

Sept-Oct. 2017



James S.



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**Presidents Message!**

WOW! Best time of the year! We just finished the George Knox Memorial Boot Camp. James Ammons AZGFD Commissioner was in camp. Over 150 people with lots of mentors & volunteers from multiple clubs. AES catered to all our food needs along with new member Bill Reno that smoked some bomb brisket. Falconry presentation by Jerry O. That weekend will provide years of memories. Thanks Ray E. This just became one of the top camps in the state, thanks to everyone.

Let's go hunting boys & girls. Remember Sept 9-10 is the Novice Hunt. Let's teach the new members how it's done. Remember electronics are in season as well. Check the rules.

We have some members stepping up to help out. Bucket Raffle (Jerry & Corinna G). Shirts & Hats (Ray & Jenny K). Stop by and say thanks.

**THINGS TO KNOW:**

**There is a NEW CLUB MEETING LOCATION & NEW CLUB MEETING DAY!!!**

**\*\* In case you haven't been by recently, the new Club Meeting Location is 6822 N. 57<sup>th</sup> Drive, the American Legion Hall Post 29. The Club 'Meetings are also on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the Month and not on Tuesday anymore! The start time remains 7:00 P.M.**

**\*\*There are going to be some Hunt Rule changes happening this upcoming year with PPCI. One of these is that the use of Electronic Callers will be allowed in the Club Hunts for the 2017/2018 season. Read Hunt Rules on WWW.PPCI.ORG**

**\*\* UPCOMING PPCI EVENT: PPCI Novice Hunt Sept. 9-10. The 1<sup>st</sup> Official Hunt of the 2017-2018 season! This Hunt teams the Novice Hunter with an Expert for a weekend hunt with hands-on instruction the Expert showing you just how they get their critters. All teams Must have a Novice to qualify. Experts you can take advantage of a "Special Incentive" IF you sign up for the 6-Month Hunt beforehand.**

**\*\* SWFH Rendezvous: The Southwest Fur Harvesters are having their Annual Fund-Raising Rendezvous on Sept. 23-24, 2017. If you want to learn more about harvesting predators & other furbearers This Is The Place To Be! Many excellent seminars on cage and other trapping, predator calling, fur prep, etc. Silent Auction, Raffles, some food! More info inside.**

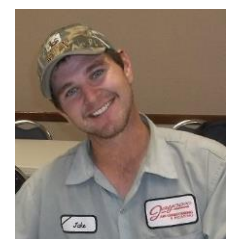
**\*\* The PPCI Officers & Board has decided to have this Newsletter be sent by e-mail only thus eliminating the hard copy starting in Jan. 2018. There may be some exceptions & there may not. This is to give you forewarning. As a result, we are going to need everyone's e-mail info between now & Jan. 2018. Please send your e-mail info. to [pvcigroup@gmail.com](mailto:pvcigroup@gmail.com)**



2017 PPCI Trail Clearing Crew



2017 George Knox Boot Camp



Jake Thanks for the Bear Seminar

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# PVCI 2017 TRAIL ANNUAL CLEARING REPORT (Where were YOU?) by Eddie M.

July 29-30, 2017 were the dates for the Annual PVCI Trail Clearing. During this Event PVCI maintains the See-Canyon Trail a hunter-survival trail that runs from around Promontory Butte down to Christopher Creek. This Trail is used by hunters, hikers, horsemen and cyclist and will get you off the Rim in only 3.2 miles instead of going all the many, many miles around. PVCI has been maintaining this Trail since the 1960's and we get many thanks every year for what we do. There was sort of a smaller crowd this year (where were you?). Yes, it had been raining and yes there was promise of more rain to come. From what I understand Event Organizer April B. & family came up a couple days early & got to experience the rain more than a little. However, once the Event began on Saturday morning those that showed enjoyed wonderful cool weather that was 98% rain-free. As usual we HAD A BLAST, eating good food, mingling with good people and getting the job done as far as the Trail Clearing. If you were not there you really did miss out! Keeping some of the Traditions, that is what we often strive to do in some aspects of our lives. Be it family, holiday, relationships, etc. Here at PVCI we also try to hold on to some traditions like the Annual Campout/Barbecue, the Fishing Derby, the Trail Clearing, the George Knox Memorial Boot Camp and we used to also have an Annual Varmint Calling Contest. The point is that without YOU these traditions will go away (like the Varmint Calling Contest seems to have done). The camaraderie that happens, the coming together to accomplish, the stories, the laughter, the things you learn. You really do miss out if you are not there. THANK YOU those that did show & really do hope to see more of YOU here next year. Enjoy the pictures.



