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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is a little early, but I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas! Things are going well for the Club. We have a good number of new members and we are in the black financially. On speakers, if you have a special interest you would like addressed, **tell us!** We do not want to keep having the same topics recycled endlessly. February and March are open right now. I hope everyone got in their spring hunt applications; it was interesting with the G&F computer glitch, since it also happened last spring.

Don't forget the World Coyote Calling Championship on Dec. 11-13, held in Williams, AZ hosted by Arizona Predator Callers. Details are at the APC website. Members of recognized AZ calling clubs are considered pre-approved unless past history disqualifies you! They are being very careful and all winners and some random contestants will be checked by lie-detector to verify that rules are followed.

Ken E. President, PVCi

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW:

- *The NEW website to send your stories, pictures, anniversaries, tips, recipes, etc. to this Predator Tales Newsletter is coyotecaller@cox.net COME ON, share your experiences!
- *The **PVCI Christmas Party** is scheduled for Dec. 2nd, 2014 at the regular Monthly Meeting location; 12851 N. 19th Ave., Lodge #2, the Party taking the place of the Meeting. Members, their families, friends and ANYONE ELSE that wants too are invited to attend. As usual the Entry Fee will be at least one can of food or water per person for the Food Drive. This will be a Potluck so if you can please bring a dish or dessert. Live Auction, Silent Auction, Bucket Raffles & the Gun-of-the-Month will be an AR-15 rifle!!! Event organizer Larry S. is very busy trying to get donations from the various outdoor vendors. Donations of goods, services or other from you the member are also welcomed & encouraged. Call (602) 993-4661 to donate. Be there!
- ***Well it looks like PVCI will NOT** be having a State Varmint Calling Championship in 2014!
- ***In the Hunt Rules for 2014-2015, the point value has changed.** Mt. lion & bear are still 100 each, bobcats are 50 each, coyotes 20 each & fox, badger, ringtail, raccoon 10 each.
- ***If you haven't visited the PVCI website www.pvci.org lately give it another try.** PVCI member Tommy M. has updated & added more information. He has really worked hard to make the website worthwhile. **We need some good responders that actually CHAT on the Hunting Forum so PLEASE sign-up and TALK!!! PLEASE!**
- *How would you like to receive this Newsletter as a PDF file on your computer **INSTEAD OF** the paper form? Let Membership/Hunt Chairman Allan F. (602) 999-5651 know your wishes.



Winning Novice Team



Taylor G. w/1st coyote!



Paul & Cliff



You Never Called

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**THINKING ABOUT PURCHASING ANY TYPE OF VEHICLE?
(SPECIAL INCENTIVES FOR YOU & PVCJ)**

by Scott B.

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** or E-mail coyotecaller@cox.net 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.



SOUTHWEST FUR HARVESTERS ANNUAL RENDEVOUS REPORT by Eddie M.

A great way to shorten your learning curve is by listening to seminars from speakers that have done what the seminar is about. Yet another way to shorten that same curve is to also be shown or to hear what the speaker is doing & then be able to ask questions about the process. This is exactly what the Southwest Fur Harvesters Rendezvous is all about. Showing you what methods are used to catch 50 to 100 bobcats a year or how foot snares are used, coyote & fox sets and 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 and that want to share their methods with others, including the youth. This Rendezvous is their main money-making Event of the year. Other things that happen here include News and Alerts of what is happening or may be about to happen, a visit from the current AZ. State Predator biologist April W., traps & trapping supplies & other crafts to be purchased, a Silent Auction, Raffles, good food & good camaraderie....
....and sometimes you see faces of people that you haven't seen in a year or sometimes much longer (yes you Amanda)! All & all this is a very Good Event that shouldn't be missed if you are looking to improve your skills. The Trappers Course is also given here on Sunday. You will see a picture below of the 2014 Rendezvous Graduating Class.



STORIES FROM YOU THE MEMBERS:

MY FIRST HARVESTED PREDATOR!!!! by Taylor G.

My Dad Jerry G. and I went on 5 different calling stands for coyotes. On the first stand, we had a coyote come in but it started towards the wind and it caught our scent. Neither of us got a shot off at that coyote. On the second stand, my Dad sat me covering the open area because I had the AR-15 and he sat in the thicket because he had the shotgun. As I was scanning my area I saw a tail and quickly whispered to my Papa, "Coyote your way," hoping that he would hear me. He did and shot the coyote twice with the shotgun & once with the AR-15 all within 30 seconds! On the third stand nothing came in besides a hawk. The fourth stand is where I got my first coyote! We were sitting on a hill; I was facing one way and my Papa the other. As I was scanning, something golden caught my eye so I looked over and lo and behold it was a coyote! I checked to see if I took off the safety because I couldn't remember if I did or not. I hadn't so I turned it off. It clicked and I saw the coyote flinch but it didn't run because my Dad was still calling not knowing what was going on. I got the sight set on the coyote and I shot knocking it right to the ground! I jumped up saying, "It's right there!" "It's down!" All that time my Dad hearing the click thinking, "Oh Crap, was that a dud or did she forget to turn off the safety?"

