



Wayne W.



Officers

President
Wayne W.

Vice President
Mark S.

Treasurer
Laurie D.

Corresponding Secretary
Terry H.

Recording Secretary
Dan S.

Board Members
Craig B.
Ron H.
Ricardo G.
Brad S.
Ray K.
Steve L.

Predator Tales
Eddie M
Scott B.

Membership Chairman
Frank B.

Hunt Chairman
Ron H.
Nathan S.

Webmaster
James S.

Presidents Message

As I was looking for inspiration for this edition of the Newsletter and how to make our members successful, I started reflecting back on my personal voyage and quest for knowledge. Predators are intelligent & highly elusive and it's tough to beat them at a game they play all day, every day, & in their own backyard. They know the wind, they know the area, the common sounds, the trees, the bushes, the terrain.

Like everyone else, I had read the AZGFD field manuals, read hundreds of magazine articles, & watched tons of You tube videos, and that only helped so much. Then I compared the quality of information I learned after I became *actively* engaged in the Club. By actively engaged I mean not only attending the Meetings, check-in's and special events, but by being present, introducing yourself, creating friendships and trusts within the Club. If I could give any advice to those members who, like me, really want to be successful, and consistent, I would tell you this: 1) Be present, get involved, volunteer for something – attend all of the activities 2) Introduce yourself! 3) Go to Check-In even if you didn't hunt – Ron makes a killer chili and cornbread & it's a great place to get to know people & exchange information 4) Be open minded to suggestions and trying new things, you can't second-guess Mother Nature.... 5) Be Ridiculously Safe! – Nobody wants to hunt with "THAT GUY". Early hunt indicators are showing this to be a fantastic year, so grab your gear, grab some munchies and I hope to see you in the field!

THINGS TO KNOW:

***Since the first Wednesday in 2020 is on January 1st, the first PPCI Monthly Meeting in 2020 will be on January 8th with the January Monthly Skills Hunt the weekend of Jan. 11-12. Meeting begins at 7:00PM.**

***** PPCI MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE GOING UP ON JANUARY 1ST, 2020.** The new fees will be \$45 for a New Membership & \$35 to Renew.

*****Do you miss the Hard Copy of the PPCI Predator Tales Newsletter?** Well for a \$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 and pay the Membership Chairman, Frank B.

****PPCI holds its Club Elections in Aril of each year.** Club Nominations should be part of each Monthly Meeting until then.



Nathan S. w/1st Lion



Jim K. w/2019 Bighorn Sheep



Eddie M. w/called & shot Yote

MAKE SOMETHING HAPPEN!!!

All Except the Title Reprinted from the Sept. 1999-Author Dick S. & Probably Approved by Pres. Wayne W.

Remember when you first started calling coyotes? Most of the time Novice callers will go through a period of time where **nothing happens**. No matter what call is used or how it sounds, **nothing happens**. Some of the time when everything seems to be going your way and the coyotes come in so close, it seems to be easy. You pull the trigger and, no shell in the chamber, safety is on; **nothing happens!** Tired and forlorn, the best you can do is take the advice of wiser & more experienced callers. You sit back & let them do the work for you. When they finally get around to taking you out calling, oops, bad hair or fur day and **Nothing Happens!** So, what's next? As a member of **PVCI**, you can come to Club Events, volunteer, bring a new member. No, you say, the Board will do all that. So, you sit back, and **Nothing Happens**.

Only one out of every twenty new members will help the Club to keep going, head up committees, and volunteer to help on a project. With the other nineteen members, Nothing Happens! The purpose of a hunting organization is to bring together individuals to work together, be productive, have fun, meet and hunt with other hunters and when it is necessary, band together to keep your rights and privileges. Businesses hire people to be productive, to make a profit and to grow into a much larger business. **I'd just like to see most of the other nineteen members get involved with the workings of the Club and set an example for those who come into the Club later.** Those people will say this is a working, active Club and not one that sits you down, dictates what's what, shows you a movie, then leads you out the door as they pick your wallet. There were Clubs like that, I know, I joined one and **NOTHING HAPPEN!**

***** NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED NOW FOR PVCI OFFICERS & BOARD of DIRECTORS*** (ELECTIONS in APRIL)** by Eddie M.

