

Predator Tales

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

February 28, 2025

March will see the end of our hunts until September. So with the passing of hunting season, we look forward to the spring and summer events. We have the Expo in March, Board elections in April, May brings bingo and the BBQ, June is the fishing derby, the clubs swap meet and trail clearing is in July and last but not least is the Boot Camp in August. The events will bring lots of fun and training for members and friends. Take an interest in your club and participate in these activities.

We also will have our board elections the first meeting in April. You must be a current member in order to vote in the election. Make sure you are current with your membership.

Craig B, President



PRESIDENT— CRAIG B
VICE PRESIDENT— TIM N
CORRESPONDING SEC - RAY K
RECORDING SEC— DAN S.
TREASURER - GAIL B
PAST PRESIDENT - GARY M
BOARD MEMBERS:
WAYNE W.
ROD B
ZHARA B

Upcoming Club Events

PhxG&F Expo

The Arizona Game and Fish Expo will be on March 29 and 30th. This year we have a 20 x foot exhibition table. We will be selling raffle tickets for a Beretta 12 ga. Shotgun to be given away on Sunday. Come on out and check out all the exhibitors at the expo.

Bingo

On May 10, Phoenix Varmint Callers will be hosting a Sportsman Bingo Game at 2:00 pm. The location is at the American Legion at 20001 N. Cave Creek Rd. Bingo packages will be for sale on the website and at the door. There will be 10 bingo games with the prizes being a firearm. The 11th game will be a 50/50 game. We look forward to all of you coming out and having a good time.

Both the events will be fundraising events for the club. Please supports us and have a good time. We are also looking for volunteers for both events. If you wish to volunteer at the Expo, contact Gary M. If the bingo appeals to you for volunteering to run games or the check in desk, please contact Ray K.

First Muzzleloader Coyote

Tommy M.

On the fifth and last day of my any fork-antlered deer muzzleloader hunt in New Mexico, I had sat a couple of hours from dawn, covering terrain leading to a couple of tanks. I had not seen any deer the entire hunt, and was about to pack up and move to another area when I heard some coyotes begin to howl over near the



tanks. I was itching to try out my new muzzleloader, so I got my tally-ho call out of my pack and blew a short series. The dogs went silent and I got ready. I caught movement pretty quick, one dog to my right and two to my left. I watched and followed the two with my eyes and barrel. I could see them as they appeared between trees about 80 yards out, trotting along single file

while looking over my way. Leveling my muzzle loader between two trees in front of their path I watched the first dog go by, then when the second dog appeared, I

fired. He went down in a pile! I ran over there to find he was trying to run, got about 20 yds but he bleed out fast. My first muzzle loader kill and first out of state coyote! I was surprised to see how big he was and he had a beautiful coat. The shot hit him in the rear thigh and darned near blew it off. After taking a few pictures, I packed up and carried him to the truck-man was



he heavy! He weighed 31 pounds back at camp and then I skinned him out completely. I've been waiting to harvest a nice coyote to do a full mount with now I have one!

THE DEER HUNT

1:00 a.m. — Alarm clock rings.
2:00 a.m. — Hunting partners arrive, drag you out of bed.
2:30 a.m. — Throw everything except the kitchen sink in the pickup.
3:00 a.m. — Leave for the deep woods.
3:15 a.m. — Drive back home and pick up gun.
3:30 a.m. — Drive like crazy to get to the woods before daylight.
4:00 a.m. — Set up camp — forgot the darn tent.
4:30 a.m. — Head into the woods.
6:05 a.m. — See eight deer.
6:06 a.m. — Take aim and squeeze trigger.
6:07 a.m. — “Click.”
6:08 a.m. — Load gun while watching deer go over hill.
8:00 a.m. — Head back to camp.
9:00 a.m. — Still looking for camp.
10:00 a.m. — Realize you don't know where camp is.
Noon — Fire gun for help — eat wild berries.
12:15 p.m. — Ran out of bullets — eight deer come back.
12:20 p.m. — Strange feeling in stomach.
12:30 p.m. — Realize you ate poison berries.
12:45 p.m. — Rescued!
12:55 p.m. — Rushed to hospital to have stomach pumped.
3:00 p.m. — Arrive back in camp.
3:30 p.m. — Leave camp to kill deer.

