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Predator Tales

**Eddie M
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Allan F.

Hunt Chairman

Allan F.

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Tommy M.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First I would like to say it is an "Honor" to be elected as President of the Phoenix Varmint Callers! I would also like to thank Ken Eaton for his three years of service as our last President.

Now time to get down to business, our last Board Meeting was a long one but very productive one. There is a lot of house cleaning to be done, good thing it's spring, which gave me some insight as to where I want to see this Club go. Each of the last Presidents have left something valuable when they left office and I intend to do the same. This year I want to raise more, I want to give more and help more. I will discuss more about that in the next General Meeting. Hope to see you all there. **P.S. All members are welcome to join us at the PVCV Monthly Board Meeting.** **Terry H. President, PVCV**

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW:

***The PVCV Board of Directors Meeting has changed from the 3rd Wednesday to the 3rd Thursday of each month.**

*All 2014-2015 Hunts including the 6-Month Hunt ended at the April Monthly Meeting.

* **RAFFLE TICKETS**-Do you have any? **REMEMBER THE DRAWING is May 17, 2015** at our Annual Campout & Barbecue near the Blue Ridge Ranger Station. If you are not going to be there then you need to get your Raffle Tickets turned in probably by the MAY Meeting!

*The Payson Wildlife Fair will be held at Green Valley Park in Payson on May 9th. We will have a Booth, help needed.

* **Don't Forget to attend the Annual PVCV Campout & BBQ on May 16-17** at Moqui Draw near the Blue Ridge Ranger Station. Map & many more details inside.

* **Fire Conditions permitting. The PVCV Annual Fishing Contest** will be held at Ashurst Lake on **Saturday, June 6th, "FREE FISHING DAY!"** We will fish from daybreak until 5:00p.m. All fish species are eligible from that Lake. Prizes awarded for longest fish & longest stringer in adult & kids categories. **Potluck/Fish Fry** Saturday evening. Also don't forget the **RAFFLE** for the **MEMBERS & GUESTS**, even if you didn't fish. All present may win something!

***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 Alan F. know at Meeting. Save the Club Mailing Cost!!**



2015 AZ. State Varmint Calling
Champion-PVCV Member Jerry G.



2015 AZ. State Varmint Calling
Novice Champion – Clay G. (r)



New PVCV 2015 President
Terry H. (r)

ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT 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 523-214-5091 let him know where you want to shop and the type of Vehicle you are interested in. He will make contact with the dealers and try to obtain employee pricing for you. He will 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 and they will give you the best price. The Club will receive the Referral Fee.



PVCI ELECTIONS HELD – MEET THE NEW PVCI PRESIDENT!

The Annual Club Elections were held at the April 2015 PVCI Monthly Meeting & there is some “New Blood” amongst the PVCI Officers & Board Members! The new PVCI President is Terry H. We will learn more about him later. The new Vice-President is Gary A.M. & new Corresponding Secretary is Scott B. You can read the complete list of PVCI Officers & Board Members on the front left side of every PVCI Predator Tales Newsletter. Many, many thanks were given to the PVCI Past President Ken E. who served the last 3 years. Ken has been known to enjoy pipe smoking from time to time and was presented a real hand-carved meerschaum pipe from the country of Turkey as a Thank You for the time that he served.



INTERVIEW with NEW PVCI PRESIDENT Terry H.

