



THE RAM'S HORN

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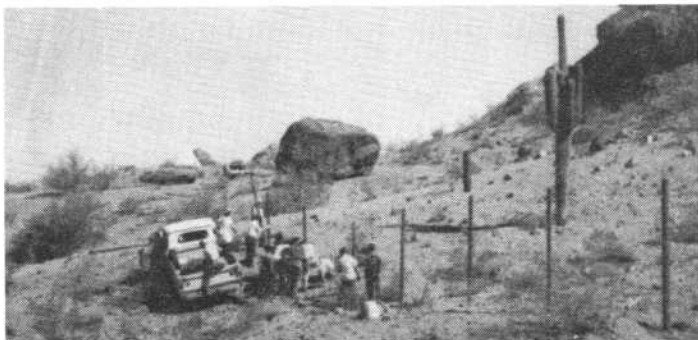
OPPORTUNITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

The Secretary/Treasurer needs an ad hoc committee of two people to help complete the Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Post Office forms and processing to acquire a nonprofit organization status for the Society. This project will require a few hours a week during the next three months and will result in low-cost postal rates for our mailings. Currently our postage runs between \$400 to \$500 per year and by establishing the nonprofit status we will be able to save approximately \$300 per year. Needless to say, we need to save these dollars!

The two people we are looking for should have some background in accounting or law or just plain willingness to tangle with red tape and paperwork. If you would like to serve on this committee or desire further information - please call Rick Brigham, 261-4231 (office phone). Your help will be appreciated.



As is typical with any large project, problems are encountered along the way. Here John Houzenga (center, with white hat) and Harry Hazlett (leaning on the back of the truck) are consulting how to solve a construction problem. All problems were solved and the project was finished in record time. Both photos on this page by Cecil La Vance.



The Society members turned out in force for the Zoo Project. This photo shows the "fence gang" hard at work setting posts.

PHOENIX ZOO PROJECT REPORT

The Zoo Project is nearing completion with the official dedication slated for 21 May 1972.

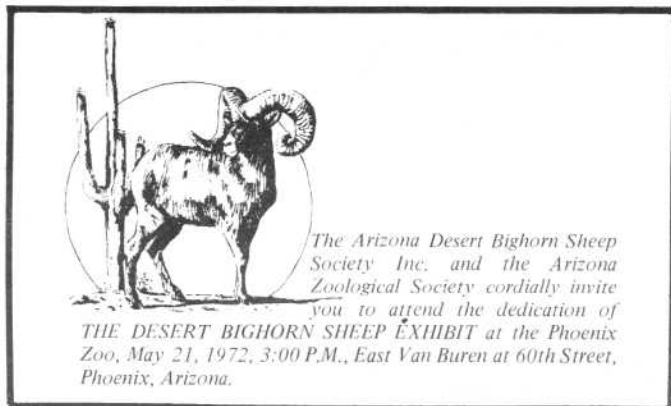
An impressive effort went into this project: a total of 152 posts were set, 10 tons of sucker rods were used to reinforce the fence and 1600 feet of wire mesh fence was strung. In addition, a water catchment was constructed, a cave was excavated and two butting posts were placed within the enclosure. The enclosed area measured 3.5 acres. The total weight of the material was 44.5 tons.

This project was accomplished in a record breaking four-and-a-half weekends by 57 Society members providing 1354 manhours of labor. The total material cost was \$3,308.54.

The above statistics represent only the effort expended at the site. Nobody really knows the number of hours nor the personal effort that went into the planning, coordination and other details required to execute this project.

Many individuals deserve recognition for their part in this project; however, the leadership and inspiration provided by John Houzenga, Louis Coor, and Harry Hazlett made it all happen.

The Society is proud of this accomplishment and expresses its thanks to all the participants for a job well done.



SAUCEDA MOUNTAIN POTHOLE

by Doug Reynolds

A week-end of extra warm weather prevailed for the fourth waterhole project of the season. Sixteen Society members met Friday night, March 3, at the Circle K Market near the west end of Gila Bend. After catching-up on the latest news, we proceeded south toward Ajo. About 15 miles down the road we were met by Jim Meyer of the Arizona Game and Fish Department. After only one wrong turn, Jim led us four miles east to the base camp.

