



# PRONGHORN

*4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2009*  
*Volume 15, Number 4*



# ARIZONA ANTELOPE FOUNDATION, INC.

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INFO@AZANTELOPE.ORG  
WWW.AZANTELOPE.ORG

## IN THIS ISSUE

Page 3	President's Message
Page 3	Annual Meeting/Elections
Page 4	Volunteer Spotlight
Page 4	Carroll Lemon's Article on Hunting Antelope in 1955
Page 5	Black Mesa Project Report
Page 6	Viewing Pronghorn
Page 8	Sonoran Pronghorn Report
Page 14	2010 Board Elected
Page 14	2010 Project Schedule Set
Page 14	Pronghorn Capture Announced
Page 15	Membership
Page 16	Upcoming Events & Project Schedule

### AAF Mission Statement:

The Arizona Antelope Foundation is an organization dedicated to the welfare of pronghorn antelope. The Foundation's Mission is to actively seek to increase pronghorn populations in Arizona through habitat improvements, habitat acquisition, the translocation of animals to historic range, and public comment on activities affecting pronghorn and their habitat.



## ON THE COVER

This beautiful close-up of an endangered Sonoran Pronghorn buck comes to us from **George Andrejko**, who has been a professional photographer for 22 years. Andrejko has received national and international recognition for his photographic work, and has spent the last 17 years as the staff photographer for the Arizona Game and Fish Department. You can find his photography on the pages of the Arizona Game and Fish Department's *Arizona Wildlife Views* magazine, as well as the Arizona Game & Fish Department's website.

*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 12590, Glendale, AZ 85318, or by email at [info@azantelope.org](mailto:info@azantelope.org).*

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



This is my final letter to you as your President. It is also, my final picture with the President's letter. Yes that is me leaning on a Cessna 182-Skylane at the Flagstaff airport. No, I'm not going to fly away but I am concluding this year as President and my 9<sup>th</sup> year on the AAF Board. Next year, my 10<sup>th</sup> and final, I will serve as Immediate Past President on the Board.

In last quarter's letter I reflected on our achievements and our disappointments in 2009. I want to thank all of you who "Pitched in-in 2009". AAF cannot achieve the many things we do each year without your help. So THANK YOU one and all.

When I take a moment to look back on the last 9 years, I see some wonderful progress that AAF has made on many fronts. Here are a few:

**MEMBERSHIP:** This, of course, is our most important category. We have grown to 400 + members. We established a Life Member classification that now helps to permanently endow our Foundation. We began conversion of our membership roster and mailing list to a new data base system last year.

**FUNDRAISING:** As a result of your participation, your contributions and hours upon hours of AAF member volunteer time, AAF now has over \$100,000 in our permanent endowment funds. We have also contributed in excess of \$100,000 to various habitat, educational, research, scholarship and outreach activities. We are exploring new ways and means of fundraising in these troubled times.

**COMMUNICATION:** Tracy Unmacht has brought us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century of communication with her work on the *Pronghorn*, our membership and mailing data bases, our award winning website, the monthly "e-news" and our administrative "back office".

**AWARDS:** AAF has received many awards, here are but a few:

- 2005 "Conservation Organization of the Year" by the Arizona Game & Fish Commission
- 2007 "Conservation Organization of the Year" by the AZ Wildlife Federation
- 2009 "Conservation Award" given by the Arizona Chapter of the Wildlife Society
- 2009 Past Presidents Dave Brown and Jim Unmacht have been named the "Educator of the Year" and the "Conservationist of the Year" respectively by the Arizona Game & Fish Commission

**FIELD WORK PROJECTS:** Thanks to the efforts of Scott Anderson our projects are now well organized, advertized, noticed, planned and coordinated. Participation and attendance has soared recently with an average attendance around 70. Thanks to Art and Mark Boswell the AAF trailer (which houses our project and cooking gear) is now very well organized and kept up to date.

**PUBLICATIONS:** Besides the *Pronghorn* and our monthly "e-news", AAF published its first book, "Arizona's Pronghorn Antelope-A Conservation Legacy" authored by Past President, Dave Brown and newly elected Board Member, Richard Ockenfels.

**ADMINISTRATION:** From inception, 1992, to 2005 AAF's recordkeeping was sometimes hit and miss. Since that time we have maintained our accounting records utilizing an electronic bookkeeping and reporting system and our Board minutes are timely published each month.

**OTHER:** I know I have missed something because there has just been so much progress in the last decade; for that I apologize.

The next decade holds the opportunity for your Foundation to accomplish even more for Arizona's Pronghorn. The opportunity will start early next year when you are invited to participate in AAF's first ever 3-5 year Strategic Planning Session. Watch for the announcement of when and where. You can be part of helping AAF help Arizona's Pronghorn.

Finally, I want to thank all the Board and Committee members who so ably served in 2009 and helped AAF to further its mission of increasing Arizona's Pronghorn population through habitat improvement and the like.

**THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!**

*Jimmy*

# DOING THE WORK - VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

BY RICHARD OCKENFELS

**N**on-profit organizations don't just happen. It takes hard work and dedication from concerned and involved individuals to make an organization like the Arizona Antelope Foundation successful and long-lasting. Following is one of a series of articles on a Foundation "mover and shaker". Here, you can learn a little about one of these interesting individuals that I will be profiling.

## Bill Keebler: Chief Grille Master and Muzzleloader Extraordinaire

If you have been out on an Antelope Foundation field project in the last few years and stayed for the traditional Saturday night steak dinner, you have likely met Bill. He is normally behind the grille fixing up your steak from "raw to burn", based on the way you ordered it. Looking either like Ernest Hemingway or ol' Kris Kringle, Bill is the good-natured guy on the backside of the food line. Along with his wife Mary, our chief cook



and bottle washer, who prepares most of the rest of the food, Bill ensures that all are fed well after a long day in the field, and this is often after the Keeblers have spent

*(Continued on page 10)*

## A STEP BACK IN TIME....

### PRONGHORN: TOP GAME - PRIZE TROPHY

BY CARROLL LEMON

FROM THE SEPTEMBER 1955 ISSUE OF *ARIZONA WILDLIFE-SPORTSMAN*  
FOREWORD BY DAVID BROWN



*Carroll Lemon was a good friend of Jack O'Connor and an important figure in Tucson's big game community. In addition to his many writing contributions, many of them involving firearm ballistics, he was*

*active in the Arizona Game protective Association, Tucson Rod and Gun Club, and other sporting organizations. His favorite subjects were antelope, antelope jack-rabbits and desert mule deer.*

David E. Brown

→ *"As fast as an antelope".* Down in the cattle country of Mexico where distance is measured by how far a horse can cover in a day, this is considered the ultimate in speed. And the expression is an apt one, for the pronghorn antelope is among the fastest cloven hooved animals that ever tread upon this earth.

Just how fast an antelope can run is open to question. Most authorities agree that they can attain a speed of fifty to sixty miles an hour for short distances without much effort. Driving in a car I have timed bands of these animals loping along at fifty miles an hour and at this speed some of the young animals in the bunch will be continually changing position in the herd. And when one of them has a notion to change from one side to the other it will drop back, circle behind the group and swing up the other side with a burst of speed

*(Continued on page 11)*

# OUR WORK, WORKED!

BY SHANE STEWART WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM DAVID E. BROWN

The AAF found itself in Unit 21 again this October on another habitat improvement project. This project took place on Black Mesa which is part of the Cross Y ranch owned and operated by Bob Ashcraft. The project consisted of the complete removal of approximately 1 ½ miles of barbed wire fence that dissected the mesa. Complete fence removals are one of the most beneficial projects we can undertake to improve habitat. Therefore, this was a very exciting project for us to pursue as an organization.

Historically, Black Mesa was used as a major fawning area in Unit 21, so it is important to continue to improve habitat in the area. Unit 21 has been found to have the highest fawn recruitment rate of any unit in the state. Therefore, this area is very important to the AAF to preserve and improve the antelope habitat in this unit.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department has entered into a stewardship agreement with the Cross Y Ranch to ensure we have year round water on the southern and northern portions of Black Mesa. Black Mesa is nearly isolated from Perry Mesa and the main pronghorn population in GMU 21. Black Mesa also had a serious burn, the recovery of which was delayed by continued grazing during a period of low rainfall. All of which made the continued use of Black Mesa by pronghorn a very tenuous proposition. By removing the fences we have improved access to Black Mesa for antelope, consequently we have recovered habitat that was once deemed marginal and now has a chance to return to its historic viability.

This project had a great turnout from volunteers from all over the state, including representation from Girl Scout troop #9, Boy Scout troop #738, Friends of the Agua Fria private citizens, as well as our loyal AAF membership. In all, we had approx. 60 volunteers. Due to this turnout the daunting task of removing all the posts and nearly 30 rolls of barbed wire was completed in one day. Everyone retired back to base camp on the Badger Springs road where they were treated to an outstanding steak dinner provided by the AAF and prepared by Girl Scout troop #9 and Mary & Bill Keebler.

It is always exciting to have such a great turnout. It is especially beneficial to get the

*(Continued on page 14)*



# VIEWING PRONGHORN

BY RICHARD OCKENFELS

## INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE MUSEUM, TUCSON AZ



Viewing pronghorn indoors? You sure can, if you take an afternoon or morning to visit the wonderful International Wildlife Museum in north Tucson. This museum is an endeavor by Safari Club, International (SCI) Foundation, a world-wide organization that is a part of the 53,000 member (and 180 Chapters world-wide) SCI. The museum is dedicated to conservation, education, and preservation of wildlife and their habitats throughout the world. Opening in February 1988, the museum allows “*exploring the natural history of the world*” to be an enjoyable and easy way to learn about the myriad of wildlife on our blue planet.