- 1) How did you become interested in predator calling? I became interested in predator calling when I found out how devastating predators could be on livestock and game animals
- 2) How long have you been calling? I have been hand calling predators for about three years now.
- 3) What are some of our accomplishments as far as critters called/ harvested? My biggest accomplishment is taking out some yotes that were killing a farmers goats.
- 4) Name three of your favorite calls that are always in your pocket? (1) Critter Call (Standard & Peewee). (2) Tally Ho. (3) Les Johnson Ruffydogg Jr.
- 5) What is your favorite predator gun/load combination? I was all about the 243win, did not matter what gun as long as it is in 243win. Now I have a Ruger American Predator in 6.5 Creedmoor that's giving me 1inch groups at 200yrds shooting Hornady 140gr factory match ammo.
- 6) What is your favorite predator to hunt and why? As of right now the mountain lion is my favorite to hunt. I have not tagged one yet but the journey in learning everything I can about them is fun & it is helping to make me a better hunter.
- 7) Describe your most successful stand or day? It was call then spot and stalk. Called 2 yotes in a canyon & lost sight of them so I went in after them & got to about 30 yards from them. Shot the first one and tagged the second one as he ran away. First 2 yotes with my first rifle, a Remington 700 in 30-06.
- 8) Describe your most disastrous stand or day? We had a Terminator coyote that we had to shoot 11 times. I know it sounds bad but he did not want to die. If you see me around ask me about that story its good.
- 9) Describe your closest encounter or most frightening moment? I was out calling by myself and just finished up the day. I pull out my cot & bed roll to get some shut eye. After everything is all set up I get up to go to the bathroom & find a pile of bones in the middle of the desert. I'm not talking about a little pile it had to be about 6ft high (maybe only 3 ft but seemed like 6ft). I made sure I was 80 miles from that spot before I stopped and set up camp again.
- 10) What is your favorite camouflage pattern? I don't have a favorite I just use what'll work in the area that I am going to.
- 11) What do you consider to be the greatest threat to predator calling? The greatest threat is people who don't understand why we do what we do. It's not about the killing all the time. It's about the experience & the friends we meet. It's about the process of learning & evolving and out smarting your prey. It's about saving a fawn & if we save just one it still matters.
- 12) Describe your Dream Vacation? Black tail deer hunting in Alaska with my family.

WHAT DOES THE 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 and not just in learning the how-to's of the hunt. There was also the camaraderie with your hunt partners, sharing the outdoor adventure/experience together. The campfire at night, waking up in the mornings, the beautiful landscapes and sharing the success/failures! Now they say that the season is over! **What 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 guys & a gal 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 (one year or older) also have a price. I myself just enjoy finding them! It is very hard for me to part with them even for a price.



* **Hunting the Spring Wild Turkey Gobbler** is another passion that afflicts many. One reason is that you are still calling & trying to fool an elusive critter to you with the added bonus that gobblers are often quite vocal/loud when coming to your calling. The closer they get the louder! Normally when a gobbler gobbles, the hens come to him. You must reverse nature to get a gobbler to come to you! The action can be very, very exciting! I tell the up & coming new 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 (its 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. Invariably there will be hunting stories told, hunting tips given out on what methods worked for this or that, hunting questions answered, etc.

In addition there are some other Events that many PPCI members also attend each of which is also family-oriented. **The Payson Wildlife Fair** on May 9th, 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 these three 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. **P.S. None of this applies of course** if you have ever fished for Steelhead in your past pre-Arizona life. Almost everyone I have ever met who has done this appears to be SPOILED ROTTEN and in most cases don't want to fish for anything else. It almost seems like they need to go to a Steelhead Self-Help Recovery Group to get over the fun they had. Most certainly the comments & actions that I have observed have made me very leery about ever fishing for that kind of fish.

* **Do not 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 and 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 and keep you practiced up during this off-season. Trust me, in most of these Events if you don't practice, you won't win or even place.

ARIZONA GAME & FISH OUTDOOR EXPO REPORT by Eddie M.

March 28-29 were the dates for the 2015 Arizona Game & Fish Dept. Outdoor Expo held at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility in Phoenix, AZ. off of the Carefree Highway. This Event transformed the Shooting Facility into the largest hands-on Outdoor Expo in Arizona with outdoor adventure and fun for the entire family! As in years past admission and parking were totally FREE, as were the shuttles to and from the parking to different points of the event. Once inside there were Loads of hands-on activities, educational presentations/demos & chances to meet with outdoor groups & agencies plus exhibitor booths displaying wildlife & the shooting, hunting, fishing & outdoor sports. PVC I had a Booth at the Event with a decent amount of volunteers on both days. Our Mission at these Events is to promote the sport of Varmint Calling. I think that we did that very well. We also sold Raffle Tickets for our Annual Fundraiser Raffle. As usual there was a LOT of interest in what we do and we'll probably see some new faces from this Event in upcoming Meetings.