## ITEMS I DON'T GO HUNTING WITHOUT by Eddie M.

Okay, you're going to go out on a Hunt but what do I take with me? Well there are things that you take & **things that you don't hunting without.** Here is my short list of don't go hunt without items. Current hunting license & mountain lion tag, my shotgun or other firearm w/ammo, I have joined the PVCI Pin Program, water, a 4-wheel-drive vehicle, spare tire, jack, tire taker-downer, shovel, jumper cables, beanie cap, bill cap, camo, big insulated shirt, lighter, John-Wayne can opener, camera, sleeping bag, predator calls (more than one), small 1<sup>st</sup> aid kit, 1 or 2 space blankets. There are many more items that you could or not take yet these items are with me.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS: Happy Anniversary

## Listen to Don McDowell



James & Ruth  
22 Years 9 Sept



Brent & Cindi  
7 Years 10 Oct



Scott & Dorothy  
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## IVAN'S FIRST COYOTE HUNT EXPERIENCE (Funny Now But Back Then...)



Ivan & Sarah

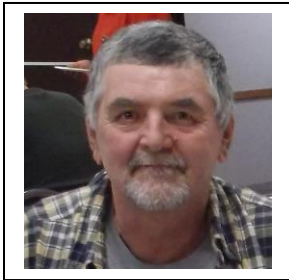
Hi, my name is Ivan C. and I'm a former member of PVCI. I live in Gilbert now so I don't make the meetings anymore however I still bring my wife Sarah and camp with Eddie M. to help with the G.K. Memorial Boot Camp each year. The following is a tale of my very 1<sup>st</sup> experience on a coyote hunt. Actually, it is more about the night before than the actual hunt. Eddie asked me to tell you about it, I believe he finds some humor in the tale. Back then I was a city person that had never slept anywhere but in a bed. Keep this in mind as you read.

I knew that Eddie was a predator caller that called & killed coyotes. One weekend he and novice hunter Donnie V. were going out on a hunt. I asked if I could tag along so that I could see what actually happens. Eddie told me yes and asked me to bring a few things. We left Phoenix on Friday night and drove somewhere in AZ out in the middle of nowhere as Eddie would say. Donnie eventually turned his truck off at our destination. I asked Eddie, "So where are we sleeping?" I am thinking of a hotel but that was not the case as Eddie looks at me, gets out of the truck, opens my door and points to the ground and says pick a spot. Now I had NEVER slept out in the open on the ground before. Eddie proceeded to show me what a hip hole was and how to set up my sleeping pad and bag. I was wearing 2 pairs of sweat pants and 2 sweaters thinking that it was going to be really cold. I went ahead and got set up to go to bed. Donnie was about 10 feet away from me while Eddie moved over 100 feet away from us. Eddie saw that I had all of my clothes on and tells me that the fewer clothes that I have on inside the bag the better that I will sleep. I did NOT believe him.

Well we all went to sleep, well most of us. Keep in mind that back then I had no clue that coyotes and other predators were afraid of people. I was SCARED, so I tucked myself deep inside the sleeping bag and closed the zipper so that I only had a small hole to breathe through. I started to sweat really badly as it got really HOT inside the bag. Then to top it all off, the coyotes started howling! I really started to FREAK OUT! Then Eddie started snoring like CRAZY! Now I am thinking, "Great, the coyotes are going to hear the snoring, then they are going to come find us and EAT US ALL!!! At this point I am soaking in sweat and I am scared SH\_T\_SS!!! Guess who didn't sleep?

Morning finally arrived and Ed wakes up and wakes up Donnie, then walks over to me and asked me how I slept? I look at him with a serious look and said that I didn't. Anyway, we got ready and the first stand Donnie called in a super coyote that took a few shots to put down. We went on to kill 3 or 4 more coyotes that weekend and I got to see what happens. It has been about 7 years since that 1<sup>st</sup> terrifying to me night. Now I have a better understanding of how the whole sleeping bag thing works and when I go hunting I sleep in the open on the ground with confidence & I sleep like a baby.

## ANOTHER FIRST STORY by Dan J.



Back in 2009 I remember asking Dan J. has he had any unforgettable moments? His answer: Oh jeez, there have been a lot of unforgettable moments, everything from the beautiful sunsets. Too many memories, I'd have to think about it I can remember when my son Jacob called in his 1<sup>st</sup> coyote. It was our 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> time out and Jacob was calling from a wash. All of a sudden, not 1, not 2 but 5 coyotes came running in toward him! At 15 yards, he shot and dropped one of them. Immediately Jacob jumped up and started shouting, "I got him, I got him!" He didn't even eject the spent shell and didn't even think about shooting the other 4 coyotes, which by now were all over the place.

I remember my Novice Hunt with Will H. This was the first time I had ever been on a predator hunt. We had been hunting without having any luck until around 11:00a.m. I am calling when I look up to see 3 or 4 coyotes out about 75 yards running in! I sat in awe and just looked. This really does work! I forgot all about shooting. Will finally ended up making a beautiful 200 yard shot to harvest one of the coyotes.

