

PREDATOR'S PRIDE



ARIZONA PREDATOR CALLERS

OCTOBER 2005

APC • P.O. Box 1172 • MESA, AZ 85211-1172

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Ned Burris, APC President

Hello fellow callers, September went by in a flash, but I am still waiting for the cooler weather to get the big dogs. I have been out hunting a few times and I have seen a fox and what I thought was a bobcat. I can't wait to go back and get'em. I hope that you all have had some time to practice calling. Don't let too much time go by in between calling sessions. I do some practicing at home and drive my wife crazy! I guess I do that most of the time anyway. I am also planning to use my new Black Widow bow for some predator hunting. So far I have missed a fox, but I continue to practice, practice, and practice. I'll let you know how it goes with the bow.

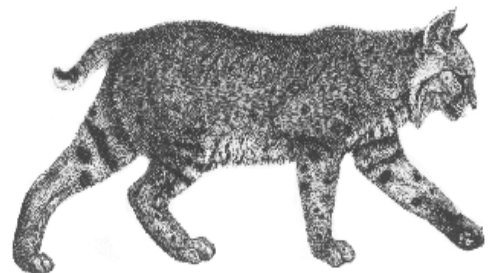
We have two upcoming novice hunts, the first being October 15th and the second on November 12th. Due to prior obligations, I won't be able to participate in the hunt, however I will be at the check-in with the food and the barbecue. I can't wait to here about the day's hunts and see what you all have shot. Even if you don't see anything try to take with you some new calling techniques. There has been many a day when I have taken someone hunting and we didn't see a thing. So don't get discouraged if you don't! It happens!

Just a reminder, the club is raffling off a Fox Pro and 2 riffles, so don't forget to buy you tickets. Tickets are being sold at our monthly meetings. Good luck!!

On a positive note, my brother Mike and I have received our confirmations for the *World Championships* in Elko, Nevada. This is the same place we went last year. We are team #4 and I can't wait to go back. I think we learned a few things last year and will be better prepared this year. Of course we would like to win, but I would be happy just to shoot a dog or two and bring home a little money. It is a costly trip with the price of gas, a hotel, entry fees, Calcutta fees, and not to mention a week off from work! I am so looking forward to this trip!

For your information, those of you with big game tags, you cannot hunt with a dog, but if you can't find your wounded animal, you may try to recover it with a dog. Some Game & Fish officers have dogs and may help you. Also you can call me and if I have time I would bring my Jagd Terrier Rocky and we will help you. Good luck to all of you this hunting season!! I am looking foreword to reading your stories in the news letter. Please submit them to [edi-
tor@azpredatorcallers.com](mailto:editor@azpredatorcallers.com). I am looking foreword to seeing you at the next meeting.

Ned



COMING EVENTS

October General Meeting 13 Oct '05
Coues Whitetail Deer Hunting
 October Novice Hunt 15 Oct '05
 October Board Meeting 31 Oct '05
 November General Meeting . . . 10 Nov '05
 November Novice Hunt 12 Nov '05
 November Board Meeting . . . 28 Nov '05

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

PROGRAM REPORT

by Mike Kannapel, Program Director

The Arizona Predator Callers are hosting a deer hunting seminar on Thursday, October 13, 2005 at 7:00pm. The meeting features a presentation by Marty Fabritz from the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Mesa Region office and will be held in the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #9, located at 1450 E Main Street, in Mesa. The FOP Lodge is on the north side of Main Street, between Stapley and Gilbert Roads.

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.

Mike

TREASURERS REPORT

by Jerry Thorson, APC Treasurer

This Treasurers report details all transactions from September 1, 2005 through September 30, 2005.

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance..... \$4,566.33
 Check #1440 Ned Burris - Ice..... (17.07)
 Check #1441 AWF - 9 Memberships..... (59.50)
 Deposit (memberships & cash)..... 531.00
 Ending Balance 9/30/05 \$5,055.90

PETTY CASH

Petty Cash Beginning Balance..... 60.52
 Call sales..... 36.00
 Admission & Raffles..... 183.90
 Rifle & Caller Raffle 20.00
 Raffles..... 183.90
 Deposit to Checking..... (351.00)
 Petty Cash Ending Balance..... 84.42

INVENTORY

Crit'r Call Standard..... 13...@.....\$9.00
 Crit'r Call PeeWee..... 42...@.....\$9.00
 Crit'r Call Reeds..... 16...@.....\$1.50
 Crit'r Call Instruct Tape..2...@.....\$12.00
 Tally-Ho..... 31...@.....\$8.00
 Tally-Ho Reeds..... 22...@.....\$1.50

