

PREDATOR'S PRIDE



ARIZONA PREDATOR CALLERS

ARIZONA PREDATOR CALLERS 2015-16 Board of Directors

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January 2016

APC P.O. Box 1172 Mesa, AZ 85211-1172

The President's Message

by John Arterburn, APC President



Well I hope everyone had a great holiday. One of my Christmas presents leads to the topic of this months letter from the president. One or two months ago UV brighteners were a topic of discussion. In the meeting Gary Thompson had mentioned how his camo stood out in the picture he showed us in the newsletter, which led him on a path of discovery.

I asked for a UV Killer for Christmas, after going home from the meeting and checking my hunting clothes with a black light. The UV Killer manufacture's (ATSKO) website had more information in the topic. A document "How Animals See & Smell.

As they mention in the article, with a better understanding of how animal see, you can improve your odds of seeing more animals. Colors appear different to animals than to human, as explained in the article.

A number of studies were cited from the last twenty years. These studies build on the presentation material from the August 2015 meeting. These studies are based on white tail deer, ungulates. The predators we hunts possess the same type vision, two color. These findings are eye opening to me, no pun intended, but may be understood by avid deer hunters.

As we know, we see in three colors and the animals we hunt see in two. What I did not understand was the fact they see in the ultraviolet range of color where we see very little. This is part of why a deer at night can run through the forest avoiding all obstacles.

For a number of reasons which the article explains' animals see very well at night. The UV brighteners used in clothing are in this range of the color spectrum animals see well. These brighteners added to fabric standout like a beacon to animals, night and day, but very bright at night or in low light conditions. These brighteners are literally a bright blue white light to the animal eye. These brighteners fall on the color spectrum very close to the peak of the blue color spectrum for animals, and outside our range.

At night animals see in black and white as we do but they see in the ultraviolet range of color, for us it would be like seeing someone turn on a

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President's Message cont'd.

flashlight in the dark. Remember the movie Predator with Arnold. The alien predators are able to see in the infrared color spectrum and see everyone until Arnold falls in mud. This is what the UV killer products do, except they mask the UV light not heat as in the movie.

A study of Kestrel's was conducted. These birds of prey are able to see in the ultraviolet light range like other animals and the three colors we see. These birds could see the urine of field mice, which falls into the ultraviolet range of color. The birds could see where the mice had gone as they scared the pee out of them.

If you have pets, have you ever walked around your house with black light in the dark to see where they have urinated? It stands out like a neon poster under a black light. Animals have no UV filter in their eyes as we do so they see where they pee as a bright white, as if you marked the spot with a can of bright white spray paint. That UV filter is part of what helps us see clearly in bright daylight.

Our eyes are built with each single photoreceptors attached to its own single nerve ending. Animals have groups of photoreceptors tied each nerve ending, as found in the autopsies of animals in the studies. This means they may not have the finite vision we have but in the case of a deer, which has 320 degrees of vision, they see everything in 320 degrees with the same clarity. A coyote sees in the same manner but with more finite vision than the deer in front of them where they possess binocular vision like we have. Think about being able to take everything in with the same level of clarity and understanding. This helps prey stay alive and makes the predator king in their realm.

Except for a few cases, birds do not sense of smell, but have four cones ranges of color to our three to a coyote or deer's two. Their ability to see this fourth color in the ultraviolet range makes up for the lack of smell. This is why turkey hunting is a challenge. Birds of prey possess large eyes, which give the added ability to focus in from great distances like a variable power scope. This makes the bird of prey king in their realm.

We can use the articles as long as we give ATSKO credit for its creation. We will be adding their articles to our website. ATSKO also deals in scent reduction in the article.

As they mention in their article, with a better understanding of how the animal sees, you can improve your odds of seeing more animals.

Practice Perfect,

John Anterburn



Volunteer Opportunities

Beginners Small Game & Youth Javelina Camp

APC will be looking for volunteers to be mentors as well as helping with setup, registration, etc. Contact Kara Jensen if you are interested in helping out. It does not need to be every day. kara.jensen.az@gmail.com

When: **Jan 21 - 24, 2016**

Where: Florence area, Unit 37B ([map](#))

Description: Learn from the experienced hunters and Wildlife Mangers on where and how to hunt quail, jackrabbits and predators (all aged hunters) as well as javelina for youth with 37B tags, meals provided.

Hosted by: Arizona Game and Fish, Red Bear Outfitters, Arizona Elk Society

Register: John McGehee, JMcgehee@azgfd.gov, (520)628-5376

January Meeting Program

“Technology”

Join us for our continuing program on predator hunting. Topics of discussion will be on “Technology”. Ken Eaton will host. Continuing discussions on predator hunting will include: Using ladders, sitting, standing and laying down while on stand, shooting aids and the differences between them, call and types of calls and what predator and prey sounds to use.

The Arizona Predator Callers meeting is **Thursday, January 14, 2016 at 7:00 PM.**

The meetings are held monthly at the **Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #9 at 1450 E. Main Street, Mesa.** The FOP Lodge is on the north side of Main Street between Stapley and Gilbert Road in Mesa, 2 doors west of the Radio Shack.

The meeting is free to APC members and students under 18, and \$5 for non-members. Refreshments and door prizes are included in the admission price.



Hunt and Events Calender

APC General Meeting.....	January 14, 2016
<i>Multi-Club Hunt.....</i>	<i>January 16, 2016</i>
Youth Javelina Camp.....	January 21-24, 2016
APC General Meeting.....	February 11, 2016
<i>Hunt.....</i>	<i>February 13, 2016</i>
APC General Meeting.....	March 10, 2016
<i>Save A Fawn Hunt.....New Date.....</i>	<i>March 12, 2016</i>
Griffin Ranch Clean Up.....	April 2, 2016
APC General Meeting.....	April 14, 2016
<i>Hunt.....</i>	<i>April 16, 2016</i>
APC Awards Banquet.....	May 12, 2016

APC Hunts are held on the Saturday following the General Meetings.