On a recent visit there, I counted 9 different pronghorn exhibits within the museum. Yes, 9 glorious pronghorn antelope exhibits—now, I must admit, some are part of overall exhibits, but then again, some are substantial exhibits. But, before I tell you about the various exhibits, first you need to know where the museum is located and how to get there, with all of the highway construction underway in Tucson.

My favorite way to get there is to get off I-10 southbound at the Ina Road Exit in north Tucson, and head westbound approximately 1 mile to Silverbell Road (1<sup>st</sup> light). You get to cross the important Santa Cruz River just prior to the traffic light. The Santa Cruz River, sometimes flowing today, is important to history because as you exit Ina Road onto Silverbell, you are then on the *Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail*. Early Hispanic and Anglo explorers and

settlers often followed rivers and creeks as they moved across Arizona’s landscape. This historic trail connected the Tucson area with the Gila River, and on into Yuma, and then California. It was part of the trail network between Mexico City and the coast of California.

You follow the Santa Cruz south for 8.5 miles to Speedway, and turn westbound (right for those without a built-in compass). Continue westbound on Speedway for 3.5 miles and it turns into Gates Pass Road. Soon you will see what looks like an old castle in the saguaro-covered foothills of the Tucson Mountains. It will be on the north side (right again). It looks like a castle because it was designed after a French Foreign Legion fort. What do you expect from SCI. Those early founders liked to travel and hunt the world. They just brought part of the world home to Arizona.

From the parking lot, you cross over a bridge and ponds that house native herps (reptiles and amphibians) and fishes. It is a beautiful oasis that is helping to preserve rare wildlife that are dependent upon rapidly disappearing desert wetlands. A massive African lion bronze greets you, as well as a cheetah bronze and a red deer above. The huge bronze by Lorenzo Ghiglieri is called “*A Lion’s Roar*”. Have your picture taken next to it.

Admission for adults is \$7, a very reasonable price for such a magnificent museum. Special prices for seniors (62+), military, students (all \$5.50) and children (\$2.50) help out on the price of entry. Of course, children under 3 years old are free. Museum Director Rich



(Continued on page 7)



White, a former AAF board member, noted that approximately 70,000 people visit the museum annually, with peaks in January—it's cold outside—and in July—it's really hot outside. It's good to be indoors sometimes. Of that total, 28,000 are kids in school groups. This is a great place to take your school class, regardless of age; even college classes would love this place.

The biggest pronghorn exhibit, one on prehistoric pronghorn and antelope ancestors, is amazing. Why this museum has such a beautiful and large educational exhibit on a species that seems to struggle to gain attention of people puzzled me during visits. Rich White is the answer to that puzzle. Rich is the foremost expert on prehistoric pronghorn. The director of the museum since 1999, Rich has specialized in the natural history of all things "North American pronghorn". Unfortunately, Rich has set up the exhibit as a traveling exhibit, and soon after I last visited, the exhibit was scheduled for loan to another museum. The good thing is the next museum is the Arizona Museum of Natural History (Mesa, AZ, at 53 MacDonald, which is basically Main and MacDonald). The move should have occurred in August. So, you can still see this wonderful exhibit. The rest of the pronghorn exhibits are permanent, and they are worth the price of admission.

Go through the Moth/Butterfly exhibit—just beautiful—into the C.J. McElroy Gallery (C.J. is one of the founders of SCI and the person behind the establishment of the Museum) and you will see the first pronghorn on exhibit, at the **Horns & Antlers Exhibit**. Here, there is a head mount, signage, and a skull & shed horn in case. The next pronghorn is in the **Predator & Prey section**. Look to your right after entry, and you

see a mountain lion in hot pursuit of a pronghorn buck. Great taxidermy work on this and all the exhibits. Again, the exhibit has signage to read.

To see the next pronghorn exhibited, you head to the **McElroy Hall**, the main section in the building. Here, look up to your left on entry and note the pronghorn buck mount along with some other North American wildlife. This hall is almost beyond description. On the south wall alone, are most of the world's true antelope family members, from Africa and nearby countries. Africa is the hotbed of true antelope, just as Asia is the goat/sheep hotbed for evolution. Sit a spell and just ponder the wonderful planet we live on.

You pass through the Weir McDonald Gallery, which is sheep mountain surrounded by glass enclosures. What fabulous exhibits! Then, into the **James E. Conklin, M.D. Exhibit**. Signage along the wall describes the SCI efforts to help fund Alberta, Canada pronghorn studies. A young friend of mine is working on his Masters on one of the projects. After coming out of the dark (Night Exhibit), notice a picture of Charles Sheldon, one of the "**Founders of Conservation in North America**", on the wall. Sheldon was instrumental in the establishment of refuges for wild sheep and pronghorn—a refuge in northern Nevada for pronghorn is named in his honor—during wildlife's darkest hours in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

In the **Bringing Wildlife Back Exhibit**, several pronghorn areas occur. Check out the lighted "Wildlife Restoration" sign, in which pronghorn is one species noted. In 1910, the sign notes that only 13,000 still existed, but by heroic conservation efforts, today 900,000 or so exist over portions of their historic range. Still a long ways from the estimated 30-40 million before early Americans "tamed the wilderness" in their drive west-



(Continued on page 13)



# SONORAN PRONGHORN UPDATE



BY JILL BRIGHT AZ GAME & FISH  
OCTOBER 27, 2009

**Captive Breeding:** The pronghorn in the captive breeding pen are doing well. We had a mortality of a yearling female in the north half of the pen from bobcat predation. The bobcat appears to have left the pen, and we are taking steps to make it more difficult for bobcats to get into the pen. This is the first incidence of a predator killing a pronghorn in the pen.

