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Hunt
Chairman
Ray E.

Webmaster
Tommy M.



Sept.-Oct. 2016



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sept. 17 - Cabela's Predator Days, PVCI intro to predator hunting 10:00-12:00 Noon, Volunteers needed for table.

Please wear your **PVCI CLUB LOGO SHIRTS!!!** Ken E will be giving a Predator Hunting Class!!

*****MONTHLY MEETING NOTICE:** The Phoenix Varmint Callers, Inc. are Meeting at 3720 W. GREENWAY RD, The National Assoc. of Letter Carriers Branch #576. (this is 2 buildings East of the QT Gas Station on Greenway). The start time is still 7:00p.m. We must be out by 10:00p.m. We have been asked to bring no drinks. Instead non-alcoholic drinks & some minimum food may be purchased inside. These total purchases will help bring down the cost of renting the Hall for our Club Meeting.

****The 1st Official Hunt of the 2016-2017season called the Novice Hunt will take place on Sept. 10-11, 2016.** The idea is to team the Novices with Experts for a weekend of hands-on hunt instruction & calling. Normally each team **MUST** have a novice to qualify for the Hunt. The Meeting on the 6th will be Novice-Oriented. The Hunt is that weekend!

***The Southwest Fur Harvesters Rendezvous (SWFH) will be on Sept. 17-18.** These guys know how to harvest critters! Many excellent seminars on trapping, calling and fur prep. Also a Silent Auction, Raffles, Vendors, some food. Plus the trappers Course will be given. More info. Inside.

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

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

***If you haven't visited the PVCI website www.pvci.org lately you should give it another try.** I know it seems dead however PVCI member Tommy M. has been updating & adding more information & is really working hard to make the website worthwhile. Now with the **Hunting Forum** truthfully, the real problem is **YOU** not taking the time to add your input & **YOU** for not chatting from time to time, **YES YOU! PLEASE sign-up & let's CHAT on the Hunting Forum!**



Miss Teen AZ
Miss Rodeo AZ



2016 PVCI Trail Clearing
Group



PVCI Boot Camp

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ARIZONA TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION (ATA) CONVENTION REPORT

by Eddie M.

On July 30 the Arizona Trappers Association (ATA) held their Annual Convention at the Gila County Fairgrounds in Globe, AZ. This is the ATA's largest fund raiser & to me has always been like the old Mountain Man Rendezvous where the trappers, callers, hunters & other outdoor people all came out of the hills & gathered together to meet & greet one another, share knowledge, buy goods, tell tales & have friendly competition amongst one another. Miss Rodeo AZ. & Miss Teen Rodeo Az. were also present and helped in the fund-raising. There was a good crowd this year & some good trapping & calling seminars were put on by guys who are experts in what they do. April Howard of the AZGFD was also present & spoke about the trapper's bobcat lower jaw requirement w/ways to improve the process and **why the data was so important (California where trapping bobcats is now illegal, didn't have data)**. The Trappers Course was also given for those wanting to buy a trapper's license and trapping, calling and fur prep items were available for sale. For me the most Fun part of this EVENT are the friendly competitions and this year did not disappoint. I sat between both Miss Rodeos during the Pie-Eating Contest and they both got a little messy! The Winner of the pie eating contest won \$100!!! The other events like the Youth & Adult Trap-Setting Contest, Ladies Frying Pan Toss and the Musket Throw were fun also! The ATA Convention is one Event that I don't like to miss. Hope to see you next year however the Talk is that this Event may NOT be in Globe, AZ. next year as the Fairgrounds charges too much and are becoming harder to deal with. We will keep you posted.



PVCI ANNUAL TRAIL CLEARING REPORT

by Eddie M.

