



# THE RAM'S HORN

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
ARIZONA DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP SOCIETY, INC.

VOL. 5

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NO. 7

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Members and Friends:

This issue of the Rams Horn contains information on the plans of the Society for the coming year.

We are looking forward to our seventh active year and have recently formulated plans for the field projects, the second phase of the Zoo Project, and the Fifth Annual Awards Banquet. While the Sheep Clinic is fresh in our memories, we are even making preparations for next year's clinic.

Typical of a purely volunteer organization, we find ourselves adjusting our plans to find the best compromise of ambition, time and other limited resources. The record of accomplishment over the past six years speaks for itself, and those of us who have been elected to serve for the coming year on the Board of Directors for the Society feel a keen sense of responsibility to maintain the fine tradition that has been established. Some of our plans for the coming year are as follows:

Communications -

The Ram's Horn will remain the primary communication media for the Society. The new format that was developed during the past year was well received and will remain our standard format. We found that one issue each month was a bit over-taxing. For the next year we plan on one issue every two months commencing with this issue. This should give adequate coverage on what has happened and still provide details of plans for the near future.

The Ram's Horn will be supplemented with "news releases" when necessary.

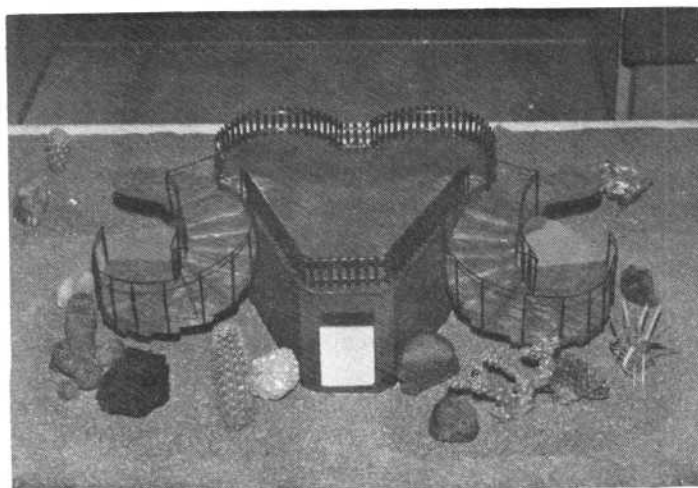
Communication from individual members is always welcome and we would like to publish your comments, articles or your favorite snap shots. If your name is misspelled or your zip code is wrong, let us know, we can blame the computer now so you can't really hurt our feelings by calling this error to our attention.

We will try to schedule projects and other events far enough in advance to be published in each issue of the Ram's Horn. If there is ever a question or doubt, feel free to contact any one on the Board of Directors.

Board of Directors Meetings -

Board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. Meetings start at 7:00 p.m. and are always open to members and guests. In the past we have tried to find an

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A scale model of the proposed building for Phase II of the Zoo Project. Note the striking resemblance to a ram's head.

## PHASE II - ZOO PROJECT

By Doug Reynolds

During January 1973 the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society will start construction on Phase II of the Desert Bighorn Sheep exhibit at the Phoenix Zoo. Phase II consists of constructing a ram's head shaped building to be used for observing the sheep in the enclosures and displaying Desert Bighorn Sheep exhibits which describe their history and habitat.

John Houzenga, Jack Walters, Joe Kane and Doug Reynolds met with Zoo Officials 15 November 1972 to discuss building location, construction details and building codes. Formal plans are underway and will be reviewed in the near future.

This project will be the largest ever and will provide an excellent opportunity for everyone to get involved. Watch for further details in the Ram's Horn..

As a matter of interest, the two year old ram in the zoo is in excellent physical condition and seems perfectly happy in his new home. If you get a chance, visit him - he usually comes down to the fence to greet you.

