



THE RAM'S HORN

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

VOL. 8

APRIL 1974

NO. 3

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our Society's membership represents a broad spectrum of vocations, ages, and interests and is reflected in the composite make up of our Board of Directors. Although this is a hunter oriented conservation group, we have members who just do not hunt but recognize the value of a harvesting season.

A perusal of the membership list will find that our homes are scattered throughout most of the fifty states and Canada, yet we are all drawn to one area for a single purpose, the welfare of the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep.

Participation of this conglomerate membership for that particular goal extends to all facets of our activities and, thankfully, helps us to continue to render the proper decisions on matters small and large. No matter what the activity or where it is located or the conditions that prevailed, have kept this group from its course of obligations.

In the final analysis we have all participated in the support of our objectives by financial, physical, or moral contributions no matters small and large. No matter what the activity or where it was located or the conditions that prevailed, this group has not been kept from its course of obligations.

This, then, in itself is thanks enough.

AWARDS BANQUET

The Eighth Annual Awards Banquet was held on 23 March 1973 at the Desert Hills Hotel, Phoenix. It attracted 152 members and friends of the Society and according to all who were there, was the best ever.

Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Bill Sizer who kept things moving at a lively pace and entertaining us with some really original stories about his experiences while working with the Game and Fish Department. Other entertainers were Dr. Marlowe of Prescott who showed us some fine motion picture footage of desert bighorn sheep and Doug Reynolds who produced an excellent slide presentation of the Zoo Project.

Of course, the highlight of the evening was the awards presentation.

The 1973 Outstanding Ram Award went to Steve Weisser for his 173 point ram. Steve was asked to tell us about his hunt and truly provided an interesting description of what it takes to get a trophy. He had his magnificent full-mount trophy along at the banquet.



The completed Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Exhibit Building at the Phoenix Zoo.

PHASE II ZOO PROJECT

An old dream for the Society is finally coming true — the dedication of the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Exhibit is set for the 28 April 1974. This event will take place at 2:00 p.m. at the Exhibit Building. Formal invitations will be mailed to all members and their friends who participated in this project. Zoo officials have announced that Safari trains will be provided for transportation from the front gate to the site.

The program includes opening remarks by Bob Gray, President of the Society and John Houzenga, our Zoo Project Chairman. An address by Milton Evans, Chairman, Arizona Game and Fish Commission will follow. The keynote speaker will be Ben Avery, Outdoors Editor of the Arizona Republic. The dedication will be made by Bob Gray and Mr. Jack Tinker, Director of Phoenix Zoo, will take acceptance. Mrs. Jack Walters will officiate the ribbon cutting ceremony. Following this — a tour of the Exhibit.

Countless hard hours of work went in this project and many problems were encountered but we had faith in ourselves and our leaders and carried on 'till everything was finished. The results are truly remarkable and will serve many generations to come. We all justifiably can take pride in this unique exhibit.

BANQUET . . .

Trophy plaques are presented to the hunters whose rams qualify for listing in the Arizona Wildlife Trophy book for the season. The 1973 lucky winners were:

- Dr. Marion Peterson, Mesa, Az.
- Mr. Reinard Okeson, Scottsdale, Az.
- Dr. W.A.K. Seale, Sulphur, La.
- Mr. Paul Neely, Phoenix, Az.

Carl Scrivens displayed the world record — 205 B&C — ram skull and horns and we had the full mount ram on display that will go in the Phoenix Zoo Exhibit Building.

