

Predator Tales

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

January 13, 2025

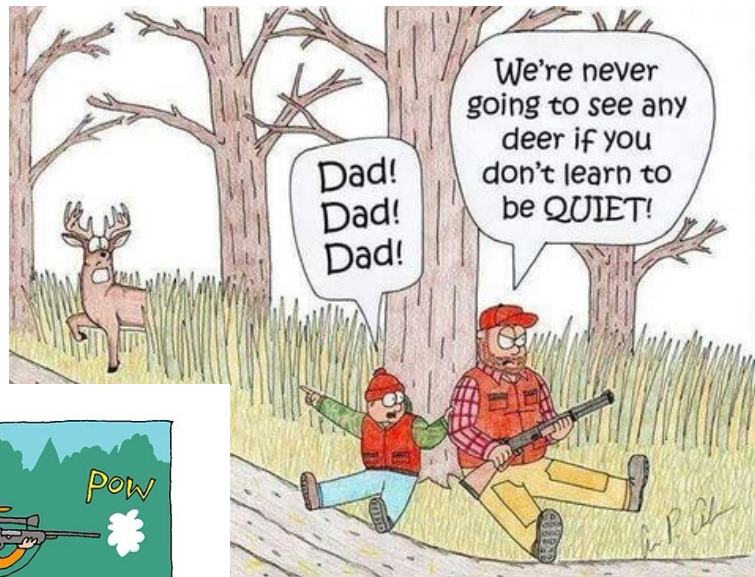
Well the monthly scrabble hunts are almost behind us. Hopefully, all the teams that went out were able to stay cool. Unfortunately, not very many animals were harvested. They say the cooler weather is coming to make easier to head out and hunt.

Due to all the issues we have had with membership records we have sent out renewal notices. If you have not paid for your membership in the last year, please do so. You can do it on line at the website, mail a check or pay at the meeting. Let's get our memberships caught up, as we will be purging all expired membership records.

Craig B, President



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Why we miss!

OK, I'll admit it, guilty as charged. I did miss one coyote last season!

But seriously, who hasn't?? Have you ever missed that shot and then wondered what in the heck happened? There are plenty of excuses we can come up with, but here are a few things to consider next time you miss. After all, who wants to hit less of the shots they take, am I right??

Flinching: Flinching is a really common reason for missing. Usually due to shooting a caliber that you aren't used to, or don't have enough time on, so you're anticipating the shot before it goes off. Flinching can be reduced by practicing and working up to the caliber you're using.

Coyote Fever! We all get it, it's that adrenaline rush that keeps us coming back for more! Learn to manage it through breathing and staying alert on the stand!



Breathing: Breathing during the shot can cause you to miss. Practice your breathing and be consistent with it.

Rushing: Sometimes being in a hurry to take the shot can cause a miss. Practice lip squeaking or barking to stop the animal, it's usually a better option and actually works in many cases, cause you weren't really gonna make that shot anyway, were you?

Changing ammo: Find the right bullet weight and speed that matches your rifle and will shoot consistent groups. That might mean buying one box of everything and trying it to see what the gun likes. Then stick with it! Don't change ammo without re-zeroing your rifle!

Not using a rest: Unless you've got arms like Swartzenegger, you might need something steady to rest your gun on. Make sure you're resting it on the front of the stock, and not the barrel. Never rest your barrel on anything, it's guaranteed to throw off the barrel harmonics and cause a miss.

Inconsistent stock weld: If your stock weld into your shoulder isn't consistent, your eye will be in a different position for each shot in the scope, causing you to aim at different points. Try it next time you're out practicing and you'll know this one is a biggie.

Optics: Spend your money on the right scope. A good fitting scope will come right to eye level without pushing, pulling, or excessive body adjustments. Make sure you're looking through the center of the scope, adjust it before you start the stand, not during.