On Jacob's 1<sup>st</sup> Novice Hunt something special happen. We had been calling all day unsuccessfully. We got to another setup and Jacob just starts calling away. Me, I am kind of dozing off, thinking that this is a bad stand anyway. It just happens that I look up and right away saw a bobcat coming out of the canyon 15 feet away going right towards Jacob!

Now tell me that won't wake you up! The cat was on my right or bad side. This was the 1<sup>st</sup> bobcat that I had ever seen and the last thing that I expected! Guess I kind of panicked, half turned and hip shot my .22 Mag. Rifle and promptly took out a prickly pear cactus! No cat, though if I had a shotgun, things would have been different.

**\*\*To contribute stories, pictures, etc. to this Newsletter send items to: [coyotecaller@cox.net](mailto:coyotecaller@cox.net) Share your stories/pictures, tips, recipes, etc. with us. We'd like to read them.**

**\*\*\*Happy Late Birthday to Lew E. who turned 91 on July 3<sup>rd</sup> !!!**



## GEORGE KNOX MEMORIAL BOOT CAMP REPORT

The “Best” Boot Camp ever! The content was the “Best” it has ever been. I really, really enjoyed what you all put on. I really learned a LOT! It was a joy to volunteer and be part of the experience. The way this Boot Camp came together was “Special!” Thank You, Thank You, Thank You! These are just a very few positive comments about the 2017 George Knox Memorial Boot Camp. There were Over 150 people present with loads of mentors this year!

Besides PVC I there were members of APC, AES, Arizona Turkey Federation & all part of the working partnership that has been going on for some time where the different Clubs help each other at the different Events. The Mentors that gave the seminars about predator calling did an Excellent Job talking about their subject matters..... The volunteers that ran the Kitchen that fed everyone also did an Excellent Job of keeping everyone fed & hydrated! Then the “Moment of Truth” came,



the time where we step up & take our students out hunting. This year we had 21 or so mentors! Many, Many, Thanks to both Cabela's & Sportsman's Warehouse for their donations of giveaways for Novices and to Coco Cola for the refreshments! Also, to Bill Reno for smoking meat! Thanks also to ALL of YOU who showed up & helped to make this Event a success! It just wouldn't be possible without YOU! Looking forward to next year! It ought to be a BLAST!!! Hope to see you there.



## SEPTEMBER MEETING “SPECIAL” also NOVICE HUNT COMING– SEPT 9-10, 2017!

PVCI's Official 1st Hunt of the 2017-2018 Season is happening Sept. 9-10, 2017! This Hunt Pairs Novices with Experts for a weekend of Hands-On Learning Experiences. Also, the September Monthly meeting should be interesting for ALL levels of predator callers. **Various experienced members of the Club will show up with their hunting gear and give you a peak into the way they go after predators.** Ask all the questions you want then move on to the next person. **Also, you Experts WE NEED your help in being available so that the Novices can have an experience the weekend of Sept. 9-10.** Just 2 days of doing what you already like to do anyway only now you will be teaching someone else the ropes. Please consider helping out. Your contribution will be appreciated greatly!

### CALLING STAND ETIQUETTE

If you just joined PVCI Congrats! Congrats also if you're a Novice & are going on the Hunt! You have a LOT to learn & your Expert will be working with you, trying to get you started on a path to success. Here's some etiquette to consider.