The normal Friday night campfire was full of laughter and lengthy discussions regarding the first Desert Bighorn sheep at the Phoenix Zoo and the Society's sheep enclosure project.

Arizona Game and Fish Department leadership was provided by:

Dan Schadle	Dean Mace
Don Belknap	Jim Meyer
Fred Sjarto (Guest)	

Society participants included

Dave Wilder	Cecil LaVance
Joe Gundry	Joe Bormanis
Bob Gray	George Hill
Joe Kane	Ken Grammer
Gale Grammer	Harry Hazlett
John Houzenga	Frank Murphy
Ed Shannahan	Tom Kirstein
Doug Reynolds	Jim Stephenson

Sunrise Saturday found us cooking breakfast and preparing to climb the mountain. From base camp it was a short ride to where the foot trail began. A twenty minute hike led us to the base of a steep canyon where the materials had been stored. The Game and Fish Department's burro Junior and the new addition Little Buck (a mule) carried the materials to this point.

From this point, it was about a quarter of a mile up a steep canyon to the project. The materials, which included 30 bags of pre-mix mortar, 4 bags of aluminite, 4 bags of thoro-seal and 3 gallons of acril-60 were backpacked up the mountain. You haven't lived until you carry a 75-pound bag of mortar up a mountain in 80° plus weather. We thought of it as a good exercise and kept smiling. New members Dave Wilder and Tom Kirstein each carried seven bags. Thank goodness for strong bags.

The dam site consisted of one natural waterhole (with water in it) and two likely looking areas about 50 feet downstream. We spent the morning clearing a tree, rocks and dirt from the lower site using dynamite, picks and shovels only to find a crack in the bottom of the basin that we were sure went to China.

We quickly shifted positions 20 feet up the wash to a good rock basin which could be dammed to hold a good size body of water. The rock face, where the dam was to be built, was drilled to hold reinforcement rod with the aid of a gas powered jack hammer. A dam measuring 15 feet long, 30 inches high and 2 feet thick was constructed using natural rock and 30 bags of pre-mix mortar. The G and F estimated the catchment would retain 2000 gallons of water.

While the dam was being constructed, another crew worked on the natural waterhole. Plans called for blasting a ramp into the hole to increase its capacity and provide safer entry and exit for the animals. It took two earth shaking blasts using a total of 11 sticks of dynamite to obtain the desired shape. Harry Hazlett

spent the rest of the day in hip waders mucking-out the hole. The hole, measuring three feet deep, was estimated to hold 750 gallons of water.

The trip down the mountain was hot and when we got to camp all you could hear was pop-top cans. As usual, dutch oven biscuits were provided by John Houzenga and Joe Kane. Campfires didn't last long — everyone was willing to retire early.

Sunday morning we went back up the mountain to put the finishing touches on the dam. Four bags of thoro-seal were used to cap the face of the dam to make it watertight. Ed Shannahan and George Hill received a lesson from professional Bob Gray in the proper use of a trowel.

In the process of removing dirt and rocks from the site, another crack was discovered. This crack was in the bottom of the hole but did not appear to be as serious as the previous one. To ensure proper sealing, the crack was thoroughly cleaned, painted with acril-60 and two bags of the gooiest black aluminite were mixed and poured in.

Holes were drilled in the rocks around the project to allow construction of a sun shade. The shade will be a project for the future.

The area was properly cleaned and we headed down the mountain. Just before leaving, Don Belknap remembered that we had not named the project. Joe Kane came up with "Black Bottom Tank" which gained the approval of everyone involved.

Sunday afternoon, while men and equipment were available, a small crew — John Houzenga, Harry Hazlett, Jim Stephenson, Tom Kerstein and Frank Murphy, led by Dean Mace and Jim Meyer — went to work on Thanksgiving Tank which is in the same range of mountains. This project used 2½ sticks of dynamite to blast a ramp into the tank. This tank holds 3 feet of water.

Although no sheep were sighted, the area had very good sheep sign. A good time was had by all.

BOX CANYON TANK PROJECT

by Doug Reynolds

At the end of the longest and dustiest road we can remember lay the fifth waterhold project of the year. Twelve members of the Society met at the Gulf station west of Buckeye on Friday night, March 24, and after catching up with the latest news

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proceeded toward Clanton Hills. This range is west of Buckeye beyond the Eagletail Mountains. It took us 2½ hours over the dustiest road in all of Arizona to reach the base camp.

Waiting at the base camp were our good friends and project leaders from the Arizona Game and Fish Department Don Schadle, Dean Mace, Don Belknap and Jim Meyer.

The Friday night campfire discussions centered around the next day's project. The Game and Fish Department advised us that this project would take at least two weekends. We wondered what could possibly be so tough because earlier this year we finished another large project in record time. As it turned out, they were sure right about this one!

After a crack-of-dawn breakfast, we headed for the project. Society members were:

Tom Kerstein	Harry Hazlett
Joe Kane	Bill Snyder
Joe Gundry	Jerry Petkovsek
Ed Shannahan	Fred Peters
Cecil LaVance	Doug Reynolds

For the first time this year we were pleased to find that the project site was an easy 300 yards from the base camp.

We were told that the location was discovered by Mr. John Russo about 20 years ago. The project called for clearing large boulders, gravel and dirt from a narrow box canyon, building a dam across the opening of the canyon and building two silt diversion traps above the canyon.

Clearing work started for the foundation of the silt traps. At the same time, the pneumatic jack hammer started pecking away at the boulders in the canyon. After six holes were drilled, it was dynamite time. We made small rock out of boulders all day. A total of 35 sticks of dynamite were used on the project.

About the time the canyon was cleared, Don Schadle noticed a large ledge of rocks on the face of the canyon that appeared ready to drop into the dam site. Our better judgement told us to blast these rocks off the side to prevent possible problems in the future when the falling rocks could ruin the dam. After we finished, there were more boulders in the bottom than at the start. By dinner time we did have something to show for our efforts: a wire mesh, rock filled silt diversion dam 21 feet long, 3 feet high and 2 feet thick.

A stiff wind came up about dinner time but that didn't spoil the stew. Everybody pitched in and peeled carrots, onions and potatoes for the finest old fashioned dutch oven stew that ever graced a camp table. Dutch oven biscuits with strawberry jam were also served.

Sunday morning we finished the stew and started work again. More blasting to clear the boulders and we completed the second silt diversion trap. This trap was 11 feet ^{high} 4 feet high and 2 feet thick. By noon the canyon had been cleared of all the rocks. It was estimated that 5 tons of the heaviest rock had to be moved. The canyon was ready for a dam but it was too late to start.

We broke camp and headed for town. In the list of materials used for this project we have to list fifty yards of skin and fifty gallons of sweat, but we are looking forward to the return trip next year to build the biggest and best dam in the desert.

All 1972 Projects are now completed. The Editor wishes to express his thanks to all who contributed project write-ups for the Ram's Horn. Keep up the good work and keep the write-ups, letters, and photos coming!

FINAL WATERHOLE PROJECT 1972 RAM SPRING-KINGMAN

by Ed Shannahan

Due to the large number of Society members required to construct the sheep enclosure at the Phoenix Zoo, it was decided that only a small detail of men were needed for the final waterhole project.

Friday night, April 15th, found Joe Kane, Ted Harris and myself heading for Kingman. We arrived at the Game and Fish Department office around 11 p.m. Don Belknap of G&F had arrived and after many questions and a sociable drink we all hit the sack. Early next morning Mike Mell and Ron Bowers of Phoenix met us and we all went to have breakfast at the local restaurant. George Welsh (Kingman G&F) and Ed Higgins from Kingman joined us for coffee. After coffee we headed for the catchment area which was about 30 miles away.

The first inspection had revealed that there were several small seeps coming out of the side of the mountain and had formed small pools. The mud was polluted and showed burro use. While further exploring we discovered 20 or more sheep beds on the mountain above the water seeps. This gave us inspiration to start on the water hole.

In developing the water hole we dug the mud out to a solid rock bottom and built a 2 foot high by 7 foot long rock and mortar dam. The rock for the construction was found close by but because of the lack of water and limited working space we decided to mix the concrete at the camp site (which was approximately 1/4 mile away) and back packed the mixed concrete up to the dam site. Most of this work was completed by late Saturday p.m. Then we all had a chance to go exploring for Bighorn Sheep. There were lots of fresh and old signs but none of us saw any sheep.

Saturday night campfire was a fun affair, as usual, with hors d'oeuvres of smoked clams and oysters and kipper snacks followed by cowboy steaks and biscuits. Naturally, all we talked about was sheep.

Sunday morning we went up to waterproof and seal the dam. We had a pleasant surprise when we found that about 10 gallons of water had seeped in during the night. It appeared that it took 15 hours to collect the 10 gallons of water. WOW! This didn't seem to be much but from these few drops of water we hoped to eventually fill this dam.

May 1st (3 weeks later)

Don Belknap (Ariz. G&F) called me today. George Welsh (Kingman G&F) had phoned him and reported that he had visited Ram Spring over the weekend. George said that everything must have been done correctly because the dam was filled and even a small trickle of water was running over the top. HORRAY! We expected this catchment to hold about 150 gallons of water and at this time of the year and without rain for months this is tremendous. Thanks to Rick Brigham who found this seep while scouting for Bighorn Sheep last November.

With this project ends the season for catchment building and hopefully with the cooperation and the assistance of the G&F Dept. the Society will be looking forward to the 1973 season, more Friday night "socials", "understanding" wives and tall tales of the West.

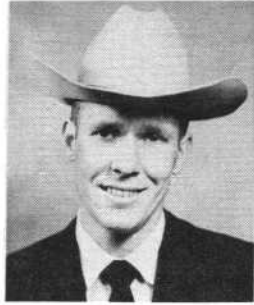
LEGISLATIVE CORNER

From time to time under this corner, Ram's Horn will publish legislative information of interest to membership.

ELDON "BUCK" BUCKNER

Legislative Chairman

Buck, a Range Conservationist for the Blue Ridge District of the Coconino National Forest, has been the Legislative Chairman for the Society since September of 1969. He was born in Armstrong, Missouri and has lived in Arizona for the past 17 years.



Buck received his B.S. in Range Management from the University of Arizona in 1964 and has pursued graduate work at Eastern New Mexico University. His avocations include hunting and fishing, outdoor writing, flying and collecting double shotguns. Buck has taken seven of the Arizona Big Ten game species. Also, he has competed in competitive rifle shooting with .22 and 30 caliber, winning over 40 medals and trophies.

Buck is affiliated with the Trophy Book Committee, and is the official measurer for Boone and Crockett Club, Associate Member of Ducks Unlimited, Member of National Rifle Association, Member of Society of Range Management, Chairman of I & E Committee for Arizona Section of the Wildlife Society and Member of Coconino Sportsmen's Club.

H. B. 2366

House Bill 2366 was introduced into Arizona's Thirtieth Legislature, providing for the establishment of a state Department of Natural Resources.

Under the proposed bill many existing state agencies would be transferred into the new department, including the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

In contrast to a letter to the Society from Ray Everett, State Representative (Prescott-R) and Chairman of the House State

Government Committee, which stated that his committee recommended NO changes in the responsibilities or duties of the Game & Fish Commission, House Bill 2366 not only does not provide for the Commission but places the Game and Fish Department at the sole mercy of the Director of the Department of Natural Resources.

Concerned Arizona sportsmen may be interested in the following provisions of the bill:

1. The direction, operation and control of the Department, (meaning the Department of Natural Resources) is the responsibility of the Director.
2. The Director is appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate and serves at the pleasure of the Governor.
3. The Director may establish, abolish or reorganize the positions, organizational units, or divisions within the Department, if in his judgement such modification of organization would make the operation of the Department more efficient, effective, or economical.

It does not take a mental giant to see that this proposition rather plainly states that the Governor, through political appointment of the Director of the proposed Department of Natural Resources, would completely control all agencies included in the new Department. What representation the average sportsman now enjoys through the present 5 member Game and Fish Commission could be eliminated in a moment at the whim of the Director or Governor.

Another disturbing point is that under the new organization, hunting and fishing license fees would go into the general fund rather than be earmarked for use by the Game and Fish Department as they are now. With loss of financial independence, the Game & Fish Department would be especially vulnerable to political pressures.

Although state legislators did not take any action on H.B. 2366 during this past Legislature, you can bet that this is not the last we will hear of it.

It is up to each and everyone of us to contact our state legislators and let them know how we feel about H.B. 2366 and any similar bills which may be introduced in the future.

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