

# PREDATOR'S PRIDE



## ARIZONA PREDATOR CALLERS

April 2008

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

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## The President's Message

by Larry Walden, APC President



Thanks to everyone who participated in the Save-a-Fawn Hunt March 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> in Heber / Overgaard, AZ. Special thanks to Dusty Mosier, our APC Hunt Chairman, who towed our APC trailer up the rim to our check-in site and did all the cooking on Saturday night. Thanks to John Albin, our APC Newsletter Editor, for documenting our check-in activities with his camera. Craig Barnett was once again helpful and as always Jerry Thorson was there to keep all our finances straight. The focus of the Save-A-Fawn Hunt is to help the prey species during the fawning season in units along the Mogollon Rim. We were unable to bring in as many predators as we would like, but I think we can make some scheduling changes to improve our odds next year.

March 31<sup>st</sup> ended the Arizona season for raccoon, bobcat, foxes, ringtail, weasel and badgers. Coyotes and skunks are still in play but the coyote fur is probably headed toward the downside. Results for the Fall Elk and Antelope 2008 Big Game draw have been posted. I hope everyone did well in the draw. If you did not get drawn for fall elk or antelope that just leaves more time for predator calling.

Recently Ned Burris, from APC, placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the first annual Barry Fifer Memorial Hunt sponsored by Xtreme Predator Callers. Ned's son Clayton claimed the prize for "Little Dog" at 15 pounds. Congratulations, Ned and Clayton.

Arizona mountain lions are back in the news. On Saturday March 22<sup>nd</sup> a Mountain Lion attacked a 10 year boy while the boy and his family were taking a break from riding their ATVs near Bloody Basin Road and the Verde River. The boy was scratched on the back. The mountain lion was shot and killed by the boy's uncle. Afterward the lion tested positive for rabies and the boy and family members exposed to the infected lion have begun a series of rabies shots.

In 2008 14 animals in Arizona including 7 skunks, 3 foxes, 1 bat, 1 coyote, 1 coatimundi and the lion have tested positive for rabies. This is a reminder to all of us who call and handle harvested animals ... be careful. *Hunt safely and keep bringing in the predators.*

Larry



### Coming Events

April 10 '08.....General Meeting  
April 26 '08.....Patti Ho Auction  
April 28 '08.....Board Meeting  
May 8 '08.....General Meeting

Awards Presentations & BBQ

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

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### Treasurer's Report

by Jerry Thorson, APC Treasurer

This Treasurer's report details all transactions from March 1 thru March 31, 2008.

#### Checking Account

Beginning Balance..... \$3,571.02

- Check #1641 AJI, 25.06 & .204 Rifles.(965.00)
- Check #1642 Postmaster.....(36.00)
- Check #1643 AJI, Save A Fawn Raffle.(270.00)
- Check #1644 AWF, 10 members.....(65.00)
- DRCD WCCC T-shirt Mailing.....(14.80)
- Deposit, Save A Fawn.....170.00
- Deposit, Memberships, sales, raffle....1,600.00

Ending Balance 3/31/08.....\$3,990.22

#### Petty Cash

Petty Cash Beginning Balance.....\$97.35

- Call Sales.....\$9.00
  - Dues.....\$125.00
  - Raffles.....\$396.00
  - Deposits to Checking.....(\$570.00)
- Petty Cash End Balance.....\$57.35

Total Cash.....\$4,047.57

#### Inventory

Total Inventory Value.....\$2,720.75

Total Assets.....\$6,768.32

#### APC Video Library

The following individuals have videos checked out. Please return in a timely manner so others may view also.

- 12/13/07 Tom Harrison.Texas Predator Pursuit
- 1/10/08 Mark Allan.....Up Close & Personal
- 1/10/08 Chuck Beshears.....Hunting Coyotes East and West
- 2/14/08 Dave Warren.....Prescription for Success
- 3/12/08 Troy Simmons....Beyond Belief-How to Shoot Big Bucks
- 3/12/08 Troy Simmons.....Callers of the Wild
- 3/12/08 Conner Griner.....Exploding Varmints
- 3/12/08 Conner Griner.....Utah Raging Bull

Thanks *Jerry*



### April Meeting Program

The Arizona Predator Callers monthly meeting is on Thursday, April 10, 2008 at 7:00 PM. The meeting features a predator calling presentation.