In most cases known to man, a Trail will not maintain itself which is why once a year, we here at PVCI get together with the express purpose of maintaining Trail #184, the See Canyon Trail. This is a hunter/survival Trail used by hikers, horse riders, hunters & bicyclist & runs from Promontory Butte to Christopher Creek. Essentially this Trail will get you off of the Rim in 3.2 miles instead of going more than 5 times that distance to go around. PVCI has been maintaining this Trail for over 40 years! PVCI had a decent crew this year to do the work. The crews are usually split into an upper crew that starts from on top and a lower crew that drives to and begins on the bottom. When the crews meet, all usually return to the vehicles at the bottom and drive back to the top and Camp. The PVCI Trail Clearing is always a GREAT Family-Oriented Event with plenty of food and even more laughter & camaraderie! It is a Prime Example of what these off-season family-oriented Events are all about. To get to know one another & make friends & introduce your family, friends & neighbors both to a Good-Time in the Outdoors and with PVCI!!! Much Thanks to ALL those that helped in ANY form.



THE STORY BEHIND THE PICTURE by Eddie M.

If you are not taking photos of your successful called in critters I have one question for you. Why Not? Some just don't especially some of the older predator callers. I can remember some of my early calling days hunting w/ member Hal L. We had a lot of good hunting trips hunting predators, bears, turkeys, deer and other big game yet really only took pictures of the big game and special predators like bobcats or maybe fox. Lots of the coyote's pictures just weren't taken and I can't tell you why (I didn't have a camera)? Eventually we did better because I started taking a camera & using it. Cameras have come a long ways since then & for me anymore taking a picture of the critter is one way of saying thanks & giving it honor. Below are a small collection of pictures. Each picture tells a story. Hopefully this'll make good reading.



#1



#2



#3



#4

#1 This is P.V.C.I member Ron P. with I believe not the 1st but one of his first called coyotes? It may also be a red dot scope coyote, again not sure. When I first saw the picture I remembered a time where we (Ron, myself & not sure) were calling in a rather desolate area that was on the way to where I'd helped on a successful bighorn sheep hunt previous. I believe that I was calling & heard a couple shots. When the stand was over, Ron said that a coyote had come in and he'd shot and was sure that he'd hit it however the coyote turned and ran away. I asked him to take me to where the coyote had been hit and point to the way it had left the area. We were in a sandy area and sure enough there were tracks showing where the coyote had abruptly turned and ran hard to get away. I explained to the two other hunters that this sometimes happens, the coyote is running and will probably die if hit good. Follow the tracks for a spell and often at the end will be the coyote. We did just that and sure enough after a spell came across a dead coyote lying in the sand.

#2 We were in Unit 8 calling/hunting for bears/predators. The evening before Tim N. and I had split up to call and he called in a bobcat that he didn't shoot because he was shaking too much when he looked through his rifle scope. The next morning I woke up early, got dressed and walked far. I finally found a spot where I could look down on where two draws came together. I called using the fawn distress on the Pee Wee Critter Call and was there for 45 minutes. Then as I slowly reached to switch calls I caught movement down on the bottom and saw a bobcat. One shot from the .270 and the cat was mine. I hit the cat in the face so pelt damage was very minimal, the face all being one flap of skin.

#3 Yes I called this buck in & shot him! Well actually I called in the does & he was with them. Unit 12B the Late Hunt. I was tracking deer in the sand, following the drag marks as the bucks with their heavy headgear dragged their front feet in the sand while walking. I had a few opportunities to kill a buck however I wanted something bigger than what I already had on the wall & in this unit IF you can stop yourself from killing the 1st buck that you see, you can kill the best buck of your life. Anyway, right before Thanksgiving using a fawn distress, I called in 13 does & 2 small bucks all within about 8- 12 steps of me. They all came in one by one, looked at me, did the head dance thing & walked away. It wasn't even tempting on the small bucks. I'd already passed on bigger. I would just have to come back after Thanksgiving. After Thanksgiving, I drove the 3 hours past Flagstaff to my unit and drove straight to the sand. I then walked right into the middle of all the deer dragging feet stuff sat down and did the fawn distress for approx. 20 minutes. A line of does showed up with one nice buck following. He was in love with one of the does towards the back. I ended up shooting him at 30 yards in the sand. Turns out he was a 9 year old 4x5 buck with notches in his ears from fighting.

#4 Yes I can sort of remember this hunt. Our now webmaster, Tommy M., Carrolton and I hunted together on a Club hunt. The few times that I have hunted with Tommy M. he has started in the same location and always seems to call & kill a coyote there. This time was no exception and although it took a while, Tommy eventually called in and killed one with his shotgun. Later in the day Tommy, set up in an area that had quite the view. Letting the terrain dictate his choice of weapon, Tommy brought his rifle this time and called a long distance coyote that he may not have killed had he taken the shotgun. I don't remember if we killed any more coyote or not? Tommy M. called & killed these two though.

