

Predator Tales

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

October 1, 2025

Well Hunting season is under way and I want to wish you all good luck on your hunting. We have the Novice hunt under our belt and this weekend we will have our first scramble hunt.

If you did not attend the bingo event, you missed a lot of fun. We had a good turn out but would really like a little more involvement from the members. Thanks to those that came and volunteered to help with the event.

I would like to express my appreciation to all the members who are so willing to help when ever we ask. It is much appreciated to all of us on the Board for your assistance and help.

Craig B, President



PRESIDENT— CRAIG B
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ZHARA B

2025 PVEC SPORTSMAN BINGO

Our next bingo game is scheduled for April 11, 2026 at the American Legion at 20001 N. Cave Creek Rd. Bingo Game prizes will be firearms. There will also be other side games to play for prizes. You can buy bingo packages on the website or at the door. There will 11 games. The first 10 will be regular bingo with firearms as prizes. The 11th game will be a 50/50 for cash. The prices for bingo games are as follows:

1 card per \$50.00

3 cards per game—\$100.00

6 cards per game - \$175.00

9 cards per game + 6 cards for the 11th game - \$250.00

1 card for 11th game - \$20.00

\$10.00 Registration fee



A Review of the Hornady Auto Charge Pro Powder Dispenser

by Rod B.

First off, the Hornady Auto Charge Dispenser does not use a piezoelectric sensor. Hornady uses a "Load Cell".

Here is an article about the difference between Load Cells vs Piezoelectric sensors.
[https://www. interfaceforce.com/load-cells-versus-piezoelectrid-sensors/](https://www.interfaceforce.com/load-cells-versus-piezoelectrid-sensors/)

If you read the first page of the link above you will see that load cells are better. The first thing I noticed is this sensor rarely drifts despite temperature changes. The instructions say to let it warm up for 5-15 minutes. Then you calibrate it with a 10 gram weight and a 50 gram weight. The Powder Pro has a "Speed" adjustment that lets you adjust the auger speed, and a "Time" adjustment that adjusts how quickly or slowly the auger will feed towards the end of the dump for better accuracy .

I usually just use the default settings that come up when you first turn it on. I use the Hodgdon temperature tolerant powders, and the Powder Pro works very well with these powders. I don't use ball power in my rifles so I cannot answer how well it will feed ball powders. Also, I haven't used the Powder Pro for loading handgun ammo. It has four storage units that will save your personal adjustments that you wish to use in the future. This dispenser dispenses quickly, and I like that. It drops 50 grains of Varget in approximately 22 seconds which leaves adequate time to seat a bullet. I recommend you seat the bullet while it is working in high speed mode and stop working on the bench when it slows down.

The side view shows the drain valve in drain position. You turn it 180 degrees up to stop draining. You also need to turn on the auger to thoroughly clean out the auger of residual powder.



Heroes Rising Outdoors Elk Hunt

by Moe S.

Recently I was invited to assist a disabled American veteran on a cow elk hunt in Unit 6A. It was sponsored by the Arizona Elk Society (AES) and their program, 'Heroes Rising Outdoors' (HRO). The hunter assisted was Steve, a Navy veteran. A friend of ours took Steve out to assist him in shooting and sighting in his rifle, a 30.06. At 50 yards, he could put three rounds in a group smaller than a man's thumb.

We were lodged at a RAK, a 503c non-profit guide service, run by Ray and Kim Byrne. The accommodations were top notch, only to be outdone by the home cooking! Every morning, we left with a cooler full of little burritos made by Kim.

Our guide, Chris, brought his CanAm side-by-side. It was a 4-door side-by-side with a windshield that opened up, allowing the CHAMP hunter to shoot from the vehicle – it was top notch...and so was the guide. Chris had us on elk the first day. Steve had a shot at the second herd of elk, but missed. Chris jumped out of the side-by-side and went to where the elk was spotted, to check for blood and tracks, but there wasn't any. On we went to look for more elk – more elk were seen but no decent shots.

The second day, Chris put us on elk again. Another missed shot. The third day, more elk - this time Steve had a hit! Chris jumped out, tracked the elk and put it down (as allowed by CHAMP regulations).

Chris called Ray and within minutes he was there to help. They field dressed the elk, then Ray lifted his side-by-side dump bed and with a special headache rack equipped with a winch, he winched the elk up into the bed. Back we went to the lodge, where Bob (Ray's father) and Steve took the elk to the processor at Clint's Wells.