Yes, it is that time of year again, the time when nominations for the PVCI Officers & Board of Directors comes to be! Every PVCI position is annually up for re-election in April except for some of the Board Members. The PVCI Officers & Board Members are the decision-making core of PVCI & besides the duties that each position represents they are also required to attend one extra Meeting on the third Wednesday of each month. There is a certain amount of prestige associated with being a Phoenix Varmint Caller Officer or Board Member & you will go down in history as having been elected. The PVCI Presidents especially not only have a place in history but there can also be some "**FAME**" that goes along with the position. This is after all a fine Club that is known. If you would like to nominate someone, anyone to be elected into this "Special Group" please do feel free to do so when the nominations are opened at the next few Club Meetings. **You are of course more than welcome to also nominate yourself (come on, don't be shy).** Here is a brief breakdown of the positions:

President: The Head Honcho, the Main Man. Responsible for running both the regular club meeting & the Board of Directors Meeting & shall direct the activities of this Club.

Vice-President: Assist the President in running meetings & business, also in charge of meetings if President absent.

Corresponding Secretary: Responsible for all club correspondence with the outside, the press, the other clubs, etc. He shall keep a complete file of this correspondence. Also presents documents prior to mailing for Officer & Board approval & submit proof of all mailings. This person needs to have some PVCI letterhead in his possession. This person assumes the President's position in case of emergency or the absence of both the President and Vice-President.

Recording Secretary: Accurately records all club minutes at both the regular & board meetings. These minutes contain among other things, the type of meeting, date and place and time of the meeting, a list of the officers and directors present plus any motions or amendments. Keeps this record in a safe place & can furnish past minutes if needed. **Treasurer:** Receives all dues and other funds coming into this club then deposits them to this club's account immediately upon receipt. Keeps accurate records of all receipts and disbursements & can render an annual financial statement. Also prepares a monthly report that is entered into the club's minutes during the meetings. The Treasurer keeps the Club's checkbook and he/she pays all the bills incurred by the Club including rent, trophies, locker, mailbox, etc. and is responsible for the club's non-profit status and records. The President, Vice-President and Treasurer shall be authorized to sign checks, two (2) signatures being required.

Board of Director Member(s): Must be able to attend two (2) meetings per month, the regular and the board. Votes on issues discussed at board meetings. Also helps in planning and organizing club events, helps decide on the direction of the club and usually chairs at least one committee for the major Club events. The Board of Directors is a 3-year term. All the 5 officer positions are 1-year terms.

I tried to be as short & thorough as I could. Hopefully I didn't get anything too wrong. To view a complete list of Officer & Board of Director Duties, look at your Club Handbook located on PVCI Website <http://www.pvci.org>

PVCI MEMBERS FAVORITE 3 PREDATOR CALLS

Being Predator Callers, we of course have an intense interest in the instruments that we use to make the sounds that attract the predators. I thought it might be interesting to ask a few of the callers in the Club that actually do hunt, what are some of their favorite calls, be they hand calls or electronics and the reasons why they like them. Enjoy!

Ricardo G. - One of my main calls is the **Standard Critter Call**. Why? Because I can make a bunch of different sounds with it and if I put my teeth on the reed and bite down, I will get even more completely different sounds. I can call really loud with it also which is good for cutting the wind or I can cut it way down. I can also get really raspy. The call is easy to use. I like doing long sequences and I don't run out of breath when using this call. I can also do mouse sounds and some bird distress however I don't use it that way a lot. This call is usually my first choice most every time.

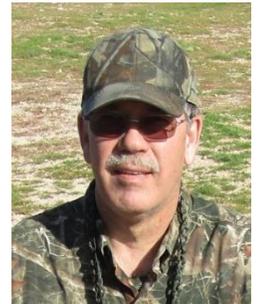
The Porath Triple Play is another hand call that I like to use. It has a higher -pitched sound I can't get loud with it like the Critter Call. It has a higher-pitched sound that fox and bobcat really seem to like.

Then there is this **predator call at Cabela's that has dual holes in the front instead of one hole**. I am sorry, I do not know the name of it. I remember I used it once on a hunt with Eddie M. and he said to throw it away, he didn't like it at all. I do though. All 3 of these calls are open reeds. I really like them because of the variety of sounds that you can make with them. They can also make good howls and ki-yi's. I only use hand calls. I have never had any luck with the electronics. I have been on e-caller stands with others and they have called in critters but not me. I own one of the Fox Pro's Callers too, but it doesn't work for me.



