

May-June 2017



James S.



**Presidents Message!**

Looking towards an exciting year! **New Location for ALL PVC I Meetings** are set. Looking forward to hanging with everyone at the Campout / Barbeque in May. The Fishing Derby is going to be a blast in June. **SEE DETAILS INSIDE FOR BOTH!!!!** Our Hunt Chairman Bob B. has come up with some great ideas. Lots of opportunities to make this the best Club in the state! All we need is "YOU".

**THINGS TO KNOW:**

**"NEW MEETING LOCATION" AMERICAN LEAGION POST 29 6822 N 57<sup>th</sup> DR. Glendale AZ**

**NEW DATE: First Wednesday of the Month 7:00-10:00 PM**

**\*\*There was No Club Meeting in May as the Meeting Hall Closed! The NEW Club Meeting Location is 6822 N. 57th Drive, the American Legion Hall Post 29. The Club Meetings are back to being on the 1st Wednesday of the Month, so June 7<sup>th</sup>. The start time remains 7:00P.M. until 10:00P.M.**

**\*\*With the Raffle Drawing in May and the PVC I BBQ happening on May 20-21 Where do you turn in your PVC I Raffle Tickets/Money? BEFORE the May 20-21 Campout & BBQ. Call Steve at 623-570-1306 & make arrangements OR another option is to come to the PVC I Board Meeting at Cabela's up in the Meeting Room the 3rd Wednesday/May 17. Steve is leaving for the PVC I BBQ on the 18<sup>th</sup>!!!**

**\*\*\*PVC I has a BRAND NEW EXCITING GUN RAFFLE! There are 5 Firearms in this Raffle & tickets start at ONLY \$1.00 each 6 for \$5 or 20 for \$30!!! There's much more info. & pictures just turn the page.**

**You need NOT be present to win. The Draw date is sometime in May.**

**\*The Date of the 2017 PVC I Campout & BBQ is May 20-21. Location: Moqui Draw see Map inside.**

**\*How would you like to receive this Newsletter as a PDF file on the computer INSTEAD OF in paper form. Let Membership Chairman Ruth S. know at the Meeting. Save the Club Mailing Cost!!**

**June 3 – PVC I Fishing Contest! Free Fishing Day! Let's do Woods Canyon, Willow Springs & Bear Canyon Lakes & their tributaries with the Official Camp Location being off FS Road 34B. (See Map inside).**

**\*\*\*\*Note: THERE WILL BE NO CLUB Meeting on July 5.**

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

**Officers**

**President  
James S.**

**Vice President  
Steve L.**

**Treasurer  
Ray E.**

**Corresponding  
Secretary  
Larry S.**

**Recording  
Secretary  
Dan S.**

**Board  
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Rob T.**

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**Ron H.**

**April B.**

**Chris B.**

**Predator Tales  
Eddie M  
Scott B.**

**Membership  
Chairman  
Ruth S.**

**Hunt**

**Chairman**

**Bob B.**

**Webmaster  
Tommy M.**



James S. Our New PVC I President



Ruth S. PVC I Member of the Year 2016



Mark S. with 2017 Lion!



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

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, please! 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 as multiple prizes have most certainly been won more than once in the past!

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



Sugg. Retail Price: \$529.00

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



Sugg. Retail Price: \$529.00

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



Sugg. Retail Price: \$499.00

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:



Happy Birthday Day  
Will H. on May 16



The guy in the boat is Radio Host  
Don McDowell. Listen  
Sunday Mornings 7-9 A.M.  
On AM Channel 1100. His Show  
is about much more than Fishing!

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Sunday Mornings  
7:00am - 9:00am

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BASS

## THE STORY OF MY FIRST HAND-CALLED MOUNTAIN LION by Mark S.



As I drove down the dirt road I saw that the thicket transitioned into the start of a very rocky couple of hills that fed into a large canyon. Having tremendous success in these transition areas, before I decided to get part way up the opposite hill from the thicket & call into it I asked my buddy to bring the AR-15 & let him know I would call from below him with my new Mossberg 500. A short 70-yard hike from the truck got us tucked just around the bend of the first hill and provided us a great vantage

of the area around us. I found a set of cedars that I could back into perfectly that gave me a 45-yard shot of the ridge to my West and he got into position about 50 yards above me watching the opposite hill and part of the hill around me. I placed a feather attached to a fishing line on a swivel just a couple feet to my right and a foot above my head. I was expecting a fox to come rushing in & I wanted them to be easy to line up with my shotgun.

