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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Thank you, everyone for your help with the George Knox Memorial Boot Camp! Despite the rain, about a hundred showed up, including nearly fifty kids. Good times, great lectures, and fantastic hunting. Two coyotes and three fox were called and harvested and even more predators including a bear were called and/or missed or seen without a trigger being pulled on both days.

**Are you ready?** The season is upon us and I hope your loads are boxed, rifles sighted in, shotguns patterned and your camo clean. Practice on those calls, for the young dumb coyotes are hungry and more than willing to come to your rabbit distress. Be the bait, get your emotions in your calling and get them close, there is nothing else like it that you can do legally!

Special Thanks to Keith I. for your excellent presentation at the Bear Seminar!  
Ken E. President, PVCi

**THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW OR REMEMBER**

- \* The NEW website to send your stories, pictures, anniversaries, tips, recipes, etc. to this Predator Tales Newsletter is [coyotecaller@cox.net](mailto:coyotecaller@cox.net) **Come on!!! Share your experiences!!!**
- \* The PVCi Novice Hunt will be held Sept. 6-7, 2014. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> Hunt of the 2014-2015 season. Hunt Teams MUST have Novices to qualify. Come to Sept. Meeting!
- \* 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](http://www.pvci.org) lately you just might give it another try.** PVCi member Tommy M. has been working on updating, adding more information and is really working hard to make the website worthwhile. **We could also use 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 Chairman Alan F. (602) 999-5651 know your wishes.



**Miss Rodeo AZ**  
**Miss Teen Rodeo**



**Bear Meeting**  
**Speaker Keith I.**



**PVCi Trail Clearing Crew**  
**2014**



**Boot Camp 2014**



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**ARIZONA TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION (ATA) CONVENTION REPORT by Eddie M.**

The 2014 ATA Convention was a BLAST!!! The emphasis this year was on “Fur Handling” and getting the MOST MONEY possible out of your furs. At the Fur Sale in February, there were a LOT of disappointed trappers who were hoping to get more money than what was offered however there was so much poorly put up fur that teaching the masses what/how to do it better became a theme. Master trapper & caller Vern Howey was the featured speaker. There were some really good seminars on coyotes & coyote calling & trapping, bobcats & bobcat trapping, cage trapping, new rules, etc. The Trappers Course was given early Saturday morning. You must take this Course before you can buy a Trappers License. As has happen the last few years, a good number of people were present to take this Trappers Course.

This year BOTH Miss Rodeo Arizona Taci Shaffer AND Miss Teen Rodeo Arizona Brigitte Kennison came to the Convention!!! They were of course both Beautiful! As is tradition Miss Rodeo was given a beautiful fur vest (bobcat this time) that the ATA had made just for her. She was very appreciative of her gift! Again as this is a fund-raising Event, both women helped in raising money for the various raffles & other money-making games that were available. There were also many items that were in the Silent Auction including traps, trapping equipment, pictures, hunting/trapping books & DVD’s plus many, many other items.

This year the Fun Competitions were saved until last. I tell you, the ATA Convention is just not the same without these Fun Competitions! The Kids & Adults Trap Setting Contest, the Ladies Frying Pan Toss, the Men’s Musket Throw and probably the most fun event, the Kids & Adult’s Pie-Eating Contest! In the Kids Pie-eating Contest, the kids eat one slice with no hands! Talk about having a messy face! The last few years Miss Rodeo has also competed in these events and watching her eat pie and stay pretty is always fun! Yours Truly ALMOST won the Adult Pie-Eating Contest. The 1<sup>st</sup> round was a draw & the 2<sup>nd</sup> round I lost by only a couple of swallows! After the Competitions Miss Rodeo usually gives out the awards as 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Place are called up to the stage. This year however she had to leave & go to work after a bit so ATAPresident Ron Day passed out the awards which were \$20 bills to the winners. Great, Great, Fun and you really missed out if you weren’t there! Hopefully I’ve inspired some more of you “No Shows” to make an appearance next year!



Eddie Eating Pie



## GETTING STARTED ON YOUR PREDATOR CALLING JOURNEY! by Eddie M.



**QUESTION:** Okay I'm new or I've been in the Club for a year and haven't called in anything yet despite several attempts. I've heard about this upcoming Novice Hunt and wonder exactly what it is and how can I participate?