Please get these dates and events onto your calendar.

Club hunting events are in italic type.

Dates and events are subject to change.

All APC General meetings are held on the **second Thursday** of each month.

All APC Board meetings are held on the last Monday of each month at **Denny’s 1368 N. Cooper Rd., Gilbert, AZ.**

Any APC member is welcome to attend.



Hunt Report

by Dusty Mosier, Hunt Chairman

Well, another year gone and I only got out calling twice last year. I did manage to wack two coyotes however, so I helped the pray species a tiny bit.

The annual Multi-Club Hunt is coming up quickly and I hope all of you have it on your calendars. It is on Saturday, January 16, 2016. We can use everyones help, so APC is well represented and has a chance of winning again this year. Even if you can only hunt half a day please give it a try. If you show up to the check-in we can use your help and you will get a free meal. Rivalry and friendly competition add to the fun, however these contest s are about predator control and usually produce several dozen animals. See the flyer for the check-in location on page 5 of this newsletter.

Please keep up to date with your hunt records as our hunter classifications have changed. Remember that you must turn in a hunt record by the April meeting to be eligible for any of the prizes.

Be Safe, Have Fun, hoot to Kill !

Dusty

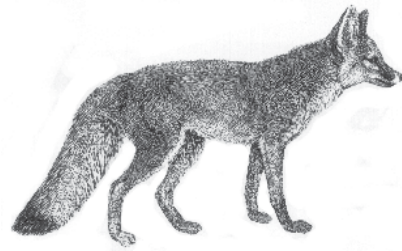
USDA Gray Fox Ecology Study

USDA National Rabies Management Program (NRMP) is conducting a gray fox ecology study in the Southwestern Region of the United State. USDA is collecting tissue samples to determine the interactions and distribution of the gray fox. USDA can then correlate habitat and distribution for the rabies program to work toward elimination of rabies in the gray fox species. USDA is also looking at ectoparasites for disease monitoring and research. For our study we are asking for the collection of the GPS coordinates (or as close a description to location as possible), the head and ticks found and removed from the body. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Gray Fox Sampling Procedures

1. Remove the head at the shoulders and place in a gallon sized Ziploc plastic bag.
2. Use forceps to search and remove ticks, then insert into a vial (Orange cryovial provided in our kits)
3. Fill out data sheet with location info (gps) and insert with the orange cryovial into the smaller plastic bag.
4. Place all samples into the second gallon sized Ziploc bag and place into the freezer.
5. Contact either Valerie Burton or Lola Van Pelt for pick up or shipping information
602-870-2081

Valerie Burton
District Supervisor
USDA APHIS Wildlife Services – Arizona
8836 N 23rd Ave, Suite 2
Phoenix, AZ 85021
(602) 870- 2081
Valerie.M.Burton@aphis.usda.gov



AGFD Commission Awards Banquet

The Commission will recognize 15 individuals and one organization during the event, which commends Arizonans who have contributed significantly to the conservation of the state's wildlife, its outdoor heritage and the mission of the Arizona Game and Fish Department. The event will be held on Saturday, Jan. 16, at the Arizona Grand Resort at 8000 S. Arizona Grand Parkway in Phoenix. Reservations are being accepted for \$65 per person to attend the event, which begins with a social hour and live music at 5 p.m., and will be followed by dinner and the awards presentation at 6 p.m. Those to be honored this year include:

- Award of Excellence: Mohave County Supervisor Hildy Angius
- Award of Excellence: Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich
- Youth Environmentalist of the Year: KJ Aldridge
- Outdoor Writer of the Year: Margaret Anderson
- Media of the Year: Rosie Romero Jr.
- Conservation Organization of the Year: Heritage Park Zoological Sanctuary
- Conservationist of the Year: Steve Clark
- Natural Resource Professional of the Year: Ray Suazo
- Volunteer of the Year: Chad Villamor
- Educator of the Year: Melanie Engstrom
- Mentor of the Year: Richard Williams
- Advocate of the Year - State: Arizona House Speaker Rep. David Gowan Sr.
- Advocate of the Year - Federal: U.S. Sen. John McCain
- Buck Appleby Hunter Education Instructor of the Year: Patrick Headington
- Wildlife Habitat Steward of the Year: Spider Ranch
- North American Model Commissioners Award: Carol Lynde

To make a reservation, use the RSVP form located on the Department website at <https://azgfdportal.az.gov/agency/commission/awards> or contact Lynn Roe at (623) 236-7332 or e-mail lroe@azgfd.gov.



Multi-Club Hunt

January 16, 2016

The 2016 Multi-Club Hunt is hosted by the 2015 Multi-Club Champions, the Arizona Predator Callers.

