



Presidents Message - Ken E.

You did it again! Bigger and better! PPCI's George Knox Memorial Boot Camp was a huge success. Thirty junior novice predator hunters & thirty-eight novice adult hunters beat last year's total, & we even harvested three coyotes & missed several more! More partners- Youth Outdoors Unlimited, Arizona Elk Society, National Wildlife Turkey Federation, Arizona Sportsmen For Wildlife Conservation, Southwest Fur Harvesters Assoc., Continental Knives, AZ Game & Fish Department, Cabela's, Sportsmans Warehouse, Randall's Firearms, Orion Calls, & Circle Signs. Please forgive me if I forgot someone, there were a bunch of you! Thank you, everyone!

The season is upon us, let's start hunting hard! The six month hunt started with the October Scramble hunt, except for those who took out novices on the September hunt, those mentors got an extra bonus for their efforts. Last year was not a very productive year and I think we can do better this season and would like the club to prove me right. We are still looking for someone to step up and take on the responsibility of Hunt Chairman. Bob B. has done a great job in a critical position for the club but he would like to concentrate on **his** hunting! Don't forget the upcoming State Calling Championship, on December 14th at Cabela's, the Christmas Potluck/ Auction on Dec 3rd & the Multi-Club Hunt on January 25th. We have lots to do and will have a good time doing it!

Things To Be Aware Of: The PPCI Website & Hunting Forum is Back Up! www.ppci.org

- ** CHECK IT OUT! The PPCI Website & Hunt Forum are BACK UP! www.ppci.org Look!
- ** Christmas Party Donations from vendors are Really Down for 2013!! Members we Will Need the Donations that YOU provide to help make this Party a success. This is our largest Fund Raiser of the year. We Need your good gear, services, food, donated hunts, etc. Call Ken (602) 550-0449.
- ** Ft. Huachuca Gould needs mentors for its 5th Annual Free Predator Hunt Weekend on Nov. 23-24 For more information or to volunteer call John M. at 520-508- 4272 or e-mail j2dbmill@msn.com
- **The lower jaw of ANY bobcat trapped in Arizona is now required to be submitted to the AZGF Dept. at the time of purchasing a bobcat seal. You cannot sale a bobcat pelt without this seal that is placed through the eye & mouth. So save the lower jaw trappers. Hunters are exempt, unless sale? Read the 2013 Trapping Regulations for yourself.
- *To contribute stories, pictures, etc. to this Newsletter send items to pvcigroup@yahoo.com
- ***How would you like to receive this Newsletter as a PDF file on the computer instead of on paper form? Let Membership Chairman James S. know either at Meeting or call (602) 820-5142.

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MISS RODEO
ARIZONA 2013



PPCI BOOT
CAMP-2013



PPCI TRAILCLEARING
CREW – 2013

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2013 PPCI 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 17, 2013 a group of ready to go to work PPCI 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 Promotory 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 is 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 gets in the trucks & makes 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, gets refreshed, takes some more pictures and drives 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 everyone for helping at the 2013 PPCI Annual Trail Clearing.

2013 PPCI Trail Clearing Pic's



FUR PELT PREPARATION 101 - REVIEW: TOP DOLLAR BOBCATS DVD by Eddie M.



He was present at both the ATA Convention & the SWFH Rendezvous & his cage traps completely sell out every time he shows up. I am talking about Mercer Lawing, one of the best bobcat trappers in California if not the entire Southwest. Mercer has a DVD that will greatly help you in your fur handling skills. It is called **Top Dollar Cats**. This DVD is a **COMPLETE Guide to Bobcat Fur Handling** featuring the Nevada-stretch & other moneymaking techniques. Folks I am here to tell you that in straight talk, **the DVD is AWESOME** & if you really like receiving the most money or **TOP DOLLAR** from the furs that you put up, then this DVD will probably CHANGE THE WAY YOU PUT UP FUR, especially on bobcats! **(The high at the 2013 Fur Sale in Globe was \$1300 for 1 bobcat! The average was over \$300!)**

**Mercer explains that each year many potential thousands of dollars are lost in the fur trade by the way that we put up our fur. He then shows you two groups of bobcat pelts, each taken from the same area yet handled differently from the fur shed to the final sale. One is put up the conventional way like you or I would do it & which he says is the way that many thousands of pelts are done. Then he shows you the group of bobcat pelts that he put up. The difference is like night and day! There is so much more length, consistency & white showing on his cats. We then follow the two groups to one of the top fur sales in the country, one located in Reno, Nevada & talk to one of the fur buyers. He shows him the two groups of fur & has him explain to us what he is looking for in the pelts that determines what he pays?

**Some topics covered include managing your harvest, dealing with fleas, tools & equipment, skinning, gland removal, fleshing, sewing holes & dealing with damage, stretching your cat for maximum profits, dry washing and interviewing a top western cat buyer. There are over 70 minutes of moneymaking instruction. Mercer guarantees that if you follow his instruction you will make up the cost of the DVD on the very first cat that you sell.

