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Hunt
Chairman
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Nathan S.

Webmaster
James S.



March April 2020



Wayne W.

Presidents Message

As we're nearing the end of the season, I had to take a look back at all the great times we've had this last year. The friendships we've made, the camaraderie, all of the events, the volunteers behind the scenes that make it all happen, the experiences, oh, and last but not least, I can't forget the coyotes! I wanted to also remember a couple of awesome hunters and express a big thank you for the new experiences they've shared with me this year! Craig B, Ricardo G, Ken E, Bob J, and so many others! We have so many great people in the club with so many experiences to share! If I could make one recommendation this next year, sit next to somebody new this next year, make a new friend and invite them hunting!

THINGS TO KNOW:

*** **The PPCI Membership Fees have gone up in price.** Starting Jan. 1st, 2020, the new fees will be \$45 for a New Membership & \$35 to Renew.

*****PPCI holds its Club Elections in April of each year.** Club Nominations are part of each Monthly Meeting until then. If you'd like to run for an Officer or Board position or would like to nominate someone then say something when Nominations open. ALL Officer & some Board Positions are open.

****The March 7-8, 2020 Club Hunt** will be the last organized PPCI Hunt of the 2019-2020 hunt season. This has traditionally been our 2nd Novice Hunt where a Novice must be on the team in order to qualify. This year may be different? The Hunt Chairman will let us know at the Monthly Meeting.

*****Mar. 28-29 -AZGFD Outdoor Expo.** Hours: Sat: 9-5 Sun: 10-4. PPCI will have a booth here.

*****The 6-Month Hunt will END at the April Monthly Meeting!!!** Get ALL your Proof of Kills turned in by the end of the Meeting to get credit for the 2019-2020 season!

****To contribute stories, pictures, etc. to this Newsletter send items to: coyotecaller@cox.net** Share your stories/pictures, tips, recipes, etc. with us. These articles don't have to be about predators.

Join us on Facebook Page <http://www.facebook.com/ppci.org> PPCI Website www.ppci.org

*****Do you miss the Hard Copy of the PPCI 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 and pay the Membership Chairman, Frank B.



APC Youth Camp
Smore's Roast



Deckland's 1st Cottontail & Jackrabbit!



Jr & Ricardo w/2020 Javelina!

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

This is IMPORTANT: Yes, it is that time of year again, the time when nominations for the PPCI Officers & Board of Directors comes to be. Every PPCI position is annually up for re-election in April except for some of the Board Members. The PPCI Officers & Board Members are the decision-making core of PPCI & 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 PPCI 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. 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.

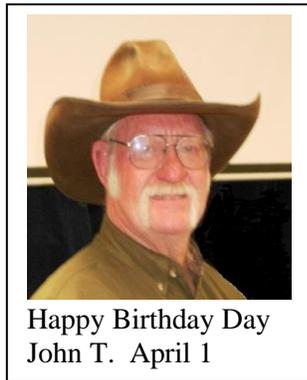
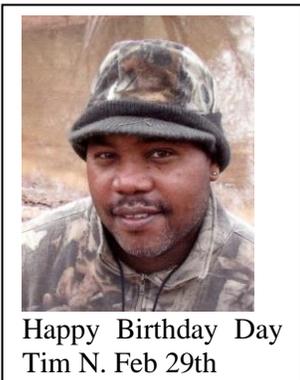
Vice-President: Assist the President in running meetings & business, also in charge of meetings if President absent.

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 should have some PPCI letterhead in his possession. This person assumes the President's position in case of emergency or the absence of both the President & 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 & time of the meeting, a list of the officers & directors present plus any motions or amendments. Keeps this record in a safe place & can furnish past minutes if needed.

Treasurer: Receives all dues & other funds coming into this club then deposits them to this club's account immediately upon receipt. Keeps accurate records of all receipts & disbursements & is able to 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 & he/she pays all the bills incurred by the Club including rent, trophies, locker, mailbox, etc. & responsible for the club's non-profit status & records. The President, V-President & Treasurer shall be authorized to sign checks, 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 of the 5 officer positions are 1-year terms.



PRODUCT REVIEW: THE PRIMOS CAT NIP

PREDATOR CALL: When it comes to learning how to use hand-held predator calls, the closed reed call is often a lot easier to learn than most open reed calls. Even then though, some new callers have a learning curve even with the closed reed as they seem to blow too hard and do what I call blaring. The sound is loud and blaringly sharp & unnatural to my ear. One of my suggestions to them is to have a bite-down call or two in their possession. The Primos Cat Nip Bite-Down Predator Call is one of two bite-down calls that are usually part of the 5 or so calls I have in my pocket when predator hunting. The Cat Nip like most all bite-downs is very easy to use. Basically, all you do is bite down on the end of the call and blow. Bite harder for higher pitched sounds and softer for lower pitched sounds. With this call I can do either a high-pitched cottontail or a jackrabbit sound or a fawn distress & if you can do the machine-gun with your diaphragm, also a bird distress. I currently have some Cat Nips in the PPCI Call Box that I purchased new at a good price!



JAVELINA HUNT 2020

by Eddie M.

Being able to scout before any season can be very beneficial to a hunter. The goals of this scouting may vary however most want to find their target critters in multiple locations plus get to know what those critters do, where they go to eat, bed, drink, escape, etc. Knowing these things plus having multiple camping locations before the season can really help you save time, etc. come season. The last few years I have been hunting the javelina rifle season with Ivan & his wife Sarah C. This Unit has proven to be quite good most years with at least one if not both of us getting a javelina. The reason I hunt the rifle season is that the January archery season is usually so busy. We have a Club Hunt plus a Multi-Club Hunt plus I usually help Kara of APC with her Javelina/Small Game/Predator Camp, plus duck season also ends at the end of January. This doesn't leave much time for javelina. Also, Sarah's Birthday is usually right around the rifle javelina season & since she likes to celebrate it out there with us (not really hunting, this is her vacation), I choose the rifle season with them. The last 2 or so years though, Ivan has hunted both the archery & rifle javelina seasons (you can now legally kill 2 javelina per year provided they are on different hunts). Last year he hunted with Club Member Ricardo G. & he was able to record Ivan's 1st archery javelina kill. This year the two of them got together & decided to change the Hunt Unit to one that Ricardo knows.



I received a call from Ricardo before I left for the hunt. The actual camp location had changed due to someone else already being camped there. I was thus given the new camp location instructions. They would in a sense, leave the light on for me. I arrived around 3:00A.M., turned out the lantern light and slept in the truck. Folks were moving at 5:30A.M. so I dressed & showed my face. Roark and R. Junior followed Ricardo and Ivan up the hill behind camp to hunt. I opted to wait for Club Member Sean Y, and his son Deckland. Sean had worked all night, got off at 3A.M. Got an hour or so of sleep then headed for the camp. Sarah slept in, it's her vacation. Sean arrived in 10 or so minutes and we went and glassed some areas up the road from camp with no success. We then drove to a location that we had scouted before the hunt. There had been some sign there then and there was more now. I finally did glass one javelina high up on the opposite hill however it bedded down before I could show the others. We came back to camp for lunch & I looked at the hills in front of camp. They were high but looked good. Sarah said that the other guys had come back to camp & left again towards those hills in front of us. A Big Rainstorm was supposed to hit us by tomorrow. This was echoed by the AZGFD Officer that checked my license and tag. He said that one of the nearby towns was either on a flood watch or warning and that no one was seeing any javelina but us.

We ended up back where I'd seen the javelina. This time I found 2 of them yet was again unable to show the other two. There was a serious downhill, go across a creek, then a serious uphill even higher than we were on the other side to get to where I'd seen the javelina. I opted to go for it since the creek might be unpassable tomorrow after the rain. I asked if they wanted to go and am glad they declined as getting down, across and up the other side would have been too much for most and I had to move to get up there before it got dark. I got close and seeing nothing used the call. The only answer was a gray fox screaming back at me. I got off the hill and to the creek before it got too dark and finally made it to the truck. Both guys were impressed by what I'd done. It had taken me 45 minutes to get to the calling location. Sean said it would have taken him 2 days. The whole process took about 1-1/2 hours for me. Back at camp there were 2 javelina hanging! Junior had missed 2 shots and both Ricardo and Ivan had used the same rifle to get theirs. We talked about the coming storm and they went ahead and skinned and cut up their javelina that night putting the meat into coolers.

The rain began just after 5 A.M. and lasted off and on most of that day with many periods of heavy rain. Thank goodness for the EZ Shelters that kept us from getting soaked. During one of the mini-lulls, 2 older Calif. Hunters drove up asking about javelina hunting. They had driven 200 or more miles so far and hadn't seen anything yet. The maps came out and Ricardo graciously gave them an area to hunt. There was no hunting that day as it was too wet to go anywhere. That night the rain really ceased for a bit and we all sang to and celebrated Sarah's Birthday though it wasn't until Tuesday. She received some decent gifts plus a B-Day card signed by all of us.