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

PVCI "GEORGE KNOX" MEMORIAL BOOT CAMP REPORT

by Eddie M.

Boot Camp, the word brings back memories for me since I have been through Marine Corps Boot Camp. Boot Camps are designed as a tool to teach new methods and thus change a person to be different and hopefully more schooled & skilled than when you went in. Well PVCI recently held a Varmint Calling Boot Camp on Aug. 13-14 that was designed to give you the basics of what the sport is and how to go about getting ready for it THEN actually going out and doing it! Sharing in the teaching and overall Boot Camp experience were the Arizona Elk Society, the Arizona Predator Callers, the Valley Long Beards and the AZGFD providing the use of the private land, the meals, the shade, the tables and chairs, etc. all in a wonderful Partnership of cooperation. The weekend was a success with over 60 students, both adult and youth getting a taste of what varmint calling is about. In the end I believe that there were 3 coyotes & 2 foxes that were taken.

I will include below a small sampling of pictures of the weekend. One thing about this varmint-calling where you are making noises that will attract wildlife and make them come to you. Each and every stand that we do has the potential to create an unforgettable experience, be it seeing a fox or coyote actually running towards you within spitting distance or standing up to try to make an approaching bear walk away, moments like these are priceless treasures that should not be ignored. To those that are new to varmint calling, your experiences and career will continue to grow IF you choose to pursue it. Believe me when I say that this is just the beginning!!!!



More Lew Early 90th Birthday Party Pics

Last Newsletter I didn't even do justice at Lew's 90th B-Day Party as far as Other Folks present. Here are a few more pictures.

However am still not doing the birthday party justice!



ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT PURCHASING ANY TYPE OF VEHICLE?

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

(SPECIAL INCENTIVES FOR YOU & PVCI) 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.

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



THE 6-MONTH HUNT & OTHER FUN HUNT OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU IN PVCI

PVCI is a hunting club, let there be no bones about it. As such there may be some of you both new member & older who may not know about some of the fun hunt opportunities the Club has to help you hone your skills and create friendly competition amongst each other. Hunt-wise there are of course the **Monthly Club Hunts** that we have every month from September through March. These **hunts happen the weekend after the first Tuesday of the month** which is when our Monthly Meeting takes place. This hunt is a weekend hunt and normally allows for 1, 2 or 3 man teams to compete against each other, the exception being the Novice Hunts in September & March where up to 4 people may be allowed. The cost for this hunt is \$10 per person. 1st, 2nd & 3rd place receive a small memento for placing. As an added incentive the names of all those who hunt this hunt receive one point for an end of the year "Special Raffle." In addition, those that win 1st Place receive 3 extra points, 2nd Place receives 2 extra points, 3rd Place receives 1 extra point more towards this Special Raffle. Each point collected puts your name into this "Special Raffle" Drawing once. At the end of the Season **Top Caller, Top Shooter, Top Novice, Best of 7 & Top 6-Month Hunt Expert & Novice Teams** will receive a special incentive award. All other participating hunter entries will be in the "Special Raffle Drawing" for the remaining incentive awards. **The 6-Month Hunt** is a hunt that pits you against the other 6-Month Hunt team members to see which team can get the most predators in a 6-Month time span. This hunt has 2 categories, Expert & Novice and is limited to 1 or 2 man teams only with a cost of \$20 per person. You sign up with the Hunt Chairman Ray E. and he dictates what the monthly proof of kill will be. **The 6-Month Hunt begins at the October Monthly Meeting and runs until the April Monthly Meeting** unless you are an Expert that signed/paid for the 6-Month Hunt before the Novice Hunt and then took a Novice out and called & killed a predator during that Hunt only. This is for incentive & If you fit this category, then you get an earlier start. The Top Teams at the end of the year get their names entered onto a perpetual trophy! One 6 Month Hunt Rule that must be followed is that if there are 2 team members then they must hunt at least one Club Hunt together. The deadline to enter this 6-Month Hunt is by the end of the November Monthly Meeting.

