rabbits & rodents as well as provide the type of cover that suits their hunting style of stalking close then pouncing on their prey. The cover also gives them plenty of places to hide & helps to keep the coyote populations, which, do compete with them, down.

Bobcats are really not all that hard to call, the main trick being to find where they are. One of the average coyote hunter's biggest mistakes when after bobcats is probably calling at random. Most bobcats have very specific routes of travel and the cats frequent these spots very often. An experienced cat caller will learn where these routes are and not waste a lot of time calling other areas. Scouting for bobcats is best done when you are not hunting and will require wearing out some boot leather. Bobcats usually only inhabit limited areas. Bobcats travel according to the lay of the land. In general, rugged, rocky country is synonymous with bobcats. Yet there are certain places in this type of country where bobcats are more prone to leave sign than others. Where depends upon the type country you are in and experience will be your best teacher. Places could be a saddle in a ridge, out on a rocky point, under a prominent tree, or any of a variety of different spots. A lot of footwork will usually be required.

The main bobcat sign to look for will be scratches and droppings. Tracks are usually only found on water holes or in wet areas. A scratch consists of a scooped out place on the ground or in vegetable matter where the cat pawed the earth or other debris aside. Sometimes droppings are also left nearby.

Another calling problem is locating the approaching bobcat. Generally a cat takes longer to respond to the call and it usually comes sneaking in very slowly. Often the hunter is leaving when the cat is showing up. A caller should stay longer for bobcats, at least 30 minutes. Longer is better.

Wind direction: Cats simply don't have the nose that a coyote does as they primarily hunt by

sight. Wind direction is usually not a factor. Occasionally a bobcat comes running in. I have heard the average is 1 in 50, I don't know your results may vary. Also bobcats don't have the smarts that the coyote does. Often a second or even third shot is possible, if you should miss before they catch on.

Well, I hope this has shed some insight into calling for one of our most prized predators. Save that pelt, use a shotgun (smile).



Bobcat scat is easy to identify it looks like a tootsie roll. (Note the segments)



## **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 \$500 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. 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 January will be a Savage 6.5 Creedmoor in camo with scope.**

**The Gun for February will be a .17 WSM Savage Somebody is going to WIN!!! Good Luck to you!!!**

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

**Dec. 1 – Daylong Shooting Hours for coyotes opens. ARIZONA HUNT UNITS WHERE COYOTES MAY BE HUNTED DAYLONG or at NIGHT:** Hunt Units 4A, 4B (north of Interstate 40), 5A, 5B, 8, 10, 12A, 12B, 13A, 13B, 15A, 15B, 15C, 15D, 16A, 17A, 17B, 18A, 18B, 19A, 19B, 20A, 31, 32, 42 & 44A. The aid of artificial lights is permitted however the light may **NOT** be attached to or operated from a vehicle. Also, individuals may not use or even possess any electronic night vision equipment, thermal imaging devices or laser sights or electronically enhanced light-gathering devices. Check Regs.

Dec. 31 – All Bear, Crow & Bighorn Sheep Seasons & some Squirrel Seasons end. Check your Hunt Regs.

Jan. 1 – Happy New Year! Year 2017! Archery Deer & Javelina Seasons open many Hunt Units. Check your Hunt Regs.

**Jan. 3 - This is the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday. (PVCI Monthly Meeting, NEW LOCATION: 3720 W. Greenway Rd., Phx.) 7:00p.m.**

Jan. 8 - Late Dove Season closes statewide. Check your Hunt Regs.

**Jan. 7 - 8 – PVCI CLUB HUNT! Members compete against each other in friendly competition.**

Jan. 15 – Mountain Zone Duck, Scaup & Goose Season closes.

**Jan. 19 - This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday. PVCI Board of Directors Meeting: 3720 W. Greenway Rd., Phx. 7:00p.m.**

**Jan. 21 - MULTI-CLUB HUNT, pits our Calling Club against the other Calling Clubs in the state. The CHECK-IN LOCATION will be at the gate, Southeast side of US 71 where the Double Steel Power Lines cross the highway, North of US 60 about 12.5 mile, South of US 93 a little more than 5 miles.**

**\*\*Look for signs from Xtreme Predator Callers for the exact CHECK-IN LOCATION. \*\* If you hunt no other hunt this year, HUNT THIS ONE DAY for the Club!!**

Jan. 29 – Desert Zone Duck, Scaup & Goose Season closes.