On the final stand we tried for a fox but nothing came in. It turns out that the coyote that my Dad got was a male and I got a big, healthy female. My Papa and I were so happy and we still are. Now I bug him about when is the next time that we are going back out? I like to go when it's cold because the animals have their winter coats that are fluffy.



SEPTEMBER NOVICE HUNT by Hakan S.

On Saturday morning, on the 6th of September, Wayne W., Chris B. and I gathered at Ken's house around 5 o'clock. Ken was going to be our mentor for this Novice Hunt. I had tried calling coyotes a few times before but this was my first "real" predator hunt. The plan was roughly to hunt our way towards Payson, spend the night on the Mt. and then hunt our way home again.

On the first four stands, nothing much happened. Around 13:30, we set up the 5th stand of the day off of a Forest Svc. Road close to a nearby town and also very close to a ranch. It was my turn to call. I started with a few calls using my Pee Wee and then switched to another open reed call. Three minutes into the stand, I saw a coyote to my left, close to where Chris was sitting. I was just into the process of dropping the call and my shooting sticks and swinging my rifle left and so on when I heard a shot from Chris. There were no more shots and I didn't see what happen to the coyote. So after a few seconds, I resumed calling. I didn't see it then but another coyote was coming in at the same time but from in front of me and a little to the right. It ran off when it heard the shot but turned around and came back towards me when I resumed the calling. Maybe 10 meters in front of me was a big bush. I just saw the coyote when it was behind the bush and as it came out in front of me, I stopped it with a little kissing sound before shooting. This was four minutes or so into the stand. The coyote went down right away, so I resumed calling again and called for three more minutes before there were another couple of shots, this time from my right. A few more minutes of calling didn't yield anything and I was pretty excited, so eventually I called off the stand. We had all heard shots on three different occasions but nobody knew what had actually happened. It took a few moments before we realized that we had actually gotten a triple! Ken had shot the third one that came in from the right.



The coyotes were all young ones and weighed 11 pounds; give or take a pound; and they were all colored the same way. The first one was female and the other two male. They came in from different directions so they were probably hungry and wanted to eat before the others got there.

That night we set up camp halfway up the Mt., ate dinner and talked until late about calls and hunting and had a good time in general. The next day we had another little adventure at the foot of the mountain, but I'll let Chris tell that story.

The weekend of hunting with these guys was fantastic! It was so much fun and we novices learned a lot on predator calling from Ken. I really want to thank him and the guys for everything and I hope we can get out there again soon.

NOTE FROM NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Wasn't this a GOOD READ? There are so many more stories out there of the reality of predator calling, the success and the failures. We would HONORED to also have your story here. A photo would also be nice. To share your story either write and give to Eddie M. at a Meeting or send email to coyotecaller@cox.net

BADGERS IN MY LIFE

by Eddie M.

One highly prized yet seldom-called predator that we are blessed to have in Arizona is the badger. Badgers are actually more common than many people think however you just don't normally see them as they spend lots of time being in their underground burrows while living life. Indeed badgers are known to be great diggers and can literally disappear into the ground if given even half a chance. Since badgers also catch most of their food like ground squirrels, prairie dogs, etc. by digging, you can see how they might become quite good at what they do.

Badgers live in "varying" types of country. I have seen them from the sands on the outskirts of Sun City, to antelope country and to the forest of Unit 4A! They can run surprisingly fast too. I once shot & wounded one in antelope country some years back. When I went to retrieve the critter, instead of digging to get away, it took off running! I gave chase and it was almost all I could do to keep up! I would run, stop and shoot, then do it again. The badger just kept running away! That badger did not get away however if I hadn't given chase, the outcome may have been different.

My 1st called & shot badger was years ago on a Club Hunt where I went down South. It must have been November because a deer hunt was going on & the hills were full of deer hunters. No matter, I was hunting the flats. I arrived in the dark & slept on the ground. All night I heard coyotes howling back & forth. In the morning I rolled out of bed, got dressed, loaded up & walked into the wind in the direction of some of the coyote howling. On the 1st stand I saw a coyote but got no shot. I was more than half way up a hill overlooking a flat of golden coyote grass. After the 1st stand I walked to the bottom of the hill and set up on the edge of the grass. On the 2nd series; I was surprised by a rapidly approaching low-to-the-ground critter heading straight for me. Once I recognized "BADGER" I shot and killed it with the shotgun. It was within 5 steps & I remember being relieved that one shot did the trick as badgers are also known for not having a pleasing disposition. I can't smell anything except ammonia so its smell didn't bother me. They are tough to skin though.