Chris B. (Illinois Chris) – Well you know me; I like the **Johnny Stewart PC-3 Bite-Down Call** because it works! This sound seems to vary among different callers and to me sounds like an open reed. Is it the pitch? I can't explain why, the call just works! (Eddie speaking) I can attest that Chris really makes this call sound Good, in fact it is one of the better sounds that I 've ever heard when he is blowing it. I wish that I could make the sounds he does with that call. If we still had the Annual PVCI Judges Calling Contest, I believe that Chris would do very well.

Bay-Be Cottontail Voice on an E-Caller – This is my go-to voice on an e-caller. I 've called in coyotes & foxes with it. I believe that it's a popular sound as I have read lots of stories of callers using it. I need to pick up more hand calls. To carry all the stuff when using an e-caller is a hassle. I swear by decoys. Whether they are on the e-caller itself where I can control it or separate by itself when I'm calling. I like to hide the decoy anymore & have learned to hide them on my side of the brush. Other sounds that I use on an e-caller is **Jackrabbit, Bird & Fox Distress**. I don't have much luck w/coyote vocals except for the **Pup-In-Distress & Ki-Yi**.



Ken E. - I will begin with the **Orion Open Reed Call** because I can make so many different sounds, it doesn't freeze, it is high pitched, and I can scream on it!

The **Pee-Wee Critter Call** is a good, dependable call that I can change to any of 5 reeds that come in the pack with the call. In fact, I have 5 different calls all with different reeds depending upon whether you want raspy, high-pitched, etc. They are really easy to carry. The Pee Wee has a small sound board so you can make them talk more.

The Twisted Psycho Double Reed Call with different sub-harmonies on each because I have sanded them different plus this sounds different than everything else. I only hand-call, no e-calls. No one sounds like I do!

P.S. Eddie has purchased some different predator calls for the Call Box. They'll hopefully be here by the Meeting. Come see.



Jim K. With his 2019 Bighorn Sheep



PVCI CHRISTMAS PARTY REPORT by Eddie M.

The 2019 PVCI Christmas Party was on December 4th this year, just a little early if you ask me. Once inside, you were greeted to the sights of many happy folks talking to each other, either getting food from the vast amount of food that was spread out on the tables or already eating or looking at the donated items that were spread out here & there over the room. The entry fee into the Christmas Party was a can of food or water (liquid) for the Food Drive to the Desert Mission Food Bank. I do not know how much we donated this year, but we have come up with some good amounts in the past.

The Event Organizer this year was President Wayne W. with Ray K. and his Wonderful Very Helpful Wife, Jenny also helping. I don't know the logistics of it all however I am going to throw the many, many thanks to these individuals in reverse, thanking the Wonderful, Helpful Jenny, first, then Ray and Wayne. I do not think that the two guys will mind this at all. One of the things that somehow did not happen was the giving out of the 2019 PVCI Member of the Year and the 2019 PVCI President's Award Recipient while the families and friends were present.

Was the Christmas Spirit of Love & Giving present? Well I think that just about everyone present left full of food & with some kind of gift or gifts. Oh, and we can't forget the smiles. There were definitely plenty of smiles. Again, many thanks to ALL who helped to make the 2019 PVCI Christmas Party a Success! This was a Team Effort and to each & every one of you who showed up & participated.... again Thanks! It is hoped that Everyone had a Very Merry Christmas & that the New Year to come (2020) will be a Special & Happy One!!!



PVCI CHRISTMAS CONTRIBUTORS

Cabela's; Straight line RV & Boat, Chambered Gun Shop, Legion Precision, Estrella Ordinance, AZ Body Therapy, Top Golf, Vortex, Black Angus at Metro Mall, Hooters at Metro Mall, Bad Hair Days, NRA, Patriot Nation Firearms, James & Ruth Strang, Craig Bosgieter, Sean Yates, Larry Szydelko, Frank Budde, Wayne Wilson, The Keenen's, Eddie M.