Tally-Ho Inserts.....200..@.....\$0.25
 T-Shirts.....16..@.....\$12.00
 WCCC T-Shirts SS.....12..@.....\$6.00
 Tail Strippers.....2..@.....\$6.00
 Tail Zippers.....5..@.....\$6.00
 Knife Sharpeners.....4..@.....\$3.00
 Decals.....898..@.....\$1.00
Total Inventory.....\$2,386.00
Total Assets.....\$7,526.32
Total Liabilities.....(\$0.00)
Net Worth.....\$7,526.32

APC VIDEO LIBRARY

The following individuals have videos checked out:
 4/10/03 Clyde.....Turkeys - Antley
 4/10/03 Clyde.....Turkeys - Fears
 5/23/04 Ken McKenna.....Whitetails II
 11/11/04 Andres Perez.....Callers of the Wild
 9/12/03 Ed Volk.....Calling All Coyotes
 5/13/04 Ken McKenna.....Whitetails II
 8/12/04 Scott Koch..Power Howling Coyotes
 8/12/04 Scott Koch.....Black Bear
 9/8/05...Isaac Ramos..Truth#1 Predator Hunter

Jerry

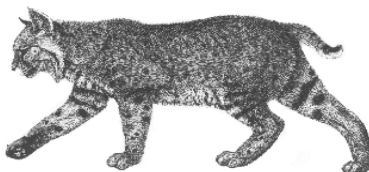
MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Mike Clerc, APC Membership

I would like to welcome new members Ryan Foshee, Terry Jones, Ed Stephens, Rodney Miskin and Brad Norton. I would also like to thank Don Llona, Jose Valencia, Denzil Dunham and William Baber for renewing their memberships.

The following memberships will expire soon:

Name	Expires
Andy Musacchio	01-Nov-05
Bruce Painter	01-Nov-05
Dan Solow	01-Nov-05
Michael Wildman	01-Nov-05
Juan Cordon	01-Nov-05
Kara Jensen	01-Nov-05
Jim Hogue	01-Dec-05
Fred Johnson	01-Dec-05
John Koleszar	01-Dec-05
Larry Scribner	01-Dec-05
Bill Cole	15-Dec-05
Allan Gay	15-Dec-05
Van Hallman, Jr	15-Dec-05
Ed Hermaniski	15-Dec-05
Paul Melching	15-Dec-05
Don Martin	01-Jan-06



The following members have expired:

Name	Expires
Susan Frabotta	01-Oct-05
Jeff Heinze	01-Oct-05
Lanny Penner	01-Oct-05
Andrew Peterson	01-Oct-05
Neil Peterson	01-Oct-05
Nathan Tramp	01-Oct-05
Justin Wheeler	01-Oct-05

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 (480) 890-7801 or you can e-mail me at membership@azpredatorcallers.com anytime.

Mike

THE HUNT REPORT

by Dusty Mosier, Hunts Co-Chair

Well, here we go again, Tuesday, October 11th is (was) the deadline for getting your stuff in for the spring hunts. It sort of snuck up on us this year, hope you got your application sent in on time.

Saturday, October 15th is our first Novice Hunt and I may need a few more experienced hunters to take out some new people. The next novice hunt is on Saturday, November 12th and I will need people to help then too. Please help out if you can. I will have a signup sheet and directions to the check in at the meeting on Thursday.

I have plenty of blank Hunt Records, so if you need one or additional ones please see me. I would really like for everyone to turn one in this year so I don't have to spend hours trying to contact everyone.

I hope your guns are sighted-in and your truck is ready because the season is here. My daughter and I have our elk hunts later this month, we are both getting excited, its been several years since either of us has been drawn. Hope to fill the freezer.. Be Safe, Have Fun, Shoot to Kill!!!

Dusty

APC CLASSIFIEDS

Individual classified ads are listed free in the Varmints Voice to all APC members. For commercial ads, please contact the newsletter editor.

For Sale:

Dennis Kirk electronic wildlife caller. this is a tape player, excellent condition, \$75.00. Contact Dan @ (480) 883-7148.