On a predator hunt with Ron & Kolby P., while walking into one of our stands I caught movement. It was a badger on the other side of a wash. Immediately we froze & I started lip squeaking. The badger came down its side, crossed the wash and was headed right for us. My shotgun was on the badger however I wanted one of them to shoot it and eventually I believe that Ron did with his rifle. It was a fine looking specimen! Remember that shotguns are kinder to fur than rifles.

On another occasion, it was the last stand of the evening out West. Ivan had been calling & calling. Eventually he ended the stand with the obvious 2 note Waa, Waa. Instead of answering, I started lip squeaking. The lip squeak can be a very effective sound. I will often use it at the beginning or end of a stand because it works! The badger came out of nowhere! My shot stopped its progress however it was next to a hole and still alive. I have heard too many stories of wounded badgers getting into holes and not being recovered. I may have shot again, I don't remember but it makes sense. The next thing that I do remember was that I got next to the badger and did what I needed to do with the butt end of my shotgun to make sure it didn't get away. Better to have a dead badger with a cracked skull than a wounded one that will probably die down the hole where you can't get to it.

Is there a badger in your future? Whether you are new to predator calling or have been at it awhile, each calling stand that you do has the potential to be a stand where something may happen that you will never forget. So to answer the question, if you stay at it and keep calling, ANYTHING is possible, including a badger and when it does happen, you probably won't forget the experience. Badgers are awesome! Good Luck in your Calling!



Eddie's First Badger



Kolby P. w/dads' Badger



Eddie with Last Stand of Day Badger

NOTE FROM NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Wasn't this a GOOD READ? There are so many more stories out there of the reality of predator calling, the success and the failures. We would HONORED to also have your story here. A photo would also be nice. To share your story either write and give to Eddie M. at a Meeting or send email to coyotecaller@cox.net

PVCI FUR PROGRAM by Eddie M.

The raw furs from the pelts that we harvest are a renewable resource that can be utilized either for your own purposes or for sale. PVCI encourages members to skin their harvest & not just waste them in the field. Now the average new member is probably asking what happens if I harvest 10 coyotes & 5 fox this season. What am I going to do with all of these skins? If you are not going to keep them for yourself then one solution is to donate them to the PVCI Fur Program. This Program encourages you to skin & save your pelts. Participation is easy. Simply skin & save all the pelts that you harvest from late October until Fur Prep Day, which will probably be in Feb. or March, the PVCI Board making the determination. After skinning, save your pelts by placing them in a one or two gallon Ziploc freezer-type bag (fur side out) & freezing them, then store & keep them in your freezer. If you for some reason you are not allowed to put such things in your freezer, then we have a problem. It used to be that we would have what are called drop-off members. These were members that had extra space in their freezers to be able to hold the frozen pelts for those that might be forbidden. We could use some volunteers as right now we have none! The reason why is because we haven't had a Fur Prep Day in a couple years. I'd volunteer in a heartbeat however my 3-1/2 freezers are all full. Could you help? To volunteer to be a drop-off person please let the Hunt Chairman Allan F. know at a Meeting or call (602) 999-5019. To be a volunteer, all that you need is some extra freezer space to be able to store other member's fur pelts in. Please be courteous when calling a drop-off person. Please, no very late or very early phone calls; plan on taking your pelts to them.



On a certain designated day in the future (probably in Feb. or March) we will have what is called Fur Prep Day. Fur Prep Day is a day that is picked where we go through the process of getting the collected frozen pelts that we have accumulated, ready for sale or tan. What happens is that someone with a good backyard, volunteers his or her house as the Meeting Place. Then on the designated day members show up at this house with the pelts that we have been saving. We usually take the pelts out to thaw the night before. Then we go through the process, washing, fleshing, sewing up the holes and stretching the pelts. Make no mistake this is work. The more members that show to help, the faster the work gets done. This is an excellent time to learn how to prepare a pelt as we have hands-on instruction going through the necessary steps all day. These fur pelts when done are a valuable resource & PVCI encourages you to utilize this resource and save and learn how to put up your own fur.

The PVCI Board of Directors will make a determination on whether to sell the furs at the ATA Fur Auction or to get them tanned by a Tannery. Lately we have been sending out the donated pelts to the Tannery. When they come back, we sell the pelts to the Membership & to the public at some of the various shows we go too. Money from the pelts donated to the Club go into the Club's General Fund to help pay for the Club's operating expenses such as rent, insurance, trophies, etc. Keep an eye out in future Newsletters about when the next Fur prep Day will be scheduled.

HOW TO CASE SKIN A COYOTE by Eddie M.

