



THE RAM'S HORN

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

VOL. 8

DECEMBER 1974

NO. 6

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

At the Annual Membership meeting held September 28, 1974, the 1974/1975 Board of Directors were elected. These individuals will lead the Society for the coming season in projects, programs, legislation, education and other important activities.

The Society will be very busy this coming season with water hole projects, Legislative work and hopefully sheep survey projects. All these activities will provide opportunities for everyone to get involved. Working committees are being formed and we would like to invite you to come to the Board of Directors meetings and join in the activity. The meetings are held every second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Education Building at the Phoenix Zoo.

Your Society is always interested in meeting and working with all its members.

Doug Reynolds

ZOO NEWS

At the October 1974 commission meeting of the Arizona Game and Fish Department, it was unanimously voted to capture two ewes for the Phoenix Zoo enclosure. In a cooperative effort between the AG&F and the Phoenix Zoo, two ewes were captured the weekend of November 16th and 17th.

Dr. Hood of Phoenix Zoo reports that the ewes are about 5 - 6 years old and appear to be in good health.

Be sure to stop by the exhibit next time you are at the Zoo.

1975 PROJECTS

For the upcoming project season, our new Project Chairman P. D. Holt has put together a schedule that should enable every one of us to get out at least once.

The first project is scheduled for 11 and 12 January and is located in the New Water Mountains. The project, one of last years, is the Hidden Tank and the task will involve cleaning out debris and getting the tank back to its natural state. The meeting place is at Danny Nasca's station in Ramsey, Az. at 9:30 p.m. Friday 10 January 1975.

If anyone needs additional information, call the Project Chairman at 683-2201 or any of the board members. (They are listed on the back page of the insert).



Bob Gray turns over the Society Presidency to Doug Reynolds

OUR YEAR-END ACTIVITIES CONCLUDED

By Bob Gray

Consuming 400 dutch oven bisquets along with three 16" dutch oven corn breads in conjunction with five gallons of cole slaw and six gallons of ranch style beans is no easy chore. Especially when you had 90 of the most delicious steaks charcoaled just to your own specification and seconds for some of the more hungry of the crowd who kicked off the combined activities of the Society's year-end annual meeting, clinic, and fun night. Oops - just to keep from getting thirsty there were 20 cases or 480 cans of several varieties of cool hops along with one barrel of the same.

All of this started on Friday, September 27, 1974 at 7 p.m. Dancing was also a nice inclusion and gave hunters, nonmembers, guests and members a fine opportunity to become better acquainted. I strongly suspect that a great deal of sheep talk was included in the conversation for the evening.

John Houzenga and Steve Weisser probably didn't get much chance to socialize as preparing this outstanding culinary feast presented a master plan of logistics. As usual this presented no problem to the ability of talent hidden away in the depths of these two fellows heads.

At 8 a.m. the following morning (believe it or not) our annual membership meeting was called to order and surprisingly enough we started off with a good number of people in their

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This year's trophy display at the

OUR YEAR END. . .

seats. The various chairmen reported the activities and efforts expended during the previous year and I can guarantee you that they merely skimmed over the most important of the events in their summary. Recommendations for future planning and development were presented and should be reviewed for the betterment of our Society.

Then at 10 a.m. we received a comprehensive picture of the future of our sheep habitat in Arizona. It was startling, sad, and yet opened our eyes to the pitfalls that lie ahead. Thanks to the fellows that so graciously prepared and presented this fine program and thanks to Carolyn Langdon for chairing one of our most important and happy events of the year.

Before the day was over, 131 people attended the various activities. Among those, 31 were hunters from all over the state and even California. Our members in attendance and the spectators likewise came from all over our great state. If you missed this years annual festivities, rest assured that next year the same happenings will occur and I extend an invitation to all of you now to join us in 1975 for our once-a-year outing.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

During the month of January each member will receive a Membership Renewal Notice with a handy return envelope for your convenience. As in the past, the minimum annual donation for personal membership is only \$5.00.

In addition to personal memberships, business firms and organizations are eligible for an Associate Membership. Minimum annual donation for an Associate Membership is \$25.00.

Also enclosed with your membership renewal will be an extra membership application. Please pass it along to an interested person or sign up that favorite hunting pardner as a present. The Society appreciates your support.

ATTENTION HUNTERS!

If you took a Ram during the 1974 hunt, please send a picture of you and your trophy and the pertinent specifics to Ram's Horn. We would like to publish it in the Ram's Horn Trophy Room.

ANNUAL MEETING AND CLINIC

The society held its annual business meeting Saturday morning on 28 September. Despite the early hour (8:00 a.m.), the turnout was excellent. Following the business meeting elections were held for the officers and board members of the 1974-75 season. The new officers and board members are:

President — Doug Reynolds	Programs — Carolyn Langdon
Vice President — Ned Smith	Publicity — Ben Avery
Secretary — John Krause	Finance — Paul Webb
Treasurer — Steve Weisser	Projects — P. D. Holt

By-Laws & Resolutions — Jim Pierce
Legislative* — Dr. Elwood C. O'Dell

The annual sheep hunters clinic was held after the business meeting and was highlighted by an excellent panel of speakers. Since its conception the clinic has strived to improve the hunters knowledge of sheep habits, terrain, methods of hunting and the importance of physical and mental conditioning. Extensive information was passed on to

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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. Current Membership: 458

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clinic. Photo by Doug Reynolds

the attending 31 hunters by former sheep hunters, expert guides and game biologists.

