



PRONGHORN

3rd Quarter 2007

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MEETINGS

Board meetings are held at 6:30 P.M on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Phoenix Zoo. Visitors welcome!

Pronghorn is a quarterly newsletter for the members of AAF. Letters, comments, news items, articles, pictures and stories are all welcome and will be considered for publication. Address all such items to:

Pronghorn Editor, PO Box 15501, Phoenix, AZ 85060, or by email at info@azantelope.org.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear AAF Members:

Most members are aware that this year for a Fundraising Banquet part of the gross proceeds were earmarked for HOAL Arizona – Hunt of A Lifetime, a non-profit group that takes kids with life threatening illness on a hunt. In Arizona the law was changed a couple of years ago that if a hunter has a Big Game Tag but is unable to use it, they can donate the tag to HOAL, who then matches a hunter to the tag. Obviously some tags are more desirable than others and easier to recruit volunteers for. This year, Don Martin of Kingman Arizona, had a hunter that could not use her Unit 10 antelope tag. Don arranged for the tag to be donated to HOAL which matched him with 12 year old Samantha McDonald, from California. I won't steal Don's thunder and will let him tell the story later in this issue, but Samantha took a wonderful buck. It makes the AAF proud to be associated with a fine group such as HOAL. I also would like to personally thank Don Martin for his efforts in making Samantha's dream become a reality!

On a sadder note, on October 5th, 2007 Bob Hirsch passed away. Bob was instrumental in many, many fine outdoor organizations over the years and was always ready to help at a drop of a hat. I grew up reading his columns and watching & listening to him on TV and radio and always had a great time chatting with him at the various fund raisers and though some of his jokes at times could be a little blue, they were always funny! The conservation communities will certainly miss him!

We had a very good turn out for this year's banquet and there were some great values to be had. For example we had a \$2,500.00 ORYX hunt on the Turner Ranch in New Mexico go for only \$1,200.00. I personally have been on this hunt and it is worth every penny of the regular fee and is a plain steal at \$1,200.00! So be sure to come to next summer's banquet and get in on some of these deals. You can help yourself and Antelope at the same time!

David Brown is again doing his Antelope Aging study. If you harvested an Antelope, particularly if you did so in Arizona, please pull an incisor tooth and send it to us at the address on page 2. David will age the antelope for you, and the data is very important for long term research purposes.



The Annual Membership Meeting is slated for Monday, November 12 2007 6:30 p.m. and will be held at the Phoenix Zoo. All members are always welcome to any board meeting but the Annual Membership meeting is where the next slate of Officers and Directors are elected so your participation is greatly appreciated! If you haven't attended previously just walk through the ZOO entrance and take a hard left and you will find the meeting rooms.

I encourage all of you to come to a meeting and get active! It could be as simple as being a liaison with Game & Fish in a certain region or a Chair on the Fund Raising committee or sitting on the FUNDING Committee as an example of a few of the opportunities that there are to participate.

Sincerely,

Brian George

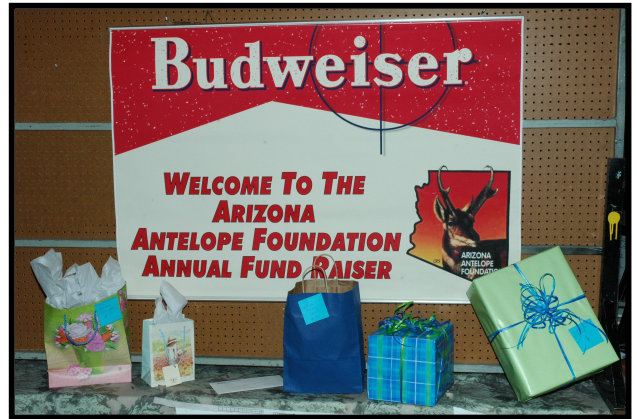
**THANKS ONCE AGAIN TO
BLAKE LANOUE FOR THE
AWESOME COVER PHOTO!**

2007 BANQUET

July 14th marked our 4th annual fundraising banquet at El Zaribah Shrine in Phoenix. Nearly 270 people attended and bid on Silent and Live Auction items and purchased tickets to various raffles and drawings. Those purchases helped raise just over \$26,000 for the Foundation. In addition, the AZGF Commissioners Special Antelope tag was auctioned for \$45,000, which will provide much needed funds to ongoing antelope habitat projects.



A special thanks is extended to all the fundraising committee members, donors, and everyone else who contributed their time and hard-earned dollars to make this year's efforts such a great success!



This year the AAF decided to include sponsorship to the AZ Chapter of Hunt of a Lifetime (HOAL) by contributing a total of \$10 per ticket sold. HOAL is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to grant hunting & fishing adventures and dreams for children age 21 and under, who have been diagnosed with life threatening illnesses. We were able to send HOAL a check for \$2650 to assist them with hunts such as the one taken by Samantha McDonald, whose story is featured on page 6 of this publication.



Photos by Richard Ockenfels and Terry Petko

THANKS TO OUR 2007 BANQUET DONORS

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HUNT OF A LIFETIME

BY DON MARTIN, OUTDOORS WRITER



Drawing an Arizona antelope tag in Arizona is a tough chore for most people. Many will wait for a decade or more just to have the opportunity to hunt the fastest animal in North America. But for Samantha “Sammy” McDonald, getting an Arizona antelope tag came from an unusual and yet generous source. For you see, Sammy got her tag courtesy of a sportsman that she has never met.

14-year-old Sammy lives in Tracy CA, which is a long 11-hour drive from Kingman. Sammy is enrolled in the Arizona Hunt Of A Lifetime program, which provides seriously and/or terminally ill children with the opportunity to experience an outdoor adventure. I am the outfitter/guide coordinator for HOAL and work with AAF Life Member Terry Petko, who is the Arizona State Ambassador for the organization. Each year, through the donations of sportsmen and women, a small number of big game tags that would otherwise not be used are made available for youngsters who desire to go on a hunting trip in Arizona.

This year, one of my clients, Dori Hopp who resides in Newberg, Oregon drew tag # 16 out of the 50 that were offered for antelope in game management Unit

10, which is located north of Seligman. This is one of the most sought after antelope tags in Arizona, with over 7,000 people applying for the chance to hunt one of these high desert speedsters that have vision comparable to ten power binoculars. Dori had applied for 14 years for this tag and when she drew earlier this year she was very happy. But there was a problem. Dori had applied for a job as a girl’s volleyball coach in Newberg, and as much as she likes to hunt, coaching girl’s volleyball is her passion. Dori ended up getting the job, and I got a call from her husband and my good friend, Randy, telling me the news. Because Dori wasn’t going to be able to participate in the hunt, the Hopp’s immediately offered to sign over the tag to HOAL. Thus started a process that became possible a few years ago when the Arizona legislature passed a law allowing such a transfer.

