

PREDATOR'S PRIDE



ARIZONA PREDATOR CALLERS

January 2008

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

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Larry Walden, APC Interim President

Stan has decided to get serious about building a house on his property near Seligman, Arizona, and for the next year will be busy with the construction. He will be doing most of the work himself but will do his best to attend our APC monthly meetings and club events while still finding some time for trapping. Stan was an excellent APC president and we will all miss his leadership. Stan did a lot of work toward establishing good relationships with our large east side retailers, Sportsman's Warehouse and Bass Pro Shops. His work led to our club being asked to host predator calling seminars on several occasions in 2007. Stan was an active participant in Arizona Game & Fish Hunter Education classes where our club gains valuable exposure to young and experienced Arizona hunters. However, the most tangible evidence of his presidency has to be the APC club trailer. Other club members contributed to the project, but I think all involved agree it was Stan who did most of the work and ramrodded the project to completion. The APC club trailer is going to be a lasting legacy of Stan's dedication and hard work. Thanks, Stan.



I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays. The fur is prime and it is time to go calling!

By the time we have our next meeting the Fur Donation Hunt hosted by George and Cindy Seff will be completed. I am sure all who participated had a great time and if you were unable to attend this year, make it a priority to attend next year. It is a really good event and everyone enjoys the weekend in Seligman.

- Annual Multi-Club Hunt January 12, 2008. Check-in is 9:00 PM Park Links Rd. Please refer to our APC newsletter page 2 for details. We need as many APC teams and individuals as possible to participate so we can make a good showing. Even one additional harvested and checked-in predator can tip the balance in our favor and give us bragging rights for the year.

Coming Events

- Jan. Hunter Ed Class.....8 Jan '08
- Jan. General Meeting.....10 Jan '08
- Jan. Multi-Club Hunt.....12 Jan '08
- Jan. APC Board Meeting.....28 Jan '08

See "Hunt Calendar" Inside
Monthly APC meetings are held at the Mesa FOP Hall, 1450 E. Main Street, Mesa, from 7:00 pm until ??

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Treasurers Report

by Jerry Thorson, APC Treasurer

This Treasurers report details all transactions from Dec 1 thru Dec 31, 2007.

Checking Account

Beginning Balance..... \$4,548.17

Check #1612 J. Albin, Postage Ink.....(30.72)
 Check #1613 Cindy Seff, Fur Hunt....(200.00)
 Check #1614 D.Mosier, WCCC Supply...(34.47)
 Check #1615 J.Cline, WCCC refund...(250.00)
 Check #1616 H.Largo, WCCC refund.(250.00)
 Check #1617 ASW Dues.....(1,000.00)
 Check #1618 AWF 11 Members.....(71.50)
 Check #1619 Willit Memorial WCCC..(1,700.00)
 Check #1620 Don Martin Youth Hunt..(100.00)
 Check #1621 WCCC Polygraph tests.(2,105.03)
 Deposit from Memberships.....1,138.00
 Deposit.....4,762.00

Ending Balance 10/30/07.....\$4,706.45

Petty Cash

Petty Cash Beginning Balance.....\$196.97

Call Sales.....\$9.00
 Merchandise Sales.....\$44.00
 Dues.....\$290.00
 Raffles.....\$487.00
 Deposits to Checking.....(\$910.00)
 Petty Cash End Balance.....\$116.97

Total Cash.....\$4,823.42

Inventory

Total Inventory Value.....\$2,888.75

Total Assets.....\$7,712.17

APC Video Library

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

4/13/06 Paul Corens.....Citr Call Instruction
 1/10/07 Paul Corens.....Guns of Valor
 1/10/07 Paul Corens.....How To Hunt Black Bear
 9/14/07 Conner Griner.....Prescription for Success
 9/14/07 Conner Griner.....Truth #2 Calling All Coyotes
 12/13/07 Brent Cope....Hunting Coyotes East and West
 12/13/07 Tom Harrison.Texas Predator Pursuit

Thanks

Jerry



January Meeting Program

The Arizona Predator Callers are hosting two seminars on Thursday, January 10, 2008 at 7:00 PM. The meeting features a presentation by **Craig Levy** from the Center for Disease Control, speaking on "Blood Borne Pathogens" that we are at risk from our contact with the animals we handle. Craig will also tell us how to protect ourselves from them.

In addition, **Ron Day** from the Arizona Fish and Game Department will speak to us on "Hunting Javelina".

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.

2008 Multi-Club Hunt

January 12, 2008

This hunt pits the Arizona Predator Callers against all other Arizona clubs. We need all of our APC members to participate in this one in order to bring the trophy back to our club.

Check-in is 9:00 PM at Park Links Road

Point values are:

Lion....100 Bobcat....50 Coyote....10 All the rest....5

Proof of kill is the whole animal, if skinned you will also need the carcass. All participants will follow the rules of their sponsor club. If your club allows electronics, then you follow those rules. If your club does not allow electronics, then you can not use them.

The Skinning Contest will start at about 9:30 PM. The winner will take home a custom skinning knife. Jeff Serdy, the winner of the 2006 contest, will be the Judge. Contest will be judged by fastest time with adjustments for mistakes.

Camping is available around the check-in area and all participants are welcome to camp together. At check-in Saturday night, the Phoenix Varmint Callers Inc. will provide dinner. Hamburgers, hotdogs and chili will be served.

Check-in is located at Park Links Road, which is between Picacho Peak exit and Red Rock exit on the Northbound/Westbound side of I-10 between Casa Grande and Tucson.

GPS coordinates are: N 32 36.709' and W 111 18.934'

Map will be posted on the Arizona Predator Callers website, www.azpredatorcallers.com

President's Message, continued from page 1

Remember to renew your hunting license and over-the-counter lion and bear tags for 2008. I cannot think of any worse feeling than having a lion respond to your calling and suddenly remembering your tag has expired!

Deadline for submission of 2008 hunt permit-tag applications for elk and antelope is Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2008 at 7 PM (MST). Regulations are available for download on the Arizona Game and Fish website. Printed regulations should be available at licensed dealers beginning on Jan. 7, 2008.

We have some open positions on our boardplease seriously consider contributing some of your time. Our goal is to become a better and stronger club year after year.

Let's all have a safe and productive 2008.



Larry

Hunt Calendar

Multi-Club HuntJanuary 12, 2008

Contact Phoenix Varmint Callers at 623-434-5299 www.pvci.org
 Check in will be on Park Links Dr. There will be camping, hamburgers, hot dogs and chili served at check in and a skinning contest with a custom knife for 1st place..

Antelope Eaters Hunt.....March 1-2, 2008

Save-A-Fawn Hunt.....March 15, 16, 2008

Remember to purchase your 2008 Hunting License before the January hunts.



Craig Gombos and a November Coyote

Membership Report

by Kara Jensen, APC Membership

Welcome new members:

Jason Barkley, Brent Cope, John Fritz, Carlos Hernandez, Clint Martin, LE Pulvermacher, Daniel Schmidtika, and Oren Wallace

Thanks to:

Larry Scribner, Alec Schmitt, David Sherwood and Michael Zaccardi

for renewing their memberships.

Memberships Expiring Now
Name Expiration Date

Bob Allen	11/1/2007
Mark Allen	11/1/2007
Gary Allred	11/1/2007
Craig Barnett	11/1/2007
George Buethe	11/1/2007
Gordon Dolley	11/1/2007
Bob Lewis	11/1/2007
Andy Musacchio	11/1/2007
Mark Plowman	11/1/2007
Todd Sherwood	11/1/2007
George Bargman	12/1/2007
Johnny Burris	12/1/2007
Van Hallman, Jr.	12/1/2007
Ed Hermaniski	12/1/2007
Lee Hopkins	12/1/2007
Paul Melching	12/1/2007
Joseph Porath	12/1/2007
John Warren	12/1/2007
Chris Woodard	12/1/2007
Jim Adriance	1/1/2008
Roger Kingston	1/1/2008
Ron Morcotte	1/1/2008
Don Martin	1/1/2008
Mark Miller	1/1/2008
Ron Segal	1/1/2008

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

On the Stand

by Larry Walden, APC Special Events Coordinator

This month - On the Stand with APC Member: Craig Gombos



Craig became a member of the APC approximately 3 years ago. He began hunting in Maine as a 5 year old. By the age of 13 Craig was hunting by himself in the Maine woods. Craig has quickly established himself as a very productive member of the APC. During his first spring as a club member he harvested 8 coyotes. The next two full years of membership he bagged 24 and 27 coyotes respectively.

Craig puts his harvested fur up each year and is interested in trapping.

1. How did you get started predator hunting?

I was quail hunting and after 3 days of rain I was not having much success. I decided to walk a green belt to search for quail and suddenly came upon a bobcat sunning himself on top of a pack rat nest. The bobcat raised its head, looked at me seemingly unconcerned then put its head back down. I raised my 12GA and fired. That was my first predator kill. I told Jeff Serdy (A. J. I. Sporting Goods – Firearms, Knives & Ammo – Apache Junction, AZ) and Jeff told me about APC. I attended a meeting and became a member.

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

Mike Kannapel. It was a real honor when Mike asked me to be his partner in the 2006 World Championships in Williams, AZ. Previous to the hunt we spent a lot of time scouting, and as we traveled down the road Mike talked about predator hunting. All the knowledge he passed along to me was invaluable. Also, Stan Schepers has been a great help to me. He has passed along a lot of predator hunting and fur handling information to me.

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

January and February when it is really cold. You can stay comfortable all day long and the fur is prime.

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

North of Interstate 40 for coyotes. Unit 27 for bear.

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

Primos CatNip
Pee Wee Critter call

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

Yes, FoxPro FX3. Cottontail distress, jackrabbit and bird in distress sounds.

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

No, not as a rule, but I do have exceptions. Sometimes I use the FoxPro Jack-In-The-Box rodent decoy. I do think sometimes the decoy draws the predators out of their comfort zone and out into the open. When targeting lions, I use an inflatable deer fawn decoy.

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

No. However, I do shower with unscented products and I do use unscented deodorant.

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.
- Setup in relation to wind direction and where you think the predators are holed-up.
- Good cover for you.
- Placement of your electronic call.

Wind direction is the most important.

10. Describe your most memorable predator hunt.

Yesterday! Within 1 1/2 hours and 4 stands I called in and harvested 2 bobcats. One was a 21 lb. Tom. The other one was a smaller female.

The 2006 World Championship hunt with Mike Kannapel. I learned so much from him. Early on the first day we called in 6 coyotes on one stand. Seeing them all come in at once was really exciting! We only killed 1 of the 6.

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

Bobcats – because they are beautiful animals. The fur is worth a lot of \$\$ and they do not stink like some of the coyotes. Bobcats are difficult to call. Coyotes are very exciting and the way they race in causes a real adrenaline rush. They are easier to call and come to the calls a lot more frequently.

12. Describe your single most successful predator stand.

I was hunting in the Multi-Cub hunt with a partner and we noticed several coyotes in a field. My partner did a rolling exit from my truck and I drove down the road about ½ a mile, did a U-turn back toward the field and parked my truck. I lay down across a fallen tree and started calling like a dying rabbit. A coyote showed himself and I fired my .17 HMR. The 17 grain bullet connected with the coyote and he started yelping while spinning in circles. Immediately, 4 additional coyotes showed up to “protect” their wounded brother. I shot the wounded coyote again and he dropped. Initially the remaining coyotes scattered, but one coyote circled back revealing himself. I fired hitting the second coyote, but he did not go down. I shot again and this time he dropped. After calling 5 coyotes only two were on the ground. I now shoot a 20 grain bullet instead of the 17 grain, and the coyotes drop with my first shot. You would not think 3 tenths of a grain would make that much difference but it does. If I had been shooting the 20 grain bullet on the stand that day, I believe I would have killed more than 2 of the 5 coyotes.

13. Describe your most disastrous predator hunting adventure.

One evening I was hunting in Globe, Arizona with a taxidermist. I set my digital caller on top of a knoll and settled down watching a deep ravine for predators. Unexpectedly a bobcat appeared within 8 yards of me! All I could think of was the \$\$ the fur would bring or maybe what the taxidermist could do with the cat.

I slowly pointed my rifle at the cat and tried to ease the safety off it would not budge. Finally I was able to release the safety and then the trigger would not pull. I kept yanking and pulling on the trigger. Abruptly my rifle fired missing the cat. The bobcat just sat and looked at me. I chambered another round and the trigger jammed again. I started pulling and yanking on the trigger again and again. For the second time my rifle fired missing the cat. This time the bobcat took off leaving me frustrated and angry. Later on in the week, after talking with the rifle manufacturer, I was able to repair my rifle. I still cannot believe I had a bobcat sitting still within 8 yards of me and I could not get it in the truck.

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

Coyotes - .22-250 rifle.

Bobcats and foxes - .17 HMR with 20 grain bullets – the .17 HMR leaves little or no fur damage.

12 GA shotgun shooting Hevi-shot 3 1/2 “ shells loaded with T shot.

15. What is your favorite camo / pattern?

Leafy Wear in any camo pattern.

16. Name your favorite annual APC hunt or activity.

Our annual APC club bear hunt.

17. What is your number one predator hunting goal?

To call and harvest a lion. I have called in 2 but have not been able to harvest one yet.

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

Digital callers. Also, hand call quality has improved and they are being made from better materials.

This month - On the Stand with APC Member: Craig Gombos (continued from page 5)

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

I would like to be able to night hunt for predators in Arizona.

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

Our inaction as hunters on issues important to our future. We need to be more proactive. Hunters and shooters who trash the land are hurting all of us.

21. Describe your dream big game/predator hunt.

I would like to hunt for a mixed bag in Alaska including Grizzly, Wolf, Caribou, Moose and a "big" Black Bear.

Bobcat Hunt Times Two

by Craig Gombos

Well it started out like any other predator hunt, way too early and low 30 temps. Leary, Bill, and myself went south-east and were heading out for bobcats on this day. We got there about 20 minutes before daylight, so we talked and harrassed each other as we always do. I believe Bill took the worst of it due to his recent string of misses, which in all fairness is not like him.

We started out on our 1st stand; everything looked great. But after 20 minutes or so I called it and decided to hike in the woods about 500 yards behind us to make the second stand. I stoped and gave hand signals to both Bill and Leary. Bill and I covered what we thought would be the back doors, while Leary had the front. About 3 minutes into the stand I saw something to my left, so I turned to position better. When I scoped it out I realized it was a bobcat. It was still coming to the bird sound, so I let it come closer and in the open.

I had my 17HMR 20gr and ready to pull the trigger. Bang! The cat jumped about 6 feet in the air, but I knew I hit it. So I kept it in my scope and it didn't fall over. It actually made it to the brush 10 feet away, so I put another one in it. Game over! I called the stand and we all were pumped.

We then made a third stand with no success. On to the fourth stand. We had to crawl under some under brush into the thick stuff. Then we came to some good underviews, so we set up and started calling again. I continued to use bird sounds and after about 25 minutes I was going to call it quits, but saw Leary lift his gun. I continued and started hand calling over the fx3 with primos catnip call. That's all it took to get Leary a shot.

Then I saw him get up and run. I'm thinking he either missed or wounded it, so I squall on the hand call, not knowing what's going on for another minute. Bill and I went over to see what happened. Leary didn't want to shoot him again, so he ran over to see first if he got it (it was over a small dirt mound and Leary's first thought was he missed). Lucky for us he nailed him with a perfect shot. This one turned out to be a tomcat weighing in at 21 lbs. Not too bad!

This was the last thing we saw all day. But this was one of my best calling days, getting 2 cats to come in. By the way, Leary and I decided Bill had to buy lunch, so he did! Thanks, Bill.



My Baby Bull Elk

by Craig Gombos

As some of you know, I got my baby bull elk. The meat is great, almost as good as a cow elk! My intentions on this trip were to get a giant, but freezing after only 2 days, my dreams slowly changed to just filling my tag and getting on with predator hunting.

On the third day I almost went home, knowing the weather was going to change for the worse as the week went on. However, I could not bring myself to quit. So I pressed on up to route 18, to the far north end of unit 10 and worked my way back south in the maze of all unmarked roads. Only the tanks are used as references.

As I had only made it about 7 miles in, I came across another tank. I was heading right by it and I saw a coyote. I turned around and the chase was on! If you need to know, he won that race, but more importantly I was turned on to the right path for 5 elk catching an afternoon nap. As I came up over the top of the next hill all 5 elk jumped up 50-60 yards in front of me. I no sooner got done praying to God to just let me have a chance at any bull elk when *boom* there it was, the massive spike! Little did I know that seeing it was only the beginning. After realizing what I saw, I had to stop and get my 30-06 with 180 grain bullets out of the back seat. Then after 5 pieces of lead, I realized they can run even faster than the damn coyotes. So I got it together and started to think things out.

I got in my truck, hi-tailed down the road going parallel for around a mile, and started to head them off on foot. This took about 45 minutes or so. I finally caught up to the four cows and 1 spike. They had no idea I was on them again, which by the way makes it way easier to make a good shot. I did fire once more and missed, but the good news was they came at a 45 degree angle towards me. I crawled on the ground, drew out my shooting sticks, and slowly stood up. There they were, just about 130 yds. to my left. When I looked in my scope, I expected to see the spike leading, but he was second in line. The lead cow was looking back, so I slowly scoped out the spike and placed a good shot to the rear of his ribs and going all the way to his neck. Eight seconds later, down it goes and all the work began. In realizing what I prayed for, it worked out just fine. As it was, this spike was quite enough to handle on my own without quartering it.



Craig's Baby Bull

If you would like to see your own story in the Predator's Pride, just send it to:
editor@azpredatorcallers.com

We love to see pictures of your hunts and hear you tell about your success.

Rifle Raffle

**Remington Model 700
chambered in .17 Remington Fireball**

Raffle tickets are for sale at the January meeting. Great odds, since there will be only 72 tickets sold. Tickets will be \$10.00 each, no limit on the number of tickets you can purchase.



Hunter Education Class In Mesa

Where: Mesa

Poston Jr. High School

2433 E. Adobe St. Mesa AZ 85213

(Between Gilbert & Lindsay and University & Brown)

What: Combo

When: January 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 29 February 5, 7, 2008

6:45 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

Field Day - February 9, 2008 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

(Online students not eligible for this field day)

Cost: \$9.00 Registration:

Pre-Registration contact Mike Zaccardi at

(480) 834-1791. In person registration is January 8th at 6:30 P.M.

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

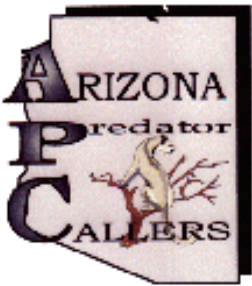
New Membership

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



Address Correction Requested