Stiff trigger: A high-poundage gritty or stiff trigger (think AR15) can cause you to miss due to having to pull too hard to make the gun go off. Likewise, a trigger that is too light and goes off when you aren't ready yet can cause a miss, in addition to being dangerous. Aftermarket triggers are readily available and not too expensive if you shop around. Ask a buddy what they suggest or even better go out target practicing together and try different triggers and see what you like! Club events are a good time to ask "Hey can I shoot that?"

Not properly sighted in – shame on you for getting to the field without doing this first! Bore-sighting is only a preliminary adjustment to get it on paper, and not a final adjustment. Sight in your rifle in the field with the actual ammo you will be hunting with. Using different manufacturers with similar bullet weights isn't the same, use the same stuff.

Shooting through brush/grass - unless your wife but bought you a BARRETT 50 Cal, try to shoot above the grass and around brush.

Watching for the hit – looking around the scope to see if you hit the animal is a bad habit we all fight. Instead, use your ears to listen for the "whop". Make a good shot and trust the shot.

You just plain suck at shooting! Get off the couch and go out and practice some more would ya!? You get good at what you practice!

Or dare I say . . . Buy a shotgun? lol



CALIBER HIGHLIGHTS— 223 Remington

Wayne W

This month I wanted to cover one of the more popular, if not THE most popular cartridge used by a large majority of varmint hunters and target shooters. Developed in 1957 by Remington Arms, this small-caliber, high-velocity round is one of my favorites to shoot. Easy-to-find, inexpensive, deadly accurate, an available for a wide variety of semi-automatic and manual/bolt action firearms and pistols.

Development of this round started with the .222 Remington cartridge, but performance requirements by the military, once met, exceeded acceptable chamber pressures, so adjustments were made and this round became the 223 Remington we know and love today!. Bullet weights are available from 40gr up beyond 75gr, and I've found the 223 to be exceptionally accurate when the right ammunition is used.

Standard twist rates run in the 1:8 through 1:12, with my personal preference in the 1:8 based on the projectiles I prefer to shoot. I've found 50-53gr projectiles will still stabilize in my firearms, don't tend to "splash" on the surface, are appropriately sized for most predators, and provide a good mixture of velocity vs. accuracy. Hornady's 75gr ELD-Match are accurate and fly straight and true out to 700 yards in my Axis Precision, and Sierra's 55gr Blitzking are available in 500 count boxes and are also a favorite to performer.

Velocities vary with bullet weight, powder, charge, and firearm used, but are easily customized for just about



A variety of .223 Remington cartridges with a .308 Winchester (right) for comparison



any application. Semi-autos velocities will vary significantly based on either a carbine length or rifle length barrel. When hand-loaded for higher velocities, special care should be taken to match pressures with the firearm used. I would not want to drop one of my bolt action loads into an AR15, which function (or fail to function) based on cartridge pressures. Timing on when your AR15 bolt decides to open can tear brass up and cause Failure-to-Function issues that will drive you mad. Special care should also be taken to inspect and match brass. Much of the 5.56 brass has a thicker case which can result in significantly higher pressures.

Most reloading books have separate sections

for reloading 223 Rem vs. 5.56 so make sure to double check all components before loading and don't be afraid to call the mfg or reloading site with questions. Sierra provides separate loading sections for .223 Remington and 5.56×45mm NATO and also recommends different loads for bolt-action rifles as compared to semiautomatic rifles. Hornady has something similar but refers to the 5.56 as the "223 Remington Service Rifle". 223 Remington works off of lower pressure, so NEVER fire a 5.56 through a 223 barrel unless the manufacturer has it listed in the instruction manual.

Powders ? It's hard to choose due to the massive selection. Benchmark, H335 are good for most loadings, 748 is inexpensive and can drive good velocities while maintaining accuracy, along with Varget and CFE223. It's almost hard to go wrong with any combination

Primers are also available again and pricing is coming back down. For standard loads most primers will function well. for AR15 and higher pressure loads I tend to lean towards the CCI primers due to the harder cup. Good luck to everyone this season, shoot straight, keep your powder dry and I hope to see you at check-in!!



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We are looking for volunteers to work at the AZGF Expo this year. If you are interested in signing up, please contact Gary.