I called Petko and told him of the situation and within a half hour, I was notified that he had a young lady who wanted to go on the hunt. I learned that my hunter was a 14-year-old who is called Sam or Sammy and that she was a cancer survivor. A few years ago Sammy had contracted a rare bone cancer, which caused surgeons to remove her left femur and knee. Through the marvel of modern medicine, she walks fine now courtesy of a titanium femur and knee. Sammy has also had a couple of bouts of lung cancer, which required surgery, but she recently got a clean bill of health from her doctor and was ready to hunt antelope.

My scouting efforts had produced some nice bucks, but I was concerned about Sammy’s ability to go on long stalks and to be able to crawl through the high desert scrub if needed. Looking back, I didn’t need to worry about Sammy. The young lady went where I went, and did everything she was asked to do, whether it was a long walk through the junipers, or a hike up a steep mountain.

I met Sammy and her dad John, the day before the hunt opened and we drove around the unit. I showed them a number of antelope I had located in my pre-season scouting. At the end of the day Sammy and her dad were excited and so was I.

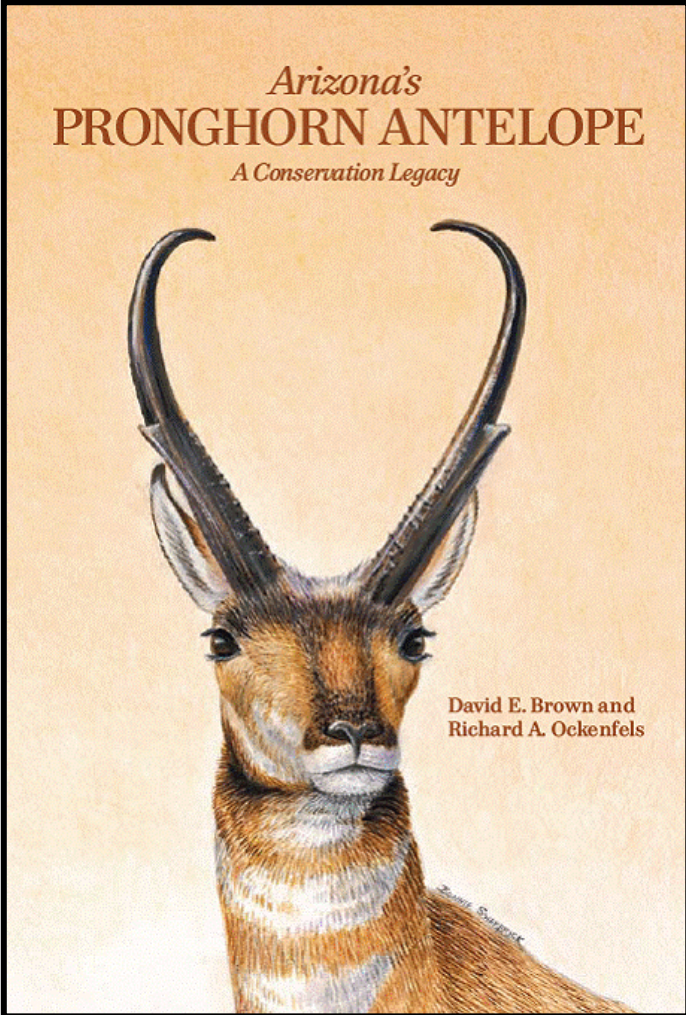
Sammy was going to be the first person to participate in a HOAL antelope hunt in Arizona. My sincere hope was that she would have an enjoyable and quality hunting experience; no matter the size of the buck she might end up taking.

Opening day we decided to try for a buck that

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PRONGHORN BOOK

“Arizona’s Pronghorn Antelope – A Conservation Legacy” is in the final stages of publication. The AAF sponsored this book, written by David Brown and Richard Ockenfels. After previewing the book, the following remarks were shared:



“Arizona’s Pronghorn Antelope” is a masterful weave of current biology and management information within an historical context. It is an excellent source of valuable information for anyone interested in this incredible animal. This book is long overdue and will remain a critical reference for years to come.

Jim Heffelfinger, Arizona Game and Fish Department and author of *Deer of the Southwest*

This book is indeed a major contribution to the pronghorn literature. Because of its easy reading style and abundant photos, many people will quickly read and learn much about antelope—a great goal and accomplishment for wildlife and wildlife management.

Jim Yoakum, author of *Pronghorn Ecology and Management*

“Arizona’s Pronghorn Antelope” is a timely synthesis of research and management history of a species that is threatened by urban sprawl. The species declined in the past as a result of over-hunting and, competition with domestic ungulates. Then, with the help of wildlife managers, the animal was again to recoup much of its historic range. Loss of habitat to housing and highways presents a permanent threat, however, and this book is a call to all who value the species and the landscapes where it occurs.

Harley Shaw, author of *Soul Among Lions*

Copies are expected to be available just in time for your holiday gift giving and will be priced as follows:

Softcover copies: \$20.00 for AAF members; \$30.00 for non-members

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COULD THE NEXT *PRONGHORN* COVER BE IN YOUR CAMERA? DO YOU HAVE ANY GOOD STORIES FOR US? SEND THEM TO THE *PRONGHORN* EDITOR AT THE ADDRESS LISTED ON PAGE 2.

AERIAL COYOTE GUNNING RESULTS UNITS 31 & 32

BY DUANE AUBUCHON & JOHN BACORN, AZGF

Personnel from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) conducted a fixed-wing aerial gunning operation to remove coyotes from pronghorn fawning habitat in Game Management Units 31 and 32 during the 2007 fawning season. This was the second of a three-year effort to increase pronghorn fawn survival through the aerial gunning of coyotes in these units. The flights occurred from April 10-12th and May 8-11th. However, the local livestock operators also paid for aerial gunning operations in January 2007 in the upper Sulphur Springs Valley and reported that APHIS personnel removed 109 coyotes at that time. Region V initiated the operation after several years of chronically low fawn survival rates and observed declines in population numbers. In the mid-1980s, fixed-wing survey flights would document over 300 pronghorn, with at least over 200 observed as recently as 1999. Current observations tally consistently less than 90 pronghorn. The number of fawns observed per 100 does on survey flights has been less than 20 for the last seven years (average = 14 fawns:100 does), except for 2005, when the ratio was 28 fawns:100 does. In 2006, APHIS removed 82 coyotes during this operation and Department personnel later observed 65 pronghorn with a ratio of 28 fawns:100 does during standard fixed-wing surveys.

There were a few days when weather impacted the success of the aerial gunning operation, with high winds either cancelling flights, postponing takeoff, or cutting the operation short. In general however, the operation was successful.