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'll contact the dealers & try to obtain employee pricing for you. He'll then call you with the contact point at the dealership. You then go to the dealer & ask for the contact telling him you're a Phoenix Varmint Caller & pick out the vehicle you're interested in. They'll give you the best price & the Club receives the Referral Fee.



***FUR PREP DAY ANYONE???*

Is there any interest in having a Fur Prep Day??!?

If so, let's set a date in March as January & February are both busy w/deer & javelina seasons. There are probably a few folks in the Club that have furs in their freezer that they'd like to get out. So why not pick a certain day & bring your fur(s) & all meet over someone's home to put it up together for (Fur Prep Day). We ask that you prepare your own however if you need/want help with this please consider donating some to the Club. We will be preparing the Club furs for the Tannery, then offer the finished product for sale to the members. Those that really help (not just show up) on Fur Prep Day will receive a small discount for their efforts. This is always a GREAT LEARNING DAY, learning the art of Fleshing, Sewing & Putting up Fur on Stretchers! -We need a place to hold this Event. This is a one-day all-day Event. The place needs to have ample backyard space plus some parking. We will clean your backyard when done. If your place will work, **Please** contact Hunt chairman Ron H (602)-687-0164. The money from the donated furs goes to PVCI to help in their expenses which we need as we are limited in what we can do now. You can always mark your furs (usually with a colored zip tie through the eye) & then buy back what you want to keep at the discounted price. PVCI will provide lunch.

PVCI MONTHLY SKILLS HUNT REPORT

NOVEMBER NOVICE SKILLS HUNT: Total 28 Coyotes, 3 Foxes

Craig B. & Wayne W.
17 Coyotes

Tim L. & Steve L.
2 Coyotes, 3 Foxes

Chris B.
3 Coyotes

DECEMBER MONTHLY SKILLS HUNT: Total 1 Mountain Lion, 5 Coyotes, 1 Fox

Nathan S, & John S.
1 Mountain Lion

Tim L. & Amanda L.
3 Coyotes, 1 Fox

Jerry G & Ken E.
2 Coyotes

PVCI Website <http://www.pvci.org> Check out Upcoming Events!!!

Join us on our Facebook Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/pvci.org>

Join us on Facebook Page <http://www.facebook.com/pvci.org>

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 & there were some who also collected them over the many years. **For an Annual Fee of \$10, those who'd still like to receive the Hard Copy can do so once again!** Give your payment to Membership Chairman Frank B. in person or by mailing to the PPCI P.O. Box 87153 Phoenix, AZ. 85080-7153 & include in addition to your Membership.