### Status of Pronghorn in Pen

	Wild pronghorn						
	put into the pen	2005 recruitment	2006 recruitment	2007 recruitment	2008 recruitment	2009 recruitment	Total in Pen
<b>NORTH HALF</b>							
In Pen	5F	2F		3F	3F, 7M	11F, 7M	
Released	1M	4M	3M	4M, 1F	1F		
From south half						1M	39
<b>SOUTH HALF</b>							
In Pen	5F		2F	1F	4F, 6M	6F, 7M	
Released			2M	1F, 2M	2M		
From wild						1M	32
							71

(M = Male, F = Female)

**Released Pronghorn:** No changes in the status of any of the pronghorn we've released from the pen. We still cannot locate one collar, but all the others are still alive. We have been seeing several of the earlier released animals who no longer have radio collars on STAC and at Charlie Bell forage plot.

**Water Projects:** We hauled water to the Devils Hills water in early October. It is still being heavily used by up to 7 pronghorn, and we wanted to make sure it wasn't in danger of going dry.

**Forage Enhancements:** We are continuing to irrigate at the forage plots. We recently documented 2 uncollared females using the Granite Mountains plot again.

**Other Projects:** We are still moving forward with the preliminary steps for establishing a second population, a draft EA is expected to be out this fall.

(Continued on page 9)



(Sonoran Pronghorn continued from page 8)

We are planning the annual release from the pen this year. Work is continuing on the bomas to make sure they are finished and functional. The release is scheduled to take place December 2 - 4. We have ordered radio collars for all the animals that will be released to allow post release monitoring. Release locations will be limited to areas of the range that are still green; most of the range is very dry (see below).

We are also planning the biannual range wide survey in Mexico for December 7-11. If we get permits and range conditions are acceptable, we also plan to capture and radio collar 5 pronghorn in the larger population near the mine in Mexico after the survey.

**Wild Pronghorn:** A large herd of pronghorn, including 4 radio collared animals, is still using South Tac, and has recently been using the southern part of North Tac also. Both these areas look fairly dry now. A herd of 7 pronghorn is using the western side of Mohawk Valley, which is still green. Most of the range is very dry. Green patches include the west side of Organ Pipe Cactus NM, parts of the Agua Dulce Mountains, parts of San Cristobal Valley and the west side of Mohawk Valley.



Pronghorn at Devil's Hills (clock on camera is wrong)

part of the day out working on fence, too. Their day often ends a lot later than the rest of the volunteer crew. Then, Bill and Mary have to clean up all of the cooking and eating gear, and maybe even fix a Sunday morning breakfast, too.

Bill has been a member of the Arizona Antelope Foundation for 12 years. Asked to join the Board by another Past-President, Joe Bill Pickrell, at a Desert Bighorn Sheep Society function—of which both Bill and Joe Bill have also been President—Bill wryly noted, “Joe Bill Pickrell talked me into being on the board and said I did not have to do anything.” Not one to do nothing, today Bill is a Life Member of AAF, ADBSS, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Arizona Deer Association, and the Wild Sheep Foundation (formerly the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep—FNAWS). He is also a founding member of the Arizona Elk Society, and a member of the National Wild Turkey Federation.

For AAF, Bill has served as Secretary, Vice President, and President (2002). Today, he remains an active member of the Board of Governors, which is permanently comprised of all the past presidents, and regularly attends the monthly Board Meetings to help shape the future of our organization. Beyond the regular offices, Bill has also volunteered to be an active member of the Banquet Committee, which is the most important fundraising activity of the Foundation, and often is a presenter at Wildlife Fairs, Hunter Clinics, Antelope Awareness Days, and other special events. Along with being the “assistant cook” for his better half, his involvement in other AAF activities, and duties for other non-profits in Arizona, Bill maintains a busy schedule in the conservation world.

