



THE RAM'S HORN

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ARIZONA DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP SOCIETY, INC.

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NO. 1

SOCIETY RECEIVES AWF AWARD

By Cecil LaVance

It was an enlightening experience for me to attend the 50th Annual Convention of the Arizona Wildlife Federation held in Flagstaff January 19-21st.

The Arizona Wildlife Federation, affiliated with the National Wildlife Federation, is comprised of over 42 sportsmen, conservation clubs and individual members. Total membership of the AWF exceeds 7,500. The Society is an associate affiliate of the AWF and as such is entitled to one voting delegate at the annual convention; our delegate this year was Ed Shannahan. Many other members of the Society were also present at the Convention.

At the annual banquet held on Saturday evening, special recognition was given to the Society as the first ARIZONA WILDLIFE FEDERATION SERVICE AWARD recipient. The award was presented to the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society "In recognition of Outstanding Accomplishments Relative to Bighorn Sheep in Arizona".

1972 SHEEP HUNT

By Ed Shannahan

Well! The 1972 sheep hunt is over and the results were not outstanding but better than 1971. As I pointed out in the last Ram's Horn, the sheep were scattered and it required hard work to come up with a trophy. Out of the 74 sheep hunters only 35 were successful.

Over-all viewing of the heads indicated that about 30 were not bad and should be classified as trophy heads. Five heads were young and immature and not meeting the 28" minimum requirements for length. They did have tight curls and did qualify as being legal only because they met the 3/4 curl measurement. I understand one head was even measured 24".

Four trophy heads should qualify for the 162 minimum points necessary for entering in the Arizona Wildlife Trophy Book. Two good rams came out of Unit 33 (Tucson area). One trophy measured 184 6/8 points green and after the 60 day drying out period this could be among the top five heads ever harvested in Arizona. The other head measured 169 4/8 green.

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One of the new arrivals makes its entrance into its new home while AF&G and Zoo officials keep a watchful eye.

Christmas Present for Phoenix Zoo

By Doug Reynolds

Tuesday, December 19, 1972 marked the arrival of three new Desert Bighorn Sheep at the Phoenix Zoo. This was a long awaited moment for the Society, the Zoo and our lonely ram. Delivered in time for Christmas were two ewes and one more young ram — all yearlings.

The sheep were captured Monday, December 18 with the aid of a helicopter and tranquilizing gun at the Plomosa Mountains in Yuma County. The capture was accomplished by the Arizona Game and Fish Department and transported to the zoo in separate wooden containers.

The sheep were released into the enclosure and received immediate welcome from our resident ram. (See insert page for additional photos.) If our plans and those of others concerned materialize, this should be a good start for a breeding of Desert Bighorn Sheep at the Phoenix Zoo. These sheep will also provide a convenient study subject to expand our knowledge of these animals, allow the public the opportunity to see this rare trophy and provide a breeding nucleus for possible transplantation of the sheep back to the desert mountains.

The sheep enclosure at the zoo is a perfectly natural habitat for the sheep. This makes the exhibit the only one of its kind in the world and will become one of the main attractions at the zoo. Plan to visit the zoo and our Desert Bighorn Sheep soon!

HUNT ...

Five sheep hunt units has zero success and six hunt units had 100% success. I believe that most of the hunters in these successful units had guides.

For the last six years the Society has held a clinic and each hunter that has been drawn to hunt sheep is invited to attend. Although the Society emphatically stresses the need to harvest the old mature rams and how to age or judge horn length for torphy sheep, STILL some hunters pay no attention to the pleas of the Society and continue to harvest small young rams.

BOX CANYON TANK PROJECT

On Friday night, January 5, 1973 at 8:00 p.m., members of the "Crack Rockettes" gathered for an assault on Phase II of "Box Canyon Tank" located in Clanton Hills beyond the Eagle Tail Mountains. After hello's and handshakes, the group led by Don Belknapp, AG&FD caravanned off down the highway to the turnoff and across 55 miles of Arizona Country to base camp. It was a sideways - up 'n' down-wiggly route that helped keep the sediment suspended in our canteen water. A brite fire welcomed us at camp and the weekend was underway!

Daylight arrived and we wishfully watched for ol' Sol to warm up the land. I found some hot coffee for free by visiting Nick and Fred parked next to Doug's camper. Tasted good too! The price was fair!