The MULTI-CLUB HUNT is a one-day Hunt (to be determined) that pits our Club against the other Predator-Calling Clubs in the state for bragging rights. Who is the "BEST" Calling Club in the state? We have lost this hunt the last few years but have come so close! We just need a few more participating members! PVCI members, **we ask that if you hunt no other hunt during the year, PLEASE HUNT ON THIS ONE DAY HUNT!** The cost for this Hunt is Free! Look for a date & details in this Newsletter! **One other thing is that electronics are allowed on this one day however** if you kill something using electronics it counts for the Multi-Club Hunt ONLY! Electronic kills don't count for anything else in our Club unless you have CHAMP status. The **Top Shooter** is the member who kills the most critters with all critters counting as one, **Top Caller**, the member who calls the most critters, **Top Novice**, Novice who calls the most critters and **Best of 7**, the Top member who places in all of the Club Hunts. Lots of opportunity, however you have got to get out and go Calling!

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 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 Sept. will be a Mossberg 12 ga. Shotgun.

The Gun for Oct. will be a Ruger American Predator in .243!!!

Someone is going to WIN! Will it be you? Remember there is **NO LIMIT** to the amount of tickets you may purchase.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Sept. 1 – Coatimundi, Blue Grouse, Chukar, Dove & Crow Seasons Open. Check Hunt Regs. Archery antelope season closes.

Sept. 1 – Tassel-eared Squirrel Season opens in unit 33. Tassel-eared Squirrel Season open all year in unit 31. Check Regs.

Sept. 2- Rifle & Muzzleloader Antelope Season opens in most Hunt Units. Check your Hunt Regs. Band-Tail Pigeon Opens.

Sept. 6 - This is the 1st Tuesday. (PVCI Monthly Meeting, NEW LOCATION: 3720 W. Greenway Rd., Phx.) 7:00p.m. This will be a Novice-Oriented Meeting. Novices be sure to be here to get paired up with an Expert for the Novice Hunt.

Sept. 8 – Archery deer, turkey & some bear seasons close. Archery squirrel closes Kaibab. Check Hunt Regs.

Sept. 9 – Archery Elk Season opens in select Hunt Units. Check your Hunt Regs.

Sept. 10-11 – PVCI NOVICE HUNT- The 1st Organized Hunt of the 2016-2017 Season. This hunt teams up Experts with Novices for a weekend of hands-on hunt training. A Novice must be on the team to qualify.

Sept. 15 - This is the 3rd Thursday. PVCI Board of Directors Meeting: 3720 W. Greenway Rd., Phx.) 7:00p.m.

Sept. 17 - Cabela's Predator Days, PVCI intro to predator hunting 10:00-12:00 Noon, Volunteers needed.

Sept. 17 - 18- Southwest Fur Harvesters (SWFH) Fall Rendezvous in the pines. Trapping demos, predator calling, the Trappers Course, trapping & calling supplies for sale, some food, lots of free camping space. Location: Payson Area. More information: www.southwestfurharvesters.com Hosted by Southwest Fur Harvesters.

Sept. 22 – Archery Elk Season ends. Check your Hunt Regs.

Sept. 23-29 - Early Rifle Bull Elk Season opens-closes some units. Sept. 9-15 open-close in Unit 27. Check your Hunt Regs.

Sept. 30 – Quail & Squirrel Seasons Open Statewide. Rifle Bear Season Opens in certain Hunt Units. Check Hunt Regs.

Oct. 4 - This is the 1st Tuesday. (PVCI Monthly Meeting, NEW LOCATION: 3720 W. Greenway Rd., Phx.) 7:00p.m.

Oct. 7-13 - Youth-Only Elk Season opens-closes. Check your Hunt Regs.

Oct. 8-9 – PVCI MONTHLY HUNT!!!

Oct. 20 - This is the 3rd Thursday. PVCI Board of Directors Meeting: 3720 W. Greenway Rd., Phx.) 7:00p.m.

Oct. 21 or 28 – Various October opening dates for deer. Check your Hunt Regs.

Nov. 1 – Trapping Season opens statewide w/some exceptions. Leg-hold traps on private property only. Check Regs.