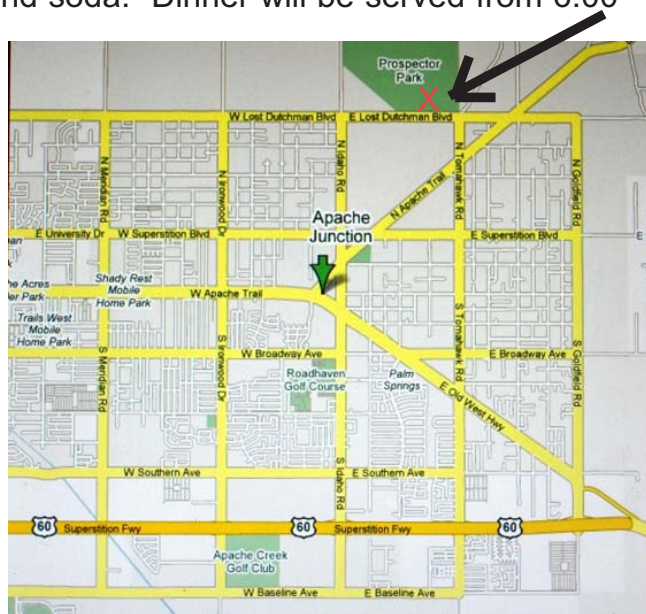
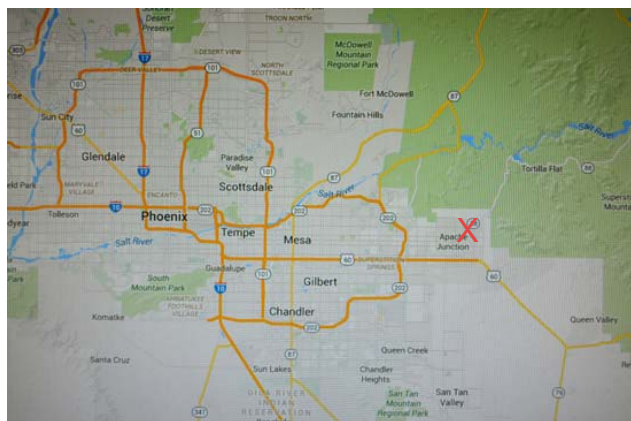
This event is open to all members of APC, PPCI, XPC and SAWC.

The 2016 Multi-Club Hunt determines bragging rights for the most prolific predator calling/hunting group in Arizona. Points will be awarded based on harvested species: Mountain Lion 100 points, Bobcat 50 points, Coyotes 10 points. Any other species will be 5 points (foxes, raccoon, badger, skunk, ring tails and weasel). All animals must be harvested legally in Arizona on the 16th of January, 2016. No frozen animals or road-kill will be scored.

Check-in location will be at the Apache Junction Rodeo Grounds, 1590 E. Lost Dutchman, Apache Junction, AZ 85219. It is about .7 mile east of Idaho Road and just west of Tomahawk. 33°26'12.7"N 111°31'30.9"W

Check-in time is from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM as determined by APC President John Arterburn's cellular phone time. Late check-ins will not be scored. When you arrive at the check-in, go immediately to the sign-in table and register your team. You will be directed to the location where your harvested animal is to be placed.

Dinner will be provided by APC. Menu consists of grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, chili, potato salad, chips, cookies, water and soda. Dinner will be served from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.



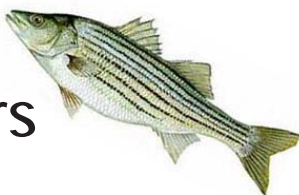
www.azpredatorcallers.com

12/12/15

Let's get out there and hunt this one for APC. The more teams we have hunt the Multi-Club Hunt, the better chance we have of winning this again. Get with John Arterburn to match up with a partner if you can't find someone to hunt with you. John's contact info is on page 1.

Capt. Don Martin

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ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

MANAGING TODAY FOR WILDLIFE TOMORROW

www.azgfd.gov



AZGFD offers 10 tips for a safe, responsible hunt using an OHV

December 22, 2015

Arizona's hunters continue to trudge off into the state's wilderness areas and it's likely many of them may be utilizing an off-highway vehicle (OHV) to aid in the retrieval of game. Because of this, the Arizona Game and Fish Department reminds those using any OHV - whether it's an all-terrain vehicle (ATV), side-by-side or dirt bike - to ride safely and responsibly by following these 10 tips:

Know and follow all regulations and laws. OHVs used within Arizona must be equipped with a spark arrester and muffler. In addition, all machines must be registered and have a current OHV decal, which can be purchased at any Arizona Motor Vehicle Division office or renewed yearly at www.servicearizona.com.

Always wear a helmet. Whether you're riding in a side-by-side, ATV or dirt bike, all riders younger than 18 years old are legally required to wear a Department of Transportation-approved helmet. Helmets are strongly recommended for all riders older than 18.

Eye protection is legally required for all riders if the OHV is not equipped with a windshield.

Carry firearms unloaded and cased or in a gun rack.

Never chase or harass wildlife. Doing so is against the law.

Only travel on designated trails. Consider how you will retrieve your animal before you take a shot. It's illegal to create your own trail as it can cause or exacerbate soil erosion and damage habitat relied upon by wildlife.

Check with local law enforcement, land managers and/or property owners before you head out.

Area national forests are in different phases of implementing travel management rules that place restrictions on motor vehicle use within U.S. National Forest boundaries. It is always up to each hunter to know who owns a particular property and to determine whether there are special hunting, access and/or traveling restrictions.

Respect other hunters. To minimize conflict with others, do not ride your OHV during prime hunting hours or in areas where others are hunting. Also remember to yield the right-of-way if you encounter other hunters on foot or with pack animals. Pull to the side of the trail, turn off your engine, remove your helmet and allow them to pass safely.

Be prepared and equipped. Take area maps and guides, and have a compass, first aid kit, whistle, tire repair kit, tow rope or chain and other basic tools on hand. Also make sure to bring sunscreen, water, fuel and food.

Keep your speed down to minimize dust and noise.

For more information about the Arizona Game and Fish OHV program and on safety courses, visit www.azgfd.gov/ohv.

Respiratory disease detected in Black Mountains bighorn sheep

Dec. 31, 2015

Laboratory results consistent with pneumonia strain found in neighboring states

The Arizona Game and Fish Department has confirmed a disease event affecting a portion of the bighorn sheep population in the Black Mountains of northwest Arizona.

After receiving reports in early December from hunters who observed bighorn sheep in Game Management Unit 15D exhibiting coughing or nasal discharge, the department conducted a spot survey of the northern portion of the unit on Dec. 9. Tissue samples from three ewes, each animal culled from a different herd, showed characteristics consistent with pneumonia.

The survey then was extended into the central and southern portions of the unit. A few bighorn sheep near Mount Nutt and Battleship were observed coughing, but none of the animals was culled. The survey did not reveal any carcasses. All bighorn sheep observed in the survey appeared in good body condition. Some animals in Unit 15C also have shown signs of pneumonia.