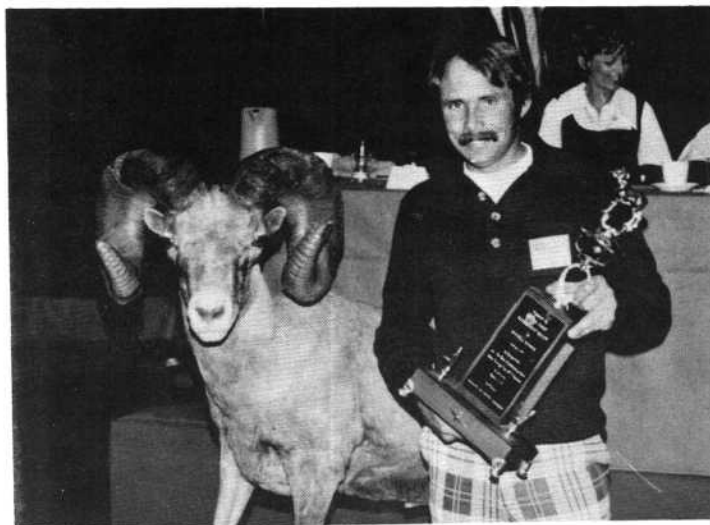
This year's door prizes included two gold tie tacks won by Carl Scrivens and Wade Dominy; a pair of Red Wing boots donated by Jim Webster's Red Wing Store of Phoenix won by Jackie Snider; a custom gunstock donated by Harry Larson Gunsmithing Co. of Tucson and won by Joe Sheehee. Other prizes included a bottle of Hiram Walker won by Bill Carney.

After the official ceremonies the members and guests stayed on to enjoy some dancing and fine conversations. A truly great time was had by all!

Carolyn Langdon, our Program Chairwoman, is to be congratulated for bringing off this excellent evening!



Stephen K. Weisser receives the 1973 Outstanding Ram Award from Bob Gray. Looking on is Jeff Sievers who donated this beautiful trophy.



Steve Weisser and his full-mount 173 B & C Trophy.



Paul Neely, Phoenix, receives his trophy plaque from Bob Gray. His ram measured 162-1/8 B & C.



Dr. Marion Peterson, Mesa, accepts his trophy plaque from Bob Gray. His was the second largest taken and measured 167-5/8 B & C.

REMINDER

For those members who have not paid the 1974 donation, please do so in the near future so we can keep your Ram's Horn coming.

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P.O. Box 5241 Phoenix, Arizona 85010
is the official publication of the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, Inc., and is published every other month for the Society's membership.

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John Houzenga receives a special appreciation award from Bob Gray for his tremendous contribution as Zoo Project chairman.



Reinard Okeson receives his trophy plaque from Bob Gray.

LOST DRILL TANK

by John Krause

March 30 - 31, 1974

No doubt about it... Lost Drill Tank proved to be one challenging assignment. The site was located in the Black Mountain range in the Fire Mountain area, just inside the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, and the job was funded and supervised by the State Game & Fish with the cooperation of the U. S. Park Service.

Unlike most waterhole projects, the site selected was not an existing pothole, and the rock forming the base and walls of the proposed catchment were highly fractured and unsuitable for water storage. These problems were compounded by the site's remote location several hundred yards up a rugged canyon. Together, these spelled lots of work for the party that showed up for this project:

John Chew, Jr.	U.S. Park Service
Dave McLean	U.S. Park Service
Don Belknap	Arizona Game & Fish Dept.
"Major" Townsend	Arizona Game & Fish Dept.
George Welch	Arizona Game & Fish Dept.

Roy Bigler	Kingman
Danny Dawson	Kingman
Leslie Greer	Kingman
Dave Phillips	Kingman
Bernie Lawrence	Kingman
Bill Snider	Yuma
Tom Brown	Phoenix
Bob Gray	Phoenix
Ted Harris	Phoenix
George Hill	Phoenix
John Houzenga	Phoenix
Bill Keenly	Phoenix
Dick Krause	Phoenix
John Krause	Phoenix
Dave Mitchell	Phoenix
Danny Pfaff	Phoenix
Ed Shannahan	Phoenix
Bob Stonoff	Phoenix
Mike Wallace	Phoenix
Jim Watkins	Phoenix

The objective was to build two dams, the higher one to stop silt and the lower one to store water, and to seal both tanks to make them watertight. As if this assignment was not sufficiently challenging, Mother Nature served up high winds all day Saturday which filled all eyes with sand and frayed the spirits of the group.

Saturday evening Cook Houzenga served up his usual fine dutch oven dinner, featuring a meat pot of bighorn sheep, antelope and javelina. However, the wind showed no let up and most of the group abandoned the customary Saturday night campfire shortly after dark and headed for the sack.

