

PREDATOR'S PRIDE



ARIZONA PREDATOR CALLERS

APRIL 2003

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THE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

by Mike Burris, President

Well how about the club shootout? I hope everyone had a great time because I sure did. Thanks to Andy Musacchio for getting us a date on the range where it was cool temperatures, we all had to put up with a little wind but the shooting was at a level of competition that even surprised those of us that have been attending for years. There were lots of bulls eyes and the scores were high in the top 5 places, our top shooter in the main match was Eric Vidana...Congratulations! Then 2nd place went to Andy Musacchio 3rd place was Jeff Serdy and 4th was Josh Serdy and in 5th was Kyle Serdy. That's a pretty strong showing for the Serdy family and they should be very tough next year. Jeff had some ideas for some shotgun competition next year that sound like it would be a welcome addition for those of us that shoot shotguns for predators. We had 18 shooters in our main match and 9 shooters in our long-range match. I didn't count how many shots were taken at our 300-yard milk jug that was filled with Dr. Pepper so we could see when it was hit. After a dozen or so shots Eric put a hole in the middle of the jug and won half the pot.

The long range match was tricky because of the wind but Danny Solow had the tightest group @ 4 5/8 of an inch using his Rem. 260 he said he had a good hold point and put 5 rounds in the same spot. Larry Miller was 2nd with a group that measured 6 11/16 of an inch; he had a custom 40x in 6.5x284. Next were John Schwartzlow and myself with a 10 1/2 inch group, John used his 270 while I shot with a 17 Rem. Danny Booth had a 11 1/8" group using his Sendero chambered in 7mm, Dusty Mosier had a 14 3/8" group using his Olympic Arms AR15, Pete

Goula had a 29" group using an AR15, John Macias had a 30" group with a 222 BDL and Eric Vidana shot his 7 Mag but could not be measured. John Schwartzlow and Dusty Mosier were the winners of the team pistol shoot...Congratulations! A big thanks to Andy and Willard for braving the pit and doing our measuring while we all got to shoot. I would also like to thank the *Pistol Parlour, Bear Mountain, Mesa Gun Shop* and the *Arizona Sportsman* for donating bricks of ammunition to be awarded to the winners.

Coming up on April 19th there will be a highway clean up sponsored by *Wildlife Conservation Council* in cooperation with *Arizona Dept. of Transportation*. We are hoping to get 300 people or more for this event. We will be meeting at the New River off ramp on I-17 at 8:00am and we will clean until noon. When we are all done there will be snacks and food provided by *Bashas*. Safety vests and trash bags will be provided by *ADOT*.

On May 27th at 6:00pm at the East valley *AZ Game & Fish* office located on University just east of Power Road, there will be a public meeting on an Article III rule proposal. This proposal will allow sportsman to unplug their shotguns for all wildlife, except migratory birds. We all need to be at that meeting to voice our support for the department to make this rule possible. Prior to the meeting you would need to fill out a blue card in order to speak at the meeting. Another option would be to support this change in writing.

On May 19th will be the Boquillas Ranch clean up sponsored by *Mohave County Sportsmen Club* and *Arizona Game & Fish Dept*. This one-day of trash pick up helps to keep open the one million acres of native land.

As always I look forward to seeing you at the meeting. Bring a friend and enjoy the snacks.

COMING EVENTS

April General Meeting 10 Apr '03
Long Range Shooting
 WCC Hiway Cleanup 19 Apr '03
 (see article for more info)
 April Board Meeting 28 Apr '03
 May General Meeting 8 May '03
GPS & Map Reading
 Boquillas Ranch Cleanup . . 17 May '03??
 (see article for more info)

Monthly APC meetings are held at the Mesa FOP Hall, 1450 E. Main Street, Mesa, from 7:00 p.m. till ????. Board meetings are held at the Arizona Wildlife Federation office at 7:00 p.m.

FROM THE VP.

by Dan Solow, Vice President

Howdy All Members,

Hope everyone is fine and doing well. We had our club shoot out on Saturday, March 29th. A huge thanks to Andy, for arranging and running the match. A good time was had by all, with food and drinks provided by the club. The wind made all the matches very challenging, and in all, some good scores were posted.