While bighorn sheep can thrive in some of the harshest environments, they are highly susceptible to serious - and sometimes lethal - infectious diseases, such as pneumonia, sinusitis, and bluetongue. Bighorn sheep can contract pneumonia-causing bacteria from domestic sheep or other bighorn sheep, and there is no vaccine or cure.

Weeks of laboratory testing confirmed the strain of pneumonia bacteria found in the affected bighorn sheep is the same as the one that led to an outbreak of pneumonia that affected bighorn sheep in 2013 in California's Mojave National Preserve and last year in Nevada's Spring Mountains. While most bighorn sheep will remain in a defined home range, animals may occasionally move out of the core home range and come into contact with adjacent populations. The disease is transmitted by direct contact of infected animals with susceptible bighorn sheep.

The department will continue to monitor the bighorn sheep population in the Black Mountains and track reports of affected animals, while attempting to collect samples if any carcasses are discovered in the area.

December APC Meeting Highlights



Lola Van Pelt of the USDA gave a presentation on how to collect samples from gray fox for the National Rabies Management Program.



Stan Schepers gave a skinning demonstration. Here Stan is showing **Ryan Schmidt** how to get started skinning a gray fox.



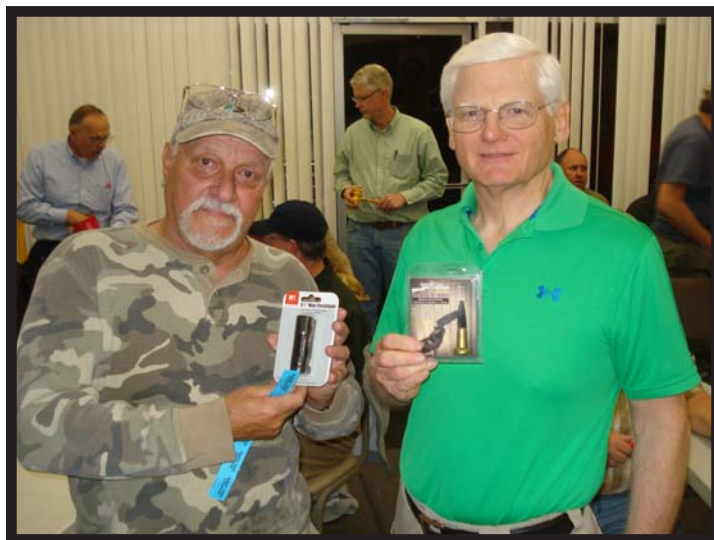
Holly Slade is getting some close monitoring by her father-in-law **Dennis Slade** as she participates in skinning the gray fox.



Ken Eaton presented a call to Novice hunter **Alec Hedrick** in recognition of Alec harvesting his first ever coyote.



Raffle Winners



Door Prize Winners

Chuck Flewelling was the lucky winner of the December firearm raffle. Chuck received a Weatherby Vanguard S2 Sporter bolt action 22-250.

**Buy your raffle tickets at the meeting.
5 tickets for \$20.00 or \$5.00 each.**



The following tentative schedule has been developed by your Executive Board as a guideline to be used for next seasons APC events. Please look this over and give us your opinion and comments. Direct them to: John Arterburn, johna@ppace.biz

APC 2015 / 2016 Meeting Topics

Meeting Date	Primary Topic of Speaker	Topics for predator hunting skills & knowledge as they relate to coyote, mountain lion, bobcat and fox. Numbered 1-40	Hunt Date
8/13/15	Intro to APC and Predators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Explain ethical and humane hunting and firearm safety 2 Explain the physical traits that make a predator 3 Explain the behavioral traits that make a predator 4 Explain predator social structures 5 Explain vocalizations 	8/15/15
9/10/15	Fox Bobcat and Scouting Technology	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6 What do the different predators hunts 7 How often does each predator hunt and when do they hunt 8 Explain what each predator does when it's not hunting and where it can be found 9 Explain what attracts each predator, then how you attract them 10 Explain what deters or frightens each predator 11 Explain what gives a predator security & what this means 12 Explain how each predator will approach a target of opportunity when they are young, hungry, experienced, high security or low security 	9/12/15
10/8/15	Bear and Mountain Lion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13 Explain where to find each predator in the desert, forest, or prairies 14 Explain scouting for predators and record keeping 15 Explain conditions to be considered for a predator stand 16 Explain how to approach a predator stand 17 Explain what to do in the predator stand and how long to do it and how to leave the predator stand 18 How many stands do you need and how often do you return to the stand 	Predator Callers Workshop 10/10/15
11/12/15	Coyote	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 19 Explain what clothes to wear and body odor 20 Explain which fire arms and what equipment to use 21 Explain hunting and a pair and hunting by yourself or trio 22 Explain time of day to hunt predator during seasons of year 	11/14/15
12/10/15	Skinning & Fur Preparation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 23 Explain coyote lifecycle and associated calling techniques which vary according to lifecycle 24 Carcass disposal, night hunting, moon cycles 25 Explain the difference in distance between calling stand when driving versus walking 	12/12/15
1/14/16	Technology & Multi Club Hunt	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 26 Talk about using a ladder sitting standing laying down 27 Explain shooting aids and the differences between them all. 29 Talk about call and types of calls and what predator and prey sounds to use 	Multi Club Hunt 1/16/16
2/11/16	Calling with E-caller & hand	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 30 Talk about hunting on private land and public land 31 Talk about shooting proficiency each year and citing equipment in each year 32 Talk about using Google maps, land navigation, GPS use on foot and in a vehicle. 	2/13/16

continued on next page

Meeting Date	Primary Topic of Speaker	Topics for predator hunting skills & knowledge as they relate to coyote, mountain lion, bobcat and fox. Numbered 1-40	Hunt Date
3/10/16	Turkey	33 Talk about hunting vehicles and equipment needed in vehicle and on body 34 Talk about number of days hunting and how proficiency goes up as days increase to point. Do not practice but practice perfect 35 Record your hunts over the course of the hunting season to be successful	Save A Fawn Hunt 3/12/16
4/14/16	Firearms	38 Talk about why & how using a ladder, standing, sitting chair/ground, laying down 39 Explain stocking vs calling a coyote when why how 40 Talk about hunting contest and what you learn	4/16/16
5/12/16	Awards	Presentation of season hunting awards and election of officers.	