The #1 complaint we have on Fur Prep Day is that we can't use some of the furs because they are skinned wrong. The biggest mistake is skinning them open like a bear instead of case-skinning. The next biggest mistake is cutting the front legs completely off leaving 2 gaping holes. How you should go about case-skinning is shown below:



- 1) Once the critter is down, spray the inside of a plastic bag with a powerful insecticide; insert the critter, close bag 5-10 minutes. (Flea powder also works)
- 2) Using rubber gloves make an incision around the hairline or "ankles" on **each** leg. Next cut up the back of the hind legs to the vent. Follow the color line when making the cut. Skin out hind legs.
- 3) Use a tail stripper and strip the tail. Then slit the underside of the tail the full length. Hang the critter, preferably by one hind leg (makes it easier to turn).
- 4) Once the back legs & tail are free, separate the pelt from the carcass by pulling pelt down in one steady motion towards the head.
- 5) Some resistance will occur around the front legs. Use a blunt instrument between the front part of the shoulder & the skin. Push through skin then pull down.
- 6) Continue pulling hide down to the head. Skin out head. Finish by cutting through nose cartilage freeing pelt. Tools required: knife, tail stripper, knife sharpener, rope, rubber gloves, plastic bags, flea & tick Spray (99Cent Only Store) or powder.

PVCI GUN RAFFLE

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.**

All winners MUST be able to fill out & pass a background check. Steve L will call you and tell you where and when you can pick up your Firearm.

The Gun for November will be a Ruger 10/22 Takedown Rifle, nickel-barrel on black, plus a Remington bucket of .22 ammo (at least 1300 rounds).

The Gun for the December Christmas Party will be a PVCI logo inscribed AR-15, BPMS Arms Stainless, Heavy Barrel, Varminteer w/20 round magazine!

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

Oct. 31 – Rifle Bear Season opens in Units 4A, 5A & 27. Check your Hunt Regs.

Nov. 1 – Trapping Season opens! No leg-hold traps permitted on public land. Cage traps are legal. Check Trapping Regs.

Nov. 4 - This is the 1st Tuesday. **PVCI Monthly Meeting** (12851 N. 19th Ave., Lodge #2) 7:00p.m. The Deadline to sign up for the 6 Month Hunt is this Meeting!

Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28 – Various Deer Seasons open. Nov. 7 & 21 Various Junior Javelina opens. Check your Hunt Regs.

Nov. 7 – Juniors Only & some Limited Opportunity Elk Seasons open in various Hunt Units. Check your Hunt Regs.

Nov. 8-9 – **PVCI Monthly Hunt!!!** Nov. 9 – Blue Grouse Season ends. Check your Hunt Regs.

Nov. 14 – Muzzle loader Elk Season opens in Hunt Unit 6A. Check your Hunt Regs.

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

Nov. 22 – Late Dove Season opens! New bag limit is 15 birds! Check your Hunt Regs.

Nov. 28- Dec. 4 – Rifle Bull Elk Season opens in many Hunt Units. Check your Hunt Regs.

Dec. 1-Mar. 15 – Daylong Shooting Hours (Night Hunting) opens in Hunt Units 4A, 5B, 8, 12A, 12B, 13A, 13B, 15A, 15B, 17A, 17B, 18A, 18B, 31 & 32. Coyotes ONLY may be taken at night with the aid of artificial light; however the light may not be attached to or operated from a vehicle. Shotgun Only??? Check your Hunt Regs.

Dec. 1 – Bighorn Sheep Season opens statewide except Units 9 & 10. Check our Hunt Regs.

Dec. 2 – PVCI Annual Christmas Party at the regular Monthly Meeting location; 12851 N. 19th Ave., Lodge #2, Members, their families & friends & Anyone Else that wants too are invited to attend. The Entry Fee will be at least one can of food or water per person for the Food Drive. This will be a Potluck so please bring a dish or dessert. Live Auction, Silent Auction, Bucket Raffles, Special Limited Edition 4 Custom Knives Package Raffle & lots more! The Gun-of-the-Month will be an AR-15 rifle! Event organizer Larry S. is very busy trying to get donations of goods, services or other items to be auctioned. Donations from club members are also welcomed & encouraged. Call Larry S. 602-993-4661 to donate items.

Dec. 5 – Late season Rifle Elk Season opens in various Hunt Units. Mearns Quail Season opens. Check your Hunt Regs.

Dec. 6-7 – **PVCI Monthly Hunt!**

Dec. 12 – Various Late Rifle, Late Muzzleloader & Late Archery Deer Seasons open. Check your Hunt Regs.

Dec. 17 - This is the 3rd Wednesday. **PVCI** Board of Directors Meeting (12851 N. 19th Ave., Lodge #2) 7:00p.m.