Department personnel instructed APHIS to conduct aerial gunning operations in four relatively distinct blocks. APHIS covered Allen Flat in Unit 32, from the Steele Hills north to the Three Links Road and north to the Antelope Ranch on April 10 and May 8. They removed 10 and 11 coyotes respectively, for a total of 21. They conducted operations in the southeast corner of Unit 31, from the Monk Ranch to the Red-tail Ranch, on April 11 and May 9, removing 15 and 11 coyotes respectively, for a total of 26. On May 11 they also removed 4 coyotes from the

vicinity of the O-Bar-O Ranch south of Highway 266 in Unit 31. And on April 12 and May 10, APHIS removed 12 and 15 coyotes respectively from Unit 32 in the area between the Ash Creek Black Hills and High Creek, for a total of 27. Overall, activities resulted in the removal of 78 coyotes, 48 from Unit 32 and 30 from Unit 31. Department personnel were present each day the operation occurred.

APHIS provided a list of waypoints to the AGFD Game Branch, which shows points where they removed coyotes. APHIS did not submit a track log map of their flights from Units 31/32, but all areas flown were within pronghorn habitat where Department employees had obtained permission from landowners to remove coyotes.

Region V completed annual fixed-wing pronghorn surveys in Units 31 and 32 on August 7 and 11. The first scheduled survey day on August 6 was cancelled due to fog and was rescheduled for August 11. Survey conditions on August 7 were poor due to lingering fog and overcast skies. Personnel surveyed the southern portion of Unit 31 from the Monk Ranch to the

Redtail Ranch, observers saw only 3 bucks. The second survey day on August 11 was clear with good visibility. Personnel surveyed portion of Unit 32 from the Bonita Road west to the Lightning Ranch. Observers saw 86 pronghorn; 12 bucks, 41 does and 31 fawns. During the second portion of the survey, personnel surveyed the Steele Hills to Allen Flat and observers saw 14 pronghorn; 4 bucks, 8 does and 2 fawns. Pronghorn observed during the 2 day survey period totaled 101 animals; 19 bucks, 49 does and 33 fawns resulting in 39 bucks to 100 does and 67 fawns to 100 does ratios. This was the highest number of animals observed since 2001 and highest fawn to doe ratio since 1986. Winter and spring precipitation in southeastern Arizona was average to above average last year.

Observers noted higher percentage of green forage background during the survey period this year than what has occurred in recent past years. This results in better observation of animals during the survey.

Entire Survey Area					
Yr	Buck	Doe	Fawn	Total	B:D:F
1994	41	139	28	208	29:20
1995	44	110	25	179	40:23
1996	79	124	7	210	64:06
1997	64	139	37	241	46:27
1998	44	136	35	215	32:26
1999	64	132	38	208	48:28
2000	47	116	35	165	41:30
2001	26	89	13	128	29:15
2002	25	57	00	82	44:00
2003	19	58	11	89	33:19
2004	11	49	08	68	22:16
2005	22	43	12	77	50:28
2006	15	39	11	65	38:28
2007	19	49	33	101	39:67
10 Ave	34	86	20	134	38:17
Winter 1997	46	132	NA	178	NA
Winter 2003	28	154	NA	182	NA
Winter 2006	33	46		79	

LAST OF THE HAVASU PRONGHORN

BY DAVID E. BROWN & PAUL M. WEBB

“H. R. Alfred, an old time hunter of Colorado and Utah of large game came in Friday morning from Texas Hill [lower Gila River valley]. While he camped a short distance from there Thursday three fine antelope made their appearance only a few hundred yards away. He instantly hoisted a red blanket on a stick to draw their attention. It caught the eye of a fine large buck and forthwith Mr. Alfred shot him with a long bullet from his needle gun.”

Arizona Sentinel, December 22, 1894

When most people think of desert antelope, what usually comes to mind are the so-called “Sonoran Pronghorn” found in extreme southwest Arizona. Few people realize that the species was once thinly distributed throughout all of the deserts of the Southwest with antelope being found in historic times in nearly every part of Arizona including the areas around Wickenburg, Florence Junction, and near Picacho Peak. The Missourian on the Butterfield Stage line at Oatman Flat west of Gila Bend advertised pronghorn on its menu in 1870, and other desert locations included the arid valleys along the Colorado River from Chemuevi Valley southward to the sand dunes of the Cactus Plains east of Parker. One such population, which came to be known as the “Havasus Pronghorn,” persisted through to the 1970s.

Unlike most desert populations, the demise of the Havasu pronghorn is well chronicled. This is due to the good record keeping of the Arizona Game and Fish Department’s Region III office, which once included George Welsh, a former antelope biologist with the Department and a founding member of the Arizona Antelope Foundation. These meticulously gathered records of 39 observations, comprising from one to 17 animals, were observed between 1948 and 1973 and were used in a desperate attempt to keep the Havasu population from going extinct.

With the transformation of the old “Site Six” to the planned community of Lake Havasu City in the late 1960s, Arizona’s western frontier was coming to a close. Not only was McCullough’s new city sprouting up on Arizona’s western border, the last pronghorn habitat having access to the Colorado River was in imminent

danger of being cut-off by a new, “all Arizona” Highway 95 that would connect Havasu City and Parker. Hoping to use the provisions of the newly passed “Endangered Species Act,” George, Rich Beaudry, Jack King, and Wes Martin decided to collect a representative Havasu pronghorn specimen to determine if this population qualified as a “Sonoran Antelope,” a subspecies of pronghorn listed as an “endangered species”. If so, they reasoned, the two dozen or so Havasu pronghorn would be entitled to legal protection along with their habitat. Perhaps Highway 95 could be relocated, or other mitigation measures employed to aid to the animals.

Alas, although a 5 ½ year-old buck was collected in Standard Wash six miles northeast of Parker on March 15, 1971, the ensuing effort failed to improve the status of the Havasu population. Body measurements taken by Region III personnel and reported by John Carr in an AGFD endangered species report indicated that the Havasu buck was no different than any other Arizona pronghorn. Skull measurements taken by scientists at the National Museum came to the same conclusion and no protective measures were taken. State Route 95 was completed, no accommodations were made for the Havasu pronghorn, and reports of antelope in southwestern Mohave County ceased soon after.

Curious as to just what had happened to the Havasu pronghorn, we decided to return to their former habitat and see if we could not only gain some insights into the factors that had contributed to their disappearance, but try and determine what had allowed these desert pronghorn to persist in this area for so long. A scouting trip to the Cactus Plains and valleys leading down to the old Planet Ranch south of the Bill Williams River on

Continued on page 10



Last of the Havasu Pronghorn Continued from page 9

April 10, 2007 proved illustrative in several ways. Not only were the dune fields of the Cactus Plain highly reminiscent of other desert pronghorn habitats we had visited in Sonora and Baja California, Mormon-tea, buckwheat, and other key desert pronghorn browse was sparsely though irregularly present. What particularly caught our attention, however, was a sign erected by the Bureau of Land Management that proclaimed the area adjacent to the dunes had been the site of the Parker 400 desert off-road race in 1974. Also of more than casual interest was the cement-lined Central Arizona Project bisecting the dunes of the Cactus Plain. This canal, built in 1973, not only cut off access to the Colorado and Bill Williams river, its tight fences and steep slopes would have been a death trap to any desert pronghorn attempting to drink there.