4:00 p.m. — Return to camp for bullets.
4:01 p.m. — Load gun — leave camp again.
5:00 p.m. — Empty gun on squirrel that's bugging you.
6:00 p.m. — Arrive at camp, see deer grazing at camp.
6:01 p.m. — Load gun.
6:02 p.m. — Fire gun — hit pickup.
6:05 p.m. — Hunting partner returns to camp dragging deer.
6:06 p.m. — Repress strong desire to shoot hunting partner.
6:07 p.m. — Fall in fire.
6:10 p.m. — Change clothes, throw burned ones into fire.
6:15 p.m. — Take pickup, leave partner and his deer in woods.
6:25 p.m. — Pickup boils over — hole shot in block.
6:26 p.m. — Start walking.
6:30 p.m. — Stumble and fall, drop gun in the mud.
6:35 p.m. — Meet deer.
6:36 p.m. — Take aim.
6:37 p.m. — Fire gun, blow up barrel plugged with mud.
6:38 p.m. — Climb tree.
9:00 p.m. — Deer departs, wrap gun around tree.
Midnight — Home at last.
Sunday — Watch football on TV, slowly tearing hunting license into little pieces, place in envelope, and mail to hunting partner with very precise instructions as to what he can do with it.

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2025 PVCI SPORTSMAN BINGO

Our first Sportsman Bingo game is scheduled May 10, 2025 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— 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



RECIPE CORNER

Deer Chorizo

by Mike O.

This is the recipe I used to turn my deer into chorizo

Ingredients:

10 lbs Venison

10 lbs Pork Fat

Garlic Cloves - 22-26 Cloves.

Peeled/ smashed/chopped

1/2 teaspoon of minced per clove.

Kosher Salt - 3/4 cup

Dried Oregano - 1/2 cup

Cumin - 1/2 cup

Cayenne Pepper - 1/4 cup

Ancho Chili Seasoning - 3/4 cup

Black Pepper - 1/2 cup

Chili Powder - 1/2 cup

This is what I did when I got it all together

18 lbs Venison

18 lbs Pork Fat

Minced Garlic - 22 tablespoons

Kosher Salt - 1 1/4 cup

Dried Oregano - 1 cup

Cumin - 1 cup

Cayenne Pepper - 1/2 cup

Ancho Chili Seasoning- 1 1/4 cup. **Used one 8oz bag of New Mexico Chili Powder as a substitute**

Black Pepper - 1 cup

Chili Powder - 1 cup

First Rifle Deer Hunt

by Mike O.

After months of scouting units 7 and 9 we settled on an area in 7 West. We showed up the week before the hunt was to start to do some last-minute scouting to make sure there were still deer in the area, and just our luck the first spot I picked there was a doe that crossed the road about 20 yards in front of me. She wasn't in any kind of hurry and didn't seem to care I was there. I lost sight of her so I thought she run off. Not the case at all. She went about 20 yards on the other side of the road and laid down. When I rolled past her, she looked at me and just laid there. I was surprised she didn't spook. I marked where she was and moved on to the next spot not far from there and found more deer hanging out just grazing 50 yards off the side of the forest road I was



on. Again, I marked the spot and left. At that point I figured opening day would be in that area, so off to find another spot as a back up in case of opening day turning out to be a ghost town in the first area. About a half mile down the main road there were a few tanks on one side of the road and I have not seen that

many turkeys in a while. They strutting and making all kinds of noise, and they didn't care we were there either. We headed north to another area we were wanting to take a look at, we found some cattle and kept going a bit further. When we came around a bend in the road there were more deer pacing back and forth in the road while a fawn was eating the ice out of a rut in the road. We sat and watched this go on for about 20 to 30 minutes before the deer moved off. So, we marked that area and kept looking around.

Here we are, opening day and we are in the field before the sun. My father-in-law can't move too well anymore so he didn't venture too far from his jeep. We sat in the planned spot for a few hours then we made out way to the main road where we saw a lot of movement on the other side of the road. We were collecting my truck, but we stopped to see what was moving, and I ended up counting 25 elk that run across the road. The rest of the elk stayed on the other side. It looked like a rock concert mosh pit of elk. If I had to guess probably another 50 or so that just kept circling and then they must have gone back up on the hill they came off of. Back to looking for deer. We moved down a bit and say a few does by a water hole, but no bucks at this point. We circled around to a different point around where we started just a bit more on the north side of the mountain we were hunting, and here come the turkeys. They were strutting their stuff. It was quite a sight to see. Dad wanted to sit on the tank near where we spotted the turkeys, so I told him to hang out there and I would be back, and off I went.

