

Member Handbook

Phoenix Varmint Callers, Inc.



The purpose of this booklet is to furnish each member with a copy of our aims, objectives and bylaws, while at the same time furnishing some insight into the history of our organization. To new members let me welcome you to the club. In my opinion, you have become part of the finest varmint calling club in Arizona. There is no doubt that organized groups such as ours play an important role in establishing the policies which govern our outdoor activities. If we are to succeed we must continue to stand together against oppressive firearm legislation and other policies restricting the rights and privileges we now enjoy in our outdoors.

President
Phoenix Varmint Callers, Inc.

CLUB HISTORY

The Arizona Varmint Callers Association (early name of Phoenix Varmint Callers, Inc.) first came into existence in the mid 1950's as a result of a promotional demonstration by representatives of a predator call company based in Texas. Several individuals at the demonstration recognized the potential for reducing the number of predators, in particular coyotes, and consequently increasing deer and antelope fawn survival rate, and at the same time improving marksmanship, sharpening hunting skills, and enjoying the outdoors.

The early members of the club included such well known sportsmen as Ben Avery, outdoors editor for the Arizona Republic; Pete Brown, writer and outdoors editor for Field and Stream; George Bohm and Lucky Wade, both owners of prominent valley gun stores; Jack Cain, one of the founders of Circe Calls; and Del Western, guide and producer of Coyote Safari, one of the first promotional films on varmint calling. Other individuals that made significant contributions throughout the club's growing up period were: Fred Farnbach, the Arizona Game & Fish Department's first Hunter Safety Chief; John Doolin, who helped put together the early big bore rifle matches and was a participating member on almost every work detail; Bob Hirsch, father of the Sportsmen Against Vandalism Everywhere (SAVE) program; and Bill Dudley, an exceptionally good caller with national fame who gave the club tremendous exposure through calling demonstrations at the sporting goods stores and trade shows throughout the state.

THE EARLY YEARS

The new club struggled at first trying to find an identity and attract members. Varmint calling was virtually an unheard of sport at the time. According to Avery, someone suggested a judged calling contest, well publicized, with an open invitation to the public to participate or just watch. The first contest was held in 1957 with Del Western winning first place. The event was so well received it started the annual tradition which became known as the Arizona State Calling Contest, a tradition still alive today. In 1960 the newly formed Circe Calls Inc., located west of Phoenix in Goodyear, donated a revolving trophy to be handed down each year from the previous winner.

In the early years the Phoenix club sponsored prairie dog hunts in areas where sprawling "dog towns" were a hazard to grazing cattle prone to break a leg trying to recover from stepping into one of the cavernous underground runways. Another control activity was aimed at porcupines in an effort sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service to minimize damage to young pine trees. Club members conducted urban coyote surveys in Maricopa and Pima counties where animal control officers were concerned about rabies outbreaks in near epidemic proportions. Volunteer members participating in this night calling coyote count were subjected to an experimental rabies vaccine for a program directed toward finding a substitute for the painful "Pasteur Treatment".

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROJECTS

The annual See Canyon Trail Clearing is an event started by Hy Hancock, Jr. during his term as club president in the early 1960s. The original "Mogollon Rim Road" was no more than a pickup road in good weather and a challenge to the best of four-wheel drives in bad weather. The purpose for clearing and marking the trail was to provide a path, an escape route for hunters or others trapped on the Mogollon Rim by sudden or unexpectedly severe snow storms, and a rescue route for search teams to access the rim with pack animals without having to go the long way around. This mule trail, once used by bootleggers to run moonshine from a well concealed still under the rim top rock to the cowboy camps scattered North of Payson, provides a direct route off the rim from the trail-head near Promontory Point Lookout station to within a short distance of Christopher Creek Lodge. The Rim Road was paved many years ago, and weather forecasting has improved, so now the trail mostly provides access for individuals wanting to experience the beauty and solitude of the rugged country under the rim.