A few projects that I have going are with the 22 K-Hornet, and 17 Ackley Hornet. The 22 K-Hornet I have been shooting out of a 14 inch Thompson Center Contender barrel. I have shot two 40gr bullets, a Sierra #1385, and a Hornady V-Max. I have been loading AA1680, and have been getting around 2775fps. The Sierra has grouped much better than the Hornady. I have been shooting what I have on hand, and have other powder and bullets to try. The K-Hornet case is very easy to make, all you do is take a regular Hornet case, and fire it in your K-Hornet barrel, and you have formed your case, pretty neat.

The 17 Ackley Hornet is a very interesting cartridge. It is the 22 Hornet case necked down to 17 caliber, and then fire formed when shot. I have been fire forming some Hornet cases with AA1680, shooting a 20gr V-Max, going around 3700fps. I plan on using Hodgdon Lil' Gun in the 17AH, and can get over 3900fps, with little sign of pressure. I still have more load testing to do, but Lil' Gun and the V-Max, look like the way to go. The other day at the range, I set up two half-gallon milk containers filled with water, one behind the other. I shot the front one, and the 20gr V-Max blew up inside it, also, the sec-

ond container split both sides from the concussion of the first container, this round was only going about 3700fps. The entry hole in the first container, looked like it tried to blow back out.

Till next month, have fun and be safe. Remember to support the merchants who support our club.

Dan

TREASURERS REPORT

by Jerry Thorson, APC Treasurer

This Treasurers report details all transactions from March 1, 2003 through March 30, 2003.

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance	\$3,946.83
Check #1256 AWF Dues (34 members)	(221.00)
Check #1257 AZ Corp Commission .	(10.00)
Check #1258 Common Ground.....	(30.00)
Check #1259 M. Burris (meeting food)..	(43.19)
Check #1260 S Breseman (raffle)	(40.63)
Check #1301 AWF Dues (7 members)(45.50)	
Check #1302 D. Burris (cleanup food) (172.76)	
Deposit 3/20 (Dues & \$190 cash).....	345.00
Deposit 3/29 (Dues & \$111 cash).....	241.00
Ending Balance 3/31/03	\$3,969.75

PETTY CASH

Petty Cash Beginning Balance	86.04
Call Sales & Raffles	275.90
Deposits to Checking	(301.00)
Petty Cash Ending Balance	60.94
Total Cash 12/31/97	\$4,030.69

INVENTORY

Crit'r Call Magnum	3 ...@.....	\$10.00
Crit'r Call Song Dog	8 ...@.....	\$18.00
Crit'r Call Standard	0 ...@.....	\$9.00
Crit'r Call PeeWee	0 ...@.....	\$9.00
Crit'r Call Reeds	20 ...@.....	\$1.50
Tally-Ho.....	25 ...@.....	\$8.00
Tally-Ho Reeds	115 ...@.....	\$1.50
Tally-Ho Inserts.....	261 ...@.....	\$0.25
T-Shirts	41 ...@.....	\$12.00
APC Caps	13 ...@.....	\$15.00
WCCC Caps	49 ...@.....	\$20.00
Decals	1,967 ...@.....	\$1.00
Total Inventory		\$4,275.75
Total Assets		\$8,306.44
Total Liabilities		(\$0.00)
Net Worth		\$8,306.44

APC VIDEO LIBRARY

The following individuals have videos checked out:
 3/8/01.....Robert Coker..... Black Bear
 1/9/03.....Jose Valencia..... Calling All Coyotes
 1/9/03.....Jose Valencia..... Callers of the Wild
 12/9/02...Fred Johnson.. Hounds, Bows and Boars
 1/9/03.....Jose Valencia....Power Howling Coyotes
 1/9/03.....Jose Valencia Tree Lounge Trophies
 1/9/03.....Jose Valencia . Truth #1 Predator Hunter

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Debbie Burris, Membership Chair

I would like to welcome Andrew Jones of Marana and Ron Lopinski of Mesa, Russell Legg of Mesa, Joshua Serdy of Apache Jct. and James Waggoner of Mesa as our newest club members! Walt Gallaher, Bambi Goff, Hank Gonzales, David Hucklebridge, Guido Roberti, Herb Stipe, Eric Vidana and Brian Williams have all renewed their memberships and we thank them for their continued support.