January Events

APC General Meeting.....January 14, 2016
Multi Club Hunt.....January 16, 2016

Monthly APC meetings are held at the Mesa FOP Hall, 1450 E. Main Street, Mesa, from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm

APC Video Library

The following individuals have videos checked out.

Please return in a timely manner so others may view also.

- 12/10/15 Hank Scutoski.....Calling Coyotes With Mark Zepp
- 4/9/15 Jerry Brady.....Calling Predators
- 3/13/14 Jerry Snodgrass.....Coyote Behavior
- 10/8/15 Clayton Harper.....Coyote Rage-FreeGrass & No Fences
- 12/10/15 Hank Scutoski.....Coyote vs 55 grains
- 4/9/15 Jerry Brady.....Crazy Like a Coyote
- 11/9/14 Chip Hidinger.....Nail Em AZ Style
- 10/8/15 Clayton Harper.....Operation Predator II
- 10/8/15 Doug Williams.....Texas Predator Pursuit

Thanks *Jerry*

Membership Report

Welcome New Members:
Michael Lemothe

Thanks to the following members for renewing their APC memberships:

Bill Cirelli, Jim Lara, Skip Mikolajczyk, Michael Zaccardi, Michael Munroe, Oren Wallace, Art Gransee and Doug Williams

Expiring Soon:

John Albin, DonCanine, Scott Fribbs, Kara Jensen, Andy Musacchio, Mike Vora, Nick Arnett, Jerry Brady, Ryan Georges, Ty Schrader, Matt Stewart and Mark Roland

Recently expired. We'd love to have you back:

Jason Agresta, Jason Alvarado, Bill Baber, Craig Barnett, Duane Blau, Dan Carey, Troy Clark, Michael PiPede, Dustin Gransee, Robert Hedrick, Parker Heywood, Chip Hidlinger, Bill Hudzietz, Treavor Jorgensen, Jerry Lape, Joel Letcher, Christian Lizardi, Tiana Mamaradlo, Craig Maris, Don Martin, Bill McCance, Paul Melching, D. Mickey Meredith, David Morris, Jason Mosier, Danny Nielson, James Petersen, Randy Pinson, Cameron Pinta, Sam Rymond, Jonathan Smith, Steve Smoot, Jared Tompkinson, Ronald Towles, Loren Vickers, Ken Waddill, Scott Wardlaw

A Great 2015

by Dan Rooney

Now living in New Mexico after growing up and old in Mesa brings many moments of missing my kids and grandkids. I was thrilled and excited when my two sons texted me photos of Chase's archery antelope tag and both of their archery elk tags. Chase's antelope tag was in our family's infamous "Big Buck Pasture," with Chase's elk tag in Unit 23 and Gavin's elk tag in Unit 3. The following weeks were filled with excitement, anticipation and planning. As the season approached following productive scouting trips, the days till opening seemed to drag endlessly. Chase's anticipation grew as a 400+ bull showed up on the trail cam. Gavin's anticipation grew just knowing he was going elk hunting and getting away from his job of high responsibility for the scheduled two week season. My anticipation was simply the excitement of hanging with my boys. Though their tags were in separate units, the plan was for Chase to kill on Day 1 or 2 as he had his bull located and somewhat patterned. Further review placed his bull in the 440+ range. He would kill then come over to help His older brother Gavin score. Logistically I was going to Gavin's elk camp because it was closer and in the pines!

Elk Camp was an immediate pleasant surprise as several friends of Gavin I hadn't seen in many years were there along with his Doctor Brother n Law. Reminiscing with the boys about their Little League, Pop Warner, Jr. High and High School Sports participated in, along with State Championships won, was a special journey down memory lane. We reminisced about their first coyote hunting trips with me and laughed endlessly. I also advised them that now that they all were successful in their careers, I would be sending them bills for all the food they ate out of my refrigerator when they were high schoolers and in college...LOL! I am thankful they chose to hang at our home and eat our food during those exciting years.

The early morning prior to daylight of opening morning was filled with excitement as the air was filled with bulls bugling in the distance. Climbing to a summit was brutal on this old man while trying to keep up with the younger and not slowing their pursuit. Reaching the summit we positioned ourselves over looking several canyons of significant depth and distance across. At least 5 bulls were challenging each other. Glassing with 4 sets of binoced eyes, the five vocal bulls were located. One majestic bull was spotted across the canyon and was instantly tagged as the one to go after. Still in the primitive world of using topo maps, I was quickly confused as the boys took out their iPhones plotting way points with precise pin-pointing of the bull's location with direct paths of pursuit provided by the Iphone. We descended down to the truck, hopped into the truck driving around the canyon via the path provided by their iPhones. Once parked, again out came the iPhones to provide the direct foot path to the bull's plotted way point. Slowly moving into a vantage point, we bugled and instantly got a response. Glassing across an opening we quickly located the bull, along with his heard of 25 cows. This was not going to be an easy quest. Several stalks throughout the day on the "Toad" as the boys named him were exciting filled with anticipation, all ending being busted by the ever watching cows. The action packed day ended with the anticipation of Chase reporting in on his day. He obviously was in an area of no service as we were not able to contact him and he did not contact us.

