PHOENIX VARMINT CALLERS, INC.

OCTOBER 2026 NEWSLETTER



A successful Heroes Rising Outdoors elk hunt - PVCI member Ray Keenen with his bull elk and the hunt team.

Heroes Rising Outdoors: A Hunt to Remember

Congratulations to our very own **Ray Keenen**, who harvested this bull elk while participating in a Heroes Rising Outdoors hunt with the Arizona Elk Society. The attached field photo captures the successful harvest and the team that helped make the experience possible.

Arizona Elk Society created Heroes Rising Outdoors to provide free outdoor and big-game hunting experiences for qualified wounded and disabled Arizona veterans. The program works with the Arizona Game and Fish Department big-game tag transfer program, outfitters, guides, volunteers and conservation partners. AES says the program has provided more than 800 big-game and small-game outdoor experiences since its founding, with a goal of helping veterans reconnect with Arizona's outdoors and hunting heritage.

Ray's hunt is a great example of what can happen when sportsmen, volunteers, conservation organizations and veterans come together. PVCI congratulates Ray and thanks the Heroes Rising Outdoors team and everyone who helped make the hunt possible.

CONGRATULATIONS, RAY KEENEN!

October Arizona Hunting Report

Cooler mornings, fresh monsoon growth and the opening of several small-game seasons make October a great month to scout and hunt.

Quail	Gambel's, scaled and California quail open Oct. 16, 2026 and run through Feb. 7, 2027. Daily aggregate bag limit: 15. AZGFD expects desert quail numbers to remain below average after a hot, dry spring and low carryover, even though recent rains have helped habitat conditions.
Band-tailed pigeon	Season runs Sept. 25-Oct. 8, 2026. Daily bag limit: 2; possession limit: 6. Look in pine, pine-oak, pinyon-juniper and chaparral country, especially along and below the Colorado Plateau.
Tree squirrel	Season opens Oct. 2, 2026 and runs through Jan. 31, 2027. Daily bag limit: 5; possession limit: 15. AZGFD reports average carryover, but the dry winter/spring and late monsoon may have affected fungi and cone production.
Rabbits & hares	Open July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027. AZGFD says cottontail numbers appear to be slowly increasing, though recovery remains uneven. Black-tailed jackrabbits are below average but relatively stable; antelope jackrabbits remain depressed.
Predators	Coyote hunting is available statewide under the applicable 2026-27 rules, with special restrictions and refuge/unit exceptions. Bobcat, fox and other fur-bearing seasons/open areas vary. Always check the current regulation tables before the hunt.

Predator Calling Conditions

Recent monsoon moisture can improve green-up and disperse prey away from permanent water, while dry pockets may continue to concentrate rabbits, rodents and predators around dependable tanks, washes and riparian areas. For October calling, scout for fresh tracks, scat, rabbit activity and prey sign instead of relying only on locations that produced last year.

Cooler mornings can extend comfortable stand time, but wind remains one of the biggest factors in stand selection. Approach quietly, keep the downwind side visible when possible, and avoid crossing the route you expect a coyote or fox to use. With rabbit numbers still recovering and desert quail forecast below average, prey abundance may vary sharply from one area to another - scouting matters.

October is also a good time to review AZGFD's new harvest reporting and tracking hub. Mandatory online reporting applies to mountain lion, black bear and over-the-counter archery deer harvests, and the tracker can be used to confirm current season status and harvest limits where applicable.

2027 SPRING DRAW REMINDER
Applications for spring turkey, javelina, bison, bear and raptor capture are due by 11:59 p.m. Arizona time on Oct. 6, 2026.

Always verify the current 2026-27 Arizona Hunting Regulations, unit restrictions, legal methods and open areas before going afield.

2026 PVCI Holiday Banquet & Fundraiser

Saturday, December 5, 2026 - American Legion Bingo Hall, Glendale



When	Saturday, Dec. 5, 2026. Doors open at 6:30 PM; dinner served at 7:00 PM.
Where	American Legion Bingo Hall, 6821 N. 58th Ave., Glendale, AZ 85301.
Tickets	$30 per adult; $20 for kids 12 and under. All tickets must be purchased by Dec. 1, 2026.
What's planned	Catered dinner, cash bar, raffles, silent auctions and live auctions - a night of fun, food and fundraising for PVCI.
Food drive	Bring 10 canned goods or a case of water for the Desert Mission Food Drive and receive a raffle ticket for a prize.
Tickets online	Purchase through PVCI.org under the Shop tab.
Information / donations	Mike Ortiz: (928) 812-8691 or Ray Keenen: (480) 294-7676.

Why the Banquet Matters

The banquet is more than a holiday dinner. It helps bring members, families, supporters and community partners together while raising funds that support PVCI's conservation education, outdoor activities, mentoring, special hunts and other club programs. Members can help by purchasing tickets early, inviting friends and family, donating auction or raffle items, and volunteering before or during the event.

PVCI BINGO - THANK YOU!

September 12, 2026

A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CAME OUT TO SUPPORT PHOENIX VARMINT CALLERS, INC. AND THE AMERICAN LEGION!

PVCI would like to extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who joined us for our Bingo event on September 12. Your attendance, enthusiasm, and generosity made the evening a wonderful success and helped support the work of Phoenix Varmint Callers, Inc. and the American Legion.

Events like this are about more than a night of games and prizes. They bring members, families, friends, veterans, and community supporters together while helping strengthen the organizations that serve our outdoor community and our veterans.

We are especially grateful to the volunteers and everyone who helped with setup, registration, games, prizes, food, cleanup, and all the behind-the-scenes work needed to make the event possible. We also thank the American Legion for its support and hospitality.

TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED:
Thank you for spending the evening with us.

TO OUR VOLUNTEERS:
Thank you for giving your time and energy.

TO OUR SUPPORTERS:
Thank you for helping PVCI continue its programs, events, conservation education, and community outreach.

We hope to see everyone again at future PVCI events - including the 2026 Holiday Banquet & Fundraiser on December 5!

PVCI - Conservation, Education & Community

October is a month to hunt, mentor, volunteer and prepare for the busy winter season.

From Ray Keenen's Heroes Rising Outdoors elk hunt to the upcoming quail season and December banquet, this month highlights several parts of what PVCI stands for: hunting heritage, education, conservation, camaraderie and giving back to the community.

Members can make a difference by taking a new hunter into the field, sharing responsible predator-calling practices, helping at club events, supporting veteran outdoor programs, contributing to the banquet and participating in Arizona's wildlife-management process through hunter questionnaires and responsible reporting.

Stay Connected
Visit PVCI.org for club information, events, membership and updates.

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Sources: Arizona Game & Fish Department 2026-27 Small Game Forecast and Hunting Regulations; AZGFD Harvest Reporting & Tracking; Arizona Elk Society Heroes Rising Outdoors; Phoenix Varmint Callers, Inc.; supplied PVCI banquet flyer and hunt photographs. Information checked Sept. 22, 2026.