

PREDATOR'S PRIDE



ARIZONA PREDATOR CALLERS

March 2008

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

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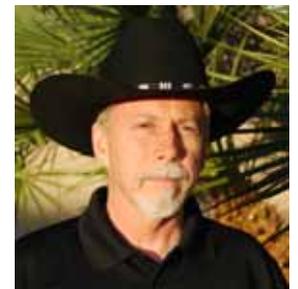
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The President's Message

by Larry Walden, APC President



I hope you are getting ready for the Save-a-Fawn Hunt scheduled for March 15th and 16th in Heber / Overgaard, AZ. I will leave the details of the hunt for Dusty Mosier, our APC Hunt Chairman, but the focus of the hunt is to help the prey species during the fawning season in units along the Mogollon Rim. We can do a lot to reduce the predators in the target units so get your calls out and I will see you on the rim.

I was unable to attend the Antelope Eaters hunt in Seligman, AZ this year, but it is always a great hunt. Just the check-in alone is worth the trip north. Standing around on the patio of the "Black Cat" and listening to all the stories about the ones that got away and the ones that didn't is priceless. A lot of our fellow predator callers from northwestern Arizona participate. It is an excellent opportunity to share stories and techniques with fellow callers from northern Arizona.

I have applications for the first Annual Barry Fifer Memorial Hunt sponsored by Xtreme Predator Callers. The hunt is scheduled for March 27th, 28th and 29th. Barry Fifer was driving to check-in when he unfortunately lost his life in a truck accident. This hunt is Xtreme's way of honoring his memory.

There is a lot of legislation being introduced in the Arizona House and Senate this spring, that if passed, will affect gun ownership and hunting. We have some strong supporters in both the House and Senate, but they need our help. Please take a few minutes and go to the NRA website and sign up for their legislative alerts. You will receive emails summarizing bills being introduced in Arizona that pertain to gun ownership and hunting.

Contact information for the bill's sponsor is provided so you can make your voice heard. We can make a difference. A single hunter's opinion does matter.

Hunt safely and keep bringing in the predators.

Larry



Coming Events

March 13 '08.....General Meeting
March 15-16 '08.. Save-A-Fawn Hunt
March 27-29 '08.....Barry Fifer Hunt
March 31 '08.....Board Meeting

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 Feb 1 thru Feb 29, 2008.

Checking Account

Beginning Balance..... \$3,647.19

Check #1636 Larry Walden-snacks.....(38.08)
 Check #1637 AWF - 4 members.....(26.00)
 Check #1638 Postage.....(209.99)
 Check #1639 M. Burris WCC-mtg food..(55.98)
 Check #1640 Tom Hancock, speaker..(155.00)
 Deposit from Memberships, sales, raffle..990.00

Ending Balance 2/29/08.....\$4,152.14

Petty Cash

Petty Cash Beginning Balance.....\$145.00

Call Sales.....\$23.35
 Dues.....\$105.00
 Raffles.....\$814.00
 Deposits to Checking.....(\$990.00)
 Petty Cash End Balance.....\$97.35

Total Cash.....\$4,249.49

Inventory

Total Inventory Value.....\$2,916.75

Total Assets.....\$7,166.24

APC Video Library

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

- 2/14/08 Paul Delaney.....Calling Coyotes
- 2/14/08 Paul Delaney.....Hunting in the East
- 12/13/07 Tom Harrison.Texas Predator Pursuit
- 1/10/08 Chuck Beshears.....Hunting Coyotes East and West
- 1/10/08 Mark Allan.....Up Close & Personal
- 2/14/08 Dave Warren.....Prescription for Success

Thanks

Jerry



March Meeting Program

The Arizona Predator Callers monthly meeting is on Thursday, March 13, 2008 at 7:00 PM. The meeting features a predator calling presentation by **Tal Lockwood** from Tally-Ho calls.

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

Rain, snow pack, runoff and green-up providing terrific news for Arizona's wildlife

PHOENIX - All the winter precipitation, snow pack, runoff and associated green-up are combining to create a favorable outlook for Arizona's wildlife this year - especially small game.