I started off calling with my EW "Bite-Down" call, trying to sound really whiny and drawn out. After about 5-7 minutes of the whiny rabbit I switched over to a call that I just got some tips on from a buddy at PVC. I started as high-pitched as I could and fluttered the call excessively to imitate a young bird in distress (thanks for the tip Eric on using bird distress on the trip). Only 3 minutes into the bird sounds I was scanning the opposite hillside and I saw a larger tan colored animal moving through the 4-foot brush around 200 yards away. My heart skipped a beat as I saw a really long tan tail trailing the animal; a Mountain Lion was coming in! I lip squeaked up towards Jeff and pointed him in the direction of the approaching Lion. As soon as he started scanning I looked back toward the hill and got right back into the frantic bird distress. The Lion only paused 1 time for 5-6 seconds and the only shot that Jeff had was a face on view of a downhill Lion at 145 yards. He decided to pass and the big cat dropped into the gut of the ravine below us. The net 3-5 minutes felt like an hour as I kept squeezing that little bird in hopes of locating the Lion before it found me. I scanned back along the ridge ahead of me and the cat materialized between 2 granite boulders as if by magic! I couldn't believe just how low that Lion was to the ground as it stared at me over the edge of the hill. During this time my adrenaline had been building for 5 minutes since I first saw it and I literally thought that I was going to be ill. What a crazy feeling!

At this point you are probably thinking just shoot it right there Mark! Am I right? Well I had a 2 shot steel duck load chambered in my shotgun as I was expecting a Fox or Bobcat. The next shell was #4 copper-plated buck that would do the trick no problem but the dilemma was if I could rack the shotgun and get on point before the Lion slipped away. With the call up to my mouth and the Lion staring at me then looking at the feather, staring at me then looking back at me the feather again, I ever so slowly dropped the call and got my left hand around the slide of the gun. With just a few lip squeaks the Lion committed and came off the small ridge, disappearing into another tiny wash. While continuing to do lip squeaks I reached up and turned on my Tactacam. As I got my hand back around the gun the Lion stepped out from behind a bush in front of a large boulder 25 yards straight in front of me. It locked eyes with me for a good 10 seconds and then for some reason turned its head back towards its origination on the hill across the way. At that moment I raised my shotgun and as soon as I had it steadied it was looking back at me. I lined up the bead square on its nose and squeezed the trigger. As I watched the Lion tumble back into the bush I racked the #4 buckshot into the chamber and sent that chasing the Lion into the brush! I jumped up and hopped up on a 4 foot boulder to get a vantage and shot another round of #2 shot steel load at the Lion as it tried to un downhill. I lost sight of it at around 30 yards and then turned to my buddy and motioned for him to get down the hill!



After he joined me he said that he never saw the Lion after his initial scope in across the creek. I traced the Lions steps while having my shotgun at the ready and as I crept around the boulder where I last saw it there was the Lion lying motionless just on the other side! That is when the adrenaline slammed my system and the rush didn't leave for a good hour! Once composed we went to check out our harvest and it turned out to be a healthy adult female. She'd measure up to be 5'10" from nose to tail and about 80 pounds. We took a million photos and then packed her back to my 4Runner. As we talked about the stand we found that between the hike in, setup, calling and shot choice we pulled off a flawless stand on the apex predator in AZ. What an amazing stand!



## **PVCI ELECTIONS HELD – MEET THE NEW PVCI PRESIDENT!**

The Annual Club Elections were held at the April 2017 PVCI Monthly Meeting & there is some “New Blood” amongst the PVCI Officers & Board Members! You can read the complete list of PVCI Officers & Board Members on the front left side of every PVCI Predator Tales Newsletter. The new PVCI President is James S. We’ll learn more about him later. The Vice-President is Steve L. (our Main PVCI Gun Raffle Guy). The Corresponding Secretary Larry S. The Treasurer Ray E. & Recording Secretary Dan S. remained the same. PVCI Board members are Craig, Ron, Wayne, Chris, April & new guy Rob. Many, many thanks were given to the PVCI Past President Terry H. who served the last 2 years.

### **INTERVIEW with New PVCI President James S.**

**1) How did you become interested in predator calling?**

AZGFD Expo 10 years ago. We were looking to get our youngest daughter Tesa to take a hunter safety course. Steve L. & Chris H. were teaching the class. The rest is history.

**2) How long have you been calling?**

6 Years. Jerry G. invited me out on a club hunt.

**3) What are some of our accomplishments as far as critters called/ harvested?**

Honestly, I am looking to get my 5th called coyote. Every trip out in the field is amazing & educational.