- 1) Remember that there are **NO HARD & SET RULES** in this sport. Sometimes different things work for different callers.
- 2) When you get out of the truck & on the way to a stand location, ***be conscious of the NOISE that you make. TRY to be quiet.*** Do common sense things like *whispering, not slamming doors, trying to walk quietly instead of just walking*, etc.
- 3) **To Be SAFE: Stay standing & know where your hunting partners are before you sit down.** Many callers unwittingly just sit down & start getting ready to either watch or call with NO thought of the others peoples locations.
- 4) **Treat EVERY firearm as if it was loaded at ALL times! This means that you should NEVER, EVER POINT ANY FIREARM at any person!** To me a firearm should be carried & loaded by either pointing it up or down & NOT by holding it level! I've had the misfortune to be around several times when a firearm went off at the vehicle while being loaded! Guess what, half the time, the firearm was LEVEL & we were “Lucky” that no one was wounded or killed! *There are a LOT of you out there that LOAD & especially carry & inadvertently point a firearm by holding it level at times.* This shouldn't happen, shucks half the time you're probably not even aware that you are doing it BUT YOU ARE! **If you did this at the rifle range, you'd automatically be kicked off the range.** To me you should **ALWAYS** make an “Obvious Effort” to avoid leveling or worse, inadvertently pointing your firearm at anyone. **Once the shot leaves the barrel, you can't call it back!**
- 5) Pick an area where you can see in front of you. Sit in front of the bushes, shadows preferred of course. Let your camo work for you. Having shooting lanes are nice for both the caller and shooter.
- 6) Stay put once the calling begins. If you want to move do so before the calling starts and let the others know!
- 7) Don't forget to put some feeling into your calling. The best feeling to convey is pain, the next is surprise. Try to sound like a critter that's hurt & not like a person blowing a call. Call with confidence, expect something to show up.
- 8) Shooting: A zone is the area that you are supposed to watch during a calling stand. You watch from here to here. When it comes to shooting, *if the critter's in your zone & you have the shot, take it!* It doesn't matter who called it in, as this is a team effort. ***Pick a spot when you shoot & TRY TO HIT the critter.*** Don't just shoot to shoot or make noise. Missing shots is going to happen, I don't care who you are. Patterning your shotgun & zeroing your rifle will help you!
- 9) **BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET AND WHAT IS BEYOND BEFORE YOU PULL THE TRIGGER!**
- 10) If you are calling & you or someone else shoots, get back to calling as soon as you can afterwards. The sound of the shot does not seem to bother most predators as long as they are not the one being shot at & another critter is possible.
- 11) Once the stand is over, *stand up slowly & look around.* If in cat country take a few steps forward and look around again. ***Always look at where you sat before you leave, especially if there was action.*** I have lost caps, calls, gloves, etc.
- 12) You be the one to bring an alarm clock and camera to each trip. ***Do HONOR YOUR CRITTER & take its picture.***

**If you are staying the night you might want to include:** Sleeping bag, space blanket(s), foam or air mattress, plus the items to cook dinner unless you are going to eat dinner cold. Don't forget a poncho or rain gear if rainy. **Do try to be able to hunt both days.** If you don't have to come back to town to sleep it saves on gas. Do listen to what your expert tells you. Do practice your calling and most importantly have fun!

**MOST COMMON MISTAKES:** 1) Not joining the Pin Program before the Hunt. 2) Showing up to hunt at your Experts place with your camo clothes already on. Most experts keep their camo in a plastic bag & get dressed out in the field. 3) Slamming the door shut. 4) Loading your weapon with it pointed level instead of up or down. 5) Talking aloud on the way to the stand. 6) Just walking to your stands instead of trying to walk quietly. 7) Walking with your weapon level instead of up or down & inadvertently pointing your weapon at people while carrying your weapon level instead of up or down. 8) Forgetting a sleeping bag if staying out overnight or snacks. 9) Not having Hunting License, Medicine, Beanie cap, Boots?

## **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 September will be a Savage Axis 22.250 w/ scope!!!**

**The Gun for October will be a Savage Axis 6.5 Creedmoor!!! Somebody is going to Win!!! Good Luck to You!!!**

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

**P.S. DON'T FORGET that we'll need your E-MAIL INFO. BEFORE Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> as the PVCI Board has decided to do away with this hard copy Newsletter & go to an *On-Line Only* issue starting Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>. Send your e-mail to [pvcigroup@gmail.com](mailto:pvcigroup@gmail.com) The NEW Club Meeting Location is 6822 N. 57<sup>th</sup> Drive, American Legion Hall Post 29. Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday/Month.**

Aug. 25 – Archery-Only antelope, deer, bear, non-permit tag required javelina & tree squirrel seasons open. Check Regs.

Sept. 1 – Blue Grouse, Chukar, Coatimundi & Crow Seasons open & Tassel-eared squirrel in Unit 33 open. Check Regs.

**Sept. 6 - This is the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday. New Club Meeting Location: 6822 N. 57<sup>th</sup> Drive, Glendale, AZ. 7:00P.M.**

Sept. 8 – Rifle & Muzzleloader Antelope Season opens! Check your Hunt Regs.

**Sept. 9-10-PVCI NOVICE HUNT! The 1<sup>st</sup> Organized PVCI Hunt of the 2017-2018 Season.** See Special Incentive for Experts.

Sept. 14 - Archery-Only antelope, deer, bear, non-permit tag javelina & most tree squirrel seasons close. Check Regs.

Sept. 14 – Rifle Bear Season closes in Hunt Units 6A, 17A, 17B, 18B, 20A, 20B, 22S and 24A Check your Hunt Regs.

Sept. 15-28 – Archery Only Elk Hunt opens in various Hunt Units. Check your Hunt Regs.

**Sept. 20 - This is the 3rd Wed. PVCI Board Meeting at Barro's Pizza 31<sup>st</sup> Ave & 101, 3053 W Aqua Fria Freeway, Phx**

**Sept. 23-24 – Southwest Fur Harvesters (SWFH) Annual Rendezvous: Free Event featuring Trapping & Predator Calling demos & supplies from people that know. Trappers Education Course Sunday Morning. Camping in area. Location: North of Strawberry, east of Camp Verde. Host: SWFH Info. [www.southwestfurharvesters.com](http://www.southwestfurharvesters.com) or [brhoton@yail.com](mailto:brhoton@yail.com)**

Sept. 29 – Early Rifle Bull Elk Hunt opens in various Hunt Units. Check your Hunt Regs.