The next morning, we all climbed the mountain where the 2 javelina died. Once on top I found 2 right away however Junior found 4 that were closer. Ricardo took Junior and Deckland closer and soon the shots rang out but we all missed. We checked our shots and came back to camp. Ricardo and Junior left for home. That evening one of Sean's good friends came to help and we went to a new location. Javelina were found and some predator calling got them moving down a draw. Sean got his son & me in front of them. As soon as the 1st string of javelina showed, Deckland fired, then all of us started shooting. We should have been closer. The next morning, we climbed the mountain with Ivan and found more javelina, but they were running? Ivan had to leave. We stayed & went up and around towards a land bridge that Sean saw on the maps of his phone. Sure enough, at the first stop. I found javelina on my 1st sweep. The initial 2 turned into between 12 and 15! We tried closing the distance however at 185 yards they began to spook. More shots rang out, nothing. We then moved to an opposite hill and got closer checking the wash where they'd run. Sean then dropped one at 70 yards. We took pics and some video for Ricardo's **Hunting Channel on You Tube at Hardcore Hunting**, where you can view it **Now!** We cleaned the javelina, rested & made our way out. We went home the next day, after it got very windy. All total, there were 3 tags filled out of 7. I'm sure we will be back next year. By the way, Deckland also shot his first 2 rabbits!

ANNUAL APC JUNIOR JAVELINA/SMALL GAME/PREDATOR CAMP by Eddie M.

The last few years APC Member Kara J. has hosted a Javelina/Small Game/ Predator Camp. This Camp is open to both beginning Youth & Adult Hunters but is really geared towards the Youth. You can find this Camp listed in the Arizona Game & Fish Fall Regulations. The purpose of this Camp is to get the kids away from the buttons & outside with their parents doing something together, with a Mentor that has some experience in the field. The whole idea being that If the hunter has fun. They will likely do what they are doing again.

Besides instruction & mentoring, this Camp provides free camping, free meals and some free hunt-related gifts for the Youth. Some AZGFD officers are always present. They answer questions, help mentor and provide some instruction. This year Red Bear Outfitters didn't make it to do the cooking, so I believe that some of the AZ. Deer Association folks did the honors & they did a fine job! Also absent this year were the quail folks. More of the kids who hunted & got nothing may have gone home with their first kill had they been present. We still had a Good Time, the Youth learning how to pursue javelina, small game & predators. I did hear of 2 javelina that were harvested. There were also some jackrabbits taken & at least one coyote was taken by Ken's group I believe. I did a skinning demo on that coyote. This is always fascinating to those who watch the process for the first time. Other Highlights were the meals, the overall camaraderie, Kara's smile (she is a Great Host), John A's new puppy, the Youth Prize Giveaway including a rifle on Saturday evening, the campfire, campfire talk & the Roasting-of-the-Marshmallows or making Smore's. As this weekend seems to always fall on the last 2 days of duck season, I left Saturday night after the festivities to pursue ducks. I am sure that Sunday at Camp went just fine.



CONSIDER A WYOMING ANTELOPE ADVENTURE!!! By Eddie M.

Sometimes the best way to promote the present day is to talk about & show what happen in the past. This is an old article from the March 2002 Predator Tales. Yes, I was the Newsletter Editor back then also. I wanted to bring this old article forth to show the present-day Club Member a potential adventure that you could be missing out on. Now it's no secret that getting drawn for antelope here in Arizona can take a very long time. I had 16 points or so when I was drawn yet that is really nothing compared to the 20 to 30 or more points that some have. I have been to Wyoming to hunt antelope 7 times! Wyoming is still a draw state & you will not get drawn every year. Also, the prices have gone way up in my book for antelope buck or any tags & that's why it's probably been over 15 years since I went back. **Still, if you want to tag an antelope before you die or have a youth or a woman that you are introducing to hunting, Wyoming is Great as you'll kill something.**

Arizona is blessed when it comes to big-game critters such as elk, deer, bighorn & antelope. However, drawing a tag for these critters can sometime be downright impossible. On certain critters, namely the bighorns & rifle antelope a wait of 20+ years is not uncommon! One solution to this problem is to hunt another state where the critter you want is more plentiful thus making the tag easier to draw. Years ago, Club Member Will H. and I did just that picking Colorado mule deer as the first critter to go after. Three years we tried without success. Then one day, the Fred C. Wyoming Video Adventure with Bill W. was seen. Some of these guys had to do a lot of shooting but everyone got their antelope. We tried Wyoming & hunted the Bolton Ranch near Rawlings, Wyoming along with Walt & Ginger H. & Nick M. Non-resident doe tags that year sold for \$25 apiece & you were allowed up to 5 doe tags in some units! We took advantage of this & the 5 of us brought home 16 antelope that year!