**4) Name three of your favorite calls that are always in your pocket?**

Standard Critter, Peewee Critter & Tally-Ho

**5) What is your favorite predator gun/load combination?**

223 & 12 gauge. Whatever drops them!

**6) What is your favorite predator to hunt and why?**

How can anything be bad when you’re out with friends?

**7) Describe your most successful stand or day?**

With Ray & Chris. 4 coyotes in one day.

**8) Describe your most disastrous stand or day?**

How can anything be bad when you’re out with friends?

**9) Describe your closest encounter or most frightening moment?**

That moment when you first go out and try so hard to sound good and realize you are facing the ground when calling. You look up and have a coyote 10 ft. in front of you growling.

**10) What is your favorite camouflage pattern?**

Anything that doesn’t reflect. It’s amazing how much camo these days reflect off the sun.

**11) What do you consider to be the greatest threat to predator calling? \$\$\$ 12) Describe your Dream Vacation?** No Answer.



**UPCOMING EVENT: ARIZONA TRAPPERS CONVENTION** – July? Not sure if happening. There was talk last year about having this Event in St. John’s this year however I can’t get a hold of anyone? Worth the drive.

### **MOUNTAIN LION CALLING TIPS** by Eddie M.

I have called in several Mountain lions in my calling career that others have seen and had one kill in Unit 29 some years ago. We called/killed another one in Unit 30A. I am no expert by any means however I will drop just a few tips from Steve C. the President of the Southwest Fur Harvesters (SWFH). He has called 109 lions in a span of a few years, number? Steve uses electronics to call his lions and put in a LOT of legwork scouting areas. When he called, he liked to try & paint a picture starting with a crow distress, then going to a prey species distress and as a last resort going to some lion talk. One of his points was that it was easier to call a lion down on you rather than up to you. When he played his sounds, he would turn the volume up to MAX and said that lions would still stick their heads in his speaker. Of course, we use hand calls & since lions live in BIG country, calling loudly is recommended. If you look at a mountain, a lion’s travel route is often 1/3 of the way down from the top or 2/3 up from the bottom. Also look at mountain ridges that go from the top all the way to the bottom esp. if they have some rocks on the ridge where the lion can lay up and rest. All the lions that I have hand-called in have been with a bite-down call doing a bird distress except one that came to a turkey call. I have seen the fawn distress also work. Since lions do eat rabbits there is no reason why that sound shouldn’t also work. When calling for cats & bears I like calling continuous with no longer than a 30 second pause. Also, make sure you have a good backstop. In an article in Rocky Mountain Game & Fish (Playing a Lion’s Tune) the author called in a lion that scratched his face before he killed it! Steve Craig has a blog somewhere on the internet I believe. Be sure you really want a lion to show up before you call!

## MARVIN ROBINS MEMORIAL UNIT 23 YOUTH -SPRING TURKEY HUNT CAMP REPORT

by Ken E.

Sixty junior hunters, turkeys, great weather (no snow this year!) and good food make for a heck of a weekend! The HAHWG camp was put on by The National Wild Turkey Federation, AZ Elk Society, AZ Game & Fish Dept. and PPCI at the Colcord Camp Ground above Young and covering hunt areas 4B, 4A, 3C, and 23. Toms were gobbling, hens yelping and shotguns blasting Friday, Saturday and Sunday with birds brought in each day. Even the kids who did not pull triggers saw and heard turkeys, were bragging about almost closing the deal at each meal. Ray E. ran the kitchen with several PPCI members sweating under him from 2:30 AM until 9 PM each day! Several of us also mentored the kids and the parent that accompanied each kid, calling and doing our best to make successful turkey stands. Ray also did a hour-long predator calling seminar while selling several hundred raffle tickets (actually delegating that to unsuspecting club members).



Pictures above by Ronald H.

The first picture shows some of the attendees listening to a speaker discussing turkey hunting. The center picture shows the PPCI members who volunteered for kitchen duties. They are Ray E. who was the lead person, Moe S., Hawke and myself Ronald H. The other picture shows a speaker who brought a golden eagle to display and discuss.



### 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 year's Barbecue!!

**Thinking of Solar? You only have until July 2017 to sign up and be grandfathered in to the Energy Payback!!!**

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

## 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. 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. There will not be a Gun for May because we had no Meeting Place.

**The Gun for June will be a Camo Savage Axis .308 w/scope** Come to the Meeting to see what it is. Somebody is going to WIN! Good Luck!