Nov. 1 - This is the 1st Tuesday. (PVCI Monthly Meeting, NEW LOCATION: 3720 W. Greenway Rd., Phx.) 7:00p.m.

Nov. 4 or 11 - Various opening dates for deer. Check your Hunt Regs.

Nov. 5-6 – PVCI MONTHLY HUNT!!!

*****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-16 for February 2016 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 James S. 602-820-5142**

YOUR RENEWAL FEES HELP THE CLUB!!!

PVCI MEMBERSHIP COUNT: 134

PVCI WELCOMES NEW MEMBER: Ben W.

UPCOMING EVENT: PVCI NOVICE HUNT Sept 10-11 – PAIRS NOVICES W/EXPERTS 1st HUNT of the SEASON!

Yes, the Official start of the 2016-2017 Hunt Season will begin the weekend of Sept. 10-11, 2016. The idea is to team up the Novices with Experts at the September Monthly Meeting on Sept 6th. Then that weekend get ready for a hands-on Hunting/Predator Calling experience as the experts show you just how they get their predators.

The September Monthly Meeting will be geared towards Novices explaining the what, why's and how's of predator calling. The firearm in the Gun-of-the-Month Raffle will be a 12 gauge shotgun. Tickets will be \$5 each with No Limit on how many you may purchase. Winner MUST be able to pass a background check. Someone will win that night. In addition the novices will also get teamed up with the experts for the weekend Novice Hunt. This should be Good Stuff!

UPCOMING EVENT: Southwestern Fur Harvesters (SWFH) Annual Fall Rendezvous – September 17-18, 2016

As another trapping & calling season approaches, the Southwest Fur Harvesters 6th Annual Fall Rendezvous will take place. As in years past it will be held in the cool pines above Payson. This year's date is September 17-18, 2016. The 1st seminar starts at 7:30a.m. then continue throughout the day. Breakfast begins at 6:30a.m. Come & join us for coffee & doughnuts; lunch will also be served both courtesy of the SWFH. A great schedule of events is planned. There will be lots of places to camp (tent, camper, 5th 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 their Main Fundraiser so if you have something you'd like to donate please bring it. The Trappers Ed Course is given on Sunday the 18th.

Directions: From Camp Verde take Highway 260 north. Between Milepost 250 & 251 turn onto FS9366A & follow back until you start seeing vehicles. To see a Schedule of Events go to the website www.southwestfurharvesters.com

***OTHER OPPURTUNITIES TO LEARN TO TRAP: YOUTH TRAPPERS CAMP Nov. 11-13 a certified trapper's class for youth & adults, kids 17 & under free, followed by hands-on practice of wildlife trapping. Equipment & supplies provided. Primitive Camping on site with some meals. Location: Chauncey Ranch in Mayer, AZ. Hosted by: Southwest Fur Harvesters. Call Bob Rhoton (928) 532-5776 or please Register: www.southwestfurharvesters.com

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! **Tuesday, December 6, 2016** will be the date; the location is **(3720 W. Greenway Rd., Phx. AZ.)** our regular Monthly Meeting place, the Christmas Party taking the place of the regular Meeting. **(??? We need a volunteer to run Event)** is in charge this year. 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 (water works also) 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.** There should be a good assortment of items present from various Outdoor & Sporting vendors **(a PVCI volunteer still needed) is normally working on this now)** plus PVCI will also take donated items from you (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!
P.S. A PVCI volunteer is needed to run the PVCI Christmas Party. Call President Terry H. (602-615-4107).

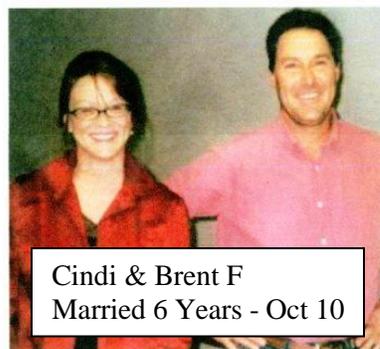
Happy Anniversary!!!



Ruth & James S.
Married 21 Years - Sept 21



Dorothy & Scott B
Married 39 Years - Oct 1



Cindi & Brent F
Married 6 Years - Oct 10

MY FIRST BEAR by Jess S.