The following day, April 11, we met Jeff Pebworth, the Region III Wildlife Program Manager, at the BLM office in Lake Havasu City. Not only did he show up with maps of the entire area, each of the 39 observations was plotted along with the vegetation type. Region III's meticulous record-keeping was obviously alive and well! What followed was lengthy, but highly interesting outing.

Our intended trip to the collection locale was delayed by the simple fact that dirt bikes and other off-road vehicles had so trashed the lower reaches of Standard Wash off Highway 95 that we could not find the main road leading east to what had presumably been the heart of the Havasu pronghorn country. Once we go beyond the reach of the dirt bikes, however, the landscape took on the appearance of the desert that we had known in the 1960s and 70s, and that was once typical of most of western Arizona. And even though the present Standard Wash didn't look much like pronghorn country, we could, with a little imagination, see an antelope on the gravelly plains and volcanic mesas just as if we were on the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge or other Lower Colorado Desert wilderness.



This was true for most of the sites we visited that day, all areas where Havasu pronghorn had been seen. None of

the areas looked like typical pronghorn habitat, but the country looked intriguing just the same. Cattle were conspicuously absent over large areas, and Mohave Springs seeped out into a tangle of grasses, aquatic plants and even willows. Other areas such as Mohave Springs Mesa and Mohave Wash, like the Cactus Plain, looked able to support a thin density of pronghorn if they were only large enough.

Dutch Flat was a disappointment, however, this large southern extension of Hualapai Valley being clothed in creosotebush, Joshua trees, and little else. Evidence of past abuse was subtle. Edible forbs and grasses proliferated only within a fenced enclosure around a natural gas pumping station—a mere glimpse of the pronghorn foods that should occur here. Elsewhere, there was only the relict stubble of galleta grass clumps along deeply incised drainages to illustrate the costs of 100 years of livestock grazing.

So where was the center of the Havasu pronghorn's distribution and what was the fate of this population? Bernie Lawrence, a long-time predator control agent and a frequent observer of the Havasu pronghorn was of the opinion that these animals had broken off from Goodwin Mesa, the nearest grassland area more than 50 miles to the northeast. The problem with this hypothesis was that there is a history of pronghorn using the Colorado and Bill Williams river valleys as early as the 1850s, and Bernie himself had seen antelope in Dutch Flat as early as 1959 on the road between Black Mountain and Dutch Flat. What was more, the animals had been consistently observed in this portion of the Sonoran Desert in southwest Mohave County for more than 25 years.

Desert pronghorn require a lot of country and we theorized that Standard Wash and its environs only represented the western portion of the Havasu population's range, which took in Casteneda Wash, Mojave Wash, Mohave Springs Mesa, and Black Mountain. Connectivity to the east across Dutch Flat and Hualapai Valley had long been cut off due to heavy livestock grazing and the loss of key watering and other areas in the 1940s. At about this

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Last of the Havasu Pronghorn continued from page 10

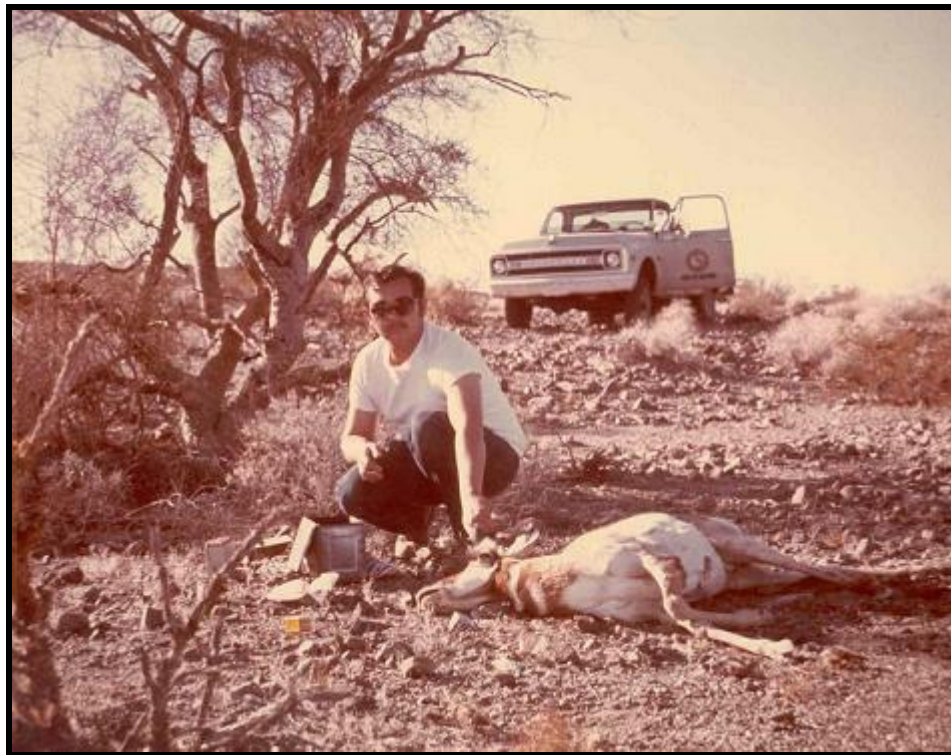
same time, the sandy refugia of the Bouse Dunes and Cactus Plain were being subjected to intensive military training activities; these same forces were also beginning to effect the desert lands east of Parker and along the Colorado and Bill Williams rivers.

The final crunch came just after the drought of 1971—the year that Arizona’s big game populations declined to such an extent that permit-only hunting was initiated. It was during this time that the Parker 400 was initiated, that Highway 95 was under construction, and that the CAP canal was built. Deprived of their key habitats by developmental barriers and disturbance, and isolated from other populations, the Havasu pronghorn were now denied traditional access routes to the Bill Williams and Colorado rivers, the only perennial waters and succulent vegetation remaining. By 1974 the Havasu population had vanished.

It is tempting to think that the Havasu pronghorn could have been saved had some attempt at their salvation been made, and that a relocation of animals may replace them someday. Much of their original

habitat remains intact and some of the higher elevation sites such as Black Mountain and Mohave Springs Mesa are relatively pristine. Other areas such as Mohave Wash and the Casteneda Hills are probably in better shape now than at any time in the last 100 years. Even Dutch Flat might be rehabilitated now that its perennial component of galleta grass and grazing value are practically gone. The Parker 400 is no longer authorized and the dunes of the Cactus Plain are wilderness areas. All that would be required would be that certain key habitats be designated as pronghorn habitat and that waters and forage plots be provided as is presently being done for Sonoran Pronghorn on the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge.

All of these musings are of course hypothetical. But such contemplation may give future conservationists and wildlife managers something to think about. At least we hope so. Otherwise the Havasu pronghorn will remain only a footnote in the wildlife history of Arizona and a memory in the minds of an ever dwindling few.



