



THE RAM'S HORN

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ARIZONA DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP SOCIETY, INC.

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NO. 4

SHEEP HUNTERS CLINIC

The 7th Annual Sheep Hunters Clinic was held by the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society on Saturday, September 29, 1973. We consider that the clinic was a rousing success based on the fact that 40 out of the total of 68 permit holders for the '73 season attended, giving an attendance figure of 59 percent.

The Arizona hunt for Desert Bighorn sheep is run on a permit basis that allots 10 percent of the permits to nonresident, out-of-state hunters. These nonresident hunters are seldom able to attend the clinic. Considering the resident permits only, the attendance figure was 66 percent. We always encourage all of the permit holders to attend the clinic but we consider this 66 percent turnout to be a pretty good yield. It represents about the same attendance or perhaps a little higher attendance than we have had in recent years.

The Clinic program included free training for the hunters in the topics of trophy recognition and classification, hunt rules and regulations, hunting techniques specialized to the various Arizona Desert Bighorn sheep habitat zones, sportsmanship, physical and attitude conditioning, trophy and carcass care, equipment selection and use with emphasis on the all important and often misunderstood or misused binoculars and spotting scopes. The clinic included a variety of interesting, informative slide and movie presentations on Desert Bighorns, their habitat and habits, hunting situations and clues how to avoid some common hunter mistakes.

(Continued on page 2)

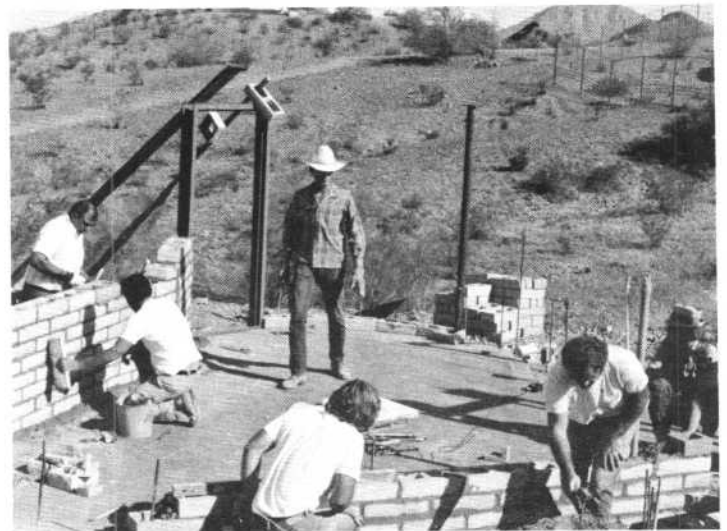


Exhibit Hall going up!

PHASE II ZOO PROJECT

by Doug Reynolds

Construction continues on the Desert Bighorn sheep exhibit building at the Phoenix Zoo. During the summer months (heat and all) almost every weekend the building took on a little more shape.

Three yards of concrete with brown color mixed in were poured for the floor. The next major effort was the block wall. After a full Saturday and Sunday effort the majority of the walls were up. The block layers were kept very busy trying to use up the mortar makers. The block job was easier knowing that the wall would eventually be mortar washed.

More materials have been arriving. The glue-laminate beam, windows and steel beams are at the site. Current effort is the bending of the steel beam for over the windows. After the beams go up, the windows go in.

The next major effort will be the free form cement steps. Help is needed in the form of carpenters, steel and cement people. If you can help please contact John Houzenga at 946-6914. The work is more fun than effort and it is very rewarding to see the building take shape - come on out and take part in the activity. Your help is needed.



New President Bob Gray gets the gavel from Past President Cecil La Vance.

CLINIC. . .

The hunters were split up in small groups by hunt unit number and provided with an instructor familiar with their specific unit for field training in the use of hunting optics and for a session of detailed discussion over well worn topo maps about access routes and likely hunting spots.

The Clinic featured the best display of 20 plus trophy mounts of sheep that has ever been assembled under one roof.

Our special thanks to Mike Mell, Program Chairman for his blood, sweat and tears bringing off the best Clinic yet and to our distinguished expert lecturers and speakers; Cecil La Vance, George Welsh, John Houzenga, Dave Daughtry, Ned Smith, Ed Shannahan and Jack Walters.