For Sale:

Winchester model 67 youth rifle .22 cal. fires .22 shorts, long, & long rifle, new front & rear sights, excellent bluing, good wood. \$125.00 obo Scott (602) 319-0459

For Sale:

Marlin model 922M .22WMR (.22mag) semi-automatic, magazine fed, camo finish, includes two magazines, rings & bases. \$225.00 firm Scott (602) 319-0459

For Sale:

Beretta model 21A pistol .22LR semi-automatic, black with black grips tip-up barrel, external safety shoots good, reliable, good backup gun \$200.00 obo Scott (602) 319-0459

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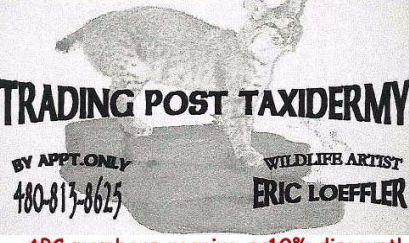


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SIERRA BULLETS
LOHMAN PREDATOR CALLS
NAT-GEAR CAMOUFLAGE

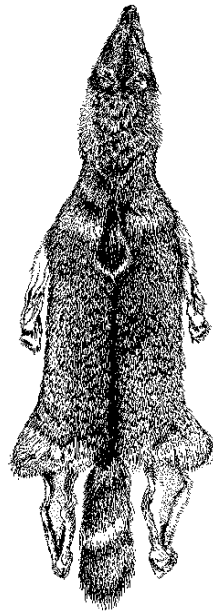


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HELPFUL TIPS & TIDBITS TO HELP YOU PREPARE FOR YOUR NOVICE HUNT

by Eddie Murdock - Phoenix Varmint Callers

(This article is being printed in the APC newsletter, as we felt that this was a PERFECT way to maybe help a novice get acquainted with some of the "expectations" when attending their first Novice Hunt. Eddie Murdock is a long time member of the Phoenix Varmint Callers, and he gave us permission to re-print his article in our newsletter. . . THANKS EDDIE!!! -editor)

This article is mainly devoted to you though there are still many of you older novices that may also benefit. Hopefully you were or will soon be matched up with an expert or master caller for the *Novice Hunt!* Now I don't care who you are or what your hunting experience(s) have been. I don't care how many big game animals you have taken from how many different countries. I don't care how good a shot you are with a rifle or shotgun. Until you have actually been on a real bona-fide predator hunt and experienced what actually happens and get used to what happens, well until then you can really have some embarrassing moments. Missing close shots, shooting too soon at something too far away, not shooting at all, absolutely freaking out when a coyote or fox or bear suddenly appears close out of seemingly nowhere!!! You see this type of hunting (predator-calling) will probably be different than anything you have ever done before because instead of going out looking for something to harvest, you are calling things, coyotes, fox, bobcat, mountain lions and bears to you by sounding like dinner. These critters will actually approach you, many times with the intent of eating you and well this approach of the critter towards you, sometimes very rapidly; well it can just unnerve some people and make you look like a shooting idiot (smile). I am going to attempt to give you some non-nonsense, straight-talk advice on preparing yourself for this hunt and give you some tips on just what might be going through the mind of the *Expert or Master*

Caller that you are going with or maybe someday hope to go with.

Picking partners or getting picked: So you think you want to be a varmint caller and you think you want to go out on a hunt? One of the quickest ways to advance your calling career confidence and expertise is to go hunt with someone who has actually harvested critters and listen to and learn from them. Of course one of the most intimidating moments for many both new and older members is the actual asking, "Can I go with you?" For some others the intimidating moment may be the time leading up to the moment before you do the asking? Regardless, I guess it is mostly the thought that, "I'm not a good enough caller," and the fear of rejection, the fear of being told, "No," that stops many of us. Well guess what: If you really do want to go hunting with someone, then someday, sometime, you are going to have to ask. It is not the Club's responsibility to guarantee you a hunt partner every time you want to go hunting. Even during the September Meeting, when we are trying to get all the Novices partners to hunt with, even then there is just no guarantee. Sometimes a member may even approach you, if you are approachable. Again it is not their responsibility though.

Now when you do ask to go hunting with someone, sometimes you may be told, "No." That's life; I mean these people do have lives and may be busy with other plans. You may not be the only member wanting to hunt with them and don't forget that many have wives, girlfriends, kids, etc. that also demand time. In 99% of the cases a, "No," means, No not now but maybe sometime in the future. It will be very rare that the No means, "No, I don't want to hunt with you ever, please go away." If this does happen, most likely you have earned it somehow. Have you ever stopped and asked yourself, what kind of person you really are? Are you of the desirable or of the undesirable type? Are you really approachable, would others have cause to have

fear around you (remember you are both going to have guns), not from your eyes but from theirs? Be honest, if you didn't know you, would you really want to go hunting with you?