Day 2 and after several busted stalks on "Toad," we decided to hunt the satellite bulls we knew were circling in hopes of scoring while "Toad" was looking or busy doing what herd bulls do that time of year. For whatever reason the bulls were hot and vocal all day long, making locating easy and with constant excitement. Plot with the Iphone and go find the bull!!!! I wasn't sure if the Iphone didn't have an arrow guidance system within; if a shot opportunity presented itself. Several stalks were made on good satellite bulls but no shot opportunity. We broke for lunch, strategized the afternoon hunt and took a short nap. The afternoon air was still filled with bulls vocalizing.

"Toad" was easy to locate as his bugle and chuckle were distinctive. Surrounding "Toad" were 4 or 5 nice satellite bulls, all noisy, anxious to fight and anxious to do what they hope to do that time of year. iPhones coordinated, the afternoon pursuit was on. About 4 pm the bulls were really vocal and were really going after each other. I stayed back about 100 yards as Gavin and his buddy Justin stalked towards the action with constant awareness of the wind using their squeeze bottles of powder for direction and guidance. Limited cow calls were used in hopes of luring one of the bulls in. After about 45 minutes and no visual on the boys I moved forward slowly towards the vocal bulls. "Toad" was still in the area and equally vocal which complicated the stalk on the two satellite bulls. Not knowing where the boys were, I cow called as I moved forward. Glassing, I was able to spot the two bulls actually sparring. My heart was pounding and anxious for Gavin to close the deal, although I had not located his position. Darkness and shooting light was encroaching. While glassing the two bulls, one of the bulls suddenly jerked and bolted out of sight. My initial feeling was Gavin had a shot opportunity and had hit the bull. I waited for about 30 minutes before moving towards the last visual location of the bull and hopefully locating the boys. Darkness fell, no bull, no boys, so I decided I would head back to the truck. The next hour was exciting as the truck was not where it was suppose to be. I was able to contact the boys as we had spotty phone service. They were back at the truck asking where I was. I told them I was where the bulls had been fighting along the road. They were on their way to pick me up. While waiting I thought it would be fun to bugle and act bullish. Within minutes I had a bull within proximity enough to hear his heavy breathing after chuckling.....not a wise decision.....exciting but not wise. The boys were not there yet so I decided to entertain myself by calling coyotes. Again within minutes I had two dogs literally within feet. Exciting moments in the wild! I was able to contact the boys again and it was evident I was not where they thought I was, nor was I where I

A Great 2015 continued:

thought I was. Having been stranded in the wilds of Alaska for 7 days by myself, I wasn't too worried as what the boys seemed to be. My iPhone6 rang again with Justin on the other end. He instructed me through a process of positioning my location on the phone and sending it to him. He then was able to send the signal back somehow and pin point my location. Within minutes I saw the head lights coming. The boys with humor informed me I needed to get into the 21st iPhone Century.

Gavin had indeed arrowed the bull and Jason had caught the shot on.....his iPhone! They waited after the shot but were not able to find the bull before darkness set in. Reviewing the iPhone video, when the bull turned, the arrow was exposed in front of his rear flank with a significant amount of blood surrounding the exposed arrow. Gavin believed the elk had jumped his string as he felt he had made a calm good shot. Back at camp we reviewed the video over and over. The consensus was, Gavin had to have hit the Femoral Artery due to the amount of blood around the arrow and the arrow had hit bone preventing an exit. The likely hood of intestinal damage was also probable. Not a pleasant thought. A sleepless night followed all, Gavin reliving his shot, with the rest of us hoping to find the bull the following morning.

We were out at sunrise anxious to see what the morning would bring. The boys had programmed the shot location on their iPhones allowing us to locate a significant quantity of blood in one area and the direction of the blood trail. The blood trail ran out quickly. We separated about 50 yards apart and trekking about ½ of a mile before turning back to the blood area. Frustrated and disappointed, we headed back to the truck. Walking only about 50 yards towards the truck, Justin looked to his right and spotted the bull piled up. The Whooping and Hollering began. The Bull had circled back and fell within yards of where he was originally hit. Cleaning the bull, Gavin had indeed severed the Femoral Artery with the arrow lodging in the opposite leg bone with no intestinal damage. We boned out the fine bull, loaded the meat packs and headed the short distance back to the truck, anxious to receive a report from Chase's quest.



Gavin Rooney and Dan Rooney

Chase's first report was filled with a bit of disappointment and excitement. Disappointment, because he had not located the big bull captured on his trail cam; although he had passed up several bulls in the 330+ class. His excitement was for his elder brother of 10 years. Though Chase was in the adjacent unit to Gavin, the bulls were not very vocal.

Being the "Cool, Calm and Collected," person that Chase is, throughout the week Chase, via iPhone, sent us pictures of bulls in the 350-375 class he had passed up looking for Sir 440. The eve of the final day of his hunt, Chase located Sir 440, staying with him until the fall of darkness. Assured Sir 440 would be in the same vicinity at daylight, Chase positioned himself. The distinct tone of Sir 440 filled the waking hours of the final day, allowing Chase to position for an ambush. With the first light, and familiar toned bugle, Chase spotted antlers glistening with movement through the junipers and on a perfect path of opportunity. With arrow calmly drawn and focused on the hopeful shooting lane, the boiler room was exposed. Chase picked his spot, releasing his arrow, while watching its path hit his

aim. The bull jumped, ran, followed by the sound of crashing and the thump of ground. With excitement and anticipation, Chase waited for what seemed an eternity. Locating the fallen bull through his binoculars, Chase approached with caution, when suddenly to his right echoed a familiar bugle and out strode Sir 440! Chase had not realized there had been a satellite bull with Sir 440. Though disappointed, elation soon prevailed with his first archery elk, which had followed his record book and first archery antelope weeks earlier.