Other successful club projects sponsored through the years include:

- Strong support of the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Adopt-A-Ranch program, where members donate their time and physical labor to help with conservation projects benefiting wildlife on private ranches. PVCI has lain over two miles of water pipe donated by U.S. Forest Service and Arizona Game & Fish from a spring to formerly dry water tanks on the desert floor. The water not only helps the rancher's stock, but all wildlife in the area, and more importantly establishes good relations between sportsmen and ranchers. The work is scheduled during a weekend and accompanied by a pot-luck dinner, campfire, and good times.
- Donations of volunteer work and money to the Ben Avery Shooting Range and the Jack Walters Memorial, located at the desert bighorn sheep enclosure in the Phoenix Zoo.
- Strong support of National Hunting and Fishing Day since its inception in 1972.
- Volunteer work and financial aid to defeat anti-hunting and anti-firearm legislation at the local level and strong support of the National Rifle Association at the national level.
- Sponsored the nationally acclaimed Sportsmen Against Vandalism Everywhere (SAVE) program and produced the award winning film, Wrong Kind of Varmint.
- Provided the majority of the samples for early Arizona Game & Fish Department surveys on coyote feeding patterns.
- Participation in the Arizona Game and Fish Department's hunter safety program.

- The annual barbecue is a tradition started in the early years of the club that still survives. At the first few events the meat was javelina harvested from that year's spring hunt. However, after a short while the people wanting to try some of the feisty little pig outnumbered the available meat supply so the barbeque pit was supplemented with elk, bear, venison, and an occasional mountain lion. This is a family camping event that features a great meal centering on cooked game meat with all the trimmings, shooting contest, and other activities geared for the family that enjoys the outdoors.
- Yet another family social function is the Christmas party, featuring a potluck dinner, and a time to share season's greetings with adults. The Christmas party also features a fund raising auction where we auction all sorts of donated items. The treasures may range from used but still good camping supplies donated by members to expensive items donated by various sporting goods stores and manufactures. Traditionally half of the profit from the auction is donated to the club's chosen charity, the Rainbow Camp for terminally ill children.

Organized varmint calling flourished nationwide during the last half of the sixties decade. It seemed clubs sprang up faster than coyote pups. California boasted clubs in Los Angeles, San Diego, as far north as San Francisco and a huge club in Pasadena. Clubs were also present in South Dakota, Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico.

In 1965 a state wide association called the Arizona State Varmint Callers was formed joining clubs from Tucson, Glendale, Mesa, and Superior. Collectively these clubs represented an 800 member alliance dedicated to promoting predator calling with a mouth blown call as a sport.

For well over a decade PVCI was recognized as the leading hunting fraternity within the state. Some of the state association's major accomplishments were:

- The organization's newsletter, which was widely distributed through sporting goods stores and special mailings.
- Sponsorship of a big game award known as the Big Nine, recognizing individuals who successfully harvested each of Arizona's big game animals (excluding buffalo) in fair chase without the aid of guides or dogs.
- One of the major sponsors of the SAVE campaign.
- Sponsorship of an annual awards banquet recognizing club members who successfully harvested the largest each of a big game species plus bobcat and coyote.
- Recognized by Game and Fish Department and other state agencies as a major voice of the Arizona hunting fraternity.

- Organized club hunts in conjunction with the California Varmint Callers Association. There were three of these Arizona/California hunts held with the meeting place rotated between Blyth and Needles. Never before or probably since, have so many gathered in one location all dressed in camouflage, many with grease paint on their face and hands, and some wearing scent that would make a hound dog howl.

PVCI, A UNIQUE ORGANIZATION

The PVCI has a rich history, and being a varmint caller means a lot to many individuals. During the past 30 years, the membership has swelled to over 300 and shrunk to less than 15. The club seems to represent more than just a forum where individuals with similar interest can meet. Members of the PVCI are among the most sincere, dedicated sportsmen to be found in any organization. Many have welded lifelong friendships with fellow members. Through the years PVCI has been the catalyst providing the enthusiasm for the outdoor writers, animal biologist, photographers, wildlife managers and qualified Game and Fish commission candidates. But most important of all, through sharing skills and techniques it has allowed us to excel in a unique sport virtually unequalled for action, excitement, and self-satisfaction.

**PHOENIX VARMINT CALLERS, INC.
PIN PROGRAM AWARD
RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. PPCI membership is required in order to participate in the pin program.
2. The entry fee is a one-time fee of \$10.00 as long as your membership is current. If you are removed from the membership due to non-payment of dues, you must pay the pin fee once again, in order to be eligible to participate in the pin program.
3. Credit for the Pin Award Program will be determined by tails, whole pelts, or receipts from a taxidermist, which will be subject to verification. No half points or splitting of calling/shooting points.
4. All pins will be awarded to the caller with the exception of the handgun and archery pins. If either the handgun or archery pin is earned, the pin will be awarded to the shooter and the caller will receive all points.
5. The Hunt Committee will keep a record of the total animals called in and taken for the year. It will be the individual's responsibility to verify, at the end of the hunt year, that these totals are correct.
6. Pins are awarded for successfully calling in, and taking, the number of animals as described below:

Bronze Pin	5 Coyotes	Limit 1 per Member
	1 Bobcat	" " "
	1 Badger	" " "
Silver Pin	20 Coyotes	Limit 1 per Member
	4 Bobcat	" " "
Gold Pin	50 Coyote	Limit 1 per Member
	100 Coyote	" " "
	200 Coyote	" " "
	1 Archery Coyote	" " "
	5 Handgun Coyotes	" " "
	10 Bobcat	" " "
	10 Fox	" " "
	25 Fox	" " "
	5 Badger	" " "
		Mountain Lion
	Bear	1/Animal Taken
	Small Slam:	1 Each of Badger, Ringtail Cat, Raccoon & Kit Fox

ANNUAL CLUB EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

JANUARY	Multi-Club State Championship Hunt
FEBRUARY	Handgun, Archery, and Muzzleloader Hunt (H.A.M.)
MARCH	Nominations for Board/Officers Novice Hunt Part 2
APRIL	Club Elections Club 3-Gun Shoot
MAY	Club Barbeque and Campout
JUNE	Fishing Derby
JULY	Board Party
AUGUST	Trail clearing down See Canyon Trail George Knox Memorial Boot Camp
SEPTEMBER	Season Kick-Off "Orientation" Hunt geared for novice Callers
OCTOBER	Beginning of field hunts
NOVEMBER	Beginning of fur hunts
DECEMBER	Christmas Party and Auction

**BYLAWS OF
PHOENIX VARMINT CALLERS, INC.**

ARTICLE II – NAME

This club shall be known as the Phoenix Varmint Callers, Inc.

ARTICLE II – AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of this club shall be as follows:

1. To promote predator calling as a sport
2. To conserve wildlife through the taking of predators by sportsmen with the use of mouth blown calls and electronic calling devices..
3. To discourage the indiscriminate use of poison in the control of predator populations.
4. To inform and educate the public of the importance of maintaining a continued balance of wildlife through sport hunting, also, proper game management by the AZGFD exclusively. In furtherance of the foregoing aims and objectives this club may, from time to time, do the following:
 - a) Promote and advance the cause of good sportsmanship, conservation, and outdoor recreation through cooperation with the Federal, State, and local governmental agencies and through education of the public, promotion of the cooperation and goodwill of ranchers, farmers, sportsmen, and public and private land owners.
 - b) Actively support legislation which will further the stated aims and objectives of this club to oppose legislation which will adversely affect the stated aims and objectives of this club.
 - c) Make gifts, donations, or endowments, financial or material, to other organizations organized and operating for the public welfare and benefit in a public interest.
 - d) Cooperate with, without necessity of association or affiliating with other organizations.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIPS

1. Memberships in this club shall be open to all sportsmen interested in hunting, photographing, and studying predators, and attracting wildlife through the skills of calling.
2. To become a full member, a person shall:
 - a) Be 18 years of age or older
 - b) Express a genuine interest in the club's membership.
 - c) Be recommended by one or more board members.
 - d) A majority vote to accept by members present gives full membership and all privileges.
 - e) Submit membership dues of \$35.00 along with Membership Application. Annual dues will be \$35.00 for the first year and annual renewals will be \$25.00.
 - f) These same membership rules apply to any member that has let his or her membership lapse for three months or more, with no exceptions to the rule.
3. Upon payment of first year dues, each member shall receive a decal and call, upon payment of first year dues or renewal fees, each regular member shall receive a membership card, will become a member of the Phoenix Varmint Callers, and shall receive the clubs official publication(s).
4. All members, except holders of junior and complimentary memberships, shall have voting rights and the voting rights of all voting members shall be equal, with each member having one (1) vote. The property rights and interest of all members shall be equal.
5. Each member agrees to abide and be bound by the articles of incorporation, by-laws, rules and regulations enacted pursuant thereto, of this club, and any member who fails to comply therewith, as determined by a majority of the Board of Directors, shall forfeit his membership and any property rights or interest he may have in this club or its property.
6. Any individual, upon initiating any type of membership in this club does hereby relinquish all claims, existing or thereafter arising, against this club for any injury, damage or claim of any nature whatsoever, to him or his property.
7. A Phoenix Varmint Callers Junior Club, for youths who have not reached their 18th birthday, may be formed at such time as approved by the Phoenix Varmint Callers membership by a majority vote. Said junior club must have an adult advisor. Said junior club shall elect its own officers, conduct its own business and include the adult leader and advisor in its executive committee. It shall also adopt a set of bylaws which have been approved by PVCI Board of Directors. Dues for the junior club shall be set by them and be payable to their treasurer for their use only. Said junior club shall also abide by the existing bylaws of the PVCI. A full membership in the PVCI must be help by a member of the youth family in order for him or her to join the junior club.