An' away we went - to "Box Canyon Tank" in person! The Rockettes proceeded to do their thing - we removed rock(s) and dirt from the dam tank (I mean from the dam tank; I mean from the dam and the tank areas; ahem) cleaned the spillway area of rocks and jackhammered holes into the granite



Members of the Society start work to prepare the site where the dam will stand. Left to right: Carl Scrivens, Frank Murphy, Terry Evens, Jerry Petkovsek, Joe Kane and John Houzenga.

walls and floor for our fabrication of reinforcing rod to serve as the heart network of our dam. By lunch time the ironwork was completed; a stockpile of dam rocks had been brushed clean of dirt for adhesion to the cement; many wheelbarrows full of sand had been manhandled down a Baja course to the mortar mixers; our water line had been run down to the mixologists area along with lime, cement, and aluminite in

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1971 vs 1972 HUNT RESULTS

Unit	1971		1972	
	Permits	Success	Permits	Success
12A & 13A	3	1	3	0
13B	5	0	5	0
14	3	2	3	1
15A	2	0		
15A & B (East)			4	1
15B (East)	5	3		
15B (West)	4	1	3	2
15B (South)	2	1	2	0
16B	3	1	3	0
33	5	1	5	2
39A	5	0		
39B	4	1		
39			3	1
40A	8	2	7	2
40B (East)	2	2	2	2
40B (West)	2	2	2	2
40C	5	3	5	3
41	6	0	5	3
42 (South)			3	0
43A	3	1		
43A (South)			3	3
43A (East)			4	4
43A (West)			3	3
43B (East)	3	3	4	4
43B (North)	3	2		
43B (South)	5	3	5	2
43C (East)	4	1		
43C (West)	3	1		

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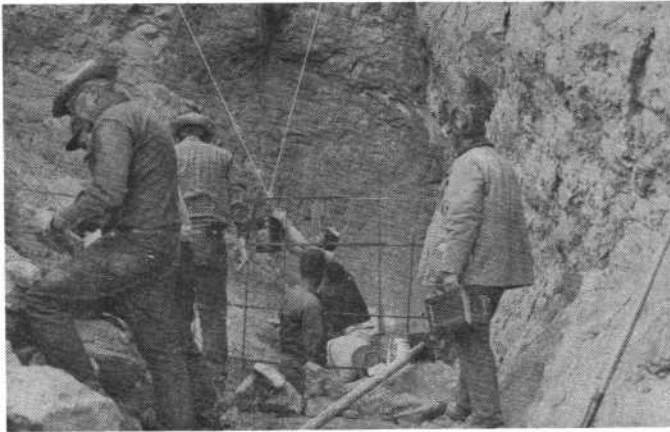
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TANK . . .

quantity. Tools; and a bucket lowering system invented for cement transfer to the dam builders (or shud I say it B. of D.?) Lunchtime. We refueled our bods then and headed back over to the tank area. Our base camp was on a flat area 'bout 1/4 mile from the tank location. The supplies of water, sand, tools, cement, equipment, and what all was trucked to this spot 1/4 mile from camp. But — our dam was to be built on down into a canyon cut through the rock by centuries of wear by the elements. Thus we had to lower cement mixing materials (sand, water, lime, etc) to an area where we could work the mix, then place the mixed cement into five gallon buckets and wrestle these over some rough going, down to another working level where another system of ropes and hooks and hands lowered each full bucket of cement down into the tank area.



Reinforcement rod has been placed in holes drilled in the bedrock by jack hammer. Cement was mixed above and lowered into the canyon in five gallon buckets. Don Belknap of Arizona Game and Fish at the right observes construction activity.

There, several fellas processed it to the dam boulders (ahem). The B. of D. placed rocks, cement, and guts into a dam approximately 8 ft. high. The "Tijuana Taxi", also known by other names among them "wheelbarrow Full of Heavy Sand Careening Hellbent Downhill Baja Course and Leaving Bodies Everywhere" took its toll. And "Bucket!! Lowering-Up-Full-Empty or whatever accounted for some pain and longing for the good life. "Box Canyon Tank" dam builders felt the crush and crumble of rocks on flesh too. No one survived the overland transportation of many heavy buckets of cement either. The hand mixers of cement collapsed steadily throughout the day while trying to supply the demands. And because we all spelled one another on through the day, by quitting time Saturday, the Rockettes were on the endangered list, near extinction!!