By the way there were an estimated 38,000 people on Saturday I believe that attended this year! Not a record crowd however there was a LOT of other goings on in the Phoenix Metro area that weekend. What a Great Idea by whomever in the Arizona Game & Fish Department thought to do this, to have an annual event where you give the public a chance to learn about wildlife related and outdoor recreation activities possible in Arizona from practically from A to Z.



2015 ARIZONA STATE VARMINT CALLING CONTEST RESULTS

by Eddie M.

Although the turnout wasn't huge (lack of advertising) PVC I held the Arizona State Varmint Calling Championship at the Arizona Game & Fish Expo. There was one round of Rabbit Distress for 30 seconds followed by 15 seconds of Coaxing. Then there was one round of 45 seconds of Free-Style where you could do whatever you wanted. As usual the competition was there. Prizes were given for 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place Expert and 1st Place for Top Novice. Here are the results: 1st Place Expert: Jerry G. 2nd Place Expert: Steve G 3rd Place Expert: Mike F. Top Novice: Clay J.



TALES OF A COUPLE SPRING GOBBLERS PLUS SOME TIPS! by Eddie M.

By the time you receive this Newsletter the 2015 Spring Gobbler Season will be in full swing! Many there will that go after the Spring Turkey Gobbler. Many there will also be that come home with no Gobbler. The reasons are many with inexperience or not really knowing what you are doing and/or thinking that you can get one road hunting probably being at the Top of the List. I am going to tell you a couple of my successful Spring Gobbler stories. I think that these stories will be worth reading & just maybe you will learn something to do or not do on your next wild turkey venture!

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

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

Yes, prospecting this is just what I was doing around 11:00a.m. I was walking slowly about 1/3 of the way down from the top of the ridge & sounding like a hen. When doing this hen talk if you ever get an answer back from a hen or hear a gobble, find a tree fast! I'd been at this for some 45 minutes but I had hope. The gobble was sudden, close & shook the woods with its ferocity, surprising me a little! Quickly I gauged how far/close the Tom was & found a tree to set up on. I wanted it to be big enough so that my shoulders didn't stick out. Then I positioned myself so that I was pointed towards where I thought the Tom might appear and ALSO so that I was comfortable. Okay remove those 2 rocks and that stick from under my bottom. I clucked on my aluminum slate call, receiving an automatic answering Gobble! I clucked twice more then purred 3 times & put my shiny-faced call beside & slightly behind me. Then I lifted the shotgun in the Tom's direction & waited. The next Gobble was closer & louder as were the next two. Then the Tom was in sight! He was all fanned out strutting & putting on a show there in front of me. I followed his movements with the barrel of my shotgun on his head/neck area, keeping my cheek on the stock and everything lined up. Closer & closer the Tom came still strutting! Then the Tom came out of his strut & lifted his head/neck to look for the hen he'd heard. I put the bead about mid-neck & pulled the trigger, BOOM! The #5 turkey load dropped the Tom in his tracks! No matter I ran to the Tom & found & grabbed the bird by its feet then lifted him in the air with his chest towards me. All was still then the gobbler started flapping its wings. I held on until he quit flapping then looked at his head to make sure it was hanging down & not raised up (If his head was raised I'd give it a quick butt with the end of my stock), then I laid the Tom down & admired him. The distance was 17 steps! That was Gobbler #12 back in 2006. The next Tom that year in AZ. Unit 27 was 25 steps away.