**Oct. 4 - This is the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday. New Club Meeting Location: 6822 N. 57<sup>th</sup> Drive, Glendale, AZ. 7:00P.M.** 6-Month Hunt begins. Experts can get an early start on the 6-Month if you sign up in Sept. go on Novice Hunt & call & kill a critter.

Oct. 6 – Quail & Fall Turkey Season opens. Tree Squirrel opens statewide except Mt. Graham Red Squirrel. Check Regs.

Oct. 6 – Coyote & Fox Season opens on the Kofa & Imperial Nat. Wildlife Refuges. Check yours & their Hunt Regs.

Oct. 6, 13, 20 - Various Youth Only Javelina & Deer Hunts open. Various Elk Hunts also open. Check your Hunt Regs.

**Oct. 7-8 – PVCI Monthly Hunt!!!**

Oct. 10 – Deadline for the 2018 Spring Turkey, Javelina, Buffalo & Bear Hunt Applications. You have until 11:59p.m.

**Oct. 18 - This is the 3rd Wed. PVCI Board Meeting at Barro's Pizza 31<sup>st</sup> Ave & 101, 3053 W Aqua Fria Freeway Phoenix**

Oct. 27 – Various Rifle Deer Seasons open. Check your Hunt Regs.

**\*\*\*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 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. 602-820-5142.**

**RENEWAL FEES HELP THE CLUB!!! PVCI MEMBERSHIP COUNT: 152 WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:**

## PURCHASING ANY TYPE OF VEHICLE?

(SPECIAL INCENTIVES FOR YOU & PVCI)

by Scott Banner

Most 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 let him know where you want to shop & the type of vehicle you're interested in. He will make contact with the dealers & 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 & 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. The Club will receive the Referral Fee.



### UPCOMING EVENT: Southwestern Fur Harvesters (SWFH) Annual Fall Rendezvous – September 23-24, 2017



A great way to shorten your learning curve is by listening to seminars from speakers. Yet another way to shorten that same curve is to be shown what the speaker is doing & then be able to ask questions about the process. That's exactly what the Southwest Fur Harvesters Rendezvous is all about. Showing you what methods are used to catch 50 to 100 bobcats a year (both cage & leg-hold) or coyote & fox sets & of course listening to some of the distress sounds used in calling predators also. The Southwest Fur Harvesters are a very dedicated group of outdoors people that are GOOD at what they do & that want to share their methods with others, including the youth. As another trapping & calling season

approaches, the Southwest Fur Harvesters Assoc. 7th Annual Fall Rendezvous will take place & be held in the cool pines above Payson. This year's dates are September 23-24, 2017. The 1<sup>st</sup> seminar starts at 8:00a.m. then continue throughout the day. Breakfast begins early. Come & join us for coffee & doughnuts; lunch will also be served (around noon) both courtesies of the SWFH. A great schedule of events is planned. There are lots of places to camp (tent, camper, 5<sup>th</sup> wheel, etc.) We will be firing up the grill on Friday & Saturday night, so you may want to bring something to eat. Also Friday & Saturday night we will have a fire going for everyone (campfire talk) to enjoy. Water, soda, ice tea & coffee will be provided on Saturday. We will also have port-a-potty available. There is usually a Raffle Giveaway Saturday evening & a Silent Auction. **This is the Main Fundraiser for the SWFH so if YOU have something you'd like to donate PLEASE bring it! The Trappers Ed Course is given on Sunday the 24th.**

**Directions:** At Payson take Hwy 87 North past Pine & Strawberry to where Hwy 260 turns towards Camp Verde. Go West on Hwy 260 about 3 miles to Mile Post 248. Just beyond the Mile Post you will see the SWFH signs at Forest Road 144, turn right and go North on FR144 about ½ mile to signs marking the camp site. This is a well-maintained road, so it should not be any problem regardless of the weather. To those folks coming in from the Camp Verde area, head East on Hwy 260 to Mile Post 249 and look for the SWFH signs at Forest Road 144. Then turn left and go about ½ mile to the camp site. To see a Schedule of Events, go to the website [www.southwestfurharvesters.com](http://www.southwestfurharvesters.com)