BUT. . . Visions of sugarplums danced through their heads — Sundown — a big hot campfire, some A cold brew, hot coffee, or the real thing and we launched into a preplanned good ol' camp stew supper. John Houzenga had his culinary crew dig a pit at lunch time and it was filled with burning firewood. So at suppertime they did KP and filled three huge Dutch ovens with the good ingredients of a fine stew. These ovens were buried in the hot coals of the pit, covered over, and while various activities took place around the wagon train circle the contents cooked on. Soon by the light of campfire and a few Coleman lanterns, the oven's contents were pronounced fit for human consumption. The cost of the innards was divided by the 27 fellas eagerly

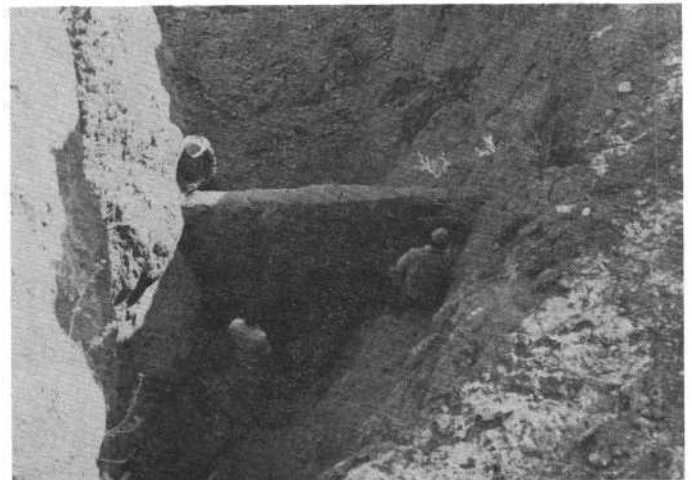
chomping at the bit and so for sixty cents per person we proceeded to fill up the spots where we lived! Jerry Petkovsek had a couple of helpers baking up biscuits as fast as the Rockettes could eat 'em. I believe we all had our fill. Seconds were in evidence so it musta been good. We still had enough for a few folks at breakfast! John, Jerry, Harry, Doug, Ken and several others really did a fine meal.

There are plans for similar cookups for a change of menus. In fact for Project No. 2 "White Tank Pothole" a meal around potatoe soup, cowboy beans, and cornbread from John's kitchen was served to the fellas. It's shades of the old days — with all those Dutch ovens cooking away, and the aroma of wood fire smoke, biscuits, and stew added to the fun around the camp. Come on out sometime and "try it — you'll like it"!

The-Hill-Gang . . . Seems we always have hills around us and everything is usually down, up, or around those hills. . . That's where it's happening! Toiling Rockettes this project included:

Don Belknap, AG&FD	Doug Reynolds
Roger Hazel, AG&FD	Cal Sedney
Larry Haas, AG&FD	Jerry Petkovsek
Don Scrivens, California	Joe Kane
Carl Scrivens, Wyoming	Tom Kirstein
Bob "GG" Gray	Mike Mell
Joe Gundry	Bill Snider
Glen Myrick	Dean Bowdoin
Frank Murphy	Cecil LaVance
Nick Muldovan	Ken Mills
Duane Halvorson	Terry Evans
Ray Ro	Fred Gerle
John Houzenga	Marion Marshall
Ken Grammer	

Although we used 3 cu yds of sand, 2 bags of thoroseal, 3½ bags of lumnite, 3 bags of lime and 16 bags of cement, Bob "GG" Gray donated 3 gallons of acryl 60 and 16 empty 5 gallon cans which were used to sit on, haul cement, cuss at and invent with, we have more where that came from for our continuing efforts. "White Tank Pothole" was Project No. 2 on January 20, 21, 1973. (See story on insert page.)



The completed Dam measures 8 feet high, 12 feet long and 2 to 4 feet thick. Water hole is expected to retain about 5,000 gallons. Left to right: Dean Bouden, Jerry Petkovsek, Ken Grammer, and Bob Gray.

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TANK . . .

The third project was Upper Mohave Tank (Feb. 3 & 4) and the fourth is on the weekend of 24 and 25 of February and consists of maintenance work on a pothole northeast of Yuma. This area is spectacular country (also) and worth the trip to see. Meeting time is 10 PM at the Castle Dome turnoff point at Milepost 55 on Friday evening February 23. This turnoff point is north of turnoff to YPG, and south of the Cibola Road turnoff where we meet for the preceding project. Look for the sign "Kofa Game Range Castle Dome" at a wide spot in the road. We'll be there!

Big number five project of Waterholes of '73 is at the "Upper Thanksgiving Day Tank", on March 17 and 18. This tank is located south of Gila Bend in the Saucedo Mountains. On Highway 85, approximately 20 miles south of Gila Bend going toward Ajo. The meeting time is set for 9:30 P.M. Friday evening March 16. A good slogan for this one is "The More the Merrier". I'll drink to that! Tentative plans to award 1000 lb rocks to all the Rock Crushers of '73 who will not be receiving awards at the banquet the following weekend are in committee and if attendance at this project meets expectations this could well outshine the Gala Awards Banquet! Work clothes and gear permitted.