Total Clinic attendance was 110 members and friends of the Society. The Varmetts took good care of us as usual with barbecue for lunch and chicken for dinner.

The Annual Business Meeting of the Society preceding the Clinic included election of officers. The new officers for '73 - '74 are listed in the directory on the insert in this issue. We hope you will save and use the directory so you can communicate with your officers to offer your comments, suggestions, opinions and volunteer your services for committee work.

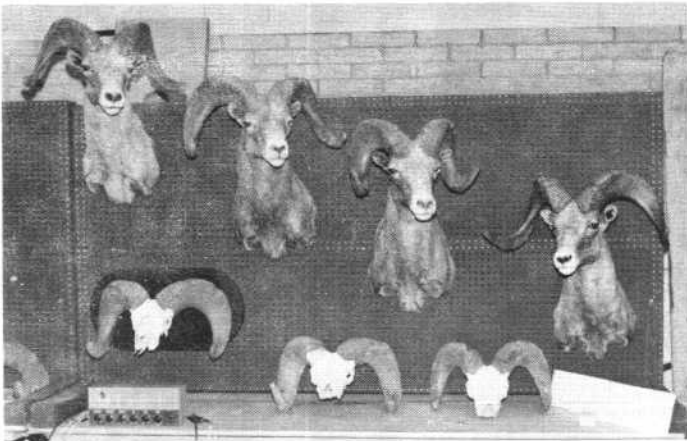
A Friday night steak fry and work party preceding the clinic was attended by 97 stalwarts and spouses. Houzenga and Petkovsek filled us to the brim with their excellent cornbread, cowboy beans and cole slaw. Next years steak fry plans include some soft lights and music now that we have the attention of so many lovely wives and girlfriends.



Nitty Gritty Map Discussion



Jack Walters' Grand Slam displayed at the clinic for hunter education



A Portion of Clinic Desert Bighorn Trophy mount display



Shannahan wins the Guides Comfort Station Award

AWF CONVENTION

The Society is an affiliate member of the Arizona Wildlife Federation. The AWF annual convention will convene in Scottsdale at the Sunburst Hotel in January. We encourage Society members to attend all AWF convention sessions. The actions of AWF are important to all Arizona sportsmen.

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Spotting Scope and binocular training

THINK POSITIVE

by Ed Shannahan

The 1973 sheep drawing is over and each lucky permit holder now has his work cut out for him. By now, most of the hunters should have been in their hunting area a number of times to become familiar with the roads and terrain. Maybe he has even spotted a sheep. That trophy ram is there but it is going to take a hulluva lot of hard work to find him!

Speaking of trophies, a ram must score 162 Boone and Crockett points to be entered in the Arizona Wildlife Trophy book, or 168 Boone and Crockett points in order to be entered in the National Boone and Crockett book. To be entered in either of these books is an honor and each hunter should strive to harvest a ram of that size.

Reviewing the list of successful permit holders, it appears that this year the hunters drawn are hardier and in a better physical condition than in past years. If this is any criterion for success, the 1973 hunt harvest percentage should be higher, with larger game taken, than in the past two years. Let's hope so!

With the hot summer and the prolonged period without rain the water holes in the hunting units have become extremely low on water. Last winter when there was an ample amount of rains the water holes were filled to the brim and some overflowed as they were filled beyond their capacity. Large water holes still have an adequate supply, however, smaller ones are almost dry. We need rain NOW in sheep country! Some biologists and guides believe that sheep do not need water but can survive on the moisture from plants and cactus. Maybe so, though most water holes visited in the southern units showed evidence of recent sheep usage. This is not at all conclusive and I am not prepared to debate or argue the subject. The point is that the hunter should be knowledgeable about water holes in his hunt unit and water holes are good areas to check for sign; although, when December comes the Rams could be far away from any known water. Who knows?

Though most hunters are probably aware of the difficulty in hunting this prized big game, and previously less than 50% of the hunters were successful out of the 70 to 80 permits issued each year, to me one of the most important factors to keep in mind when hunting this animal is to **THINK POSITIVE** — don't get discouraged.

Good luck to all of you 1973 trophy winners and happy hunting!