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

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

That night Ivan roosted 3 gobblers & pinpointed them as best he could. He also waited until darkness before he left to pick me up in a different area. We returned in the dark of the morning & headed uphill towards the now 2 gobbling birds. We split up each taking a different side of the hill. I let the gobblers know that I was there with some clucks, light yelping & purring then mostly shut up. Both frustrated gobblers eventually made their way downhill & one came into view. The aim for the head/neck area dropped the gobbler behind a log at 31 steps. I ran & held its feet up also. This act sure helps the birds stay pretty at picture-time. This was Gobbler #35, a 2 year old w/ 8" beard. Ivan killed 2 jakes later in hunt.

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 May will be a Ruger MKIII 5.5” bull barrel in .22 caliber.

The Gun for June will be a American Ruger .223

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*****Effective immediately the PVCI Board of Directors Meeting has been moved from the 3rd Wednesday to the 3rd Thursday of each month. The Meeting place remains the same, 12850 N. 19th Ave. (Lodge#2) 7:00p.m.**

April 30 – Rifle Spring Bear Season closes. Check your Hunt Regs.

May 1- The Arizona Late Spring Turkey Hunt & Archery Spring Bear Seasons open. Check your Hunt Regs.

May 1-2 - AZGFD Commission Meeting Region III 5325 N. Stockton Hill Rd Kingman 928-692-7700

May 5 – This is the 1st Tuesday. PVCI Monthly Meeting, (12851 N. 19th Ave., Lodge #2) 7:00p.m.

May 8 – Opening day of the Late Junior Turkey & Archery Only Non-Permit Tag Required Turkey Seasons. Check Regs.

May 9 – Payson Wildlife Fair in Payson. An Annual Outdoor-Related Event at Green Valley Park designed to introduce others to the Outdoors. Many activities are going on from 9:00AM to 3:00PM. Arizona G&F double stocks Green Valley Lake w/trout plus there are many Outdoor Clubs & Organization Booths including the Phoenix Varmint Callers present. Volunteers are needed to help run the Booth. This would be great place to sale Raffle Tickets & predator calls!

May 16-17– 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.

See Map and Schedule of Events, etc. inside.

May 21 – This is the 3rd Thursday. PVCI Board of Directors Meeting (12851 N. 19th Ave., Lodge #2) 7:00p.m.

May 21– ALL Arizona Turkey Seasons Close. Check your Hunt Regs.

May 31 - Night Hunting of coyotes **ENDS** in certain Hunt Units (rifle & shotgun) Check your Hunt Regs.

Jun 2 – This is the 1st Tuesday. PVCI Monthly Meeting, (12851 N. 19th Ave., Lodge #2) 7:00p.m

Jun 9 – Deadline for 2015 Fall Hunt Applications.

Jun 12-13 - AZGFD Commission Meeting Region IV (Hunt Orders) 9140 E. 28th St. Yuma 928-342-0091

Jun 18 - This is the 3rd Thursday. PVCI Board of Directors Meeting (12851 N. 19th Ave., Lodge #2) 7:00p.m.

July – There are no AZGFD Commission Meetings in July.

July 7 – This is the 1st Tuesday. (PVCI Monthly Meeting, 12851 N. 19th Ave., Lodge #2) 7:00p.m **PVCI Proposed Swap Meet,** the Swap Meet taking the place of the Monthly Meeting. Tables are \$10 each. Call Mike T. 623-824-3791 to purchase your table (s), remember what you make is yours.

July 16 - This is the 3rd Thursday. PVCI Board of Directors Meeting (12851 N. 19th Ave., Lodge #2) 7:00p.m.

*****NOTE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN:**

To stay a PVCI Member you MUST PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES YEARLY OR YOU WILL GET DROPPED!

The shipping label on this Newsletter provides your personal membership expiration month & year on the same line as your name in the form of MM-DD-YYYY (i.e., 4-15-2015 for April 15, 2015 expiration). If Membership is NOT current it will be noted in RED letters on the shipping label. If you receive an E-Mail copy you will be notified by E-Mail that your membership payment 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 new Membership Chairman Allan F. at (602) 999-5651.