Small game, such as quail and rabbits, are expected to respond accordingly, but this also brightens the picture for larger game animals as well, such as deer. Arizona Game and Fish Department biologists said that the routine storms blasting across Arizona at timely intervals throughout the winter is resulting in one of the best green-ups this state has experienced in years, which in turn should equate to a decent Gambel's quail hatch this year.

"We need at least back-to-back years of good winter and spring precipitation to produce what we call a 'bumper crop' of Gambel's quail. Last year throughout much of Arizona, we had a record dry winter. But right now there is abundant and thick green feed growing on the ground, so we are definitely expecting at least average quail reproduction this year," said Ron Day, the department's small game specialist.

"Scaled quail will likely benefit from all this green-up, but Mearns' reproduction is primarily keyed to summer rainfall. We just experienced the best Mearns' quail hunting in probably 30 years. If we have good rainfall again this summer in southeastern Arizona, we could have unparalleled Mearns' reproduction. We'll just have to wait and see," Day said.

Day explained that the luxuriant green-up doesn't just mean food for the quail, but an abundance of Vitamin A. "Vitamin A is a key for quail and other animals, especially small game, to have fully developed and functioning sexual organs. It's nature's way of ensuring a lot of young aren't produced when the vegetative resources aren't available to support the newborn animals."

Yet times are good, not just for quail, but other animals as well. "There is no doubt we will see a cottontail explosion this year. Cottontail populations have actually been looking favorable for the past several years, especially in central Arizona. This green-up means rabbit production will be excellent," Day said. Day added that hunters will want to get out and reap this good small game production. "This is a great year to introduce youngsters and others to the joy of small game hunting in our deserts. Plus, cottontails provide great eating - much better than chicken. Quail also provide what may be considered gourmet table fare."

The abundant precipitation should also help Arizona's big game animals as well. "We may have turned the corner on declining mule deer populations, which drought had in part influenced. The good snowpack, rainfall and expected improvements in browse conditions this spring and summer is excellent news for our recovering mule deer populations," said Big Game Supervisor Brian Wakeling.

Hunt Report

by Dusty Mosier, Hunt Chairman

Well, another season is almost over. I hope you have been keeping your hunt records up to date. I would like them turned in to me at April's meeting.

All my javelina hunts are over. My son Michael and I had our HAM hunt the second weekend in February. His story about the hunt is elsewhere in the newsletter. My daughter, Lisa, had a rifle tag for 37B two weeks ago, so her and I went down for a day and a half. Our secret spot that my buddy Tom had found during archery season was overrun with hunters. We couldn't find any javelina, or even much sign, but we did find more bobcat sign than I've ever seen. So instead of glassing for pigs, we called for cats. We never called anything in except birds, but I plan on going back down there when there are less people running around.

Last weekend was Antelope Eaters Hunt in Seligman, and as usual a lot of fun. Michael and I hunted it this year. All of our stands Saturday morning were great. With no wind and clear skies we could see for a long ways that nothing was coming. By midday we switched to calling for fox in some thicker areas, but still nothing would show itself. As the afternoon wore on we did some scouting/site seeing and worked our way back to town. We had dinner at the Roadkill Cafe and then on to the check-in.

For those of you that have never been to Seligman, this hunt is the biggest event each year for this little town. Located on old route 66, it seems to be stuck in 1965 forever. All motels and both restaurants were full as over 150 teams participated. The final body count was as follows: 41 coyotes, 12 fox, 3 bobcat, and one lion. The wind picked up Sunday morning and kind of shut down the calling. We decided that we would go after a more dangerous game, some monster prairie dogs. What a lot of fun that was.

March 15 and 16 is the **Save-A-Fawn Hunt** near Heber. We (APC) are hosting this event and would like as many hunters there as we can get. The game units that we are targeting are 3B, 3C, 4A, 4B, and 5A. We would like everyone to try and hunt these areas if possible. The check-in will be Saturday night from 7pm to 9pm and Sunday from 1pm to 2pm. The drawings for the prizes will be at 9pm Saturday and 2pm Sunday. We will provide dinner Saturday night, and there is plenty of space to camp.

