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VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Mark S.

I hope you have all had time to get into the field and call in some critters by now. With the Bow-Hunting Predators presentation in November you should now have some great new tips to put in practice, get out and call! The DVPH Hunt was a Big Success and I just want to thank all the volunteers and organizations who made that Hunt possible yet again.

Remember any donations to the Christmas Party helps us keep going, so please reach out ASAP if you have any items for that. Last but not least, good luck to all the big-game tag holders out there, hunt hard and shoot straight! Good luck to everyone on the 2019/2020 season!

THINGS TO KNOW:

*** **The November Monthly Meeting on November 6th will feature You Tube Sensation John Stallone who has taken more than 100 predators with a bow.** He'll be sharing some of his tactics & tips for archery predator hunting. The Meeting begins at 7:00P.M.

*** **PVCI Membership Fees are going up in price.** On Jan. 1st, 2020, the new fees will be \$45 for a New Membership & \$35 to Renew.

*****Do you miss the Hard Copy of the PVCI Predator Tales Newsletter?** Well for a small \$10 Annual Fee we can start sending you the Hard Copy again! Something that you can hold in your hand, read at your leisure or collect again. See & pay the Membership Chairman, Frank B.

*****The PVCI Christmas Party will be Dec. 4th, 2019 at 6822 N. 57th Drive, the American Legion Hall Post 29 in Glendale, AZ.** The Christmas Party taking the place of the regular Monthly Meeting. *This is a Potluck affair, so please do bring a dish/dessert. The entry fee is at least one can of food or water per person for the Food Drive that Gary A.M. & Ginger do yearly for the Desert Mission Food Bank. Some Remarkable Amounts of food & liquid have been donated in the past!* Again, this year, we will also NEED both Volunteers & Donations from you the Members! Your Donations of ANY kind be it New/Good Used Gear, Goods or Services will be Greatly Appreciated! Please let Ray K. know in advance what you have before the Party. To Either Volunteer or Donate E-mail Ray K. ray.keenan@gmail.com

*** To contribute stories, pictures, etc. to this Newsletter please e-mail: coyotecalle@cox.net



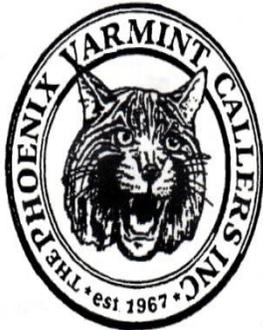
DVPH Hunt Camp



Nov Speaker-John Stallone



James(Dad) & James Jr /youth Elk



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*** Those hunting Mountain Lions remember there are New Regulations.

MOUNTAIN LION HUNT CHANGES for 2019/2020 SEASON

The 2019/2020 Mountain Lion Season opened with the archery deer season on Aug. 23, 2019 and will run through May 31, 2020. The Mountain Lion Harvest is now managed using 15 Management zones consisting of one or more Hunt Units. The total number of lions harvested (harvest thresholds) has been established per zone. When a harvest threshold is reached in a management zone that zone will close at sundown the Wednesday immediately following & stay closed the remainder of the season. **Basically, hunting is only during Daylight Hours, the limit is one lion per year, you have 48 Hours to Report your take to the Mountain Lion Line at (877-438-0447). You should also call this phone number to make sure that the season is still open in the unit(s) you plan to hunt. Within 10 days of taking a lion you must present the lion's skull & hide WITH the attached proof of sex to a designated AZGFD Employee for a Physical Inspection. If frozen, defrost the skull so that a tooth can be extracted. If the hide is frozen do keep the attached proof of sex accessible and visible.** Pursuit Only Season, where dogs can pursue only but lion can't be killed or captured will run from Aug. 23, 2019-May 31, 2020

Merry Christmas! PURCHASING ANY TYPE OF VEHICLE (EVEN USED?) SPECIAL INCENTIVES FOR YOU & PVCI

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 let him know where you want to shop & the type of vehicle, you're interested in. He will contact the dealers & try to obtain employee pricing for you. He'll then call you with the point of contact at the dealership. You then go into the dealer & ask for the contact telling him you are a Phoenix Varmint Caller & pick out the vehicle you are interested in. They will give you the best price. The Club will receive the Referral Fee.



ATTENTION TARGET SHOOTERS!!!

NEW TARGET TYPE RESTRICTIONS: Folks Read This!

POSSESSING ANY REFUSE FOR THE PURPOSE OF TARET SHOOTING IS PROHIBITED. REFUSE INCLUDES ANY MATERIAL USED FOR TARGETS, EXCEPT FOR THE FOLLOWING APPROVED TARGETS (THIS IS A COMPLETE LIST):

- Cardboard and/or cardboard targets with reusable frames (wooden pallets are not considered reusable frames), which are removed from the site after shooting;
- Paper and/or paper targets with reusable frames (wooden pallets are not considered reusable frames), which are removed from the site after shooting;
- Reactive targets that are designed to move or bounce along the ground when hit that are made of non-metallic materials and are removed from the site after shooting;
- Self-healing targets which are removed from the site after shooting;
- Metal targets specifically made for firearms that are designed to swing, spin or knock down which are removed after shooting; and
- Biodegradable clay targets (clay pigeons).

EXPLODING TARGETS ARE PROHIBITED!!!

THE USE OF EXPLODING TARGETS SUCH AS TANNERITE, SONIC BOOM, SHOCKWAVE AND OTHERS IS PROHIBITED. VIOLATION OF THESE PROHIBITIONS IS PUNISHABLE BY A FINE OF NOT MORE THAN \$5,000

PVCI DISABLED VETERANS PREDATOR HUNT REPORT

by Ronald H



Several volunteers hosted three veterans for a weekend of hunting, camping and great food. The veterans represented three branches of the military services (Navy, Marines and Army). The veterans were Brad F., Greg C. and Gilberto M. All three were given a one-year membership in PVCI. I expect to see all three at future meetings.

An excellent meal was served on Friday night. A Big “Thank You” to Rudy’s Country Bar-B-Q. Rudy’s donated brisket, potato salad, beans, creamed corn, sweet tea, unsweetened tea, lemonade and all the plates, napkins, cutlery, napkins and cups that we needed. The brisket that was left over was chopped up and mixed with eggs to make breakfast burritos on Sunday morning.

On Saturday morning Experts & Assistants teamed up with a Veteran to give the Veterans the experience of hunting predators. Brad F. went out with Bob B. and Dan S. on Saturday and Sunday. On Sunday Brad was able to harvest 2 coyotes! Bob B. added 1 and Dan S. added 1 for a total of 4!

Gilberto went out with Jerry G. and Hawk on Saturday. The team harvested 4 coyotes! They saw several other coyotes but were not able to get shots.

Gilberto went out with Ken E. and Chris C. on Saturday. They saw several coyotes but were not able to harvest any of those that were seen. Gilberto went out with Ken E. on Sunday, but they couldn’t harvest any predators.

The experience of meeting with the Veterans that we take hunting and hearing what they did in the service and what they went through is very moving.