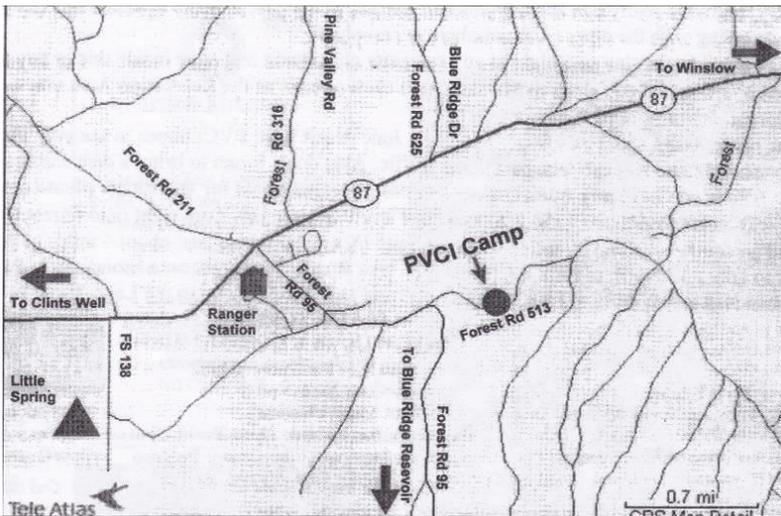
Your Renewal Fees Help The Club!!!

PVCI WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS: Dan C. & Nick P.

MEMBERSHIP COUNT: 157

PVCI ANNUAL CAMPOUT & BARBECUE – MAY 16-17, 2015

This year's Annual Campout & Barbecue will be scheduled for May 16-17, 2015. We are planning on getting the Moqui Draw area near the Blue Ridge Ranger station as the location again. This would be the same location as has been used for the last several years. This family-oriented Event is one of our most attended off-season family-oriented events of the year. Typically there are events scheduled for the youth & the adults. Most of the adult events are shooting events. Women & men compete separately in .22 rifle, .22 pistol, big-bore handgun & bowling pin & compete together in archery & muzzleloader shoots. The youth get to shoot in some of the events also, a lot depending upon the age and the number of youth present. The youth also have a BB Gun Shoot. There has traditionally been a Jr. Calling Contest however we need some youth present to participate. If you bring any kid that is above an infant that can call consider bringing some calls so that we can have this "FUN" event. In between the shooting look forward to some really good food & having a great time up in the cool pines. Hope that you & the family & friends can make it. President Terry H. & V.P. Gary A.M. have graciously accepted to head this Event! Other volunteers will also be needed to run each shooting event. If you run the Event, you make the rules for the most part. Volunteers will also be needed for various other duties. To get 1st pick at running an Event or to volunteer please let President Terry H. or V.P. Gary A.M. know. Once on the site, look for the place where you can email the webmaster and email him there. Thanks in advance for your help!



Route #1:

On Hwy 87 go through Payson, Strawberry, & Clints Well. Stay on Hwy 87 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 follow Route #1 Instructions.

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 300 feet 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, plus extra chairs & ice.

REMEMBER GUN SAFETY: 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: See Range Master. 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

Gong shoot – Big bore pistol only – men, women, kids

Kids BB gun shoot??

LUNCH TIME: (sorry, food not provided)

Archery – men, women, kids

Muzzleloader – men, women, kids

DINNER: Club will provide main course. Club will provide a grill for cooking. Bring a potluck dish/dessert to share.

Fire Restrictions Permitting **Dutch oven** cook-off. Bring your favorite Dutch Oven dish for the cook-off.

P.S. There are EXCELLENT PRIZES for the Top Men & Women's Shooter this year! PRACTICE UP!!!

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 or the jug is hit). Pull a number from a hat & that's your order to shoot.

Kid's Calling Contest* If we have at least 3 Kids!

UPCOMING EVENT: PAYSON WILDLIFE FAIR – MAY 9, 2015 by Eddie M.