Tagging a bear has been on my Hunter's Bucket List since I first took interest in the sport. I wanted to experience the rush of a charging bear to the call. Most people think that's crazy but it is how I've always dreamed a bear hunt should be. Will Harwood has been my companion and hunting mentor for nearly 8 years. He's been my guide and teacher in everything from skinning my first squirrel to tagging my first elk. I was still wet behind the ears when I naïvely asked him if he'd help me get a bear. Like it was that simple! I remember he cautioned me to the dangers and told me it would take a lot of hard hunting and patience on my part. I still had a lot to learn but I was game for the challenge. And so the quest for my first bear began....

In the years to follow, we'd spend a lot of time in the woods hunting anything our license allowed. Though bear wasn't usually first and foremost on the list, Will never missed an opportunity to show me sign, point out the foods and terrain they prefer and how to setup a proper stand. I have more photos of bear scat and tracks than I care to print. He always made sure to 'run me through the seasons' which reinforced my shooting skills and prepared me for more challenging game. Because you never know what will show up to the call. Will loves to tell his bear hunt stories and I eagerly listened, taking mental notes, trying to envision if my first encounter would be like one of his. He's told me time and time again, "Stay alert. Shoot, don't hesitate, reload and be ready to hit it again." "That bear is gonna be coming straight for us and I'm gonna be pissed if you don't shoot!" "When you hit it, be ready to hit it again AND AGAIN cause they're damn tough and the last thing you want is a pissed off bear!"

Aug 7th, 2016 we head into the depths of unit 6B with bear on our minds. We spend most of the day scouting familiar spots with little luck and decide to make our way into unfamiliar terrain for the late stand. My bad, we take a wrong turn but the area looks promising so we venture further. Little clues reveal themselves – all the right vegetation, extremely remote and rugged cliffs and the sudden appearance of deer. Now that in itself is not unusual but the fact that none of them had any fawns for this time of year caught my attention. Then we spot two fawns without their mother. Odd. I suspected a predator in the area. We head out to the furthest point and make a stand – nothing. The sign is dismal too. Maybe I was wrong.

As we work our way out, I observe 3 canyon cuts merging into a single choke point along the rim. It's around 1730 and I ask to make our last stand there. Will normally picks the spots we call but this time he went along with my suggestion and I was feeling a bit proud about that. We work our way down over the edge and I pick out my shooting lane. Will covers me off to my left. I have a good feeling about this stand but I don't want to share my thoughts and jinx it. We take our positions and he begins to fawn bleat. Just minutes into the call I hear branches snap. I ready my rifle and focus towards the sound. Could it be a doe responding like so many times before? Then I see it. Jet black rushing uphill. FAST. There was no doubt - a bear!! I put my eye to the scope of my Rem 700 .270 WIN and saw it charging in straight for Will! 50 ... 40 ... 30 yards in the blink of an eye. I began to squeeze the trigger when Will stopped calling. A split second later I finish the pull – BOOM! The bear goes down 25 yards from Will. "Right on, you got it!" he exclaimed, but I knew better from all his stories...

I watch in awe as it stands, shakes off my direct hit and spins to beat feet. ("When you hit it, be ready to hit it again AND AGAIN cause they're damn tough and the last thing you want is a pissed off bear!") It would take another two hits from my rifle to stop this one.

Now I too have a bear story to tell. Best of all, I was able to tag it with my best friend and partner at my side. Everything he taught me was truth. Bears are awesome, powerful and command respect. Don't ever underestimate them. They are also one of the most intelligent and elusive creatures that live in the most beautifully rugged terrain. Entering their world will challenge you physically and mentally. But perhaps the most important of all lessons I learned and will stress to anyone that asks me what it's like to be on the receiving end of a charging bear ... **"Stay alert. Shoot, don't hesitate, reload and be ready to hit it again."**



This Story is "NOT" Over!!! More of the story to come in the next issue!!!

***To contribute stories, pictures, (pdf. please) etc. to this Newsletter send items to: covotecaller@cox.net**

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. Look on pages 26-30 of the 2015/2016 AZ. Hunt Regs. You'll note that there are also some events for the ladies. Visit www.azgfd.gov/outdoorskills for more information. Consider helping out 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 on hunting.