**\*\*\*OTHER OPPURTUNITIES TO LEARN TO TRAP: YOUTH TRAPPERS Ed & CAMPOUT Nov. 10-12. 3-Day event teaching the Trapper's Education Course with an actual trapping session for kids & adults alike. Demos of skinning, fleshing, stretching & using foot-hold traps (private lands) and cage traps (public lands). Primitive camping available, porta potties and food provided. Kids are free.** Location: Chauncey Ranch in Mayer, AZ. Hosted by: Southwest Fur Harvesters. Register: Bob Rhoton [brhoton@ymail.com](mailto:brhoton@ymail.com) , [www.southwestfurharvesters.com](http://www.southwestfurharvesters.com)

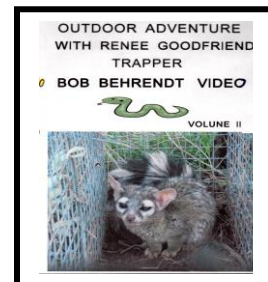
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## THE TOP 5 CALLED PREDATORS- by Eddie M.

Okay you have your camouflage, your weapon of choice & your predator calls & you are headed out to see what you can call in! Arizona is blessed with several varieties of predators and you as a caller have the chance to call each of them. What kind of predators are we talking about? Let's talk about that plus maybe give some tips on certain habitat types where the predator may be found plus the suggested calling sequence & sounds that you might use. Remember, there are no hard & set rules when it comes to varmint calling.

**COYOTE:** The smartest critter of this group, the coyote for most is also the most commonly seen called in predator. Since coyotes are the Top Predator for most of Arizona they are often seen approaching boldly to your calling as they have little to fear. The coyote is a good teacher for student varmint callers. To call one in you must do everything correctly & most coyotes (except the pups & teenagers) must be completely fooled to answer your calling. This is why I try to make my calling sound realistic. I am trying to play a tune with my calls that will fool them into thinking that something really is going on out there that they can take advantage of. Coyotes are found all over AZ except in the rockiest, brushiest places. My favorite habitat types are the somewhat open desert with mesquite trees & sand or down South of Tucson in the yellow grass habitat. The areas next to agriculture can also be good. Also, the Palo Verde & Ironwood deserts, antelope country, juniper flats, the pine forest, riparian areas, etc. Stands should be from 10-15 minutes and long periods of silence while calling is okay as is varying the calling between soft & loud. Sounds to use include rabbit, bird, rodent, fawn, chicken, goat, calf, house cat and coyote pup distress. Certain types of howls will also work. Watch Randy Anderson's Calling Coyotes DVD's or Dr. Ed Sceery's Howling for Coyotes DVD. Also, don't forget the Lip Squeak. Answer times can vary. I have seen as many as 5 coyotes come running on the 1<sup>st</sup> note of a call. I have also called for 15 minutes then sat in silence & counted to 300 & had a coyote come running in.



**GRAY FOX:** For many callers, this predator is the next most called in critter that is seen. The gray is not the smartest critter in the group. The gray can be a somewhat common critter in the right habitat. They have beautiful fur & one way to distinguish them from other foxes is that a gray will always have a black line running down the middle of the top of its tail. Grays can also be found out on the coyote flats however it is better for the habitat to have some rocky places and tree-lined washes in the area so they can escape the coyotes. Gray fox can climb trees. Generally, places that have a lot of coyotes don't have a lot of foxes. Better habitat for a gray fox is the brushy to really brushy areas with or without rocks like the Manzanita or oak/chaparral-hell type areas that you will find on many mountains. I also like hills w/rock piles, juniper hill country, sometimes the canyons in antelope country, again tree-lined washes in all the desert types, riparian areas, basically coyote country plus thick areas. Gray fox country is also often bobcat country. Calling stands should be from 11 to 15 minutes or longer if in good bobcat country. I may start with a soft & plain cottontail distress esp. on the quiet mornings however I eventually get LOUD as I want the sound to penetrate the brush and travel far. My average answer time is about 11 minutes. They often have some brushy country to get through. I like to call mostly continuous, pausing no more than 30 seconds esp. in bobcat/bear sign country. I will also pause for longer though if only calling foxes. If I see one approaching I will keep calling until it is in range (sometimes unless it looks directly at me) then take the shot. The approach can be anything from very bold & fast, bouncing down the mountain or running at you to shy & circling through the brush. Sometimes you only get one chance, other times it can be hard to get the critter to leave. Other sounds are the jackrabbit distress & something like foxes fighting. A loud bird distress is one of my favorites. Fox puppies can work for you e-callers. I prefer the high-pitched sounds which also work for bobcat. If you're calling & hear something screaming at you it is probably a gray fox. If you call in a fox & miss it or don't get a shot, sometimes you can go back a few hours later, set up a little different & call the fox back in again.



