



PRONGHORN

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WOW - WHAT A NIGHT!!



THE AWESOME AUCTION

by Nancy Lewis

Arizona Antelope Foundation's "First Ever" fundraiser took place on August 7, 2004. It was a great event pulled together out of thin air by many dedicated people. There was an initial concern that too many people would be out of town at that time, but 300 generous souls showed up to bid and buy and belly up to the buffet and the bar. Leo Balthazor and his El Zaribah Shrine Auditorium staff helped the fundraiser committee put together a nearly seamless event. Dave Yoke, our inimitable auctioneer, was his usual professional and effective self. He turned everybody's pockets inside out and wrung out every dime he possibly could. Doug Stancill, emcee extraordinaire, kept everybody informed and the program on schedule. The committee members, having been through other such fundraisers for other organizations, did what they do best and went the extra mile to pull it all off more smoothly than anybody ever expected. After attending other such banquets in the last few years that have swelled to 600 and more people and eating food half the people loved and the other half hated, the buzz throughout the room all evening long was how wonderful it was to be able to walk across the room without having to say, "Excuse me" dozens of times along the way and getting a choice of entrees.

There was a balloon for each person and a prize in each balloon at least equal to the price. David Hussey hosted the

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CONTACT THE AAF

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VISIT US ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

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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:

Jim Unmacht, at Pronghorn Editor, PO Drawer 15501, Phoenix, AZ 85060, or by email at azantelope@cox.net.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Why is the President smiling?

Is it because...

- he was able to pose with a pronghorn after 12 years?
- his son's first antelope hunt in NM was a success?
- we netted close to \$70K at our First Ever fundraiser?
- the Bonita fence might get fixed?
- he was drawn for a Wyoming pronghorn hunt?
- he has a dozen Arizona pronghorn bonus points?
- we're up to 9 Life Members?
- our 12th Annual Clinic was successful?
- the hall for the Clinic was donated free of charge by member Mike Perkinson?
- one of our Special Antelope Tags drew a record amount of \$67,500?
- or that combined, our Special Tags earned a whopping \$126,500 for pronghorn?
- the AAF received Special Recognition at the Biennial National Pronghorn Workshop in North Dakota?
- we were able to partner on several cleanup projects with Mohave County Sportsman's Club and the WCC?
- pronghorn recruitment is up this year statewide?
- we have become a leading player for pronghorn and conservation in Arizona?
- our membership rolls have increased?
- we had a successful Expo in February?
- Nancy Lewis and Joe Machac are donating this year's rifle and gunsmithing for the '05 Rifle Raffle?
- we were finally able to extend a token of gratitude to our Past Presidents?
- one of our Past Presidents, Bill McLean was appointed by the Governor to the G & F Commission?
- we're having a very positive impact on Anderson Mesa?
- the summer fires near Anderson Mesa enhanced a great deal of pronghorn habitat?
- we have had 3 successful projects year to date, with 50, 20, and 18 volunteers respectively.
- we've got one or two more projects in us for the rest of the year?
- we have one of the premier, all volunteer, websites in the conservation community?
- our website is on its way to averaging 500 hits per month (!)?
- our Board meetings are on target and out early?
- our Recording Secretary is doing a "heckuva" job?
- our newsletter the "Pronghorn" has regained its stature?
- we are the leading pronghorn-specific group in North America?
- we were a sponsor at the January Meet the Commission Banquet?
- we helped sponsor the Kids Fishing Day in Kingman?
- our logo is next to ADBSS' on the G & F wildlife trailer?
- with AAF support, the BLM has closed the Cameron Allotment for grazing to help Sonoran pronghorn?
- we have proactively attended meetings representing pronghorn from Yuma, to Tucson, and Flagstaff to Phoenix?



It's been quite a year so far and it's not over yet! You can still get involved to help us help pronghorn, as our next project is coming soon to the Sonoita area. We'd love to have you join us!

Jim Unmacht



12TH ANNUAL HUNTER CLINIC ANOTHER SUCCESS!