The Society wishes to thank all those members and nonmembers alike who made this a meaningful and educational event. Our special thanks to our speakers Monti Dotson, George Welsh, Bernie Lawrence, Jerry Day, Ned Smith, Dave Daughtry, Dean Bowdoin, Steve Weissner, John Houzenga, Ed Shannahan and Danny Nasca. Additionally, our thanks to Dr. Bill Marlowe who sent us his films on trophy rams.

The 131 attendees at the Saturday's event were catered by the Phoenix Varmettes. Our warmest thanks to those girls for a job well done.

*Our new Legislative Chairman, Dr. E. C. O'Dell, was appointed by the Board of Directors at the regular November board meeting since the candidate for this position withdrew right before the annual meeting. Carolyn Langdon

MEET YOUR BOARD



Doug Reynolds, President

Doug, a 15-year Arizona resident, joined the Society in 1970 with the objective to get involved in the Society's activities and to learn about desert bighorn sheep. He works at Garret AiResearch in Phoenix as a Quotation Specialist. His past offices with the Society include that of vice president (1974-74) and publicity chairman (1972-73).

In addition to enjoying his work with the Society, Doug finds time to bow hunt, rifle hunt, fish and do a lot of photography. Doug, his wife Janice and their 18-month old son Jeffrey live in Tempe

John Krause, Secretary

A native Arizonan, John has spent more than half of his 37 years living out of state in pursuit of schooling and employment. In 1971, by a fluke of fate, John found himself transferred back home by his then employer, Greyhound Corporation. Since then, he has moved into the family business of Publisher of the Arizona Guide Magazine.

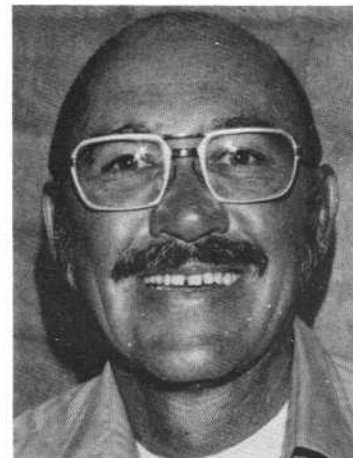


John and his wife, Jill, live in Phoenix with their three youngsters — Julia, Matt and Johnny. Leisure interests run to the outdoors: family camping, back-country exploring, hunting whenever possible (like, at the drop of a hat) and the inevitable waterhole projects.

P. D. Holt, Projects Chairman

P.D., a member of the Society almost since its inception, has been an active hunter and fisherman since early boyhood. A twenty-year Arizonan, he is the consignee for Texaco Inc. operating out of Gila Bend.

P.D. took his ram in the Saucedo Mountains during the 1960 hunt and ten years later his son, Mike, harvested the largest ram for that season. He also has been active in the Gila Bend Sportsmans Club and the Arizona Guides Association. His other interests include bow hunting, black powder hunting, and shooting as well as photography. P.D. is married and has four children — two boys and two girls. The Hold family resides in Gila Bend.





Dr. O'Dell's prized trophy

MY 2nd TROPHY RAM by Elwood C. O'Dell, D.D.S

Editors Note:

Up to this year a hunter in Arizona could take only one ram in his lifetime. This year, however, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission ruled (Arizona 74-75 Hunting Regulations, Section R 12-452 para b) that if a permit is left over in any of the hunt units, anyone can apply for it. To the best of our knowledge, Dr. O'Dell is the first Arizonian who has legally taken two rams in the state.

I hunted Unit 14 to get my second ram. The area, Spencer Canyon to be exact, is part of the south rim of the Grand Canyon. I was lucky enough to connect on the ram on the very first day - 12 October 1974 - of the hunt. I spent three days scouting the area and had seen other legal rams in the vicinity. I hunted there last year and knew the sheep were there because I had seen signs every time I was in the area.

This year Ned Smith, Wes Moore and Tom Smith were with me on the opening morning to lend me some helping eyes. When we reached the canyon, Ned and Wes went one way, Tom and I another. In the second area that we checked I heard some falling rocks but couldn't locate the cause 'till about a half-hour later when I spotted an ewe. Then I picked up the ram and three other ewes. After about 30 to 45 minutes of viewing them in the spotting scope I decided it was a very good ram and was going to try for it. Luck was with me and I was successful at about 9:30 a.m.

As I found out later on, the easy part of the hunt was over. We headed on over an old trail into the Grand Canyon at about

1:30 p.m. to get to the ram. We kept a hard pace going around the ledges till about 7:00 p.m. A rocky ledge had to do for bedding since we did not have our coats or bedrolls. Most certainly, I've spent better nights. Morning came at 5:30 a.m. and at about 9:30 with blistered feet, we finally reached the vicinity where the ram had fallen. Once there, we discovered that to reach the ram we had to climb a few sheer, vertical cliffs. Since we also had to get to the spot before Ned and Wes could drop water and food which we badly needed, up we went.