**KIT FOX:** Even the adults are small animals. They live in the open areas with the coyotes. Creosote flats, open/broken deserts, perhaps antelope country. Uses holes dug by it or others. This fox is mostly a nocturnal critter although I've called them at noon. Calling really early & late is probably best. Has very delicate skin like a cottontail rabbit. A shotgun is kinder to the pelt. More in some desert locales than some think. I like the high-pitched rodent, lip squeak, cottontail, or bird distress however on the one I called and/killed at noon I was using the jackrabbit on a Pee Wee. The approach is usually ears up & coming. Another clue that it's a kit fox is no black stripe down middle of tail.





**BOBCAT:** One of the most prized critters in the group. It may take some caller's years to call & kill their 1<sup>st</sup> bobcat. The main reason that we kill more coyotes than bobcats is that we go to coyote habitat and stay a coyote amount of time on stand. Bobcats are found in the more broken coyote country however you'll find many more cats if you look to the rocky & brushy places, often the brushier the better. Bobcats love country w/continuous woody plants that stretch for miles with rocks. The Manzanita, chaparral, oak thickets, brushy ravines, stream & river by-ways, riparian areas, desert or farm fields next to agriculture, canyons in antelope country if rocky & brushy, all the desert types, basically all the places a coyote lives plus add the rockiest, brushiest places that you can think of. Sounds I like are high-pitched, plain cottontail, bird distress, rodent, jackrabbit, lip squeak, chicken and housecat and if you can imitate a cat in heat, why wouldn't it work? They say to call continuous and not pause for more than 30 seconds. I do remember seeing one coming in to the call & it did only move while I was making noise. The two best bobcat callers I know (the Burris brothers) say that they call using a plain cottontail however they don't call continuous. They pause here & there like on a coyote stand? A decoy that moves some will REALLY take the focus off of you. The approach is usually a very slow stalking movement or all of a sudden, they are just there! Many callers do not see until after the stand is over while slowly standing & looking. It is a good idea when calling cats to take a few steps forward and of course look behind you before you leave the stand. Look to see if anything runs away or crouches down & freezes. One in 50 they say will come running in like a coyote. The pelt can be very valuable and the shotgun is kinder to the pelt than most rifles. Even though they breed all year during the months of Dec-Jan more pairs seem to be seen or called in together. If you are serious stands should be 30 minutes. Washes, rims and stream waterways are all travel areas that should be considered.



**BADGER:** Another highly prized critter the badger is probably the least called critter of the 5 predators listed. Known to have a nasty disposition and for being able to dig rapidly, badgers are more numerous than some think yet rarely seen. They can be found in a variety of habitats like flat & rolling antelope/prairie dog country, agricultural areas, all the desert types, juniper flats and even turkey country. They are active hunters that make most of their living digging holes to catch critters and they might travel 5 or more miles a night digging fresh holes the whole way. I've called & killed them using a cottontail distress while calling coyotes however my favorite call is the lip squeak so a rodent distress should also work. On the approaches, I have seen the badger makes a bee-line for the caller with no hesitation. The first one I shot at 3 steps and my 5<sup>th</sup> one at 2 steps, no hesitation. The fur is prime after January.



### **2017-2018 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 ahead and have No Excuse for not hunting some of the upcoming organized hunts.*

**Sept. 9-10, 2017 Novice Hunt - 1<sup>st</sup> Official Hunt of the year.** Normally must have a Novice on Team to qualify. **Experts Special Incentive for 6-Month Hunt Applicants:** Sign up in Sept, hunt the Novice Hunt, call & kill critter, it counts.

**Oct. 4, 2017 PPCI 6-Month Hunt** begins. Cost \$20 per person. One or two-man teams only. (See Special Incentive above)

Oct. 7-8, 2017 PPCI Monthly Hunt

### **WHAT ABOUT THE USE OF E-CALLERS & OTHER NEW THINGS THIS YEAR**

Electronic callers may be used for all hunts except Top Caller which will be based on hand called animals only. For purposes of awarding calling points when an electronic caller is used the "caller" is defined as the individual who sets up & operates the electronic caller that draws in the animal that is taken. Once an electronic call is used on a stand any animal taken is considered "electronic called" even if the hunter switches to hand calls for that stand.

Hunters must keep their own record sheet for the season. Hunt chairman will also keep records for Monthly Scramble hunts and other proof of kill brought to meetings. Records must include if the animal was hand called or electronic called.

No sand bagging ... proof of kill must be turned in each month. Proof of kill will be tails, Hunt Chairman may keep proof of kill until end of season, proof of kill may be changed by Hunt chairman.

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### **PPCI HUNT AWARDS**

**Monthly Scramble Hunts** – September is Novice Hunt. October through March are regular Scramble Hunts. **Top Shooter** – Runs August to April Meeting, One point per animal. **Top Caller** – Runs August to April meeting, only hand called points.

**Top Novice Award** – Runs August to April meeting, electronic and hand called points. **Pin Program** – Runs year-round.