Feb. 4-5 - Juniors Only Waterfowl Season-Desert Zone Units Only. Persons are eligible to participate up to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Limit 7 ducks, 3 scaup, 10 white geese, 4 dark geese. Check your Hunt Regs.

Feb. 7 - **This is the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday. (PVCI Monthly Meeting, NEW LOCATION: 3720 W. Greenway Rd., Phx.) 7:00p.m.**

**Feb. 11 APC's Save A Fawn Club Hunt: Heber Turn at Mile Marker 301 and follow the signs to the camp.**

**Feb. 11-12 – PVCI CLUB HUNT!!! Members compete against each other. This is usually the H.A.M. Hunt where you receive extra credit for harvesting critters with handgun, archery or muzzleloader equipment. Rifles & shotguns receive normal credit.**

**Feb. 14 –at 11:59 p.m. Deadline for Arizona Antelope & Elk 2017 Fall Hunts!!!**

Feb. 24 – Rifle Javelina opens in many Hunt Units. Check your Hunt Regs.

Mar. 25-26 – Arizona Game & Fish Dept. Outdoor Expo. Hours: Saturday 9:00p.m.

**\*\*\*NOTE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN: To stay a PVCI Member you MUST PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES YEARLY OR YOU WILL GET DROPPED!** The shipping label on this Newsletter provides your personal membership expiration month & year on the same line as your name in the form of MMM-YY (i.e., FEB-12 for February 2015 expiration). If Membership is NOT current it will be noted in RED letters on the shipping label. 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 Chairman James S. 602-820-5142. YOUR RENEWAL FEES HELP THE CLUB!!!**

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### **MULTI-CLUB HUNT – (JAN. 21st, 2017)**

**\*\*\*Jan. 21 – MULTI-CLUB HUNT** – This Hunt pits our Club against the other Predator Calling Clubs in the state for bragging rights. Who is the “BEST” Varmint Calling Club in the state? The **Xtreme Predator Callers (XPC)** won the rights the last few years & the Arizona Predator Callers (APC) are Always Good Competition. Both these teams have the ability to amass a LOT of their members to get out & hunt. I’ll bet XPC has almost TOTAL participation! The Tucson Club is also invited & used to dominate. They are hardly even a factor anymore due to very low member turnout. PPCI members, we could really use some more participation! Even with the numbers of us that do show, we come oh SO CLOSE sometimes! IF MORE MEMBERS WOULD JUST GET OUT and HUNT IN MORE NUMBERS, WE REALLY COULD WIN THIS HUNT EVERY SINGLE TIME!!! PPCI members if you hunt no other hunts this year, PLEASE HUNT THIS ONE!!! It is only a 1-Day Hunt. PPCI members are allowed to use electronics on this one day. **Proof of kill will be the whole critter or the skin and the matching carcass.** Points awarded will be lion-100, bobcat-50, coyote-20, fox-10. This is a one-day Hunt. Only critters harvested on Jan 21, 2017 are eligible. **The Deadline is 9:00p.m.** Saturday evening according to the Hunt Chairman’s watch. Anything turned in after 9:00p.m. will be disqualified. There will be food & possibly drink served until it runs out. PPCI members again WE REALLY NEED YOUR HELP! We can win the Trophy (XPC currently has it) back! THANKS in advance! We will give you more information (like where the Check-in location will be w/map) as we get it.

**\*\*\*The CHECK-IN LOCATION will be at the gate, Southeast side of US 71 where the Double Steel Power Lines cross the highway, North of US 60 about 12.5 mile, South of US 93 a little more than 5 miles.**

**\*\*\*\*Look for signs from Xtreme Predator Callers for the exact CHECK-IN LOCATION.\*\*\*\***

### **INTERNATIONAL SPOTSMEMN’S EXPO (ISE)**

**March 23-26, 2017**

#### **Location**

WestWorld of Scottsdale  
1660 N Pima Rd.  
Scottsdale, AZ 85260

**Adult Admission - \$14.00 Youth under 16 - Free!**

Parking is \$5.00 per car

Times 10am - 7pm

No Pets / No Weapons or Ammo

Our 2nd year at WestWorld of Scottsdale (17th in Arizona). If you came last year you saw how the show had grown. Really, really grown! More fun features for the entire family. New hands-on activities. More boats and RVs of all sizes and styles. And more exhibits, too--gear, guides, destinations and services for the hunter, angler, camper, boater, offroader, RVer--pretty much any outdoor enthusiast. For 2017, it's all back--join us!