The meeting will be held in the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #9 at 1450 East Main Street. The FOP Lodge is on the north side of Main Street between Stapley and Gilbert road in Mesa.

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.

Please contact Mike Burris, APC Vice-president at (480) 654-1411 if you have any questions.

### News from Arizona Game and Fish

#### Elk and antelope draw is complete; results are available

PHOENIX - The 2008 elk and antelope draw has been completed and the 120,392 applicants can now visit the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Web site at <http://www.azgfd.gov/draw> or call (602) 942-3000 and follow the prompts to see if they have been drawn.

Be prepared to provide your department identification number, plus your birth date to access your specific draw information.

Game and Fish officials said there are approximately 45 antlerless elk tags for limited opportunity hunts remaining for first-come, first-serve starting April 14 by mail only. Approximately 50 archery elk tags remain at Camp Navajo for those eligible. Please contact Camp Navajo at [www.campnavajo.com](http://www.campnavajo.com) or call (928) 773-3306 for further information.

Remember that the Arizona Game and Fish Commission will be setting the other 2008-09 big game hunts for deer, turkey, javelina, bighorn sheep, buffalo, bear and mountain lion during its Saturday, April 19 meeting in the new Game and Fish headquarters on Carefree Highway just 1.5 miles west of I-17. You will be able to start applying for the other permitted fall hunts once the appropriate information is posted online.

The anticipated deadline day to submit for those remaining fall big game hunt-permit applications is Tuesday, June 10 (the second Tuesday of June). Remember, postmarks don't count. As a reminder, the online application process will not be available for the remaining fall hunts.

#### APC Rifle Raffles

S&W 25-06 Rem.

and

Savage .204 Ruger

Tickets are available at the April meeting. \$10.00 each

APC wishes to thank Jeff Serdy for his help with these rifles.

#### Learn To Reload Ammunition

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Private Tutor

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Tom Dolbos

480-990-2492

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[www.ajisports.com](http://www.ajisports.com)

# Hunt Report

by Dusty Mosier, Hunt Chairman

The Save-A-Fawn Hunt wasn't a huge success this year, the wind almost blew us off the rim. Jerry and I hunted pretty hard, calling over a dozen stands. We only saw one fox that vanished before I could get a shot. But as always, just getting out and calling is fun. The intent was to hunt primarily units 4A and 4B to help out the deer in those units. Doug Wallace and Alan Burtenshaw teamed up and bagged the only coyote taken. The cook-out on Saturday evening at check-in was enjoyable as you can see by the pictures on page seven. The rifle raffle for hunt contestants only, was won by Bill Virtue who took home a Stevens 22-250.

The season for bobcat, fox, ringtail, raccoon, weasel, and badger has closed. So has our season, and now **your hunt records are due**. If you don't have a hunt record form, you can download them from the website, [www.azpredatorcallers.com](http://www.azpredatorcallers.com). Please turn them in to me at the meeting, even if you weren't very successful I still need to hear from you. You can let me know at the meeting, call me 480-899-1121 or 602-228-3363 and leave a message. E-mail- [mosierds@yahoo.com](mailto:mosierds@yahoo.com) , or mail- Dusty Mosier 1621 N. Central Dr. Chandler AZ 85224. Please bring your records so we can determine the "Caller of the Year" award winner. The awards presentations will take place at the May meeting. We will also have a cookout, so bring your appetite. Please turn in your records, Thank you.

Be Safe, Have Fun, Shoot to Kill !

## Dusty



**Craig Gombos** recently shot this three legged coyote. The right front leg was suspected to have been shot off by past president **Stan Schepers** some time ago.

(April Fools Joke)



**Doug Wallace and his first fox.**

Read Doug's article "Confessions of a Dog Educator" on page 7

## Membership Report

by Kara Jensen, APC Membership

Welcome new members:

**Jeff Yost** of Queen Creek, **Barry Larson** of Queen Creek, **Darren Lowe** of Tempe, and **Mike Hanna** of Mesa

Thanks to:

**Dusty Mosier, Kirk Griffin, Hank Gonzales, Larry Eichman, Lewis Scott, and Roger Kingston**

for renewing their memberships.

**Your membership expiration date is on the mailing label at the right of your name. Make a note of it and please renew before it expires.**

If you've 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 **1-800-756-7094** or you can e-mail me any time at [membership@azpredatorcallers.com](mailto:membership@azpredatorcallers.com)

## Patti Ho Memorial Auction April 26, 2008

Patti Ho was a member of the AWF and big game hunter from Chino Valley that was killed in a horseback riding accident last summer. The memorial auction will be held April 26, 2008 at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility Activity Center with 20% of the proceeds donated to the Game and Fish Department and the balance to the AWF.

Admission is \$10 per adult, \$6 per child under 12, and includes a Dutch oven dinner. The silent and live auction will include Patti's ten long guns, one hand gun, trophy mounts, western memorabilia, collectibles, home furnishings, and much more. One javelina and one bear special season big-game tags will be auctioned. 100% of the proceeds will support wildlife habitat in Arizona.

On-line registration is available at [www.azwildlife.org](http://www.azwildlife.org). Other inquiries to the AWF Office (480) 644-0077 or email [awf@azwildlife.org](mailto:awf@azwildlife.org).

Your ticket includes dinner and a number for bidding. Drinks (including soft drinks and beer) will be provided at a separate cost.

# On the Stand With Johnny Burriss

by Larry Walden, APC President

There are not many people I know who would immediately drop what they were doing and drive 150 miles one way to rescue me when I was stuck in the snow on a forest service road near Heber, AZ earlier this year. Johnny did and I am still thanking him. He is someone you can depend on. I have hunted predators and elk in Arizona and bears in Canada with Johnny.

Johnny loves to call predators and most all of his big game hunts with Roger Kingston turn into predator calling. Johnny grew up hunting in Arizona and spends a lot of time hunting the Williams, AZ area. He has been successful with his bow and with his rifle(s).



Johnny Burriss (left) with Roger Kingston

He is one of our west side members so he does not make many of our meetings but he keeps up with our activities via our newsletter and website.

**1. How did you get started predator hunting?**

My hunting buddy Roger Kingston introduced me about 5 years ago. I have been OCD (Obsessive Compulsive) since.

**2. Who has had the most influence on your predator hunting career?**

I would have to say Roger Kingston. If not introduced, I may not have picked it up.

**3. What is your favorite time of the year for hunting predators?**

Sometime between January 1st and December 31st! I hunt all year long and in any weather. I do prefer cooler months October – April.

**4. What is your favorite Arizona hunt unit for predator hunting?**

None specifically. Predators are everywhere.

**5. Name a couple of your favorite predator hunting “mouth” calls?**

I use PC-2 , Tally-Ho, and another call I have had so long, I don't recall who made it.

**6. Do you use electronic calls? If so, what brand/model do you use and what are the three most effective “sounds”?**

Yes, I really like the FoxPro FX5. You can record your own calls and download into the unit. That is fantastic. It allows the sound to be away from the shooter. I use custom calling sequences, cottontail distress, jackrabbit distress, and bird distress calls and download into the caller. I think yotes get call shy and this allows my stands to be different.

**7. Do you use decoys? If yes, what kind?**

Yes, when using a caller I have a tanned rabbit fur I place over it. I have also made a turkey feather on a fishing pole upper. Haven't tried it yet, but I will let you know how it works.

**8. Do you use cover scent? If so, what cover scent do you use?**

No.

## ***On The Stand With Johnny Burris: continued***

**9. Name 3 important factors to consider when on or approaching a predator hunting stand. Of the three which is the most critical?**

Wind direction is most important. Second, movement and sound while on and into the stand. Third would be clear shooting lanes. I have to put in a fourth, the SUN!

**10. Describe your most memorable predator hunt.**

Last year, Roger was hunting javelina by Globe, AZ. Well, the javelina hunt turned into predator calling sessions. After about 10 minutes on the stand I hear Roger say, "cat" in a hushed voice. Since I had a shotgun, I tucked into the bush and kept calling. After what felt like an hour (really about a minute), I hear BOOM... I looked at Roger and said, "Did you get it?" The smile on his face said it all. We were like kids on Christmas morning.

**11. What is your favorite predator to hunt? Why?**

It would have to be mountain lion. You don't know who is hunting who. That makes it exciting.

**12. Describe your single most successful predator stand.**

In sheer numbers of animals called in a day. Last year, we called 9 coyotes.

**13. Describe your most disastrous predator hunting adventure.**

August of 2007. I was hunting up north after the rain. The mosquitoes were so bad, I had to stop calling. I looked like a bird with broken wings trying to fly as I swatted at them. When I returned to the trailer, I had over 50 bites and no animals.

**14. What is your favorite predator hunting rifle/caliber/bullet and shotgun/gauge/load?**

Favorite predator rifle is the Thompson Encore, round is the .204 Ruger (32 grain at 4200 fps). Shotgun: Benelli M4, 12 gauge with 3" Dead Coyote Rounds, Size T.

**15. What is your favorite camo / pattern?**

Patterns vary on terrain. Light colors (Prairie Ghost) for desert and darker (HD Hardwood Camo) for woods.

**16. Name your favorite annual APC hunt or activity.**

I have been a member less than a year. I don't know yet.

**17. What is your number one predator hunting goal?**

To call and harvest a Canadian Wolf. I will be going hunting in Canada in a few weeks.

**18. What development (equipment, strategy or tactic) has most influenced predator hunting during the last 5-10 years?**

I have to say two here. Electronic calls have made it easier for beginners but the accuracy of new rifles must also be considered. Many off the shelf dedicated predator guns are less than 1 MOA out of the box. That allows for accurate long range shots with practice.

**19. What Arizona Game & Fish hunting regulation would you change?**

Allow nighttime predator hunting.

**20. What do you consider to be the greatest threat to the future of predator hunting?**

Urban sprawl. We have all experienced it at some point. Houses are everywhere. Even when you think you are in the middle of nowhere, bam, there it is.

**21. Describe your dream big game/predator hunt.**

My dream hunt is an Alaska Grizzly with a bow. Hopefully, in the next few years I will have my chance.

## Confessions of a Dog Educator by Doug Wallace

Frankly, I am in no position to give any advice to anyone about predator calling. I just started my calling career a little over a year ago. However, I do have some recent experience that might help you put up a few more furs.

I had what I considered some fairly good success during my first year of predator calling last winter and spring. Cottontail and Jack Rabbit in distress calls made up 90% of the sounds I made while on a predator hunting stand. The other 10% of sounds came from the breakfast burritos my brother Mike ate and are beyond the scope of this article. (Even though he didn't call in any coyotes, he did stampede a herd of javelina and enticed in one love sick skunk.) For me, in my predator hunting infancy, success is defined as any stand where I actually see a predator. Last year, I averaged about 1 successful stand out of 7 tries, which translates into a 14% success rate. For a rookie year, I felt pretty good about that performance. So, when I started hunting again this year, I went right back to the rabbit distress sounds. However, I still only averaged somewhere in the 1:7 success range. Most of my hunts were half day hunts and I was getting 3-4 stands per hunting trip. I would get blanked on a trip or 2 and then on the next trip, have a couple of successful stands...and so on. It was fun, but I was expecting to improve my calling success ratio as I continued to learn the craft. I felt like I needed to change something.

In January, I decided to completely change the way I was calling. I ditched all my distress calls and determined to only use coyote sounds on my stands. My reasoning was that everyone was using rabbit distress calls. I was guessing that a lot of the coyotes had already been schooled to the fact that screaming rabbits = loud guns. Secondly, I had learned that we were coming into the breeding season. I thought the desire for a little coyote consensual companionship may up my odds if I used a "lonely coyote" howl. (Warning: this does NOT work on your wife.)

On the morning of Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>, I set up on a rock outcrop and placed my electronic call on the desert floor about 20 yards in front of me. I howled, waited 20 seconds.... howled again and 20 seconds later, 2 coyotes came running in and stopped 20 yards away. I won't bore you with the complicated trigonometry involved when a .17 Rem that's zero'ed at 200 yards is being shot at a target 20 yards away. But, let me just say that I successfully improved the number of new pups available in this area next year! Ok, cool, I had used coyote howls successfully for an entire 60 seconds at one stand. Sounds like just getting lucky, huh?

Next stand, same morning: My e-caller is 40 yards to my right on one side of a saddle; I am at the same elevation on the other side of the saddle. I am singing along with the e-caller with a "howler" mouth call from time to time as well.

After about 15 minutes of howling, I caught a glimpse of an animal going over a small rise about 400 yards out. I dropped my e-caller remote control while switching from my shotgun to my rifle and it made a pretty big "clank" sound. (I did mention I was a beginner, right?) I thought I was busted. After about 5 more minutes of howling, 2 coyotes started barking back at my call. This is the first time I have ever heard a coyote bark; it was incredible. For 5 solid minutes these fellers barked at me and I barked back. The problem was they were 140 yards down to my left, in the thick stuff, and they didn't seem to want to come any closer. It started to sound like they were moving away slightly. Not ever having faced this situation before, I wasn't real sure what to do. I took a chance and switched my e-caller to a soft baby cottontail distress sound. That was the ticket. I could see both of them working through the desert up towards my e-caller. I whistled to stop the lead coyote in a one foot gap between 2 trees, about 80 yards way. I am not going to bore you with the extremely complex physics involved when a 25 grain bullet going 4000 fps contacts a ½ inch thick branch. Let me just say that this area is going to have A LOT of young pups next year. These are the only 2 stands I did that morning. Was it just luck that I went 2 for 2? The next week I had the opportunity to try again.

Jan 30 – in a different area: I did 3 stands this morning using coyote howling sounds. I called in 2 coyotes on the second stand. ( I am not going to bore you with the extremely complex, almost incomprehensible acoustic engineering that explains how a coyote, standing in broad daylight 80 yards away, can hear the click of a Remington Model 700 going off "safe". But, let me just say that there are going to be a lot of pups in this area, also, next year!) Total, after 2 trips to 2 different areas = 3 successful stands out of 5. Looking pretty good, but still not enough data to say it is a trend.

Jan 31 - in yet another area: I got in 2 stands this evening. On the first stand, I called in some ATV riders after 10 min of calling. (They were kind of mangy looking so I passed on them.) On the second stand, I called in 2 coyotes and passed on a 150 yard shot (I'm sick of teaching trig, physics and acoustics anyway) and we spent the last 15 min. of light barking back and forth at each other. What a beautiful, magical evening.

Let's recap. Over this 2.5 weeks, I hunted 3 different areas, both morning and evening. In 7 stands, I had 4 opportunities to kill 8 coyotes. According to my math, that is a 57% success rate. (If I take a mulligan on the successful ATV stand, it would actually be 66% success rate!) From 14% success rate to 57% success rate; I don't know about you guys, but I think there may just be something to this howling thing.

See ya in the brush... Doug

## Save-A-Fawn Hunt



**Dusty Mosier keeping warm at the grill**

Neither cold, nor snow, nor wind or dark of night kept these intrepid APC members from enjoying a good time.



**Doug Wallace (right) and hunting partner Alan Burtenshaw with their prize winning coyote.**



**“Doctor Doug” prepares to operate. Nobody wanted to bend over either.**

## Arizona Predator Callers - Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Hm Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Wk Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

email address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Additional Family Members

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Annual Membership.....\$30.00

Family Membership add \$5.00.....\$35.00

Lifetime Individual Membership.....\$350.00

New Membership

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



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