On May 9, 2015 the town of Payson will host the 21st Annual “Payson Wildlife Fair.” This Wildlife Awareness Fair held at Green Valley Park in Payson is meant to open the eyes & introduce both the young & adults to some of the many outdoor wonders & activities that exist. Though there are a few exotics such as the alligator & the 18ft. python the main focus is on Arizona Wildlife, the Arizona Game & Fish Dept. & Arizona Outdoor Clubs & Organizations. The Event lasts from 9:00A.M. to 3:00P.M. and offers lots to do. Admission is Free. For the Event, the Lake in the park called Green Valley Lake (one of the Urban Lakes) will be over stocked with hundreds of lbs. of trout (including some HUGE incentive fish) and open to all to fish for free from the hours of 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m. Normally a Yearly Fishing License is required. There will also be many wildlife booths and displays, games, prizes, some virtual shooting sports, free fishing poles, gear & bait plus instructions for the kids and much more. Smokey the Bear also makes an annual appearance.



PVCI will have a booth at this Event promoting the sport of Varmint Calling & selling some Raffle Tickets. There is always Lots of Interest! Volunteers needed to help run the booth. You could even make it a weekend, let's go call turkeys!

UPCOMING EVENT: PVCI ANNUAL FISHING CONTEST – JUNE 6, 2015 FREE FISHING DAY!!!

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

WHERE: ASHURST LAKE in the Coconino National Forest

DATE: Saturday June 6, 2015, FREE FISHING DAY. TIME: Daybreak until 5:00 p.m. You can check-in anytime during the day however the FINAL check-in will be at 5:00p.m.

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.

Contest Open To All PVCI Members plus their families & friends (need not be a member) who may be interested.

There will be 2 categories: Adult – ages 14 and older and children – ages 13 and under. 1st Place prizes will be awarded for the longest fish and the longest stringer. The longest stringer will be the total of all the fish caught. We will start with a limit of 1 prize per person so if the same person has both the longest fish and the longest stringer, he/she will choose their prize and the 2nd longest fish gets the 2nd prize. NOTE: **All fish species in Ashurst lake are eligible for the Contest. The trout limit is 6 fish. Boats are okay yet do remember that there is an 8 hp limit on the Lake.** 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 one of our pre-determined campsite locations **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 on Ashurst and once inside the Recreation Area you must stay in a campground. If you sleep in the National Forest outside of the Recreation Area you won't be charged. There are good bathroom facilities at the Lake.

*** One way to get to the lake is to take I-17 North to Exit 339. Turn right onto Forest Highway 3 (Lake Mary Road) & go southeast about 20 miles. Turn left onto FR82E & drive east about 4 miles to the Lake. Another route would be to take I-17 North to Exit 306 (Stoneman Lake Road). Turn right onto Stoneman Lake Road & drive 16 miles to FH3, then turn left & drive to FR82E, then turn right & drive 4 miles to the Lake. Refer to the Coconino Forest Map. PVCI Camp on East side.

UPCOMING EVENT: PVCI SWAPMEET – JULY 7th, 2015

Members, friends, vendors, here is a chance to clean out your closets & get rid of some of excess stuff or sell some wares the money you make is yours. PVCI is having a Swap Meet on July 7th in place of our Monthly Meeting. Tables are only \$10 each. Call Mike T. 623-824-3791 for your table. PVCI's Monthly Gun Raffle is for an Wyndam Weaponry AR15! Raffle Tickets will be \$5.00 each with No Limit as to how many you may purchase. You MUST be able to pass a Background Check. The location will be 12851 N. 19th Ave., Lodge #2. PVCI will try to get the doors open at 6:00p.m.