**ANSWER:** The P.V.C.I. Novice Hunt is the traditional 1<sup>st</sup> Hunt of the year for the Phoenix Varmint Callers. This year's dates are Sept. 6-7, 2014. This Hunt typically teams up the Club's Mentors with Novices or beginners for a weekend of hands-on predator calling where you are actually shown just how they go about getting their predators. To keep things interesting & we'll make this Hunt competitive and have one Hunt each month after during the fall & winter where we have a friendly competition amongst each other. To participate in this Novice Hunt it would help to be present at the September P.V.C.I. Monthly Meeting held the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month at 12851 N. 19<sup>th</sup> Ave. F.O.P. Lodge#2. This September Monthly Meeting is usually geared towards Novices. It would also help to become a member & **TIP** spend an extra \$10 and join the Pin Program. Towards the end of the Meeting you'll be teamed with a Mentor to go hunting with. **EQUIPMENT NEEDED – SOME MONEY:** Usually only one vehicle is used and ALL pitch in for gas. Best if this vehicle has 4-wheel drive and some ground clearance. **CLOTHING:** Some form of Camouflage clothing including light gloves & a facemask are needed. **Boots** that cactus thorns won't go through. Later when it gets cold I like boots with at least 400 grams of insulation in them (mine have 1000 grams) as my feet get real cold even in the desert in anything less. Notice I keep saying boots & not gym shoes. Gym shoes are a disaster waiting to happen, they are noisy walking, esp. on rocks, do NOT keep your feet warm and a cactus or rattlesnake will go right through! **WEAPONS:** Shiny weapons show up like a mirror in the sunlight. To me a shiny hunting weapon has no place in the outdoors unless you are just hunting small game. I was told my 1<sup>st</sup> year by Skip A., "If you want to go hunting, paint your gun." I had NO Problem doing it buying some tan and green Bowflauge paint. I painted the whole shotgun one color, waited a bit and then added some of the other color in some form of pattern. No more shiny shotgun. I think that you will miss fewer critters if you use a shotgun rather than a scoped rifle. The action can be so fast & furious; there often just isn't time to find a critter in the scope. If serious, those using pistols or bow & arrow for starting out, DREAM ON! Your chances of success are really almost none; I don't care how good of a shot you are. Shooting at something you are going after is one thing. Shooting at something that is coming after you, often to eat you, is quite another. You may get a shot or two off and usually that is where it ends. Here is a quick training scenario to make my point: In your minds eye turn that rapidly approaching fox or coyote, (he's coming in fast, bounding up & down & coming right for you!) into a mountain lion! Do you still want your pistol or bow???

**AMMO:** For 12 ga. shotguns have 2-3/4" or 3" #4 buckshot or 3" BB's. For 20 gauge shotguns use #3 buckshot. Rifles, ask your mentor. A coyote can take a lot of punishment so the .22 long rifle is probably best left at home. I would consider the .22 Mag round the lightest you might successfully use on coyotes.

**CALLS:** Please have more than one predator call on you. Two is okay but 3 or more is better. Having a closed reed and bite-down call is okay. Throw in an open-reed call or two of each to truly cover yourself. Some callers use lanyards to hold their calls and if you do be careful of them bumping each other when you walk. Also don't leave open-reed calls on your lanyard hanging on your rear-view mirror or on a car seat inside the car in the hot sun. Lanyards have their place; I keep my calls in my pockets.

**SLEEPING:** I sleep on the ground unless the weather is really, really wet bad (inside the truck) or there are mosquitoes (a tent if warm or inside car if cool). Tents are for extended stays like when big-game hunting. Rarely do I use a tent when predator calling. After the 1<sup>st</sup> stand of the morning, I want to get to the next stand quick. My ground sleeping method is to 1<sup>st</sup> check the wind and point my feet into the wind as my sleeping bag does not zip up. Then I dig a hip hole for my hips. Next I place a real space blanket (one side is silver, the other side has a color like blue, red, etc.) on the ground. This keeps the ground cold and the moisture from the ground, grass, etc. from getting you. Then I place a thin foam pad on the blanket and place a thick 4inch foam pad over that. The sleeping bag goes on top of it all. Now to position myself so that my hips fall into the hip hole, get into your underwear (long johns if temps are in the 20's or lower) and put a beanie cap on your head. Just like sleeping at home on a mattress and no big heavy cots that are put together now & taken apart later.