PPCI MONTHLY GUN

The Gun for January will be a Savage Axis 25.06 Rifle w/a black synthetic stock & 3x9 scope.
The Gun for February has yet to be determined.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec. 1 – Daylong Shooting Hours for Coyotes open in many Hunt Units. Bighorn Sheep Season opens. Check Hunt Regs.
Dec. 31 – All Bear, Crow & Bighorn Seasons & most Squirrel Seasons end. Check your Hunt Regs.
Jan. 1- Happy New Year! Archery Deer & Javelina Seasons open some Hunt Units. Check Hunt Regs. Club Meeting on 8th.
Jan. 5 - Late Dove Season closes statewide. Check your Hunt Regs.
Jan. 8 - This is the 2nd Wednesday. (PPCI Monthly Meeting, 6822 N. 57th Drive, Glendale, AZ.) 7:00p.m.
Jan. 11-12 –PPCI Monthly Skills Hunt
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. 24-25 AZGFD Commission Meeting, Phoenix 5000 W Carefree Hwy. Phoenix AZ 85086 (602)-942-3000
Jan. 24 – Youth-Only Javelina Season opens in some Hunt Units. Check your Hunt Regs.
Jan. 26 – Desert Zone Duck, Scaup & Goose Season closes.
Feb. 5 - This is the 1st Wednesday. (PPCI Monthly Meeting, 6822 N. 57th Drive, Glendale, AZ.) 7:00p.m.
Feb. 7- H.A.M. Javelina Season opens in some Hunt Units. Check your Hunt Regs.
Feb. 8-9 – PPCI Monthly Skills Hunt.
Feb. 9 – General Quail Season ends. Check your Hunt Regs.
****Feb. 11 - Deadline at 11:59 p.m. for the 2020 On-Line Only Antelope & Elk Draws.**
Feb. 19 - This is the 3rd Wednesday. PPCI Board of Directors Meeting: Barro's Pizza, 3053 W. Auga Fria Hwy. 7:00p.m.
Feb. 21 – General Rifle Javelina Season opens in many Hunt Units. Check your Hunt Regs.
Feb. 21-22 AZGFD Commission Meeting, Region IV 9140 E. 28th St. Yuma, AZ 85365 (928)-342-0091
Feb. 28 – Trapping Season ends.
Mar. 4 - This is the 1st Wednesday. (PPCI Monthly Meeting, 6822 N. 57th Drive, Glendale, AZ.) 7:00p.m.
Mar. 7-8 PPCI Monthly Club Skills Hunt. Last Hunt for the 2019-2020 Season. Possibility this could be a Novice II Hunt?
Mar. 18 - This is the 3rd Wednesday. PPCI Board of Directors Meeting: Barro's Pizza, 3053 W. Auga Fria Hwy. 7:00p.m.
Mar. 20 – Spring Bear Season opens in many Hunt Units. Check your Hunt Regs.
Mar. 28-29 – AZGFD Outdoor Expo at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility 4044 w. Black Canyon Blvd. Free Admission, Free Parking. Hours Saturday from 9:00A.M to 5:00P.M. & Sunday from 9:00A.M. to 4:00P.M. For more info. visit www.azgfd.gov/expo
Mar. 31 – The Season ends for Bobcat, Fox, Ringtail, Weasel, Raccoon, Badger and Coatimundi.
. * Note From The Membership Chairman: DONT FORGET TO RENEW YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP to stay a PPCI Member! Fees will be going up on Jan. 1st, 2020. The PPCI New Members fee will be \$45 and the Renewal Fee will be \$35. How will you know if you owe? Through the On-Line Newsletter (the Predator Tales) in most cases. For the most part PPCI is only sending the Newsletter via e-mail. To receive an e-mail Newsletter, you MUST send your information 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. Fees should be made payable to PPCI. Send payment to PPCI c/o Membership Chairman, P.O. Box 87153, Phoenix, AZ. 85080-7153. Membership Forms are available at the Monthly General Meeting. Questions: Contact Membership Chairman Frank B. 602-758-8714**
P.S. Well the Club “was” only doing on-line issues of the Bi-Monthly Predator Tales. You can now receive a Hard Copy Newsletter again for a \$10 Annual Fee. Please give your payment to Membership Chairman Frank B. 602-758-8714
PPCI MEMBERSHIP COUNT: 170 PPCI WELCOMES NEW MEMBER: John S.

UPCOMING EVENTS: - MULTI-CLUB SKILLS HUNT- to be determined 2020
ATTENTION: PPCI MEMBERS LET'S HUNT THE MULTI-CLUB SKILLS HUNT ON
This is a One-Day Hunt. If You Hunt No Other Hunt All Year,
PLEASE HUNT THIS ONE DAY!!!

*****- MULTI-CLUB SKILLS HUNT – Who is the “BEST” Varmint Calling Club in the state? PPCI members if you hunt no other hunts this year, PLEASE HUNT THIS ONE DAY!!!** Both hand calls & electronics allowed. **The Deadline or time you Must be back by 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 until it runs out.

****IMPORTANT:** The Check-in location **may be announced** at the Club Meeting. **If you need Directions to the Check-In Location, please call Steve L. at (623) 570-1306.**

Also PLEASE DO NOT POST THE LOCATION ON ANY SOCIAL MEDIA SITE.

P.S. There is a need for Club Members to help set up camp and help cook. Speak up at the January Meeting.!!!

ANNOUNCEMENTS: If you would like for your Birthday, Anniversary or other Special Event to show here? Send your info to coyotecaller@cox.net

 <p>Happy Birthday Scott B. 71 on Jan 1</p>	 <p>Happy Birthday Craig B. 71 Jan 12</p>	 <p>Congrats to Mike & Rebecca F. Married 38 years on Jan. 28th</p>	 <p>Congrats to Allan & Janice F. Married 50 years on Feb 14th</p>	 <p>Congrats to Gary A. & Ginger A. Married 22 years on Feb. 28th</p>
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INTERNATIONAL SPOTRSMEMN’S EXPO (ISE) March 13-15, 2020

Arizona's largest boat, outdoor gear, RV, 4-wheeler & travel show returns to West World of Scottsdale Plus free activity areas, including watersports-event pond, new Dock Dogs pond/contest, Wilderness Camp, Outdoor Product Showcase, Off-road Test Track, giant bass-demo tankmore!