The Arizona Elk Society is always looking for volunteers to participate in events. They are looking for volunteers for the "Wilk in the City Youth Outdoor Skills Camp" and a Golf Tournament supporting Veterans. If you are interested please contact Lindsay Layton at the Elks Society : lindsayl@arizonaelksociety.org



RECIPE CORNER

Venison Marinade

This recipe is a great basic marinade that you could tinker with and alter to suit your own tastes. What's important is the apple cider, which helps break down some of the tissue in the meat to tenderize and plump up your cut.

Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup apple cider (or apple juice)
- 1/4 cup Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tsp dried rosemary
- 2 tsp garlic powder, or 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tsp sea salt
- 1/2 tsp ground black pepper

DEER JERKY

INGREDIENTS

- 4 tablespoons soy sauce
- 4 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tablespoons liquid smoke flavoring
- 1 tablespoon ketchup
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- ¼ teaspoon garlic powder
- ¼ teaspoon onion salt
- 1 pound boneless venison roast

DIRECTIONS

1. Gather all ingredients.
2. Combine soy sauce, Worcestershire sauce, liquid smoke, ketchup, salt, pepper, garlic powder, and onion salt in a large releasable plastic bag; set aside.
3. Slice venison into long strips, 1-inch wide and 1/8-inch thick. Add strips to marinade and seal the bag. Refrigerate 8 hours to overnight, kneading occasionally to evenly distribute marinade.
4. Preheat the oven to 160 degrees F (70 degrees C). Place a pan or aluminum foil on the oven floor to catch drippings. Remove venison from the marinade and shake off excess.
5. Arrange venison on a wire rack in a single layer and dehydrate in the preheated oven until desired texture is achieved, 6 to 8 hours.

NUTRITION FACTS

Per

Serving: Calories 111 , Total Fat 5g , Saturated Fat 1g , Cholesterol 48mg , Sodium 786mg , Total Carbohydrate 3g , Dietary Fiber 0g , Total Sugars 1g , Total Sugars 1g , Protein 14g , Vitamin 1mg , Calcium 14mg .Iron 3mg , Potassium 275mg

We would like to recognize some of our early
sponsors for our Holiday Banquet!



Items Donated:**What is the Items**

Midway	gift card
Iron Infidel/ Howitzer	Gray T-shift (small) Skulls
Iron Infidel/ Howitzer	Gray T-shift (large) Skulls
Iron Infidel/ Howitzer	Black T-shirt(small) skulls
Iron Infidel/ Howitzer	Pirate black shirt(small)
Iron Infidel/ Howitzer	Pirate black shirt(medium)
Iron Infidel/ Howitzer	Pirate black shirt(large)
Donated by Jen/Ray	Cabelas True Instinic shirt
Donated by Jen/Ray	Duck on Water canvas Print
Silencer Central	Gift card
Duck Unlimited	picture frame
Feradyne	Blinds Rhino 150
Feradyne	Blinds Rhino 600
Feradyne	Camera for the hat(mossy Oak)
Feradyne	Camera for the hat
Whiskey Del Bac	whiskey Bottle
Whiskey Del Bac	Tour for 2
Bearzona	1 car pass
Battery Tender	battery charger
Ess	Glasses crowbar rapid change lens
Ess	Glasses anti fog
Stop Box	Pistol Safe
True Shot	body soap
Night Force	Promo shirts
Liberty Home Concealment	Huckleberry Safe
OnyxHunt	membership (Premium)
OnyxHunt	membership (Elite)
Baofeng Technologies	Ham/ walkie talkies
Jennifer & Ray	Weekend Get away for 2
Hornaday Range Bag	Bag
Hornaday Range soft rifle	soft rifle case
Hornaday bino case	Bino case
Hornady Gun sling	Leather Gub sling
Hornady safe	Pistol Safe
Hornady Tumbler	tumbler
CrossBreed	Holster Gift card
Our Future Nation	Air Force Hat
Our Future Nation	Army Hat
Our Future Nation	Navy
Our Future Nation	Marine
Our Future Nation	KeyChain
Secure it	safe
Argentina Dove Hunt	Hunt
1791 outdoor tatical	Ultra custome Concealment Holster
1791 outdoor tatical	EDC Heavey duty easy slide large flex
1791 outdoor tatical	EDC standard action snap large flex
1791 outdoor tatical	EDC Leather tray
1791 outdoor tatical	Key chain