## HUNTERS GUIDE

After four years of planning and material gathering, the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society has published "A Hunters Guide to the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep". For the first time, a

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## LETTER . . . . .

optimum location and have just about concluded that one does not exist. Regardless of where we meet, it is going to be a long haul for someone. For that reason, we have decided to remain flexible on meeting places with notification given as follows: The location of the next Board meeting will be announced at each meeting. Board members will be reminded within one week prior to the meeting by either telephone or mail. When possible, locations will be announced in the Ram's Horn.

Over the past year, attendance at the Board meetings has averaged close to 14. If you wish to attend, feel free to contact any one of the Board members to get the exact location.

## Membership -

The Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society originated in 1967 with 62 Charter Members, most of whom are still active supporters. In 1972, membership more than doubled from the previous year, bringing our total enrollment close to 400. Membership in the Society is on an annual basis requiring basically only an interest in promoting the welfare of the Desert Bighorn Sheep and a very nominal donation indeed. The minimum donation remains five dollars. This year we would like to emphasize that this is a minimum donation and larger amounts are more than welcome.

Included with this issue of the Ram's Horn is a return mail envelope for your convenience in "re-enlisting" for 1973. Also included is a "Membership Invitation" card and application form to pass on to a friend.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite all of our new members to join in some of the action planned for the next year. The "water hole" projects provide lots of opportunity to participate and the second phase of the Zoo Project promises to keep the action going closer to the home front.

Sincerely yours,

Cecil LaVance, President

## 1973 WORK PROJECT

The first waterhole project of 1973 will be "Box Canyon Tank", located in the Clanton Hills beyond the Eagle Tail Mountains. It is scheduled for the weekend of the 6th and 7th of January, 1973.

This will be the second phase of this tough one since we beat down most of the rocky opposition last March.

The meeting place will be the same as on the previous trip - at the Gulf Service Station on the east side of Buckeye, located on the north side of US Highway 80, 8:00 pm sharp Friday, 5 January 1973.

In an effort to honor everyone's commitment and participation, we all try very hard to be at the meet points and then to depart as near the stated times as possible. So please be on time. We suggest no family sedans or station wagons. Pickups and four-wheel drive, etc are the transportation ticket. If you need transportation, or if you can provide transportation for others contact me or one of the other board members. A fella may have room for a rider, but not enough space to house him in camp. In situations such as this, the rider should plan on keeping his bring-along eqpt to the minimum and provide a cot up off the ground, or on the ground, as his desires dictate.

Welcome riders or camp partners should bear in mind that the driver/owner of the vehicle/camper has a lot invested in

dollars and responsibility of his rig and equipment and would appreciate anything you may provide, whether it be your contribution of the use of camping equipment (i.e. your lantern, or table, or stove, etc.) or an offer to share gas expenses, or food, etc. It's a small price to pay for a chauffeured trip into some of the finest country in the world.

At the start of the projects season the weather is cooler and wonderful! If this is your first venture with us I'll try to give you some tips and suggestions. "One man's poison is another man's medicine" - so also is "An ounce of prevention worth a pound of cure" - all meaning that you should use this info as a guide and adjust it to your situation and experience.

You will need a sleeping bag of your choice that will provide you with a warm nite's rest. Some fellows have cabover campers, camper shells on pickups, carryall van type vehicles, Broncos and blazers, Toyotas, canvass covered frames on pickups, uncovered pickup boxes, and what all . . . so on chilly good sleeping nites it depends on where you're at when the moon howls!

A warm jacket helps keep the shivers out. Most of the men wear blue denim jeans, long sleeve shirts, and brim type hats for sun protection. The standard levis and cowboy hats are great for the wind and sun of the southwest. The lug type vibram sole provides the best of footing and protection while out in the hills. Again a lot of the guys wear "Redwings" 899. Good rugged footwear is a must and if you'll drop into a "Redwing" footwear dealer's shop and study the model I mentioned, you'll get an idea of what is the most acceptable type and features of boots used out in the hills. Break'em in before the field trip so you'll get the most outa your time out and not be hampered by sore feet, or the wrong selection. It's also kinda nice to have a spare pair of boots, such as your ol' Saturday kick-the-stuff cowboy boots to slip into for relief of tired and hot feet after a work day.

Another work of advice is to break in the ol' bod as well. Get out and clamber round Squaw Peak, Papago Park Buttes, Twin Knolls, or the O'Neil Hills for tuning up. You'll be glad you did. Seems as if the years make it more difficult each season but you reap the benefits of getting in better physical condition and staying that way.

Bring your pack frame with lashing tie mts, if you have it with you, you mite need it - but we've all learned to bring those packframes with us all the time. You never know when you'll find a pickup head to carry down and a frame is light, comfortable, and handy. Along this line we only ask that you contribute your best effort at whatever you do. As age, strength or ability is a factor - if you desire not to carry a 94 lb bag of

## THE RAM'S HORN

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cement up to a work area, perhaps you want to take on a 74 lb bag of mix. Or instead, pack up a 5 gal can of water, or 5 shovels and 2 picks, or only one shovel, or maybe the ol' legs or back says don't carry anything but your lunch and drinking water up the mountain - -and that's fine with all of us. Probably you can supply labor when up at the work location, or have some other way of contributing yourself such as photography, news coverage, medical first aid ability, or what all? Some good ol' fiddle, harmonica, banjer music round the campfire, organizing a dutch oven meal or an old family recipe for good hearty stew. Some of us manage a trip up, or two, with a heavy sack of cement, - and then some of those younger tigers make a half dozen trips with a much heavier load. But then it's up to us to let them rest up as we take over from there. So, honestly neighbor, there is no quota of labor or endurance expected from anyone. We're friends together on a great experience and all that is expected is that you do what you can and only you will decide what you can do. Of course you mite figure on carrying back down the ol' motar trough but some other great guy will almost wrench it outa your hands and lash it to his frame - they're that kind of fellas!

Camera, binoculars, spotting scopes, pocket knife, flashlites, trash or litterbag, shovel, chapstick, extra sox, shirt, or underwear come in handy. Tough leather work gloves with gauntlet are needed. Portable drinking containers, such as bottle water jugs, bleach jugs, canteens, or what do you use? are needed for your needs each day outa camp. A folding beach chair, the aluminum kind of litewater chair you use out on the patio, is the accepted luxury round the campfire or table.

Cooking and food is your choice. Your Coleman camp stoves cook breakfasts of bacon and eggs, your choice of supper goodies. We have a big campfire with hot coals for grilling supper steaks, hamburgers, or baked potatoes. Each man brings his own food, water, beverages, cooking utensils, stove, Coleman lantern, table lunch, and anything else you mite feel you'll need on a weekend campout. Alcohol, such as Coors, etc is not forbidden and as society members and friends, grown men, examples to be looked up to in deference to those that don't partake we are expected to use good judgement and conduct ourselves as gentlemen at all times. We have no problem and don't forsee any. So if you wish, bring your sixpack, or whatall. Anyhow, you'll see that climbing, working, heat, early rising and driving, don't blend with heavy drinking.

Due to the requirements and regulations concerning these work projects our ladies do not accompany us. They are appreciated however as they man the homefront thus making it possible for us to go on these waterhole projects. Some dads bring their teen age sons along accepting responsibility for their activities at all times. These projects are full blown serious work

parties not a social event with burros. Blasting stingers, jackhammers, vehicles, rough terrain, no special amusements to entertain those not engaged in doing their part. And often just plain ol' heavy labor for many of us. Horseplay, goofin' off, going off on your own, dissention, jepordizing the safety of others, non cheerful attitude, bad mouthing, indifference to our goals, etc are not accpeted by the members and their friends. Somehow we do manage to enjoy what we're doing and find a deep down reason or reward for our efforts. Just remember to "keep the lamp in the middle of the table". Take mama and the girls out for treats as their reward for making it possible for their men to go off into the bighorn sheep country while they stay at home (again?).

Now if you're partnering up with someone else you mite be using his Coleman stove for cooking, your Coleman lantern for lite, his vehicle, your camp chairs....and so on. Get together with your partner(s) and plan accordingly beforehand.

We generally meet on Friday evening at a preset time and place. Usually near where we leave the hard highways. Pretty close to schedule we "caravan" off from there and arrive at the camp location set up by the AG & FD crew. Often they've been there working several days hauling materials to work locations by burro, etc. After some howdys and smoke in the eyes we bed down. Up at daylite, make breakfast, coffee, trail lunch, fill water canteen or plastic jug, leave camp and start the project under the supervision of the AG & FD fellas. We do all we can and generally head back toward camp for Saturday suppers round the campfire. A lot of fellas turn in early, and some never die out it seems. Sunday is ditto but we leave out of the project in time to be home by very early evening, say round 6 pm.

The next project is scheduled for the weekend of Jan 20, 21, 1973.

Our third project will be on Feb 3 and 4, 1973. So set aside these dates, and details of where, when and what will be forthcoming. Maybe Santa Claus will bring you some sheep boots. A packframe, Coleman lantern or 4WD Rec Vee, huh? If he doesn't - come anyway - contribute your efforts another way. You can observe what seems to be best for the task or how the others are equipped and use that observance to your dollar advantage later. The therapy of good men together round a brite campfire after a day of honest labor in the beautiful Arizona country for a worthwhile cause is worth your making an effort to belong there with the rest of your friends.

We're counting on you to help us have another great year. So "Lets hear it for the Rock..."

S/Joe Kane\*  
Projects Chairman -1973-

(\*Writ by hand!!)

As an convenience to Society's membership, this reduced rate subscription form for SPORTSMEN'S NEWS is reprinted below for which all members are eligible.



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**GUIDE . . . . .**

complete book devoted exclusively to the hunting of Desert Bighorn Sheep.

The book covers Desert Bighorn Sheep history, management, hunting methods, pre-season scouting hints, legal vs. trophy ram description, trophy care, first aid, and equipment check list. Each section of the book has been prepared by noted authorities in their field. Authors include — John P. Russo, Jack Walters, Tom Saad, Jim Stephenson, H. E. Wilcox D.O., and Ed Shannahan. Also included in the book are many fine illustrations and pictures of Desert Bighorn Sheep.

This book offers the sportsmen an opportunity to take advantage of years of valuable knowledge and experience from men who have devoted a good portion of their lives to studying the Desert Bighorn Sheep.

"A Hunters Guide to the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep" is a must for every sportsmen's library. This publication is offered for sale by the Society. For easy ordering, an order blank has been enclosed with this issue.

**Hints to Hunters**

Logic reading often is the singular, most important activity associated with successful hunting. Unfortunately, very few hunters are really competent in this art. For Desert Bighorn Sheep, as well as other game animals, the most readily observable signs are droppings, tracks, beds, and evidence of feeding.

**Droppings**

Bighorn sheep droppings are practically indistinguishable from those of domestic sheep. They are mostly deposited in clusters or may be strung out if the sheep was traveling. Exterior color varies from black and brown to green. Droppings are moist when first dropped but soon dry to a varnished finish. Determining the age of droppings is quite hard because of weathering effects. Fresh droppings can be told by the moisture on the outside and by warmth.

**Tracks**

Front feet tracks are larger than those of hind feet. The tracks of a ram may reach 4" in length for the front feet. A good-size ram track is about 3.5" long and 2.5 inches wide. Fresh tracks can be readily identified because they have very sharp, finely drawn edges and the packed soil particles appear shiny. Under wild and dry weather conditions they may appear fresh for months. However, in most desert areas there is sufficient dust and "ground breeze" to "age" the tracks in a few days.

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P.O. BOX 5241  
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**1972 SHEEP HUNT**

By Ed Shannahan

The 1972 Arizona Bighorn Sheep hunt is upon us and all sightings and observations indicate a good year for the sheep hunters. The recent weeks of rain have filled most water catchments and the abundance of food on the winter range have the sheep well fed and sleek looking. This condition also has the sheep well scattered over the mountains.

During the 1971 hunt, hunters harvested some of the smallest rams ever taken. Because of this, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission has seen the need to raise the minimum requirements of a legal from 26" to 28" and or 3/4 curl. It is hopeful that hunters look more closely at a ram before shooting, always remembering that a real trophy ram is over 8 years old, horns massive down around the curl and most times ending with broomed ends.

Most people involved with the annual Arizona Bighorn Sheep Hunt agree that the majority of the hunters come ill prepared for the vast and rugged country that will face them. The long hours of climbing without sighting any sheep soon tend to discourage the hunters and they are willing to settle for something less than a trophy. Also, most hunters have not scouted their hunt area well enough. Some even think that it's an easy hunt requiring only a few days of driving around in the desert. A permit of this value should not be wasted on a half-hearted road hunter.

This year the growing concern about all hunting makes it mandatory that hunters should take more time, look harder and study more rams before pulling the trigger. Remember, that a real trophy can always be displayed for everyone to see while an average or a sickle horn in many cases are hid in a closet or an out-house. Some hunters who have taken small rams wish that they could hunt Arizona Bighorn again for they realize now that with a little more patience they could have gotten the big one — the trophy rams are there — and a hunter is entitled to only one Arizona Bighorn in his lifetime. Think about this. Will your ram hang in the trophy room or in the out-house?

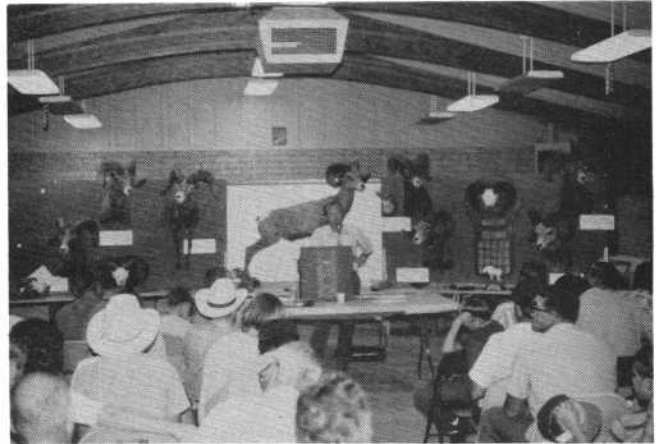
There are many other items and practices associated with sign reading — too many to list here. Anybody can become a proficient sign reader, provided one understands the animal's habits, takes the time to observe every detail and then logically analyzes the information.

Additional Hints to Hunters to appear in next issue.

## 1972 SHEEP CLINIC



1972 Society President Tom Saad conducts the annual business meeting held before the clinic. Seated from left to right are Ed Shannahan, Bob Carson and the 1973 Society President Cecil LaVance.



Clinic opens with a discussion of new sheep hunting regulations by Arizona Game and Fish Representative Mr. Bob Weaver.



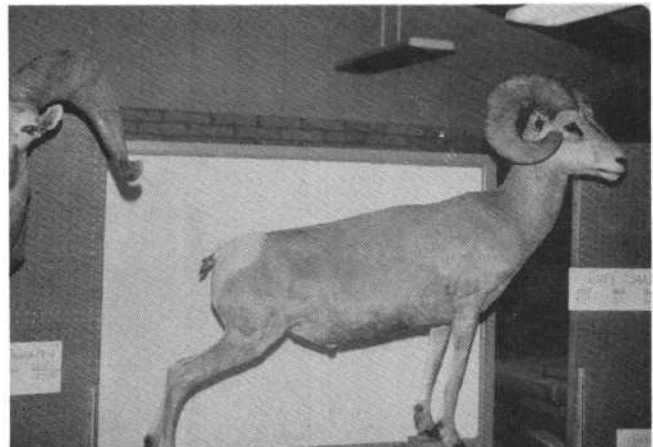
Ned Smith passes on his experience in the areas of camping and back-packing equipment.



More than 100 persons attended this years clinic. 32 of this years lucky permit holders took advantage of the opportunity to visit with the group.



A view of the five Trophy Sheep heads displayed at the clinic.



This year's ram on loan to the Society by the Yuma office of the US Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife Service.