The check-in will be in the forest off of Highway 260 at mile marker 301, which is a few miles west of Heber. If you don't feel like camping, there is the Sawmill Inn in Heber (928-535-5053) or the Forest Lakes Lodge in Forest Lakes (928-535-4727). Forest Lakes is about 15 miles west of Heber on 260. Hope to see you there.

Be Safe, Have Fun, Shoot to Kill !

Dusty

Hunt Calendar

APC's Save-A-Fawn Hunt.....March 15&16, 2008
Barry Fifer Memorial Hunt.....March 27-29, 2008

Rifle Raffle

This month's rifle will be a Reminton Model 700 chambered in .221 Fireball.

Only 72 tickets will be sold.

Membership Report

by Kara Jensen, APC Membership

Welcome new members:

Bill Virtue of Mesa, **Ron Thomas** of Mesa, **Dusty Patterson** of Phoenix, **Loren Vickers** of Flagstaff and **Jim Jensen** of Mesa

Thanks to:

Mark Miller of Fountain Hills for renewing his membership.

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

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. Other inquiries to the AWF Office (480) 644-0077 or email 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 Bill Baber

by Larry Walden, APC President

Bill began hunting with his uncle when he was 8 years old . He took his first whitetail at 16 years old with a .30-30. Previous to predator calling Bill hunted pheasants, quail, waterfowl and deer in his native state of Nebraska.

Bill handloads all his rifle ammunition and is always tinkering with custom rifles.

He contributed 4 coyotes and one bobcat to our recent Multi-Club hunt. Not a bad day for one predator hunter!

1. How did you get started predator hunting?

Bill got his start when a coyote ventured too close to his deer hunting stand in Nebraska and he nailed him with his bow.

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

APC member Willard Bourquein. Willard has been a great hunting partner for several years.

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

As soon as it gets cold. November, December.

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

No favorite unit.

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

Woods Wise Screamn’ Howler Johnny Stewart’s – Wildlife call – pinch bite reed call
Modern Call’s – Squealer/coaxer and Jackrabbit calls

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

Yes. I have a FoxPro with 16 sounds. Rodent & bird being the best sounds.

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

Yes. I have some feathers on a fox tail and some feathers on some fishing line with a clothespin for attaching to whatever is available. Also, I have a coyote tail with a mechanical shaker to provide movement.

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

I use Scent Shield Original cover scent and some natural fox urine.



On The Stand With Bill Baber: 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
 - being quite
 - having sun at your back if you can
- Wind is the most important.

10. Describe your most memorable predator hunt.

My son and I called in 11 coyotes in one day and we killed 7 of them.

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

Bobcats and coyotes. I like to hunt the ones worth the most \$\$\$.

12. Describe your single most successful predator stand.

My son and I called in 4 coyotes within 20 seconds and they ran over us and we did not kill any of them.

13. Describe your most disastrous predator hunting adventure.

This fall with Craig Gombos. On the first coyote I forgot to cock my rifle and then I got a case of the 'misses' which continued all day long.

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

MY favorite rifles are a M77 Ruger chambered in .22 K-Hornet, another M77 in .17 Ackley Hornet and a Remington 700 shooting .17 Remington Fireball. I never use a shotgun.

15. What is your favorite camo / pattern?

A lightweight ghillie suit. Leafy wear camo.

16. Name your favorite annual APC hunt or activity.

The annual Multi-club hunt.

17. What is your number one predator hunting goal?

Help the prey species. Try to develop night hunting for predators in Arizona.

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

Electronic calls. Newer faster rifle cartridges and improved optics.

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

I would like to have night hunting for predators in Arizona. I would like for hunters to be able to shoot Mountain Lions with shotguns.

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

Uninformed people. Uneducated public when it comes to hunting issues. They think we are the bad guys.

21. Describe your dream big game/predator hunts.

I would like to take a bull elk with my bow.

Joe's First Coyote

By Joe Porath

On Saturday, January 12, 2008 I called in and shot my first coyote. It was on our Multi-Club Hunt. The first coyote I ever shot was in 2007 and Mark Miller was the caller. Mark introduced me to predator hunting. I met Mark on a trail in Unit 27 on a deer hunt and we found that we lived on the same street in Fountain Hills. That's another story.