### **ARIZONA GAME & FISH OUTDOOR EXPO – MARCH 26-27, 2017**

**This years Arizona Game & Fish Department Outdoors Expo will be held on March 25-26, 2017 at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility** just west of I-17 on the Carefree Highway in Phoenix. This Event will transform the Shooting Facility into the largest hands-on Outdoor Expo in Arizona with outdoor fun and adventure for the entire family! Admission & parking to the Event will be totally FREE! You will have a unique opportunity to test pistols, rifles & shotguns & archery equipment on the range plus talk to the manufacturer’s reps. Shooters can also learn more about competitive shooting & enjoy some of the specialty ranges not normally open to the public. There will be demonstrations on speed shooting and skeet shooting plus they will have many workshops & exhibition booths displaying the shooting, hunting & fishing sports. You can also test drive the latest ATV’s and don’t forget the catch & release fish tank. **PPCI will have a booth at this event. Volunteers are needed. We will be raffling off Raffle Tickets for our New 5-GUN PPCI RAFFLE.** This Event attracts over 10,000 people each year with over 100 exhibitors. The hours of operation will be Saturday from 9:00A.M to 5:00P.M. and Sunday from 9:00A.M. to 4:00P.M. For more information about this weekend, visit [www.azgfd.gov/expo](http://www.azgfd.gov/expo)

## **ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT PURCHASING ANY TYPE OF VEHICLE?**

### **Please Call Before you Contact the Car Dealer!!!!!!**

**(SPECIAL INCENTIVES FOR YOU & PPCI) by Scott Banner**

All dealers pay out what is called a referral fee. This is true for **anything** requiring a State License including **New or Used** Boats, Trailers, Cars, Trucks, Motorcycles, ATV's, etc.

**Let the Club refer you to the dealer of your choice.**

Just give Scott B. a **call at 623-214-5091** and let him know where you want to shop and the type of vehicle you're interested in. He will make contact with the dealers and try to obtain employee pricing for you. He'll then call you with the point of contact at the dealership. You then go into the dealer and ask for the contact telling him you are a Phoenix Varmint Caller & pick out the vehicle you are interested in. They will give you the best price.

**PPCI** will receive the Referral Fee. Think \$500.00 Extra could mean Steaks at our next years Barbecue!!

**Thinking of Solar? You only have until July to sign up and be grandfathered in to the Energy Payback.**

**I have several Companies willing to give PPCI the referral fees!!!**

### **\*\*NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED NOW FOR PPCI OFFICERS & BOARD of DIRECTORS\*\* (ELECTIONS IN APRIL) by Eddie M.**

Yes, it is that time of year again, the time when nominations for the PPCI Officers & Board of Directors comes to be. Every PPCI position is annually up for re-election in April except for some of the Board Members. The PPCI Officers & Board Members are the decision-making core of PPCI & besides the duties that each position represents they are also required to attend one extra Meeting on the third Thursday of each month. There is a certain amount of prestige associated with being a Phoenix Varmint Caller Officer or Board Member & you will go down in history as having been elected. The PPCI Presidents especially not only have a place in history but there can also be some FAME that goes along with the position. This is after all a fine Club that is known. If you would like to nominate someone, anyone to be elected into this "Special Group" please do feel free to do so when the nominations are opened at the next few Club Meetings. You are of course more than welcome to also nominate yourself. Here is a brief breakdown of the positions:

**President:** The Head Honcho, the Main Man. Responsible for running both the regular club meeting & the Board of Directors Meeting & shall direct the activities of this Club.

**Vice-President:** Assist the President in running meetings & business, also in charge of meetings if President absent.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Responsible for all club correspondence with the outside, the press, the other clubs, etc. He shall keep a complete file of this correspondence. Also, presents documents prior to mailing for Officer & Board approval & submit proof of all mailings. This person needs to have some PPCI letterhead in his possession. This person assumes the President's position in case of emergency or the absence of both the President and Vice-President.

**Recording Secretary:** Accurately records all club minutes at both the regular and board meetings. These minutes contain among other things, the type of meeting, date and place and time of the meeting, a list of the officers and directors present plus any motions or amendments. Keeps this record in a safe place and is able to furnish past minutes if needed.