Rich Beaudry pictured with the buck collected in 1977



A STEP BACK IN TIME...

NEW MEXICO'S FIRST ANTELOPE SEASON A SUCCESS

FOREWARD BY DAVID BROWN



It's not often that you see photos of pronghorn hanging from an airplane. Hence, the following story in the October 1932 issue of *New Mexico* magazine caught my eye. Sent to me by Harley Shaw, this one page article by an anonymous writer describes New Mexico's first antelope hunting season.

The hunt took place between October 1 and 5th on the San Agustin Plains west of Magdalena in the vicinity of today's Very Wide Array radio transmitters that attempt to contact extra-terrestrials in outer space. The information is supplied by the State Game Warden, Elliot Barker, an icon in New Mexico's conservation history, and a formative leader of the state Game and Fish Department. It was also Elliot Barker, who was instrumental in New Mexico embarking on a pronghorn management program that included both hunts and translocations.

This, the first legal hunt in New Mexico since statehood, was a huge success in that all of the 63 hunters who participated succeeded in taking an antelope. That at least five of the hunters flew to the hunt area in an aircraft is somewhat surprising as it was only 5 years earlier that Charles Lindbergh made his historic flight across the Atlantic.

The large number of game and fish and U. S. Forest Service wardens was probably a key to the success of the hunt. Other states, including Oregon and Arizona had problems with hunters misbehaving when the antelope season was opened after a long closure. This was also the case in southern California when the Carrizo Plains were opened to hunting after hunters no longer had any institutional memory as to how to hunt pronghorn. Not only did all of the New Mexico hunters hunt on foot or horseback (a rare technique today) after arriving at the hunt area, their methods were used to design future hunts. As for the airplanes, their use precursed what would become standard pronghorn survey methods.

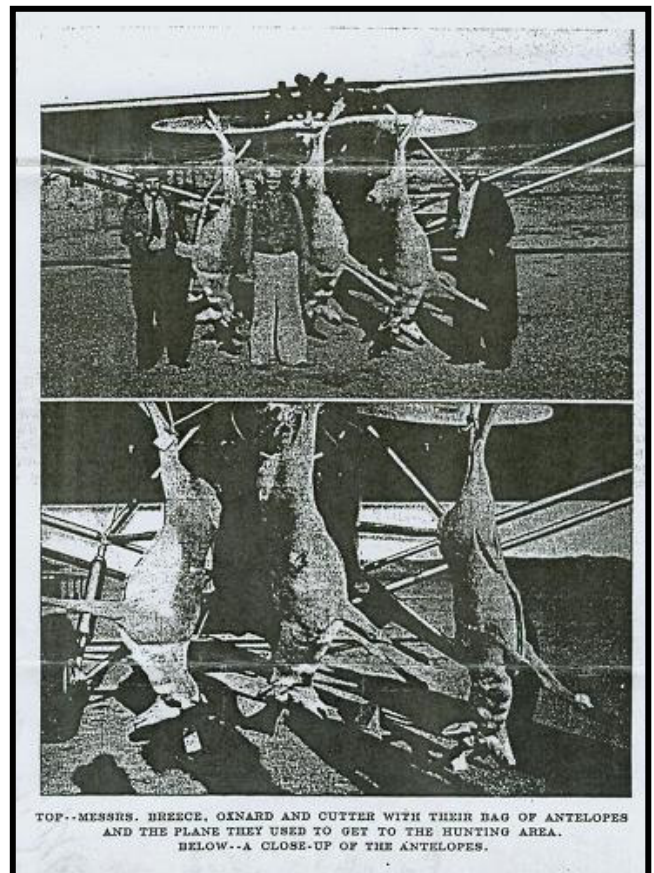
Incidentally, Charles Lindbergh also successfully hunted pronghorn from a plane, but we will tell about that in another story.

New Mexico's first permit antelope hunting season extending from October 1 to October 5, inclusive, resulted in permits being issued to sixty-three hunters, each of whom obtained an antelope.

In a specially-designated section in Catron and Socorro counties, the Department of Game and Fish supervised the hunt and allowed the taking by each hunter of one antelope buck with forked horns.

For the first time in New Mexico the airplane was used effectively as a means of transportation to the hunting area. No airplanes or motor cars were used, however, in the actual hunting as this is not permitted by law, but the use of a plane in going to and coming from the antelope area made it possible for some of the hunters to make the round trip and do their hunting within a single day.

W.P. Cutter, pilot of a plane, took in James G. Oxnard and C.O. Breece, the trip from Albuquerque to the Indian Peaks country in Catron county taking about one and one-half hours. All three of the occupants of the plane were successful in bagging an antelope within two hours after they started hunting. The kills were made within three miles of where the plane was landed and the hunters were back in Albuquerque that night.



Pilot Cutter made another trip with R.L. Harrison, his son, Raymond, and Kenneth Baldrige, landing in the same place as previously with the result that all of the hunters obtained an antelope within two or three hours. Mr. Cutter reported that they saw a great many antelope from the air previous to landing, and that the estimates of the game department as to the antelope population appeared to be conservative.

Elliott S. Barker, State Game Warden on his return from the hunt, announced that the results were entirely satisfactory to the department.

“Every hunter of the sixty-three got his antelope,” said Mr. Barker. We found but one doe killed but did not locate the hunter who had killed her. So far as we could ascertain there was no crippling of animals and with one exception the hunters obeyed the rules and regulations of the game department.

“In one case two hunters killed three. This was due undoubtedly to the desire of one of the two men to be sure that his hunting companion had an antelope. It so happened that both of them killed an antelope at approximately the same time, although one of them had killed an antelope previously. The man who made the double kill figured, he said, that he would obtain an antelope for the other hunter who he believed had not killed one. The offender readily admitted his guilt and paid a fine of \$50.

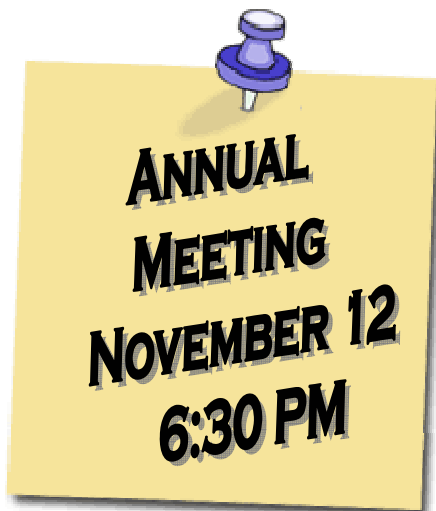
“Because of the small number of hunters, however, the department’s plan to scatter the herds in the congested area did not succeed. There are sufficient antelope, I believe, to justify future permit seasons under regulations and limitations similar to the one just ended.”

The game department had nine men and the U.S. Forest Service five in the area to assist and guide the hunters and see that there were no violations of the law.