I would also like to thank all of our service men and women for the battle they are currently fighting and the freedoms and safety they afford us. Our thoughts and prayers go out to those who have fallen in the line of duty and those who are lost and still unaccounted for.

These Members Have Expired:

- Michael Barker 4/1/03
- Royce Bradsher 4/1/03
- Richard Cuppy 4/1/03
- David Kuhns 4/1/03
- Al Lind 4/1/03
- Dennis Slade 4/1/03
- Joe Talavera 4/1/03

These Members Will Expire Soon:

- Mike Clerc 5/1/03
- Ute Dittmer 5/1/03
- Ron Hermosillo..... 5/1/03
- Mike Kannapel 5/1/03
- Wayne Minde 5/1/03
- Dusty Mosier 5/1/03
- Jim Ruid..... 5/1/03
- Stan Schepers..... 5/1/03
- Jeff Serdy 5/1/03
- Jerry Thorson 5/1/03

If you have let your membership with our club expire, please contact us we would love to have you back! If you have any questions regarding your existing membership, please give me a call at (480) 654-1411 or you can e-mail me at membership@azpredatorcallers.com anytime.

Debbie



PROGRAM REPORT

by Scott Breseman, Program Director

Howdy everyone. I enjoyed Ron Lapinski's presentation on wild turkey hunting at the last general meeting. The information he shared was insightful and his calling demonstration was outstanding. Everyone who attended was able to learn something new.

This month's guest speaker is James Schmidt, owner of *Arizona Ammunition*. James is a .50 caliber competition shooter, and experienced hunter. He and his company specialize in hand loading ammunition custom tailored to be the most accurate in your rifle. James will discuss long range shooting, optics, hand loading, and accuracy. This seminar will be a good one don't miss it.

Thank you to all the club members and their families for participating in the *Adopt-A-Ranch Clean Up* at Griffin Ranch. *AZ Project Challenge* assisted us by providing additional manpower of forty-three students. The students teamed up with club members and dispersed to various locations around the ranch. After three and a half hours, the *AZ Game and Fish Department* trailer was filled with trash, including a truck bumper, two pieces of galvanized steel culvert, a ten foot stretch of heavy steel cable, among other debris from around the ranch. Most of these 'goodies' were half buried in the ground and dug out by *Project Challenge* students. The students' enthusiasm and positive attitude contributed to the success of this clean up, removing the largest volume of trash to date. After the clean up, we cooked an outdoor barbecue of hamburgers and hot dogs. The barbecue was a refreshing change for the students from their routine cafeteria food at the *Project Challenge* barracks. During lunch, club members took time to talk with the students. One club member, Willard Bourquein, went the extra mile taking the students out in his truck and teaching them about the outdoors, animal habitat, and the benefits of hunting. Several students took a liking to Willard and his willingness to share his experience with them. Several of the students shook his hand and thanked him for spending time with them. Thanks again to all the club members and their families for making this a fun and successful day.

The annual club shoot-out competition was held at *Rio Salado Sportsmen's Club* on March 29th, 2003. Several competitors participated in a variety of events. The winner of the main match was Eric Vidana. The winner of the long-range event was Dan Solow. The long-range pistol champ was Eric Vidana. For a complete list of events and results see the related article in this newsletter. Congratulations to Eric Vidana for his outstanding shooting and dedication to mastering hunting marksmanship. Eric has always been a tough competitor and his win is well deserved. *Great Shooting Eric!*

Breeze

AWARDS REPORT

by Willard Bourquein, Awards Chair

At last, I finally received one hunt report, now that the season is closed, I expect a hunt report from everyone who has taken a predator this hunting season. If you only took one animal, please fill out the report. These reports give us some idea of the impact the club has on the predator populations and that information we can pass on to the *Arizona Game & Fish Department*. If you don't want to send in your report, please bring it to the May meeting on May 8th. Some folks don't want to disclose what unit they are hunting, that's OK, just leave that part blank, but please send in the report.