Life's epic journey is soon arriving full circle for this soon to be 65 year old. Upon reflection it seems not long ago Gavin accompanied me on the late season East Kaibab Hunt as an Eight year old and newly Baptized Member of His Church, granting him passage and the freedom of choice to accompany his Dad on the first of many great outings and adventures. I still can see His proud smile while carrying my rifle, plodding back to camp, through snow, while packing out a nice 30"+ Mule Deer, which won the "Big Buck Contest," that year.

It would be 10 years later that his younger brother Chase would obtain the same rite of passage. As if it were yesterday I can hear the crack of Chase's Marlin .22 Mag., on his very first predator hunt and on his very first stand with Dad blowing a Circe Jackrabbit call. I still see the broad smile on his face while walking out from his juniper stand carrying a nice Gray Fox. A later stand, that same day, once again the crack of the Marin .22 Mag., this time I see Chase walking back carrying his

continued on page 14

A Great 2015 continued:



Chase Rooney and his elk

first coyote! Both animals I had not witnessed them responding and coming to the call. Chase, with what I can only deem as, "Natural Instinct," didn't like the position I had placed him. Without direction, he repositioned himself to his comfort. The caliber used and instinct possessed speaks for itself, two predators in the back of the truck by an Eight Year Old!.....or was it the back of His Mom's brand new Suburban, taken without permission????? Oh the pain of repentance.

Today, the legs become easily weary, hearing is muffed and the eyesight blurred. It is I, now following the footprints of my sons in the sand or snow, trying to keep pace, as my sons pause, looking back, with loving patience and concern, while waiting for Dad to catch his breath, before proceeding and with a concerning dialogue of previous words spoken in years past,....."Are You O.K.?"

With longevity uncertain and the realization "My Epic Journey" will soon arrive Full Circle, I still have comfort in experiencing priceless moments with my Sons, and.... "A Great 2015!"



Gavin Rooney with Justin Fritz who helped locate the bull elk.



Dan Engler (my general manager) 494 7/8 official bull harvested by 21 year old Native employee.

Success In The Field



Tom Hall, a friend of **John Arterburn**, harvested this bear in Arizona at 460 yards. The bear was determined by AZGF to be 15 years old.



AGFD Predator, Furbearer and Large Carnivore Biologist Report

by April Howard

Parasite Surveillance

The Arizona Game and Fish Department is partnering with the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) to conduct disease surveillance for a parasite that can cause disease in humans when transmitted through animal or insect vectors. *Onchocerca lupi* is a zoonotic parasite that is capable of infecting dogs, cats, and humans. There are approximately 10 confirmed or suspected human cases that have been reported in Turkey, Tunisia, Iran, Crimea, Albania, and the southwestern United States, and almost 100 cases in domestic dogs. In Arizona, there have been a few cases in humans and dogs in Flagstaff and Navajo Nation.

Onchocerca lupi is an emerging infectious disease in the U.S. and causes a rare disease primarily associated with conjunctivitis in dogs and cats but, in 2012, it was documented in the spine of a young child from Flagstaff. Little is known about the life cycle of *O. lupi*, including the vector and its primary reservoir host. It is possible that black flies and biting midges may be vectors for *O. lupi*, as they are vectors for other species of *Onchocerca*, and we believe that wild and domestic canids may serve as the reservoir host. A great deal more needs to be learned, including full host range and geographic distribution, before we fully understand *O. lupi* infections in animals and humans.

Because coyotes are so plentiful and wide-ranging, it is possible that they could serve as a host for this parasite. Therefore, we are working with ADHS to collect skin samples from harvested coyotes. So far, we have collected just over 100 samples to be analyzed. The purpose of this research is to increase our understanding and management of zoonotic diseases, identify the role of coyotes as potential hosts of parasites and diseases and as a potential reservoir for human infections, characterize the presence and geographic distribution patterns of specific parasites in Arizona coyote populations, elucidate at-risk areas for human infections, and enhance and protect public and wildlife health in the State of Arizona.

Email: ahoward@azgfd.gov

2015

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COYOTE CALLING CONTEST

The 2015 World Championship Coyote Calling Contest was held in northern Arizona on the first weekend of December. Congratulations to Geoff Nemnich and Dustin Patterson on their first place accomplishment. Listed below are the final results of this years contest. APC members or past members are highlighted in bold.

- | | | | |
|------|---|------|-----------------------------------|
| 1st | Geoff Nemnich / Dustin Patterson | 26th | Steve Walker / Garrett Johnson |
| 2nd | Josh Cornett / A.K. Anderson | 27th | Stacey Morris / Rhett Mathill |
| 3rd | Lance Sellers / Jake ZeBell | 28th | Don Simpson / Gary Beatley |
| 4th | Matt Stewart / James Stewart | 29th | Tom Bailey / Nolar Pearson |
| 5th | Al Morris / Garvin | 30th | Wayen Larsen / Sherman Richardson |
| 6th | Mike Thomas / Troy Corburn | 31st | Clint Gardner / A Lyle Power |
| 7th | Tony Tebbe / Mickey Houston | 32th | Rachel Suazo / Shannon Del Curto |
| 8th | Scott Penman / Earl Espy | 33rd | John Bair / Jered Gasser |
| 9th | Bart Toone / Steven Thompson | 34th | Blake Champan / Tom Schmid |
| 12th | Tom Austin / Berry Carver | 35th | TJ Shippy / Brady Shippy |
| 10th | Dustin Butler / Ron Talbot | 36th | Loren Lunsford / Douglas Welch |
| 11th | Jay Bangerter / Layne Bangerter | 37th | Doug Montrose / Peter Neuman |
| 12th | Jeff Writer / T Richards | 38th | Brian Trussell / Jimmy Banks |
| 13th | Carl Trent Western / Greg Davis | 39th | Doug Yancey / Paul Socfield |
| 14th | Jim Bob Allen / Rowdy Allen | 40th | Ross Shores / John Jimenez |
| 15th | Ty Rains / Craig Johnson | 41st | Ray Kolb / Greg LeBlanc |
| 16th | Sean Yazzie / Price | 42nd | Volney Howard / Emerson Romero |
| 17th | Jeff Barnes / Vince Barnes | 43rd | Curtis Crawford / Kevin Higashi |
| 18th | Justin Perkins / Kylor Perkins | 44th | Claytin James / Jacob Robbins |
| 19th | Scott Francom / Tyler Higgs | 45th | Rubin Olivas / Alfredo Duran |
| 20th | Brent Sheppard / Trevor Chapman | 46th | Tommy Orr / Teddy Orr |
| 21th | Sam Noel / Trevor Stewart | 47th | Eddie Faulter / Anthony Matthews |
| 22nd | Charlie Innacone / Mike Innacone | 48th | Robert Murry / Dan Turner |
| 23rd | Craig Sandy / Chip Long | 49th | Chris Chavez / Nathan Ragon |
| 24th | Tom Meady / Lee Johnson | 50th | Tim Gardner / Joh Caple |
| 25th | Nate Phillips / Andrew Phillips | | |