I want to give A “**Big Thanks**” to **Ray K. and his wife Jenny** for helping to plan the Event and shopping for additional food items needed to make the weekend a successful Event.

I want to **Thank Bob B., Jerry G. and Ken E.** for acting as Expert to take the Veterans hunting. A **Thanks to Dan S., Hawk and Chris C.** for acting as Assistants to lend support and help to the Veterans. Also, a **Thanks to Raul S. and Randy K.** for their assistance in helping me getting food prepared and served.

Finally, a **Big Thanks to Rudy’s Country Store Bar-B-Q** for their food donation. The food was Excellent! You should patronize one of their three locations. A **Thanks to Shawn G. from Ducks Unlimited** for his donation of items. A **Thanks to Bob B. from FoxPro** for providing a pack of three hand calls for the Veterans. Also, a **Thanks to the Arizona Elks Society** for their contribution to the Event.

I couldn’t have done everything needed without the donation of time by PVCI Club Members, the food donation and the donation of items by the persons, companies and entities mentioned above. Thanks again.



To contribute to this Newsletter, send Stories & Pictures to: coyotecaller@cox.net



ANTHONY'S FIRST BOBCAT!

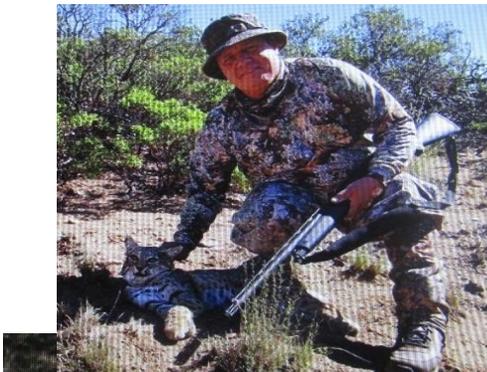
by Ricardo G. & Anthony C.

PVCI Members Ricardo G. & Anthony C. had a great weekend recently. Both have fall deer tags & decided to make a trip to pre-scout their unit. They were able to find bucks in several different areas. On the last group of deer, they watched them until the deer bedded down around 7:00a.m. They also found 5 cow elk and later a 5x5 bull. Now what? Ricardo had a suggestion, trying some coyote stands to try and call something in. We'll call until noon. Anthony said it sounded good, however he didn't figure on doing any stands, so he hadn't brought firearms. No problem, Ricardo gave Anthony his shotgun while he used his .243. They put away their glassing merchandise and got ready to call.

Ricardo called the first stand with no results. Anthony called the second stand and caused the jays to go nuts but that was all. For the third stand, Ricardo drove down the road a couple miles. He said he kept driving past large washes. Ricardo likes washes. Usually he calls from inside the wash. This time he switched it up a bit. He remembered a hunt that he went on with President Wayne W. Instead of calling from within the washes though, Wayne prefers to call the cats out of the washes.

Ricardo set up about 70 yards from the wash and used his go-to-call, the Porath Triple Play. He started with a cottontail distress and ended with a Ki Yi. When he heard the Ki Yi, Anthony just knew something was going to come in. Meanwhile after about 10 minutes, nothing happened and it was getting warm, so Ricardo ended the stand with a double Waa, Waa. They were close enough to see each other so Anthony gave the thumbs up. Ricardo slowly stood up and looked around when something rapidly ran away from behind a bush just 10 yards in front of him! Ricardo didn't see what it was but started lip-squeaking, making kissing noises with his lips. Anthony stood up, heard the kissing noises and saw Ricardo pointing. He then got ready, looking hard, expecting to see a coyote or fox. Instead a bobcat came from out of the wash and raised its tail. Ricardo saw the expression on Anthony's face change, then watched as Anthony shouldered then fired the shotgun, BOOM! Anthony said that they looked at each other and Ricardo asked, "Did you get it?" Anthony answered, "Yeah I got it." Ricardo walked towards Anthony and Anthony started walking towards what he'd shot. Anthony didn't say what he'd shot until Ricardo got closer, then he smiled and said, "It's a bobcat." Ricardo said, "No way," or something like that and proceeded to quickly put his gear down and run towards the critter. Sure enough, it was a nice tom! Ricardo started doing interviews for his **Hunting Channel on You Tube at Hardcore Hunting**. On getting back to the truck, they were sure to wash the blood off, then dry the fur to prevent bacteria from forming thus causing the fur to slip, then put the cat on ice and got to a taxidermist. The bobcat was taken to **Frank James Artistry & Supply 623-224-0158 www.frankjamesartistry.com** so that a full mount can be done. This was Anthony's first harvested predator. Ricardo says that he never saw the bobcat approach. He also likes doing 10-minute stands & calling the critters that are right there instead of waiting for them over a period of time

*** It is now illegal to hunt bobcats in the state of California. In my opinion, only Texas has more bobcats than that state. It just makes no sense. It is also illegal to trap furbearers or sell fur or fur products in that state. I wonder if you can even legally wear fur? What about leather, alligator, etc. If I lived there, I would move plain & simple.



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Visit the PVCI Website <http://www.pvci.org>

KNOW YOUR PREDATOR: THE BOBCAT (LYNX RUFUS) by Eddie M.

The Bobcat is a "Remarkable Predator" that is highly sought after by virtually every predator caller that learns how to call. However, even though this is the case, this animal seems to also be one of the more elusive predators to consistently call in, some callers trying for years before they have one approach their calling stand....and then there are a select few other callers that seem to do better than the norm. We will attempt in this Predator Tales issue to give you some stories, some biology and some general tips plus some more advanced tips from the above normal Bobcat Caller. May these articles help you in your Bobcat quest.

The Bobcat is a member of the feline family & on average weighs between 15-25 lbs. although some large males have been known to tip the scales towards 50lbs. or more! They have a short round face, a very short 6-7-inch tail, triangular shaped ears with tufts of fur at the ends & cheek tufts. The fur color can range from light gray through yellowish brown to reddish brown & markings may vary from tabby stripes to heavy spotting. The fur is soft. Average height is about 22 inches at the shoulder.

Bobcats are found in almost every type of habitat in Arizona, even the fringes of metropolitan areas yet prefers the rocky, brushy hillsides when available. Though it may look like a soft pussycat, the Bobcat is quite fierce and has been recorded taking down mature deer & bighorn sheep as well as domestic sheep & goats. Their preferred diet, however, consists mostly of rodents, birds, lizards, snakes and insects with cottontail rabbits their favorite prey. When cottontails are scarce then hares both jackrabbit and snowshoe hares are made use of.

The Bobcat roams freely at night and is often abroad during the day except in the peak of summer. Bobcats do not dig their own dens. If a cave or crevice is not available, they will choose a hollow log or tree or den in a dense thicket of brush. Territories can range from ½ mile a square mile to 25 square miles depending on habitat and the sex of the cat. Females occupy much smaller areas than males and normally do not associate with other females. Males range wider than females and their home range will overlap those of both sexes.