Early this year I was backed up against a palo verde tree, the sun was peeking over the horizon to the east, even the wind was from the east, which is kind of rare. My caller was into the second series when I heard the rock and gravel flying. This 'yote was running flat out, as I turn to pick up the sight. He was coming directly up wind, now for me to hear him, as bad as my hearing is, he was making of lot of racket. He breezed right by the decoy and was headed for L.A. I pushed the big 10 to the right to catch up as he disappeared behind a bush. When he sprang into the open I squeezed off just as the sight passed his head. He rolled like a cotton-tail, got up and started biting at his rear end. I couldn't believe I hit him that far back. While I was deciding to hit him again when he decided to totally suc-

comb. I continued to call for at least five minutes, when to the west there was a head peeking over the ridge 40 yards away. What was it? Big ears, small head, I never seen anything like it! Doesn't look like any domestic dog. What can it be? Turn the caller off and waited what seemed like ten minutes. Barely turn up the volume to a squeak, that's just enough to convince him to come closer. As he approached I'm baffled, this animal is real dark, huge looking ears and very skinny. What shall I do? He came to the call, so I'd better take him. Swinging the big 10, he swaps ends. . . *BOOM*, down he goes, but crawls over the ridge. Must break the stand and go after him. As I crest the ridge, he is barely scooting along with his front legs, so I hit him again.

When I approached, the body is skinny and the skin is a purple color. What an ugly animal! I'm still not sure what it is. There is little hair on it, in fact there is more hair on my head that there was on this animal. Now I was close enough to poke him with the gun barrel, as I did, he raised his head for the last time. Then I knew exactly what it was, those yellow eyes left no doubt. While discussing this later with some of the older hunters, they tell me that this coyote had a server case of the mange. Another new experience for this ol' snowbird.

Call 'em in close!

Willard

THE HUNT REPORT

by Stan Schepers

Hello everyone, my name is Stan Schepers, I am one half of the Co-Hunt Chairman, along with Dusty Mosher. I've been a member of *APC* for 3 Years. Originally I joined *APC* because my daughter Alex wanted to. We had many good memories hunting & fishing together & *APC* was a part of that.

Predator hunting is a great way to teach youths good hunting ethics, gun safety, respect for the outdoors and just good clean fun, but my daughter is turning 15 & it's not as cool to hang around dad anymore and hunt.

During the last 3 years as a club member I have met some good people that enjoy hunting as I do and I feel very good about what the club is doing and

what it stands for. Especially Mike Burris for his effort & time spent standing up for us hunters, doing things guys like me, wish they had time to do. So when Hunt Chairman position came up, I was talking to Dusty and he also wanted to get more involved but we both have other commitments. Then we decided together WE could handle the position.

I was a judge at last years *World Coyote Calling Championship*. I've hunted *Three Club Hunts, Antelope Eaters* & many *APC* hunts. For each hunt there is always somebody that wants to hunt but can't find a partner. So at any time anyone has a question about a hunt or is looking for a partner or about hunting in general please feel free to give me or Dusty a call.

Also I would like to thank Scott Breseman for organizing the *Ranch Clean Up with AZ Project Challenge*, this was a great success and alot of fun. Some of these kids had never been in the outdoors before.

SAFE & HAPPY HUNTING

Stan

WCC HIGHWAY CLEANUP

submitted by Cindy Seff, Member

We have been in contact with Arizona Department of Transportation, and the date of Saturday, April 19th, has been confirmed for the roadside cleanup. We will work along I-17 in the New River area and, if we get enough volunteers, in the Black Canyon City and Happy Valley Road (north Phoenix) areas as well. Please be prepared to tell us at the next WCC meeting (Tuesday, March 25) how many volunteers your club will furnish. If you aren't going to be able to make that meeting, please phone (602-273-1411 work, 602-494-0123 home) or e-mail(Warren-Leek@mail.maricopa.gov) me with the number. It's really important that we have a reasonably good idea of how many people are going to show up for the cleanup so we can plan accordingly.

This is a great opportunity to let the public know that sportsmen and sports-women really care about the state and its natural resources, and any assistance you can provide in getting the word out to the media would be appreciated, too.

ANTELOPE EATERS XIV

by Don Martin

With Mother Nature providing ideal calling conditions, 124 teams from all over Arizona, California and Nevada, participated in *Antelope Eaters XIV*, the annual coyote suppression hunt sponsored by the *Mohave Sportsman Club*.

For two days, coyote hunters headed out all over northern Arizona in prime antelope fawning areas looking for coyotes, the number one predator of antelope fawns, according to the *Arizona Game & Fish Department*.

When the hunt ended, 43 potential fawn-eating coyotes had been taken.