The Bolton Ranch trespass fee increased the next year, so Will & I put in for public land & were drawn along with 70 plus year old John M. There were no doe tags that year because of a bad winterkill. We all eventually tagged out on the 3rd and 4th day. The next year we put in for a harder to draw trophy unit and had 3 other members also on the tag. I explained to the new guys that this was a great hunt and that we would all harvest critters, it was just a matter of what. I also told them not to shoot the 1st buck that they saw as there would be multiple opportunities for each of us per day. All 3 new guys tagged out the 1st day. Will and I also tagged out 2 days later. We all had a great time!

Then the antelope tag fee increased. Discouraged, we either didn't put in or tried and weren't drawn all the way up to the year 2001 when Will & I decided "Why not try for Wyoming again?" Do you think anyone else would be interested? Wyoming has a draw similar to Arizona where you are allowed a choice of 5 Hunt Units, some of which have much more public land than others. Six hunters max are allowed per tag. We found 3 other guys, Jay C., Nidal M. & Andy C. I chose the units & again put in for the harder to draw trophy unit that had Plenty of public land for the 1st Choice. We drew & everyone was very excited!

Plans were made, BLM maps purchased, vacation time taken and soon 2 vehicles were on the road for the 13-hour drive. We left on a Friday evening after work & planned to be back in Arizona by the following Sunday though I didn't think that we would need that much time. Arriving in Wyoming on Saturday evening, we purchased our \$10 Conservation Stamps, signed them, then went out to take a look. That evening, stalks on antelope were made. Though none were harvested, we sure scared lots of sage grouse. I also explained to these new guys that this was a great hunt & that we would all harvest, it was just a matter of what you pulled the trigger on. Also, don't shoot the first buck you see, as you will all have multiple opportunities per day.

Jay C. harvested the first buck that he saw the next morning. Will and Andy followed the next day with Nidal & I the 3rd day. Nidal had the longest shot at 316 yards. He also shot a coyote at 254 yards! Andy's buck was the prettiest. Will had to travel the farthest, up a mountain, to recover his. After tagging out most of the guys purchased small game permits (\$15 per day) and successfully went after sage grouse. We had a wonderful time going after the B-52 Bombers, as I like to call them.

This is also a Great Hunt if you want to experience antelope hunting and actually hunt and not get another AZ Pink Slip. The Deadline used to be and probably is still March 15.



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 March will be a 12 ga. Winchester XP w/26" barrel, 2 ¾ " , 3" & 3 ½ " plus 3 chokes, has black synthetic stock. The Gun for April has yet to be determined.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec. 1-May 31- Daylong Shooting Hours or Night Hunting for coyotes is open. Arizona Hunt Units where coyotes may be hunted daylong or at night.: Hunt Units 4A, 4B (north of I-40), 5A, 5B, 8, 10, 12A, 12B, 13A, 13B, 15A, 15B, 15C, 15D, 16A, 17A, 17B, 18A, 18B, 19A, 19B, 20A, 31, 32, 42 & 44A. The aid of artificial lights is permitted however the light may NOT be attached to or operated from a vehicle. Also, individuals may not use or even possess any electronic night vision equipment, thermal imaging devices & laser sights or electronically enhanced light-gathering devices. Check Regs.

Feb. 28 – Trapping Season ends.

Mar. 4 - This is the 1st Wednesday. PPCI Monthly Meeting & 6822 N. 57th Drive, Glendale, AZ. 7:00P.M. Nominations.

Mar. 7-8 – PPCI Monthly Hunt. Last Organized Club Hunt of the 2017-2018 season.

Mar.13-15-International Sportsmen's Expo (ISE) at West World in Scottsdale, AZ. 1660 N. Pima Road. Enter \$12-Park \$5.

Mar. 17-CHA Turkey Hunting Seminar: Free seminar teaching turkey hunting. Learn scouting, locating & calling these birds Raffles, auctions, door prizes, vendors, more. Calvary Community Church, 12612 N. 33rd Ave. Phx, AZ. 85023. Doors open at 6:00p.m. Seminars begin at 7:00p.m. PPCI will have a booth here. (Volunteers?)

Mar. 18 - This is the 3rd Wednesday. PPCI Board Meeting possibly at Barro's Pizza 3053 W Aqua Fria FRWY;

Mar. 20 -21 - Arizona Game & Fish Commission Meeting at 555 N. Greasewood Rd. Tucson 520-628-5376

Mar. 20 – Spring Bear Season opens in some Hunt Units. Check your Hunt Regs.