The Club Rio was the place on August 17th for our Annual Hunters Clinic. The large hall was converted into a Pronghorn Showcase for the evening with a fantastic display of trophy mounts around the stage and at the entrance. Many thanks to all who brought their trophies for the successful tag holders to see!

We had over 100 people in attendance when you combine the 75 tag holders attending, our speakers, the AAF Board and friends who came to help. Welcome to the 30+ new members who joined our organization that evening!

Aside from all the learning going on, we also had a successful raffle throughout the evening, sending many people home with some nice gifts! The new member raffle winner took home a nice optics piece, and a couple other notable winners drew a weekend at Lake Tahoe, and several days in a Condo near Durango, Colorado.

A Special Thanks to the following people that helped make the Clinic a success: Our panel of experts, Jim Hefflefinger, Richard Ockenfels, Bill Keebler, Pete Cimellaro, Dennis Ward, David Brown, and Clay Goldman; Greg McBride for providing the display boards, AZGF Commissioner Bill McLean for taking some time to talk to us; AZ Game & Fish Wildlife Managers for helping the attendees in the various hunt units, Don Winslow for bringing the laser shot system, and finally, Mike Perkinson for donating the facility!

Thanks to Mike, we'll see you about the same time next year at the Club Rio for our 13th Annual Clinic!

SONORAN PRONGHORN UPDATE: 9/15/04

Captive Breeding: The pronghorn in the pen continue to do well. The pronghorn generally hang out together, moving and feeding throughout most of the pen.

Personnel at the pen observe and monitor the pronghorn daily. In addition, the perimeter fence is patrolled, electric fences checked and the pen and surrounding areas checked for predators and illegal aliens at least daily. Illegal aliens continue to be apprehended in the vicinity of the enclosure, but none have been seen at or near the pen.

Rains have greened up the pen, so personnel have quit irrigating for the time being.

Water Projects: Personnel from Game and Fish and Cabeza Prieta NWR determined locations in the field for 2 additional pronghorn waters. These will be located in the Agua Dulce area of the refuge. Refuge personnel will complete the necessary paperwork for these projects.

Forage Enhancements: Irrigation has been stopped at all forage sites due to rains and abundant green forage.

Additional pipe has been delivered to complete the Granite Mountains and Water Well forage enhancement projects. Work will begin on these in the near future.

Other Projects: Agreements are in the works for additional funding from the Marines (30K) for captive breeding and periodic monitoring flights. Additional funding from the USFWS for the U.S. range-wide survey (20K) and the Mexican range-side survey (15K) are moving through the process. The Arizona National Guard has committed another \$37,500 for captive breeding, capturing additional pronghorn for the pen, and to continue development and maintenance of forage enhancements sites. The National Park Service has also written a grant requesting an additional \$7,500 for range wide surveys.

Wild Pronghorn: There haven't been any reports of wild pronghorn being observed this reporting period. A reconnaissance flight will be scheduled soon.

DRIPPING VAT WETLAND FENCE PROJECT

JUNE 26, 2004

June 26th and 27th took us to the White Mountains for some habitat and fence work. We had 16 AAF members and friends along with Dave Cagle from AZ Game & Fish and John Wilcox with the US Forest Service. The volunteers logged 5920 miles and spent 306 hours of travel and labor time to fulfill our commitment to provide cost share labor, on a wetland restoration project funded by the Intermountain West Joint Venture.

Dripping Vat is a premier wildlife habitat area that includes 80 acres of wetlands. In addition to pronghorn, waterfowl and elk also utilize the area. A livestock fence surrounded the wetland and was in various stages of needing repair, from some simple repairs, to wildlife friendly modifications, to total replacement of some sections.

Between thunderstorms on both days, $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of fence was replaced, and another $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of fence was modified to facilitate pronghorn access. Our volunteers got some exercise as the fence work was located in a roadless area.

Kudos to the Cooks...Sue Foote, Marilyn Hanlin, and Dave Laird did a great job! The steaks were well done! We also gave out 5 "first-time project" pins on this project...Thanks to everyone for a job well done!

From Mayer to Mesa to Morenci and other spots in between... many thanks to our volunteers!