The hunters were checked in at Magdalena and assigned to various sections of the antelope area. There were four different main areas. In each case the hunters got in touch with the deputy game wardens in that particular area who advised where to hunt, and, in many cases, actually guided the parties. In a checkup of twenty-eight animals killed the weights, hog-dressed, ranged from 73½ pounds to 101 pounds, with an average of approximately 89 pounds. The maximum measurement of the girth of the horns at the base was 7½ inches and minimum 5½ inches. The spread of the horns between the top point ranged from 17¾ inches maximum to 2 inches, minimum. The latter, however, was something of a freak condition as the horns curved sharply in and the points would have touched had the horns grown in direct line. The horns measured in length around the outside of the curve a maximum of 17½ inches and a minimum of 12 inches. Many excellent trophies were obtained by the hunters and weather conditions were such as to permit successful keeping of the meat.

In the opinion of the game department staff, the killing of the excess bucks is advantageous, owing to an over-population of that sex in this particular area. The opinion is also advanced by the game warden that between one hundred and one hundred and fifty bucks can be taken out of this country each season without disturbing the normal balance of the sexes in the herds.

Use of the airplane by some of the hunters has suggested to the game warden the advisability of using a plane later when the snow is on the ground to obtain an accurate count of the antelope in the area. All of the hunting done was either on foot or horseback with the latter method proving to be highly successful and satisfactory.



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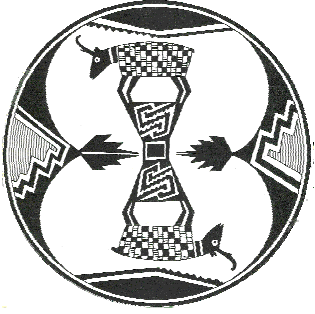
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SONORAN PRONGHORN

UPDATE



BY JILL BRIGHT AZ GAME & FISH
SEPTEMBER 11, 2007

Captive Breeding:

North Half: All the pronghorn in the north half of the pen are doing well. The pronghorn had been feeding heavily on natural forage in the pen after the rains, but have now increased use of alfalfa hay because the forage in the pen is drying out.

Southwest Quarter: The adult buck in this pen, which was captured from the US population, died on August 9. Loeta was working at the pen with a temporary Fish and Wildlife Service employee and they saw him the day before seemingly normal, and then couldn't observe him from Pack Rat Hill the following morning. As he is generally easy to find, Loeta became suspicious and immediately went into the pen to look for him. She found him dead, with blood coming from the anus. The body was packed in ice and sent to the University of Arizona Veterinary Lab for necropsy. The results came back that he died from Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease. This disease is spread by a biting midge that needs a wet, muddy substrate with emergent weedy vegetation, such as around earthen stock tanks, to complete its lifecycle. Outbreaks of the midge are common during the hot and humid monsoon season. Blood work from captured pronghorn show that most have been exposed to this disease, but for some reason, possibly stress associated with the rut, it killed this buck. So far, no other pronghorn have exhibited any signs of this disease. All the other pronghorn in this section are doing well.

Southeast Quarter: The 5 juvenile bucks in this section are doing well.

We have hired a new person, Sean Knapp, to work at the pen, and he will be starting September 24. He is from the Phoenix area, recently graduated from ASU and has been working seasonally with the Forest Service on spotted owl and northern goshawk surveys. He should make a good addition to the crew working at the pen. We have also advertised for the other vacant pronghorn position, and should be conducting interviews soon.

Water Projects: We hiked into the Antelope Hills water, which we suspected had a slow leak. We found that it was leaking at two connections, and we were able to fix one. However, to fix the other would have meant losing all the water in the storage tanks. We decided to come back with a pump and save the water, so we will have to make another trip in there soon to finish that project.

Forage Enhancements: We have begun watering at Charlie Bell forage enhancement again, and continue to see numerous pronghorn there, including several radio collared animals and the bucks released from the pen. We will start watering at the other plots in the near future.

The Marines are working on the environmental clearances needed for the new forage plot on the Marine range, near the Devil's Hills water.

Other Projects: At the August Recovery Team meeting, Curt McCasland put together a PowerPoint presentation detailing the pros and cons of 4 alternatives for establishing a second population; doing nothing, a free release, a temporary holding pen, and a second, likely smaller scale, captive breeding project at KOFA. After much discussion, the Recovery Team members voted for the 4th alternative, a second captive breeding project. The main reasons the Team

decided on this alternative were: The Team thought the monetary cost of this alternative would be comparable to the cost associated with enlarging the current pen on the Cabeza to a size suitable for producing the number of animals needed for either a free release or a holding pen; a second captive breeding pen would greatly reduce mortalities associated with continually moving animals from the Cabeza pen to the KOFA; and the likelihood of eventually successfully establishing a herd on the KOFA was much greater using a captive breeding pen. Based on the recommendations of the Recovery Team, a meeting is planned with Yuma Proving Ground and BMGR personnel to discuss this proposal.

We are planning to conduct a range wide pronghorn survey in Mexico this December (December 6-10). We are also planning to assist the Mexican biologists in capturing and collaring 5 pronghorn in the Pinacate subpopulation with downloadable GPS collars. This should provide valuable data to help manage the pronghorn in Mexico. Biologists from Mexico were able to recover 4 GPS collars that have been put on pronghorn down there in January 2006. These collars can be refurbished and used again at a much lower cost than purchasing new collars. Many thanks to them for finding those collars. The survey and capture will depend on securing the appropriate permits from Mexico for these projects.

Wild Pronghorn: We conducted a telemetry flight on August 19. Unfortunately, it was very windy and was difficult to classify, or even see, pronghorn. Five radio-collared pronghorn were in the burned area on South Tac and the Cabeza Prieta refuge. One released juvenile was near the Charlie Bell forage site. Other pronghorn were likely with these groups, but were not seen. One radio collared animal was near the Point of the Pintas, but again was not seen and likely there were more there also. Four radio-collared animals were at the south end of the Bryan Mountains. In this group, there were 3 bucks, 7 females and one fawn. The last few telemetry flights have been windy or cloudy making classifying the pronghorn difficult. We suspect fawn recruitment is low this year due to the dry winter and late summer rains. Hopefully we will get better data on fawn survival during upcoming telemetry flights.



Four pronghorn bucks, including #46 released from the captive breeding pen in January, at Charlie Bell forage enhancement.

ANTELOPE'S KINKY WAYS MADE WAVES IN AVRA VALLEY

BY TED KNIPE

FIRST PRINTED IN THE ARIZONA DAILY STAR NOVEMBER 1990

Once upon a time antelope roamed Avra Valley, west of Tucson. Game laws were not enforced, so fresh antelope meat was a popular item at Tucson butcher shops while it lasted – which wasn't for long.

In 1936, some local wildlife authorities decided Avra Valley should once again be land where the deer and antelope played. The broad, flat desert was sparsely settled and not likely to change. For the most part it was still fair antelope habitat and game laws were now being vigorously enforced by the state's best game warden.