Mating is similar to that of housecats. Bobcats can bear young at any month of the year but generally the breeding season is mid-January to March. After a gestation period of 63 days, 1-7 kittens (usually 3) will be born. They are blind and weigh 4-8 oz. The kittens open their eyes after 10 days and are weaned at 2 months. At 3-5 months the mother takes them out of the den to teach them to hunt up until they leave their mother at 8 months old. The littermates may travel together for some time after leaving mom. The Male Bobcat has no role in raising the kittens. In fact, in high-density Bobcat populations the males kill a high percentage of kittens. Males are usually fertile by their first year, but females don't usually have their 1st litter until they are 2 years old. One litter per year is the norm. Lifespan in the wild is 12-14 years however in captivity they have lived to 25 years. Besides man the mountain lion is one enemy they must be careful of.

CALLING TIPS: While cats live in a variety of life zones, there are 2 features that attract & hold cats in all regions. Rocks of any kind from gravel to boulders & thick brush or ground cover such as shrubs, cedars, briars, etc. Rocks & brush offer several key elements that suit a cat's needs. For one they hold rabbits & rodents as well as provide the type of cover that suits their hunting style of stalking close then pouncing on their prey. The cover also gives them plenty of places to hide & helps to keep the coyote populations, which, do compete with them, down.

Bobcats are really not all that hard to call, the main trick being to find where they are. One of the average coyote hunter's biggest mistakes when after bobcats is probably calling at random. Most Bobcats have very specific routes of travel & the cats frequent these spots very often. An experienced cat caller will learn where these routes are & not waste a lot of time calling other areas. Scouting for Bobcats is best done when you are not hunting & will require wearing out some boot leather. Bobcats usually only inhabit limited areas & travel according to the lay of the land. In general, rugged rocky country is synonymous with Bobcats. Yet there are certain places in this type of country where Bobcats are more prone to leave sign than others. Where depends upon the type of country you're in & experience will be your best teacher. Places could be a saddle in a ridge, out on a rocky point, under a prominent tree or any of a variety of different spots.

The main bobcat sign to look for will be scratches and droppings. Tracks are usually only found on water holes or in wet areas. A scratch consists of a scooped-out place on the ground or in vegetable matter where the cat pawed the earth or other debris aside. Sometimes droppings are also left nearby. **Another Calling Problem** is locating the approaching Bobcat. Generally, a cat takes longer to respond to the call and it usually comes sneaking in very slowly. Often the hunter is leaving when the cat is showing up. A caller should stay longer for Bobcats, at least 30 minutes. Longer is better.

Wind Direction: Cats simply don't have the nose that a coyote does as they primarily hunt by sight. Wind direction is usually not a factor. Occasionally a Bobcat comes running in. I've heard the average is 1 in 50, your results may vary. Also, Bobcats don't have the smarts the coyote does. Often a second or even third shot is possible, if you should miss before they catch on.

Well, I hope this has shed some insight into calling for one of our most prized predators. Save the pelt, use a shotgun (smile).

CALLING BOBCATS. SOME HUNTING TIPS FROM US

by Mark S.



LOCATION: You can't call in a cat if they aren't there! Look for fresh sign around & in the washes. Find large thickets with multiple washes and there are bound to be cats nearby. Other great locations are rocky hills at the base of mountains & near streambeds and water sources. Get out & look for sign!

SET-UP WHERE? Our best setups are not in the thickets with the cats. They will spot you through brush before you have a chance 9 times out of 10! We like to be 100-200 yards away from the thicket out in the flats when possible. This makes the Bobcat either come to the edge of the thicket (rifle shot) or sneak, walk, run into the flats after the sound and present a shot. If calling from thick country near rocky hills, then we will setup 50-100 yards away from the hills with shotguns and make sure each guy has good shooting lanes.

SETUP, HOW? Whether hand calling or e-calling you can get that cat! If hand calls, then it is best with 2 people & I'll explain why. With an e-caller, you have the luxury of setting it out & watching its surrounding areas for movement. If you are hand calling with a partner, we simply like to have the shooter sit back from the caller 20-50 yards depending on terrain & elevated if possible. Bobcats don't seem to care about the wind, but we try to get it in our favor anyway in case a Coyote shows up & we decide to take it. The caller will usually run shotgun for hard chargers & the shooter doing the overwatch will be on rifle if elevated. If the surroundings are tight then both may be on shotgun. The key to seeing cats is to setup with different angles to the sound. A cat will almost always approach in a way that the prey (you on the call) will not see. With the second shooter positioned differently he has a much better chance to see the approaching Bobcat. One huge help is setting the caller in a bowl-shaped area. This makes the cat come to the edge to look for the sound. **DON'T MOVE AROUND** while calling! If hand calling, then keep your movements to an absolute minimum. If you need to move anything, do so very slowly, nope even slower than that! Lol. Seriously though, that cat can pinpoint a finger moving at 100 yds easy.

DECOYS OR NO DECOYS? One half of our cats have been killed with no decoy & one half with a decoy. If you have a setup like I mentioned above, then one of you should see the approaching Bobcat before it has a chance to find the decoy. When using a decoy, we hide it mostly and only make it easily visible to our side of a bush. This makes the cat go to one side or the other and present a shot. A simple few feathers on a string is all you need if there is a 4-10 mph wind. We have also used the Mojo Critter with great success as well. The goal is to simply hold the cat's attention long enough to swing on the cat and shoot. **KEEP THE DECOY CLOSE TO THE CALLER!** You want your presentation to look natural.

CALLS, SOUNDS, STAND DURATION? We find that any busy rodent, bird and rabbit distress works well. The key is keeping their interest. We will generally start out low and spend the next 5 minutes getting louder on one call, then work it lower again. We like to switch sounds every 7 or 8 minutes and keep doing so until the end of the stand. Our Bobcat stands rarely go longer than 25 minutes. We find that how we setup in the area it only takes a cat a max of 20 minutes to work in. After you are done calling, look around really well, then stand up and walk 5-10 yards and look around again. A few times those Bobcats have worked into range and we haven't seen them. You may be lucky and see it exiting your stand. Also pay attention to tweety birds and crows! They tend to give away an approaching cat and can help you key in on it.

PREFERRED RIFLE & SHOTGUN AMMO? For rifles we use a couple calibers and projectiles. Tim worked up a load for his .223 that works wonders on putting predators down and 99% of the time it doesn't damage fur. 40gr. Nosler Varmageddon is the bullet of his choice. Mark and Nathan run a Hornady 55gr. SP bullet. It exits most of the time, but the exit hole is only the size of a quarter most of the time. For shotgunning we all run Winchester Varmint X Copper -Plated BB's. It has an excellent pattern with the .670 chokes and is lethal out to 70 yards or so.

TAKING THE SHOT? If you've done the hard part and have a cat coming in, then take a moment to relax. Watch the body language. Is that tail flipping around? Is the Bobcat focused on the decoy or caller? If a Bobcat sits down by a bush or is crouched in a wash edge, usually they won't come much closer, it's time for the shot but don't rush it! If you are armed with a shotgun and it is well within range simply make one solid motion quickly and shoot as you bring your gun up on it, just as you would a dove. If you have a rifle and need to move your shooting sticks to get on the cat, then wait for it to look away. Just give it time, it will surely see a bird, butterfly or whatever and take a glance. That's when you move to get on target. If a cat spooks, get back on the call right away and it should stop to look back.