Bill retired from the Internal Revenue Service, after a 32-yr career. He now has time to devote to his favorite non-profits, like AAF, and his muzzleloader hunting trips. He is dedicated to pursuing North American big game with his array of muzzleloader rifles. To date, Bill has harvested many species of the big game in North America, as well as a few from other countries. Just in Arizona, Bill has taken a desert bighorn sheep, mule deer, Coues white-tailed deer (2), pronghorn (2), bison (2), elk (6), and javelina (8) with his muzzleloaders. He hopes to get the Big Ten with muzzleloader, needing a black bear, mountain lion, and a wild turkey. He has taken a turkey with a shotgun, so he has 8 of the 10 already. His stories about pursuing a Musk Ox in bitter cold attest to his dedication to the sport of muzzleloading. Internationally, Bill has hunted in Mexico, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa. He has 25 entries in 17 categories in the Longhunter (muzzleloader) record book, including the Longhunter world record Coues white-tailed deer that he took in Mexico. For

hunts, Bill noted that “*internationally, my stone sheep hunt in Canada stands out. I took my ram on the day before my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was a beautiful area and I felt fortunate to have been doing what I was doing at almost 60.*”

First introduced to hunting and the great outdoors by his father, Bill said that “*I enjoy time spent outdoors with family and friends*”. When I asked what his favorite memory of the outdoors is, he responded that it is “*hard to have one*”. He considers himself mostly a hunter, but like a lot of us, Bill also fishes a little. Bill instilled his love of the outdoors in his kids, and his wife Mary, who is also an active hunter and member of the AAF Board as our Treasurer.

Born and raised in Phoenix (as he said, “*it was a nice little town back then*”), Bill has lived all but one year of his life in Arizona—he spent one year in Los Angeles. He graduated with a BS in Accounting from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff to prepare for his long career with the IRS. Along with his professional career, Bill also served 27 years in the Arizona Army National Guard and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel.



at least ten miles an hour faster than the others are traveling.

With a car I have checked desert mule deer when they were hightailing it, at thirty-five miles an hour. Over the years I have found that it is necessary to lead an antelope about twice as much as a mule deer using the same caliber rifle. So I am satisfied in my own mind that an antelope in good condition and with the proper incentive, can run at speeds in excess of sixty miles an hour for short bursts and can travel at forty-five to fifty miles an hour for considerable distance without much effort.

But the most remarkable part of an antelope's fleetness, to me at least, is its ability to attain these speeds over fairly rough terrain. A deer's speed is largely dependent upon its footing. I have seen Rocky Mountain mule deer in the lava beds that appeared positively slough footed trying to negotiate this rough going. It is not so with the pronghorn. Some of the Anderson Mesa country is pretty rough in its own

right but bands of antelope sail right through it like they were running on a cinder path. There are, I think, a couple of reasons why the antelope can run with such abandon over rough country and not suffer physically.

For one thing, the pronghorn has unusually large feet in proportion to other cloven hoofed animals of its size. The hooves are not only larger but softer as well, which gives them better footing on smooth, hard surfaces. Then as Einarsen points out in his book, "The Pronghorn Antelope", these animals have enormous strength in their leg bones. Although the domestic cow will weigh seven times as much as an antelope, the leg bones of the pronghorn are actually stronger. So the large, soft hooves and the dense bone structure of the legs permit this remarkable animal to negotiate the

roughest country with a recklessness that would destroy any other of the cloven hoofed clan.

The properly mounted head of a pronghorn antelope is one of the most unique trophies the American hunter can bag. Everything, from its symmetrical orange and white throat, the long velvety, sensitive nose, the large, bulging eyes that give it a bug appearance and the ability to see in all directions, make the animal's appearance unusual. Add to these features dark, ivory tipped pronged horns, funny little ears that turn in at the top and the deep orange and blazing white hair, brittle and coarse unlike any other animal's, and you have all the makings for something out of this world.



I have hunted antelope for nearly twenty years now. My first encounter with these sharp eyed swifties was in the sand dune country of northwestern Sonora. In this wide open, trackless treeless stretch, where the antelope had been hunted relentlessly for years, knocking off a buck antelope was a neat trick for the lucky. For the unlucky it was a near impossibility. It was there that I decided that it must have been the sheep diseases, not the "thirty-thirty" hunters, that decimated the antelope herds on this continent.

Shortly thereafter, an open season was declared on buck antelope in Arizona and I got an entirely different slant on them as a game animal. The Arizona antelope had not been hunted legally for many years and by

(Continued on page 12)

comparison with their Sonoran brethren, were unsophisticated, trusting souls. In the cedar country of northern Arizona, where stalking was easy, dropping an antelope with a good head was a lead pipe cinch and it could be done in a leisurely, one date hunt. After three trips and three bucks in three shots, I was convinced that the antelope was in the Jersey class as animal of sport. So I skipped hunting them for a few years. Then the old urge came back and I drew a permit to hunt antelope in the Springerville area.

What a difference. Most of the country was open like the ocean and the antelope bands were about as trusting as a pawn broker. I hunted a day and a half, didn't get a shot under three hundred yards and ended up gladly settling for a mediocre head. My respect for "El Berrendo" was fully established again.