First Rifle Deer Hunt Continued

I found a game trail and followed it for several miles, and wouldn't you know it, there was a damn road after all that walking. Since I found a road I followed it back down to Dad, just to see where it came out with the intent to use that as a starting point later. We didn't see a lot of people out there for opening day. A couple of guys in a side by side drove up to me as I was walking back to the truck. They asked the same question, "Did you get 'em?" The day ended without seeing any deer.

Next morning we about 24 degrees and pretty windy at 7800 feet of elevation. I thought time to cover some more ground, so I told my dad to go up the road I came out on yesterday and I was going to go over the top and meet him on the other side. Where he dropped me off there were six pretty good-sized elk. They didn't hang around to see what we were doing. It wasn't too bad of a hike until I crested the first ridge. The wind was blowing so hard it took my breath away, and I'm sure you all know how that feels. I caught my breath and pressed on. Ridge and valley and back up again a few times until I got a big deadfall. My guess it had caught fire a few years ago. I made the mistake of following the deer and elk tracks through all the fallen trees. After 45 minutes or so I was on the other side. I stood there for a few minutes surveying what I just climbed and jumped through. Hindsight being 20/20 and all, I should have just hiked up the mountain from where I was, and gone around all those trees and probably would have saved myself 20 minutes or so. I

kept moving over the next ridge and I noticed something above me where I was heading. Someone had intentions of hunting from that ridge I was on because there was a blue



single man tent up there. I thought to myself, "This guy is probably coming up here with a fifth and a can of beans." Then I noticed my dad's jeep. There was the road I walked down. Still no deer just a lot of pretty country.

We decided to take a quick look over at our secondary spot where we saw the deer earlier in the week. Again, Dad stayed by the jeep and I went for a walk. The area we were in had a road to the east of us, so I went that direction. As I was having a look around wouldn't you know it, more elk, about a dozen this time. I watched them trot away and kept moving. I made my swing back around to the jeep, and we decided to go back where we were on opening morning. We made our way back over there, and as we got to the spot where I saw the deer grazing the deer came out of there like shot.

There were about 18 or so. Something spooked them, but never did see anyone or anything so we figured another animal, probably one predator or another. At that point we were thinking they may come back and we were right. After about an hour and a half they strolled back through like no one was there. We were sure there was a buck in that group so we hung out for a bit longer until it got dark.

Day three started like the others stop by circle k grab coffee and hit the road. We pulled off the freeway at our turn and I looked at the temp. My truck said it was 19 degrees. I thought to myself, "This is going to suck, but let's get it." We made it out to where we left off Dad in the jeep trying to stay warm, and I made a swing around where we ended the night before. I didn't see anything moving. I was thinking they must have moved down out of the wind, or something. I stopped and was leaning against a tree trying to think of what to do next, and I saw him out of the corner of my eye. He wasn't a bruiser, but I still haven't found a good recipe for antlers. I turned my head to get a better look, and he noticed I was there too. As we stared at each other for what seemed to be forever, I pulled my rifle up and shot him from about 40 yards away. A shot from the hip and he went five feet and flopped over.