P.S. be sure to read & view more from Mark. Go to Predator Beguiled on both Facebook & YouTube.

P.S.S. To contribute to this Newsletter, send Stories & Pictures to covotecaller@cox.net

HARD COPIES OF THE PREDATOR TALES AVAILABLE AGAIN FOR A FEE

. On Jan. 1st, 2018 the PPCI Officers & Board decided to do away with the hard copy Newsletter & **go to an on-line only issue**. To receive an e-mail Newsletter, you MUST send your info to azfrank64@cox.net Once you receive the E-Mail copy you will be notified by E-Mail when your Membership is due.

Well there were some who wanted to keep receiving the hard copy. A copy that you could physically hold in your hand or have in your vehicle when going to Club Events (using the maps) or (let's be honest) take with you for couch or bathroom reading. Something that you could show or give to others and there were some who also collected them over the many years. For an Annual Fee of \$10, those who would still like to receive the Hard Copy can do so once again. Give your payment to Membership Chairman Frank B. or include in addition to your Membership, with an explanation of what you want.

***** PPCI MONTHLY GUN**

The Gun for November will be a Savage Axis XP in 6.5 Creedmoor. Rifle has a black synthetic stock & 3x9 scope.
The Gun for December (Christmas Party) will be AR

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Oct. 18 – Quail, Desert Duck/Goose Seasons open statewide. Kofa & Imperial NWR opens for Coyote & Fox. Check Reg

Nov. 1 – Trapping Season Opens statewide. No leg-hold traps allowed on public land. Cage Traps okay. Check Regs.

Nov. 1-Dec. 31- Various Deer & Elk Seasons open & close statewide.

Nov. 1 - Rifle Bear Season Opens in Hunt Units 4A, 5A and 27.

Nov. 2 – Desert Scaup Season Opens. Check Hunt Regs.

Nov. 6 -The 1st Wednesday. PPCI Monthly Meeting, 6822 N. 57th Drive, Glendale, AZ. 7:00p.m. Deadline to enter 6-Month Skills Hunt. November speaker will be You Tube Sensation John Stallone who has taken over 100 predators with a bow.

Nov. 9-10-PPCI Monthly Skills Hunt! Nov. 10 – Blue Grouse Season closes, Wild in the City at Ben Avery. Check Regs.

Nov. 20 - **This is the 3rd Wednesday. PPCI Board of Directors Meeting:** Barro's Pizza 3053 W. Auga Fria Hwy **7:00p.m.**

Nov. 22 - Late Dove Season opens statewide. Junior Javelina Season opens in some Hunt Units. Check your Hunt Regs.

Nov. 22-28 – Youth Only Javelina Season opens in Select Hunt Units. Check your Hunt Regs.

Nov. 29 – Successful Spring 2019 Hunt Permits (Javelina, Turkey, Bison) should be mailed out by now.

Dec. 1 – Daylong Shooting Hours for Coyotes open in many Hunt Units. Bighorn Sheep Season opens. Check Hunt Regs.

Dec. 6 – PPCI Annual Christmas Party/Potluck/Fundraiser – Doors open at 6:30p.m. 6822 N. 57th Drive, Glendale, AZ.

Dec. 5-6 – Arizona Game & Fish Commission Meeting 5000 W. Carefree Hwy. in Phoenix 602-942-3000.

Dec. 6 - Mearns Quail Season opens statewide, limit 8 Mearns. Check Hunt Regs

Dec. 9-10 - **PPCI Monthly Skills Hunt!!!**

Dec. 18 - This is the 3rd Wednesday. PPCI Board of Directors Meeting: Barro's Pizza, 3053 W. Auga Fria Hwy 7:00p.m.

Dec. 25 – Merry Christmas to ALL! Happy Birthday Jesus!!!

Dec. 31 – All Bear & Crow Seasons & most Squirrel Seasons end. Check your Hunt Regs.

Jan. 1 – Happy New Year! Year 2019! Archery Deer & Javelina Seasons open many Hunt Units. Check your Hunt Regs.

Jan. 1- This is the 1st Wednesday. (PPCI Monthly Meeting, 6822 N. 57th Drive, Glendale, AZ.) 7:00p.m.

Jan. 5 - Late Dove Season closes statewide. Check your Hunt Regs.

Jan. ?? – (Tentative Date) MULTI-CLUB SKILLS HUNT, pits our Calling Club against the other Calling Clubs in the state.

Check-In Location??? More details to follow as we get more info. If you hunt no other hunt this year, hunt this one day!

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

Jan. 15 - This is the 3rd Wednesday. PPCI Board of Directors Meeting: Barro's Pizza, 3053 W. Auga Fria Hwy. 7:00p.m.

Jan. 26 – Desert Zone Duck, Scaup & Goose Season closes.

***** NOTE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON: DONT FORGET TO RENEW YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP to stay a PPCI Member!** The Club was only doing **on-line only issues of the Bi-Monthly Predator Tales**. You can now receive a Hard Copy Newsletter for a \$10 Annual Fee. To receive an e-mail Newsletter, you MUST send your info to azfrank64@cox.net Once you receive the E-Mail copy you will be notified by E-Mail when your Membership is due. **Please submit proper payment to keep your Membership current.** The current fee to join PPCI is \$35. The Fee to renew is \$25. Send payment to PPCI c/o Membership Chairman, P.O. Box 87153, Phoenix, AZ. 85080-7153. **The Fees will be going up on Jan. 1st, 2020. The PPCI New Members Fee will be \$45 and the Renewal Fee will be \$35.** Membership Forms are available at the Monthly General Meeting. Questions: Contact Membership Chairman Frank B. 602-758-8714

PPCI MEMBERSHIP COUNT: 170 PPCI WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS: Greg C., Brad F., Alberto M., Timothy N., Amber P., Austin S., Heather W. & Scott Y.

THE DEADLINE TO ENTER THE 2019-2020 6-MONTH SKILLS HUNT will be by the end of this 2019 November Monthly Meeting. Entries allowed are 1 or 2-man teams in either Expert or Novice Categories & **"NO" fee** this year.

PVCI November Monthly Meeting to be Special!!!

The November Monthly Meeting on November 6th will feature You Tube Sensation John Stallone who has taken more than 100 predators with a bow. He'll be sharing some of his tactics & tips for archery predator hunting. The Meeting begins at 7:00P.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to:
Jim & Chris. K.



Married 39 years -Nov 15th

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to:
Frank & Linda B.



Married 55 years -Nov 1st

****Would you like for your Birthday, Anniversary or other Special Event to show here? Send your info to coyotecaller@cox.net**

PVCI CHRISTMAS PARTY/POTLUCK/AUCTION COMING DEC. 4, 2019 by Eddie M.

You are ALL invited to the PVCI Christmas Party/Potluck on **Wednesday, December 4, 2019**. The location is **6822 N. 57th Drive, the American Legion Hall Post 29 in Glendale, AZ**. our regular Monthly Meeting place, the Christmas Party taking the place of the regular Meeting. Of course, 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 the Desert Mission Food Bank by members Gary A.M. & Ginger. Some Remarkable Amounts of Food/Water have been donated by this Club in the past. **Dinner will 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.** This year the Event Organizer is Wayne W. The donation procurer is Ray K. and as has happened the last few years we have had some Trouble getting donated items from the various Outdoor & Sporting vendors. **PVCI Members, WE NEED YOUR HELP AND WILL TAKE YOUR GOOD NEW OR USED Donated items, Including GOODS OR Baked Goods, Services, Hunts, etc.** Generally, this is also the night that our **"Member of the Year" & "President's Award"** recipients are named while their family & friends are present.

This should be a good night of seeing new & familiar faces & celebrating **the Christmas Spirit!** Hope to see you!

P.S. If you do have some good items (outdoor or not, this is a Fund-Raiser) that you'd like to donate PLEASE e-mail Ray K. at ray.keenan@gmail.com and plan to try to get the items to him BEFORE the Christmas Party! If you don't, that is okay, yes, we will still take the Donation! It will just make it a little easier on Ray if done before.

WILD IN THE CITY- Nov. 10th

The Ben Avery Shooting Range will be sponsoring Wild in the City on Nov. 10th. This is AZ Elk Society's Outdoor Skills Day Camp for Youth 6-16. Hours will be from 9:00a.m. to 5:00p.m. Go to the Indoor Shooting Range Building between the Main Gate and the AZ. Game & Fish Building.

Multi Club Annual Skills Hunt in January??? No date yet?

In January, the Predator-Calling Clubs normally have a one-day Annual Skills Hunt. Which Club has the Most Skilled Hunters? If we do have this Skills Hunt, we will give you further details as the month of January approaches. Should this Skills Hunt Happen we would greatly appreciate All Club Members participation! In fact, if you Hunt no other Hunt all year, Hunt this One Day.

SHOTGUNS-VS-RIFLES... WHICH ONE IS BETTER FOR YOU?

by Eddie M.

The shotgun or the rifle, which firearm will be better for you? Unless you are brand-new to predator calling, probably 98% of you take one (or sometimes both) to the stand with you when hunting predators. For many callers this firearm preference may even be what dictates the type of terrain that is hunted instead of the terrain being the dictating choice. Brand-new hunters tend to stick with either one or the other. Sometimes this is because they only own the one firearm however the choice also often depends upon what their Mentor uses and is successful with. As experience is gained all of you will come to rely and prefer one firearm over the other. The shotgun or the rifle, is one better or more advantageous to use than the other? Well if you asked 10 different folks in the Club, you would probably get 6 or 7 different answers. Let's look at the two firearms & give the pros & cons of each. Since I'm known to mostly favor the shotgun for predators, I'll give my views on it first. For the rifle views, I'll ask a known rifle person like P.V.C.I Member (Past President) Craig B. for his input. Which camp are you in? Why do you prefer to use the firearm you use? I came up with 5 or so questions and thought it might be interesting to read how a couple of different members might answer them. Hope that you enjoy.

Predator Caller: Eddie M.



Which weapon do you prefer for harvesting predators? I prefer the 12-gauge shotgun.

Why do you prefer this weapon? Well there are several reasons. I usually prefer to hunt the thicker cover & the shooting can sometimes be close, fast & furious on both single and multiple approaching critters! The shotgun is ideal for these situations. I believe that callers, especially novices will miss more critters with a rifle, especially in the close, fast, approaching single & multiple critter conditions described above. Also, I don't just want to kill a predator, I also want to skin them & shotguns don't damage the pelts like rifles do.

What is your favorite load? I like using Federal 3" Copper-plated #4 buckshot. The 3-1/2" shell will probably kill them deader, but they are expensive as are the Dead Coyote loads.

Are there any Cons that you have encountered while using this weapon? I like to set-up so that when the critter comes into view, it is within range. Occasionally I will have a predator that stays just out of shotgun range. Also, on bears, using shot to harvest is illegal. Rifles are better for them, especially on long shots while slugs are the answer for the shotgunner. One last thing is that often, wounded critters are easier to find by blood trailing with a bullet wound instead of shot.

Will you use the other weapon and if so when? Yes. In bear & lion/bobcat canyon country I'll often take both weapons & in obvious open country. In both places, even though I may take both weapons, the shotgun is usually in my lap.

Predator Caller: Craig B.



Which weapon do you prefer for harvesting predators? You know me, the rifle. Over the many, many years that I've used one, I have become proficient with it both up close and far out, but this comes only with a **LOT of practice**.

Why do you prefer this weapon? That's a tough one because you'd think that the shotgun would be more deadly because it is shooting more projectiles than a single bullet. If my rifle is sighted in and I know where it is hitting, then I can shoot anywhere from 10 feet to 200-300 yards and take a critter. However, the shotgun is more deadly obviously.

What is your favorite load? At the moment the .204 shooting a 40gr. bullet. I prefer the 45gr. as I think it is deadlier on critters however you can't find them. The .204 shoots about the speed of a 22.250 with a 40gr. bullet going about 3900 feet per second. On the shotgun I like a 20ga. shooting #3 Buckshot. When using this I have never had a predator get away from point blank

range out to about 55 yards.

Are there any Cons that you have encountered while using this weapon? It's wind sensitive. It is fast and easier on the hides if you are going to keep than say a 22.250 but a good wind can influence accuracy especially on the longer shots. This is not a Con fact: You can also see the bullet hit be it close or far away.

Will you use the other weapon and if so when? Yes. If I'm in an area where the shots are 50 yards or less that is when I like to use my over/under Tika 3 inch, 12ga. over .222 Remington Combo. You **MUST PRACTICE** with it though! You need to learn how to hold at least one rifle bullet and a couple shotgun shells in one hand for follow-up shots.

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH THE COYOTES, FOX and BOBCATS AFTER YOU SHOOT THEM? THE SKINNING PROCESS EXPLAINED

by Eddie M.

In my opinion every predator caller should know how to skin & put up their own fur. The raw furs from the pelts that we harvest are a renewable resource that can be utilized either for your own purposes or for sale. P.V.C.I. encourages members to skin their harvest & not just waste them in the field. After skinning, save pelts by placing them in a one- or two-gallon Ziploc freezer-type bag (fur side out w/ears, feet tucked inside). Freeze until you have time to process. (double Bagging helps)

HOW TO CASE-SKIN A COYOTE: The #1 complaint we've had on Fur Prep Day is that some pelts can't be used because



of improper skinning. The biggest mistake is skinning them open like a bear instead of case-skinning. The next biggest mistake is cutting the front legs completely off leaving 2 gaping holes. How to go about case-skinning is shown below: Tools required: flea & tick powder, knife, rubber gloves, tail stripper, rope, **Freezer bags**.

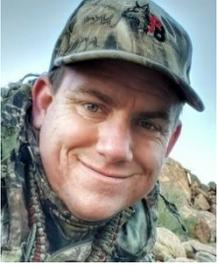
1) Once the critter is down, spray the inside of a plastic bag with a powerful insecticide; insert the critter, close bag 5-10 minutes. (Flea spray or powder also works). Flea & tick spray can be found at the 99 Cent Only Stores. **2)** I start by cutting the gums both top and bottom in the jaws. This make the head much easier to skin once reached. **3)** Using rubber gloves make an incision around the hairline or "ankles" on each leg. Next cut up the back of the hind legs to the vent. Follow the color line. Skin out the hind legs then work to get the back area free around the tailbone. **4)** Use a tail stripper or 2 stout sticks& strip the tail. It helps if I stand on the back legs when stripping. Now I hang the critter by one hind leg (making it easier to turn). **5)** Once the back legs& tail are free, separate the pelt from the carcass by pulling pelt down in one steady motion towards the head. **6)** Some resistance will occur around the front legs. Use a blunt instrument between the front part of the shoulder & the skin. Push through skin then pull down. **7)** Continue pulling hide down to the head then skin out the head. Finish by cutting through nose cartilage freeing pelt. **P.S.** If you want to see a video-presentation of a coyote, fox, bobcat, raccoon, beaver actually getting skinned **check out the DVD "Fur Handling by Danny Sullivan."** These days U-Tube can also be watched.

WHAT ABOUT FLESHING & STRETCHING? Tools needed: Fleshing Board & knife, wooden or wire stretcher, sewing needle & dental floss. **1)** We wash the hide in Liquid Tide, or All, then wring out. **2)** With the skin-side out, put onto fleshing board head up. Put the base of the Fleshing Board against something immoveable. Use a fleshing knife & flesh the hide using a downward motion, removing the flesh. You may need to use the knife for trimming at times. **3)** Sew up the bullet holes, etc. on the pelt. **4-5)** With the skin-side out, put pelt onto a stretcher. Leave on stretcher until pelt dries some. **6)** Take the pelt off the stretcher, turn fur-side out then put back onto the stretcher fur-side out. Let dry in cool, bug-free place. Once dried & off the stretcher the pelt is now ready to sale or to ship to get tanned. We use Moyle's Tannery in Burley Idaho



PVCI NOVICE HUNT ADVENTURE!

by Mark S.



Well the season is here for PVCI and we always kick it off with a Novice Hunt to encourage the Expert Hunters to take someone new out and get them involved. We had Mark R. start coming to the Club a couple months prior & he also attended the Boot Camp this past August. He came to the Club due to seeing us post about it on our Predator Beguiled Facebook page that we run. I called him up well ahead of this hunt and asked if he would be interested in coming along to see what Tim and I do n these hunts. I let him know it would be long hard days and he was excited to see what the competitive side of the Club was all about!

We met up at Tim's house the afternoon before the hunt kicked off and we made our way up to the hunt area. It was a nice way to ease into the hunt considering we had bout a 3-4-hour drive to get to the area.

We camped out on cots under the incredibly bright stars and enjoyed a campfire until we went to sleep. The elk were bugling in the distance and it was a perfect 48 degrees that night. While sleeping that night we had a Bull Elk messing with us the entire time. He would get within 100-200 yards of camp and then let out 2-4 screaming bugles which woke us up each time. He continued this most of the night about every hour. That is the only time I have not enjoyed Elk bugling around camp! After the restless night of Elk bugles, we woke up to heavy dew on our gear, but the weather was looking great for the morning hunt. We made our way to an area where the Coyotes were howling when we went to bed and made our first stand. It was the first of many blank stands that day (16 to be exact). In fact, we didn't see a predator until about 1:30p.m. that day! After many blank stands and switching areas twice, we decided to get back on the maps and re-think the afternoon hunt area. We picked a spot that was off the mountain and more in a transitional area. These areas have produced the best for us in the past.

The first stand in this new area would be in a cut nestled between 3 stock tanks. Surely there would be a predator taking advantage of this hunting ground. It was my turn to call and I setup Mike downwind of the call at the start of the small meadow about 60 yards back. Tim would watch the backside of the stand and I was situated over the caller. I started off with a Crow Fight and then bled into Cottontail Distress which played for just a few minutes. A Coyote came blowing past Mike just 25 yards out or so and was tearing its way through the meadow towards the sound of dying rabbit! He touched off a round from his AR-Pistol topped with a red dot sight but missed. On his third shot he got a piece of the Coyote which spun her to her right. I was just getting clear of a tree to get a shot with my shotgun when this happened, and I let a round of Varmint X BB load fly, which connected with her head, which ended her escape. We had our first kill of the trip which took off the pressure for the rest of the hunt a bit.



After another blank stand we were now at the base of the transition area & decided to call an area within ¼ mile of another water tank. We worked uphill just enough to be away from the road a bit & then setup. We were on a ridge with cuts up both sides that lead into the bluff above. Mike was watching the right side; Tim was centered watching the call & right of the call & I was watching the far-left area which was downwind at the time. After more crow sounds leading into rabbit distress it only took a couple minutes once again. I caught movement to my extreme left & saw a streak of a Coyote coming into view. I immediately knew it was an issue as the wind was blowing right where he was headed. The Coyote hit our scent cone and spun 90 degrees to its left as I swung up on it. Just before it made the safety of the brush lie. I let a round fly again from the 12 gauge & anchored the Coyote with a head shot. This was a large male & he knew the game well.

The rest of that day we called but saw no more predators. We found a great flat spot to camp and while the guys setup their cots, I started cooking Elk tenderloin, fried Flathead Catfish and fried Striped bass. Mike has never had any of that game and Tim hadn't tried either fish. Everyone enjoyed the meal and were beat from the 13-hour day of calling. It was too windy anyway to have a campfire so we all just hit the bed. No elk bothered us that night and we all got great sleep! 5:15a.m. came early and the wind was supposed to pick up bad on Sunday, so we got camp packed up quick and made our way to the thickets for shotgun setups.

Tim was up for calling and after driving a bit we walked further in on foot until we found a spot that was just open enough to call and had some ravines feeding into the stand location. Tim placed the call between Mike and himself and I watched the far left and downwind area. As the area settled, Tim began the call. As the call was playing a rabbit distress sound, a Grey Fox popped up from the ravine to my slight right and was staring toward the caller and Tim. He was just 20 yards out and usually an easy shot for me except for the fact that it was to my right. As I pulled up, the Fox looked my way, but my shotgun caught on my ghillie suit and I had a hard time lining up the shot. I rushed it a bit figuring that at any moment that Fox was going to turn and burn. As I let my BB load fly, the Fox reared up on its hind legs, clearly hit by the pellets but then gained footing and took off! I took another running shot and missed clean. I had a terrible feeling I didn't get a good enough hit to recover the animal but after we ended the stand, Tim found the Fox just 20 yards away. A single BB had hit it in the center of the chest and was a perfect heart shot. Talk about a lucky BB!!!



-continued-

We did a few more blank stands with swirling winds & then decided that it was time to try to find a less windy area or the way back to Phoenix. When the trees are swaying, it is time to call it! We relocated twice that day but never did call up any more predators. We ended up getting the most on this hunt thanks to the double points we got by taking out a novice hunter. It was a really fun hunt & we were happy to have Mike along as he did very well listening to the suggestions we had & putting them into practice immediately. He'll make a fine predator hunter if he puts in his time finding great areas to call.

OKAY I'VE TAKEN A PREDATOR, NOW WHAT? OTHER WAYS TO USE THE RESOURCE

(Some Ideas On What You Can Do With Your Fur) by Eddie M.

CONGRATS! You finally called & killed a predator of some type. Now what do you do with it? Well there are a variety of things that you can do. Since many of us hunt in earnest mainly in the fall & winter and the fur of a predator is a valuable/beautiful resource, I lean on the side of trying to utilize that resource in some way. One skill that every caller should have in my opinion is the knowledge of how to at least skin a predator. These days there are enough DVD's, You Tube, etc. so that there is a step by step visual guide somewhere. Watching these over & over along with a trial run or two with an experienced person watching will put you well on the path to being successful. From here learning how to put up a raw pelt for the fur trade or the tannery is the next step. If you are going to give the animal to the taxidermist to be mounted, talk to them beforehand to see how they would like to have you skin and handle the critter. Sooner or later you will be tempted to get a critter mounted in some fashion. This will be especially true should you kill a bobcat or one of the Big Predators like a lion or bear or an unusual like a badger, ringtail, raccoon, etc. Even a special coyote or fox may tempt you someday. Normal taxidermy mounts can be either a full mount, half mount, a shoulder mount or a rug depending upon the critter chosen.



Full Mount

Shoulder Mount

Rug

Keep/Sell Tanned Fur

Other choices besides taxidermy mounts are keeping the tanned or raw pelt for yourself or selling it at a fur sale to help you recover back some of the costs of the hunt. Also don't forget that articles of clothing like fur coats, hats, gloves, bedspreads, etc. can also be made & the finished product looks beautiful! A mink coat, bobcat vest or gray fox coat will make you stand out in a crowd! You will also have an answer that will more acceptable to the non-hunter who will be more likely to vote on our side when they know that the critters are being used & not wasted. Also don't forget the meat. Bears, mountain lion &, raccoons are known good table fare. I have eaten some delicious bobcat dishes also. The coyotes, foxes & weasels I don't eat Period. If shot with a rifle or slug, many of those who feed hawks, owls, eagles or other wildlife that eat meat may take your carcass. In most cases though, taking the carcass away from well-travelled areas & either burying the carcass or placing under a bush away from public eyes is acceptable. Yes, there are a variety of things that you can do.



Bobcat Coat



Tanned Fur



Fur Hat



LEARN OUTDOOR SKILLS: HUNT, TRAP, FISH, SHOOT, WILDLIFE RECREATION

The Arizona Game & Fish Dept. is dedicated to introducing children to hunting by offering a wide variety of juniors only hunting & shooting programs. These programs are designed to get children in the field with a parent or guardian who can focus on the kid(s) and provide the guidance needed to teach the next generation of hunters how to be safe, ethical & responsible stewards. To provide plenty of opportunity, Game & Fish has partnered w/various Sportsman's clubs, groups & organizations to provide mentoring for beginners to help assure positive experience hunting in the great outdoors. Listed below are some of these events. **Look on pages 22-27 of the 2019/2020 AZ. Hunt Regs.** You'll note that there are also some events for the ladies. Visit www.azgfd.gov/outdoorskills for more information. Consider helping out at these Events as a Mentor. You'll usually be fed & your help is greatly appreciated. I go as a PPCI member & often wear my PPCI T-Shirt. It doesn't have to be varmint calling related for me to volunteer to help get someone hooked hunting.

Nov. 9-11 – Unit 20C Predator Hunt Camp-YOU/MDF – Free camp serving units 20C & 18B to assist with the basics of predator hunting, outdoor activities, food, campfire & more. Some mentoring available. Location: Date Creek-Sunflower Flat. Host Mule Deer Foundation, Youth Outdoors Unlimited. Info: Donna Green, redryak@outlook.com Register at www.youthoutdoorsunlimited.com

Nov. 21-24 – Unit 36A, 36B & 36C Youth Deer Hunt Camp: Deer hunting tips & tactics for the area from experienced hunters, a safe centralized group camping area, some food provided. Location: Arivaca, near Buenos Aires Nat. Wildlife Refuge. Host: AZ Chapter of SCI, AZGFD. Info: Bobby Boido, azsci@yahoo.com (520) 490-8367.

Nov. 21-24 - Unit 42 Youth Deer Hunt Camp: Hunt Camp for youth deer hunters drawn for Unit 42. (Family & friends welcome) General deer hunt info, tactics & tips from experienced outdoor hunters, some food & camp activities provided. Location: Wickenburg area off Vulture Mine Rd. Unit 42. Host: AZ. Mule Deer Organization, AZGFD. Info: Terry Herndon, terry@azmuledeer.org or (623) 696-5579

Dec. 7-8 – Picketpost Small Game Hunt Camp: Free camp for new hunters to learn shoot & hunt basics for quail, rabbits & dove. Limited firearms provided, primitive camping onsite, some meals. Location: Picketpost Mtn/ Superior, Unit 37B. Host: Red Bear Outfitters, AZ Outdoor Sports, AZGFD, Youth Outdoors Unlimited. Register at www.youthoutdoorsunlimited.com

Dec. 13-15: Cibola Youth Waterfowl Hunt: Learn how to waterfowl hunt w/an experienced mentor. Activities for whole family include trap shoot, 3D archery, decoys & calling clinic. Dutch oven cooking, wildlife watching. Location: Cibola Nt. Wildlife Refuge, Cibola/Blythe Area. Unit 43A. Host: AZ Outdoors Sports, Friends of Cibola NWR, USFWS, AZGFD. Contact: Yuma AZGFD 928-342-0091 getoutsideaz@gmail.com

PVCI MONTHLY SKILLS HUNT REPORT

SEPTEMBER NOVICE SKILLS HUNT: The September Novice Skills Hunt was our 1st Official Hunt of the 2019/2020 hunting season, the Novices teaming up with Experts for a weekend of hands-on, real-life hunting skills experiences. The wind became a factor along with dove hunters in the desert that weekend. It looks like 6 teams ventured forth & a total of 3 Coyotes and 6 Gray Fox were harvested. **Results were as follows:**

Tim L, Mark S. & Mike R
Total: 2 coyotes, 1 Gray Fox

Nathan S. & John S.
Total: 1 Coyote, 5 Gray Fox

Sux 2B U Award-Engine Trouble
Wayne W., Ricardo G. & Ivan M.

HUNTING PICS



Ricardo w/2019 Coues Buck / his first!

Youth Deer Hunter Saige F.w/Buck her 2nd

Scott B. & Eddie M. w/Coyote

To contribute to this Newsletter send Stories & Pictures to coyotecaller@cox.net



Hmmm, where did those sounds come from? This looks like a “Predator Beguiled” Pic to me. To read and view more, go to “Predator Beguiled” on both Facebook and YouTube.

SEPTEMBER SUX 2B U AWARD STORIES

The SUX 2B U Award is an Award that is usually given to those PPCI Members that are hunting and have “Things Happen” to them that you would not want to happen to you. On the September Monthly Skills Hunt we had “Things Happen” to two of our teams. Now I am telling these stories as told to me over the phone by Vice President Mark S. so you SUX 2B U Awardees, if I get anything wrong it is most likely because what I heard and what I wrote down were different.

The first story and Winner of the September SUX 2B Award goes to the team of Wayne W., Ricardo G. and Novice Ivan M. It seems that they were making their way back a few miles on a gnarly road to do some calling when the truck just stopped, and a big puff of white smoke came from out of the engine! (Oh, I know what that feeling of Silence is like having been on the team for this Award at least 2, no 3 times myself.) It seems it had something to do with the dual batteries and wiring. A relay wire melted through blowing a fuse, stopping the truck. The team was able to get things somewhat patched up and they limped home. Now Wayne wrote an article in the July-Aug. 2018 Newsletter, the title, OFF-SEASON PREP which was about you making sure that your firearm, gear and vehicle are made ready to go before the hunting season begins. He would be the first to tell you that he needs to follow his own advice.

Our second SUX 2B U Award story involves the team of Ken E., Chris B., Amber P., & Chris C. As a decent weekend of calling was coming to an end, Expert Member Chris B. wanted to try one last stand before heading home. Sometimes this last stand before heading home is a good idea however sometimes, when you need to be at a certain place by a certain time, you might be better off just heading home. Anyway, after the stand it seems the team ended up on a road that took them in the wrong direction and even farther from town. After finally getting back on the Highway, they hit a bunch of traffic from an accident on the Highway. In my opinion the only traffic that is slower than accident Highway traffic is California rush hour traffic. This made them late to the Check-in thus disqualifying them from being in the running.

LATE SEASON BEAR HUNT/CALLING by Eddie M

Bears are one of my favorite critters to hunt & most years I've usually go on a few predator calling adventures in my hunt for them. They are also one of the least killed critters in the Club. Have you ever had a bear answer your predator calling sounds? Do you think that you might want to give it a try? Be very careful when answering this question as it might come true as it has for me & others on several occasions. If you look at the Hunt Statistic Book, you will see that you have missed the 2 best months to kill a bear which are September & October. When you receive this Newsletter, it will be November. Many of the bear hunting units will be shut down however not all of them. In fact, there'll be a couple that'll just be opening. Sometime in November the hibernation process will begin for many bears. The sows with cubs will be the first to disappear, then the sows with no cubs & last will be the boars or male bears. Some of the boars are still out in December. Then there are other boars I have heard that don't even hibernate some years? Regardless before bears go into hibernation during



these fall months, the pressure is on to eat all that they can to fatten up before the Big Sleep. As in other times when you hunt bears, now as in earlier months, if you can find the food, you can often find the bears. Favorite food sources that I like to check this time of year are juniper trees that are loaded with the juicy blue juniper berries and the acorns in the big trees in the woods. For the most part, the manzanita berries & prickly pear fruits are largely gone. I've seen bears lying underneath these heavily loaded juniper berry trees just eating & resting, eating & resting all day. Acorns in the woods are another very important food source for practically everything including bears. If the trees in the place where you are hunting don't have acorns, I'd keep looking until you find some that do have them. Find some bear poop with acorns in them in the vicinity plus some good hills or canyons & some water within 1 or 2 miles & you just might have a recipe for some action! If you can find a vantage point you may be able to glass these bears. Will a black bear that's hungrily eating acorns or juniper berries come to a predator call? There is only one way to find out. I would close the distance if possible & get within rifle range & then I would use the call. A fawn distress would probably be my first choice however the rabbit distress could also work. Reed Peterson, the guy who founded one of the other fine predator-calling clubs in this state used a rabbit distress to call in over 100 bears in his calling career. In the earlier seasons I stay away from the cub distress to help avoid female bears. In the latter part of the late season or say in December it could be another option. Seeing the bears first has several advantages. First, you know without a doubt that there's a bear in the area. Now you can hopefully determine size & cub status (sows with cubs are illegal) plus determine your route to the bear for the best calling/shooting location(s). You'll also be able to see the bear's reaction to your calling sound. If it's coming you will know! If there is no reaction & you are within rifle range like we talked about earlier, then you either plan on taking your shot or stalk closer for the opportunity to try calling again and/or setting up for a closer shot. If you can't see the bears, then calling in likely looking areas is another approach. It really helps if these areas have Food & Sign such as Bear Poop (the fresher the better) and/or Tracks. Pick a location where you can see some. Bears won't normally hang up to just sit & watch an area with a big view like mountain lions sometimes do. Although I might start softly in some situations, generally make your sound loud. Get the noise out there. Bears live in Big Country & if they can't hear you then you probably aren't going to call one in. Likely looking areas to call for me would include down the side of a big ridge or canyon (go 100 yards down) full of big acorn trees or berry laden juniper trees. The key for me in doing this is that even if there is a dirt road on top, after you go down so far you are in a whole new world. You can't even hear the road traffic anymore. Also, it really helps if there is no road on the bottom of where you are. I like just wild country instead, although you could throw in a body of some sort of water like a creek, river, waterhole, etc. I also like BIG Canyons. One trick here with 2 people is to each be watching opposite sides while the calling is going on. You MUST know where the other person is located when doing this! Also try calling above where two or more canyons bottoms meet up or cross & don't forget saddles which are used by most all wildlife when travelling. Please make sure that you have a good backstop behind you that a bear or lion can't get through. Yes, I said lion as both critters can live in the same habitat & the distress sound is universal! It wasn't a bear, but I've read of a caller named Ralph S. (he scored my Boone & Crocket skull) who was knocked down & scratched in the face by a lion before he shot it! My point again: Have a Good Backstop! If serious stay on stand 45 minutes to an hour & no foxes. When it happens & you do see a bear approaching your calling stand, it's going to be an unforgettable experience! I'd keep calling until you have the bear where you want it, then pick a spot & shoot! Remember you have 48 hours to report your kill. Also keep the proof of sex attached to the hide & keep the skull for the visual inspection that you must also do within 10 days. If frozen be sure to have the proof of sex visible & have the mouth open. Read your Hunt Regs. All bear seasons end on Dec. 31st so there is still time. Be sure to call 1-800-970-BEAR to find out which units are closed or to report a kill. Good Luck!

Do you Like the New “Safari Shirts” that the Board Members are wearing? If you want one. Find the Style of “Safari Shirt” that you Like and Buy it!

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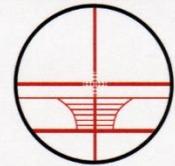
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