Richard Ockenfels, Mayer; Joe Bill Pickrell, Phoenix; David Brown, Phoenix; Don & Janet Johnson, Gold Canyon; Bob & Marilyn Hanlin, Mesa; Connie Taylor, Mesa; Thomas Hulen, Tempe; Randy Turcotte, Tempe; Sue Foote, Phoenix; Dave Laird, Phoenix; Al Sue, Scottsdale; Brian & Ginny Taylor, Phoenix; Scott Heap, Morenci



YAVAPAI RANCH LAND EXCHANGE

Arizona Senators John McCain and Jon Kyl said that they have reached an accord on a huge, controversial Northern Arizona Federal land exchange that could make the trade happen by the end of the congressional session. There have been concerns over the proposed Northern Arizona National Forest Land Exchange in the Verde Valley municipalities of Camp Verde, Cottonwood and Clarkdale during the past two years because of the Verde River and its watershed.

However, the consolidation of Forest Service lands subject to the trade will be a positive thing for forest management and wildlife, most notably pronghorn.



WILDLIFE CONSERVATION LICENSE PLATE



Don't forget to renew or purchase your Wildlife Conservation plate. \$17 of the plate fee goes directly to habitat projects through the Wildlife Conservation Council. This plate cannot be purchased at the MVD, but must be applied for through the WCC. See their website for more information:

www.arizonawildlifecouncil.org

ARIZONA SMOKEPOLE SPEEDSTER

*By Carl F Wambach
Helena, Montana*

If there's a more stunning way to welcome daylight than poodling along the serpentine blacktop roads of northern Arizona's Monument Valley, I hope to see it. For now, that stands high on my list of exquisite mornings living in my mind's eye. The bluebird skies, still shaking off night's dusky coolness, promised a scorcher in the afternoon, but in the pastel dawn, everything just seemed right. Driving south out of Utah's colorful rock canyons with George Winston on the CD player and all the windows wide open in my trusty old Jeep Wrangler, I probably could have spoken calmly to God himself. I would have thanked him for the much coveted antelope tag in my pocket, right after I congratulated him on his masterful work, that is Arizona. It doesn't get much better.

Later that afternoon, in the suffocating heat and stiff headwinds, I pulled into Seligman for a cold anything and fuel for my hot black Jeep. The same old Jeep with no air-conditioning was sweating under her paint as much as I was under my baseball cap.

For a fellow born in the mountains of western Montana, temperatures that scalded the mercury into the upper 90's in September made me wonder how anything could live more than 10 yards from a waterhole. It doesn't get much hotter. Does it?



Though I had hunted Arizona for javelina, quail and elk, this trip held a special promise for me because antelope are one of my favorite big-game animals to hunt. They are blessed with frighteningly acute vision, impressive athletic ability and an uncanny natural beauty that holds them gorgeous from every angle. Yet another of the creator's masterpieces, I simply marvel at (and envy) their physical prowess. In my home state of Montana, I am lucky to hunt them nearly every year, but this would be my first attempt to take a good buck with a muzzleloader. I'd taken Pope & Young antelope with a bow and some fine bucks with a centerfire rifle, but this muzzleloader business was something different, for me. The hunt promised to be great fun, and a worthy challenge.

As with any long-awaited tag, the envelope-opening shock and celebration quickly turns into a mission to talk with everyone possible to learn where, how and when to find the best success. Drawing a tag in unit 18A was a gift, but I knew it meant that I'd invest significant time and cash in phone calls talking to game biologists, other successful hunters and anyone else who had any experience with the legendary big bucks of Arizona. I tried to distill all of their advice into consistent patterns and spent hours on the Internet looking at aerial views and land status maps, reading stories penned by others and soaking up all I could from everyone who had anything to do with the area. I plotted, schemed and launched a lot of lead and smoke at my local shooting range. Something in the back of my mind told me I might have to shoot long and far to bring home a prize worthy of a tag like this.

The weapon of choice? My new Thompson/Center .50cal Omega shooting 250gr T/C polymer-tipped Shock Wave bullets made by Hornady. Powered by three 50grain pellets of Pyrodex powder and guided by a Leupold 4-12 scope over

a Harris bipod, I was feeling confident with 1-inch groups at 100 yards and 3-inch groups at 200. Coming from a muzzleloader, it doesn't get much more accurate.

Arriving the day before season, I toured the areas I had noted on my maps and began to get worried by how few antelope I was seeing. So far, I had not seen any! Just west of Seligman, I spent time talking to the manager of a large ranch that allowed hunters to register their arrival through a cooperative arrangement with the Arizona Game and Fish department. That's a progressive agreement that opens up access to the public, except after several hours of glassing I had yet to see an antelope. I saw deer, elk and rabbits, but no antelope. Doubt was nibbling at my confidence just a bit. Further west into Truxton Flats, I finally saw my first antelope. A small buck and a group of several does took one look at me from a half mile away and hit the afterburners for Las Vegas. Hmmm, they aren't supposed to be this spooky before season starts, are they? Another few hours of scouting turned up a handful of speed goats, but nothing upon which to squander an 18A tag. Where were all the whopper bucks that walked the main street of Truxton? I was starting to get a little nervous, but calmed myself with a couple of frosty Mountain Dews and scouted more country until dark, never finding anything except last-hour bucks.

That night, I slept uneasily. A roaring air-conditioner in my Kingman motel room was not a familiar sound. Suddenly I was more nervous about finding a good buck than I was about getting close enough to hit one with a muzzleloader. Visions of rapidly departing antelope rears were the only thing fresh in my dusty, overheated brain. I mulled and fretted before deciding the best option was Truxton Flats for opening morning. The only thing to do was think positive and know that good things come to those who work long and hard. It doesn't get any simpler than that, right?

Waiting for daylight in the Jeep the next morning was cooler than a hot, dry place like this had any right to be. I nestled deeper into my wool vest, checking my watch often and smiled to finally see the sunlight slowly brighten the eastern horizon. I had hoped the scrub brush and weeds would grow taller overnight, because there wasn't enough cover to hide a short rattlesnake, let alone a belly-crawling lump of camo-colored human. I realized the advantage was heavily on the side of sharp-eyed antelope, if I could just find one. Hunting alone can test one's mental focus and fortitude.

Bouncing along the rocky trails of Truxton Flats, every distant fleck of white was cause to stop and haul out the Swarovski binoculars and examine the situation. I learned long ago that the best way to get close to antelope was to first keep them from knowing you are anywhere around. Let your binocs do the walking and stay out of sight, no matter what. Then plot a tactical, stealthy approach for a shot at close range. It's a strategy that has worked for me in the past, and after three hours of watchful duty on antelope patrol, I finally spotted a herd with a pair of bucks that needed a closer look. Out came the spotting scope onto the window mount, only to discover the effects warm dirt has on making a mirage. My high-powered glass was not as useful as I imagined it should be in this sun-baked climate. The cooler packed with ice in the back of the Wrangler was creaking and popping as it settled in with the slowly rising temperature. Now I needed to ditch my suddenly too-warm vest and find a swale in the desert floor deep enough to hide a Jeep. It was time for some creeping and crawling.

I'm convinced that the desert southwest has more things growing with pointy, thorn-crusting parts than all the rest of the west combined. My elkskin gloves and leather kneepads were doing a good job of keeping most of the stickers on the outside of my skin, but my elbows still have some unplanned holes in them to this day. I summoned all my years of experience sneaking around behind marginal cover and taking every advantage of the topography to hide my movements. It was my toughest test yet. I felt like a camo-clad cockroach trying to sneak across a billiard table, unseen. I managed to get within 500 yards of the herd without them seeing me. There was a young, 12-inch buck annoying the heck out of a larger buck, I assume thinking he deserved a little bit of the doe action. The larger of the two bucks was clearly heavy, with nice prongs and he carried his mass well up higher. I needed to get closer.

About the time I crawled down the shallow swale to where I thought I would be close enough for a good look, they had wandered off in another direction and I had to go back a half mile to where the fold in the earth was deep enough to slip into the next crease and back up again to sneak into surveillance position. And so it went for most of the morning, playing cat and mouse with this herd. I'd had enough of a look after a couple hours that I could see the better buck was one I should try for, and just needed to get close enough for a clean, steady shot.

As the relentless sun was starting to sear the back of my neck into a rosy burn, I made one more crawl down the dip in the landscape, crabbed and scuttled back up to where I dared rise higher than a belly crawl and was shocked to see the herd actually moving my way for a change, and now only 240 yards, according to my Leica rangefinder. I dared not move a muscle and only rotated my eyes around in their sockets, frantically searching for a bit of cover to hide my movements as I readied for a shot. Inching forward and dragging my rifle behind me, I tucked in behind a scraggly, dwarf creosote bush about 9 inches high and tried to get my bench-height bipod extended and my gun positioned.

With sweat dripping into my eyes, stinging with dusty salt, I moved as slowly as I could to line myself up and calm myself. My heart had abruptly decided to start beating too hard, and I wondered if that doe on the west end of the herd was glaring at me in alarm or curiosity. How can my glasses be fogging when it's 80 degrees out! *Cont. on page 8*

Arizona Smokepole Speedster cont. from page 7

Good gravy, it's hot. Settle down and get control, I whispered to myself, as I tried to clear my glasses without raising my profile above my 9-inch cover weed. I'm 47 years old and surely too damned old to get buck fever, I scolded myself again.

About the time I settled into a look through the crosshairs, the bigger buck was having a fit of frustration with the pestering young interloper, and he made a run at him with his head down and dust flying. It was a warning charge, but it brought him several yards closer to me, as I quickly brought up the Leica for a range check. The distance locked on twice at 223 yards. I asked myself if this is the buck I would be proud to put my once-in-a-lifetime Arizona antelope tag on, and easing out a long deep breath, watched my prize glaring in anger at his irritation trotting off to the north. Holding about 8 inches high off the elbow, squeezing, ever so smoothly. Life was suddenly in slow motion...

I heard the slug thump home, and through the cloud of smoke I could see my buck jump up and kick out a hind leg as he leaped to an abrupt stop only ten yards further. Standing splay-legged with his head hanging low, I knew he was done for. A quick confirmation look through the binoculars showed red in the right place, but I sat up and quickly reloaded as the herd sped off at the sight of my sudden appearance. Still standing, but dead on his feet, I dropped another round into him to end any suffering and he collapsed like a piano had fallen on him from the sky. I let out a whoop for everyone and no-one to hear, and raced over to my wonderful prize. He was heavier of horn and physically bigger than I had guessed, and I was ecstatic. I knelt in thanks and admiration, just soaking up the beauty of where I was and the gift of this beautiful animal before me. No, it just doesn't get any better than this.

After dragging out my tiny collapsible field tripod, I snapped a few pictures and sprinted back to the Jeep. Spread out on a blue plastic tarp, I had him dressed, quartered and in the cooler within a half hour with his head and cape covered with ice. Checking out of my motel room in Kingman, the clerk commented that it was already up to 97 degrees, but with the windows open and Jimmy Buffet on the CD, I sang aloud and happily soaked up the sweet scent of antelope filling my old Jeep for the long drive home. It was the best.

Author's note: After the official drying period, the antelope scored 78 6/8 B&C. That's easily high enough to qualify for the Longhunter Society (muzzleloader book) minimum of 66 and only a point and a fraction off the B&C book. Not only that, but for a gnarly old buck with horns sporting 7-inch bases and 15 inches of length, he ate pretty well too! Thank you Arizona, for a spectacular experience and a lifelong memory.

Awesome Auction cont. from page 1

"Hussey 500" raffle originated many years ago by his father Harry. New Life Member Harry Carlson won and then donated the \$500 back for a second draw! Thanks Harry! There was a bucket raffle, a general raffle, two silent auctions, a card raffle for a much-desired scoped rifle, a raffle especially for the ladies, several blitzes throughout the evening, and, of course, the live auction. The mood was relaxed, happy, and infectious. Many comments were heard along the lines of people not being able to remember when they had so much fun at a fundraiser. It was, indeed, special.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of plaques to all past presidents, all but two of whom were present, and the presentation of life member plaques.

Many people contributed to this event. Donations came out of the woodwork, from \$10 to thousands. AAF and the fundraiser committee wish to thank everybody who donated money, tangible items, or simply their time away from family and friends to make this first fundraiser such a phenomenal success. Every single donation was a welcome sight. We can't thank everybody who contributed to our cause, but several people need special recognition: Tim Tanner of Don's Sport Shop, Bruce Gibson of Sportsman's Warehouse, Jerry & Sandy Weiers, Alan Hamberlin, Charlie & Linda Kelly, Jim & Tracy Unmacht, Pete & Cathy Cimellaro, Bill Hook, the law firm of Gust Rosenfeld, and the law firm of Meagher & Geer, Minneapolis. Their donations of time, tangible items, and money were truly above and beyond what we could have hoped for.

We also need to thank the committee. These people were the heart and soul of this event and put way more than 100% into making it happen. Co-Chairs Larry Cullen and Nancy Lewis cannot thank the following people enough: Ignacio Beltram, Tom Boggess, Pete Cimellaro, Larry Erickson, Sue Foote, Ed Gammons, Nina Gammons, Jerry Guevin, Bill Hook, David Hussey, Harry Hussey, Don Johnson, and Bruce Johnson. Bill Keebler, Charlie Kelly, Dave Laird, Warren Leek, Connie Taylor, Jim Unmacht, Tracy Unmacht, and Chrissy Weiers,

Now we come to the most amazing part of the whole evening. All of the figures are not in at this time, but preliminary guesstimates have the grand total resting near \$70,000. When you stop to consider there were only 300 people in attendance, it averages out to nearly \$250 per person! We set out hoping against hope to get \$50,000 into the AAF coffers. The extreme generosity of all involved—worker bees, donors, attendees, spouses, and everybody else who played a part in this phenomenal fundraiser—we salute you. Mission accomplished, and then some.

“TIED” FOR THE BOOK

by Bill Keebler

The Boone and Crockett Club recently completed its 25th North American Big Game Awards and has recognized two first awards which are tied for the world record. Both pronghorn scored an even 95 and both came from Arizona.

The first one was taken by Dylan M. Woods on September 29, 2000 in Coconino County. This buck had horn length of 19 3/8 and 18 5/8 and base circumferences of 7 2/8 and 7 0/8.

The second was taken by Dr. David Meyer on August 9, 2002 in unit 13B in Mohave County. This buck had horn length of 17 2/8 and 17 2/8 and base circumferences of 7 2/8 and 7 2/8.



The Arizona Wildlife Trophies Annual Competition Awards for 2002 were presented at the Arizona Wildlife Federation annual convention luncheon on June 5th. David Meyer received the bronze for his 95 point buck. A. J. Renkema and Mark Roggenbuck received an honorable mention for their bucks that scored 87 6/8 and 86 6/8, both from unit 9. The Wildlife Trophy committee also met on June 5th and selected the Annual Competition Awards for 2003. Patrick Brewer will receive the bronze for his buck that scored 94 from unit 10. Shatarra Despaigne, Levi Wilson, Mel Risch, Jeffery May and Isaac Wilson will receive honorable mention awards. These awards will be presented next June.

Annual Competition awards are presented each year for pronghorn and most other species of big game in Arizona. In order to win the bronze award or an honorable mention award the trophy must be legally taken in Arizona in accordance with the Boone and Crockett Club rules of fair chase, during the competition year and the score chart must be received by the Arizona Wildlife Trophies Committee by May 1 of the following year.

The Boone and Crockett Club award minimum for pronghorn is 80 and their all time minimum is 82. The Arizona record book minimum for pronghorn is 80 points. Currently 7 of the top 10 Boone and Crockett Club pronghorn are from Arizona. If you have a big Pronghorn you ought to consider having it measured, and perhaps it will also make the record book.



AAF ANNOUNCES 2005 BOARD NOMINEES

By action of the AAF Board on 9/13/04, the following slate of officers and directors were nominated to serve in 2005.

President.....Jim Unmacht
Vice President...Dave Laird
Treasurer.....Jim Mehen
Secretary.....Bruce Johnson

Directors serving a term expiring on 12/31/06

Larry Erickson
Mike Perkinson
Sue Foote

Directors serving a term expiring on 12/31/05

Ignacio Beltram
Connie Taylor
Vacant Position

We still have one vacancy! Mark your calendar for November 8, 2004 for our Annual Meeting and Elections!



SHORT SHOTS

OCTOBER 16TH WORK PROJECT SONOITA

Following a day of fixing fences, the AAF will provide a Steak Dinner to all volunteers. A project flyer will be coming soon. Please be sure to check our website, www.azantelope.org for more details.

GRAHAM COUNTY FENCE UPDATE

The State Land Department has a meeting with Graham County officials at the end of September to hopefully set the stage to modify the “barrier” fence once and for all. The AAF has been watching this debacle closely, and keeping the pressure on State Land to remedy the problem. Graham County was given a deadline to acknowledge the problem and set about fixing it, so now we need to see some action! We’ll keep you posted on developments. Watch the website for more information.

AAF ADDS 2 NEW LIFE MEMBERS!!

Thanks to Jerry Weiers, Life Member #8 and Harry Carlson, Life Member #9, as our newest Life Members!

You too can join these Life Members and ensure your place amongst those that will always be remembered for helping us help Arizona’s pronghorn...for life!

Details can be found on our website under the Membership tab. Check it out today!

WORLD RECORD REPLICA

World Record holder Dr. David Meyer, Memphis, TN, generously donated a replica set of the original horns from his 2002 trophy to the Arizona Antelope Foundation. From them, a beautiful mount was created that will be used as a display at all of our clinics and events.

A cape was donated by Craig Pearson of Wildlife Images in Scottsdale, and David Hussey, Cave Creek.

Steve Favour of Signature Taxidermy in Flagstaff donated his artistic talent to capture this animal’s magnificence. Look for a photo on our website.

MONTOYA DECISION PLAYS HAVOC WITH BIG GAME DRAW...

Follow the proceedings and give your input! Check out the Game & Fish Website for details... www.azgfd.com

STATE TRUST LAND REFORM

Some of you know this was a hot item going into June, with some people clamoring for a Special Session of the State Legislature to address the proposal being put forth. The Special Session didn’t happen, and now the matter is off for 2004. The last word is it won’t be on the Spring Referendum Ballot either.

However, the “stakeholder” group that made the proposal apparently is contemplating some other action. As this plays out, we are participating in a Wildlife Conservation Council subcommittee to address sportsmen and wildlife concerns. Ironically, only one place in the lengthy document is wildlife even mentioned.

We will be working to either get a seat at the table to get our position and views included, or work towards our own direction to get these critical components addressed in any State Trust Land Reform package.

THANKS FOR THE DONATIONS!

- Steve Harrison, P.C. our new website sponsor
- To the MANY people and businesses who donated to our “First Ever” Fundraiser and also the 12th Annual Hunter Clinic
- Panoramic Press, Wolf Boehnk, and Cathy Somers for creating and printing our new membership brochures

2004 FALL DRAW RESULTS...

What happened? If you weren’t drawn for pronghorn in Arizona this fall, and most folks weren’t, you might wonder why? Here are a couple reasons why it is becoming increasingly difficult to hunt pronghorn in our great state...

- Permits plummeted and applications rose, again.
- There were only 872 pronghorn tags available in this year’s draw.
- There was a whopping 31,007 people that applied for a pronghorn tag! (27,200 residents and 3807 non-residents)

A few solutions...rain, predator control, habitat enhancement, front money for pronghorn tag at time of application, rain, habitat preservation, and for that matter, more rain.

There you have it; good luck next year, or say in Wyoming!



G&F PREDATOR STUDY

The Arizona Game and Fish Department is currently beginning a research project that will be ongoing for the next 2-3 years.

They will be placing in the field, scent stations. These stations will be in the following locations: Desert Scrub Habitat, Desert Grass Lands, Ponderosa Pines, Chaparral, Pinyon-Juniper and Great Basin Desert Scrub. The research in the desert areas will be conducted November - February and Pinion, Juniper, Ponderosa Pine and Great Basin Desert scrub areas will be conducted April - June. The stations will be in the following areas: Grand Canyon, Wilcox, Florence, Superior, Altar Valley, Bradshaw, Mazatzal and Pinal Mountains.

This project is part of a predator management study plan to monitor trends, populations, using number of visits index to relative abundance.

There will be 1200 scent stations, consisting of 120 lines. There will be 20 stations in each habitat scattered across the state. Each line will be three miles long with 10 stations in each transect. These stations will be right along side the road. There will be 20 transect lines in each habitat type, with transect lines set up at least 3 miles apart.

The stations will be a cleared circled area three foot in diameter. They will have thin layer of lime as a top coat. In the center will be a fatty acid scent tablet. This will be monitored and used to measure the rate of visitation by picking up the tracks in the lime.

What is your job as a sportsman? It is two fold, please make sure if you come across one of these stations you do not disturb the area. With that please let others know of this study so they two will not disturb or be alarmed if they come across a scent station.

WWW.AZANTELOPE.ORG

PRONGHORN TALES OF THE HUNT

We would love to hear your story, and are always looking for some good ones, especially since the vast majority of us won't be hunting pronghorn in Arizona! Help us remember what it's like! Email your story to us and include a couple photographs too. Send it to azantelope@cox.net.

RANCHERS, PUBLIC LAND & ACCESS

The AAF has had a good longstanding relationship with many Arizona ranchers, and for years we've counted many as supporters and members of our organization. We continue to do so.

We have also done dozens of work projects over the years on both public and private land for the benefit or pronghorn, with ancillary benefits going to both private landowners and public land holdings. Our Adopt-a-Ranch participation is a testament to those efforts and dedication. So with that as a backdrop, it's disturbing to see some problems brewing in Arizona's pronghorn country. An attorney from Prescott, representing some members of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association wrote a letter to Game & Fish this summer, literally "drawing a line in the prairie" when it comes to access to private and public land.

While we respect the rights of landowners to deny access to their private land, it's extremely disconcerting to see the closure of some of these access points to public land result in locked gates to State Trust Land, BLM land, and our National Forest Land.

We have had a cooperative co-existence for many years, and in a time of drought, a time when the pronghorn populations in Arizona, and the commensurate numbers of tags have plummeted, it's more than just disturbing! Frustration, disappointment, and anger are few of the descriptions I've heard. Some of the fortunate few who drew a tag fall into the "angry" category, and who can blame them?

Cool heads need to prevail here on both sides, but an immediate way for ranchers to regain some support for their concerns is to open the locked gates for sportsmen!

Conservation minded, ethical hunters have been the rancher's friend and partner for many years....and there is still some time to salvage that relationship! The AAF is watching the developments here closely, and remains willing to help and enhance the relationship as much as possible.

Editor

HAVE YOU SEEN THE ANDERSON MESA COLLARED PRONGHORN DATA?

Check it out on our website! The new GPS collars put on 7 pronghorn last November have provided some fascinating data, and they continue to yield some excellent information on movement and habits. It's also pretty cool to see!
www.azantelope.org



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SPORTSMAN'S CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS!

<i>WHAT?</i>	<i>WHEN?</i>	<i>WHERE?</i>
The Arizona Antelope Foundation Board Meetings	September 13 6:30 PM October 11 6:30 PM November 8 6:30 PM	The Phoenix Zoo 455 N. Galvin Parkway
The Wildlife Conservation Council Board Meetings	September 28 6:30 PM October 26 6:30 PM November 23 6:30 PM	AZ Game & Fish Department 2221 W. Greenway Rd
AAF Work Project	October 16th	Sonoita

If you have an upcoming event, send us the information at azantelope@cox.net.