***Okay, the hard part is over, you are paired up with one or more other hunters. Next you will most likely be asked some questions.

QUESTIONS:

- #1) Do you have your own camouflage? Do you have a face mask?
- #2) Do you own a weapon(s)?
- #3) Do you have predator-killing ammo for your weapons?
- #4) Can you stay out overnight?
- #5) Can you help with the gas money and other expenses?

ANSWERS: Your answers of course are going to be:

- #1) Either yes I do or I can get some. Ditto for the face mask question.
- #2) Owning both a shotgun and a (flat-shooting rifle, above .22 long) rifle would be most desirable. Then you bring both on the hunt. If a choice of owning one or the other, for me, have a 12 ga. shotgun that is more than a single-shot. In addition, (Optional) I was told to paint my shotgun on my Novice Hunt.
- #3) For shotguns this usually means 3" copper-plated BB's or 3" #4 buckshot. For rifles the calibers vary too much to list.
- #4) Preferably your answer is, "Yes, I can stay out, I do have a bedroll, it is not a problem to my spouse, job or pets. A No, because of a job or spouse, is a problem but it can usually be worked around. We just can't go as far to hunt and must return to town each night. A No, because of no bedroll and sometimes because of pets, is inexcusable. We are only talking 2 days and at the most, 2 nights.
- #5) You probably won't be asked, it will just be assumed that you are ready, willing and able to pitch in.

Please be able to help with something and if you are low on money for gas, purchasing gear, etc. say something now. We want you to go and sometimes we have extra things that you can borrow like a shotgun, camo, face mask, ammo, etc. Let us know up front though please!

Please remember to RESPECT the places where you are taken to hunt. If hunting on private property where only a few people are allowed in at a time and the owner is contacted before the hunt, well it would be in poor taste for you to show up afterwards, sneaking in with your buddies and abusing the place by leaving trash, shooting too close to buildings, etc. Even on public land, if you are asked not to go back, without your mentor, respect that. Yes it is public land that we all own, but you didn't have to be shown the spot to begin with. On public land my policy is to feel free to come back. I may even give you tips on what to do if you do come back. My only stipulation in a good area is to just be careful who you bring back with you, as some members tend to over hunt an area. Once they know about it you can't get them and/or their buddies to leave it alone. Some say that you can't over hunt coyotes (*they said the same thing about the passenger pigeon whose flocks used to block out the sun*). I say that man has the ability to make any species extinct, especially in a certain area. Be it bobcat, fox, coyote, etc. leave a few animals for seed.

One of the most important things you will be watched for while on your outing that will probably decide if you are asked back out again will be your gun handling skills and how safe you are perceived to be. For me, there are only two safe gun-pointing positions, up or down. The only time a gun should be held level is when you are shooting at something. Now you are supposed to treat every gun like it is loaded, yet it is amazing to me how many times gun muzzles are held and

even loaded level and inadvertently pointed in all manner of directions at everything. Accidents do happen, twice I've seen a firearm go off while it was being loaded, thank goodness no one happen to be in the line of fire. Also, while setting up on a stand, remain standing until everyone has there positions, then you know where everyone is located. Only shoot critters in your zone. Expert or Master it is up to you to say something and correct it if you see unsafe gun handling. Everyone has a different level of experience, don't assume because they own a firearm that they automatically know how to handle it. You are in charge; this task is your responsibility. Other factors to look for include your willingness to call and how good a shot you are or aren't. Don't forget a camera and an alarm clock!

****TIP...I believe the New Novice will be better off starting with a shotgun, you will miss less critters. The action is often so fast, close and personal that often there is just no time to find the critter in a scope! If you do take a rifle, keep the scope on **lowest** setting!*

BAD NEWS BEAR

by Eric Loeffler - APC Member

Well, originally I had hopes that this was going to be my year for that coveted bull elk tag. It had been 4 years since my last trip to 5b south and I thought this was going to be it. I had even taken the week off of work and planned my schedule in such a way that I would be totally prepared for the hunt. But like so many other hunters in this great state, that elk tag that I had wanted so bad was not going to be coming to my mailbox. My hunting buddy had told me that we would buy a tag in Colorado if we didn't get drawn here but at the last minute had to back out because he would be moving to Queen Creek.