Mar. 28-29-AZ. Game & Fish Dept. Outdoor Expo at the Ben Avery Shooting Range. We will have a booth. More info.

Mar. 31 – Bobcat, fox, raccoon, badger, weasel, ringtail, coatimundi & Gunnison's Prairie Dog seasons end.

April 1 - This is the 1st Wednesday. PPCI Monthly Meeting & 6822 N. 57th Drive, Glendale, AZ. 7:00P.M. Club Elections Held! The 6-Month Hunt Will End at the April Monthly Meeting. Get all your Proof of Kills turned in by the end of the Meeting to get credit for the season!

April 3-4 - Arizona Game & Fish Commission Meeting in Phoenix

April 14 – AES Annual Banquet Mesa Convention Center 263 N Center ST. Mesa, AZ.

April 15 - This is the 3rd Wednesday. PPCI Board Meeting possibly at Barro's Pizza 3053 W Aqua Fria FRWY

April 16-19 – Unit 23 Youth Spring Turkey Hunting Camp-Marvin Robbins Memorial: Locations: Learn to hunt Arizona's wild turkeys in this mentored camp. Seminars, meals, camping provided. Location: East of Payson Area, Colcord Ridge Campground. Units 23, 4A, 4B & 3C. Host: NWTF, AZ Elk Society, **Phoenix Varmint Callers Inc**, Register: Rich Williams at azgobbler60@gmail.com

April-17-18- Arizona Game & Fish Commission Meeting at AZGFD bldg. 5000 W. Carefree Hwy Phoenix 602-942-3000

April-17 Youth Turkey Season Opens. April 24 Early Spring & May 1 Late Spring Turkey Seasons Open. Check Hunt Regs

. ***** 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

PPCI MEMBERSHIP COUNT: 167 PPCI WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS: Andy F. & Frank S.

UPCOMING EVENT: TURKEY HUNTING SEMINAR & SHOW- CHA MARCH 17, 2020

Free seminar teaching turkey hunting. Learn scouting, locating & calling these birds. Awesome raffles/auctions, door prizes & refreshments. Bring a non-perishable food item to be entered into a special raffle. Location: Calvary Community Church, 12612 N. 33rd Ave., Phx, west entrance. Doors open at 6:00p.m. Seminars begin at 7:00p.m. Seating is limited. Host: Christian Hunters of America, Info: AJ Murosky www.desertchristianarchers.org **PVCI will have a booth at Event, volunteers needed.**

INTERNATIONAL SPORTSMEN'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

UPCOMING EVENT: 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. **PVCI 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. and Sunday from 9:00A.M. to 4:00P.M. For more information about this weekend, visit www.azgfd.gov/expo

SHED HUNTING SEASON IS HERE!!!

by Eddie M.

As you know from the above article, Will and Jessica flew to Nashville, TN. and went to the Annual NWTF Convention. They were very impressed by the whole experience. When I recently called them to ask if Jessica S. could share their experiences with us, I caught them in the act! The of shed antler hunting. Probably 98% of the elk & deer that have antlers on their head, drop or shed these antlers every year & grow a set of new ones. There is a market for these antlers, & many go out looking for them. The last Fur-Fish-n-Game that I looked at had brown elk antlers \$14 a pound & brown deer antler at \$9 a pound. Moose antlers also bring money but since we have no moose.... The big bull elk will start losing their antlers in late February & early to mid-March. I have seen spike elk that still had antlers in April. Deer begin losing their antlers more toward mid to late March at least up on the North Kaibab they do. **If it snows**, then the places to

for elk antlers will be where the elk winter, usually in country that is lower than the pines. Look for bedding areas on the edges of canyons, rims and hills. Also check fence lines in juniper country and country that has thick cover especially if there are a lot of small oak trees. Check waterholes, check on dirt roads, basically check places where elk walk. If it does not snow, then antlers can even be found in the pines. For deer, again look for bedding areas on high places, especially the edges of canyons and hills. On the North Kaibab you simply must look at the tops of the hills that have the thick cliffrose. Cliffrose is a very important winter deer

food (look it up). Tags are usually given out on the North Kaibab by determining how bad or not the cliffrose have been browsed. If there is or has been snow, then look at the canyons concentrating on the South & East

tops & sides of the hills where the sun shines the most & melts that snow. Don't be afraid to check canyons away from the road. I sometimes wish we at PVCI had a Shed Antler Contest for fun. However, it is probably best that we don't. The Deer & Elk Clubs don't do it & we don't need any "Special Regulations" from the AZGFD. By the way, if you ever hunt the San Carlos Indian Reservation for predators, turkey's, etc. Do Not get caught with antlers on you or your vehicle as they don't allow it. I take a picture with it then put it back. In New Mexico you can only collect antlers not attached to a skull.