As mentioned Mercer also has his own line of cage traps & does a very informative cage-trapping demo. Part of his Demo is showing a video that has extensive video footage of his cage traps in action out on the trapping line with critters showing up & sometimes entering, sometimes not. Then Mercer explained his theories as to why they do & don't enter & the adaptations he has made both to the traps, lure/bait placement, etc. to make them enter. Mercer's goal is to catch 100% of the critters that investigate his traps.

See more at www.cagingbobcats.com or e-mail Mercer at cagingbobcats@gmail.com phone (760) 497-1445.

I wrote this article 5 years ago however I believe that it's a good time to bring it up again.

Welcome to the exciting world of predator calling! Hopefully by now you have had the "GOOD Fortune" to call & harvest some of the predators that Arizona has to offer. Have you missed any shots yet? If you have called in anything at all & had some shots, then chances are the answer is Oh Yeah! Some of them were probably pretty close too! Don't you wish you could hit the Do-It-Over-Again button and take back some of those shots over again? No matter who you are, some missed shots are just part of the norm for real lie calling/hunting situations. Why? It is just one of those things that happen. Let's go over some of the most common examples to see if you can identify with any of them. I have broken this down to shotgun & rifle scenarios.

SHOTGUN: Many inexperienced people can't believe that you can miss anything with a shotgun! Well it can & does happen. Some of the reasons why probably include:

#1) Shooting at the whole animal & not picking a spot: This coupled with #2, #3 & #4 below are probably the most common reasons that most miss with a shotgun. Especially if the critter is close or the action is fast you tend to quickly raise your firearm, look at the critter & take a quick pop-shot instead of properly shouldering with the cheek on the stock.

#2) Not fully shouldering the firearm: Thus not getting the cheek fully on the stock & lining everything up.

#3) Not putting the bead on the animal or in front of the animal if it is moving: (Self-explanatory).

#4) Shooting too quick, hurrying the shot: Again because you rushed things, you DID do #1, 2 & 3 above & missed!

#5) Stopping the swing on the follow through: Running shots will probably be the most difficult shots, especially with a rifle. The same principles apply as in bird hunting as far as swing the firearm to, past and through your target. It is really hard to take a pop-shot when you do this.

#6) Shooting at a critter that is too far away: This can happen with a shotgun, more so if you are inexperienced. Many will see an approaching critter and watch as it stops right on the border of or in what appears to be within range. Also many of the inexperienced do not know their weapons limitations and thus shoot just as soon as they see the approaching critter, no matter what the range. My longest shots that harvested coyotes with a shotgun were at 65 steps with 3 inch #4 Buckshot and at 54 steps with 3 inch Copper plated BB's. I do not advise these ranges for everyday shooting though. On the other hand, sometimes chancing a long shot is just going to happen. I mean if you don't pull the trigger, then you really won't have any chance at harvesting the critter. There are limitations and common sense needs to be considered when using the shotgun however sometimes you just have to try. There is technology nowadays that can extend your shotgun range. These include the 3-1/2" shells, various choke tubes and the "Dead Coyote" shot & choke tube combinations. I have heard of killing 80-yard shots on coyotes & turkeys with this "Dead Coyote" system.

#7) Not enough ammo in the weapon: Probably happen because you didn't reload after having some action on the last stand. After having some action on a stand where you have fired shots, ALWAYS Remember To Reload for the next stand!

#8) Firearm unloaded: This does happen; you probably forgot to load up when you left the vehicle or forgot to put a round into the chamber. If unsure check your chamber & pockets.

RIFLES: They are great under the right circumstances. You can harvest critters from close up on out to the long range of several hundred yards. They often kill efficiently or if nothing else leave a good blood trail to follow. I prefer rifles for the big-game species like the mountain lions & bears while for the other 3 predators, the coyote, the fox & the bobcat, I prefer the shotgun as some caliber can over-kill your harvest and ruin the fur. In these days of \$35 foxes & \$300 & \$400 bobcats, believe me you don't want ruined fur! Some of the more common causes for missing with a rifle include:

Not even able to find the critter in the scope because critter is too close or the action is too fast: In my opinion a lot more beginning callers would make a lot more of their shots IF they would just use a shotgun as their main weapon. Too many times, at least in the habitat types that I frequent, the action is often so close, fast & furious that there just isn't any time to find even one critter in the scope & there might be multiples! I have had more than one rifle slinger convert to the shotgun after just one good weekend. You can always move to a rifle later in your calling career but for starting out, the **shotgun will help you make more shots (again in my opinion).**

Too Much Magnification Up Close: Self-explanatory- You were at the rifle range & had the scope turned way up or looked at something far away. Now there's a fox 12 steps away looking at you & you can't even find it because you forgot to turn the scope back down to a reasonable level. This happens & I guess its part of having a variable-powered scope. My rifle has a straight 4X scope & I've killed antelope out past 300 yards & foxes at only 4 steps. I've also missed running coyotes at 6 steps with it trying to find them in the scope. They would have probably died with a shotgun.