Mark and I have hunted together many times. We do a thirty-minute stand and take turns calling. It was my turn to call so I could pick the place to hunt and do the set up. I chose a place that we had hunted before when my son was here last year. He called in a bobcat. I placed Mark down wind and that put him in a good spot where the bobcat had come in before. (We did not get it).

As I set up the wind changed and it came from my back. I was half way up a high hill so I stayed. I used my son's (Jeff Porath of Porath Game Calls) new mist, called "Dazed Dog Coyote Mist". When sprayed downwind, the mist will saturate the air and cover the ground, including every rock, branch, etc. When the coyote circles downwind and gets a nose full of more scents than he can process at one time, he'll be confused. He gives credit for the mist to Rich Higgins.

I was using two of Jeff's calls, a diaphragm and an open reed at the same time. So I don't know which one called in the two coyotes. The diaphragm is a house cat in distress. It's called "Killer Kitty Feline Distress". The open reed is called "The Triple Play". This name came about last year when Jeff was here from his home in Michigan to try out a couple of his prototype calls, the open reed being one of them. I was using the open reed call and on the same thirty-minute stand I called in a coyote, fox and a bobcat. Jeff shot the bobcat. Mark or I couldn't get a shot at the coyote or fox. Jeff was going to name it the "3 In One", but Quaker Boy has a turkey call named the "3 In One". He named it the "Triple Play".

Fifteen minutes into the stand I used the mist again. Soon I saw two coyotes coming straight in. I got all excited when I saw that second one was a big one. I wanted them both. At about 100 yards I



used the mist again. They picked up speed when they got a whiff of the mist. At 70 yards I shot the second coyote. The first one was a lot closer. I was using a Savage .223 bolt action. By the time I bolted in another round and knew that my dog was down to stay, the first one was out to 100 yards. Boy do they move fast. It turned tail and really carried the mail. I got it in and out of the scope, shot and missed. Oh well, I got the big one.

That was my first called in and shot coyote. I really think the mist did the job the way the wind was blowing. At the check in, Bob Boggard, who was checking us in, looked at my coyote and said I should get it weighed. It weighed in at 30 pounds, 4 ounces. I wanted to keep the hide and hang it with a picture. I was asked to let the club have it, so I did.

I feel like...like I'm being watched!

by Michael Mosier

You know the feeling, the feeling that you're being watched. The hairs on the back of your neck stand up, and you get that uneasy feeling that something's just not right. Everyone has a story and every story is different. The following events lay the foundation to my story. The story of when I felt like...like I was being watched.

It was Friday morning, opening day of our pig hunt. My dad and I climbed the hill behind camp, dropping into the auroras, rich with wildlife, and loaded with sign. Excitement rises as we sweep through the valleys in search of the elusive javelina. By noon, my dad and I, having found our favorite spots, over a mile apart, enjoy lunch and a mid-day nap. While watching the feeding grounds and valleys in front of us, I spot the herd emerging from their day beds. We attempt to coordinate an attack, or rather an ambush. Shots fired, but after all the dust settles & smoke clears, the 'hockey pucks' are nowhere to be seen. Without a drop of blood, we humor each other new plans of attack: empty the gun & just throw the bullets at them. Laughing, we knew we should start heading back. The sun was setting, as we drifted through the long valleys. My dad set up at the mouth of the last draw before dropping down the hill to camp. I set up at the opposing end. As we watched, hoping to catch the pigs on their way to bed down for the night. I decided to cross the draw and sit up on a rock. I was working my way quietly through the wash when I began hearing rocks crumbling. Detecting an unfamiliar odor, I sulked around. Then dad spots a large coatimundi working its way through the draw, curious too, of the noise I was making. We, once again, *attempted* to coordinate an attack. Unfortunately, you can't kill what you never see. As dusk faded into night, we made it to camp. Tomorrow: New Game Plan!