**FOOD & WATER:** Do bring your own water or at least talk it over with your mentor. I also bring a canteen on a canteen belt in case I have to walk out of somewhere. Do have some snacks such as Frito's or other chips or trail mix, etc. as you will get hungry sometime during the day. Anymore I like tortillas, ham, cheeses maybe and some Romaine lettuce or raw cabbage for lunch. I always bring a one burner stove and a pot w/top to cook my Pasta-&Something (have a hot meal).

**OTHER:** Bring a good attitude & be willing to learn & blow that call when your turn. No one is born knowing how to blow a predator call, it takes practice and you will sound good if you persist. The Club is not responsible for teaching you to call or taking you to hunt, you are. You are responsible for getting your calling journey going. The Club can help BUT YOU are responsible. Do what your mentor tells you & ask questions. Also be careful where you point the muzzle of your firearm. Above all, have a Good Time. That is what it really is all about. Good Luck on your Hunt & Calling Journey!

## THE GEORGE KNOX MEMORIAL BOOT CAMP 2014 REPORT by Eddie M.

Another very successful “Boot Camp” year has been completed and if you helped in any way shape or form, then Much, Much, Thanks goes out to you! PPCI had another Great Turnout at their Annual “George Knox Memorial” Boot Camp held on Aug. 15, 16& 17! PPCI along with the AZGFD, Youth Outdoor Unlimited, Cabela’s, Sportsmen’s Warehouse, AES & the NWTF all came together to put on one heck of a Boot Camp! Those that showed up on Friday got 1<sup>st</sup> Pick of the free camping spots & were treated to an evening meal from Youth Outdoors Unlimited. Gun Safety was also gone over & some made plans to hunt on Saturday morning before Breakfast was served.

Saturday was the 1<sup>st</sup> full day. After breakfast by Youth Outdoors Unlimited the predator calling seminars basics began. Various PPCI members covered such topics as weapons & accessories, camo clothing, the calling sound/using hand calls & calling lions using e-calls. Lunch was served by Youth Outdoors Unlimited sometime in here then classes resumed with wolf conservation, making good calling stands and controlling your reactions when a critter is spotted approaching. PPCI President Ken E. then had the groups formed & Clay of AZGFD had breakout maps that we picked to help avoid bumping into each other. Then we went hunting, returning in the evening for dinner from Youth Outdoors Unlimited. After dinner there was a mingling period of time then we handed out many, many prizes to the youth present from Cabela’s & Sportsmen’s Warehouse. There was also a Raffle Drawing for a New Member Firearm, only those new members that signed up at this Boot Camp were eligible. Then there was the PPCI Mentor Raffle for a John Toner Knife Set that was for anyone who helped to take the kids or beginning adults that were present out hunting. One of Woody’s food helpers won that set! I saw at least 1 coyote & 1 gray fox on the ground and heard reports of a few other called & seen critters plus one called in bear that was called in by one of the youth’s! I guess he got up & started walking back towards his mentor in the middle of a stand. The Mentor, Mark M., said he was thinking, “What are you doing, it’s the middle of your stand.” When the kid, an 11<sup>th</sup> grader pointed back where he came from and said, “**Bear!**” I believe that they all saw it and no more calling was done at that stand. (smile)

On Sunday, more hunting was done & I believe that 1 coyote & 2 foxes died plus others were seen. Breakfast was again provided by Woody & Youth Outdoors Unlimited who by the way did an Outstanding Job of keeping everyone fed! I skinned a fox for one of our fox killers & Ivan skinned a coyote for Ricardo’s group. Thanks again to all those that helped to make the weekend a success! Special Thanks to the AZGFD for allowing the use of Vincent Ranch again. Plus to Cabela’s & Sportsmen’s Warehouse for all the prizes. Youth Outdoors Unlimited again for the food plus all the mentors who took the time to drive up & help. I know that I had a sense of accomplishment when all was said & done, a feeling that we had helped do some good & get some more youth interested in another aspect of what can be done in the outdoors.