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look



44th Annual NWTF Convention & Sport Show

by Jessica S.



time, meeting fellow hunters from across the country who are passionate about the sport and everything turkey.

We flew on American, Flagstaff to Nashville with a connection in Dallas. Yes, I actually got Will on a plane! A complimentary shuttle took us to the Ramada, a short 10-minute walk from the convention. They also provided free hourly shuttles to and from the show. We arrived Wednesday, a day before the official opening and were able to settle in and explore the Gaylord Resort - a sprawling luxury hotel filled with tropical plants and cascading waterfalls. The skylight was lit up with turkey images setting the mood for the days to come.

The show opened Thursday morning and I cannot stress enough the importance of going on the first day because the crowds are manageable, and the vendors are fully stocked. This year's show was the largest at over 350 vendors. Nearly all geared towards anything and everything turkey - calls, camo, blinds, decoys, firearms, ammo, outfitters, taxidermy, hunting accessories and artwork. There were booths catering to deer and duck hunters too and various state G&F Departments were on hand answering questions. Some vendors had steep show discounts (30-70% off) and there was lots of free swag too. I was able to skip the wait list and purchase direct from some of the best custom call makers. I blew my budget in the first hour! I stopped at many booths to chat and run calls. We barely covered half the showroom in a day. For those wanting to give their wallet a break there were preliminary calling competitions and hunting seminars to watch.

We awoke early Friday to enjoy the hotels complimentary breakfast and took the free shuttle to the convention for another full day of activities. I spent most of the morning in the custom call room. This was the highlight of the show! A room filled with hundreds of turkey, duck and crow calls of every style, surface and combination imaginable. These calls were submitted for competition and should be considered the makers finest work. You are allowed to run and purchase them on silent bid. I spent hours trying as many as I could and learned to run a few new to me, like scratch boxes and push pins. Next, was a fun turkey hunting seminar by Will Primos and staff. We got a photo op and he signed my Jackpot slate used to call my first turkey. We spent the afternoon finishing the second half of the sport show and I went around getting autographs from notables like Harold Knight and Mike Waddell. We finished the day in the auditorium listening to the junior "poults" practice for the calling competition. These kids are amazing!!

Saturday is a day best spent in the custom call room or watching the calling competition finals. The crowd was insane. The showroom was packed and loud. Many vendors were already low on stock or sold out. Will braved the showroom one more time while I watched the live call auction. All first-place calls were sold, some fetching upwards of \$1000+. My paddle number never saw the light of day! Final raffles and drawings took place and the silent bid sheets closed. I ran more custom calls and we walked through a conservation/education section and viewed the taxidermy room full of beautiful gobblers and whitetails. After taking it all in, we left for the airport and our flight home.

We had the most amazing time at this show and did it on a budget with travel and room accommodations under \$500 a person. Book as early as possible. I did so in August. As the date approached, room rates rose and then sold out. Stay at one of several hotels near the Opryland. It's half the cost versus the resort. Getting a group together and sharing a room would be even cheaper. I highly recommend the Ramada by Wyndham Nashville/Music Valley. They're clean, quiet and provide an excellent free breakfast and shuttle which saved us a meal and rental car fees. There are several restaurants within walking distance including the Opry Mills Mall which has an excellent food court. A \$35 NWTF membership gets you unlimited show access plus you'll receive a \$25 Bass Pro gift card. If money is no object you can pay to attend one of several dinner banquets where they auction calls, firearms and exclusive hunt packages. Arrive early and plan to attend all 3 days. My final tip would be to save your money for the show & don't over pack. You'll need the suitcase space for all the awesome calls & gear you'll come home with!



SPRING TURKEY SEASON IS COMING!!! (GETTING READY)

by Eddie M.



Oh, the wonderful month of March is finally here! It is very sad in one respect as after this month 95% of us predator hunters stop hunting predators so that they can raise their young thus replenishing their numbers. It is also sad because the HEAT is coming to us desert folks. It is wonderful to turkey hunters as this is the month when breeding begins....and if a wild turkey gobbler wants to breed, then he had better gobble to attract the hens to come to him....and gobblers want to breed! I would wait a week or two however if you are new to spring turkey hunting or know

someone who is, don't wait until April to have fun in the woods, go in March! March is a great month to take someone into the woods and show them what turkey sign looks like plus you can practice listening for and calling in toms (take their picture, the flash doesn't seem to bother them). You can also practice your roosting techniques. Now you may/may not want to do these things in the areas where you might be hunting however even here, you can practice your roosting techniques and listen and try to find as many gobblers as you can so that you have options once the woods get busy with hunters.