Too excited when the crosshairs are on the critter, a case of "predator fever," too shaky: It's normal to get excited however you need limits, you need to stay focused. Try finding your target in the scope, pick a spot, take 3 deep breaths & then hold your breath while you center the crosshairs on a spot of our target & slowly squeeze the trigger. It should be a surprise when the shot goes off. Keep your form after the shot (follow through). You CAN make this shot count.

Rifle not zeroed properly: This is probably one of the biggest solvable problems. Hunters, if you would just go to the range & make sure that you are hitting where you are aiming, then you really would kill a lot more critters at all ranges.

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

Want to learn some good bobcat or coyote sets? Want to learn a more effective way to use cage traps? Well then you should have attended the ATA Convention on July 26-27, 2013. Scheduled speakers might catch 50 to 100 cats a year!



The Arizona Trapper Association (ATA) held their Annual Convention on July 26-27, 2013 at the Gila County Fairgrounds near Globe, AZ. This Event reminds me of the old mountain man parties where at a certain time of the year, the trappers & hunters would come out of the hills from all over to meet, compare notes, have conversation, catch up on old times, etc. & have friendly competitions amongst one another. This Convention is the Trappers “Main Money Making Event” of the year & they do their best to make the Event worth the trip by scheduling “Top Notch” speakers who are GREAT” at what they do & don’t mind passing on this knowledge in seminars. Then there are the vendors selling both crafts and other items geared towards trapping, predator calling, shooting & pelt care. These vendor booths are FREE to all vendors! Something to remember should you have some craft or item that you’d like to sell next year. There is also a Firearm Raffle, a Silent Auction some assorted money card games & Miss Rodeo Arizona, Brittney Truman. Brittney was a positive force at the Convention & helped the Trappers immensely in getting additional ticket sales. Lastly let’s not forget the friendly competitions that

take place. These competitions are Free to enter yet there is a cash prize to the 1st Place winner! The Trap Setting Contest (youth & adult), Musket Throw, Ladies Frying Pan Toss, the youth & adult Pie eating Contest, & youth & adult Predator Calling Contest were a few of these Competitions. It’s GREAT how the trappers include the youth in some of the activities. Seeing the kids hurriedly eat a pie slice with no hands is Great Fun! It is also GREAT how Miss Rodeo also participates in most of these Competitions. Seeing her eat pie & stay pretty plus also blow the predator call was also Great Fun! The Trappers Education Course is also given early on Saturday morning. There were 40 people taking the 2013 Trappers Course!

The Theme of the Convention this year was fur handling. A bobcat was skinned outside and the proper care of the pelt afterwards to make the most money was gone over. Bobcat pelts sold between \$300 - \$600 or more at the Fur Sale this year in Globe with the high being \$1300 for one pelt! You can see why the Theme & why so many were in the Trappers Course. The “New Rule” for the trappers: The lower jaw of ANY bobcat trapped in Arizona is now required to be submitted to the AZGF Dept. at the time of purchasing a bobcat seal. You cannot sale a bobcat pelt without this seal that is placed through the eye & mouth. So save the lower jaw trappers. Hunters/callers are exempt, unless selling the pelts. Then I am not clear of must happen? Ron Day explained the reason for this Rule & it boiled down to collecting data. The antis have been winning some victories in California & some other Western states. When they come knocking here, this collected data could be the difference. Mercer L. from hard hit California thanked Ron Day. Mercer has spent many hours being a voice against the anti’s in California. He wishes that California had a Fish & Game Dept. like AZ. He wishes that data had been collected over there & presented as proof that the management practices were working & not destroying wildlife. At the end of the day Ron Day was voted in as the new President of the ATA. Hope to see you in 2014!!!



The ANNUAL PPCI "GEORGE KNOX MEMORIAL" BOOT CAMP REPORT by Eddie M.

On Aug. 10-11, 2013 PPCI in conjunction with Youth Outdoors Unlimited, Arizona Elk Society, National Wildlife Turkey Federation, Arizona Sportsmen For Wildlife Conservation, Southwest Fur Harvesters Assoc., Continental Knives, AZ Game & Fish Department, Cabela's, Sportsmans Warehouse, Randall's Firearms, Orion Calls, & Circle Signs all came together to take part in an idea that was formed in the mind of one of our PPCI members named George Knox. George believed that the basics of predator calling could probably be more easily learned if the learning could be done out in the field "Boot Camp" style. The idea soon became a reality and the 1st Camp was scheduled however George sadly never even attended as he passed away before it came to pass. We now hold this Annual Boot Camp in his memory, thus the name "George Knox Memorial" Boot Camp.

