



# THE RAM'S HORN

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

VOL. 9

APRIL 1975

NO. 3

## SOCIETY RECEIVES "GOOD EGG" AWARD

At the 9th annual awards banquet the Arizona Zoological Society (Phoenix Zoo) presented the Society with the "Good Egg" award. Dr. Hood, representing the zoo, presented the award stating the sheep society had built for the zoo and people of Arizona the most unique exhibit of its kind in the world. Dr. Hood further stated that in addition to being a fine public attraction, the sheep exhibit will serve as a controlled study area for this magnificent animal.

Inscription on the award reads:

### GOOD EGG AWARD

In appreciation for the contribution to the Phoenix Zoo  
by members of  
ARIZONA DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP SOCIETY 1974.

Accepting the award, Society president Doug Reynolds thanked Dr. Hood and the Arizona Zoological Society for this honor on behalf of the Society's 550 members.



Doug Reynolds (left) accepts the "Good Egg" award from Dr. Hood.

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Records were made to be broken! An all time high of 76 workers participated in the Agila Mountain water hole project. That broke the old record by about 20 people. The campfire was surrounded by a lot of new (tired) faces. It is especially heart warming to see the keen interest in sheep welfare being picked up by more and more sportsmen.

One hundred and sixty in attendance at the 9th annual awards banquet also set a new record. This years banquet recognized seven hunters for their skillful efforts during the 1974 season. This is the largest number of trophies measuring over 162 B&C points taken in one year. This years top trophy head measures 185-6/8, which places it number 3 in the 1971 edition of Arizona Wildlife Trophies Book.

There is a real reward in the participation of these activities. Come-on-along and find out!

Doug Reynolds

## AGUILA PROJECT

by Bob Stonoff

We had been there before! In April of 1969, the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the Sheep Society spent a weekend in the Aguila Mountains developing a waterhole on top of the mountain. Of course, we weren't the first to frequent the area. Thompson Tank was built in March of 1963 and the military used the Aguilas during World War II. Before that were the prospectors and the Indians, both historic and prehistoric. The latter left their marks — as we did — at Eagle and Don Diago (sic) tanks — grinding stones, pottery fragments, and petroglyphs. Archaeologists tell us that they only lingered here during the mesquite and palo verde bean harvest, during hunting trips, or in passing through while trading between the Sea of Cortez and the Gila Valley.

The Mountains themselves haven't changed much over the years. Except for a few jeep trails and the gunnery-range discards of shell cases, smashed "drones," and spent bullets, the rugged range is much like it was before man came. Even erosion is retarded here — the scant rainfall having little effect on the

(Continued on page 2)

**AGUILA PROJECT** (continued)

volcanic rock of the mountains that aren't even affected by the sand-blasting winds that are common here.

Wildlife? The last time we were here, we saw a good desert ram on the mountain, Sonoran antelope tracks at Thompson Tank, a golden eagle, a flight of yellow warblers, a ram's head (that I picked up), and three rattlesnakes. We found another rattler this time too — just above Eagle Tank — but failed to see any sheep. The highlight of the trip was the sighting of three antelope near Thompson Tank.

The Aguilas have no known springs or seeps and of the known watering places, two are man-made and the rest are natural tanks. Let's take a brief look at each of them:

**Eagle Tanks:** Located at the base of the mountains, a series of five natural potholes (or tanks) scoured out of solid granite in a narrow defile where the canyon walls press close together. The lower (and largest) tank was silted badly and was leaking via a natural crack. One work crew shoveled out the silt and plugged the leak. Net results: 5,000 gallons added capacity when and if it rains.

**Don Diago Tanks:** Much like Eagle Tank and only a mile to the northwest, this natural waterhole consists of two tanks or potholes — and now, a new one, the one we made by constructing a masonry dam in a solid rock canyon. Net result: another 5,000 gallons.

**Thompson Tank:** A man-made water catchment consisting of galvanized iron apron and a collection trough which feeds into a 3,000 gallon storage tank. The latter feeds a concrete trough where wildlife drink. We replaced the 3,000 gallon steel tank — which was leaking — with a new 4,000 gallon tank and cleaned the apron. The old tank was full of water which we salvaged by pumping it into the new system.

**Lambing Tank:** The Sheep Society did extensive work on this tank in 1969 by repairing the tank and its cover (shade) and building a riff-raft dam above it to divert debris. The tank is located on top of the range in a known lambing area.

**Natural Tank:** The only water in the north section of the mountain — providing it's really there! It's on the map but we only found a small basin with a little water from a very recent rain. It is probably of little value as a water resource.

Well, that's the story of the Aguilas except for the people activities. We had a terrific turnout! We had about 75 individuals and one of the hardest workers present was the assistant director of the Game and Fish Department, Phil Cosper. I asked Phil to come again and he replied, "You bet; I'm enjoying this." And not to be outdone were other Game and Fish personnel — Dan Schadle, Don Belknap, and Al Gunther, and a host of Sheep Society members and guests. Inasmuch as it was the time of St. Patrick, we had the "irregular Irish shenanigans" (or was it "Shannahans") and Saturday evening provided a fantastic dutch oven dinner of buffalo-meat stew, biscuits, cornpone, and beans. Muchas gracias to Houzenga and crew! Afterwards, everyone enjoyed a great time of fellowship and a huge bonfire of ironwood that didn't burn down until long after the midnight's chill penetrated the canyon where we were camped.

Our project workers were: Steve Blum, Don Belknap, Tim Blank, Tom Boggess, Jim Brady, John Carroll, Doug Chapman, Lester Cody, Ruben J. Conde, Phil Cosper, Kent Dominy, Matt Dominy, Wade Dominy, Terry Evans, Bill Furedy, Ken Grammer, Joe Gundry, Ricky L. Hamilton, Donald G. Hassell, Harry

Hazlett, Bill Holly, P. D. Holt, John Houzenga, Ray Howell, Raymond Howell, Jr., Russell Howell, David Hussey, Harry Hussey, John Kenson, Rocky Laut, Cecil Lavance, Jim Machac, Joe Machac, Fred Martin, Bob McFair, Frank Murphy, Chuck O'Dell, Elwood C. O'Dell, Troy O'Dell, Jerry Petkovsek, James Pierce, Richard I. Pierce, Doug Reynolds, William P. Robinson, Dan Schadle, Carl Scrivens, Don A. Scrivens, Ed Shannahan, Lyle Sietsema, Ned Smith, Wayne Smith, Bob Stonoff, James H. Taylor, Major Townsend, Steve Weisser, Walter Wick, Harley Young, Jr.

**160 ATTEND BANQUET**

It was to a "full house crowd" that the 9th Annual Awards Banquet got under way. Displayed at the banquet were 5 of the 7 trophies receiving awards for the 1974 season. Also on display was a life size mount of each of the four different North American bighorn sheep belonging to Ned Smith and Elwood O'Dell.

The banquet opened with the introduction of the featured speaker Dr. Ohmart, Master of Ceremony George Welch of the Arizona Game & Fish, and special guests, Mr. and Mrs. Vince Cioni from Ottawa, Illinois, Mr. and Mrs. Doggett of Illinois and Mr. and Mrs. Martin Wood of Dallas, Texas. During the introduction, past president Bob Gray presented George Welch with a "very unique" award to help him identify mature rams on future sheep surveys.

After a good sirloin steak dinner, Dr. Robert Ohmart, associate professor and head of the Wild Life Program at ASU gave a very informative discussion of burro study results along the Colorado River. The figures given on possible future population of burros were very alarming. Dr. Ohmart displayed color coded collars and radio collars used in his research program.

Additional entertainment in the form of a movie entitled "Bighorn" by Stauffer Enterprises and a slide presentation on 1975 waterhole projects were presented. Also, Bob Gray recited his poem "Ode to a Pot Hole" illustrated by some very apropos slides.