ARTICLE IV – FEES AND DUES

1. Dues will be \$35.00 for the first year and annual renewals will be \$25.00. Member's delinquent in excess of three (3) months must pay the new member fee of \$35.00 to be reinstated.
2. Upon payment of the first year dues, each member shall receive a PPCI patch, decal, Member Handbook, and call, and upon payment of the first year dues or renewal dues, each regular member shall receive a membership card, become a member of the Phoenix Varmint Callers, and receive the club's official publication.
3. Dues are payable in advance at the time membership is applied for and are thereafter payable annually on the anniversary of the date of membership was first applied for. A member, who becomes delinquent in the payment of his or her dues, shall forfeit his or her membership and all privileges, appurtenant thereto.
4. Life memberships are available to all members after the completion of one (1) year membership. The cost is \$150.00. Past Presidents of the club shall pay a discounted rate of \$100.00.

ARTICLE V – MEETINGS

1. The regular membership meeting of the club shall be held on the first Wednesday of each month, throughout the year, at 7:00 PM, at the place designated by the Board of Directors.
2. The regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held on the third Wednesday of each month throughout the year, at 7:00 PM at the place designated by the Board of Directors.
3. The regular membership meeting in the month of March of each year has been designated in the Articles of Incorporation as the annual meeting date of this club. The regular membership meeting in April each year shall be the meeting at which General Elections are held pursuant to Article X of these Bylaws.
4. Special meetings, social meetings and field and/or outdoor events sponsored by this club may be held at such time and place as the membership may decide by a vote taken at a regular meeting.
5. Special Board of Directors meeting may be called by the President at a time and place designated by him, upon at least twenty-four (24) hours' notice to the members of the Board.
6. The Executive Committee shall meet at such times and places as designated by the president.

7. A quorum shall consist of two thirds (2/3) of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee combined at any regular or special Directors meetings. No business shall be transacted at any such meeting, unless the required quorum is present at the time such business is transacted. No quorum shall be required to transact business at a regular or special membership meeting.
8. Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws or by law, any matter voted on by the membership, Board of Directors, or Executive Committee, at any meetings, in order to pass, must receive a majority vote of the members present and entitled to vote at such meeting.

ARTICLE VI – ELECTIVE OFFICERS AND DUTIES

1. The offices of this club shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer. The offices shall be elected from the membership, by the membership, at the regular membership meeting in April of each year, and shall serve for a term of (1) office in this club at one time.
2. President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer shall be limited to two consecutive one year terms then must stand down for one year following, before running for election again.
3. The President shall preside at all meetings of the membership, Board of Directors and Executive Committee, shall direct the activities of this club and serve as Chief Executive Officer of the club. Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, he shall appoint, subject to the approval of the Board, the standing and special Committee Chairman to serve during his term of office and fill vacancies in Committee Chairman in the same manner.
4. The Vice-President shall serve as presiding officer in the absence of the President at all meetings of the membership, Board of Directors and Executive Committee, and shall assist the President as necessary in the performance of his duties.
5. The Recording Secretary shall keep, or cause to be kept minutes of all meetings of the membership, Board of Directors and Executive committee, and provide records of the minutes for the club files. These minutes shall contain among other things, the type of meeting, date, and place and time the meetings and the proceedings. Minutes of the Board meetings shall also include a list of officers and directors present, any amendments to the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws of this club shall be inserted in the minutes.

6. The Corresponding Secretary shall receive all of this club's official correspondence and process all of the official correspondence from this club. He shall keep a complete file of this correspondence and any publication of this club. Also present all documents prior to mailing for officer and board approval, and submit proof of all mailings. The Correspondence Secretary will assume the President's position in case of emergency or the absence of both President and Vice-President.
7. The Treasurer shall receive all dues and other funds coming to this club, deposit them to this club's account immediately upon receipt, keep accurate records of receipts and disbursements and render an annual financial statement to the membership of its first meeting after the annual meeting each year. A copy of this annual financial statement shall be rendered to the Board of Directors at the first Board meeting after the annual meeting. A monthly Treasurer's report and any additional reports requested by the President, monthly reports and any additional reports shall be entered into the minutes of the meeting where given. The checkbook shall be in the custody of the Treasurer and he/she will pay all bills incurred by the club when approved by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer is responsible for non-profit status and records and must be in the Treasurer's annual report. The President, Vice-President and the Treasurer shall be authorized to sign checks, two (2) signatures being required.

ARTICLE VII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. The management of this club shall be vested in the Board of Directors consisting of the five (5) club officers, the immediate past president and the individuals selected as directors from the club membership.
2. The number of directors shall be based on the membership, with no more than two per hundred members.
3. Directors elected by the membership shall serve for a term of three (3) years, with 1/3 of said directors being elected each year. A director may be elected to serve for successive terms. To qualify to be a director, a member must hold and maintain a current regular membership in this club.
4. Directors shall be required to attend all regular and special board of directors meetings and may be removed from office by a majority vote of the board, for good cause shown, after missing three (3) meetings in succession, the number necessary for the quorum shall be reduced by one for each director so removed until a successor has been duly elected.

ARTICLE VIII – COMMITTEES

1. In order to assist officers, directors and members in planning and carrying out the activities and objectives of this club, the President, subject to the approval of the Board shall establish special or standing committees, as needed, and appoint members to serve thereon, and a member to serve as chairman thereof. Each committee so established shall be responsible for and shall fulfill the duties and functions assigned to it by the President and Board of Directors and shall be accountable to the President and Board of Directors.
2. This club shall have an Executive Committee, composed of the five (5) officers of the club with the President serving as chairman thereof. The Executive Committee shall have the duties and functions assigned to it by the Board of Directors and shall have the power to conduct club business of an immediate nature, subject to the right of the Board to ratify or disapprove any action taken. The Executive Committee may periodically audit or review the business and financial transactions or affairs of any other committee.
3. This club shall have a standing Auditing Committee of not less than three (3) members, who shall be appointed by the President, subject to the approval of the Board. This committee shall annually audit or review the club books and financial records and render a report to the Board of Directors, and fulfill such duties and functions as assigned to it by the Board, such audit or review to be made in conjunction with the annual Treasurer's report.
4. On or before the regular Board of Director's meeting in December of each year, the Board shall appoint a committee of not less than three (3) nor more than five (5) to select the recipient of the Phoenix Varmint Callers "Member of the Year" award.
5. Committee and Chairman Appointments shall be made as soon as practical after the election of officers and directors each year.

ARTICLE VIII – ELECTIONS

1. The election of club officers and directors shall take place at the regular meeting in April of each year. The newly elected officers and directors shall assume their duties at the first Board meeting following their election. Vacancies in any elective position shall be filled by special election at the regular meeting, except the Vice- President shall take over the President's duties for the remainder of his term in the event of the President's resignation or other permanent absence from his duties.

2. At the regular February membership meeting each year, the nominating committee shall solicit written recommendations from the membership for candidates for the elective offices and Board of Directors. The members so recommended, together with other members selected by the committee, shall be interviewed or otherwise considered by the committee and at the regular membership meeting in March, the committee shall present to the membership a recommended slate of candidates for the respective offices or positions. The slate should contain at least two (2) candidates for each office or position. At said meeting, additional nominations of candidates may be made from the floor. Thereafter, the names of all candidates shall be furnished to the membership in the club's official publication or otherwise. NO candidate can be nominated for an office or position at the regular membership meeting in April unless at that time there are less than two (2) candidates for an office or position.
3. A candidate may run for only one (1) office or board position, not both. If vacancies occur on the Board of Directors due to members being elected to office, then nominations for their replacements and the elections shall be held at the regular membership meeting in April or May.

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

1. Amendments to the Bylaws may be proposed by a member at any regular Board or special meeting. Proposed amendment(s) shall be discussed by the Board of Directors and may be approved by it for submission to the membership. The proposed amendment(s) shall then be presented to the membership at the regular meeting and shall be adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those members voting.
2. Amendment(s) to the Bylaws may be proposed by a member at any regular meeting. If the proposed amendment(s) receives a majority vote of the members voting, it shall be referred to the Board of Directors for its consideration and be brought up before the membership for voting at the next regular membership meeting. It shall be adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members voting.
3. Notice of final vote on any proposed amendment(s) to the Bylaws shall be given to the membership prior to voting on the amendment.