Sept. 2 & 3: Safford Youth Dove Hunting Clinic & Hunt: Experts teach youth new to hunting about firearm safety and all about doves. Evening clinic followed by live hunt next day Location Dry Park Lake, Safford area. Hosted by AZGFD & South Eastern Arizona Sportsman's Club. Register by Aug. 30. Devin Skinner, 520-591-7880, dskinner@azgfd.gov

Sept. 3: Robbins Butte Mentored Youth Dove Hunt: Learn how to hunt doves from experienced hunters. Mentoring & food provided, just for kids at a Game & Fish Wildlife Area. Registration required: www.youthoutdoorsunlimited.com

Sept. 3-4: Open Dove Hunting Area Youth-Only Robbins Butte: Designated area for youth dove hunters. Self-serve, walk-in, some info. Location: Robbins Butte Wildlife Area. Hosted by AZGFD. Information: www.azgfd.gov/dove

Sept. 7-10: Youth/Family Dove Hunt CJ Biller Memorial: Classroom instruction Wednesday, hunt on Saturday. Location: Utery Mountain Shooting Range, G&F Mesa Office. Host by YOU, CJ Miller, Register: www.youthoutdoorsunlimited.com

Sept. 9-11 – Becoming An Outdoors Woman: Workshop for adult women (18 & older) that teaches basic outdoor skills in fun environment. Sessions in fishing, hunting, kayaking, camping, GPS, more. Classes held in day w/ entertainment, fun, socializing, at night. Fee required includes meals & lodging. Location: Prescott Friendly Pines Camp. Host AZ Wildlife Federation. Register: BOW Coordinator at awf@azwildlife.org 480-644-0077.

Sept. 17-18: Southwest Fur Harvesters Rendezvous in the pines. Trapping demos & instruction, predator calling, Trappers Course, trapping, calling supplies for sale, food, lots of free camping space. Location: Payson Rim Area. More information: www.southwestfurharvesters.com Hosted by Southwest Fur Harvesters.

Sept 30-Oct 2: Unit 1 Squirrel Camp: Beginners only. Info. 928-367-4281, Register: www.youthoutdoorsunlimited.com

Sept 30-Oct 2: Outdoor Skills Squirrel Hunt & Fish Camp: 1st time hunters only. Meals, Fee maybe. Payson area, Sharp Creek Campground, Register: Joe Sayer, 928-853-0963 JSayer@azgfd.gov

****Too many Youth Deer & Elk Camps** to list. Refer to pages 26-27 in the 2016-2017 Arizona Hunting Regulations.

2016-2017 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 ahead and have No Excuse for not hunting some of the upcoming organized hunts.

Sept. 10-11, 2016 Novice Hunt – 1st official Hunt of the year. Normally must have a Novice on the Team to qualify.

Oct. 4, 2016 PPCI 6-Month Hunt begins (See exceptions)

Oct. 8-9, 2016 PPCI Club Hunt

Nov. 5-6, 2016 PPCI Club Hunt

Dec. 10-11, 2016 PPCI Club (Fur?) Hunt

Jan. 7-8, 2017 PPCI Club Hunt

Jan. (??) 2017 Multi-Club Hunt (Date Not Known Yet)

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???)

Apr. 4, 2017 - PPCI 6-Month Hunt Ends

HUNT PICS



Ron P. w/ one of his first coyotes.



This coyote really liked its back rub! Ever happen to you?



Successful hunter w/bull



BIG KITTY tracks! Ghost cats do exist!



Thanks again Keith I. for a Great Bear Seminar!

ROOKIE PREDATOR CALLING MISTAKES by Eddie M.

If you are new in the Club, 1st off welcome! May your predator calling career be a Great One with Many, Many, Many experiences! I am going to start right away pointing out some of the Rookie Mistakes that many make so that you won't. I **will highlight the mistakes in BOLD**. Going hunting with a Mentor is one quick way to help your learning curve not be so wide. When member Ricardo & I went hunting together during his rookie year, there were things I was doing that he had not been doing on calling attempts with his buddies. For starters he said **they slammed the doors shut when they got to the calling area and talked out loud to each other while walking to the stand**. He said that they he never had any success until he went calling by himself an even then he still **slammed doors shut**. You should of course approach your calling area quietly, both in the vehicle & on foot. Ease the door shut, Whisper and hide the truck! You Do Not want the critters to know that humans are in the area as then they very often will Not respond.