## More Boot Camp Pictures

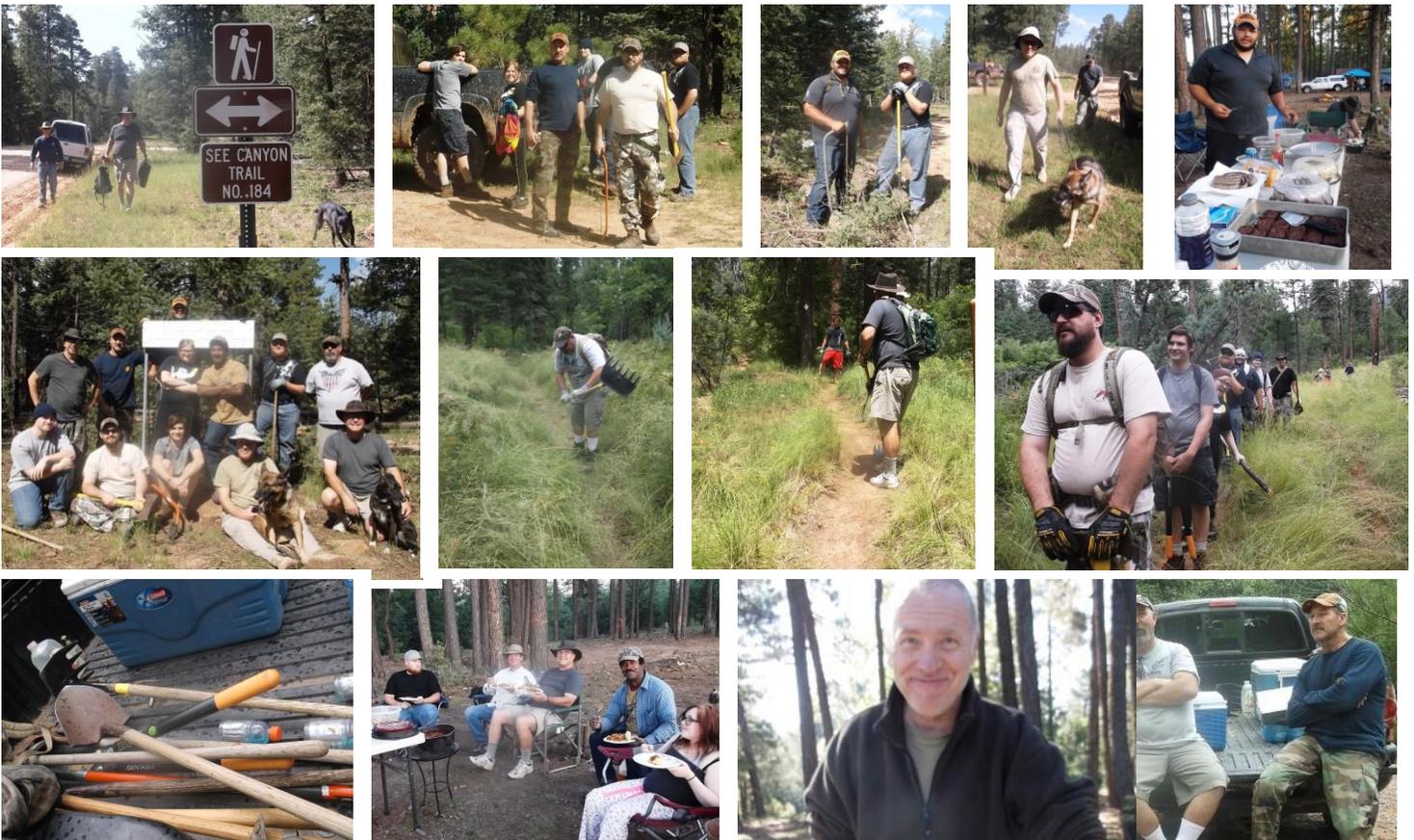


### 2013 PVC I ANNUAL TRAIL CLEARING REPORT by Eddie M.

What a wonderful time we have at Club Events! Coming together for a common cause and just being able to have fun with others in the outdoors is a treasure! On August 9, 2013 a group of ready to go to work PVC I members & friends gathered to work on Trail # 184, the See Canyon Trail. The See Canyon Trail is a Hunter/Survival Trail that goes from the top of the Rim near Promontory Butte down to the bottom near Christopher Creek and is only 3.2 miles as opposed to taking the dirt roads & highways all the way around (many more miles). The Phoenix Varmint Callers have had the honor of maintaining this Trail for close to the past 4 decades if not more! There is even a sign up at the top saying so.

There was a tasty "Potluck Breakfast" on Saturday morning before the work begins. Then we gather our gear, hop in the trucks and travel to the upper starting point. There pictures are taken & the upper & lower crews are established. The upper crew starts working right away heading downhill while the lower crew get in the trucks & make the long trek around to the lower trail starting point. The two teams then work towards each other, maintaining the Trail until they meet (this usually happens sometime after we get rained on). Then everyone walks out to the trucks at the lower crew starting point, get refreshed, take some more pictures, then drive back up to the top. The rest of the day you are free to do what you want however don't forget the "Potluck Dinner" Here there is lots of camaraderie. Next morning we eat again with the final "Potluck Breakfast." A good time really is had by all and we all get to know each other just a little bit more.

Good Times, Good Times! If you missed this Club Event, you missed out! Consider coming next year. See you soon. Many thanks to: Gary .M., Mike C., Olivia, Terry H., Matt Y., Eddie M., Shawn G., Ken E., Chris, Mark M., Justin, M., Larry S., Bob J., and dogs Ziba & Calie for helping at the 2014 PVC I Annual Trail Clearing. This is FUN!!! Plan now to come next year. Seriously, you just DO NOT KNOW what you are missing!!!