ARIZONA TRAPPERS CONVENTION – July ????? by Eddie M. **See Miss Rodeo Arizona**

The Arizona Trapper Association (ATA) will be having their Annual Convention on July ????? at the Gila County Fairgrounds near Globe, AZ. This is a Great Annual Event that brings together many trappers/predator callers from all over Arizona & beyond. There are usually trapping & calling demos, fur prep & handling tips. Free to enter Contests such as the trap setting, pie eating, musket throw & ladies frying pan toss & maybe a fun predator calling contest where you can win money for 1st Place. There are also trapping, calling & other supplies for sale (including cage traps), fur pelts, crafts, etc. plus a Silent Auction, assorted kids competitions, great food and much more. If you would like to set up to sell or advertise your wares just let Event Chairman Brent P. 520-678-0254 know so they can schedule where to put you. Entry into the Convention is usually FREE! PVCI may have a booth there to promote the sport of varmint calling? This Convention is the Survival Event of the Year" for the ATA as this is their Main Fundraiser. Consider donating something for their Auction.

FUR PREP DAY REPORT by Eddie M.

Southwest Fur Harvesters V.P. Scott B. was gracious enough to allow us to use his house this year for what use to be an Annual Event for us; Fur Prep Day. On this Day we in the Club all congregate at one place to prepare our thawed out furs for either Sale or the Tannery. 1st Step: We wash them in liquid detergent 2nd Step: Rinse, then wring them out and hang until fleshing time. 3rd Step: Turn skin side out and flesh pelt. 4th Step: Sew up any big holes. 5th Step: Put onto a stretcher skin-side out. 6th Step: After a period of time (depends upon conditions), turn pelt fur side out (skin should sound like a paper bag) and put back onto stretcher. 6th Step: Protect from insects & let dry.

We had a pretty good turnout of eager members that wanted to learn what to do but really not enough for the number of furs that we had. I ended up taking most of the ones that I had brought to do back home with me. When all was done we had 17 completed furs. The next day I did 6 more critters that had all their legs which gives us 23 critters. Some of those 6 I will pay the shipping and tanning charge and keep for myself. The others I will donate to the Club. Now we need to get approval from The Officers & Board members to ship them out. We have used Moyle's Tannery in Idaho in the past and they have done a pretty good job. Thanks to ALL of those that came & helped out on that day. Your help was appreciated!



THE STORY BEHIND THE PICTURE by Eddie M.

. On this Club Hunt we went to the San Carlos Indian Res. Since I drove I called the 1st stand & missed a white colored coyote with my .222 rifle. The team was Mory T., a member that we will call Paul & I. Onward we went finding mountain lion tracks in some of the washes. We made a few coyote stands with no results then ended up on a hill that dropped down to a thick bottom. Looked like fox country to me. Mory & Paul headed down hill and made a stand below while I watched the upper reaches. I believe that I heard at least one shot. Mory had called & may have also (Paul may have shot it?) killed one gray fox. He let Paul bring it up the hill. That fox put us on the Board.

We continued hunting deeper into San Carlos with no results and eventually spent the night on the Reservation. Paul (limited hunt experience) was getting better at calling I recall from listening to Mory and I. The next day after crossing a creek & seeing more mountain lion sign we came to an area where I'd called & killed gray fox in the past. It was Mory's turn to call and he set up in a bush with a pretty good view in front of him. I set up to watch Mory's back door. It was the late morning hours and I can remember being a little sleepy in the warm sun. The gray fox went right past me before I could react and headed straight for Mory's bush. It actually went right in the bush w/Mory however it came running back out when Mory moved to call (I am sure that by now the fox had smelled human scent). The gray fox ran right back to me. I let it run past and fully clear Mory's direction then I dropped it with a load of 2-3/4" #4 buckshot. I do believe that those 2 foxes were all that we killed on the Reservation. WE may have picked up one more fox off the Reservation and I did call one gray in the thick brush on the last stand but had no shot. San Carlos is a Great place to hunt mountain lions. The next spring I called in a lion while calling spring turkeys.