Bob J.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

**The NEW Club Meeting Location is 6822 N. 57th Drive, the American Legion Hall Post 29. The Club Meetings are back to being on the 1st Wednesday of the Month, so June 7<sup>th</sup>.** The start time remains 7:00P.M. until 10:00P.M. The PVCI Board of Directors Meetings will be on the 3rd Wednesday at Cabela's upstairs in the Meeting Room. 6:00-8:00PM!!!

Mar. 31 – Reminder that bobcat, fox, raccoon, badger, weasel, ringtail, coatimundi & gunnison's prairie dog seasons ended.

April 21 – Hunt-Permit Tags and/or refunds for 2017 Antelope & Elk should be mailed out by now.

April 28 & May 5 – Arizona Early & Late Spring Turkey Season opener dates. Check your Hunt Regs.

**May 2 – There was NO PLACE TO HAVE A PVCI MONTHLY MEETING.** The new President & Board have been working feverishly on acquiring a new Meeting Location. **No Monthly PVCI Meeting in May!**

**May 5-6 – AZGFD Commission Meeting Region III** 5325 N. Stockton Hill Rd. Kingman 86409 (928) 692-7700

May 13 - Payson Wildlife Fair The town of Payson will host the 23rd Annual "Payson Wildlife Fair."

**May 17 - This is the 3rd Wednesday. PVCI Board of Directors Meeting will be at Cabela's. Time changed to 6-8 PM**

**May 20-21-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.**

May 25 – All Arizona Spring Turkey Seasons end.

May 31 – Day-Long Shooting Hours Season or Night ENDS in certain Hunt Units for coyotes ONLY. Coyotes may be taken at night with an artificial light however the light may NOT be attached to or operated from a vehicle. Also, NO electronic night-vision equipment, thermal imaging devices, etc. may be used or even possessed.

**June 3 – PVCI Fishing Contest! Free Fishing Day!** Let's do Woods Canyon, Willow Springs & Bear Canyon Lakes & their tributaries with the Official Camp Spot Location being off FS Road 34B. (See Map). Questions Rob T. 602-384-5135.

**June 7 - This is the 1st Wednesday. New Club Meeting Location: 6822 N. 57th Drive, Glendale, AZ. 7- 10:00P.M.**

**June 9-10 – AZGFD Commission Meeting (Hunt Orders) Region VI** 7200 E. University Mesa 85207 480-981-9400

**June 21 This is the 3rd Wednesday. PVCI Board of Directors Meeting will be at Cabela's. Time changed to 6-8 PM**

**July 5 - This is the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday. We Will NOT have a Club Meeting so close to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July!!!**

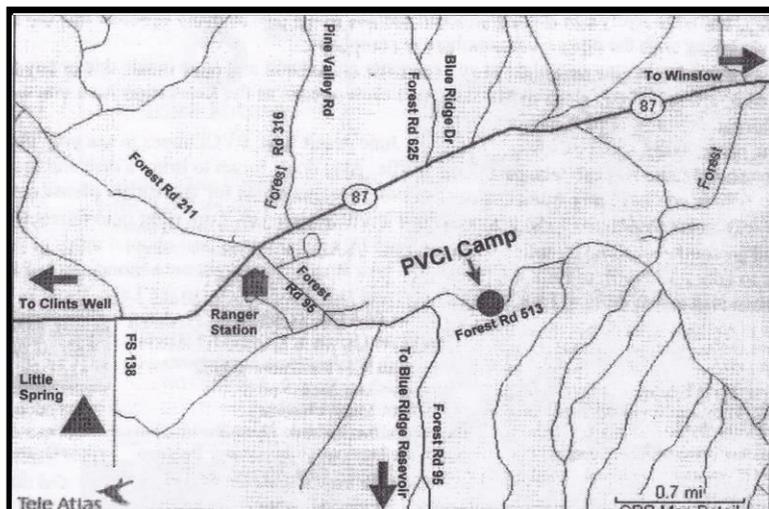
**July 19 This is the 3rd Wednesday. PVCI Board of Directors Meeting will be at Cabela's. Time changed to 6-8 PM**

**\*\*\*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-17 for February 2017 expiration). If Membership is NOT current it should 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 Chairperson, 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 New Membership Chairwoman Ruth S. 602-524-3586. **YOUR RENEWAL FEES HELP THE CLUB!!!** **PVCI MEMBERSHIP COUNT: 137**

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:** Lee H.