## PVCI MONTHLY 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 & Board Members choose a Rifle, Shotgun, or Handgun, etc. in advance. Then we here at the bi-monthly Predator Tales do our best to let you know exactly what those choices will be (hopefully also in advance). Then on the night of the Meeting, with the firearm usually present for all to see, the Raffle Tickets are made available. Tickets are sold for \$5.00 apiece or 5 for \$20 with NO LIMIT on the amount that you may purchase. *You need NOT be a member to participate.* The Raffle Drawing is held that evening and some Lucky Person will win! **All winners MUST be able to fill out & pass a background check.** Steve L. will call you when your Firearm can be picked up at The Outdoorsman 10004 N. Cave Creek Road Phoenix, AZ. 85027. **The Gun for September will be a Savage Axis .243 w/camo synthetic stock & Bushnell 3x9 scope.** **The Gun for October will be a Tikka T-3 in .270 w/synthetic black matte stock.** Someone is going to WIN! Will it be you? Remember there is NO LIMIT to the amount of tickets that may be purchased.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**\*\*\* Members Reminder:** Please do remember that ANY member can attend the PVCI Board Meetings. They are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 12851 N. 19<sup>th</sup> Ave., Lodge #2 and start at 7:00p.m.

Aug. 29 – Deadline for Fall 2014 Sandhill Crane Permits.

Sept. 1 – Dove Season opens statewide. Check your Hunt Regs.

Sept. 2 - This is the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday. **(PVCI Monthly Meeting, 12851 N. 19<sup>th</sup> Ave., Lodge #2) 7:00p.m.** Novice Hunt

Sept. 5 – Rifle Antelope, Blue Grouse, Chukar & Bandtail Pigeon Seasons open. Check your Hunt Regs.

Sept 5-6 - Arizona Game & Fish Commission Meeting 2878 E. White Mountain Blvd. Pinetop (928) 367-4281

Sept. 6-7 – **PVCI Novice Hunt, (teams experts with novices). The 1<sup>st</sup> official hunt of the 2014-2015 season!**

Sept. 11 – All Archery Deer, Antelope, Turkey, Squirrel in 12A-B & 13A-B, plus some Bear Seasons close. Check!

Sept. 12 – Archery Elk Seasons open. Check your Hunt Regulations to find out where.