Since then I have hunted not only in Arizona but in the prolific antelope state of Wyoming and I consider them one of the sportiest game animals I have ever hunted. Not only are they the speediest animal on this continent, they have about the sharpest eyesight to go with it. Last year I had, while hunting in Wyoming, enough time for once to really study the game and its habits. I don't know how many animals I glassed but it was in the thousands. In addition I must have stalked fifty bucks. That is what gave me such a healthy respect for the animal's eyesight.

Time and again with the help of my 8X binoculars, I picked up antelope at distances so great that they were invisible to the naked eye. Yet almost invariably, when I spotted them they were looking at me. As far as I could tell about all my binoculars did was put us on a somewhat equal plane.

Another remarkable thing about this animal's eyesight is its ability to discern immediately, minute changes in the scenery. My brother Gordon and I would locate a band of antelope feeding and plan a stalk. To be successful we had to see them first and they had to be in a low place where it was possible to get into a position overlooking them. When we figured we were in about the right spot, one of us would hold the rifles while the other, holding a piece of sage brush in front of his face, would ease up behind some other bushes or rocks and peer cautiously over the rim. If there were but several animals and they all had their heads down feeding, it was usually possible to get into position without alarming the animals.

But the first time one looked in our direction it seemed he would notice the slight difference in the scenery. All the animals would stop feeding and look in our direction. If our position was good, the face was well covered and no movement was detected, the antelope would go back to feeding. But we noticed that, although the animals had evidently satisfied themselves

that all was in order, they always fed away from our position. After this happened several times to us, we sort of got the idea that the dumbest things around there were not the antelope.

Anyone hunting antelope for the first time should strive for a good head. The American hunters of this day who have killed an antelope are few. A really good head, and by that I mean a buck having a horn length of fourteen inches or greater, makes a trophy that any rifleman can be justly proud of. To be reasonably certain of bagging a buck with fine horns, a good pair of binoculars is an indispensable piece of equipment. They will permit the hunter to locate game at distances and in places where the naked eye would not turn up a hair. And they show the value of a head thereby saving the hunter many weary, wasted steps. Because of the great distances involved, a hunter cannot make many stalks in a day so he does not want to make any more false moves than are absolutely necessary.

Along with the binoculars, another pretty handy companion on an antelope hunt is a flat shooting, scope sighted rifle. Even the most cautious hunter will have trouble in getting closer than two hundred and fifty or three hundred yards to an alert buck. So the fellow who has a rifle properly sighted in for this kind of shooting and equipped with sights that make this reasonably certain at this distance, has a distinct advantage over the short range boys with their iron sights.

If I were choosing a cartridge primarily for antelope shooting there would be no hesitation on my part in reaching for a .270. For this type of shooting it has a slight edge over the .30-06, being flatter shooting and as a rule a trifle more accurate. The only other factory cartridge that one might prefer instead of the .270 is the .300 Magnum and I consider the lighter cartridge adequate in every respect and it develops quite a bit less recoil than the Magnum.

By this discussion of preferred cartridges I do not mean that a hunter should stay home if he does not have a rifle in one of these calibers. Cartridges such as the .257, .250-3000, 300 Sav., .308 and 7 mm are good. And of course every one knows that the .30-30 killed antelope by the ton when there were something like sixty million of them roaming the plains. But the antelope of today is not nearly as trusting as his forbearers were and if the hunter is going after these animals with a short range rifle he should choose his country accordingly. By that I mean that the fellow with a .30-30, by hunting in the cedars and more hilly country, can be reasonably certain of getting some shooting at ranges suitable for this cartridge.

The main thing is to go hunting if you have a chance. Stalking a buck antelope for half an hour before making a kill will give you thirty minutes of intense excitement and many pleasant years of reminiscing.

(Viewing Pronghorn continued from page 7)

ward, but better than other species fared. Another pronghorn is signage in the “**Sea of Grass**” exhibit that includes a pronghorn picture. Next, notice the prairie exhibit with the doe and her twin fawns, along with a buck nearby. Again, there is signage to read on the prairie runners.

Next look for the mural on the **History of Mammal Evolution** where you will find signage on an ancestor of our modern pronghorn. In the Pliocene (5 mybp: million years before present it means), find *Merycodus*, a small relative of today’s pronghorn.

After visiting all of the exhibits, see the **Wildlife Theater** for its hourly movies, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. And, visit the oasis and gift shop. There are tables for eating, and a kid’s play area. All inside, so you can visit all day instead of just a morning or eve-

ning.

The museum is an educational program for Safari Club, and its mission as a nonprofit institution is dedication to increasing knowledge and appreciation of the world’s wildlife. All animals were donated to the museum, none collected for its mission. So, visit, appreciate, and enjoy. Travel the world without getting on a plane. And, check out their website, [www.thewildlifemuseum.org](http://www.thewildlifemuseum.org) to get your interest piqued for a visit.

On a side note, many of the amazing exhibits were put together by friend Bonnie Swarbrick, a former curator at the museum, and current educational specialist at Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge. Bonnie is a member of Arizona’s Outdoors Hall of Fame, and is a superb artist as well as trained naturalist/biologist. She and Rich have done the pronghorn well, and been supporters of AAF for years.



youth, as well as the public involved in these types of projects. By involving the youth we are passing on the legacy to the next generation who someday will hopefully carry on the legacy of conservation. By involving the public, we are spreading the word of what our mission is and hopefully recruiting “brothers in arms” to help in our plight. The longevity of our antelope herds is in our hands, and without continued work, their numbers will continue to decrease. By making more of our grasslands passable for pronghorn, we are ensuring our antelope “Freedom to Roam”.

While doing a walk through of the work site the following day, I was lucky enough to see a herd of 12 antelope crossing the area we had removed the fence from, just the day before. “OUR WORK, WORKED!” By this observation of immediate usage it shows that this area is still a viable part of the habitat for GMU 21

pronghorn. Hence, it may be one of the more biological meaningful projects accomplished to date. It is very fortunate that this area was made access-friendly while unit 21 pronghorn still remembered that Black Mesa was part of their habitat.

If you have never taken part in a work project, I encourage you to join us. It is one of the most rewarding things you can do. **Our** pronghorn are depending on it.

Thanks to our project volunteers: Bob Ashcraft, Scott & Jen Anderson, Tim Flood, Daniel Hatley, Carl Howard, Bill & Mary Keebler, Jerry Guevin, Dave Laird, Don Lorentzen, Josh Lowdy, Jimmy Mehen, Audrey Navarro, Mike Nushalesy, Richard Ockenfels, Nick Rudnick, Shane Stewart, Mark Vale, Bryce Waddell, Vilma Ward, Jessica Winter, John Wintersteen, Boy Scout Troop #738 - Ken Ward Scoutmaster, Girl Scout Troop #9 - Jen Anderson Leader, Troy Christensen, AZ Game & Fish, Jake Fousek, AZ Game & Fish



## SHORT SHOTS

### 2010 BOARD

Congratulations to the following who were elected at our annual meeting on November 9th:

#### OFFICERS

President – Shane Stewart  
Vice President – Todd Hulm  
Secretary – Art Boswell  
Treasurer – Mary Keebler

#### DIRECTORS Term Ending 12/31/10:

Dave Verhelst, Jerry Guevin, Tice Supplee

#### DIRECTORS Term Ending 12/31/11:

Jim McCasland, Richard Ockenfels, Connie Taylor

### 2010 PROJECT SCHEDULE SET

February 27 - Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge  
April 10th - Clear Creek Ranch Hope 3 Canyon  
July 17th - Ohaco Ranch Unit 4A  
October 16th - Unit 21 (exact site TBD)

Watch your mail for a flier 4-6 weeks prior to each project. Details will also be posted on our website as they become available

### PRONGHORN CAPTURE

Region III is planning to capture pronghorn in Unit 19A. Those volunteers who have assisted us in the past will be given priority to assist with the capture.

The capture is scheduled for the weekend of January 9-10, 2010. We will complete the setup of the trap and wing fences on Saturday and the capture on Sunday. If there are any issues with capturing Sunday we will capture Monday, January 11th.

If you are available to assist with the capture this year please contact Erin Riddering at AZ Game & Fish.

ERiddering@azgfd.gov  
(928) 692-7700 ext. 2330

### AZ BIG GAME SUPER RAFFLE

Sales for the 2010 raffle have now begun. Tickets can be purchased by mail or over the internet. As we told you in our last issue, this raffle has contributed \$185,800 to projects for Arizona’s antelope during the first 4 years of the Raffle’s existence! So please help our antelope by purchasing tickets today! Visit their website to purchase or for more information:

[www.arizonabiggamesuperaffle.com](http://www.arizonabiggamesuperaffle.com)

# MEMBERSHIP

## LIFE MEMBERS

- |                                  |                                    |                                  |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Art Pearce, Phoenix           | 14. Al Sue, Scottsdale             | 27. Don Davidson, Mesa           |
| 2. Jim Mehen, Flagstaff          | 15. Mary Keebler, Happy Jack       | 28. Terry Petko, Mesa            |
| 3. Larry D. Adams, Bullhead City | 16. Bill Keebler, Happy Jack       | 29. Gary M. Johnson, Phoenix     |
| 4. James K. McCasland,           | 17. James Stewart, Phoenix         | 30. Richard Guenzel, Laramie WY  |
| 5. Nina Gammons, Payette, ID     | 18. Terry Schupp, Tempe            | 31. Randy Cherington, Scottsdale |
| 6. Nancy Lewis, Phoenix          | 19. Dale Hislop, Calgary Canada    | 32. Joe Del Re, Chandler         |
| 7. Pete Cimellaro, Phoenix       | 20. Mick Rusing, Tucson            | 33. Bob Walker, Phoenix          |
| 8. Jerry Weiers, Phoenix         | 21. George Welsh, Kingman          | 34. Cookie Nicoson, Williams     |
| 9. Harry Carlson, Phoenix        | 22. Matthew Massey, Gilbert        | 35. Tim Blank, Mesa              |
| 10. David Brown, Phoenix         | 23. Don Parks, Peoria              | 36. Jodi Stewart, Gilbert        |
| 11. Art Boswell, Tucson          | 24. Bill & Kerrie Jacoby, Chandler | 37. Keith Joyner, Scottsdale     |
| 12. Charlie Kelly, Scottsdale    | 25. Adam Geottl, Cottonwood        |                                  |
| 13. Chrissy Weiers, Phoenix      | 26. Shane Stewart, Gilbert         |                                  |

## SUSTAINING MEMBERS

- |                                 |                                |                              |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Ken Alexander, Glendale         | Michael Domanico, Scottsdale   | Richard Ockenfels, Mayer     |
| Larry Audsley, Tucson           | Randy Gaskill, Show Low        | Bob & Judy Prosser, Winslow  |
| Jim Babbitt, Flagstaff          | Roger Hailey, Flagstaff        | Walt Scringeur, Prescott     |
| Mark Boswell, Mesa,             | William H. McLean, Mormon Lake | Tice Supplee, Phoenix        |
| Bill Cole, Glendale             | Paul Medina, Peoria            | Jim & Tracy Unmacht, Phoenix |
| William C. Cordasco, Flagstaff  | Peter Mertz, Phoenix           | David L. Wolf, Flagstaff     |
| Paul & Joann Delaney, Flagstaff | Rick Miller, Flagstaff         |                              |
| Eugene & Linda Dightmon, Peoria | Susan Morse, Jericho VT        |                              |

## FAMILY MEMBERS

- |   |                                       |  |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| Jerry & Anthony Acedo, Phoenix            | Sonia & Anna Gregory, Scottsdale      | Brandi & Benjamin Pott, Prescott Valley    |
| Jim & Rita Ammons, Yuma                   | Bob & Marilyn Hanlin, Mesa            | Henry Provencio, Mormon Lake               |
| Edward & Cameron Bloomfield, Chino Valley | Daniel & Emie Hernandez, Chino Valley | Brad Remfrey, Gilbert                      |
| Robert Bushong, Yuma                      | Stephanie & Gray Holbrook, Peoria     | Daniel Robinett, Catalina                  |
| Larry Cales, Peoria                       | Chad Jones, New River                 | Ryna Rock & Ken Stephens, Camp Verde       |
| Rob & Kelly Chabak, Phoenix               | Dave & Sue Laird, Peoria              | David & Debra Scott, Glendale              |
| Gordon Clark, Tucson                      | Greg Matchett, Tucson                 | James & Joyce Silvey, Scottsdale           |
| Ken & Kathy Cook, Casa Grande             | Pat McFall & Mary Love, Peoria        | Cam & Kitty Smith, Prescott                |
| Brian & Dorothy Dolan, Tucson             | Dennis & Debbie McKeown, Hereford     | Barry Sopher, Tucson                       |
| Dave & Debbie Fisher, Prescott            | Bary & Sharla Mortimer, Peoria        | Floramae Teskey, Mayer                     |
| David & Kevin Foulk, Tempe                | The Munroe Family, Goodyear           | Ron Wilkins, Goodyear                      |
| David Frampton, Gilbert                   | Russ & Colton Nelsen, Prescott        | John & Elaine Wintersteen, Paradise Valley |
| Bruce & Alex Goodman, Chino Valley        | Amy & Stephen Ostwinkle, Gilbert      | Jim Wood, Glendale                         |
|   | James & Shannon Perry, El Mirage      |  |

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- |                         |                                  |                       |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Daniel Hatley, Peoria   | Clifford Nystrom, Cortaro        | Nick Rudnick, Phoenix |
| Don Lorentzen, Sun City | Gregory Phelps, E. Greenbush, NY | Jessica Winter, Tempe |
| Audrey Navarro, Tempe   | Seth Peirce, Cottonwood          |                       |



*Memberships follow the calendar year - Annual Renewals Notices have been mailed. You can renew/purchase online. [www.azantelope.org](http://www.azantelope.org)*



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## **SPORTSMAN'S CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS!**

<b><i>WHAT?</i></b>	<b><i>WHEN?</i></b>	<b><i>WHERE?</i></b>
The Arizona Antelope Foundation	January 11          6:30 PM	El Zaribah Shrine
Board Meetings	February 8          6:30 PM	552 N. 40th St.
	March 8              6:30 PM	Phoenix
AAF Work Projects	February 27, 2010	BANWR
	April 10, 2010	Clear Creek ranch
	July 17, 2010	White Mountains
	October 16, 2010	Unit 21
AZ Game & Fish Commission	January 16	Crowne Plaza Hotel
Awards Banquet		
Pronghorn Capture	January 9-10	Region III
AAF Hunter Clinic	Spring TBA	TBA
AAF Fundraising Event	Spring TBA	TBA
AZ Big Game Super Raffle Drawing	July 15	AZ Game & Fish Headquarters