All in all, it was a good hunt and an excellent time. As far as the AES and their HRO program...winner, winner elk dinner!

As far as RAK outfitters, one could come away from there gaining weight, thanks to Kim! And Ray – a great guy – very knowledgeable about everything as long as it's after 11 am. Chris, the guide, I can't say enough good things – he finds elk, has a good personality and lots of patience!



BUCK TRACK

A mature buck's tracks range from 2-3/4" to 3-1/2" in length.



DOE TRACK

A mature doe track ranges from 2-1/4" to 2-3/4" in length.



LARGE-BODIED BUCK

Rear tracks of a mature buck fall slightly behind their front tracks with no overlap.



BUCK & DOE TRACKS

Rear tracks of young bucks and does slightly overlap their front tracks.



OLD DEER

Toes of older deer hooves are often worn and more rounded than those of younger deer.



YOUNG DEER

The young deer typically have sharp, pointed hooves.



BUCK WALKING ON LIGHT SNOW

Up to 6 inches deep, a buck will drag his front toes leaving drag marks on the snow similar to those of a cross-country skier. A large-bodied buck's front hoof prints will be from 6 to 8 inches apart, while those of a young buck may be only an inch or two apart.



DOE WALKING ON LIGHT SNOW

Does walking in the same amount of snow will leave individual hoof prints but no drag marks.



DEER RUNNING IN SOFT SOIL

A running deer, or a deer walking in very soft soil or mud will leave a splayed track with dew claw marks visible behind the hoof print. A bouncing deer will leave splayed hoof prints from 2-1/2 to 6 feet apart, and sometimes farther.



MATURE LARGE-BODIED BUCK

His tracks will be several inches apart in width, well to the right and left of a centerline. An old buck's front tracks may point slightly outward.

NEW CHANGES ON ATF'S POLICY ON SHORT BARRELED RIFLES AND AR PISTOLS

August 29, 2025 OPEN LETTER TO ALL FEDERAL FIREARMS LICENSEES REGARDING THE FRANKLIN ARMORY REFORMATION AND ANTITHESIS FIREARMS

The purpose of this open letter is to advise all Federal firearms licensees (FFLs) that the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) is rescinding a prior Open Letter, dated December 19, 2019, regarding the Franklin Armory Reformation firearm (2019 Open Letter). This open letter also advises FFLs on the classification of the Franklin Armory Reformation and Antithesis firearms under federal law.

Background Pursuant to the Settlement Agreement (Agreement) between the United States of America and the Firearms Regulatory Accountability Coalition and Franklin Armory, Inc., ATF is rescinding the 2019 Open Letter regarding the Franklin Armory Reformation firearm.

The 2019 Open Letter advised that the ATF Firearms and Ammunition Technology Division (FATD) examined the Reformation for the purposes of classification under the Gun Control Act (GCA) and the National Firearms Act (NFA).¹ FATD opined that the Reformation firearm was a shotgun subject only to the provisions of the GCA.² However, if the Reformation was equipped with a barrel less than 18-inches in overall length, that firearm would then be classified as a short-barreled shotgun (SBS).³

Separately, FATD examined the Antithesis firearm for classification under the GCA and the NFA. The Antithesis is a type of firearm that utilizes a 14.5-inch rifled barrel to fire .410 bore shotshells -2- and slugs, in addition to .45 Colt cartridges. As such, FATD classified the Antithesis as a short-barreled rifle under both the GCA and the NFA.⁴ This classification was vacated.⁵

Current Status of the Reformation Pursuant to the Agreement, "the Reformation is not a 'short-barreled shotgun' under 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(6), 'short-barreled rifle' under 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(8), or 'firearm' under 26 U.S.C. § 5845(a), and is not subject to the requirements of 18 U.S.C. § 922(a)(4) and 18 U.S.C. § 922(b)(4)." Furthermore, pursuant to the terms of the Agreement, "the Reformation is compliant with all applicable registration, taxation, or other requirements under the GCA and the NFA, and any such law incorporating by reference any such requirements."

In other words, as a result of the Agreement, the Reformation is not a short-barreled shotgun, short-barreled rifle, nor is it an NFA firearm; therefore, (i) no NFA forms are necessary to sell, transfer, transport, deliver, or otherwise deal in or possess the Reformation, and (ii) no ATF Form 5320.20, Application to Transport Interstate or to Temporarily Export Certain National NFA Firearms, is necessary to transport the Reformation across state lines because the firearm is not subject to 18 U.S.C. § 922(a)(4) or (b)(4).