Dec. 31 – All bear, bighorn & crow seasons end.

Jan. 1 – **HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!** Archery javelina & deer Seasons open in many Units. Check your Hunt Regs.

Jan. 6 – This is the 1st Tuesday. **PVCI Monthly Meeting** (12851 N. 19th Ave., Lodge #2) 7:00p.m.

Jan. 10-11 – **PVCI Monthly Hunt!**

Jan. 24 – **Multi-Club Hunt**

*****NOTE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN:** The shipping label on this Newsletter provides your personal membership expiration month & year on the same line as your name in the form of MMM-YY (i.e., FEB-12 for February 2013 expiration). If Membership is NOT current it will be noted in RED letters on the shipping label. 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. Renewal Fees help the Club!

PVCI WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS: Maurice J. & Ryan V.

MEMBERSHIP COUNT: 167

PVCI ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY COMING SOON!!!

The PVCI Christmas Party is scheduled for Dec. 2nd, 2014 at the regular Monthly Meeting location; 12851 N. 19th Ave., Lodge #2, the Party taking the place of the Meeting. Members, their families & friends and ANYONE ELSE that wants too are invited to attend. As usual the **Entry Fee** will be at least one can of food or water per person for the Dave Kardos Memorial Food Drive put on by Gary A.M. & wife Ginger. This will be a **Potluck** so if you can please bring a dish or dessert. **Live Auction, Silent Auction, Bucket Raffles & much more including A Very Special 4 Limited Edition Knives Raffle w/ one John Toner knife, one Ray Everidge knife, one Jim Chaney knife, Plus one more (the winner wins the complete set)!** The Gun-of-the-Month will be a **PVCI logo inscribed AR-15, BPMS Arms Stainless, Heavy Barrel, Varminter w/20 round magazine! Oh & John Toner is also going to have a Mystery Bag full of..???**

Event organizer Larry S. is very busy trying to get donations from the various outdoor vendors. We also desperately need YOUR donations of goods, services or other from you the member! Donations will be very welcomed & encouraged. **To donate merchandise, services or other goods to the Christmas Party call Larry S. at (602) 993-4661 now! Be there!!!**

LOOKS LIKE NO ARIZONA STATE PREDATOR CALLING CONTEST FOR 2014!!!!

Yes it looks like our Arizona State Varmint Calling Championship will NOT happen in 2014. The Championship has been held in various places over the many years it has taken place with Cabela's being the gracious host the last few years. Participation the 1st year at Cabela's (when we were inside with chairs for the audience) was good however participation has fallen off a bit lately since the Event was moved outside. This is not Cabela's fault. Back in the 60's and 70's there were so many callers wanting to participate, the line would be really long! Nowadays and for many years since in the past, just finding a handful or more of willing participants some years seems to be a chore. The reasons why are many probably including lack of some good advertising, timid or intimidated callers, lack of really good prizes, finding willing folks to run & judge the Event, etc. The Event still draws a crowd of spectators outside make no mistake! It's getting the callers to PARTICIPATE....and with at least FOUR GOOD varmint calling Clubs in the state... to me there is just No Excuse!

Anyway in 2015 Cabela's will hold an Annual Event called Predator Days where they really push predator hunting & predator-related products. It was decided that perhaps we could hold the Championship during those days which will be in January in 2015. Winning prizes & exact dates are being determined. More information in the next Newsletter.

COYOTE CALLING TIPS by Eddie M.

- 1) Set-up your stands where you can see in front of you or don't set up with a big bush or other obstacle right in front. It is said that we only see about 1/3 or so of the critters that we call in. If you can't see them you can't take them home
- 2) You have done what you re supposed too and a coyote is approaching your stand! Don't Panic! Try to stay calm. There is an art to seeing an approaching critter and raising your firearm or other weapon for the shot. Quick, jerky movements are usually very noticeable to an approaching coyote. Try movements only when the coyote goes behind something blocking its view OR try WAITING until the coyote is well within shooting range before you make your move. One thing that I have done on several coyotes that were running hard right at me when the angle was wrong was to wait until close, then stand up and shoot. The coyote is often taken back enough for you to get a chance provided you did #1.

WEBSITES FOR PREDATOR CALLING & HUNTING IN GENERAL

Interesting websites that may be of help to you in your predator calling career: www.pvci.org , www.predatorforums.com , www.wildlifecallers.com , www.predatorprofessionals.com , www.thearizonahunter.com The last website is looking for sponsors to help them continue sponsoring youth camps for young hunters. Donations will go towards organizing events, keeping the site going & for new gear such as hats, stickers & t-shirts. Please do check them out & consider as either a donation or as an advertising opportunity. Spread the word about them.