WHERE: Westworld of Scottsdale 166601 N. Pima Road Scottsdale AZ 85260

Adult Tickets \$12.00 Youth 15 & under Free

Parking: \$5.00 Per Car

Hours: 10 AM - 7PM Thursday – Saturday Sunday 10AM to 5PM

P.S. The Phoenix Varmint Callers will be helping to judge at the Taxidermy Association Showing going on at the ISE.

ARIZONA GAME & FISH OUTDOOR EXPO – MARCH 28-29, 2020

This year’s Arizona Game & Fish Department Outdoors Expo will be held on March 28-29,2020 at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility just west of I-17 on the Carefree Highway in Phoenix. This Event will transform the Shooting Facility into the largest hands-on Outdoor Expo in Arizona with outdoor fun and adventure for the entire family! Admission & parking to the Event will be totally FREE! You will have a unique opportunity to test pistols, rifles & shotguns & archery equipment on the range plus talk to the manufacturer’s reps. Shooters can also learn more about competitive shooting & enjoy some of the specialty ranges not normally open to the public. There will be demonstrations on speed shooting and skeet shooting plus they will have many workshops & exhibition booths displaying the shooting, hunting & fishing sports. You can also test drive the latest ATV’s and don’t forget the catch & release fish tank. PPCI will have a booth at this event. Volunteers are needed. This Event attracts over 10,000 people each year with over 100 exhibitors. The hours of operation will be Saturday from 9:00A.M to 5:00P.M. & Sunday from 9:00A.M. to 4:00P.M. For more info. about this weekend, visit www.azgfd.gov/expo Free Parking & Free Admission.

MOUNTAIN LION ADVENTURE-THE STORY OF MY FIRST CALLED MOUNTAIN LION by Nathan S.

Well, my Dad and I had a really blessed weekend! We were able to get out and hunt together the Saturday of the December Scramble Hunt. On the fourth stand of the day, the quarry I've been after for 4 years finally presented an opportunity to harvest it...an Arizona Mountain Lion!! We were in a beautiful area around 4,700ft. in elevation and were expecting lots of Gray Fox action and hoping for Bobcat action. I set up watching a hill covered in boulders with the FoxPro CS24C call and Mojo Critter decoy in front of me and with the wind lightly blowing to my left. I had Dad setup downwind of me watching for anything that might try to catch the caller's scent. Both of us were armed with 12-gauge shotguns as the country we were in was THICK! So, I started off the caller with some bird distress, but nothing seemed to be interested. After a few minutes, I switched to a cottontail distress sound. At this point I heard a loud, short, shrill sound from across the valley that I didn't recognize. Over the next 4 minutes I kept watching the hill for fox and bobcat as I heard the shrill whistle gradually working its way closer. Next, I switched to a couple of Gray Fox Distress sounds and noticed the whistle was still getting closer and now it was occurring more frequently. At this point it sounded like it was around 200 yards out and I noticed a fox coming towards me off the hill so when the fox was within range, I shot. Well, it escaped but the whistle kept coming so I turned my attention there. Within a minute of shooting at the fox, I saw the lion about 70 yards out from me and closing. As soon as it went behind some brush, I readied my gun in its direction and noticed it was headed straight at Dad! Well, the lion stepped out of the brush and paused. I fired and dealt it a killer blow. Down it went! My first Tom Mountain Lion! I was so pleased that the Lord had blessed us with a lion and my Dad was there to see it all go down in front of him!!



SMOKE IN YOUR HANDS-MORE ON GHOST CATS by Eddie M.