1973 BIGHORN SHEEP APPLICATIONS

by Ed Shannahan

I thought this year we should include in this copy of the Ram's Horn the number of applications submitted to the Arizona Game and Fish Department for the 1973 sheep hunt. It is interesting to note that the units which have continued to produce trophy rams, continue to be the most sought after units for hunting, mainly, the Kofa's, units 43's, and the Gila Bend area, unit 40A. Is there a message here? Certainly, all units have trophy rams waiting for some lucky hunter. Do the hunters think that these units are easier to hunt? Maybe, these units have more sheep and the hunter's chances of success are higher? Who knows? It is also noted that the Grand Canyon area, units 12, 13 and 14, and the Estrella Mountains, unit 42, which are the toughest and most rugged units to hunt, the applications are fewer. This indicates to me that most hunters want an easy hunt and are not really willing to put "all out" for their trophy ram.

It is also interesting to note that the late hunt for unit 14 had no applications and that the early hunt only had 3 of which 2 were disqualified during the 1st drawing. This area for hunting is on the Hualapai Indian Reservation, along the South rim of the Grand Canyon. Speculation has it that the \$600.00 permit fee and the mandatory hiring of an Indian guide may have discouraged most hunters from applying.

Whatever the reasons are for "putting in" in only certain units, prospective sheep hunters now have this information to ponder over before they apply next year.

Unit	Permits Available	Resident Applied	Nonres. Applied	Total
EARLY				
12A - 13A	3	12	2	14
13B	5	31	9	40
14	3	1	2	3
LATE				
14	3	0	00	0
15A-B/East	4	36	22	58
15B-West	4	46	32	78
15B-South	2	7	12	19
16A	1	8	6	14
16B	2	8	6	14
33	3	52	3	55
39	2	23	24	47
40A	5	140	91	231
40B-East	2	17	28	45
40B-West	2	21	12	33
40C	3	13	24	37
41	5	64	38	102
42-South	3	29	1	30
43A-South	4	68	34	102
43A-East	3	51	50	101
43A-West	3	71	98	169
43B-South	5	38	53	91
43B-East	4	65	52	117

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

Saturday, March 23, is the tentatively scheduled date. Watch for more details and advance ticket sale and plan to attend. One hundred and fifty people had a great time at last years banquet.

OBITUARY

We are saddened to announce the tragic, untimely death of one of our members. Phillip Clar, age 36, of Mesa. It is difficult for those of us who knew Phil and his zest for living to believe that he could be a suicide victim. Phil was a respected creative electrical engineer employed by Motorola, Government Electronics Division. Some of the Sheep Society members will remember Phil and his family from their participation in the Saucedo Mountain Pothole Project in March of '72. Phil was particularly delighted about having had the opportunity to join in that project because he and his young son saw and photographed a nice ram at close range in the course of the weekend.



Exhibit Hall as it stood in Sept. The walls are about twice this high now.



This remarkable photograph shows the foundation of our exhibit building and its resemblance to a ram's head. The two gents in upper left are Ed Shannahan and John Houzenga. All photographs by Doug Reynolds.

NATIONAL HUNTING & FISHING DAY

The Society participated with an information and display booth in the National Hunting and Fishing Day celebration at the Tri-City Mall in Mesa on September 22, 1973.

We used exhibits, photo displays and hand-out literature to inform John Q. Public about the constructive conservation activities of the Society.

Approximately 350 persons visited our booth. Most of them were quite amazed with the extent of sheep society activities in water hole projects and on our zoo project. About 20 of the visitors to the display expressed definite anti-hunting sentiments. We were pleased to get to talk to these anti-hunters because these were the people we were really trying to reach with the message about conservation activities of hunting and fishing sportsmen. We probably didn't make any instant converts but at least we had an opportunity to show them another side of the coin.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board of Directors Meeting will be on Wednesday, November 14, at the Phoenix Zoo Education Building, 7:30 p.m. The night guard at the Zoo main gate will let you in. Members and friends of the Society are cordially invited. Board meetings are on the second Wednesday of each month. We are trying out the Zoo Education Building as a centrally located regular meeting hall. Come and get involved in your Society!

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