Desantis Gun Hide	Holster Gift card
Stand Up live	2 gift cards
Hilton Hotel	2 night stay
B5 Systems	Bravo assy blk
B5 Systems	sopmod ass blk
B5 Systems	p-grip plug
B5 Systems	vertical forgrip
B5 Systems	Grip Plug
B5 Systems	p-grip 22
Drunk shakes Spear	2 tickets
Hunting texas hogs	hog hunt
Desantis Gun Hide	Key chain
Desantis Gun Hide	stickers
AES gun sccy	Pistol
AES gun heritage	revolver
AES gun Henry	repeater rifle
AES gun Citadel (pat)	shotgun (20g)
AES gun Weatherby	rifle
AES gun Weatherby	rifle
AES gun citadel (boss)	pump action shotgun (12g)
Howa Prc	6.5 PRC
LEM	Jerky Cannon
Stand Up live	tickets
Airforce museum	tickets
Michael Khols	purse
Lake Pleasant Boat ride	tickets
Anne Kline 2 tone bracelets	watch/bracelet
R. Lee Emery	Sign Picture
Bad lands day bag	ready bag
Wildlife Picture	3 frames
Matrix accessories	gun furniture
Riton	red dot
Outside painting	Cougars
Alps Extreme bino	excape
Stryka rifle scope	s3 rifle scope
Thompson center bino	binos 8X42
Thompson center bino	binos 12x50
Ds Variant 1 Standard	5.56 tungsten AR platform
Sig sauer	rifle scope / range finder
Wiley X	Valor Grey/clear/rust/matt Black
Wiley X	Founder Cap. Tungsten
Dude Wipes	2 Packs of 16 per box
Mary Creations	Tan wolf bottle
Mary Creations	Gray wolf bottle
Mary Creations	Blue wolf bottle
Baofeng Technologies	G115 Walkies
Zeal Cigars	Mrs. Brog Humidor
Zeal Cigars	Camacho Liberty Series
Zeal Cigars	Camcho Hats
cow skull scuptures	2 small and medium
He Bag of stuff	radom items
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Riton	Scope 3-tactix 1-8x24 W/rings
LedLenser	HF 4R core
LedLenser	MT10
GunSkin	skin 3 pack
GunSkin	Individuals
GunSkin	glock 19
GunSkin	1911 Accent skin
GunSkin	Rifle/ shot gun
GSI Outdoors	Bugaboo
Capital Grill	Gift card



Some Basics of Predator Calling/Tricking the "Trickster"

By David Kardos

In order to "CALL IN" predators (coyote, fox, bobcat, mountain lion, bear, badgers, etc.) and other creatures, you must understand the defenses of these animals. You need to know that these animals have better hearing, vision, and sense of smell than we humans. They use each of these senses according to the conditions surrounding them. We can fool these animals into coming close if we know how.

You can cancel out the animals better vision if you wear full camouflage from head to foot including your face and hands. Try and pick a pattern/colors which will match the vegetation of the area you intend to hunt. Sit on the ground or on a very low seat with a bush or some other vegetation behind you. This will help to "break-up" your silhouette (or shape). Move as little as possible and move as slowly as possible. Motion will give away even the best camouflaged person. When moving into a stand, do so as quickly and quietly as possible. Do not silhouette yourself against the skyline. Do not cross a large open space, instead, move around the edge using vegetation for cover.

When picking your clothing, pick some which is quiet. Nylon, which has many outstanding qualities, is very noisy when flexed or rubbed against something. Also be very quiet when moving into your stand. Watch where you place your feet while walking. Try to avoid walking on rocks, leaves, or twigs. These will all give away your position. Do not talk when moving into your stand. If you must converse, do so in a whisper or use hand signals. And don't slam the door of your vehicle when exiting.