**Treasurer:** Receives all dues and other funds coming into this club then deposits them to this club's account immediately upon receipt. Keeps accurate records of all receipts and disbursements and is able to render an annual financial statement. Also, prepares a monthly report that is entered into the club's minutes during the meetings. The Treasurer keeps the Club's checkbook and he/she pays all the bills incurred by the Club including rent, trophies, locker, mailbox, etc. and responsible for the club's non-profit status and records. The President, Vice-President and Treasurer shall be authorized to sign checks, two (2) signatures being required.

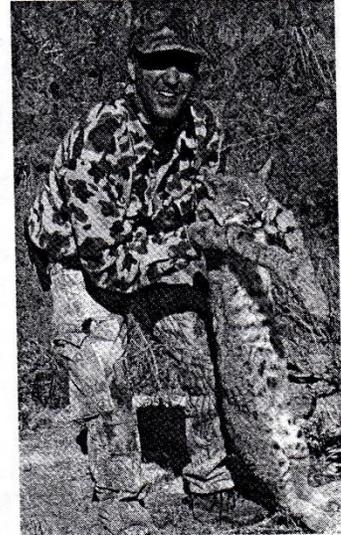
**Board of Director Member(s):** Must be able to attend two (2) meetings per month, the regular and the board. Votes on issues discussed at board meetings. Also, helps in planning and organizing club events, helps decide on the direction of the club and usually chairs at least one committee for the major club events. The Board of Directors is a 3-year term. All of the 5 officer positions are 1-year terms. **I tried to be as short & through as I could. Hopefully I didn't get anything too wrong. To view a complete list of Officer & Board of Director duties, look at your Club Handbook located on PPCI Website <http://www.ppci.org>**

## LAST CHANCE BOBCAT by Tom Tyrrell

The story of the bobcat that I took in November could be your typical bobcat harvesting story...on the stand 20 minutes...when out of nowhere the cat appeared.... I slowly raised my rifle.... and took my first bobcat! But the real victory takes place somewhere between my grandfathers Outdoor Life magazines and my impending move to Ohio.

As a small boy, growing up in Michigan, I would wear the pages thin on my grandfathers Outdoor Life magazines. I was fascinated by stories of hunting out west and dreamed that someday I would be able to hunt in places like Colorado and Arizona. As a young man I was able to move to Colorado. The hunting was everything I had dreamed it to be. I was blessed with the harvesting of elk and mule deer with both gun and bow, and learned to hunt predators somewhere along the way.

My first run in with a bobcat occurred one late fall day while a friend and I were hunting for grouse. About two inches of fresh snow had fallen the night before. The terrain was mostly brush, except for this one strange outcropping of boulders that seemed out of place compared to the rest of the surroundings. My dog was busy working the brush and angling toward those boulders. All of a sudden there was this commotion from my dog, I couldn't see him because of the brush but I could tell he was after something. So I readied myself for a rabbit or grouse to emerge. My dog was growling at something near the boulders, when there was a yipe. Not knowing what he was into I called him back. He reluctantly returned with bloody split on the end of his nose. During my hunting in Colorado I had only seen mountain lion tracks but never any bobcat tracks, so my first thought was that he had a brief run in with a mountain lion. Now I'm not claiming to be real bright, so armed with my shotgun and birdshot I worked my way through the brush to the boulder pile to shoot me a lion. Upon reaching the boulders, the fresh snow revealed the tracks of a cat that were too small to be that of a mountain lion, which meant my dog, had been on the spitting end of a scuffle with a bobcat.



Years later I was thrilled to have an opportunity to move to Arizona "The predator capital of the US"! Hunting in the desert was certainly different than anywhere I had hunted before. Brian Z., my good friend and hunting buddy, introduced me to P.V.C.I. What a cool club! Just listening to the hunting stories and seeing the successes of the club members with various predators was, and still is, very exciting, motivating and informative. I also learned from other successful P.V.C.I. members describing the techniques they used to obtain their bobcat(s), coyotes, and/or foxes. P.V.C.I. also had a bobcat specialist come to one of the monthly meetings. My knowledge of bobcats was growing but I still didn't have a cat to show for it.

In September I purchased a small farm near my family in Ohio and we would be moving in December. So with the move in mind, and coming up fast, I could see my opportunities dwindling...especially since Ohio has few bobcats! A sudden sense of urgency!