Question: When you joined the Club, did you also join the Pin Program? **Not joining the Pin Program before even your 1st Hunt is a No, No! The cost is a one-time fee of \$10 that is good for as long as you are a member.** The Pin Program awards you with various Pins for your accomplishments throughout your calling career & you are recognized in front of everyone. See the Hunt Rules or ask the Hunt Chairman for a Full List. One example is that you receive a Pin for your 1st called bobcat. That might happen on your 1st Hunt! The Hunt Chairman Must see some form of physical proof.

Once on stand & calling, remember that a rabbit has small lungs. Yes it's okay to call loudly however remember to call in short separate breaths. **Just putting the call to your lips and humming the whole National Anthem with no breaks** will probably not work. **Coughing over & over while calling** is not good either. Best to stay in the truck or at home.

Don't take the wrong weapon to the stand. Let the terrain determine which weapon to take. Being a shotgun hunter I mainly look for areas that are thicker. The way I set up often if I can see the critter, it's in shotgun range and I can kill it. I once saw 5 coyotes come towards me on the 1st note of a call. When they were spitting distance I raised the shotgun & pulled the trigger. The coyotes saw the movement; I could see their eyes get big as they tried to put the brakes on & leave. Nothing happen so I pulled the trigger again, NOTHING! **Calling with an unloaded firearm or with NO round in the chamber** (my case) is another No, No if you want to be successful.

When you set up on a stand, you'll usually have an area to watch from here to here. **To just watch only a small portion of this area continuously is called having tunnel vision. Don't have tunnel vision!** Scan your whole area. You are in camouflage & can move your head slowly. Especially you rifle hunters, don't **shoot at a far off advancing coyote when it first shows up!** If it is coming in, let it come! On the same token when **the coyote is close & you have the shot, don't not shoot** thinking that, "well he called it I'll let him shoot it." He may not even have seen the critter. I know someone who did that with a mountain lion once (they both had tags). The lion got away! If you shoot a critter and it keeps going **DO NOT just leave without following the track for a spell**. Often the critter will be lying dead at the end of the track.

After a stand is done, you should get up slowly & look around. If you then **just leave without looking at where you sat**, you will lose all kinds of things. Calls, gloves, decoys, etc. To **go hunting without an alarm clock & camera** is wrong! Very often the others won't even think about these two items so you be the one that does. Take pictures of your success, I consider this honoring the animal. **One last thing is to consider** the Mory T. approach when you go calling. If you make a stand and have success, **then you get to call the next stand until you are unsuccessful**. Well hopefully I will prevent some mistakes that would have been made. Good Luck on your hunts and in your Calling Career!

***Some random Websites for calling & hunting in general:** www.pvci.org , www.wildlifecallers.com , www.predatorprofessionals.com , www.predatorforums.com , www.thearizonahunter.com

***Some Random GOOD DVD'S you might find interesting:** Coyote Behavior by Jay Nisetter, Howling for Coyotes by Dr. Ed Sceery, Top Dollar Cats by Mercer Lawing, Operation Predator Series esp.1 & 2, Any DVD with Randy Anderson in it like the Verminators Series, The Truth-Calling All Coyote Series, etc.

CALLING STAND ETIQUETTE

- 1} Approach quietly-No slamming vehicle doors-No talking out loud, WHISPER! NOT talking quietly in a low voice,my goodness, WHISPER! The most feared sound in the outdoors for all wildlife is the human voice!
- 2} Pick an area where you can see in front of you. Sit in front of the bushes shade preferred & let your camouflage work for you. Having shooting lanes are nice for both the caller & shooter.
- 3} Know where your partner(s) are located. Don't just start getting ready when put into an area, watch where the others go. Each of you be responsible for knowing where the other is.
- 4} Call with confidence, expect something to show up, no excessive movements.
- 5} Stay put once the calling begins. If you want to move do so before the calling starts and let the others know!

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