Please help write stories about your hunting trips and include pictures. Send them to coyotecaller@cox.net

SAY GOOD-BYE TO LEAD AMMO IN CALIFORNIA

Back in 2013, Governor Jerry Brown signed into law a petition to ban the use of lead ammo in California by July 2019. The use of lead ammo is already banned in California in the Condor Areas. On July 15, 2015 the 1st Phase of the Ban will take effect. On this date the use of lead ammo for hunting in Wildlife Areas will be banned. Phase 2 which takes effect in July 2016, bans the use of lead ammo for shotgun hunting with a shotgun for all upland game except private preserves. It also bans hunting with lead ammo with a shotgun for small game, furbearers & non-game birds & animals. Rifle hunting will still be allowed. By July 2019 the use of ALL lead ammo for hunting purposes will be banned. I am writing this from memory so I will stop here and let you no more in a future Predator Tales.

PVCI MONTHLY HUNT REPORT

MARCH MONTHLY HUNT: This Hunt is our 2nd Novice Hunt; the teams having to have a Novice present to qualify. Only 1 team returned with critters. This team hunted both days & called in 4 coyotes.

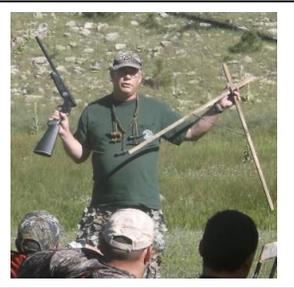
1st Place: Gary A.M., Terry H., Ricardo G., and Haken S., Total: 4 Coyotes

This Hunt was the last Organized Club Hunt of the 2014-2015 Season. Coyote Season in Arizona is open all year & **Should Be** however most of us now will give the coyotes a break (**by choice**) & let them raise their pups. Our next Club Hunt will be at the George Knox Memorial Boot Camp in August followed by our Novice Hunt in September. Enjoy the off-season with your family/friends! Go to the Club Events, find antlers, hunt turkeys, go fishing, prepare for next season!

Remember that Night Hunting of coyotes in certain Hunt Units is open (rifle & shotgun) Check Hunt Regs. Ends May 31.

THE "GEORGE KNOX MEMORIAL" VARMINT CALLING BOOT CAMP – AUG. 7-9 2015

PVCI is planning its own Varmint Calling Boot Camp in conjunction with Youth Outdoors Unlimited, AZGFD, RMEF, AES & the NWTF on 7–9 August 2015. The idea being to make the predator seminars an in-the-field experience, sort of like what Marvin Robbins did with his in-the-woods turkey hunting seminars. Friday is really just for camping set-up & late meal. This idea of having predator instruction in the outdoors was thought about by our own beloved, the late George K. This Boot Camp, as in the past, will feature in-the-field training about predators & predator calling & cover all sorts of topics plus answer your predator-related questions. Outdoors Unlimited will also be on hand in support & will provide the meals over this Event. So if you've any interest at all in learning how to successfully call-in predators, then this Camp is for you. This Boot Camp is also "FREE" & open to ALL (not just youth) hunters! More info at www.pvci.org



WHERE: The Boot Camp campsite will be at Woods Canyon Lake area, Vincent Ranch in Hunt Unit 4A.

***** REGISTRATION: Please do register so that we can have some sort of idea of how many to expect. To register & find more information contact www.youthoutdoorsunlimited.com so they have an idea on the food to bring.** There will be much more information to follow in future Predator Tales.



George K with coyote



Eddie M. with 2015 NM Gobbler



Ivan C. with 2 MN Jakes



Drake T. Calling at Contest

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Happy Birthday Will – May 16th

Happy Anniversary to Ron & Lana P. married 28 years on June 13

WHAT WERE YOU DRAWN FOR: Mike & Tricia Y. & Ryan L. for Archery Bull Elk.
Sheay Y. & Carley Y. Junior Rifle Cow Elk

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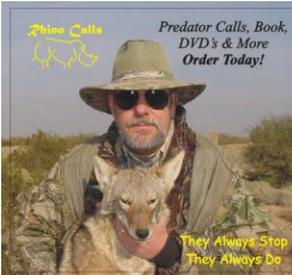
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