I searched the AZ Game and Fish website with hopes to find where the highest concentration of bobcats are located in the state, only to learn that bobcats live just about everywhere in the state. After hunting for nine years in Arizona I always thought that during one of my calling sets a bobcat was bound to come in and this somehow would avenge my dog for that nose splitting bobcat in Colorado! But my time was running out! Less than 6 weeks before the big move!

So now instead of just hunting in the desert and hoping a cat would come in I would have to focus my hunting efforts on just bobcats. I spent the next weekend hunting and sleeping under the stars in what I thought was bobcat country. The weekend turned out to be a bust, no bobcat or even any sign. I was now frustrated and discouraged. Not only did I have a bad weekend but also nine years without bagging a cat was coming to a head, and another precious weekend was lost!

During the next week I talked with Eddie M. to see if he could point me to a good bobcat area. Even though I have been with the club for several years, it has only been within the past several months that I have come to know and have the privilege of hunting with Eddie. I have respected and admired Eddie for his hunting ethics and abilities from my very first club meeting. During my conversation with Eddie he mentioned several areas I might try but the key information that really clicked was... here it is for anyone reading this who wants to obtain their first cat... "Rocks and Brush, Rocks and Brush, *the thicker the better*"! This was the key factor. It's not like I haven't hunted rocks and brush before but "*the thicker the better*" hit home. So for the rest of that week I tried to think of all the places I knew that had rocks and really nasty brush. I settled on an area that I knew had this type of terrain but I didn't have any actual experience hunting the area.

Fortunately I have a computer based topographical map program, so I studied the area, printed maps, set a starting point, calculated the mileage and put my hunt plan on paper. My plan was to reach the starting point in the dark on Saturday morning with enough food and water in my daypack to last all day. From the starting point I planned to hike to a likely looking spot and call softly into the area for twenty to thirty minutes. If a cat didn't show I would hike along my mapped route for approximately three hundred yards and call again. At noon I would turn around and head back towards my truck on a slightly different course so as not to call the same area.

It was just about 11:30am when I sat down to make the last stand before heading back. Up to this point the only thing that had come to my calls was a hawk. About fifteen minutes into the stand discouragement and the worry of my time running out was setting in again. I thought to myself, "I hope I don't get skunked again and loose yet another weekend"! I was just about ready to call off the stand, cutting it a bit short out of the discouragement, when, from in the thicket I heard a single quail sound off with a warning call, so I decided to give it five more minutes. After the five minutes passed I started moving my head to check my flanks and behind me. When suddenly, behind a bush only twenty yards in front of me, the stripped face of a bobcat materialized. My gun was quartering across my lap so very slowly I started bringing it around. I can remember thinking, "Should I try to shoot through that bush"? I guess somewhere during this short conversation with myself I made the decision to shoot and take the chance on a deflected bullet, because I also remember saying to myself "I sure hope this bullet makes it through that bush"! Fortunately something caught the cat's attention and he looked to his left. This gave me time to shoulder my gun and get it pointed at him, but when I looked through the scope ...

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I couldn't find him. I raised my head up off the gun to relocate him with my eyes, only to find he wasn't there! I remember thinking or saying to myself "No, no, this can't be, where is he, where is he!" I caught a slight movement about 8 feet to the left of where I first saw him. There was an opening in the brush at about 10 feet so I trained my gun on that opening and waited for him but he wasn't showing. Again, I was afraid that I might have missed my one and only opportunity to bag a cat! I was wearing my homemade ghillie suit and was using a bite-down call so I could squeak the call while keeping both hands on the rifle. As I squeaked I glanced back to where he was first peering at me from behind that bush and there he was, only this time he was staring at me from alongside the bush. This presented a much better shot. I squeezed the trigger and I finally had my cat! Woohoo!!!

I shot the cat with my AR, chambered in .223 cal. with 45 grain jacketed, hollow points. The bullet had entered the cat's chest but did not exit making for a nice mount. The bobcat turned out to be a tom, which the taxidermist commented that the was not the largest he has ever seen but that he was definitely above average.

Well my dog has long since gone to the Happy Hunting Grounds in the sky but I know he was smiling on that day, I know I sure was!

I want to thank all the great people I have had the privilege of meeting through PPCI. I will truly miss you!