Finally, after many a doubt, we made it up to the ram. However, we soon discovered that we were ledged-up and it would be nearly impossible to get out. Also by this time our feet were very blistered. We asked Ned and Wes to locate a helicopter to get us out. This they promptly did and one of the most exciting and thrilling hunts of my life was soon over.

Upon checking in at the AG&F checkpoint, the ram scored green at 167-5/8. It is going to make a beautiful, life-size mount for my trophy room.

1975 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January

		Place & Time
8	Board of Directors Meeting	7:00 p.m. Phx Zoo
11 - 12	Water Hole Project	Hidden Tank
18 - 19	Zoo Building Maintenance	7:30 a.m. Phx Zoo

February

8 - 9	Water Hole Project	To be announced
12	Board of Directors Meeting	7:00 p.m. Phx Zoo
12	Annual Awards Banquet	Watch for story

March

15 - 16	Water Hole Project (St. Patrick's Day)	
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April

5 - 6	Water Hole Project	To be announced
9	Board of Directors Meeting	7:00 p.m. Phx Zoo
26 - 27	Water Hole Project for BLM	To be announced

May

14	Board of Directors Meeting	7:00 p.m. Phx Zoo
17 - 18	Water Hole Project	To be announced

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ZOO REPORT
By H.B. Hood DVN,
Phoenix Zoo Veterinarian & Member ADDBS

"Big Al" the first bighorn to arrive at the Phoenix Zoo in February, 1972, was found dead in the exhibit on July 17, 1974. There was no evidence of foul play. "Al" was found at 3:00 P.M. on a day when the temperature was about 110°. The pathologist was able only to observe that there were adhesions of the lungs to the rib cage, because the heat had made it impossible to do any extensive tests. We all know that rams are found dead in the wild, with nothing more to show than in this case.

The zoo's pride and joy, the ram lamb was found dead at 7:30 A.M., August 3, 1974. The day before he had been observed eating, playing and nursing. His death was attributed to strep infection. This infection centered around the heart, and later tests showed that it had affected the lungs and liver also.

On August 5th, as if not enough had happened already, the ewe had swollen lips and eyelids. Since there were bees around the waterhole, it was decided to see if the swelling would go down by itself. The next day, the swelling had not gone down, so Dr. Hood, Jack Tinker and Carl Simmons met and decided it would be better for the ewe if she was treated in the enclosure by syringe dart. It had been determined by this time that the ewe had photosensitivity. That's a long word, but it only means an allergic reaction to some food which reacts in some animals when they are exposed to sunlight. When Dr. Hood administered the cortisone-like drug and Vitamin B12, the syringe dart hit the large muscles in front of the long bone in the thigh and slipped along the separation between the muscles, penetrating the abdominal wall and the cecum. This allowed gut contents to enter the abdominal cavity and a fatal peritonitis occurred. It was found later that the velocity control device on the syringe pistol had been set too tight the last time it was cleaned.

It must be noted here that his information was passed on to the Arizona Game & Fish Department as it happened. No attempt was made to suppress the "news".

Dr. Hood had been asked after the birth of the ram lamb to write an article on what the young bighorn meant to the Phoenix Zoo. After this unfortunate sequence of events, it was wondered if anything positive could be written or passed on to the membership. These are Dr. Hood's comments:

There are many positive things to be gained from this unhappy situation. We must remember that "Al" was captured in an agricultural area. It is very possible that he had a severe case of pneumonia when he was very young. His breathing machinery had been severely damaged. No wonder he stayed close to civilization—he couldn't compete. Jack Walters told me (in complete confidence) that "Al" was a very poor specimen and that he should be rendered incapable of reproduction (that isn't exactly what Jack said). Nevertheless "Al" prospered and since he was the dominant (biggest) male in the exhibit, it was presumed that he was the father of the lamb. That he had had a tough life should not affect the vigor of the lamb. We knew this. What happened to the lamb may not be a total loss either. If a lamb, with striptococcal survives and if lung infection and liver are also involved, then perhaps this is where adhesions begin. Maybe this is the "bug" which helps wipe out 85% of the bighorn lamb crop. How are we to know if we don't continue the project. It was found that many antibiotics would have helped this infection in the lamb. I don't know if antibiotic sensitivity tests have been carried out on other organisms which cause disease in bighorns. I submit that this is positive information that there is much more to be learned about bighorns, that in the controlled, natural environment of the exhibit at the Phoenix Zoo, more can be learned in a shorter period of time about bighorns than in the wild. In this environment of cooperation — the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, the Arizona Game & Fish Department, and the Phoenix Zoo — we can go forward in our search for what is best for the bighorn in our changing world. My only regret is that mechanical failure of the syringe pistol deprived me of a unique diagnosis and the state of a bighorn ewe. Let's stay positive—let's take heart— and go forward with a program that will benefit one of the threatened species of North America.—Arizona Game & Fish officials and officials of the Phoenix Zoo are working to obtain two ewes for the exhibit later in the year.