Sept. Gun Winner
John S.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
Jim, Daughter & Chris K.
Married 34 years Nov. 15



Oct. Gun Winner
James B.



ALLAN F. CLUB MEMBER INTERVIEW by Eddie M.

Here is another in a planned series of interviews with some of our PPCI Club members. What we will do is ask various members the same set of predator related questions. The varied responses by the different members are always interesting. This month's I'll feature longtime member Allan F. Allan has been in the Club since 1984 & has a treasure chest full of experiences, stories & memories. He is married to Janice F., since February 14th, 1970: 45 years this coming Feb. Allan is our current Membership Chairman & Hunt Chairman.



- 1) How did you become interested in predator calling? *I was working in west Texas in 1968, when I climbed on top of a water tank and blew on a wooden Circe triple call, not having a clue as to what I was suppose to be doing. The next thing I knew I had a coyote near its base, sitting there, looking up at me! I was so startled that I put a 30-30 round right next to it. It immediately left the area, with me sitting up there thinking, "What had I just done (?) and how I got 'buck fever' and 'flubbed' the shot." After that I was hooked and went out numerous times while I was living there, but without much, if any success. I had no one to mentor me, nor was there much, if anything printed, to tell me how to set up a stand and call successfully: No internet in the late '60s!.*
- 2) How long have you been calling? *Since I went on my first Novice hunt in 1984 with my mentor Cosme C., who encouraged me to call and was very instrumental in keeping me active during my first year with PPCI. That's the best part of using a hand call: The thrill of bringing a varmint in, to your call, by yourself. When using an electronic call, you've taken the 'satisfaction portion' out of the 'equation!'*
- 3) What are some of our accomplishments as far as critters called/ harvested and PPCI Pins earned? *I have been in the AZ Pin Program since I started, when it permitted the caller and shooter to split the points. It seemed that I called in more animals than I shot, so I feel that I lost out a little on that deal. My AZ Pin Program records shows that I have been credited with calling and harvesting a total of 92 coyotes and 2 fox; also having a gold 'Mentoring' Pin. I have placed 1st in the 6 Month Hunt (Team Field Championships) 3 consecutive hunt years: '91- '92 with Marty K.; '92 - '93 with Marty K. and Larry G. and '93 - '94 with Larry G. I was PPCI member of the year in 1991, also having been a PPCI board member, Hunt Chairman (before Gary Anthony), as well as club Treasurer under Walt H. For several years in the late '80s and early '90s, several members, including myself, taught quite a number of AG&F Hunter's Education Courses with PPCI as its sponsor .*
- 4) Name three of your favorite calls that are always in your pocket? *I use up to 5 or 6 during the course of a stand. I start with a Scery Coaxer, followed by: Critter Pee-Wee, Tally-Ho, Critter standard and finally Scery Cottontail. Sometimes in this mix, I add the Scery elk call sound too: If varmints don't 'respond' to one type, they may respond to others, if nothing more than due to curiosity. With the Critter, Scery elk and the Tally-Ho calls, I use my tongue, throat and diaphragm to manipulate the sounds. I mix up the lengths, volumes, calmness and amounts of 'terror' I use, while using my diaphragm exclusively, while calling.*
- 5) What is your favorite predator gun/load combination? *.243 Winchester with 70 grain Sierra HPs (handloads) in a semi-auto for the rifle. 12 gauge Rem. 11-87, 3" long, #4 plated and buffered Remington Buckshot for the shotgun, with an X-full ported choke. When calling, I use a mechanically moving decoy about 15 - 25 yards in front of me, as well an opened bottle of vanilla next to me and a 'Sent-Vent' pinned to a leg of my pants; using a sent packed/stored and sealed in with your clothing, that is common to the area that you're hunting in.*
- 6) What is your favorite predator to hunt and why? *Coyotes; around the edges and inside of the farmlands at the lower elevations, where there's more: Food, water and shelter than out in the normal desert expanses.*
- 7) Describe your most successful stand or day? *The time when Eddie M. and I went out for a weekend club hunt. It seemed like every time we blew a call, coyotes came in like there was no tomorrow! We were hunting exclusively with shotguns in extremely heavy brush the entire weekend; being in 'their back yards.' We won that monthly hunt, with no other team coming in close to us.*
- 8) Describe your most disastrous stand or day? *The time with Larry G. when, besides 'batting' about 0 for about 10 varmints that eluded us that weekend, for one idiotic reason or another; the only real success we had was calling in 'a truck load of migrant farm workers.' I was up in a tree and scared the 'daylights' out of one of them, when I hollered 'BOO,' when he was right under me. After 'soiling' himself, they all left the area about 20 times faster than they came!*
- 9) Describe your closest encounter or most frightening moment? *Three times, when all 3 coyotes were so close, they literally died right at my feet, with one actually on top of my feet.*
- 10) What is your favorite camouflage pattern? *Full Leafy Wear over green shorts, when it's warm/hot or a top half 'Rancho Safari' Ghillie Suit over lower pants leafy-wear, when it's colder.*
- 11) What do you consider to be the greatest threat to predator calling? *Urban sprawl as well as the anti-hunter, anti-gun liberals and politicians, that are convinced that they know more about wildlife management and conservation than wildlife biologists and the game and fish experts do.*

LATE SEASON BEAR HUNT/CALLING by Eddie M.