### LEARN OUTDOOR SKILLS: HUNT, TRAP, FISH, SHOOT, WILDLIFE RECREATION

The Arizona Game & Fish Dept. is dedicated to introducing children to hunting by offering a wide variety of juniors only hunting & shooting programs. These programs are designed to get children in the field with a parent or guardian who can focus on the kid(s) and provide the guidance needed to teach the next generation of hunters how to be safe, ethical & responsible stewards. To provide plenty of opportunity, Game & Fish has collaborated w/various Sportsman's clubs, groups & organizations to provide mentoring for beginners to help assure positive experience hunting in the great outdoors. Listed below are some of these events. Look on pages 24-28 of the 2016/2017 AZ. Hunt Regs. You'll note that there are also some events for the ladies. Visit [www.azgfd.gov/outdoorskills](http://www.azgfd.gov/outdoorskills) for more information. Consider helping at these Events as a Mentor. You'll usually be fed & your help is greatly appreciated. I go as a PPCI member & often wear my PPCI T-Shirt. It doesn't have to be varmint calling related for me to volunteer to help get someone hooked hunting. Jan. 13-15 – Archery Javelina, Deer, Small Game Camp: Young archers & their parents will be mentored on bowhunting for Javelina and/or deer, also quail & rabbit hunting, fishing, group campsite, more. Location: Lake Pleasant Reg. Park, Unit 20B/26M. Host Mule Deer Foundation, Shoot for life Archery Club. Register: Josiah, [Josiah@rossoutdoors.com](mailto:Josiah@rossoutdoors.com) or Terry, [therdon@muledeer.org](mailto:therdon@muledeer.org)

**Jan. 17 – Javelina Hunt Seminar:** Free seminar on hunting Javelina including, tips, tactics, scouting, calling, field care, more. Raffles, door prizes, doors open at 6:00p.m. Seminar begins 7:00pm. Location: Calvary Community Church 12612 N. Black Canyon Hwy, Phx. Host: Desert Christian Archers Info: [www.desertchristianarchers.org](http://www.desertchristianarchers.org)

**Jan. 20-22 – Becoming an Outdoors Woman:** Workshop for adult women (18 & older) that teaches basic outdoor skills in fun environment. Includes sessions on fishing, hunting, kayaking, hiking, others. Classes in day, evening's entertainment, fun. Fee Required, includes meals & lodging. Location: Saguaro Lake Ranch, Mesa. Host: AZ. Wildlife Federation. Info: [www.azwildlife.org](http://www.azwildlife.org) Click on Education/BOW. Register: [awf@azwildlife.org](mailto:awf@azwildlife.org) or call 480-644-0077.

**Jan. 26-29 – Beginners Small Game & Youth Javelina Camp:** Location: Florence Area Unit 37B. Register Kara Jensen at [Kara.Jensen.AZ@gmail.com](mailto:Kara.Jensen.AZ@gmail.com) Jan. 26-29 - Javelina, Small Game & Predator Camp – Unit 20C/18B/16A Location: Bagdad Area, Hwy 96 & Santa Maria River Register: [www.youthoutdoorsunlimited.com](http://www.youthoutdoorsunlimited.com)

**Feb. 16-19 – Women's Javelina HAM Hunt Camp:** For women, new to hunting. Location: SW Tucson Area Units 36A, B, & C. Register: Amanda Moors, [amnda@coueswhitetail.com](mailto:amnda@coueswhitetail.com) 928-200-0544.

**Feb. 24-26 – Mentored Javelina Hunt Camp:** Free Camp to help New hunters' youth & adult, food provided. Location: Cordes Junction Area Units 19A, 20A, 20B, 21. Register: Al Murosky , [info@desertchristianarchers.org](mailto:info@desertchristianarchers.org)

### 2017 PPCI MONTHLY CLUB & OTHER HUNTS SCHEDULE

The following tentative Hunt Schedule is a guide to follow so that you have the dates and can plan and have No Excuse for not hunting some of the upcoming organized hunts.

Jan. 7-8, **2017 PPCI Club Hunt** Jan. 21, 2017 Multi-Club Hunt. Feb. 11-12, 2017 – Handgun, archery, muzzleloader (Extra Points) if critter killed w/these weapons Hunt. Mar. 11-12, 2017 (possibly a Novice II Hunt???)

Save A Fawn Club Hunt: Heber.....February 11, 2017

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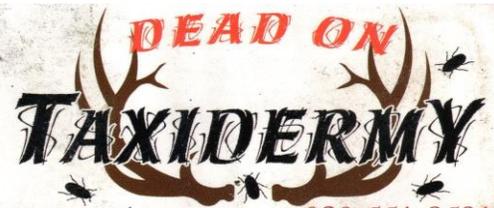
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