Andrew Nichol, a University of Arizona biologist, was the driving force behind the restoration project. He was also my boss.

I was custodian for a herd of penned deer serving as guinea pigs for a research project at the Santa Rita Experimental Station in the Santa Rita Mountains. I was a bachelor smitten by the love bug. The wedding date was set for June. When Nichol heard of my drastic decision, he came up with his captivating plan. Capturing antelope fawns on Sunflower Flat, south of Williams, would be an ideal way to spend a honeymoon – with pay.

My failure as a fawn snatcher had nothing to do with the fact that I was on my honeymoon. Antelope fawns are born in the early spring and June was too late for a slow miler like me to catch the cute speedsters who, at the tender age of 3 weeks, can outrun a coyote.

In early May of the following year, the project was renewed, without my participation. Five fawns were captured on Anderson Mesa, east of Mormon Lake near Flagstaff. They were delivered to Joe and Doris Carithers to raise. Joe was custodian for the Tucson

Mountain Park in Avra Valley, the intended home for the fawns.

One buck survived. Psychologists would say this animal's unusual conduct upon reaching maturity was due to having a human substitute mother.

Be that as it may, proliferation is the name of the game for any buck antelope, and this one wasn't about to miss his calling just because there were no female antelope available.

With all of Avra Valley to choose from for his domain, this smart cookie chose Kinney Road, where he was photographed, hugged, petted and fed by people out on an afternoon country drive.

Skipping details, this creature of the wilds misinterpreted the city folks' show of affection. His overly amorous conduct soon ceased to be funny.

At this junction in his bizarre life, I got back into the ill-fated antelope restoration project. Amorous Andy was shipped to the Santa Rita Experimental Range, there to be under my care.

I was living at the Desert Grassland Station on Box Canyon Road, so he still had a road to patrol, but no female tourists to scare the wits out of.

Maybe that was all he ever intended to do, because at this new home he showed no interest in my wife, or in the wives of other employees, nor did he fraternize with the local deer.

On the other hand, when my mother-in-law came to visit on day, Andy's passion was rekindled. But not hers.

Life at Desert Grassland wasn't dull, even for an Antelope of his temperament. Forage was plentiful and varied and the environment was certainly to an antelope's liking.



Arizona Historical Society photo

Amorous Andy and friend

Continued on page 18

Hunt of a Lifetime continued from page 6

we had found with a herd of about nine does that resided in a long valley. We found the buck and his girls just before sunup and ended up making a long stalk through some scattered junipers. Sammy quickly learned about what I call the “five second rule.” Despite the fact that four different times we were set up on this buck, Sammy never got to fire a shot. We saw other bucks that morning but the heat took its toll on the young lady and she wanted to head back to camp to rest.

Friday afternoon we were back in the field and located a buck we had looked at the day before. We had named him “Blackie” as he had a dark, coal black face. He had just one doe with him and was in a good location for a stalk. I spotted him across a huge valley, however when we moved closer I failed to see them under a rim and they escaped without a shot being fired.

That night my friend Page McDonald (no relation) fixed a quick dinner and we went to bed early. Saturday morning local outdoorsman and high school teacher Scott Snay joined our team, and into the field we went.

Once again we spotted antelope, and even located one exceptional buck, but no shots were taken. Sammy did get to see a lot of wildlife that morning. Coyotes who were hunting were seen, along with some mule deer and a couple of yearling antelope bucks that walked up to about 40 yards from us. The oppressive heat again took its toll on the young hunter and she asked her dad to take her into Seligman for lunch. I went back to camp for a power nap, while Snay said he would stay in the field and see what he could find for the afternoon hunt.

Snay returned to camp at 1 p.m. very excited. He said he had found a herd of four antelope, including a mature buck that he thought was at least 15-inches tall. We left directions for Sammy and her dad with Page and Snay and I headed out to try and locate the buck.

Before we made it to the area where Snay had last seen the buck, we met local taxidermist Henry Aguilar and his sons Timber and Ursus. Timber and Henry had a pair of antelope tags in the unit and the trio was taking a break from their antelope hunt. As we were talking about the hunt, we spotted a dust cloud off in the distance and sure enough it was Sammy and her dad.

Once united, we headed out across the valley and a short time later Snay told me we were in the area where he had last seen the big buck. A check of the area revealed the buck and his small harem of does was gone, so we moved on. We hadn't gone a half-mile when Snay spotted a small group of antelope on the west side of the valley. It wasn't the herd that Snay had previously seen, but this group of four does had a very

unique looking mature buck with them. He had lots of mass and good length, and his prongs seemed to point almost straight up! I looked at the buck through the 60 power spotting scope and was able to videotape the buck and his does through the scope using a technique called digiscoping.

“That’s a good buck Scott, if we can get on him, I’m going to let her take him,” I said to my friend.

John and Sammy both looked at the buck through their binoculars and agreed that he was indeed a mature buck and was worthy of a stalk. The antelope watched us nervously and slowly moved into a small valley at the base of a high plateau. Where they were going made for a perfect stalk. Though this stalk would require us to cover over a half-mile and was uphill, I was confident that the young sportsman would get a good shooting opportunity at a very respectable buck. In the end, a large stand of a bear grass gave us some much-needed cover and we were able to close to within 200 yards of the herd.

Suddenly, I saw a coyote running down the valley and behind him were the lead doe and the buck. The surprised coyote saw us and stopped. Then he saw the two antelope heading for him and he started running again as fast as he could. The buck and doe pursued the coyote for a short distance and confident they had run the predator away, stopped, turned and started walking back up the hill completely unaware of our presence.

I set up a tri-pod for a rest and Sammy put her Savage bolt-action rifle on top of it. She got the crosshairs on the buck and I told her when he stopped and turned broadside to aim right at his shoulder. It was if the buck heard me for he suddenly stopped and turned broadside and started to feed.

“What do you want me to do?” she said. “Take him,” I replied and the rifle barked and the buck dropped literally in his tracks.

Sammy turned to me and her eyes were wide open. She said, “I got him!” and gave me a hug. Sammy, John and I repeatedly exchanged hugs.

I ranged the fallen buck and found he was 139 yards when she took the shot. The 7mm-08 cartridge had done the job after perfect bullet placement by the young hunter.

Next came my world famous photo session where we ended up taking almost 80 photos of the hunter, her trophy and the hunt team. Since this was truly an once-in-a-lifetime experience for all of us, I wanted to make sure that we had plenty of photos and videotape to record the event.

Continued on page 18

Hunt of a Lifetime continued from page 17

Local wildlife artist Henry Aguilar generously agreed to donate his talent and will do the taxidermy work on Sammy's trophy. Aguilar said he estimated that the buck would score around 77 Boone and Crockett points which means that the buck only missed making the Arizona record book by less than three inches. His longest horn was 16 inches tall.