Saturday morning, the sky's just light enough to see, feeling energized, we're ready for the New Game Plan. As we drop into the draw, Dad sets up near the mouth again, with intentions to call. I double-time it to the opposing end of the long valley that I had watched Friday afternoon. Within 5 minutes of leaving my dad, I hear his 12 gauge sing out to a grey fox. I paused for a second, and then continued my swift movement to the prime spot I noted Friday. I reached the rock, climbed up, shed a layer, damp with sweat, and donned a couple warmer layers. All day I watched the valley, positive the javelina were playfully prancing through the brush laughing at me. All day my attention was drawn to the rocks I had been sitting on Friday afternoon. All day I felt like...like I was being watched. By mid-day, I was full of energy and tired of sitting. I packed up a mini-day pack, leaving the bulk of my supplies at the rock. I headed out through the valley in search of the elusive peccary. I moved through their day beds, fresh with sign and obscene comments written in the sand. The pigs *had* been here all morning, right under my nose. While working my way back to the rock, the uneasy feeling sets in. Something's not right, something involving the rocks from yesterday. I packed up the rest of my stuff, deciding to drift through the long valley and hook around to drift back to camp. As I moved through the valley, the rocks become of more interest. I notice a shaded rock, under a tree, and cut over to it. Quickly moving out of the open, I

drop the backpack, and begin glassing the rocks. I slowly study each rock and every crevice, anticipating the flick of an ear, or tease of a tail. Then I see it! She made a standing leap from one rock up to another, of at least 15 ft, wow. The mountain lion moved in attempt to find where I went. She had been watching me all day, from the same rocks I had sat on the previous day. That uneasy feeling now turns to excitement. The adrenalin starts pumping as I watch her desperately try to locate, possibly her next meal, me.

I radio my dad, quietly explaining the situation, inquiring advice. He repositions himself so that he can see the rocks. Even though he is at least a mile from me, and probably two, as the crow flies, from the rocks, I feel safer now knowing he's watching. I set up a 'bench rest' on the shaded rock, using my sweater for padding and support. With the .223 sighted in on the rocks, I begin a fawn bleat with a mouth call. Within minutes, my dad and I both observe the lion, with ease, in three bounds, descend at least 75 feet to the base of the rocks. As she disappears into the brush, on her way to me, I notice more movement on the rocks. Two cubs playfully bat at each other on the very rock I had been sitting on. There is no word to explain how I felt. I was nervous, anxious, excited, and fired-up. The adrenalin was in full gear now, I was remembering how I felt the first time I skydived *alone*. What a rush! Now, I know she's on her way. As I continue calling, I analyze my surroundings, to anticipate where the attack may come from. Observing my blind spots, knowing cats hunt using cover, the uneasy feeling sets in again. After an hour of calling, I notice the birds have stopped chirping, in fact the wind stopped blowing, it was truly 'dead quiet.' After another hour, the sun finally sets behind the mountains. Knowing it will be dark soon, I stop calling, afraid to move, I slowly emerge from my cover, noting my blind spots, watching for movement. I crept around my stand, but no lion that I can see. I pack up quickly, never turning my back in any potentially dangerous direction. I move swiftly across the valley and up the embankment. I turn around, posting up; I scan for movement, for any signs of the lion following me. Still with the uneasy feeling that I'm being watched, I drop down through the next valley. As I work my way back to camp, I do so in stages of 100 yards or so. Posting up, knowing I'm being followed, I keep vigilance for anything out of place. Finally, I reach the hill behind camp, certain that I was followed for the majority of the way. My adrenalin is still flowing. Wow, what a day!

You know that uneasy feeling, when the hairs on the back of your neck stand up and shout. Know that is your *sixth* sense, alerting you. Alerting you, that something's wrong. Remember that when you feel like you're being watched, you just may be. You just may be a menu item for a predator. A predator that even without weapons is at the top of the food chain. Take note of your surroundings, and always keep your flanks covered. This was my story of the pig hunt when I felt like...like I was being watched.

STRENGTH & HONOR
MJM

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

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

Lifetime Individual Membership.....\$350.00

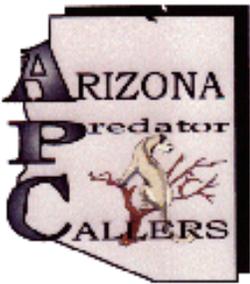
New Membership

Renewal

Amount Enclosed _____

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

Arizona Predator Callers
P.O. Box 1172
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Address Correction Requested