In Arizona, mt. lions range statewide inhabiting all habitats from semi-arid deserts to high alpine forests. Home ranges can be quite large sometimes covering 60-70 miles or more. Mt. lions travel this home range in a somewhat circular route that may take 10-11 days to complete. It used to be believed that most hunting was done at night. New studies however show that in undisturbed areas lions will often remain active throughout the day. Sign left by lions include tracks, scratches, cat toilets and kills. Tracks can be found at waterholes, in washes, on mud and dirt trails, in saddles and in the snow. Adult lions leave a track as big as a large domestic dog, differences being the absence of claw marks and 3 very prominent lobes at the rear of its heel pad. Lions also have a habit of walking on logs & rocks for some distance & for travelling up extremely steep slopes or rocky cliffs. Habits that dogs rarely do.

Scratches are made by male lions marking their territory. They are found in saddles, along major drainage travel routes and up along rims. Scratches are made by the male pulling a small pile of dirt and pine needles into a mound and are about the size you would make if you were to dig one big scoopful of dirt w/your boot & moved it 6inches. A lion will pull the dirt in the opposite direction from which he is travelling.

Cat toilets are simply heaps made where the lion buried its poop. An abundance of these toilets or any other signs like scratches in one area probably indicates a kill site. Kills can also be found by watching the skies for circling vultures or ravens or by following the bloody drag mark. Once a kill is made the lion usually hides it under a large low-hanging tree or juniper. After eating its fill, the lion will usually bury the remainder, raking oak-brush, pine needles, leaves & twigs over the carcass. Then unmolested or on the move, the lion will return to feed upon the carcass periodically until the kill is consumed or the meat sours. Trying to harvest a lion without dogs is like trying to catch smoke in your hands. Being in a Predator-Calling Club, the dream (for some of us) would of course be to call one into us. Hopefully these additional tips will help you.

Ryan L.'s First Mountain Lion

by Ryan L

Well I'm not the best storyteller. At the beginning of 2019, I decided I wanted to go on a lion hunt using horses and dogs. So, after saving and looking around I booked a hunt. The best part was that I was able to find someone who could work with my schedule. The first day of the hunt was going to be Thanksgiving weekend. As the time approached, I was getting excited to see new country and to watch the dogs work should we find something. But as the week of Thanksgiving got closer, the weather was saying a Big Storm was coming! I talked with the guide and he said that depending on the snow we might have to change the plans. Good news is with fresh snow if we find tracks, we should find the cat. Bad news, melting snow makes it muddy and that's when the problems start with getting around on the roads. So, the plan was set that instead of starting the hunt in the morning after Thanksgiving that we start the following night so that we could drive around and look for tracks while the ground was frozen. We took off at 7:30 p.m. driving all over the mountains & through snow drifts. It was an adventure and there were several moments I thought we were going to be stuck in places but luckily, we made it out. At around 6:00a.m., we came across a lion track that looked like it could be good but seemed older. After talking it over, the guide thought we should wait for sunrise then put the dogs on the track to see if they could find anything. Once the sun was up, the dogs were out and ready to go. As they were put on the track, it was neat to see them put their nose to the track and freeze. You could see them thinking about the next step, working together to try and find this cat. As we started out, the dogs were excited but there was not much barking, just a little here and there. It seemed like more play, then I found something. As we got about a mile from the truck, we came over a hill and looked on the other side. There sat a ridge of rocks and boulders. The guide said, "That looks like a great place for a cat to be." At this moment, the dogs must have finally found fresh scent because they took off barking! The guide said, "Let's see what happens." We sat on the hill, listening to the dogs and they ran right to those rocks which were about 800 yards away. The barking got more excited! The guide said, "I think they found the cat!" We then started heading that way. When we were about halfway there, suddenly the barking started coming back towards us! We stopped and listened and sure enough through the trees we could see dogs running back to the hill we first started at! Then the barking stopped moving and went crazy!!! The guide said, "They must have it treed!" As we made are way over, I was looking and looking. Then the cat appeared at the top of the tree! My first thoughts were WOW, that's a mountain lion!!! I think I tripped over every bush as I made my way over. Once there, I took a bunch of pictures of the dogs and cat. We looked to make sure it was a mature animal before harvesting it. This was a great adventure! It was great to be in the snow in new country and I loved watching the dogs worked to solve the puzzle of, where did this cat go? It has also been a treat to snack on lion jerky and cook lion steaks at home!



PVCI December Monthly Skills Hunt Check-In!!!!



Here's some pics of the PVCI Check-In that takes place after every Monthly Skills Hunt! Good times, Good stories, Good food! Come out!