In my preparation, I like to start with re-reading one of my favorite turkey hunting books, "The Old Pro Turkey Hunter" by Gene Nunnery. Gene has killed a LOT of wild turkey gobblers however he does it the "fair way" by not hunting from a blind on a food plot or from a baited area or shooting them out of a tree or shooting them with a scoped rifle. He hunts them one on one with a shotgun or bow, you and the gobbler. He says that his book may actually make you kill less turkeys after reading it and he has a test towards the end of the book to determine if you are a "Master Turkey Caller." Good reading!

Do you know what a wild turkey sounds like? The basic idea in hunting spring gobblers is that when a gobbler wakes up during breeding season, if he wants to mate, he must gobble. When the hens hear the gobbling, they will come to the gobbler to eventually get bred. What you are doing when you are spring turkey hunting is trying to sound like a hen BUT you need to make the gobbler come to you or in a sense, Reverse Nature! Do you know what the different hen sounds mean, the cluck, the yelp, the purr, the lost call, the alarm putt? Purchase a wild turkey Instruction DVD and a DVD with wild turkey language on it and listen. Then go and purchase a turkey call, I would buy a friction-type call such as a box or slate. If you don't know how, see if the call can be demonstrated in the store. All the books seem to suggest that the box call is the easiest call to learn to use. I disagree and say that the slate call is the easiest. Practice now and get proficient with at least 2 calls. I use an aluminum slate and a diaphragm. Most all my calling is done with the slate however once the gobbler gets close, that shiny slate has to be put behind something. That's when the diaphragm can be used. I usually just do clucks with it however when the gobbler is close & looking for the source of the sound, some clucks can help fool or confirm, okay she is here but where?

Your shotgun should have been up and pointing even before the gobbler came into view. Trying to quickdraw a gobbler once he is close won't work 98 to 99% of the time. The birds are Big, heck a gobbler can weigh 20lbs. or more however they are also very quick and can fly away on a dime! They must be as many of the critters in the woods wants to eat them.

Do you have all the gear that you will need? Pouches for the slate calls, holders for the box calls, enough of the correct chalk, sanding or roughing up material, a double-reed diaphragm call (my choice), camo, facemask & gloves, broken in boots. Decoys if you use them and stakes for all of them. Do you have turkey loads? I use #5 however #6 or the Duplex loads can also be good. I stay away from #4's because Marvin Robbins in one of his seminars said that they would kill a man plus most of the misses that others have had happen with #4 turkey loads. Do you want a turkey vest (I don't use them)?

Be sure to pattern your shotgun. Most of us sight-in our rifles before hunting big game but never pattern our shotguns!

Even though I have killed over 40 gobblers, I still try to make every turkey-hunting seminar that I hear about. I do not know it all and there are gobblers that I can get oh so close, that I never even see! It is like they are playing with me. I tell you what, this turkey calling is similar to predator calling only the gobblers are often making noise. A wild spring turkey gobbler that wants to attract females to him is LOUD! So, you are calling, and the gobbler is coming, and you know it because the closer he gets, the LOUDER he gets! Okay, your shotgun is up, and he comes into view, man is he BIG and Beautiful! Then he goes into strut, fluffing up all of his feathers, even the tail feathers are all up and spread wide, "He was as big as a cow!" was the comment that beginning turkey hunter Ron P. told me on the 1st gobbler that he saw in strut! Then the gobbler let's out a Thunderous Gobble while you are watching! I'm telling you that memories will be made, and you will want more! Spring wild turkey hunting can easily get into your blood and will give you something to look forward to each year. I in fact look at my life and wonder how many more spring turkey hunts do I have left? One last tip, when it comes time to shoot, don't shoot the head, it moves too much. Also don't shoot the gobbler when



he is in full strut, instead wait until he comes out of it and looks around. Shoot the gobbler in the neck, about mid-neck or just above where the neck meets the body. This part of the gobbler doesn't move near as much as the head. Good Luck to you all and "Make the shot count!"

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 PVC member & often wear my PVC T-Shirt. It doesn't have to be varmint calling related for me to volunteer to help get someone hooked hunting.