Sept. 15 - General Dove season ends statewide. Check your Hunt Regs.

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

Sept. 20-21 – Southwest Fur Harvesters Fall Rendezvous:

Sept. 28 – Bandtail Pigeon season ends.

Oct. 2 – Archery squirrel season closes.

Oct. 3 – **General (Gambel's, Scaled) quail , squirrel & fall turkey season opens statewide.** Check Hunt Regs.

Oct. 3-5 – Unit 1 Squirrel Camp:

Oct. 3 - Rifle bear season opens in select Hunt Units. Check your Hunt Regs.

Oct. 7 - This the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday. **(PVCI Monthly Meeting, 12851 N. 19<sup>th</sup> Ave., Lodge #2) 7:00p.m**

**Oct. 9 – Fall turkey season ends.**

Oct. 11-12 – PVCI Monthly Hunt!!!

**Oct. 14 –Deadline for the 2015 Spring Hunt Applications? 7:00p.m.** Postmarks don't count. Must have 2015 License

Oct. 15 - This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday. PVCI Board of Directors Meeting (12851 N. 18<sup>th</sup> Ave., Lodge #2) 7:00p.m.

Oct. 24 – Dec. 12 – Various deer seasons open & close statewide. Check your Hunt Regs.

Nov. – There are No Arizona Game & Fish Commission Meetings in November.

Nov. 4 - This is the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday. PVCI Monthly Meeting (12851 N. 19<sup>th</sup> Ave., Lodge #2) 7:00p.m.

Nov. 8-9 – PVCI Monthly 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-14 for February 2014 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 MEMBER:** Charlie W. **MEMBERSHIP COUNT: 154**

## UPCOMING EVENT: Southwestern Fur Harvesters (SWFH) Annual Fall Rendezvous – September 20-21, 2014



As another trapping & calling season approaches, the Southwest Fur Harvesters Assoc. 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 20-21, 2014. The 1<sup>st</sup> seminar starts at 7:30a.m. & 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.

We have a great schedule of events planned. If you come up on Friday, there will be lots of places to camp (tent, camper, 5<sup>th</sup> wheel, etc.) We will be firing up the grill on Friday & Saturday night, so you may want to bring something to eat. Also Friday & Saturday night we will have a fire going for everyone (campfire talk) to enjoy. Water, soda, ice tea & coffee will be provided on Saturday. We will also have port-a-potty available. There is usually a Raffle Giveaway Saturday evening & a Silent Auction. **This is the SWFH Main Fundraiser. If you have something that you would like to donate please bring it. The Trappers Ed Course is given on Sunday the 21st.** Directions: From Camp Verde take Highway 260 north. Between Milepost 250 & 251 turn onto FS9366A & follow back until you start seeing vehicles.

### OTHER OPPURTUNITIES TO LEARN TO TRAP:

**TRAPPER EDUCATION COURSE & CAMPOUT:** On Nov. 8, 9 & 10, 2014 a certified trapper's education course focused on using cage traps, followed by hands-on trapping activity, skinning, stretching & fur handling demonstrations. Camping is available on site with some meals. Location: Chino Valley Hosted by: Southwest Fur Harvesters Call Don at (928) 636-0585 for details. Please Register: [www.southwestfurharvesters.com](http://www.southwestfurharvesters.com)

**YOUTH TRAPPER'S CAMP:** On Feb. 11, 15 & 16, 2015 the SWFH will have a certified trappers class for youth ages 10-17 followed by hands-on practice of wildlife trapping. Equipment & supplies provided, primitive camping available on-site, some meals. Location: Chauncey Ranch in Mayer Hosted by SWFH Register: [www.southwestfurharvesters.com](http://www.southwestfurharvesters.com) Bob Rhoton (928) 532-5776.

### 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 2, 2014** will be the date; the location is (12851 N. 19<sup>th</sup> Ave., Lodge #2) our regular Monthly Meeting place, the Christmas Party taking the place of the regular Meeting. Board member Larry S. is in charge this year. He says that 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 probably 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 (Mike & Tricia Y. & Scott B. are helping on this now, THANKS) 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" & "Presidents Award" 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!