I just realized that I haven't done a bear hunting article yet this year. Bears are one of my favorite critters to hunt and most years I have usually been on a few predator calling adventures in my hunt for them. They are also one of the least killed critters in the Club. Have you ever had a bear answer your predator calling sounds? Do you think that you might want to give it a try? Be very careful when answering this question as it might come true as it has for me & others on several occasions. If you look at the Hunt Statistic Book you will see that you have missed the 2 best months to kill a bear which are September & October. When you receive this Newsletter it will be November. Many of the bear hunting units will be shut down however not all of them. In fact there'll be a couple that'll just be opening up. Sometime in November the hibernation process will begin for many bears. The sows with cubs will be the first to disappear, then the sows with no cubs and last will be the boars or male bears. Some of the boars are still out in December plus there are other boars I have heard that don't even hibernate some years? Regardless before bears go into hibernation during these fall months, the pressure is on to **eat all that they can to fatten up** before the Big Sleep. As in other times when you hunt bears, now as in earlier months, if you can find the food, you can often find the bears. Favorite food sources that I like to check this time of year are Juniper trees that are loaded with the juicy blue juniper berries and the acorns in the big trees in the woods. For the most part, the manzanita berries and prickly pear fruits are largely gone.



I have seen bears lying underneath these heavily loaded juniper berry trees just eating & resting, eating & resting all day. Acorns in the woods are another very important food source for practically everything including bears. If the trees in the place where you are hunting don't have acorns, I would keep looking until you find some that do have them. Find some bear poop with acorns in them in the vicinity plus some good hills or canyons & some water within 1 or 2 miles and you just might have a recipe for some action!

If you can find a vantage point you may actually be able to glass these bears. Will a black bear that's hungrily eating acorns or juniper berries come to a predator call? There is only one way to find out. I would close the distance if possible & get within rifle range & then I would use the call. A fawn distress would probably be my first choice however the rabbit distress could also work. Reed Peterson, the guy who founded one of the other fine predator calling clubs in this state used a rabbit distress to call in over 100 bears in his calling career. In the earlier seasons I stay away from the cub distress to help avoid female bears. In the latter part of the late season or say in December it could be another option.

Seeing the bears first has several advantages. First, you know without a doubt that there's a bear in the area. Now you can hopefully determine size & cub status (sows with cubs are illegal) plus determine your route to the bear for the best calling/shooting location(s). You will also be able to see the bear's reaction to your calling sound. If it's coming you will know! If there is no reaction & you are within rifle range like we talked about earlier, then you either plan on taking your shot or stalk closer for the opportunity to try calling again and/or setting up for a closer shot.

If you can't see the bears then calling in likely looking areas is another approach. It really helps if these areas have Food and Sign such as Bear Poop (the fresher the better) and/or Tracks. Pick a location where you can see. Bears won't normally hang up to just sit and watch in an area with a big view like mountain lions sometimes do. Although I might start softly in some situations, generally make your sound loud. Get the noise out there. Bears live in BIG COUNTRY and if they cannot hear you then you probably are not going to call one in. Likely looking areas to call for me would include down the side of a big ridge or canyon (go 100 yards down) full of big acorn trees or berry laden juniper trees. The key for me in doing this is that even if there is a dirt road on top where you went down, after you go down so far you are in a whole new world. You can't even hear the road traffic anymore. Also it really helps if there is no road on the bottom of where you are. I like just wild country instead, although you could throw in a body of some sort of water like a creek, river, waterhole, etc. I also like canyons. One trick here with 2 people is to each be watching opposite sides while the calling is going on. You MUST know where the other person is located when doing this! Also try calling above where two or more canyons bottoms meet up or cross & don't forget saddles which are used by most all wildlife when travelling. Please make sure that you have a really good backstop behind you that a bear or lion can't get through. Yes I said lion as both critters can live in the same habitat and the distress sound is universal! It wasn't a bear but I have read of a caller named Ralph S. (he scored my Boone & Crocket skull) who was I believe knocked down and scratched in the face by a lion before he shot it! My Point: Have a GOOD BACKSTOP! If serious stay on stand 45 minutes to an hour & no foxes.