## PVCI ANNUAL CAMPOUT & BARBECUE – MAY 20-21, 2017

This year's Annual Campout & Barbecue will be scheduled for May 20-21 this year to have less conflict with Fire Restrictions. This family-oriented Event is probably one of our most attended of the year so take this opportunity to invite your neighbors, family & friends to the Campout and participate in the events. Typically there are events scheduled for the youth and the adults. Most of the adult events are shooting events. Both women and men compete separately in .22 rifle, .22 pistol and bowling pin and compete together in the archery shoot. The youth (if enough present) get to shoot also in the same events as the adults for the most part. In between the shooting, look forward to some really good food, & having a good time with your PVCI Hunting Friends. A Map, Schedule of Events and more details are shown below. Hope that you and the family and friends can make it. Terry H. & James S. oversee this Event this year. Volunteers are still needed to run each shooting event. If you run the Event, you make the rules for the most part. Volunteers are needed for various other duties also. To volunteer your services please call Terry H. at 602-615-4107.



**Route #1 :** On Hwy 87 go through Payson ,Strawberry, & Clints Well. Stay on Hwy87 to the first right (Fr 95) Past the Blue Ridge Range station. Take FR 95 South go approximately 1 mile to FR 513. Camp on the East side FR 513

**Route #2:** Go north on I -17 to Camp Verde .  
Turn right on either Exit 287 or 288 .  
Go East on Hwy 260 to Hwy 87. .  
Turn Left on Hwy 87 and take the first right (Fr 95) Past the Blue Ridge Range station. Take FR 95 South go approximately 1 mile to FR 513. Camp on the East side FR 513

PLEASE only camp on the right side of FR 513 as you drive in. According to the NEW Coconino Forest Rules, Please DO NOT camp more than 100 yards from the main road. Shooting will be on the left & again according to the New Rules Please DO NOT park more than 10 yards from the main road on the left side. \* **Keep ALL dogs on a leash** \* Portable toilets will be provided. \* Please clean up your camping area before going home. Pack out all trash. \* Please drown your ashes w/ water & dirt & scatter the camp fire ring rocks. \* Please bring canopies or tarps for shade & extra ice.

**REMEMBER GUN SAFTEY:** No loaded firearms in camp. Please No alcohol & guns. SHOOT ONLY when directed to do so & in designated area. Use the proper firearms for targets.

**REGISTRATION** For Target Shooting Events. Cost is \$2.00 per shooter per event. All shooting events to immediately follow each other. Times may vary.

**NOTICE:** All events are shooting what you brought, all Optics OK – except no magnified optics for jug shoots. A Red- Dot sights (no projected laser beams) is considered the same as an iron sight as long as there is no magnification

**SATURDAY'S EVENTS:** Start Time: 8:00a.m.

.22 pistol – men, women, kids (10-16)

.22 rifle – men, women, kids

Men & Women's Gong Shoot

**SUNDAY'S EVENTS:** Start Time: 8:00a.m.

5 pin shoot – men, women, kids

Jug shoot - \$1 per shot: (buy as many as you like but only 1 shot taken until your turn rolls around M or the jug is hit). Pull a number from a hat & that's your order to shoot.

**LUNCH TIME (sorry, food not provided)**

Archery & Muzzleloader -- everyone shoots together

**DINNER: POTLUCK! Please bring a dish/dessert to share.**

The CLUB will provide a main course plus a gas grill for your cooking.

**Attention: Dutch Oven Cook-Off** Desserts & Main Course Dishes. Bring your favorite dish for the cook-off.

**(Fire Restrictions Permitting)**

## UPCOMING EVENT:      PAYSON WILDLIFE FAIR – MAY 13, 2017

by Eddie M.

On **MAY 13, 2017**, the town of Payson will host the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual “Payson Wildlife Fair.” This Wildlife Awareness Fair held at Green Valley Park has a multitude of wildlife & outdoor fun activities for the whole family! The Event lasts from 9:00A.M. to 3:00P.M. and offers lots to do. Catch a monster trout, cruise the lake in a canoe, try shooting archery or touch a giant snake. Admission is Free. 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) and open to all to fish for free during Event hours. There will be free poles, bait & instruction at the free fishing booth. Normally a Yearly Fishing License is required. There will also be many wildlife booths and displays, games, door prizes for the kids, some virtual shooting sports and Smokey the Bear has also been known to make an appearance. Parking and Admission are Free!!

PVCI 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. Afterwards I am headed for the woods to call turkeys. Need help, I will travel. 602-747-9019.