March 6-8 - Junior Jack Kamp-AZSCI: Recent Hunter Ed graduate junior hunters learn about Jackrabbit biology/hunting. Including a live hunt, harvesting, skinning & cooking jackrabbit meat. Location: Three Points, southwest of Tucson, Unit 36A. Host: SCI-AZ Chapter. Info: Bobby Boido, azsci@yahoo.com 520-490-8367.

March 17-Turkey Hunting Seminar-CHA: Learn scouting, locating & calling these birds. Awesome raffles/auctions, door prizes, refreshments, more. Bring a non-perishable food item to be entered into a special raffle. Location: Calvary Comm. Church, 12612 N. Black Canyon Hwy. Phx. (west entrance) Doors open at 6:00p.m. Seminars begin at 7:00p.m. Host: Christian Hunters of America. Info. David, davidmyrick@christianhuntersofamerica.org or 602-309-3430.

April 16-19 -Unit 6A Youth Spring Turkey Hunting Camp-Marvin Robbins Memorial: Learn to hunt AZ wild turkeys in this mentored camp, seminars, outdoor skill activities & camping. Meals provided. Location: Happy Jack Area: Units 6A, 5A, 5B. Host: NWTF, AZ Wildlife Federation, Register: Tim Denny, longbeardsaz@gmail.com **April 16-19 – Unit 23 Youth Spring Turkey**

Hunting Camp-Marvin Robbins Memorial: Learn to hunt AZ wild turkeys in this mentored camp, seminars, outdoor skill activities & camping. Meals provided. Locations: East of Payson Area, Colcord Ridge Campground. Units 23, 4A, 4B & 3C. Host: NWTF, AZ Elk Society, **Phoenix Varmint Callers**, Register: Rich Williams at azgobbler60@gmail.com **April 16-19-Youth**

Spring Turkey Hunt Units 1/27 Marvin Robbins Memorial: Learn to hunt AZ wild turkeys in this mentored camp, seminars, outdoor skill activities & camping. Meals provided. Location: White Mountains Area Unit 1, 27. Host: Youth Outdoors Unlimited., NWTF, AZGFD, AZ& Rocky Mtn. Elk Society. Register: www.youthoutdoorsunlimited.com

April 17-19- Becoming An Outdoors Woman: Workshop for adult women (18 & older) that teaches basic outdoor skills in fun environment including sessions on fishing, hunting, kayaking, hiking, camping, GPS and more are offered. Classes in the day, evenings for entertainment, socializing, fun. Fee required this includes lodging & meals. Location: Friendly Pines Camp in Prescott. Host: AZ. Wildlife Federation. Info: www.azwildlife.org click on Education/BOW. Register at 480-201-7456 or bow@azwildlif.org

****MULTI-CLUB HUNT RESULTS: Arizona Predator Callers, Phoenix Varmint Callers, Xtreme Predator Callers**

PVCI MONTHLY SKILLS HUNT REPORT

JANUARY CLUB HUNT: There were 14 hunters that ventured forth for the Hunt. The Total Harvest was 17 coyotes, 5 foxes. Here are the Results:

Craig B & Wayne W.

Total: 10 coyotes

Tim L. & Mark S.

Total: 7 coyotes

Mark M. & Shawn G.

Total: 5 foxes

FEBRUARY (Extra Points for Handgun, Muzzleloader, Archery) CLUB HUNT:

This was our Annual (HAM) Predator Hunt where you received extra points for using these weapons instead of a shotgun or rifle. 15 hunters ventured forth on this weekend. The results were as follows: with six groups hunting only 2 checked in with animals: Tim L. & Nathan S. 1 bobcat, 2 coyotes/muzzleloader, & 1 coyote normal next Mark S. 3 Foxes

HUNT PICS



Jessica with Custom Call Maker David Halloran At NWTF Conv. in Nashville!!

Will H & Will Primos

Father & Son hunting together!

Results, Sean w/first javelina!

Tim & Jay w/Cat Nip Called Coyotes!!

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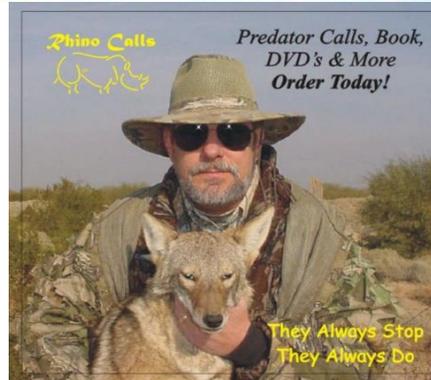


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