Current Status of the Antithesis As a result of the Agreement, the Antithesis is not a rifle, short-barreled rifle, nor is it an NFA firearm; therefore, (i) no NFA forms are necessary to sell, transfer, transport, deliver, or otherwise deal in or possess the Antithesis, and (ii) no ATF Form 5320.20, Application to Transport Interstate or to Temporarily Export Certain National NFA Firearms, is necessary to transport the Antithesis across state lines because the firearm is not subject to 18 U.S.C. § 922(a)(4) or (b)(4).

Sales and Transfers of the Reformation and Antithesis Firearms The Reformation and Antithesis are firearms under section 921(a)(3) of the GCA but are not rifles or shotguns pursuant to the agreement. When transferring these firearms, FFLs should utilize the "other firearm" box in block 24 on the ATF Form 4473.

Should you have any questions regarding this open letter, please contact the Firearms Industry Programs Branch at (202) 648-7190 or FIPB@atf.gov.

Sincerely, JENNIFER CICOLANI Date: 2025.08.29 13:09:08 -04'00' Jennifer L. Cicolani, Assistant Director
Office of Enforcement Programs and Services

¹FATD ultimately issued two determinations for the Reformation. As reflected in the 2019 Open Letter, FATD initially classified the Reformation as a short-barreled shotgun only under the GCA. However, FATD later reclassified the Reformation as a short-barreled shotgun under both the NFA and the GCA. The latter classification was vacated in *Firearms Regulatory Accountability Coalition, Inc., and Franklin Armory, Inc. v. Pamela Bondi*, No. 1:23-cv-00003 (D.N.D.). See Order Granting Plaintiffs' Motion for Summary Judgement and Denying Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgement at 23, ECF No. 60.

²See 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(5). ³See 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(6). ⁴Order Granting Plaintiffs' Motion for Summary Judgement and Denying Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgement at 6, *Firearms Regulatory Accountability Coalition, Inc., and Franklin Armory, Inc. v. Pamela Bondi*, No. 1:23-cv-00003 (D.N.D.), ECF No. 60. ⁵Id. at 23.

Glassing

By Ricardo G.

Look for hills, ridges, or rocky outcrops where you can see a wide area.

Early morning or late afternoon are prime times for animal activity –

I glass all day with small breaks to rest my eyes.

Break the terrain into sections -

Scan slowly and deliberately from left to right or right to left (up or down) –

If you're not seeing any animal movement, you're glassing too fast

Focus on shaded areas in hot temperatures

Focus on sunny areas in cold early mornings

In cold weather animals may move later in the morning

Position yourself with the sun at your back so the terrain and animals are well-lit

Avoid glassing into the sun, it makes spotting harder

Don't look for the whole animal, look for familiar shapes

Don't skyline yourself

Glassing is essential for Western hunters. The ability to scan the landscape with binoculars or a spotting scope opens up opportunities to find animals that would otherwise remain hidden. Hunting solely by walking or hiking is often ineffective, you're expending valuable energy and burning calories that you'll likely need later if you're fortunate enough to pack out an animal. Even if you manage to stumble upon a bedded animal, you typically have only a split second to take a shot. While this method can work, it's not conducive to consistent, repeatable success.

In contrast, glassing allows me to control the pace of the hunt. I can decide when to move and when to stay put. If I choose to take a shot, I have the time to set up properly, with minimal worry that the animal will disappear before I'm ready. This patient, strategic style of hunting has brought many successes for Western hunters.

Beyond the practical benefits, glassing offers a unique chance to observe wildlife behaving naturally. I've witnessed incredible moments: big horn sheep clashing heads, a bobcat attacking a young whitetail deer, only to be driven off by the protective mother, and a playful young bear tumbling down a hill before pausing to chase a butterfly. These experiences enrich the hunt and deepen my connection to the wilderness.

While glassing might not come naturally at first, it's a skill that can be developed with practice—and with time, you can become highly effective. The more time you spend behind the glass, the sharper your eyes and instincts become.

I've learned to focus on sunny hillsides and south-facing slopes during cold mornings. After a long, chilly night, animals often move into these warm spots to soak up the sun, which can present shot opportunities early in the day. Mornings also offer the chance to catch game animals on the move to their bedding areas, especially in warmer weather.

