



THE RAM'S HORN

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

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FEBRUARY, 1975

NO. 2

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Things are hopping at the Phoenix Zoo again. Early in February another lamb was born at the sheep exhibit. Lamb and mother are fine and have been seen all over the mountain. The mother is one of the two mature ewes placed in the zoo November 17, 1974. Latest word from the zoo is that it appears the other ewe is also going to have a lamb. Stop by and see the new family.

This year's awards banquet, March 22 at the Desert Hills, will be a memorable event. There should be a fine group of 1974 trophies on display, including the one that almost broke the State's record. In total, we hope to present about eight awards. The evening will also include a fine Bighorn film, a talk by Dr. Ohmart, titled "Burros Along the Colorado", a brief look at water hole work of 1975 and dancing to close-out the evening. Get in touch with Carolyn Langdon, 8132 N. 16th St., Phoenix, 944-7862 or any other board member for tickets. I look forward to seeing all of you at the banquet.

Also, I hope you can make the March 15/16 waterhole project -- This one is the annual St. Patrick's day gathering where everything comes up green and fun -- make plans to be there!

Doug Reynolds

UPCOMING PROJECTS

Our next project, erroneously announced as being in the Gila Bend Mountains, is scheduled for the weekend of 15/16 March and is really in the Agila Mountains. The meeting place is the same -- Texaco Service Station in Sentinel, Az., approximately 30 miles west of Gila Bend on Interstate 8. Be there at 9:00 p.m. Friday night 14 March.

The weekend of 5/6 April is scheduled for our fourth project of the season. This one will be a dual project in the Little Horn Tank Mountains and will involve repair and clean-up work on a previous project. The meeting place will be in Dateland, Az. at the Chevron Service Station, approximately 50 miles west of Gila Bend on Interstate 8. Make sure to get there Friday, 4 April by 9:30 p.m. See you on the project!

P. D. Holt



Our newest arrival at the Zoo and his mother take a walk on top of the ridge. This photo was taken by Doug Reynolds on 8 February 1975.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March			
12	Board of Directors Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Phx Zoo Education Bldg
14	Aquila Mtns Project	9:00 p.m.	Sentinel, Az (See story)
22	Annual Awards Banquet	6:30 p.m.	Desert Hills Hotel Phx.
April			
4	Little Horn Tank Mtn Project	9:30 p.m.	Dateland, Az (See story)
9	Board of Directors Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Phx Zoo Education Bldg

LAST CALL FOR BANQUET

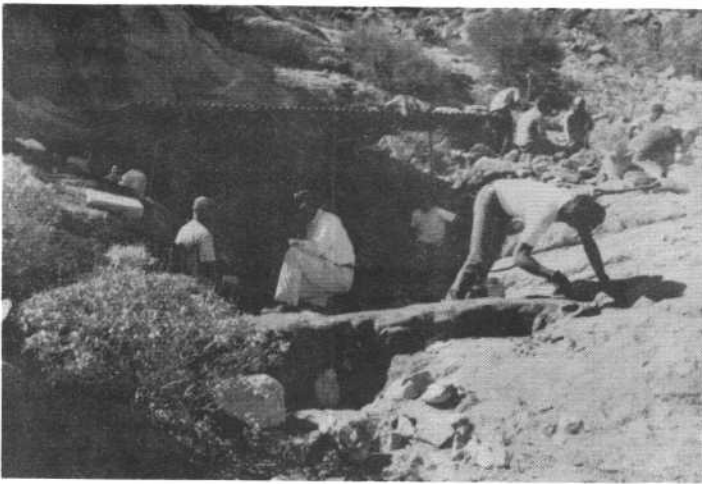
DATE: 22 March 1975 ☆ TIME: 6:30 'till Midnight
PLACE: Desert Hills Hotel, 2707 E. Van Buren, Phoenix
COST: \$9.00 per person ☆ MENU: Sirloin Steak Dinner
TICKETS: Write, phone or see Carolyn Langdon, 602-944-7862
8132 N. 16th St., Phoenix, Az. 85020

Don't Forget to Bring Your Friends!

TUSERAL TANK PROJECT

On 7 February, the second waterhole project got under way. We met in Gila Bend and proceeded down the road towards Yuma on Highway 80. At mile post 50 we left the highway and proceeded across the desert on the dustiest trail in the west, towards the Tuseral Tank located in the Sierra Tuseral, which is in the Cabeza Prieta game range right on the Mexican border. The dust was something else -- reliable sources informed me that by the time you finished drinking a can of old Coor's -- it was half-way filled with dust! Somehow we managed to get across those 48 dust-laden miles and arrived at the campsite at approximately 1:30 a.m.

We were greeted at the campfire by Monte Dodson of the U.S.F.S.W., for whom we worked on this project, and his crew and after assuring that nobody got lost in the dust, just about everybody turned in.



View of the Tuseral Tank. Note the small holding dam in the foreground.

Next morning everybody got up somewhat later than usual and up we went to the Tuseral tank. Monte briefed us on the tasks to be done and everybody went to work. This project was very interesting and actually consisted of five separate tasks. The tank itself is a concrete-lined, sloping, rectangular pool into the side of the mountain protected by a sheet metal awning. It had developed excessive seepage and Monte's crew had pumped it dry the day before. Our task was to clean out the tank, seal and plaster it to eliminate any seepage. In addition, directly in front of the tank a small holding dam was deemed necessary to increase the water holding capacity of the tank. This dam was constructed from available rocks and brought in mortar. To the west of the tank two small rip-rap dams in the main run-off channel protect the tank from excess silt and rocks. Over the years this area between the two dams had accumulated a lot of silt and had to be cleaned out. This was probably the roughest task since the silt had to be shoveled in buckets and a regular bucket brigade was required to get rid of the debris further down the wash. This little exercise just about broke many a good man's back -- however, it was well worth it and sure developed some mighty thirsts. Almost right behind the tank and about a hundred feet up the mountain where the run-off channel sort of splits, a small diversion dam was required to channel the maximum amount of water towards the tank. The reason for this requirement is that the general area gets an extremely light rainfall and it is important to capture as much



Our younger generation at work. From left to right, Greg Koons and John Langdon in the foreground, Frank Farley and John Carroll in background.

water as possible. Again this dam was constructed from rocks and mortar. Another small diversion tank was also constructed east of the tank to accomplish the same objective. This sure provided a wide variety of tasks for the 33 members and guests. The task force consisted of the following:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Joe Bormanis, Phoenix | John Langdon, Phoenix |
| Earl Carr, Tempe | Joe Machac, Phoenix |
| John Carroll, Phoenix | Fred Martin, Gilbert |
| Monte Dodson, USFWS, Yuma | Chuck O'Dell, Mesa |
| Terry Evans, Phoenix | Elwood O'Dell, Mesa |
| Frank Farley, Phoenix | Jim Perry, Phoenix |
| Bill Furedy, Tempe | Kirk Petersdorf, Phoenix |
| Joe Gundry, Phoenix | Bud Phillips, USFWS, Yuma |
| John Halliwill, Yuma | Rich Richards, Phoenix |
| Ted Harris, Scottsdale | David Riley, USFWS, Yuma |
| John Houzenga, Scottsdale | Ed Shannahan, Scottsdale |
| David Hussey, Phoenix | Ned Smith, Mesa |
| Harry Hussey, Phoenix | Wayne Smith, Mesa |
| William Hutchinson, Yuma | Ken Voget, Ajo |
| Bill Kerenkes, Yuma | Bob Weaver, AF&G, Yuma |
| Greg Koons, Phoenix | Walter Wick, Scottsdale |
| Don Langdon, Phoenix | |

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Again, a great turnout and this time an all-Arizona affair. It was gratifying to see the number of youngsters who came along on this trip and their eagerness to do more than their share of work. Most certainly this is an excellent way to acquaint our younger generation with the ways of the desert and the basic conservation principles. An additional treat for the youngsters was to see a beautiful ram on a mountain side not far away from the campsite. I think about half the people on this outing managed to see this magnificent animal. Many had never seen one before.



Our clean-up crew excavating silt and debris between the two rip-rap dams. Note the bucket-brigade operation.

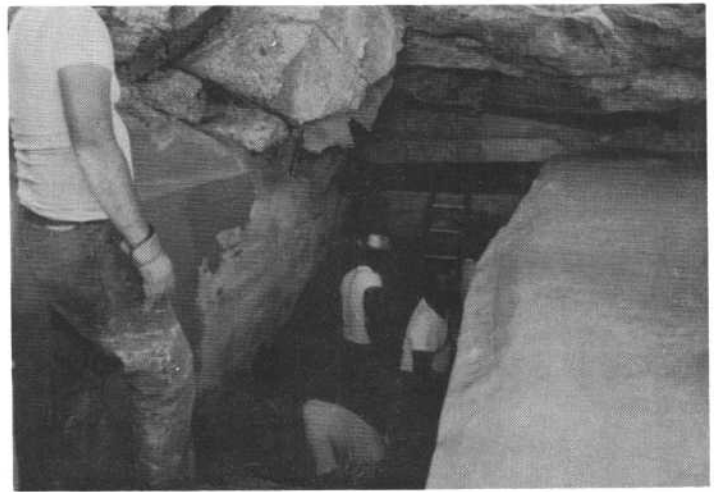


Construction of a small diversion dam on the west side of the tank.

Saturday evening we had our excellent dutch oven cooked supper consisting of buffalo, antelope and bighorn sheep roasts, plus green tossed salad, corn, beans, sweet peas, biscuits and cake. A sheer gourmet's delight!

Once supper was finished the entire crew gathered around the campfire and after a few welcoming words by Ned Smith and Ed Shannahan, Dave Riley of Yuma USFWS gave an excellent presentation about the history of the Cabeza Prieta and the famous Caborka Trail, the so-called Devil's Hiway.

Dave's talk traced the beginning of known human habitation of the area to 5000 BC when Indians crossed the area to the Gulf of California to trade for salt and sea shells. San Papago tribe inhabited the area with the last survivor up to 1912. A Spanish Conquistador, Melchior Diaz, crossed the area about



Inside of the Tuseral Tank. This photo shows the final sealing and plastering operation.

1540. Father Kino made three trips through Cabezas in 1699. When gold was discovered in California during 1849, an estimated 20,000 people tried to cross this route between 1850 - 1860. Possibly 400 - 600 died trying.

In 1877 the Southern Pacific Railroad essentially ended the use of the Devil's Hiway. 1915, however, saw the first auto successfully traverse this route.

Finally in 1939 President Roosevelt established the Cabeza Prieta Refuge. The primary purpose for the game range is to protect the desert bighorn sheep. The range also provides habitat for a remnant population of the Sonoran pronghorn, javelina, Gambel's quail and white-winged dove. The range is administered by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Land Management. The area is more than 1,340 square miles in size and is one of the most barren landscapes in Arizona.

After this sojourn in history, there was some campfire talk and everyone turned in early.

Next morning everybody was up bright and early since we had "time-off" 'till 10 a.m. to look for sheep. Unfortunately, nobody managed to spot any.

The last chore for this project saw us repairing a washed-out trail. This was an important undertaking because Monte Dodson was going to bring in the water tanker to fill the just restored Tuseral Tank. This task did not take very long and by noon we were back at the camp.

Shortly thereafter we started our trek back to civilization. Since it was early in the day, Monte Dodson took us to two other active water holes in the area.

The first one was the Sinita Tank located in the Drift Hills, approximately 8 miles north and somewhat east from the Tuseral Tank. A lot of our members and friends should remember this one from the last season. Sinita Tank had plenty of water and there was no seepage evident. It's truly rewarding to see our efforts pay-off. Also it was a great opportunity for some of us to see a working water hole.

The second tank, the North Pinta Tank, located at the north end of Sierra Pinta about 10 miles north-east of Sinita also had plenty of water and showed evidence of heavy use.

This concluded our truly great educational weekend in the Cabeza Prieta. Our sincere thanks to Monte Dodson and his people for providing us this enjoyable opportunity.

MEET YOUR BOARD

Carolyn Langdon Programs Chairwoman

Carolyn was born in Jerome, Arizona and has been an avid hunter for the last ten years. She has hunted the Grand Canyon and most every other place in Arizona.

Carolyn is a graduate of the Good Samaritan School of Nursing and presently spends most of her time raising her family -- Robyn 4, and Courtney 3.

Carolyn and her husband Don have been active members of the Society for many years. The Langdon family are residents of Phoenix.

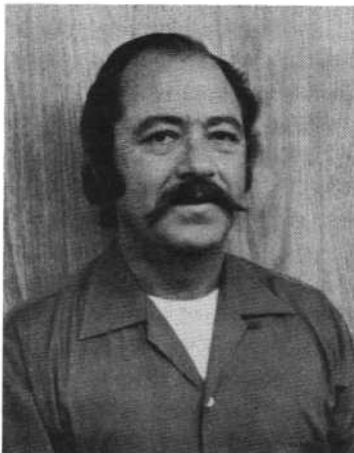


James R. Pierce By-Laws & Resolutions Chairman

Jim is a native Arizonian from the Globe-Miami area. He attended P.C. and N.A.U., served the armed forces with the Corps of Engineers, and has since then been employed at AiResearch in Phoenix.

He became interested in sheep when he was drawn to hunt in both 1960 and 1964. A charter member of the Society, he served as the first elected Secretary-Treasurer then as the Society's second President.

Jim is an active member and Past-President of the Scottsdale Sportsmans Club and a Life Member of the A.W.F. He is now single and resides in Mesa.



Ben Avery, Publicity, Chairman

Ben, Bob Stonoff and John Russo got together after Bob and John organized the first sheep hunters' clinic at Jeff Sievers place, and decided Arizona should form an organization to promote the welfare of the desert bighorn.

Ben used his column in the Arizona Republic to call the first meeting at the annual Arizona Fish and Game Commission season-setting meeting the following year at the Hiway House on east Van Buren, and presided at the breakfast session that got the Society launched with Stonoff as president.

He has been an active member of the Society ever since and worked with Jack Walters to win approval of the Phoenix Zoo Project.

Ben attended that first clinic with his hunting partner, Pete Brown, and they hunted in the Castle Domes. Ben passed up two legal rams the first morning he hunted. "One was a massive full curl, but I couldn't see ending a four-day hunt the first hour," he said. That was the last legal ram he saw, but Pete scored two days later.

Ben says he is not a trophy hunter. He had planned to give the ram, if he was successful to the Fish and Wildlife Service for a full size mount. He no longer puts in for sheep, because a trophy means so much to other hunters.

Ben is semi-retired, is a member of the board of directors and executive committee of the National Rifle Association of America, a member of the western Regional Advisory Committee to the National Park Service, vice-president of the Pateman-Akin Kachina Foundation, which sponsors outdoor education for high school students, and is active on other community projects.



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