Writ by hand
S/ Joe "KK" Kane

SPEAKERS BUREAU

One of the prime objectives of the Society is to educate and inform the public about Desert Bighorn Sheep. There are speakers available to go to any public or private group. The talk is supplemented by a slide show of sheep, sheep water hole projects and the Phoenix Zoo enclosure construction.

One of the speakers ready and willing to talk is Ed Shannahan. Ed is one of the founding fathers and charter members of the Society and has as much personal knowledge and experience with sheep as anyone in the state. Ed will talk as long as you wish and answer all questions on sheep. Ed

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recently gave a presentation to the Mesa Varmint Callers and traveled to Tucson to talk to the Tucson Wildlife Unlimited.

If you have a requirement for a speaker for boy or girl scouts, Elks, school functions, sportsman groups, church or what ever, please feel free to contact Doug Reynolds, 838-0805, to arrange the details.

ANNUAL AWARD BANQUET

The Annual Awards Banquet of the Society will be held Saturday, March 24, 1973 at the Holiday Inn, 2201 South 24th Street in Phoenix. The Holiday Inn is located south of the airport just off the freeway.

The events of the evening will feature a cocktail hour from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM with dinner starting promptly at 7:30 PM. The master of ceremonies will be Pete Brown, Shooting Editor of the Sports Afield magazine. The banquet will be highlighted by award presentations to hunters whose ram qualifies (162 points) for listing in the Arizona Wildlife Trophies book published by AWF. Also, a trophy will be awarded to the lucky hunter who harvested the best trophy Desert Bighorn Ram of the season. Slide and movieshows by outstanding outdoors-men will round-out the evening's festivities. Plan to attend this informative and enjoyable function - everyone is welcome to bring his guests!

WHITE TANK POTHOLE

By Doug Reynolds

The second waterhole project of the 1973 season was completed January 20th and 21st. Sixteen Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society members met the Arizona Game and Fish Department personnel at Dateland, Arizona, Friday the 19th and drove 40 miles north into the Tank Mountains to work on White Tank pothole.

Providing leadership from the Arizona Game and Fish Department were Dan Schadle, Don Belknap and Jim Boner. Representing the society were:

John Houzenga	Ed Stanfield
Terry Evens	Joe Gundry
Don Scrivens	Joe Kane
Carl Scrivens	Jerry Petkovsek
Bill Snyder	Monte Dodson
Ted Harris	Don Moon
Bob Gray	Dean Bouden
Doug Reynolds	

Once again we were pleased to have a fine work crew including the Scrivens Brothers, Don and Carl, who travel from California to take part in the activity.

At the end of a two hour dusty drive from Dateland, we found Don Moon and a fine big ironwood fire. After the usual campfire stories and a few verses of "Dear Old Girl" everyone was ready for the sack. Breakfast came early Saturday and we headed for the project.

The project was a ten minute ride from base camp. The White Tank potholes are a series of four natural water basins carved in the rock over many years. Our objective this weekend was to seal two of the potholes and jackhammer some steps into the pothole to allow safe entry and exit by animals. With the kind help of Bob Gray's jeep, the materials were hauled within easy back packing distance of the project. Two crews went to work. One cleaning the lower face of a pothole with a pneumatic hammer to allow a better surface for the "Thorseal". The other crew started pumping water from one of the upper tanks to a lower tank to allow cleaning and sealing operations. Under the water of this tank was about 15 cubic yards of gravel and rocks. The potholes are in a very porous rock and needed sealing to prevent complete loss of a very large water capacity. At about 3 p.m. Saturday, we reached a decision that time would not allow complete cleaning of rocks and gravel from the upper tank. At this time Bob Gray and his plastering crew went to work coating the back half of the pothole with "Thorseal".

Saturday night dinner was the highlight of the trip. Master Chef John Houzenga and chief squirt and bottle washer Jerry Petkovsek (apprentice cook) whipped-up corn bread, potato soup and cowboy beans, all in Dutch ovens, over ironwood coals. It was all very good and it disappeared in record time.

Sunday morning came cold and early. We started work again on the upper pothole. A jackhammer was used to cut steps into the waterhole. Another crew worked at removing gravel from the front face of the pothole so it could be

plastered. After all the plaster was in place 6 - 94 pound bags of Thoroseal had been used.

The project was completed about 1 p.m. and camp began to break up and head home. One of the parties spotted 10 sheep on the way out of the project. Some guys have all the luck - and a good time was had by all.

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Feature event of last years Annual Awards banquet was the presentation of the "largest ram award". The award was presented to Kenneth Bragles. Making the presentation is Jeff Sievers (right) who also graciously donated this outstanding trophy.



The day the Ewes arrived, the resident 2 1/2 year old ram wonders what was all the excitement about.



A rather timid first look at its new home.