### PVCI 2014 OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

One of the many perks of being a PVCI Officer, Board of Director or Past President is that we have a Party just for us! This Party usually consists of a potluck, grilled burgers/hot dogs and as much shooting on the Sporting Clays range as you can afford. What would you members think of having a members versus Officers & Board Meeting Hunt this year?





### NEWS FLASH!!!!

**Novice Member Chris B.** brought his daughter **Payton** to the George Knox Memorial Boot Camp where she won an Orion Closed Reed Call. Thanks to Eddie M's. inspired lessons, she learned enough to call in a bobcat near Payson on the way home! I think they will go back to that stand and try again, this time in full camo and armed!

### Monthly Club Hunts Start in September

by **Allan Fusler; P.V.C.I. Hunt and Membership Chairman**

The 1<sup>st</sup> hunt of the P.V.C.I. 2014 – 2015 hunt year will take place on September 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Tails only will be the proof of harvest, but skinned animals will be permitted, if a team wishes to show it novice(s) how skinning is performed. It will be the annual ‘Novice’ hunt where the experts will volunteer to take novices along, in order to get them acclimated to the ‘science’ of hand held, mouth blown varmint calling. Note that the Rules and Regulations for this year’s Novice hunt will be slightly different than in previously years, so please take a moment to access the [www.pvci.org](http://www.pvci.org) website’s ‘Home Page’ (approx. mid page), to become familiar with them. There will also be printed copies of them available at the September 2<sup>nd</sup> business meeting, at the FOP Lodge #2, beginning at 7 PM, which will feature our annual Varmint Calling Seminar and activities.

This hunt year’s competitions will consist of: Seven Monthly Scramble Hunts, with chances to ‘win’ one of twenty **John Toners Continental Divide Skinning Knives** this year; the 6 Month (Team Field Championship) Hunt; the Best of Seven Hunt Competition; the Top Caller; the Top Shooter; the Top Novice and the AZ Pin Award Program. Give serious consideration to becoming a participant in the AZ Pin Award program (a \$10 onetime cost, as long as you remain an active member), if you aren’t already in it and plan to attend as many of this year’s 7 Scramble Hunts as possible. Those wishing to enter the 6 Month Hunt, obtain a team partner, as well as a Novice that you would like to hunt with, and sign up at the September meeting to have a chance to add all of September’s results to the remaining 6 months, concluding March 31, 2015. Expert teams not having a Novice will be assigned one, based on the number of Novices wishing to learn the finer points of successful calling.

Last hunt season, P.V.C.I. had many members participate in these contests, so let’s try to be even more actively involved in the field this hunt year, thus increasing the chances for more elk and deer to raise their young, by reducing the number of predators!

### ANNOUNCEMENTS: HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!!!!

Mike Tricia Y – Aug. 28

James & Ruth S. –Sept 9

Brent & Cindi F– Oct 10



Married  
21 years



Married  
19 years



Married  
4 years

### THINKING ABOUT PURCHASING ANY TYPE OF VEHICLE? (SPECIAL INCENTIVES FOR YOU & P.V.C.I)

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](mailto: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.

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## **ROOKIE PREDATOR CALLING MISTAKES** by Eddie M.

If you are new to the Club, 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> called bobcat. That might happen on your 1<sup>st</sup> Hunt! The Hunt Chairman must see some form of physical proof for credit.

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Dodge. 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!



### **WEBSITES FOR PREDATOR CALLING & HUNTING IN GENERAL**

Interesting websites that maybe of help to you in your predator calling career: [www.pvci.org](http://www.pvci.org) , [www.predatorforums.com](http://www.predatorforums.com) , [www.wildlifecallers.com](http://www.wildlifecallers.com) , [www.predatorprofessionals.com](http://www.predatorprofessionals.com) , [www.thearizonahunter.com](http://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.

**If you have stories or pictures for the Club Predator Tails e-mail those to [coyotecaller@cox.net](mailto:coyotecaller@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 a 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](http://www.azgfd.gov/outdoorskills) for more information. **Also consider helping out at these Events as a Mentor. You will be fed & your help will be greatly appreciated. I go as a Phoenix Varmint Caller & often I wear my Varmint Caller T-Shirt. It doesn't have to be varmint calling related for me to volunteer to help try and get someone hooked on hunting. GET INVOLVED!!!**

**Sept. 5-7 – Becoming an Outdoor Woman:** For women (18+) Learn about hunting, gun safety, fishing, camping, Dutch-oven cooking, map & compass reading & more. Location: Prescott Friendly Pines Camp. Host: Arizona Wildlife Federation. Register: [awf@azwildlife.org](mailto:awf@azwildlife.org) (480) 644-0077) Fee Required.

**Sept. 6-7 – Robbins Butte Junior's Dove Hunt:** Dove hunting just for kids at a Game & Fish Wildlife Area. Breakfast provided. Location: Robbins Butte Wildlife Area. Hosted by AZGFD & Chandler Rod & Gun Club. [www.azgfd.gov/dove](http://www.azgfd.gov/dove)

**Sept. 10 & 13 – CJ Miller Memorial Beginner's Dove Hunt & Training:** Classroom instruction Sept.10 on hunting doves, shotgun safety & clay target shooting followed by real dove hunt on Sept. 13. Space Limited. Location: Utery Mountain Shooting Range, Game & Fish Mesa Office. Host: Youth Outdoors Unlimited, CJ Biller family, AZ Outdoor Sports. Register: [www.youthoutdoorsunlimited.com](http://www.youthoutdoorsunlimited.com)

**Sept. 20-21– Trappers Fall Rendezvous in the Pines:** See how trappers lived in 1850. Trapping demos, predator calling, fur sale prep, Certified Trappers Course taught, food, lots of camping space, family event. Location: Payson Host: **Southwest Fur Harvesters**. Info: [www.southwestfurharvesters.com](http://www.southwestfurharvesters.com)

**Oct. 2-5 MDF Prescott Jr. Deer Hunt Camp:** Prescott area, Units 17B, 19A, 19B & 20A. Host: Mule Deer Foundation Prescott Chapter. Info. Kevin Hall [kevin@prescottmdf.org](mailto:kevin@prescottmdf.org)

**Oct. 3-5 – Unit 1 Squirrel Camp:** Learn about hunting tree squirrels for beginners, other outdoor skills, activities. Food provided. Location: Pinetop/Lakeside, Los Burros campground, Unit 1. Hosted by AZGFD, RMEF and Arizona Elk Society. Register: Arizona Game & Fish Pinetop office, (928) 367-4281.

**Oct. 3-5 – Outdoors Skill Camp:** Learn how to camp, fish, hunt & discover nature & wildlife. Location: Payson area, Sharp Creek Campground. Hosted by AZGFD, Red Bear Outfitters, Safari Club Int., Mogollon Sportsmen Assoc. Register: Henry Apfel (480) 639-9994, [hapfel@azgfd.gov](mailto:hapfel@azgfd.gov)

**Oct. 9-12: Various Elk Camps:** Elk seminars, food, prizes, go hunting for elk. Register: Unit 6A Mormon Lake St. Joseph's Youth Camp [clair-linda@q.com](mailto:clair-linda@q.com) Unit 6A Happy Jack Lodge Info at [www.arizonaelksociety.org](http://www.arizonaelksociety.org) (602) 492-5319. Units 1 & 2C Sheep Corral area in Greens Peak area register: [www.youthoutdoorsunlimited.com](http://www.youthoutdoorsunlimited.com)

**Oct. 9-12 – Various Deer Camps:** Units 22-23: Roosevelt Lake area. Info. Terry Herndon, [therndon@muledeer.org](mailto:therndon@muledeer.org) (623) 696-5579, Unit 23 Canyon Creek Hatchery: ADA Info. John Koleszar [elkhabitat@gmail.com](mailto:elkhabitat@gmail.com) Unit 12A North Rim Kaibab: Rich Leightner, [releightner@thebigpond.com](mailto:releightner@thebigpond.com) (928) 645-9669.

**Oct. 10-13 – Various Deer Camps:** Units 21 & 20B Cordes Lakes area: Info. Scott Streich, (623) 208-0778 [azace@cox.net](mailto:azace@cox.net) Sonja Streich (602) 405-0031



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