By midday, most animals are bedded down. At this point, I shift my focus to spotting small movements. Many inexperienced hunters scan for the entire animal but that rarely works. I study the landscape carefully, searching for subtle shapes or parts, the curve of an ear, the angle of a leg, the flick of a tail. Once I spot something that looks out of place, I take a deeper look to confirm whether it's part of the animal I'm after.

This methodical style of hunting has brought me a lot of success but it wasn't easy to learn. The best advice I can give to new hunters is simple, be patient. Too many first-timers give up after just 30 to 45 minutes. But patience is everything when it comes to glassing.

Bring a sitting pad or lightweight stool. The more comfortable you are, the longer you'll be willing to sit still and glass. Give the animals time to move. They're not on your schedule we must adapt to theirs.

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On most hunts, I glass nearly all day, taking short breaks to rest my eyes. Around midday, I'll take about an hour to eat lunch and catch a quick nap before getting back to work.

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In the end, glassing isn't just a tactic, it's a mindset. It teaches patience, observation, and respect for the land and the animals we pursue. For those willing to slow down and put in the time, glassing will not only make you a more successful hunter, but also deepen your connection to the wilderness.

Public Speaking Secrets

Crush Your Next Speech or Presentation



1. Hook Not Bio

- No polite warm-up, bio, or "Excited to be here"
- Start with a relevant question, bold claim, or short story



2. Start Still

- Walk out, plant your feet, pause for two seconds, then speak
- Let the room settle before you begin



3. Group in Threes

- Break points into 3s - easy to follow and remember
- "Three things you'll learn today..." is magic



4. Short Stories

- Keep stories under 90 seconds
- Use: Setting, conflict, payoff - and then cut the rest



5. Edit Actively

- Replace passive voice and vague verbs (AI can help!)
- ~~"it was launched"~~
"We launched it"



6. Speak to 1 Person

- Hold eye contact with 1 person per thought
- Then shift to another in a different area - don't scan constantly



7. Mark Your Pauses

- Add slashes (/) in your script where you want to pause.
- Don't just fill the space - silence can emphasize



8. Put Audience First

- Cut "I want to talk about..."
- Replace with "You'll walk away with..."



9. Move on Transitions

- Step or gesture when changing topics not mid-point
- Stillness = power, movement = shift



10. Rehearse Aloud

- Practice standing, with voice at full volume
- Record yourself and watch for filler words, pacing, and fidgeting



11. Memorize Bookends

- Know your first and last 3 lines cold
- Everything else can be spoken from notes



12. Circle Back

- Echo your opening idea or line at the end
- It gives the audience closure and recall



Phoenix Varmint Callers Presents: Holiday Banquet & Fundraiser

December 6, 2025

Doors open 6:30pm

American Legion Bingo Hall

6821 N 58th Ave, Glendale, AZ 85301

CATERED DINNER

CASH BAR

RAFFLES

SILENT AUCTION

LIVE AUCTIONS

*Families and Kids welcome!!
Take pictures with Santa!!*

All are welcome!!

All tickets must be purchased by 12/01/25

Desert Mission Food
Drive: Bring 10 Canned
goods or a case of
Water!

Dinner served at 7:00pm

\$25 Per person (Member)

\$30 Per person (non-member)

\$20 For kids (12 and under)

For more information or to give a donation please call:
Mike Ortiz (928) 812-8691 or
Ray Keenen (480) 294-7676



**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

Oct. 1, , 2025	Club meeting 7:00—9:00 pm, American Legion post 29, 6827 N. 57th Dr. Glendale
Oct. 4 & 5, 2025	Scramble hunt
Oct. 15, 2025	PVCI Board Meeting 7:00 pm Denny's 51st Ave. & Thunderbird Rd.
Nov 5, 2025	Club meeting 7:00—9:00 pm, American Legion post 29, 6827 N. 57th Dr. Glendale
Nov. 8 & 9, 2025	Scramble Hunt
Nov. 19, 2025	PVCI Board Meeting 7:00 pm Denny's 51st Ave. & Thunderbird Rd.
Dec. 6, 2025	Christmas Banquet and Auction 7:00 pm 6827 N. 57th Dr. , Glendale
Dec. 13, 14, 2025	Scramble hunt

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

E-mail: pvcior1@gmail.com



PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE