

PREDATOR'S PRIDE



ARIZONA PREDATOR CALLERS

January / February 2009

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

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The President's Message

by Craig Gombos, APC President

Well, I would like to say thank you to everyone for giving me the opportunity to serve as president, I promise to do my best over the next year. I look forward to working with you and listening to your ideas. We would like to see more members get involved with all aspects of the club: board meetings, help organizing events, even cooking and cleaning up afterwards! These would all be good signs of a healthy organization. I'm proud to be part of APC!



Once again we were able to win the multi-club hunt! It was a great time for all that showed up. We got to swap stories and see the predators line up, and yes, APC's was a much longer line... however, this hunt is all about the friendships and fun by all. I would like to thank all the members and board members who worked hard to make this event a success.

I had the pleasure of hunting with Ned Burris for this year's multi-club hunt. We started off by heading south on Friday. I know a rancher down there who was happy to have us come out and stay so Ned and I got up early Saturday and headed out. We had a good feeling after the first stand, no coyotes but we heard them all around us. So we pressed on with no luck at all till about 1:20pm. Then Ned was calling this stand for about 2 minutes and a bobcat (27lb male) approached directly in front of him. Ned, as always, had his 10 gauge shotgun and 22-250 rifle, picked up his rifle and nailed it head-on sitting at the edge of the grass line. It was at that point most of the stands were producing. We moved on and called a coyote that Ned nailed between the brush at about 250yds. Ok, this one is my favorite! I was calling and a coyote came in about 2-4 minutes. Ned shot and I followed, the coyote took off. Ned went to get his dog out of my truck to help find the coyote while I kept calling. Wouldn't you know it, a cat shows up about 5 minutes after Ned left to get his dog. Ned saw me wave off the dog 1second too late, so I took 3 shots with my 12 gauge in hopes of possibly getting it. Turns out I missed but his dog found the dead coyote in about 45 seconds flat, very impressive dog... We had several more stands with coyotes and Ned is the deadliest man I know with his shooting skills. We both learned a few things from that weekend. Thanks for everything, Ned. I had a great time and learned a lot from you, and you almost made me want to get a dog again - comes in very handy!

Ok, in wrapping this up, please feel free to talk to me about whatever is on your mind or questions you might have. I know there are some people who have asked me to take them hunting and I will try to find the time to do so. I am usually available Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays so call me and we can make arrangements.
Thanks again,
Craig Cell phone: 480-292-1492

Coming Events

- General Meeting.....Feb. 12, 2009
Board Meeting.....Feb. 23, 2009
Antelope Eaters Hunt....Mar. 7-8, 2009

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

Treasurer's Report

by Jerry Thorson, APC Treasurer

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

Checking Account

Beginning Balance..... \$1,583.17

Check #1681 AWF-Dec memberships.. (84.50)
Check #1682 Legend Express.....(134.00)
Check #1683 Mike Burris, Multi Club...(350.00)
Deposit Memberships & Cash.....950.00
Ending Balance 12/31/08.....\$1,964.67

Petty Cash

Petty Cash Beginning Balance.....\$81.60
Call Sales / Merchandise.....\$30.00
Dues.....\$180.00
Raffles.....\$604.00
Deposits to Checking.....(\$730.00)
Petty Cash End Balance.....\$165.60

Total Cash.....\$2,130.27

Inventory

Total Inventory Value.....\$3,704.75

Total Assets.....\$5,835.02

APC Video Library

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

1/10/08 Chuck Beshears.....Hunting Coyotes
East and West
3/12/08 Conner Griner.....Utah Raging Bull
5/8/08 Troy Simmons.....Hunting in the East
5/8/08 Bill Virtue.....Calling Coyotes
5/8/08 Bill Virtue.....Calling All Coyotes II
5/8/08 John Albin.....Catastrophic

Thanks *Jerry*



February Meeting Program "Calling Bear"

The Arizona Predator Callers monthly meeting is on Thursday, February 12, 2009 at 7:00 PM. **Reed Peterson**, founding member of APC/Mesa Varmint Callers and APC Hall of Fame member, will be the guest speaker. Mr. Peterson will be speaking on his experiences calling 61 bear.

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.

Shotgun to be Raffled

Arizona Predator Callers are raffling off another shotgun chambered in 3 1/2". This is the perfect firearm for the upcoming season. The shotun comes 'dipped' with a Mossy Oak pattern. Tickets can be purchased at all monthly meetings. For more information on the raffle contact Mike Burris (his email address is located on the front page).



Craig Barnett won the Mossberg 835 12 ga at the January meeting, presented by Mike Burris.

Bill Rice from the Tucson club won the Remington R-15 at the December meeting.

Hunt Report

by Dusty Mosier, Hunt Chairman

Thank you to everyone who participated in the multi-club hunt. It seems that we get the privilege of hosting it again next year. A big thank you to Kara Jensen and my son Michael for covering for me and handling the trailer and all the food. This is the first time in seven years that I've missed this hunt (I was a little under the weather). Also thank you Jeff Heinze and Craig Barnett for doing all of the cooking.

The next hunt is "antelope eaters" in Seligman on March 7th and 8th. This is typically a large hunt with several hundred hunters and a lot of fun. We will have more information at the meeting on February 12th. Keep filling out those hunt records, I will be asking for them at April's meeting.

We have a report from **Richard Felter**, a friend of APC member **John Frabotta**, that they are being overrun by coyotes near the Grand Canyon, Units 7E and 7W. He suggests you hunt off of Highway 180 out of Flagstaff and Forest Road 144. He says he has seen a lot of badgers also. Richard can be reached at 1-661-478-8365 for more information.

Be Safe, Have Fun. Shoot to Kill !



Membership Report

by Kara Jensen, APC Membership

Welcome new members:
Jim Sloane of Queen Creek,
Aaron Jones of Mesa, **Mike Gilbert** of Chandler, **Frank Turkowski** of Livalde, Texas,
Sidney Montague of Phoenix,
Joshua Becktell of Gilbert and
Ron Evans of Casa Grande.

Thanks to:
Paul Melching, Karl Griner, Jeff Heinze, Andrew Kerns, Carlos Hernandez, Michael Zaccardi, Fred Johnson, Bill Hudzietz, Andy Musacchio, Richard Felter, and Troy Simmons. for renewing their memberships.

Your Arizona Predator Caller 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. You don't want to miss a single issue of Predator Pride.

If you've let your membership with our club expire, please contact us. If you have any questions regarding your existing membership, please give me a call at **602-309-2517** or you can e-mail me anytime at:
membership@azpredatorcallers.com

2008 MULTI-CLUB HUNT REPORT

9:00 pm January 17, 2009 was check-in cut off for the annual Multi-Club hunt. APC provided chili, cheese burgers, hotdogs, cold drinks and pastry for the hunters awaiting the deadline.

Arizona Predator Callers was well represented again this year and the results of the hunt reflected that. A total of 27 coyotes, 4 bobcats and 3 fox were counted with the lions share from APC. One hunter from SAWC turned in a coyote. One team from XPC turned in 2 coyotes and a fox. Two teams from PVCI turned in a total of 3 coyotes and a bobcat.

Eddie Murdoch from PVCI won a knife for skinning a coyote in less time than the other contestant who is a young relative of Dusty's. Many very experienced callers blanked on this hunt which substantiates concerns from many sources of suppressed coyote populations or very pressured coyotes over a very large geographic area have gone into siege mode. They are primarily nocturnal and refuse to expose themselves. That sounds like a dandy topic for a future APC speaker.

Congratulations to all of the successful callers and kudos to the members of all of the clubs for participating.

Hunt Calendar

(Dates subject to change)

Antelope Eaters Hunt, Seligman, AZ.....	March 7-8, 2009
ATA Fur Sale (tentative date).....	March 14, 2009
APC Shootout.....	April 11, 2009
Save-A-Fawn Hunt, Heber, AZ.....	May 2-3, 2009

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Success in the Field



Ron Phillips called in and harvested this 19 1/2 pound female bobcat near Peralta in the Superstitions



John Albin called in this beautiful female bobcat December 20th. A gray fox was also called in that day and harvested by friend Bob Brinkley.



Ned Burris holds his 27 1/2 pound bobcat that he harvested during the Multi-Club Hunt.



Arnold Cason on the left and Colton Bidegan show the 6x6 Bull Elk that Arnold bagged in unit 23 near Hagler Creek on 10/7/08. This was Arnold's first successfull Bull hunt.



Craig Barnet skins the coyote he harvested during the Multi-Club Hunt.

Send your photos to both the newsletter editor and the webmaster. See the front cover for email addresses. Keep those photos coming in to show your "Success In The Field"

Membership News

From Kara Jensen

Hello everyone! Your long lost, or at least hard to get a-hold of Membership Chick is back. I wasn't real good about sending out new member packets and keeping the database clean this last year and I apologize. I am getting caught up now and need a little help on your part. If you are listed as expired please renew your membership and your newsletters will resume! All current members have been mailed a welcome letter and our By-Laws and Code of Ethics.

We would like to add an email field to our database so we can keep you updated on club hunts and events. So please email me and go ahead and include your street address and phone number to make sure our database is up to date!

BrokerKara@gmail.com

According to my database this is who expired in 2008.

Adriance	Jim	1/1/2008
Marcotte	Ron	1/1/2008
Corens	Paul	2/1/2008
Kap	Andrew	2/1/2008
Loeffler	Eric	2/1/2008
Simon	Jack	2/1/2008
Beshears	Chuck	3/1/2008
McKenna	Kenneth	3/1/2008
Djuric	Branislan	4/1/2008
Frank	Dave	4/1/2008
Kolana	Walter	4/1/2008
Ledford	Martin	4/1/2008
Robinson	Kenneth	4/1/2008
Thompson	Dustin	5/1/2008
Zoellner	Kurt	5/1/2008
Crooks	Stephen	9/1/2008
Dunham	Denzil	9/1/2008
Harris	Vere	9/1/2008
Jones	Terry	9/1/2008
Kirchner	Forest	9/1/2008
Koleszar	John	9/1/2008
Baber	William	10/1/2008
Frabotta	Susan	10/1/2008
Jensen	Justin	10/1/2008
Kohlar	Fred	10/1/2008
Pederson	Bruce	10/1/2008
Peterson	Andrew	10/1/2008
Walker	Jack	10/1/2008
Albin	Craig	11/1/2008
Chalasani	Sid	11/1/2008
Dolley	Gordon	11/1/2008
Greene	Douglas	11/1/2008
House	Alex	11/1/2008
Jensen	Kara	11/1/2008
Kennedy	Craig	11/1/2008
Mendenhall	Nathan	11/1/2008
Miller	John	11/1/2008
Sherwood	David	11/1/2008
Verdejo	Mark	11/1/2008
Vowell	Devan	11/1/2008

Wiley	Jack	11/1/2008
Zaccardi	Michael	11/1/2008
Barkley	Jason	12/1/2008
Carter	Steve	12/1/2008
Fritz	John	12/1/2008
Hallman, Jr	Van	12/1/2008
Johnson	Fred	12/1/2008
Martin	Clint	12/1/2008
Porath	Joseph	12/1/2008
Pulvermacher	L.E.	12/1/2008
Schardyn	Terry	12/1/2008
Schmidtika	Daniel	12/1/2008
Schmitt	Alec	12/1/2008
Sylvester	Tom	12/1/2008
Bargman	George	1/1/2009
Martin	Don	1/1/2009
Miller	Mark	1/1/2009
Sega	Ron	1/1/2009

Front Porch Coyote Huntin'

by Rich Felter

Stepping outside in my PJs to enjoy a morning cup of coffee and the magnificent view of the pinion juniper forest from our hill top home in northern Arizona, my attention was quickly drawn to the chorus of several coyotes yipping and barking down in the trees, the way they do while in pursuit of a meal. These 'Coy Dogs' were most likely the same bunch the wife and I had been hearing in the evenings and mornings throughout the late summer and early fall.

My hunting buddy John Farbotta, who introduced me to the APC sport, and I had already taken several coyotes off the trust land to the north and west of our ranch properties but as so often happens up here you see more of the wiley coyotes when you're not out actually calling.

As the pack drew near I became concerned for the well being of our outside cat knowing the coyote's propensity for dining on domestic feline. Returning to the house I retrieved my electronic game call and the 1895 Russian Nagant revolver (\$79.00 at J&G) from the breakfast bar where I had been cleaning it the night before. Dropping in seven rounds of .32 H&R mag reloads, I quickly stepped out on the porch setting the call to the pups yelp feature.

It was a matter of seconds before a young male showed himself between two junipers at a range of fifty yards. Being twice the distance of my confidence in hitting anything with a pistol I decided to shoot over him and chase him off. At the report, of what is now my latest coyote nailing firearm, the coy dog did a back flip and disappeared from sight.

After a change of clothes I went to investigate the state of my hit and found the coyote within thirty feet of where he had been sitting. The 100 grain JHP had done the trick. Two days later I found my missing cup of coffee where I left it on the porch. It was cold, and there was something growing in it. *Editors Note: APC member Rich Felter lives on South Rim Ranch between Williams and GC National Park. I wouldn't recommend shooting coyotes off of your back porch here in the valley.*

Sabbaticals

By Eric J. Vidana

Greetings and salutations everyone. My name is Eric J. Vidana. I was the past Program director for Arizona Predator Callers years ago. I used to hunt with Ned and Mike Burris the two best predator callers in the state in my mind. They along with other club members taught me everything I know and enjoy about predator calling. Things like take a shotgun if you want to bring home fur, stand selection and equipment to use and how to skin what you take. All these things you will need to learn to take predators and care for your hides.

As some of you may already know me, you know that is has been years since I have been around let alone have hunted predators. Saying this I said to myself this is the year I plan to at least go out one time. I say this every year but this time it would be different. All I needed was an excuse to jump in the truck and get it done. So low and behold that opportunity came in the form of a phone call to go hunting for bobcats down south. Now I say this tongue in cheek. I have been on many hunts where I have seen and missed bobcats or my partners have taken them right in front of me. It's frustrating to see everyone else take an animal you had been chasing for years again and again while you stand by and watch.

As was mentioned earlier it has been a while since I had been out. So my brain went into over drive regarding my equipment list. Do I even have ammo, cover sent, and more importantly where is all my gear.? When you don't hunt every weekend like I used to its easy to misplace items or not stock up on necessities like ammo. I even had

a hard time recalling what I brought for lunch and snacks. Trips usually start at four a.m. and I walk in the door at ten or eleven p.m. so a long day was in store for sure. I felt like I had never hunted before. But I was able to gather all my gear eventually.

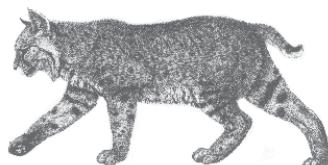
As we all know it's the first animal of the day that is the hardest to get in the truck. So we finally got to our fist stand, wind in our face, caller going and nothing comes sounds familiar. But I am so pumped to hear the sound of my partner's rifle or shotgun go off I can barely sit still. Then a few stands later, a tree line in the distance, sun at our back, wind in our favor it happens. Five minutes into the stand a bush begins to spread apart in the mist of the tree line with a little gray fox bouncing out. He can't help but to come charging after whatever is dying. Then I realize he is in my partner's shooting lane, a big smile comes over my face as I hear the shotgun go off at that moment. That breaks the goose egg I said to myself and things just went from good to great at the click of a trigger.

As the sun rose to its peak the day continues with stands that seem to take an eternity with no animals in sight, along with my chance to get my bobcat. Or did it? The next stand looked just like any other stand, wide open plain to our left with a thick tree line to our right , wind in our favor but we were elevated on a little dirt hill. So my partner started to call and in about three minutes I saw movement under a tree. The first thing I thought is here comes a fox. He was still behind a bush with the wind kicking up dust so I could not really get a good look at him. As the animal went from one bush to another all I could make out was a shadow of an image. Finally it ran

through an opening in front of me. As I slowly raised my shotgun to shoot, it stopped dead in its tracks looking right at me. My brain screamed bobcat and busted at this point, he had seen me raise my shotgun. So I stopped moving with my shotgun half way to my shoulder. All I could think is how can he get away and what do I do to prevent him from escaping. As he tried to figure out what I was, his tail twitched like crazy and his head looked back to where he had came from. He began to move backwards looking towards the caller, then he stopped to look at me. He started slowly forward again taking his eyes off me, big mistake on his part because I was able to mount my shotgun. The next thing I remember saying to myself is aim for his ears and squeeze slowly, he's dead and he doesn't even know it. Click, bang and all the teaching that I had learned from club members finally paid off. I got me my very first bobcat after taking a sabbatical from predator hunting for years.

The day went on to produce a grand total of two bobcats, one fox, two coyotes with two other coyotes winding us and getting away, and one other bobcat getting away for the same reason. But nothing that day brought me as much joy as taking my first bobcat. My comment to all you new guys is listen to the wisdom, experience and comments of the guys that produce animals and learn from them. Because what you learn early on will be remembered years later and serve you well. Good hunting.

Regards, Eric J. Vidana



A Nifty New Gun

by Rich Felter

As the early winter weather continued to hold in northern Arizona, John and I finished sighting in the scope on his new .223 Remington R-15 down on my 100 yard rifle range. After jealously staring at his new acquisition, I then looked over at the gun rack holding my .223 H&R Handi rifle while remembering how PO'd I was the day the Marines took my trusted M-14 and replaced it with a Mattel looking M16A1 plastic gun (the R-15's military predecessor) that required 26 clicks of front sight down elevation at the qualification range when we moved from the 300 to the 500 yard line. There was always this mental picture of rounds hitting the target like rain. I have to admit, the R-15 is sweet with its camo finish, but I can buy four Handi rifles with scopes and some cans of camo spray paint for the same price.

A couple of hours later, we parked a quarter mile shy of a dried-up stock tank, found while exploring the Kaibab National Forest. We unloaded our hunting gear and moved down the gully toward the tank dam. Some days it just feels right, warm afternoon sun and no wind. I set myself against a juniper bush on a rock ledge and dropped a round into the chamber while John moved twenty yards to my right and found a good spot. The dried tank was covered on three sides by trees and bushes and 200 yards directly in front of us rose a steep volcanic rock cliff.

The high pitch of John's electronic call broke the silence as I glassed the recessed areas of the cliff. After several minutes my foot started going to sleep and I set the binocs down and squirmed around a little. There it was, movement in the junipers left to right at 50 yards on the far side of the tank bed, I could see legs on a trot. I brought my rifle to the shoulder and cocked the hammer with an audible click. It was a gray fox and I had been made. Then he ducked into cover and I didn't have a shot. Suddenly, the fox and I were both startled when John touched off a round. He jumped straight up as the bullet disintegrated in the stones at his feet and then quickly made tracks up the hill.

After a few moments we went to investigate. No blood, no hair, a clean miss with a nifty new gun!

P. S. Sometimes when you miss it is better to be hunting by yourself than with a friend who writes articles for the club newsletter.



Craig Barnett
dishes out the
hamburger
patties at the
Multi-Club Hunt.



Jeff Heinze cooked and handed out the chili at the Multi-Club Hunt. **Kara Jensen** and **Rich Higgins** wait patiently.

Coyotes and Bobcats harvested by the APC at the January 17th Multi-Club Hunt

Arizona Predator Callers - Membership Application

Name: _____ Hm Phone: _____ Wk Phone: _____

Address: _____ Fax #: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ DOB: _____

email address: _____

Additional Family Members

Name: _____ Relationship: _____ DOB: _____

Primary Annual Membership.....\$30.00

New Membership

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

Renewal

Lifetime Individual Membership.....\$350.00

Amount Enclosed _____

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Address Correction Requested