As if to make up for Saturday's hardship, Sunday brought a special treat. Some of the party had gone up toward the project site early and had stopped enroute to glass the Black Mountain range. By the time the rest of the work party had caught up, John Houzenga and Danny Pfaff had spotted four bighorn rams, two of which John ventured were trophy book size. After everyone had an opportunity to watch them in the spotting scopes, we proceeded to the job site where John, Bill Snider and Dave Mitchell split off to stalk the rams with Bill's telephoto. That stalk took them to within 100 yards of the largest ram, the photographic results of which will appear in a subsequent Ram's Horn.

Saturday had witnessed the building of the two dams, during which Tom Brown unintentionally imbedded ¹/₂ a drill bit in solid rock while sinking holes for reinforcing steel. The drill was eventually abandoned to add to the reinforcing and to lend a name to this new water hole.

Sunday's job was to seal the two tanks. This was accomplished by noon and a weary but satisfied bunch of guys headed down the canyon for some lunch and a long ride home.

In parting, a special tip of the hat is due to our friends with the State Game & Fish and U.S. Park Service, and to Tom Brown for his fine contribution at the working end of his jackhammer.

NOTICE

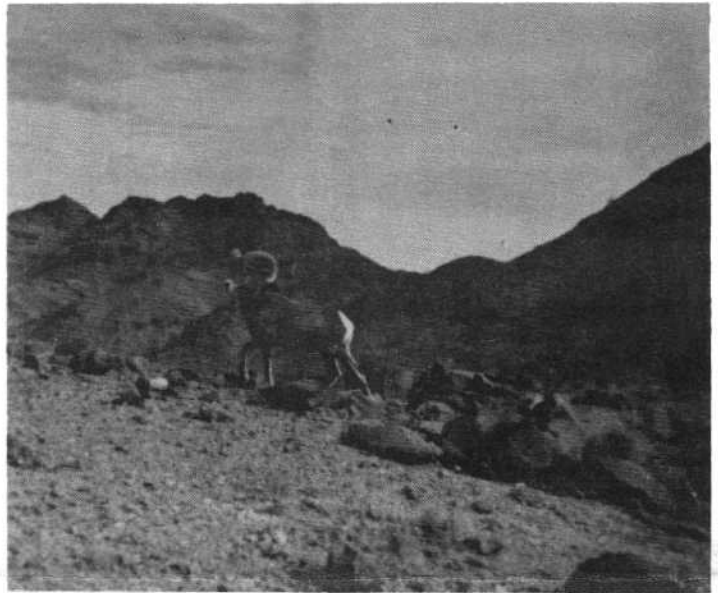
The Box Canyon Tank Project, scheduled for May 18 and 19, 1974, is cancelled. We'll pick this one up next season.

SPEAKERS BUREAU

On February 20th a presentation was made to the ASU Wildlife Society by speaker Ed Shannahan. Ed discussed Society's activities and its purpose and accomplishments.

This was a well informed audience that had many questions concerning the burro and coyote effect on the survival of the desert sheep. Every effort was made to give a true picture about the situation. Another good discussion was had on the amount of new developments along the Colorado and Bill Williams rivers and the effect on sheep habitat. Here it was pointed out that Arizona is losing habitat because of developers and once development starts the sheep move out or die.

From the speaker's viewpoint, it was gratifying to see that this young group had an open mind and reason to ask probing questions about our wildlife habitat because someday the future of Arizona wildlife may be in their hands.



This Ram was photographed on 1 January 1974 in Unit 43B South by Ronnie Clark from a distance of 30 feet. Ronnie estimated his horns at 25".



Typical sign of sheep is this battered Saguaro. Most of them are found in close vicinity of the waterholes. Photo by Bob Stonoff.

IN MEMORIAM

The Society is saddened at the passing of Jack Walters on 30 March 1974. He will remain in our memory not only as a good friend but as a man who devoted most of his last 20 years supporting sound management practices for the desert bighorn sheep, and as one of the prime movers for the just about completed Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Exhibit at the Phoenix Zoo, which Jack was able to visit just three days before his death.

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