**Best of Seven** - This is an Individual award based on placings in the 7 scramble hunts. **PPCI Team Field Championship (6 Month Hunt)** – Runs from October meeting to April meeting. Sign up by November meeting, team must hunt 2 monthly scramble hunts. **Special Incentive for Expert 6 Month** if they sign up in Sept. and hunt Novice Hunt and call/kill a critter(s).

## **PVCI CHRISTMAS PARTY/POTLUCK/AUCTION COMING SOON!!!** by Eddie M.

Talking about the upcoming PVCI Christmas Party in September may seem a little early yet the truth is that it will be here before you know it! **Wednesday, December 6, 2017** will be the date, the location is **6822 N. 57<sup>th</sup> Drive, the American Legion Hall Post 29 in Glendale, AZ.** our **NEW** regular Monthly Meeting place, the Christmas Party taking the place of the regular Meeting. Of course, you & yours and all (family, friends, kids) are cordially invited to attend this Event, you do NOT have to be a member. **The entry fee to get into the Christmas Party is typically at least 1 can of food or water per person.** All food/water donations are donated to one of the local Food Banks by members Gary A.M. & Ginger in what has been called the “Dave Kardo’s Food Drive” in honor of one of our late members, Dave that used to always run the Food Drive. **Dinner will be a “Potluck Affair”** & we ask you the members to please bring a dish or dessert to share. **The PVCI Christmas Party is a Major Fundraiser for PVCI. We have been having a tough time getting** donated items lately from the various Outdoor & Sporting vendors **so this year more than ever PVCI will also take YOUR donated items (including services, hunts, baked goods, etc.).** Generally, this is also the night that our “Member of the Year” & “President’s Award” & “Reggie Cup” recipients are named while their family & friends are present. All in all this should be a good night of seeing new & familiar faces & celebrating the Christmas Spirit! Hope to see 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 partnered 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. See more on pages 2 of the 2017/2018 AZ. Hunt Regs. There are also some events for the ladies. Visit [www.azgfd.gov/outdoorskills](http://www.azgfd.gov/outdoorskills) for more info. Consider helping at these Events as a Mentor. You’ll usually be fed & your help is greatly appreciated. I go as a PVCI member & often wear my PVCI T-Shirt. It doesn’t have to be varmint calling related for me to volunteer to help get someone hooked hunting.

**Sept. 8-10 – Becoming An Outdoors Woman** – Workshop for adult women (18 & older) that teaches basic outdoor skills in a fun non-threatening environment including sessions on fishing, hunting, kayaking, hiking, rappelling, camping, GPS & more. Evenings slated for entertainment, socializing & fun. Fee Required, includes lodging & meals. Location: Friendly Pines Camp, Prescott. Host: AZ. Wildlife Federation. Info: [www.azwildlife.org](http://www.azwildlife.org), click on Education/BOW. Register: Call 480-644-0077 or [awf@wildlife.org](mailto:awf@wildlife.org)

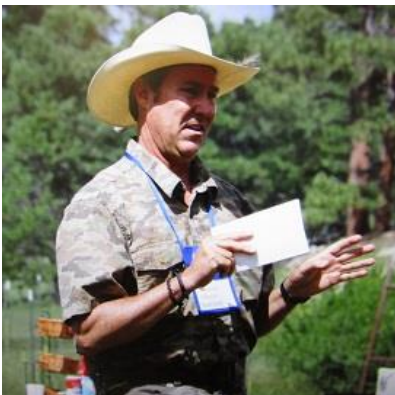
**Sept. 23-24 – Southwest Fur Harvesters (SWFH) Annual Rendezvous: Free Event featuring Trapping & Predator Calling demos & supplies from people that know. Trappers Education Course Sunday Morning.** Camping in area. Location: North of Strawberry, east of Camp Verde Host: SWFH Info. [www.southwestfurharvesters.com](http://www.southwestfurharvesters.com) or [brhoton@yail.com](mailto:brhoton@yail.com)

**Oct 6-8: Unit 1 Squirrel Hunt Camp: Beginners only.** Location: Los Burros Campground, Lakeside-Pinetop Area. Register: [www.youthoutdoorsunlimited.com](http://www.youthoutdoorsunlimited.com)

**Oct 6-8: Outdoor Skills Squirrel Hunt & Fish Camp:** 1<sup>st</sup> time hunters/fishers only. Meals, Payson area, Sharps Creek Campground, Payson Area, Unit 23. Host AZGFD, Red Bear Outfit, Register: Joe Sayer, 928-853-0963 [JSayer@azgfd.gov](mailto:JSayer@azgfd.gov)

**Too many Youth Deer Oct 5-8 & Elk Camps Oct 12-15** to list. Refer to pages 28-29 in the 2017-2018 AZ. Hunting Regs.

## **MORE BOOTCAMP PICS**



Thanks Ray for all  
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