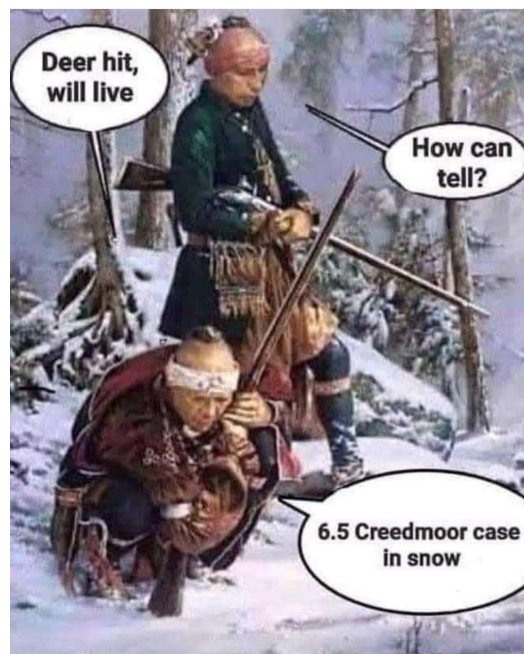
First Rifle Deer Hunt Continued

The adrenalin kicked in and I started thinking that wasn't a buck!! No, it was I'm sure of it!! Then a text message from dad. "Did you get him?" I replied "Yes," then it was a minute later and Dad was down to where I was. We stood there for a few minutes talking, giving the buck some time to take his nap. I walked over to him and did the old poke in the eye to make sure he was expired. Then I grabbed an antler and drug him over to the jeep. Dad gave me a congratulatory slap on the shoulder. "Nice job!" he said. I turned to him and told him to hang out while I go down and grab the truck. We got him in the back, and started looking for a tree to hang him in to clean him.

Dad told me he was going to go back up where he was sitting to see if anything else shows up. I started the task of cleaning my deer and here comes the snow. It was a bit on the heavy side so I jumped in the truck to warm up a bit. A Toyota pickup pulls up by where I was and he rolled down his window. It was another group of hunters. They must have heard the shot or something. We chatted for a few minutes and the congratulated me on my harvest. I told them my dad was still up the road a bit, and they said they were going to head back out since we were already there. By then the snow stopped so I went to work. I think it snowed on me three or four times before I had my deer in the cooler.

I think my dad was hoping I would get something sooner than later so he could go home. He wasn't feeling well but stuck it out until I got my deer. He has COPD from the agent orange in Vietnam so he can't get enough oxygen at higher elevations. He told me that night that he was done so we didn't have to go back out in the morning to try to get him a buck. Over all we had a great time getting out in the woods taking in all the sights, and the bonus was a buck, and some meat for the freezer.

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For those who question whether or not coyotes can affect deer numbers check this out.

Coyotes are responsible for 10–20% of fawn deaths on average, according to studies in the Midwest and Northeast. In the southeastern United States, coyotes account for 37–80% of fawn deaths.

Impact on Fawn Recruitment

In areas with high coyote populations, the fawn recruitment rate is closer to 0.4 fawns per doe, compared to the average of 1 fawn per doe in other areas.

Fawn Mortality:

In one study, 66% of fawn deaths by coyotes occurred in the first three weeks of life.

During the Coyote Denning Season, studies have found that female coyotes average killing 19 fawns to feed their offspring. Keep doing work fellas



UPCOMING EVENTS

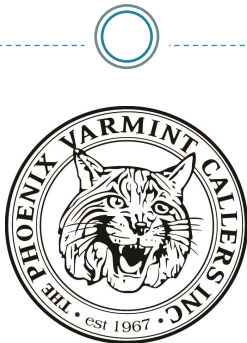
PHOENIX VAR- MINT CALLERS, INC

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

March 5, 2025	Club Meeting, 7:00—9:00 pm, American Legion post 29, 6827 N. 57th Dr. Glendale
March 8 & 9, 2025	Club monthly Scramble Hunt
March 19, 2025	Board Meeting, 7:00 pm , Dennys , 5161 W Thunderbird Rd.
March 29 & 30, 2025	AZ Game and Fish Expo
April 2, 2025	Club Meeting, 7:00—9:00 pm, American Legion post 29, 6827 N. 57th Dr. Glendale
April 5, 2025	AZ Elks Society Banquet – Mesa
April 16, 2025	Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, Dennys , 5161 W Thunderbird Rd.
May 7, 2025	Club Meeting, 7:00—9:00 pm, American Legion post 29, 6827 N. 57th Dr. Glendale
May 10, 2025	PVCI Sportsman Bingo, 2:00 – 6:00 pm American Legion Post 107, 20001 N. Cave Creek Rd.
May 17 & 18, 2025	PVCI Annual BBQ, Moqui Draw Camping and Shooting competition for members and quests
May 21, 2024	Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, Dennys , 5161 W Thunderbird Rd.
June 4, 2025	Club Meeting, 7:00—9:00 pm, American Legion post 29, 6827 N. 57th Dr. Glendale
June 7 & 8, 2025	PVCI Fishing Derby, Canyon Point Campground Group site
June 18, 2025	Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, Dennys , 5161 W Thunderbird Rd.

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