What a success this Boot Camp has become! Last year was a total blowout with many youth & their parents attending, learning and getting to go out hunting. This year was even better than last year with even more youth attending along with some adults looking to also learn....and learn they did. All were taught the basics, including stand safety, shooting, making the calling sound, camo clothes care, etc. seminar style. Besides PPCI members, AZGF, Woody from Outdoors Unlimited and others also spoke & gave tips & advice. In between Woody & the Youth Outdoors Unlimited crew made sure that all were fed. During the seminars, our Seminar Coordinator Craig B. had the kids do some running to stop the sleepiness. We ended the Seminars by pairing the experienced callers with the inexperienced and going hunting! I believe that 3 coyotes were killed & others were seen, missed, etc. All in all it was a GREAT WEEKEND! More hunting was also done on Sunday.

Saturday evening after the hunts & after dinner we had a BIG Raffle Giveaway of assorted items. We also gave away a John Toner knife pack set to the mentors that came up to help & also gave away a rifle to the new PPCI members! Our Call Box guy Scott H. won the Toner knife! This Event is very rewarding to all involved. Please consider volunteering next year if you have not done so yet.

P.S. The Ft. Huachuca Gould's Turkey Chapter is having a similar Predator Calling Weekend on Nov. 23-24. For more information or to volunteer call John M. at 520-508- 4272 or e-mail j2dbmill@msn.com



2013 SOUTHWEST FUR HARVESTERS RENDEZVOUS REPORT by Eddie M.

This is one of those Events that should not be missed. The Southwest Fur Harvesters are a dedicated bunch of trappers & hunters that know their stuff & really try to share the knowledge with others. The Rendezvous is held in the cool pines off of Hwy 260 near the Hwy. 87 split. Free camping, breakfast, lunch & dinner provided plus awesome trapping, calling & fur-handling seminars. Amber from AZGF also explained some of the new trapping regulations including the new requirement of trappers to keep & turn in the lower jaw of trapped bobcats. The Trappers Ed Course was given Sunday. To pass this Course you must actually make one or more real sets. One "Special Moment" that happen was that Scott & Joan Hanford & their son were given a well deserved "Special Award" for all their hours of dedication & hard work that they have given. Scott & son are probably better known as the hound guys that hunt raccoons & Joan is just an "Angel" in disguise. The 3 are always helping someone or somebody do something. Mercer also explained the why's of the lower jaw requirement. This is SWFH's Main Fund Raiser & there were more people this year than ever (over100)! Don't miss next year!



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 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.** Please pick up your firearm at: **The Outdoorsman 10004 N. Cave Creek Road Phoenix, AZ. 85027. Phone: (602) 944-7121.**

The Gun for November is a 12 Gauge Weatherby Pump Synthetic Stock Vented Rib

The Gun for the December Christmas Party is an AR-15 Flat Top M4 Design 16" Barrel

Someone will WIN!!! Will it be you? Again there is NO LIMIT on the amount of tickets that you may purchase!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Oct. 25- Many Rifle Deer seasons open

Nov. 1 – Trapping season opens statewide. Remember no foot-hold traps allowed on public land. Check your Hunt Regs.

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

Nov. 8 & 12 & 22 – Juniors Only Deer season opens.

Nov. 8 - Junior's Only Rifle Elk season opens in Units 22 & 23. Check Your Hunt Regs.

Nov. 9-10 – PVCI Monthly Hunt! Nov. 10 Blue Grouse season closes.

Nov. 9-11 – Trapping Education Course & Campout: Certified Trappers Education Course focused on using cage traps followed by hands-on trapping activity, skinning, stretching & fur handling demos. Camping available on site, some meals.

Location: Chino Valley. Hosted by SWFH. Register: www.southwestfurharvesters.com Don (928)636-0585

Nov. 15 – Archery elk hunts open in many Hunt Units. Also Muzzleloader elk opens in 6A. Check your Hunt Regs.

Nov. 20 - This is the 3rd Wednesday. PVCI Board of Directors Meeting (12851 N. 18th Ave., Lodge #2) 7:00p.m.

Nov. 22 – Late Dove Season & Junior Deer & Javelina Seasons open in some Hunt Units. Check your Hunt Regs.

Nov. 23-24 - Ft. Huachuca Gould's needs mentors for its 5th Annual Free Predator Hunt Weekend For more information or to volunteer call John M. at 520-508- 4272 or e-mail j2dbmill@msn.com More info inside this Newsletter – Page 10.

Nov. 29 – Rifle Bull Elk season opens in many Hunt Units. Check your Hunt Regs.

Dec. 1 – Bighorn Sheep season opens most Hunt Units. Check your Hunt Regs.

Dec. 3 – The 1st Tuesday, **PVCI Christmas Party** at PVCI Monthly Meeting, 12851 N. 19th Ave., Lodge #2, 7:00p.m.

Dec. 6 – Mearns Quail season opens, limit 8 per day. Check your Hunt Regs.

Dec. 7-8 – PVCI Monthly Hunt!

Dec. 13 – Late Whitetail, Late Archery Deer & Muzzleloader Deer Seasons open

Dec. 14 – PVCI Annual State Varmint Calling Championship at Cabelas. Reported Start time 1:00 PM

Dec. 25 – Merry Christmas!!!! Happy Birthday Jesus!!! Goodwill & Peace to all people. Hope your Day is Great!

Dec. 31 – All Bear & Crow & most Squirrel seasons end. Bighorn Sheep also closes.

Jan. 1 – Happy New Year! Archery Javelina & Deer Seasons open. Buffalo Season (House Rock) opens. Check Hunt Regs.

Jan. 5 – Late Dove Season ends.

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

Jan. 11-12 – PVCI Monthly Hunt!

Jan. 12 – Mountain Zone Duck, Scaup & Goose Season ends.

Jan. 23 – Archery Javelina Season ends.

Jan. 25 - MULTI-CLUB HUNT check in location on Freeman Rd. off Highway 79. More info in Jan Newsletter.

Jan. 26 – Desert Zone Duck, Scaup & Goose Seasons ends.

Jan. 31 – All Archery Deer Seasons close.

Feb. 1-2 – Juniors Only Desert Zone Waterfowl Season opens. Check your Hunt Regs.

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

Feb. 9 – All Quail Seasons end.

*****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 James S. or his wife Ruth S. at (602) 524-3586 or (602) 820-5142. Renewal Fees help the Club!

PVCI Membership Count: 177

UPCOMING EVENT:

PVCI CHRISTMAS PARTY/POTLUCK/AUCTION/FOOD DRIVE ON DECEMBER 3, 2013 by Eddie M.

The PVCI Christmas Party will be here before you know it! **Tuesday, December 3, 2013** will be the date. The location is (12851 N. 19th Ave., Lodge #2) our regular Monthly Meeting place, the Christmas Party taking the place of the regular Meeting. We're trying to get the doors open by 6:00p.m. You & yours are all (family, friends and kids) cordially invited to attend this Event; you do NOT have to be a member. **The entry fee to get into the Christmas party is at least 1 can of food (water works also) per person** that will be donated to one of the local Food Banks by members Gary A.M. & Ginger in what has been called the "Dave Kardos Food Drive" in honor of one of our late member, Dave that used to always run the Food Drive. **We take this Food Drive very seriously. The last few years PVCI has donated several hundred pounds of both food and water/drinks.**

Dinner will be a potluck affair & we ask that you the members please bring a dish or dessert to share.

The PVCI Christmas Party is a major fundraiser for PVCI and Event Organizer, Ruth says to BRING YOUR WALLETS as we plan to have some stuff! Hundreds of different sporting & outdoor organizations have been asked for donations just for this night. Admittedly the donations have been slower coming this year than in the past. Not to worry, the call also always goes out to YOU the members anyway for donations **however THIS YEAR AGAIN, WE REALLY ASK FOR YOU THE MEMBERS DONATED ITEMS (including goods, services, hunts, baked goods, etc.).** There will still be a good assortment of items, especially with YOUR help. **There will also be a general & silent auction & various fun raffles to unload these items.** Generally this is also the night that our "Member of the Year" & "President's Award" recipients are named while their family & friends are present.

So DO bring your family, friends, a potluck dish or dessert, your appetite, your donated items, at least 1 can of food per person for the "Dave Kardos" Food Drive **plus YOUR WALLETS!!!** Also don't forget a healthy dose of Christmas Spirit! This should be a good night of seeing new & familiar faces & celebrating Christmas! Hope to see you!

P.S. Let's not forget that AR-15 Gun of the Month! Raffle Tickets are \$5 each with no purchase limit!!!

PVCI ANNUAL ARIZONA STATE "VARMINT CALLING" CHAMPIOSHIP

THE TRADITION CONTINUES: CABELA'S & PVCI HOST THE 2013 ARIZONA STATE VARMINT CALLING CHAMPIONSHIPS – DEC 14, 2013

WHEN: Saturday December 14, 2013

WHERE: CABELA'S 9380 W Glendale Ave, Glendale, AZ 85305 Outside in front of the store.

Phone: (623) 872-6700

START TIME: Reported Start time 1:00P.M.

ENTRY FEE: To Be Determined

1) **THIS CONTEST IS OPEN TO ARIZONA RESIDENTS ONLY.**

2) **There will be 2 different categories: Novice & Expert**

A) **NOVICE:** Basically with a few exceptions, those individuals who have not called in the Arizona State Varmint Calling Contest before.

B) **EXPERT:** Basically with a few exceptions, those individuals that have called in the Arizona State Varmint Calling Contest before.

YEAR 2014 MULTI-CLUB HUNT

REMINDER: MULTI-CLUB HUNT SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 25, 2013

*****Jan. 25– MULTI-CLUB HUNT – This Hunt pits our Club against the other predator calling Clubs in the state for bragging rights. Who is the "BEST" Varmint Calling Club in the state?** It was determined that last year's winners were the members of each club that survived the weather (Flooding Rains) and made it to check-in. The Xtreme Predator Callers (XPC) won the rights the last few years & the Arizona Predator Callers (APC) are Always Good Competition. Both these teams have the ability to amass a LOT of their members to get out & hunt. I'll bet XPC has almost TOTAL participation! The Tucson Club is also invited & used to dominate. They are hardly even a factor anymore due to very low member turnout. **PVCI members, we could use some more participation.** Even with the numbers of us that does show, we come so close sometimes. **IF WE WOULD JUST GET OUT and HUNT IN SOME KIND OF NUMBERS, WE REALLY COULD WIN THIS HUNT EVERY SINGLE TIME!!! PVCI members if you hunt no other hunts this year, PLEASE hunt this one!!!** It is only a 1-day Hunt. PVCI members are allowed to use electronics on this one day. **Proof of kill will be the whole critter or the skin and the matching carcass.** Points awarded will be lion-100, bobcat-50, coyote-10, fox-5. This is a one-day Hunt. Only critters harvested on Jan 25, 2013 are eligible. The Deadline is 9:00p.m. Saturday evening according to the Hunt Chairman's watch. Anything turned in after 9:00p.m. will be disqualified. There will be food & possibly drink served and possibly a Skinning Contest IF there are some willing participants. PVCI members again **we really need your help. We can win the Trophy(XPC currently has it) back! THANKS in advance!**

CLUB MEMBER INTERVIEW by Eddie M.

Here is another in a planned series of interviews with some of our PVC I Club members. What we will do is ask various members the same set of predator calling related questions. The varied responses by the different members are always interesting. Now this month's PVC I Club member is long time member Mike H.

INTERVIEW with PVC I Club Member – Mike H.



- 1) **How did you become interested in predator calling?** That's a good question. I saw an ad in the AZGF Book back in the late 1990's. I called the phone # and the message said something to the effect that maybe they'd call back & maybe they wouldn't. Dave K. was the guy that called me. I worked back then & would go to the Meetings after work.
- 2) **How long have you been calling?** Since the late 1990's.
- 3) **What are some of our accomplishments as far as critters called/ harvested and PVC I Pins earned?** I have killed two coyotes. No pins have been given out yet.
- 4) **Name three of your favorite calls that are always in your pocket?** I like this T-Type squealer call, make is unknown. I also like the Pee Wee Critter Call & a Johnny Stewart type bite-down call. On the open reed calls I have to put them in my mouth upside down, otherwise the reed tickles my lip.
- 5) **What is your favorite predator gun/load combination?** A 12 ga. shotgun shooting 3-1/2" #4 Buck. In the rifle I have used a .223 Ruger Ranch rifle. I recently purchased a semi-auto shotgun, a Mossberg 935. Found it online at azfirearm.com for a very reasonable price.
- 6) **What is your favorite predator to hunt and why?** The coyote because they are very smart & elusive.
- 7) **Describe your most successful stand or day?** Best day or days was probably a hunt with Eddie M. & someone else? Eddie called & killed 2 coyotes & I believe that we got the 2nd Place on the Club Hunt. Best stand was probably while hunting with the late George K. We were calling by a garbage dump and all of a sudden, a coyote showed up! Now normally when you are calling coyotes, you are out in the beautiful desert with beautiful scenery around and not junk and a washing machine! This coyote was standing by a washing machine! I saw the dog first but George shot him!
- 8) **Describe your most disastrous stand or day?** I went calling with Brett J. and a kid. It was a windy day. We were on a normal calling stand and once the stand was over an attempt was made to end it. Well because the wind coupled with the distance that we were apart, I never heard the Toot, Toot. So of course the caller started calling again thinking that something must be out there. After another round of silence, the stand was finally ended and I was accused of sleeping.
- 9) **Describe your closest encounter or most frightening moment?** This didn't personally happen to me however I was there and the story will probably make you also shudder. I was out with Ray E. & someone else and we were on a stand when all of a sudden I hear a BOOM! Upon checking the reason for the shot after the stand was over it turns out that while the other guy was sitting, a rattlesnake climbed up onto the top of a brushpile a mere 10 feet away! So the guy shot the snake. It was a fair sized snake. I ended cutting off the rattles and gave them to my grandson. Here is one that did happen to me. I was out calling by myself back in the early days. While driving I went past this place that had big fence with a big gate and I remember seeing a bunch of big dogs inside. I went calling somewhere else and made a stand next to a tree near this big cut or draw. The place looked great and after calling a spell, a coyote showed up! I shot the coyote several times and it ran off into the bushes. I started to follow but soon heard a bunch of growling, snarling and carrying on and I let my imagination get the best of me. All I could think about was all those big dogs behind the fence waiting for me! I did NOT go into the bushes after that one!
- 10) **What is your favorite camouflage pattern?** None really. I just run around in old stuff. I have recently been looking at the catalog & like the Desert Country. The thought of some Leafy Wear or a Ghillie also appeals.
- 11) **What do you consider to be the greatest threat to predator calling?** Tree-Huggers. They say there is a decline in the number of hunters. If the hunter numbers drop far enough, the tree huggers might take over someday. I also don't like those that lock-up the land & say that you can't drive here anymore. Last are the "Pigs" or people that leave messes like trash, old washing machines, etc. They make the landowners mad & just are not good for the overall relations.
- 12) **Describe your "Dream Hunt Vacation?"** Going on a cruise with trough meals! Trough meals have endless food where you can pig out and are the best part of cruises.(smile) Really what I would like to do is to have a new car with an unlimited supply of gas and go see the United States.

Anniversary Announcements

James & Ruth S.
18 Years–Sept 9



Ron & Chris M.
6 Years – Nov 27



Brent & Cindi F.
3 Years – Oct 10



Jim & Chris K.
33 Years – Nov 15



PVCI MEMBERS: HAVE SOME COMPETITIVE FUN? COMPETE IN SOME OF THESE PVCI HUNTS!

*** Are you signed up for the 6-Month Hunt? It's not too late. **This Hunt starts on the October Club Hunt & ends at the April Monthly Meeting.** All Proofs-of-kills need to be turned in by then. Basically this Hunt involves you hunting against the other 6-Month members to see who can harvest the most critters in this amount of time. You can hunt as many times & as much as you want BUT you must also hunt at least one Club Hunt together with your partner to qualify. There are 2 categories, Expert & Novice & usually a 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place Award of some type. The cost is \$20 per person & you can only have 1 or 2 man teams. See the Hunt Chairman to sign up & turn in your Proof-of-kills.

***Exceptions:** If you are an Expert & took out a Novice on the Sept. Novice Hunt & called in a critter or critters that were killed, then you will receive credit or points for that/those kill(s) before October **IF** you were already signed up.

*** Do Not Forget The Monthly Club Hunts: These Hunts are held the weekend of the week immediately following the Monthly Meeting or the weekend after the first Tuesday of the month. You can have a 1, 2 or 3-man team. The cost is \$10 per person. The Hunt begins at daybreak on Saturday morning. You can hunt all you want and go anywhere you want in Arizona as long as the entire team is back in the Lodge #2 parking lot by Sunday evening by 9:00p.m. If you arrive after that time your critters will be disqualified from this Hunt but will still count towards your Pin Totals. The Hunt Chairman will explain proof of Kill at the Meeting although you can never go wrong by bringing back the entire skinned pelt of whatever you have. The TieBreaker goes to the team that shows up to the Check-in location in its entirety first.

Speaking of the Pin Program: If you haven't done it yet, do yourself a favor, **join the PIN PROGRAM!** This program will cost you a one-time fee of \$10 & is good for as long as you are a current paid member. This program allows you to earn pins for achieving certain goals as you harvest the various predator species throughout your predator-calling career. Each predator has a different set of pins that may be earned; for example coyotes will earn you a pin when you reach 5, 20, 50 & 100 critters, then every 100 coyotes afterwards. Foxes are 10, 25, 50 & 100. Bobcats are 1, 4 & 20 at least. These pins are given out at the Monthly Meetings in front of everyone to acknowledge your accomplishments. There are many more pins available & for a complete list refer to the Members Handbook or the Hunt Rules. The person to see to join the Pin Program will either be James S. the Membership Chairman or the Hunt Chairman. Honor the critter, get credit. **P.S. I also believe you must be in the Pin Program in order to win the Top Caller, Top Shooter & Top Novice Award.**

KEEPING RECORDS

How many years have you been calling now? How many critters have you harvested? For me the answer is over 200 coyotes, over 60 foxes plus a sprinkling of other critters. I reveal this not to brag but to make a point. I can remember my 1st, 50th, 100th & 200th coyotes & the 1st and 49th & 50th foxes however I could not tell you coyote#27, 30, 62 or 128. If I had kept a record book though, well maybe things would be different? Why not keep a record book of your successful hunts along with a few words of how it happen? You could add as much or as little information as you wanted. I do have a pretty good book on the Spring Turkeys that I have killed (31) and have started one on the predators in the past but was never really faithful to it and it got away from me and I stopped years ago. I DO, have & will continue to take pictures of the critters that don't get away from me & eventually put them in photo albums for all to see however I do wish that I had kept a detailed record book with pictures & text. The easiest way that I have found to keep track is to fill out a pre-printed form. These forms are even more interesting if they have a space(s) for a picture(s). You could also just fill out the form or just jot the details down in a notebook or just keep a photo album however if you really want details & the story with the picture, then the pre-printed forms are the way to go. I have included the top portion of one of these forms. Of course you can make your own version. I wish that I had done this throughout my career. The best record book I ever saw was from long-time member Gary Mc. He had a book with the pre-printed form pages with space for a picture & text to explain how he shot the critter. I seem to recall that the pages were in plastic & the book & page set-up inside was quite attractive. Eventually the memory will fade. Here's a pre-printed form.

Date	Critter Killed	How Many Steps	Weapon Used	Ammo Used	Tell The Story
10/2/2013	Bobcat	12	AR15	223	It was a cold windy day
10/2/2013	Gray Fox	27	12 Gauge	4buck	Popped its head out of a rock pile



Hunters, do not forget that if for whatever reason, you have a big-game tag that you cannot use, that you can donate that tag to Outdoor Experience 4 all. This group takes terminally ill kids hunting. See their website: www.theoutdoorexperience.org

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LEARN OUTDOOR SKILLS: HUNT, TRAP, FISH, SHOOT, WILDLIFE RECREATION by Eddie M.

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 page 24 of the 2013/2014 AZ. Hunt Regs. You will note that there are also some events for the ladies. Visit www.azgfd/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 & 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!!!**

Nov. 7-10 – Team Young Gunz Mt. Adventure Deer Camp: Ladies come learn how to successfully hunt Coues deer in Southern AZ. from experienced hunters, firearm safety, centralized group camp area. Space limited. Location: SW of Tucson, Units 36A, B & C. Hosted by Team Young Gunz. Register: Carl Young carl@teamyounggunz.com

Nov. 9-11 – Trapping Education Course & Campout: Certified Trappers Education Course focused on using cage traps followed by hands-on trapping activity, skinning, stretching & fur handling demos. Camping available on site, some meals. Location: Chino Valley. Hosted by SWFH. Register: www.southwestfurharvesters.com Don (928)636-0585

Nov. 22-24 – Various Junior Deer Camps :Unit 42 Info. Wickenburg area, Craig Health cheath@azgfd.gov or (928) 856-0764. Unit 20C Peeples Valley, Register www.youthoutdoorsunlimited.com AZSCI Junior Deer Camp SW of Tucson, Units 36A, 35B. Information: Lisa Marie Gandara (520) 312-8099 azsci@yahoo.com All camps to teach tips & tactics plus have assistance from experienced hunters. Some food provided & prizes also at some camps.

Nov. 23-24 – Ft. Huachuca Free Predator Calling Weekend: The Huachuca Gould Chapter will hold its 5th Annual Free Predator Hunt Weekend For more information or to volunteer call John M. at 520-508-4272 or e-mail j2dbmill@msn.com

Dec. 7-8 – Picket Post Small Game Hunting Camp: Geared towards new & novice hunters. Includes instruction & mentoring on small game hunting (dove, quail, rabbits & coyotes) and shooting techniques. Food & firearms are provided. Location: Superior, Picket Post Mtn., Unit 24B. Hosted by Red Bear Outfitters, Youth Outdoors Unlimited, AZGFD & AZ Outdoor Sports. Register: www.youthoutdoorsunlimited.com

PVCI MONTHLY HUNT REPORTS

SEPTEMBER (NOVICE) HUNT: This was the 1st Club Hunt of the 2013/2014 season. This year was a really wet weekend with lots of puddles & mud both up North, down South & in the desert. Dove season was also in full swing in many places plus the desert warmth. In all 5 teams went forth to try their luck. Total Harvest: 4 coyotes.

1st Place:
Ken E., Jerry G., Novice
Total: 2 coyotes

2nd Place:
Eddie M., Scott B., Richardo
Total: 1Coyote

3rd Place
Craig B., Brent
Total: 1 Coyote

The 2nd Place team saw a total of 6coyotes & 1 bobcat

OCTOBER MONTHLY HUNT:

1st Place: Bob B. & Terri J.
Total: 1 bobcat, 3 coyotes

2nd Place: Gary A. M. & Tim N.
Total: 5 coyotes

3rd Place: Eddie M.
Total: 2 gray foxes

HUNTING PICS



Predator Calls by Jerry G.
LEPRECHAUNCALLS@YAHOO.COM



Ed/Richardo
w/Coyote 2013



Shake Rattle & Troll KFNX
1100AM Don M. w/ recent purchase



Kit Fox that tried to run off w/Eddie's
boot. Story to be told some day.

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Listen to John McDowell
On KNFX 1100AM radio
On Sunday 7:00 to 9:00AM
Eddie M was recently on
the radio show talking
predator calling!

A friend of mine's father
passed away. He was a hunter
& had this bear rug that they
are trying to sell. I thought
that maybe someone in the
club might be interested in it.

Contact **Jim K.** at
623-362-1324

Check out PVC I Facebook
<http://www.facebook.com/PVCI.org>

To contribute stories,
pictures, etc. to this
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Still looking for a couple of
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