A great friend of mine had asked me in the early part of the year if I would like to join him and his hunting buddy for a bear hunting trip down in the Chiricahua

mountains. Last year I did a rug mount for the 300lb bear that they harvested and I must say that something inside me told me I had to go down there and give this a try. So this year it was going to be plan C. After all I had the week off of work already and really needed to get out of town for a little bit and get recharged in the great outdoors.

We left Thursday morning for our long ride down to the southeastern most part of the state and arrived late in the afternoon. The Chiricahuas were everything I heard that they were. Tall and steep mountains surrounded us when we arrived. We had hoped that we would find the bears in the flats and lower areas eating the prickly pear fruit but we couldn't find enough fruit to fill a basket. So it looked like we would have to do some climbing to find the bears.

The first day we tried to do some hiking and glassing to find some sign that bears were active in the area. We covered several miles and saw minimal sign but the whitetail bucks were everywhere. While still in velvet, we saw bachelor groups of deer almost around every corner. I had never seen so many bucks in one day since I moved to Arizona. We ended up hiking up this steep mountain to look in an area that had produced the nice 300 pounder that I did the rug on last year. We came into it from different angles to cover as much area as possible. About 100 yards from the top we started to find bear scat. And with each step it became more obvious that we were where the bears live. My buddy even spotted a very large Black bear coming onto the flats just ahead of us. So it appeared that we had spooked him and he was moving on for the day.

That night we came up with a plan to sneak into the same area undetected but it would have to come from the top down. This involved making a five-mile hike around a huge canyon and try to approach the area in a way to use the rising thermals to our benefit. After about a 5-hour hike up and

down the ridge line we finally got just above the place where we knew the bears seemed to hang out. The vegetation was thick and finding a good place to glass the plateau below us was going to be difficult.

Rick and I split up, he was going to move to the eastern side of the mountain and glass while I decided to drop down on the plateau and enter the woods and get a view from more of the western side. Everything was dry and walking was extremely noisy so I thought I would just find a spot that I could see the best and just sit.

I had only gone 30 yards into the woods when movement caught my eye. About 70 yards ahead of me I saw something dark but wasn't totally sure what it was since the woods are so thick. I brought up my binoculars and saw this big cinnamon head swaying slowly side to side but looking in my general direction. I watched for a few second and saw the sunlight sparkle in his eyes as he tried to figure out what was going on in front of him. I knew I didn't have a lot of time to make a make a shot so I brought up the rifle and tried to find him in the scope but couldn't. So down goes the gun and back up come the binoculars. I found him immediately standing in the same place looking my way. This time I knew I might only have a few seconds before he would leave and needed to find him ASAP. I brought the gun up one more time and this time the white patch on his chest was almost in my crosshair. If he went left or right it was going to be a difficult shot in the dense woods so I had to make the best shot I could. He was quartering towards me ever so slightly and I placed the crosshair in the corner of his chest and squeezed the trigger.

Immediately the bear flipped straight back and clawed the air for a few seconds then stopped. The feeling of great excitement came over me and I couldn't believe I had finally gotten a bear. I put another round in the chamber just incase and called Rick on

the walkie-talkie, who was up on the mountainside above me. It seemed that he was down there in 10 seconds but I know he was probably as excited as I was and wanted to see it.

When he arrived, he congratulated me, then we headed towards the bear. Within the first few steps we could see the size of him along with the big white patch on his chest. When we approached him we made sure that he was dead we knelt down next to the bear and said a prayer and thanked the good Lord for the great animal that he had just blessed me with.

During skinning and quartering we found that the 7mm mag 140-grain Ballistic Tip had entered his chest and passed diagonally through his body and exited his rear leg. Although it is impossible to get an exact weight measurement on him, the estimated weight chart has him in the 300+ range (going by the chest measurement). As for me, the bold cinnamon color and white patch made him a bear of a lifetime.

So even if you don't get that elk or Kaibab tag it doesn't mean that you will not have a successful hunting season. I believe that things happen for a reason. Always keep your options open. The enjoyment of being in the beautiful mountains with good friends is priceless.



APC MEMBERS-IN-ACTION



APC member Eric Loeffler with the bear he harvested in the Chiricahua mountains. (see article on previous page)



Primary Annual Membership \$30.00
Family Membership add \$5.00 (\$35.00 total)
Amount Enclosed

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