When it happens and you do see a bear approaching your calling stand, it's going to be an unforgettable experience! I would keep calling until you have the bear where you want it, then pick a spot and shoot! Remember you have 48 hours to report your kill. Also keep the proof of sex attached to the hide and keep the skull for the visual inspection that you must also do within 10 days. If frozen be sure to have the proof of sex visible and have the mouth open....Read your Hunt Regs. All bear seasons end on Dec. 31st so there is still time. Be sure to call 1-800-970-BEAR to find out which units are closed or to report a kill. GOOD LUCK!

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 2014/2015 AZ. Hunt Regs. You will note that there are also some events for the ladies. Visit www.azgfd.gov/outdoorskills for more information. **Also consider helping out at these Events as a Mentor. You'll be fed & your help will be greatly appreciated. I go as a PPCI member & often I 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. GET INVOLVED!!!**

Nov. 6-9 – Team Young Gunz Ms. Adventurez Deer Camp: Ladies come learn how to hunt Coues Whitetail in Southern Az. from experienced hunters; firearm safety, centralized group camping & some food provided. Space limited. Location: SW Tucson, Units 36C, 36A, 36B. Host: Team Young Gunz Register: Carl Young, carl@teamyounggunz.com

Nov. 8-10 – Trapping Education Course & Campout: Certified trapper's education course focused on cage traps, followed by hands-on trapping activity, skinning & fur prep, camping available on site, some meals. Location: Chino Valley Host: Southwest Fur Harvesters. Register: www.southwestfurharvesters.com Don (928) 636-0585.

Nov. 20-23 – AZSCI Junior's Deer Hunt Camp: Deer hunt tips, tactics for area. Units 36A & B Host AZ, Chapter of Safari Club Int. Info: Bobby Boido aazsci@yahoo.com (520)490-8367. **MDF Unit 42 Jr. Deer Camp:** Host: AZMDF, AZGFD. Location: Wickenburg Info. Craig Heath cheath@azgfd.gov **MDF Unit 18B Jr. Deer Camp:** Host AZMDF Kingman Chapter, Info. John Beauchamp jhn_beauchamp@yahoo.com

Dec. 6-7 – Picket Post Small Game Hunting Camp: Geared towards new hunters. Instruction & mentoring on dove, quail, rabbits, coyotes. **Food & firearms are provided!** Location: Picket Post Mountain Unit37B, Register: www.youthoutdoorsunlimited.com

Dec. 12-14 – Cibola Jr. Waterfowl Camp: Learn duck hunting, calling decoy set-ups from experts. Food provided. Location: Cibola Nat. Wildlife Refuge Register: Courtney Shanley (928) 342-0091 getoutsideaz@gmail.com

HUNT SCHEDULE

The following tentative Hunt Schedule is a guide to follow so you can hunt some of the upcoming organized hunts.

Oct. 7, 2014 PPCI 6-Month Hunt begins (See exceptions)

Jan. 24 2015 Multi-Club Hunt (see below)

Nov. 8-9, 2014 PPCI Club Hunt

Feb. 7-8, 2015 – Handgun, archery, muzzleloader (Extra Points) Hunt.

Dec. 6-7, 2014 PPCI Club (Fur) Hunt

Mar. 7-8, 2015 Novice II Hunt

Jan. 10-11, 2015 PPCI Club Hunt

*****Jan. 24, 2015 – MULTI-CLUB HUNT** – This hunt 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. PPCI members, **if you hunt no other hunts this year, please hunt this one!** More details to follow in the January 2015 Newsletter.

PPCI MONTHLY HUNT REPORTS

SEPTEMBER (NOVICE) HUNT:

by Allen F.

The September Novice Hunt officially kicks off the new hunting season. This year 8 teams with 18 participants ventured forth to learn and compete against each other. As in most years, when you hunt in September, it is HOT!!! Some teams had no luck, hot weather & dove season combined together probably didn't help any either. The Total harvest was 5 coyotes. The results:

1st Place: Ken E., Haken S., Chris B., Wayne W.

2nd Place: Richardo, Jose A. Jr.

3rd Place: Eddie M., Cliff, Paul

Total Harvest: 3 coyotes

Total Harvest: 1 coyote

Total Harvest: 1 coyote

OCTOBER MONTHLY HUNT:

The October Monthly Hunt saw 12 teams with 19 participants (18 members & 1 guest) venture forth for the friendly competition. I'll bet that the quail hunters disturbed some of the stands. Total Harvest was 9 coyotes, 5 foxes & 1 bobcat.

1st Place: Charlie I. & Ryan V.

2nd Place: Craig B. & Charles D.

3rd Place: Bob B. & Terry J.

Total Harvest: 4 coyotes, 2 fox

Total Harvest: 3 coyotes

Total Harvest: 1 bobcat, 1 fox

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