While some would question the biological good that this hunt would do, *MSC* president Jim Jett summed it up saying, "If we save even one fawn as a result of this hunt, then it was worth the time and effort our hunters put in."

Jett noted that he asked a number of hunters on Saturday night if they had seen any antelope fawns. No one replied they had.

The 43 coyotes did not cost the taxpayers of Arizona one cent. All costs associated with the hunt were borne by the hunters themselves, who paid a small entry fee to the club to participate in the hunt, which was headquartered in Seligman.

In contrast, last year, the *Arizona Game & Fish Department* paid a federal agency, Animal Damage Control, \$10,000 to take coyotes in selected areas of the state.

Three teams shared top calling honors with four coyotes. Those teams included Kingman residents Craig Hamilton and Blake Chapman, who have won *Antelope Eaters* top calling honors for the past two years. In addition to the four coyotes, Hamilton/Chapman also took a pair of bobcats during the two-day event.

Other teams with four coyotes were Kingman residents Bryan Gunnoe and Rich Clemmer.

Prescott residents Kurt Meyers and Scott Williams also brought in four coyotes.

Other successful hunters included Kingman residents Travis Allman and Kep Donlea who brought in three coyotes.

Six teams brought in a pair of coyotes, while 16 teams brought in one coyote. These results attest to the fact that coyotes this time of the year are hard to call in.

It was gratifying to note that 101 teams failed to bring in one coyote at this year's hunt, but they were out there, trying to help out wildlife by doing some predator control.

Rick and Grace VanHorn, who handled and processed all of the coyotes for the club during this event, said that it was almost a 50-50 split on the sex of the coyotes taken.

Van Horn said that two of the coyotes had mange.

Joe Melton, a member of the *Arizona Game & Fish Commission*, participated in this year's hunt. Melton, who is from Yuma, has attended this hunt on many occasions in the past. Melton is an avid varmint hunter and trapper.

Melton assisted club officials in selecting the winner of this year's rifle during the raffle that was held at the end of the hunt. The lucky winner was a Lake Havasu City resident who was participating in his first *Antelope Eaters* hunt.

Besides doing a service for wildlife, there are some obvious economic benefits to the community as a result of this hunt.

You just about couldn't find an empty motel room. Coyote hunter's 4X4's were seen in front of just about every room in town.

Several of the restaurants in Seligman gave special deals to the hungry hunters, and there was always a line of hunter's vehicle waiting for fuel at the various service stations in town, even with gas prices over \$2 a gallon.

On a sad note, Herb Stipe, who was the founder of *Antelope Eaters*, and is one of the hunt officials, is moving to Colorado. Stipe was honored by those in attendance for his work on *Antelope Eaters*. The *MSC* Board of Directors recognized Stipe's dedication and hard work not only in *Antelope Eaters*, but as a past club president as well, with a complimentary lifetime *MSC* membership.



AMERICA'S SYMBOL

by Pat Jenkins, Member & Past President

I spent last weekend in northern Arizona participating in the 14th annual *Antelope Eaters* hunt. 125, two man teams signed up for the two day event. The event is held every year about this time to help reduce the coyote population in areas where antelope have their fawn (babies). The drought has taken it toll on the antelope and the coyotes. Only 43 coyotes were taken in two days. That many coyotes probably get hit by cars on the highways in Arizona everyday. My partner and myself only called two, and missed both.

On the way out Sunday, I looked off the highway and in the middle of a prairie dog town was a Bald Eagle, just sitting near a mound of dirt. I turned the truck around and broke out the camera and began shooting pictures. These are the best three I got. He was about 135 yards out. The one picture that looks like a scope, is with my telephoto attachment, maximum wide. The eagle is the black spot. About two miles down the road, we saw another one. I suspect they were a pair hunting prairie dogs. Umm Good!



BOQUILLAS RANCH CLEANUP

by Don Martin

The 11th annual Boquillas Ranch Clean-up has been *tentatively* set for Saturday, May 31. Times are from 8 am until 5 pm.

Each year the *Mohave Sportsman Club*, in conjunction with the *Arizona Game & Fish Department*, holds a one-day clean up event on the Boquillas. In exchange for the clean up effort, the Navajo Nation, which owns the sprawling 730,000 acre ranch in Unit 10, allows ALL recreational users access on the ranch for another year.