Arizona Wildlife Federation News

Becoming an Outdoors Woman

Treat a special woman in your life to the gift of wonder; a fabulous weekend in the great outdoors. Moms, wives, daughters, girlfriends... anyone you consider special. There are 3 exciting weekends with the AWF Becoming an Outdoors Woman program in 2016 that will make a great gift.

Becoming an Outdoors Woman is an outdoors skills program for women 18 or older. Arizona's BOW Deluxe will be held at scenic Saguaro Lake Ranch in the heart of the Sonoran desert, January 22-24th. This B&B style lodge is perfect for the women who likes comfort with her outdoor experience. The cost is \$380 which includes instruction, program materials, use of equipment, deluxe lodging and meals Friday evening through Sunday noon. Copy and paste this link for registration information <http://mlist.orchidsuites.net/lists/lt.php?id=NkoGBQJbXQIQBlpICFNcDwZJAI5VDFFT>

A traditional BOW will held at Friendly Pines Camp, April 15-17th and September 9-11. The cost of these camps is \$250. Registration packets for these camps are upcoming.

Classes for 2016 include: Fishing, Edible & Medicinal Plants, Gardening for Wildlife, Outdoor Photography, Dutch Oven Cooking, Predator Calling, Trick Track Trail, Hiking, Archery, Javelina Hunting, Desert Survival, Geocaching, Rappelling, Paddling, Birding and many more.

A certificate with registration materials will be mailed for presentation to the lucky woman. Contact Kimberlee at the Arizona Wildlife Federation office by calling 480-644-0077 or by e-mail to awf@azwildlife.org

2015 Arizona Wildlife Trophies Book

Do you have a special hunter in your life?

The new 2015 Arizona Wildlife Trophies book is in production. The cost of the book is \$45 + Shipping. Call 480-644-0077 to preorder this book.

Purchase a 2010 Arizona Wildlife Trophies book! Discounted to \$30 + Shipping for the holidays.

This edition of the Arizona Wildlife Trophies contains the first definitive history of the transplant efforts for eight of the eleven big game species addressed in the trophy books. When the decision to move animals is made, there is one fact that remains inevitably the same with each and every transplant: it involves work ...a lot of work! From the planning, the capture, transport and release, and the follow-up monitoring, transplanting wildlife is a major endeavor.

An often unacknowledged element in transplant exercises is that sportsmen, specifically those who hunt the target species, are frequently at the forefront of translocation projects both in providing funding and actual physical help. Efforts of the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society and the Arizona Antelope Foundation are examples of this trend. Those who passively encounter these animals on a road trip or a stroll through the landscape rarely match the hunter's passion that leads them to volunteer their time and money to benefit favored species. Hunters remain the backbone of North American wildlife and habitat conservation efforts.

Thus, what we now call the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation has become the foundation of wildlife management in the U.S. and Canada. In Arizona it works very well. Taxes on firearms, ammunition, and hunting gear purchased by hunters are used to fund research and the state's management programs, including wildlife transplant projects. These funds, along with license and permit fees paid by hunters, are the foundation of all wildlife management activities.

The relationship between the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the state's hunters stimulated the theme of this edition of Arizona Wildlife Trophies. The first series of chapters summarizes the species that have been systematically transplanted in Arizona. This is followed by a series of hunting tales written by those who have benefited from wildlife management actions like species transplants. These tales are in a language universally understood by hunters ...with only the slightest editorial touch so the style and idioms used to convey the excitement of the hunt are preserved.

Contact Kimberlee at 480-644-0077 or e-mail awf@azwildlife.org to order your copy.

Arizona Predator Callers - Membership Application

Name: _____ Hm Phone: _____ Wk Phone: _____
Address: _____ Fax #: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ DOB: _____
email address: _____

ARIZONA PREDATOR CALLERS LIABILITY RELEASE: by signing below I understand that I will not hold APC and/or APC board of directors, officers, committee Members, Judges, Members, and volunteers responsible in any way for accidents, losses, judgments, or any Act of God that may happen while participating in any APC sponsored or co-sponsored meeting or event. APC policy is to promptly report to law enforcement all suspected abuse and sexual molestation. Have you been convicted of a Crime? ____Yes ____No.

Signature: _____

Additional Family Members

Name: _____ Relationship: _____ DOB: _____
Name: _____ Relationship: _____ DOB: _____
Name: _____ Relationship: _____ DOB: _____

Primary Annual Membership.....\$30.00 New Membership
Family Membership add \$5.00.....\$35.00
Lifetime Individual Membership.....\$350.00 Renewal

Amount Enclosed _____

Send To:
Arizona Predator Callers
P.O. Box 1172
Mesa, AZ 85211-1172

Arizona Predator Callers
P.O. Box 1172
Mesa, AZ 85211-1172



Address Correction Requested