**** Have you ever looked at the CLASSIFIEDS in the back of this Newsletter? There are a whole range of topics from realtors, call-makers, guns, beetles, swimming pool help, etc. You get the picture? Take a look!**

*Listen to Don McDowell 7-9 AM Sunday on Radio 910 AM! About fishing and the Outdoors!

*Listen to the Go Show w/Mike Russell, 3:00P.M. Sunday on Radio 550 AM! Totally about the Outdoors!

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 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 when I'm allowed too. It doesn't have to be varmint calling related for me to volunteer to help get someone hooked on hunting.

Jan. 21-Javelina Hunt Seminar-CHA: Free seminar on hunting javelina covering, tips, tactics, scouting, calling, field care, more. Gun Raffle, other raffles, door prizes, refreshments, doors open at 6:00p.m. Seminar begins 7:00pm. Non-Perishable food item Raffle (1 ticket per item) Free-Limited seating. Location: Calvary Community Church 12612 N. Black Canyon Hwy, Phx. Host: Christian Hunters of America. Info: David , davidmyrick@christianhuntersofamerica.org 602-309-3430

Jan. 23-26- Beginners Small Game & Youth Javelina Camp APC: Learn from Experienced hunters how to hunt jackrabbits, quail & predators (all ages) plus javelina for youth w/37B permit-tags. Seminars, in-field instruction & meals provided. Location: Oracle Jct. Area Unit 37B. Host: AZ. Predator Callers, Red Bear Outfitters, Quail Forever, AZ Point Dog Club. Register Kara Jensen at Kara.Jensen.Az@gmail.com 602-309-2517, ArizonaPredatorCallers.com

Jan. 24-26 – 20C Youth, Javelina, Small Game & Predator Camp-YOU – Free Camp supporting units 20C, 18B & 16A to assist w/hunting javelina, small game & predators for beginners. Other outdoor activities, campout & food provided, some mentoring available. Location: Date Creek-Sunflower Flat. Host: YOU. Register: www.youthoutdoorsunlimited.com

Jan. 24-26 - Becoming an Outdoors Woman Deluxe Camp: Workshop for adult women (18 & older) that teaches basic outdoor skills in fun environment. Includes sessions on fishing, hunting, kayaking, hiking, others. Classes in day, evening's entertainment, fun. Fee Required, includes meals & lodging. Location: Saguaro Lake Ranch, Mesa. Host: AZ. Wildlife Federation. Info: www.azwildlife.org click on Education/BOW. Register: bow@azwildlife.org or call 480-201-7456.

Feb. 13-16 – Women's Javelina HAM Hunting Camp – A safe, fun hunt experience for Novice Adult Women (18 & older). We match experienced mentors with novice students. The novices will learn everything necessary for hunting javelina. Many of these skills can be used for hunting other game species. Location: Buenos Aires Wildlife Refuge, Arivaca, Unit 36A/B/C Host: AZ Outdoor Women, AZGFD, AZ Chapter SCI, AMDO. Info: Kathy Greene, tucsonhuntered@comcast.net

Feb. 20-23 - 19A Mentored Javelina Hunt Camp CHA: Camp for new javelina hunters both kids & adults. Attendees must have their own camp & hunt gear, proper license & tag. Parent, guardian able to hunt must be w/kids under 18. Registration required; space & mentors limited. Location: Cordes Junction Area Units 19A, 20A, 20B, 21. Host: Christian Hunters of America, AZ Elk Society, **Phoenix Varmint Callers.** Reg: David, davidmyrick@christianhuntersofamerica.org 602-309-3430.

Feb. 29 – Southern Arizona Quail Forever Family Day/Youth Hunt – All are welcome. We are particularly looking for youth & adults who want to learn about outdoor activities. The day's main event is a live quail hunt for kids ages 12-17. All needed gear & instruction is provided. There's room to camp for those who arrive Friday. Location: Empire Ranch north of Sonoita. Host: Southern Arizona Quail Forever. Contact: Tony Valentino (520) 465-6569 avalen18@aol.com

HUNT PICS



1st Pic-Ricardo w/mangy coyote. The other pics are from the opening Late Season Elk Hunt. Snow pics below the Rim.

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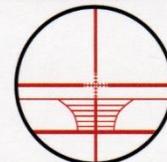
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