Whether you're a hunter, hiker, 4X4 enthusiasts, bird watcher or just like to get away from the hustle and bustle and camp, this is the way to ensure you have a place to go recreate.

Participants will meet at Pica Camp, receive a briefing from Tim Pender, the wildlife manager for the unit, then grab some plastic bags and head off.

After spending the day in the field, bring your trash back to Pica Camp where the *Arizona Game & Fish Department* has made arrangements for it to be picked up.

To get to Pica Camp from Kingman, take Highway 66 to mile post 123, turn left (north) and go two miles. You'll see all of us there!

For those who don't know, there is a season this year on prairie dogs. The bad news is the season is closed during this time. However, coyotes are still in season and you are encouraged to take any you see. The antelope and deer have dropped their fawns in Unit 10 at that time, so taking a coyote then could save a fawn, and they need the help!

For more information on the clean up, or if you need a ride for the day, contact Don Martin at (928) 753-4867.

Editors Note: As mentioned above, the May 31st date is tentative and could change. We felt that this was an important enough issue that we get everyone informed as quickly as possible. Please watch the APC website for further updates on this item.

LUCKY COYOTES

by Larry Scribner, Member

I was recently thinking of some of the great shots I have made. When I moved to Alaska in 1967 I did well with a peep sighted .30-06. My first two Dall sheep were dropped at over 300 yards. Later with a scoped 7 mm Remington magnum I got one at over 400 yards. My two best running shots were for two 4 point deer in Oregon. The most unique shot was a 4 point buck in Oregon at 390 yards when I was still barefoot in the tent. A 5x5 elk in Colorado 375 yards across a canyon, a 6x7 elk in New Mexico 3 years ago at 317 steps and last years 5x5 bull in Colorado at 300 yards all provide me with bragging material. Not all were one shot and there were some missed, but over all, I thought I was a good shot.

THEN... I joined the *Arizona Predator Callers* and met some coyotes up close and personal. I was sure that if a coyote could be called in to 30-40 yards, then my 870 Remington pump with 3"Federal Premium #4 buckshot fired through a Pattern Master choke tube would make the job easy. My first three shots for coyote at 20, 30 and 40 yards were successful as was a 55 yard shot at a bobcat.

This is way too easy I thought. Then I went to the *Arizona Trappers Fur Donation Hunt*. At sunrise a coyote raced 5 yards past my Predator Supreme Decoy (\$39.99) before I could get my gun up.

At 9:00am a coyote somehow sneaked in to stare at the decoy. My three shots just made him run away really fast.

The next coyote was even luckier. I was about to move my location when I spotted a coyote 300 yards out. I continued calling and 15 minutes later he sauntered up. While he focused on my decoy, I found a hole in the juniper I was standing behind and at 10 yards I fired. I couldn't believe I missed! The next two shots were as inaccurate as the first.

My next hunt was near Marana. I called for about 5 minutes when a large bobcat jogged in. When he stopped behind a few bushes to contemplate my decoy, I got my gun up and ready. After 15-20 minutes I could hold still no longer and slowly stretched out my legs. Full camo does no good if you flash white socks---the cat was gone in a sec-

ond. At least I didn't miss!

By noon it was really too late and hot to hunt, but I wanted to explore. I found a good location, but with poor visibility. Within 5 minutes, in raced "Lucky" the coyote. He stopped only 10 yards away to study the situation. My shotgun was resting across my legs. Do I do a 'slow motion' or a 'fast draw'? Lucky got panicky and didn't know which way to run. I finally got a clear shot, but Lucky was now directly behind the decoy and I didn't think Lucky was worth \$39.99. I finally got a shot as he flew through the bushes. Yep, I got the bushes.

I now have a new short barrel with rifle sights. How can I miss? Be assured I won't be doing much bragging on my shooting ability for a while. Who said predator hunting was easy???

THE \$4,000 COYOTE

by Carl Dustin (Bald Coyote), Member

"It's for you" my wife said, handing me the phone. "Hello?"

"Hey Carl, it's me, Herman! They need you right away!"

"For what?" I replied. "I'm not driving all the way to Napa (Kalifornia) to stomp yer grapes. It better be good!"