To defeat an animals sense of smell, you must start long before going into the field. You should clean your clothing with an unscented soap or one which eliminates human scent and has NO UV brighteners added. These are available at most stores which carry hunter's supplies. Always use a second rinse cycle and pour in some baking soda. This will also help to eliminate human scent. Clean all of you clothing this way including your underwear, handkerchief, and socks. DO NOT use any fabric softener as these all leave a fragrance. Air dry your clothing. Do not use a dryer. When dry, store your clothing in an airtight plastic bag. You can place some vegetation from the area you intend to hunt in the bag also. This will help to place a favorable fragrance on your clothes.

More Tricking the Trickster

Also before going afield, you must clean yourself with an unscented soap or one which eliminates human odors. These are available from the same stores or an outdoors related mail order house. Use an unscented anti-perspirant/deodorant also. If you must fuel your vehicle before going out, do so the day before. And if you must refuel, stand on the upwind side of the gas tank and wash your hands with the same soap as used before leaving the house. You can also use a little baking soda under your arms if you start to sweat or develop an odor when in the field. Some people use a cover scent when in the field. Such as fox or coyote urine or skunk scent. Use a "scent vent" or a film cannister filled with cotton and use only a small amount of the liquid. There are also human scent neutralizing liquids to be sprayed onto your clothing. I have had good luck using all of these methods.

Another reason for sitting with a large bush behind you is to prevent an animal from approaching you from directly behind. A coyote or fox is not going to harm you in any way, but a bird of prey might. Or if you are in the right (or wrong) area, a bear or mountain lion might get a little too close for comfort. One of our club members had a mountain lion appear two and a half feet in front of him one day (from below a rim of the canyon). Later on he appreciated the experience, but not at the time as he was unarmed and just practicing his calling. Other members of the club have been dive bombed by hawks. Just remember, you are trying to sound like a prey animal in distress and you are ringing the predators dinner bell.

When selecting the site of your stand, remember to park your vehicle at least a hundred yards away on the downwind side of the stand. Walk into the wind when going to the stand whenever possible. It is possible to walk into the area with a cross wind but it will spread your scent much more than a wind in your face and make it that much more difficult to get animals in close. Also remember that many predators will circle to your downwind side to get a smell of you before coming in close (especially later in the season). It is also a good idea to have the sun at your back whenever possible and never sit in the direct sunlight. When you see an animal coming in to your call, remember to move very slowly. Do not make eye to eye contact. Raise your firearm or bow when the animal is behind a bush if possible.

If you see your prey before it sees you, your chances of success are greatly improved. As the football commentators say " The team that makes the fewest mistakes is the one that usually wins ". Be clean, be quiet, be hidden, shoot straight, and be more successful. My advice--Have a fun filled, safe, and successful hunting season.

**PHOENIX VAR-
MINT CALLERS,
INC**

Established in 1967 the Phoenix Varmint Callers, Inc. has continually pushed for better conservation legislature and practices. As one of the oldest premier non-profit outdoor sportsmen and conservation organizations, we are committed to the safety

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 8, 2025	Club Meeting, 7:00—9:00 pm, American Legion post 29, 6827 N. 57th Dr. Glendale
January 11 & 12, 2025	Club monthly Scramble Hunt
January 18, 2025	3 -Club Hunt
January 22, 2025	Board Meeting, 7:00 pm , Dennys , 5161 W Thunderbird Rd.
February 5, 2025	Club Meeting, 7:00—9:00
February 8 & 9 2025	Club Monthly Scramble Hunt
February 19, 2025	Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, Dennys
March 29 &30,2025	AZ Game and Fish Expo
April 5th, 2025	Elk Society Banquet in Mesa

Phoenix Varmint Callers, Inc
PO Box 87153
Phoenix, AZ 85080-7153

E-mail: pvcior1@gmail.com



PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE