

ARIZONA PREDATOR CALLERS
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 scott@francom.us
- Vice-President**
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 bda30@cox.net
- Secretary**
 Craig Barnett.....480-216-2166
 cbarnett5@cox.net
- Program Director**
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- Awards Chairman**
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 cbarnett5@cox.net
- Newsletter Editor**
 John Albin.....480-988-2188
 johnalbin1@msn.com
- Webmaster**
 Scott Francom.....480-330-5029
 scott@francom.us

Inside This Issue

- January Meeting Program.....2
 Membership Report.....2
 Treasurers Report.....2
 President's Message cont'd.....2
 Hunt Report.....3
 Hunt & Event Calendar.....3
 Video Library.....3
 Wikieup Predator Hunt.....4-5
 Multi-Club Hunt Notice.....6
 ATA Fur Sale Notice.....6
 Hunt Number 9.....7


Coming Events

- APC Meeting.....January 12, 2012
 Multi-Club Hunt.....January 21, 2012
 ATA Fur Sale.....February 18, 2012

Monthly APC meetings are held at the Mesa FOP Hall, 1450 E. Main Street, Mesa, from 7:00 pm until ??



PREDATOR'S PRIDE



ARIZONA PREDATOR CALLERS

January 2012 APC P.O. Box 1172 Mesa, AZ 85211-1172

The President's Message

by **Scott Francom, APC President**



With the moratorium on new regulations being lifted, the Arizona Game and Fish Department quickly helped push through 2 significant changes. First they lifted the ban on shooting mountain lions with shot. Second they permitted hunting at night for coyotes and mountain lions in limited areas. Both of these amendments to the previously released regulations were initiated to aide antelope, white tail and mule deer, elk, and big horn sheep populations rebound.

When the regulations changed I began making some phone calls and sending e-mails to some individuals I know from California and Texas on some good quality yet economical equipment. More than one person mentioned the Elusive Wildlife Technologies night lights to me. This is a light setup you attach to the top of your rifle/shotgun. The light comes in a few different bulb colors (red or green), 2 LC 18650 2400mAh 3.7 volt rechargeable batteries, cigarette light charger, 2 pressure on/off switches, 2 different types of rifle/shotgun mounts, and the light itself.



After mulling it over for full 10 minutes I purchased the red bulb light setup (XLR-250) online for \$140 with free shipping. A few days later it came in the mail and a few days later I ventured out to try my hand at night calling. I decided on unit 37B as it was the closest night hunting unit to my home. I would be limiting myself to just lions in 37B but I was more interested, this first time, to learning the process of calling in animals at night rather than shooting at them.

At 9:00 PM I parked my truck in a wash and walked around the side of a small hill in an effort to get away from the dirt road traffic. I was looking for a place to sit on the side of the hill with a cleared out field of view in front of me. This was tough to find and I finally settled for a location which permitted me to see an area about 75 yards long by 40 yards wide. I placed my Minaska Outdoors electronic caller in a bush in the middle of the open area.

The night was perfectly calm, with absolutely no noise whatsoever. The lights from the valley were far away and the night sky was full of twinkling stars. It was a very calm yet spooky feeling sitting there alone. I began with a baby cottontail distress sound at low volume and gradually increased. Every 60 seconds I would sweep the area with the red light quickly making sure to bathe the terrain with the halo of the light rather than directly shining the red lens on the ground. After 4

continued on page 2

Membership Report

Thanks to the following members for renewing their memberships:

Robert LaVoie
Devan Vowell

We would like to welcome new member:

John Davis of Mesa

to the Arizona Predator Callers.

Please renew your APC membership before it expires. You don't want to miss a single issue of Predator Pride. The membership form is available on the last page of the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report

Checking Account Balance	
Beginning Balance 12-01-11...	\$1,322.96
Deposit - memberships.....	\$90.00
Deposit - AGFD Grant.....	\$5,000.00
12/31/11 end balance.....	\$6,412.96
Petty Cash Beginning Balance....	\$74.91
Merchandise.....	\$0.00
Dues Received.....	\$0.00
Raffles Received.....	\$0.00
Deposit to Checking.....	(\$0.00)
Petty Cash Ending Balance.....	\$79.91
Total cash.....	\$6,492.87
Total Inventory of Goods.....	\$2,117.75
Total Assets.....	\$8,610.62

January Meeting Program

“New Rules from AZGF and Wolves”

Our first APC meeting of 2012 will have **Ron Day** from Arizona Game and Fish Department as our guest speaker. Ron will go over some of the newest rulemaking that has taken place. **Dick Snell** will be on hand to talk about the Canadian and Mexican Gray Wolf and their impact on the ecosystem.

The Arizona Predator Callers meeting is on **Thursday, January 12, 2012 at 7:00 PM.**

The meeting will be held at the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #9 at 1450 E. Main Street, Mesa. The FOP Lodge is on the north side of Main Street between Stapley and Gilbert Road in Mesa.

The meeting is free to APC members and students under 18, and \$5 for non-members. Refreshments and door prizes are included in the admission price.

Please contact Mike Burris, APC Vice-President, at (480) 654-1411 if you have any questions.

President's Message continued:

minutes as I panned the light across the brush a set of eyes was glowing back in the darkness. I had a nice sized gray fox sitting at about 75 yards. It was in no hurry to come into the call and just sat there staring at the caller. I watched it through my Leupold scope for 15 seconds before he slipped back into the foliage.

Second stand I sat on a stool with my .22-250/night light pointed down a wash. Just as I turned on the caller the red light caught what looked like a coyote running toward the caller about 25 yards away. I was never able to confirm exactly what the animal was as by the time I got my face down to the scope and fumbled with the bipod the creature of the night veered off into the brush never to appear again.

Third stand I was about a half of a mile away in yet another wash. I was having a tough time finding a relatively flat piece of ground to call into. I ended up calling washes as it gave me an obstacle free flat ground to shoot but quite narrow. An animal could run into the wash, meet up with my caller and exit without me even knowing it had shown up. I started swinging my light every 30 seconds. Three minutes into the stand and immediately to my right about fifteen yards I heard an animal running into the stand. It sounded like a coyote but it never entered the wash for some reason.

Stand 4 was another wash. I called for 20 minutes and ended the stand having not seen a single pair of eyes.

By 12:30 AM I called it quits having decided the experiences was quite educational to both myself and unfortunately the predators I called in.

I learned a few key lessons. #1- The concept of being quiet going to your stand and setting up is increased twenty fold at night. Every single sound I made seems to be amplified. By the time I was ready to begin calling I felt as though every creature of the night knew exactly where I was and what I was doing.

#2- You need to visit the area you are going to call during the day to get a good lay of the land. At night it all looks different and I found myself putting in way too much time driving looking for a suitable spot than I would ever waste in the daytime.

#3- Calling at night put me on edge. I felt jumpy at any sound and was quick to shine the beam of light at the slightest indication I had company. I would imagine that time spent calling in these conditions will lessen the constant flow of adrenaline and in time it will even become routine.

I look forward to many nights spent in pursuit of lions and coyotes at night. I am glad we've been given the opportunity to have yet another method of taking Arizona's elusive predators.

Scott

Hunt Report

by Dusty Mosier, Hunt Chairman



Hope all of you had a great Christmas, mine was pretty hectic with no hunting involved.

Our next club activity is the Multi-Club hunt on 21 January. We need maximum participation if we hope to win it. See page 6 of this newsletter for more information on the check in location. The check-in is from 7 to 9 pm. If there are any changes to this we will put it out at the meeting.

The next major hunt is Antelope Eaters on 3-4 March in Seligman. If you wish to hunt this hunt please see me for more information.

Please keep up with your hunt records, as I will be asking for them in April.

Be Safe, Have Fun, Shoot to Kill !

DUSTY

APC Video Library

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

- 9/9/10 Bob Allen.....Calling Coyotes
- 1/13/11 Seraphim Moreira.....Coyote Behavior
- 1/13/11 Christian Ensley.....Deer Processing II
- 1/13/11 Seraphim Moreira.....Eyes Front 3
- 5/12/11 Travis Bradford..Free Grass & No Fences
- 10/13/11 John Albin.....Fooling with Foxes
- 10/14/10 Greg Malenfant.....Mastering Predator
- 1/13/11 Ruben Fuentes.....The Best of the West

Thanks *Jerry*

Hunt and Events Calender

- General Meeting of APC.....January 12, 2012
- Multi-Club Hunt / Novice Hunt #3.....January 21, 2012**
- General Meeting of APC.....February 9, 2012
- ATA Fur Sale, Globe.....February 18, 2012
- Antelope Eaters Hunt.....March 3-4, 2012**
- General Meeting of APC.....March 8, 2012
- Save-A-Fawn APC Club Hunt.....March 31, 2012**
- General Meeting of APC.....April 12, 2012
- General Meeting & Awards Presentations.....May 10, 2012

Please get these dates and events onto your calendar.
Club hunting events are in red type.
 Dates and events are subject to change.

All APC Board meetings are held on the last Monday of each month. Any APC member is welcome to attend.

The word "coyote" is derived from the Nahuatl (a people found in central Mexico) word "coyotl." The coyote's scientific name, *Canis latrans*, means "barking dog."



If you have a picture of your hunt, please share it with fellow APC members by sending it to the Predator Pride editor. Send to: johnalbin1@msn.com

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 Mesa, AZ 85215
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Name Brand Clubs <- Custom Clubs
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Stan Schepers has an open invitation to APC members or prospective members for one-on-one training on skinning and preparing your fur for sale. Stan can be reached at 602-499-0505.

A.J.I. Sporting Goods

Buy, Sell & Trade

Firearms * Knives * Ammo

Jeff Serdy, APC Member

10444 E. Apache Trail 480-984-8616
 Apache Jcnctn, AZ 85220 Fax 480-984-8630

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Wikieup Extreme Predator Hunt

by John Arterburn

I wanted to give you an update on the Wikieup Extreme Predator Hunt. The hunt was held December 3rd and 4th.

I had two friends who were going but ended up not going, so I drove up alone Friday night. I got into town about 9:00pm and decided to drive around and do some scouting as I have read from long time hunters and as Mike B. has mentioned. For those who have not been to Wikieup it is about 1 mile long with a couple gas stations, a few more buildings and a handful of homes off the highway, with ranches back in further. They have more coyotes than people in the area.

The first place I stop to run my siren call is a mile north and 1.5 miles west of town. I have tried this siren on my dogs and the coyotes that live in my neighborhood, they all respond. I am in the pitch black and I let her go and what do you think happens? I have coyotes on both sides of the road answering. They sound close enough if I had picked up a rock, Game and Fish would have fined me for night hunting. It sounds like two on the north side and three or more on the south side of the road.

I do this for three hours in a five to ten mile radius of the town, with no other responses. I am trying to stay close since the town needs help. I go back to the first area where I get the response and park to sleep in the back of my truck about a quarter mile away. I get up the next morning and try a couple stands where I called the night before. No luck on my side, it was all on their side. It started raining early Saturday morning then started a light hail and it was cold. I thought great weather for a lazy coyote. With no luck twice I walk the area and find some things that I think are an education.

1. I grew up in Tucson with the desert across the street from my house now I feel like a kid again. The only thing missing is my dogs and my shotgun. I realize my .243 needs a shotgun companion for this type desert close to town. Paul's Binnelie Nova would have been nice, had I seen something.
2. Fresh tracks and scat, from coyote and deer. I realize the coyote are taking the path of water, or least resistance i.e. sandy washes. The deer will go any where but the coyotes follow the washes like freeways.
3. I find two dens walking down one of their sandy freeways. They have dug them from the wash not the hillside. This way the dirt or sand has fallen into the wash so from above you cannot

see the hole. Very smart.

4. I am emailing and texting Scott and Mike B. as I go though out the trip hoping for advice, which they give.
5. I find my trucks camper shell has a leak right over my sleeping bag.

Well the rest of the day goes like this. I go from low desert at 40 degrees to high desert of 29 degrees with deer tracks in the snow. It is a beautiful area, you have to visit if you have not. I get 20 miles away in the back country over a snow pass and find a mining area. Now I had to go to the bathroom something fierce for a few hours. I forgot where my toilet paper was (later to find it in the bottom of my pack). I do not find any brush I can use in the low desert so when I see the abandoned shacks I know I have hit pay dirt or should I say pay wipes, mission accomplished.

My truck slides off a trail to the side, and I think well this is as good a place as any to camp for the night. I was not going to walk over the snow pass in the dark. A little time and several bolders in the right places and the truck is back on the trail. I get to the check-in at 7:00pm and they ask which team I am. I tell them I am it. They ask where is my paper work, and I reply what paperwork? The paperwork to preregister is what they are looking for, which I had no idea I was supposed to do. Well I pay up and talk with Tom Blum who says to say hello to everyone and wants to know when we are going to have a meeting in Kingman because they know you put on great meetings and have great speakers. That night one team brought in for coyotes and another two with a fox. There are 17 teams and me. Tom wants to hold this every year moving forward. Looking at the country I think they could it.

I mention the coyotes the night before and the lady who runs the KOA said Saturday morning at 4 am five of them were sitting in front of the KOA. I can't believe I drive 20 miles west of town, when the coyotes I called the night before came to KOA for a show down. Again they were smarter than me, think about it, they are sitting out there on the road tapping their paws. They're thinking well he called us last night for a shoot out, so where is he is, the chicken. One of the guys who lives there asks if I will hunt right behind the town because the coyote feast on their cats all the time. By now you know this guy does not know who he is talking to. Well I say okay I will. Now Tom tells me I may have camped too close the night before to my first stand. I have a Powerstroke which we all know are known for being

Wikieup Predator Hunt cont'd

silent.

I drive back to the old neighborhood, mile by mile and half away. Run the siren and the coyotes call back yes we are here and where were you this morning. Talk about adding insult to injury, they did it. In the morning I drive behind the town and you should see the sanding freeways. It is flat desert behind the town and every sanding wash is loaded with fresh tracks. Now we have deer, coyote, and big cat tracks. I setup a few stands, in the wash and out of it and up in an large Palo Verde with, no luck. It is time to leave to come back home to reality so I head down the highway. As I am driving I am doing one of those things that Mike B. and I talked about. You know where you are looking as you drive thinking man that looks like a good area. As I have been know to say, well. Well I can't resist Burro Creek road to the east. I have to tell you it is one of the most beautiful areas I have seen. I drive back in 20 miles and decide I have to go home. On my way back I stop and run my caller from these huge vistas. At one stop I spot an eight point Mule deer and watch him through my scope. As he starts to walk I hit the grey fox call and he stops. Now this guy is all hoof drive and this is where I decide coyotes minimize their energy in the quiet sandy washes while the deer are just the opposite. The deer was walking down a wash followed by cattle. The cattle stay in the wash and the deer is in and out of the wash.

Well the two days helped me sort out my gear and how to move in the field without making noise. It has been many years since I hunted and I love this type of hunting and the value it brings to the people who ask for the help. This is my seventh trip out this season and I learn something with each trip. With somethings you do, after you are done you feel burned out and ready for a break. This is not the case with predator hunting, I hate to leave the field each time.



Wikieup terrain



Had to go over this mountain before determining I should come back to make the check in Saturday night.



Getting into the snow.

John Arterburn can be reached at: johna@ppace.biz



Multi-Club Hunt

The annual Multi-Club Hunt will be held January 21, 2012. This is the big one that all of our APC members need to make a great effort and attend. Bragging rights for the state are determined by this hunt. We will be competing against all of the predator hunting clubs in Arizona.

Last year's winner was XPC who will be hosting the check in and barbbque this year.

The check in will **NOT** be at the same location as last year. **New location** is 1 mile west of the US 93 and 71 intersection off of 71 on the south side of the highway.

US 93 is the road from Wickenburg to Kingman. 71 is approximately 18 miles North West of Wickenburg on the 93. Take 71 West toward Aguila. One mile west of the intersection on the south side of the highway is a large open area. Look for the lights on the trailers. Check in will be from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

Map to Multi-Club Hunt Check In



Arizona Trappers Association Fur Sale

The Arizona Trappers Association fur auction is coming Saturday, February 18th. It will be held at the Gila County Fairgrounds, 3 miles north of Globe on State Route 77/US 60. Check in time is 10:00 A.M. Saturday. The auction will start around noon. You can bring in your furs Friday evening. I will be setting up the building for the auction Friday afternoon. If you can call or email me in your fur numbers or if you have any questions. Buyers want to know what furs we have and how many. My number is 480-970-5904 or email me mjwildlife1@yahoo.com. Also, I talked to **Stan Schepers** and he will be able to bring up your furs to the auction if you can not make it there yourself. His phone number is 602-499-0505.

Thank you. **Mike Huffer** ATA fur manager

Hunt Number 9

by John Arterburn

A couple weeks after the Wikieup hunt I had to run up to Pinetop to winterize our trailer and thought this could be hunt number nine of the season.

On the way up and back I was watching for areas to stop on the way back into town to call for predators. I got up to Pinetop and the weather was cool with about a foot of snow on the ground. I had to put up plastic over the porch screens to keep the snow out and add two support timbers in the family room to support the snow load. The whole time I am working I am thinking about where and what to call on the way home. Do I call fox in the rocks just after the Fours Peaks turn off by Sahuaro Lake. Do I call coyote along the way home on highway 260 between Pinetop and Payson?

As I was crossing though the area between Showlow and Heber you see miles of meadow where forest had been before a lost couple started a signal fire. That fire took out much of Heber because the rescue squads had to decide to fight it or let it burn and save the Showlow to Pinetop area. Everything has made a comeback with the trees to follow in a few decades.

Well I thought predators would live in the pine groves that survived and hunt these meadows. I tried an area where we had let our dogs run months earlier. The truck had good traction in the snow. I have had trips where I got stuck driving off the highway 10 feet, and understood why the Northwestern Native Americans have so many names for snow. After a mile of this I thought I would find another forest road that had been blazed by someone else. I take provisions to spend a few days when ever I go out, plan for the worst and hope for the best.

I next took the turnoff to Pinedale heading north off the 260. A couple miles up the road I found a forest road that had been traveled with a keep gate closed sign. I thought okay live stock means predators so in I went. After a mile or two of mud and snow I found an area I liked. I was on an eastern slope looking into a meadow to the west with the wind blowing from the south to the north.

I drove up a slope on a trail that had not been driven so it was snow covered. I get out of the truck and survey the area some more. Pines above my truck heading east, with juniper I can sit next to in the shade of the tree. The meadow has scattered juniper and a stand of pines across it 250 yards away to the northwest. I am in fresh snow.

I setup my Foxpro Scorpion caller with a Mojo decoy about 20 yards downhill toward the meadow from my juniper. I sprayed coyote urin around me and over by my caller. I started calling with a coyote locator which is a pack of coyotes then a lightening jack in distress. I waited and

watched then called and did this for about 30 minutes with luck.

At the end of the 45 minutes I packed up and walked back to my truck about 30 yards way and heard a coyote call from across the meadow. At this point I am thinking how I do have to sit in a stand up north. Down close to home if they are coming it is within 10 minutes. I remember talking with Paul Melching about time in a stand. He had mentioned up north give them more time because they may be much further away. At this point I think this coyote must have running from the New Mexico border.

I walk into a triangle of junipers next to my truck and start my caller which is in my fishnet pocket. No luck, I figure they are in the stand of pines and juniper across the meadow now watching me, so I turn around to my truck. As I walk to the truck I see some tracks and follow them.

While I am watching across wind to the west a coyote or more had come down the hill from the east out of the pines. Remember I drove up into fresh snow. The tracks come down the hill over to my truck. They then come over toward me around a juniper and look as if they have bedded down or at least sat down of the side facing me. The snow is fresh so it is very quiet to walk in and the tracks are very easy to make out. It's is a long drive home so rather than follow the tracks I pack up to come home.

On the way home I go over all the events of the day in my mind. Like anything new you are learning like drinking from a fire-hose, it comes pretty fast if you are open minded to everything and everyone. Thinking about this stand many things come to mind. A forest ranger told me he did his masters thesis on coyote vocalizations. The ranger said he had identified close to 70 different ones. Well what did the loan howl across the meadow mean when I got to my truck after all that time with no other responses. How long had they sat or laid behind me? This cemented in my mind a hunt buddy sitting behind me is a great value.

Each trip I go home empty handed I realize how much the guys bagging coyotes know and how much I have learned and yet to learn. Each trip provides valuable lessons and is rewarding beyond words. I feel at home in the outdoors of AZ. In the army while stationed in Washington state I could not wait to get back here. The other guys thought I was crazy standing in the middle of the rain forest talking about AZ. You and I know what we have hear so let them question my sanity without answering why I missed this country. That thirty years ago and I still feel the same enthusiasm today.

John

Arizona Predator Callers - Membership Application

Name: _____ Hm Phone: _____ Wk Phone: _____
Address: _____ Fax #: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ DOB: _____
email address: _____

ARIZONA PREDATOR CALLERS LIABILITY RELEASE: by signing below I understand that I will not hold APC and/or APC board of directors, officers, committee Members, Judges, Members, and volunteers responsible in any way for accidents, losses, judgments, or any Act of God that may happen while participating in any APC sponsored or co-sponsored meeting or event. APC policy is to promptly report to law enforcement all suspected abuse and sexual molestation. Have you been convicted of a Crime? ____Yes ____No.

Signature: _____

Additional Family Members

Name: _____ Relationship: _____ DOB: _____
Name: _____ Relationship: _____ DOB: _____
Name: _____ Relationship: _____ DOB: _____

Primary Annual Membership.....\$30.00
Family Membership add \$5.00.....\$35.00
Lifetime Individual Membership.....\$350.00

New Membership
 Renewal

Amount Enclosed _____

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

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P.O. Box 1172
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Address Correction Requested