The call was about a cattle rancher who lost two new born calves, a coyote had killed them. The rancher was highly ticked off, Herman learned from the ranch foreman.

BACKUP! Members, we-re not talking about plain ol' McDonalds hamburger type cattle here. The scarfed down calves had mamas who are prized, big buck Scottish Highlander cows. Blue Ribbon, Best of Show desired cows. The calves would have easily brought \$2,000 each!! No problem! An "unproven" bull goes for \$5,000!!



Scottish Highlander bull.

"Oh and by the way Carl, you are getting permission to hunt turkeys on the

ranch, stay in the ranch foramen's house, and include the chow too. I told them that you were a famous champion coyote killer and I get to hunt on the ranch too if you'll come up. No one gets to hunt turkeys on this ranch, except the ranch foreman."

Besides stretching the truth when it comes to hunting, my friend Herman is a very successful turkey caller. Almost half of his hunting stories are sort of true.

No coyote caller I've ever known would pass up this offered program. I pulled down my turkey calling stuff, rummaged around for my coyote necessities, my turkey load shooting 12ga Winchester with my new AimPoint, and my Winchester Model 70 and a half full box of .22-250 ammo, the camo cloths, etc and was soon packed and ready to go after I sucked some bucks out of the bank.

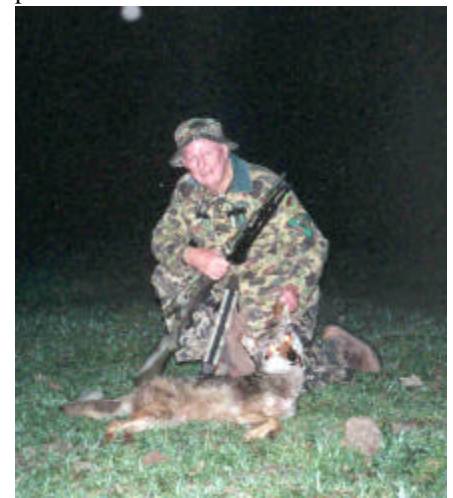
Napa is a 10 hour drive from San Diego, but the miles slide by when we know we're going to hunt. Everyone knows Napa is a major wine producing county, I never expected and have never seen a cow up there, horses yes, cows, no.

The Scottish Highland breeding ranch is situated high above the valley. The very gentle cattle learn to lean quickly, as there is almost no zero level ground. The ranch foramen's house was not new, but who cares! The first nights dinner featured pheasant, is this roughing it or what? Before darkness the first night, I was given a limited tour abroad, a sort of 6 wheeled ATV used to deliver hay to the cows out in the fields. We made just one stand, No response, but I didn't think riding around in a noisy ATV was conducive to the killer coyote jumping aboard or asking for a ride. I did call Mr. Killer, but no shot fired. The foramen's 14 year old son thought somebody else was going to shoot! Sound familiar?

I was convinced that if we to have any luck targeting this coyote, it was going to be the next evening, so we spent the next morning calling turkeys (now why did I think of this strategy?) We saw hens and got gobbles, but no opportunities at the bearded kind. That evening I selected what I hoped would be a productive stand. The ranch foreman borrowed my .22-250 and I placed him in a "good" spot, good field of fire. His son was beside him. I moved to their left,

hunkered down behind a fallen tree out of their sight, but where I thought would be the best calling place for a shotgun dose of trouble.

My first call was nice and soft and not too long as I guessed Killer-Diller was close by in the timber. My *Circe* call then hung on its' cord for four long minutes, much longer than is my custom. Call number two was a little louder, a little more "hurt". . . **BANG!** My .22-250 did its' job even in the hands of a stranger, 34 grains of DuPont IMR3031 pushed the 55gr boattail right behind the calf killers ear! He slid on his nose to a stop 76 paces from the foramen's hiding place. The 23 pound male coyote was just as I suspected, old badly worn teeth, poor coat and overall condition.



The Calf Killer and the Coyote Killer.

Four thousand dollars worth of calf was avenged, the ranch owner was overjoyed. The foreman had found the solution. . . get Carl "Baja" Dustin up here! Herman has another ranch to call turkeys and I had a memorable hunt to write up for my APC friends. However, I didn't get a turkey this trip. . . didn't care though!



Adopt-A-Ranch and Arizona Project Challenge



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