## **UPCOMING EVENT: PVCI ANNUAL FISHING CONTEST – JUNE 3, 2017 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 Spot Location being off of FS Road 300 onto FS 34 go ¼ mile to FS 34B turn right. Then travel to the Rock Quarry (See Map below).

**DATE:** Saturday June 3, 2017 **FREE FISHING DAY.** **TIME:** Daybreak until around 5:00 p.m. You can check-in anytime during the day however, the FINAL check-in will be between 5:00 & 5:30p.m. After 5:30PM they don’t count.

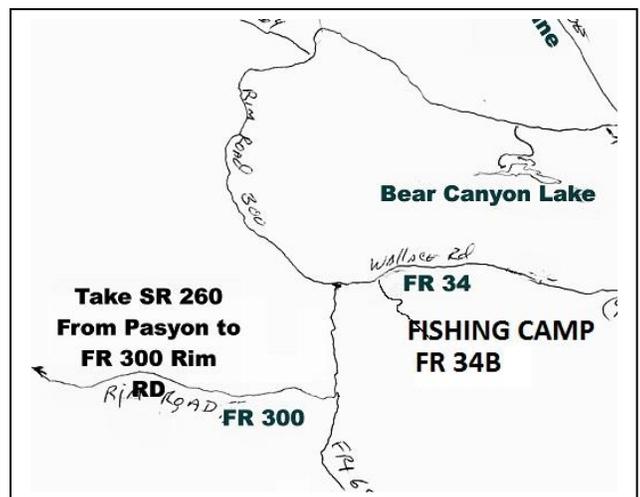
**ENTRY FEE: None**, in fact a fishing license is not even required as this is **Free Fishing Day** and no license is required to fish on all public state waters except on the Indian Reservations. Questions call Rob T. (602) 384-5135

Contest Open to All **PVCI** Members plus their families & friends (you 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.** 1<sup>st</sup> 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 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> longest fish gets the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 (No gas-powered) are okay on these waters. 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 pre-determined campsite location. This is a Potluck too 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 inside the Recreation Area. If you sleep in the National Forest outside of the Recreation Area you won’t be charged. Our plan is to camp out of the Recreation Area.

**\*\*\* DIRECTIONS to the Main Camp/Official Measuring Campsite:** Take highway 260 to 300 (for rim lakes road). 300 to 34 (Wallace Rd) about 9 miles, turn right onto 34 go to 34b about 1/4 mile turn right Travel to Rock Quarry. Look for signs. Where we will be camped, and doing the official measuring and cooking. Have your catch there between 5:00 & 5:30 PM. After measuring & prizes are given out comes the Potluck/Fish Fry.



## WHAT DOES AN UP & COMING VARMINT CALLER DO DURING THE OFF-SEASON???

By Eddie M.

Wow, 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 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 Am I 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 good 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 though it's hard 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 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**, the **June 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 are/or 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 the grill w/fire restrictions) or the Fishing Contest or Trail Clearing, if you keep your ears open, you run the risk that you might learn things. 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 13<sup>th</sup>, 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 to 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.

\* **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.



## WHAT WERE YOU DRAWN FOR?

James & Ruth S. were drawn for 11M archery Elk    Corrina & Tailor were drawn for Elk Hunt?

Preston M. was drawn for Dec. 4A Bull Elk

Let us here from you. If you need help scouting your area or help on the hunt PPCI member can be counted on!!!

## PVCI MONTHLY HUNT REPORTS:

Well I feel like I must apologize for having only one Hunt Report so far, this 2016-2017 season. Unlike past years the Hunt Chairman has had a policy that he adopted where he keeps the Hunt Results to himself until the Monthly Meeting. In all fairness, I did receive the information you now see back in January however it was right after we'd filled & proofed the pages & already had the Newsletter at the Printer. Here are the Hunt Results of the last few months.

### JANUARY MONTHLY HUNT:

**1st Place: Craig B. & Wayne**

**Total: 6 coyotes**

### FEBRUARY MONTHLY HUNT:

**1st Place: Craig B. & Wayne**

**Total: 8 coyotes, 1 Bobcat**

**2nd Place: Mark S. & Tim S.**

**Total: 1 coyote**

### MARCH MONTHLY HUNT:

**1st Place: Craig B. & Wayne**

**Total: 11 coyotes**

## HUNTING PICS



Elk Antler/ New Mexico



McKenzie's 1st Gobbler! NM



Ron's 1st Gobbler NM



Jim A. with old bobcat



Ken & Larry with coyote

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