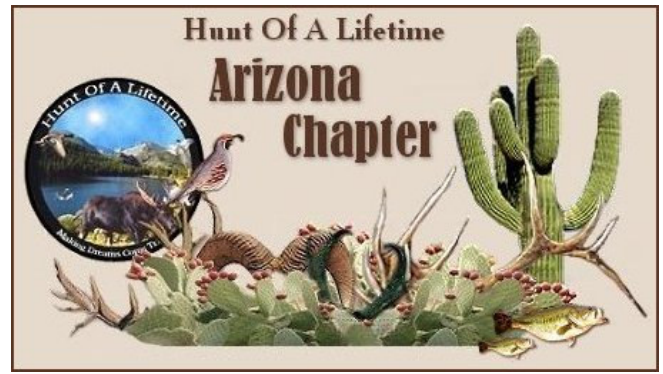
Our hunt ended on a high note, and Sammy got to experience all of the thrills and excitement of a true Arizona antelope hunt.

Dori Hopp who donated the tag said of Sammy's success, "Although I was not able to make it for this hunt, it was very satisfying knowing that it would go to a Hunt Of A Lifetime recipient. I was excited for Samantha and to hear of her success; congrats to her and her family."

Dori's husband, Randy also said, "This is one of the most fulfilling hunting events I have ever been associated with. This is a great program that people like Samantha can participate in. When we heard that this was an option, it was even better than if we had went on the hunt ourselves. Really doesn't get much better. My thanks to Don Martin and his staff for a great job and to all that donated and/or participated in this great program."

For the bubbly young lady who doesn't have the word disabled in her vocabulary, and the rest of her team, it was indeed a hunt of a lifetime for all of us!

WWW.HOALARIZONA.ORG



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Even if you don't have a hunt to donate, there are many ways in which you can contribute to this worthy program. Hunt of a Lifetime Foundation accepts donations of money and services. If you are a registered guide or outfitter, you can volunteer to guide one of our hunts. The donated services of taxidermists and wildlife artists are always welcomed. Grocery store and restaurant gift cards can help provide meals for the hunters. You can offer to provide lodging either in your home, or at a nearby hotel. Sporting goods gift certificates come in handy for those last minute items. Donating airline miles to help pay a youth's airfare is also helpful.

Visit the HOAL website, or contact Terry Petko for more information. 602-689-9524

Antelope's Kinky Ways Continued from page 16

For fun and exercise there was at least one passing automobile to chase every day - maybe four or five on weekends.

One day in his haste to get to the road for a chase, he jumped a cattle guard but failed to clear it and broke a leg. I proved to be a quack doctor. The break didn't mend and the leg became infected. I buried him under a tree beside a sandy ravine.

Amorous Andy made wildlife history that will never be equaled. He was captured in Northern Arizona, made the long journey to Southern Arizona by automobile, was raised by a human family. He was the first and so far, the only Northern Arizona antelope to

roam the desert country of the Tucson Mountains.

And he was the first and only wild creature to be relocated twice, first as a fawn to repopulate Avra Valley, then as a sentence after being convicted of sexual harassment. And he may be the only antelope ever given a dignified burial.

The late Ted Knipe retired from the Arizona Game & Fish Department in 1969 after a 35-year career in wildlife. When he retired, he was G&F's regional supervisor for Southern Arizona with headquarters in Tucson.



2008 PROJECT SCHEDULE SET

March 15 & 16 – Unit 21

May 17 & 18 - Anderson Mesa

July 26 & 27 - White Mountains

October 18 and 19 - Unit 21

Pronghorn Capture - TBD

NEW EMAIL NEWS

We have recently launched a new email notification service. Our hopes will be to keep you informed of upcoming issues and events pertinent to the AAF, conservation, and other sportsmen and sportswomen issues. If you would like to receive these periodic email updates, visit our website and sign up on our home page. Your email address will be used only for this purpose and will not be shared with any other organization or institution. You will also have the option to opt-out of the program at any time.

www.azantelope.org

WELCOME NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Welcome and THANKS to the following who became Life Members at the 2007 Fundraising Banquet:

Shane Stewart, Gilbert

Don Davidson, Mesa

Terry Petko, Mesa

HELP WITH THE 2008 BANQUET JULY 19, 2008

If you are interested in helping out with the 2008 annual banquet with time or donations, please send us an email to info@azantelope.org or call 623-581-0534 and let us know how you can help. We are looking for donations such as custom items, hunts, and anything else that can be used in our auctions or raffles. As you can imagine, an event such as this also takes a lot of work. We can use your time, even if you have just a little. Committee meetings will begin soon - watch this publication and our website for information on planning sessions.

OUR TRUE WORTH

Excerpts from the Outdoor Wire Daily Newsletter

Most have heard that sportsmen and women spend lots of money on their outdoor activities. Ever wonder just how much?

According to the Outdoor Wire article, the sports community:

- generates \$76 billion (that's \$76,000,000,000) annually
- pays more than \$25 billion a year in federal, state and local taxes through their expenditures
- represents 1.6 million jobs supported through those expenditures
- are the original "green movement" - the more than \$1 billion we spend annually on licenses, stamps, tags and permits annually goes to fund conservation programs run by state fish and wildlife agencies
- contributed more than \$700 million annually in Federal Duck Stamp purchasing - all of which heads into the National Wildlife Refuge System - that money has purchased more than five million acres of land which, coincidentally, represents the best public outdoor recreation and wildlife watching opportunities in the country
- spends nearly a half billion dollars annually on hunting dogs
- spent more on lodging (\$619 million) than the annual revenues of Quality Inn, Comfort Inn, Comfort Suites, EconoLodge, Rodeway and Sleep Inn combined
- the taxes contributed by hunters annually would pay the salaries of 527,000 police officers, 454,000 firemen or 476,870 teachers

Put in another perspective, the revenues generated by hunters and anglers annually are more than Microsoft, Google, eBay and Yahoo combined (76 billion vs 73.6 billion). The money spent on hunting and fishing defined as Gross Domestic Product would make our nation 57 out of 181 countries in the world.

So next time you hear that old argument from the "anti" crowd, ask them how much money they've contributed to our economy, and more importantly, wildlife conservation!



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SPORTSMAN'S CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS!

<i>WHAT?</i>	<i>WHEN?</i>	<i>WHERE?</i>
The Arizona Antelope Foundation Board Meetings	November 12 6:30 PM December 10 6:30 PM January 14 6:30 PM	The Phoenix Zoo 455 N. Galvin Parkway
AAF Work Projects	2008 Schedule March 15-16 May 17-18 July 26-27 October 18-19	Unit 21 Anderson Mesa White Mountains Unit 21
The Wildlife Conservation Council Board Meetings	November 27 6:30 PM January 22 6:30 PM February 26 6:30 PM	AZ Game & Fish Department 5000 W. Carefree Highway
Arizona Wildlife Federation Board Meetings	November 3	Cabela's

Would you like the Pronghorn via email....let us know! Or if you have an upcoming event, send us the information at info@azantelope.org.