During the evening some lucky guests won the following door prizes:

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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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A pair of Red Wing Boots — donated by Red Wing Shoe Store, 6054 N. 16th St., Phoenix

Two bighorn photos by Ned Smith — processing donated by Magna Laboratories, 260 N. 32nd St., Phoenix

A pair of binoculars — donated by Peterson Sporting Goods of Mesa

A 4-power Tasco rifle scope — donated by Burgs Sport Shop of Mesa

A wood burning depicting bighorns — donated by Johnny Ozols, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin

Two silver bighorn tie tacks — donated by the Society

A \$50.00 gift certificate — donated by Jack Wight Wildlife Studios

Seven sheep taken in the 1974 season qualified for awards. The hunters taking the sheep were presented individual trophies for their accomplishments:

	Unit	B & C Points
1. Gary Ferrier	46B	185 6/8
2. Betty J. Rennick	45A	178 2/8
3. Roy Seal	44B	168 5/8
4. Robert Fletcher	14A, B, C & D	168
5. Elwood C. O'Dell	14A, B, C & D	166
6. Dan Ellington	45A	165 6/8
7. Robert Woolsey	40B	163 5/8

Gary Ferrier took top honors and was given the "largest ram" trophy donated by Jeff Sievers. Also noteworthy was the life size mount of Betty Rennick's 178 2/8 ram which was on display at the banquet.

The evening was full of light hearted humor from our grand master of ceremony, George Welch. The evening concluded with a good old country music dance featuring John Houzenga and "Tiger by the Tail".



Bob Gray receives the Past Presidents Award from Doug Reynolds. Looking on is George Welch, the banquet's master of ceremonies.



Gary Ferrier received the top award of the season. Note the massive horns on Gary's ram.



Betty Rennick received her trophy for the second largest ram of the 1974 season. Her ram is looking on.



Dr. Ohmart, the featured speaker of the evening.



Roy Seal receives award for his trophy from our President Doug Reynolds



Dan Ellington was another proud recipient.



Dr. O'Dell, our own Legislative Chairman, was also a proud recipient of the award for his trophy ram.

## MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

The first quarter of 1975 has already passed and yet quite a few members have not submitted their renewal donations. Please don't forget that these donations are extremely vital to the success of your Society and the activities that it sponsors. So, why don't you take time for the few minutes to fill out and submit the renewal to keep your Society going!

## LAST 1975 PROJECT

The final waterhole project of the year is scheduled for the weekend of 17/18 May. The project is called MASTER SPRING and it is located in the Black Mountains. Meeting place is the Arizona Game and Fish Department office in Kingman, Arizona, which is the last building on the left going on Highway 93 towards Las Vegas. Meet there at 10:30 p.m. Friday 16 May.

The task will consist of developing a natural spring into a waterhole. Everyone is urged to bring pack frames – and guess what that means! A 4-wheel drive will be required upon leaving the highway.

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P.O. BOX 5241  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85010

## 1974 SHEEP HUNT RESULTS

Unit	Hunt No.	Permits Issued	Rams Taken	% Success	Rams Making Ariz. Record Book
12A & B	601	9	2	22.2	
14A,B,C&D	602/604	6	5	83.3	2
15A & B	605	4	3	75.0	
15C	606	4	3	75.0	
15D	607	2	2	100.0	
14B	610	3	0	0	
33	611	3	1	33.3	
39	612	2	1	50.0	
40A	613	3	3	100.0	
40B	614	2	1	50.0	1
41	615	3	2	66.7	
43A	616	1	1	100.0	
43B	617	3	1	33.3	
44B	618	4	4	100.0	1
45A	619	3	3	100.0	2
45B	620	3	1	33.3	
45C	621	4	4	100.0	
46A	622	2	2	100.0	
46B	623	2	2	100.0	1
Total		63	41	65.1	7

Info taken by Ariz. Game & Fish	rt. curl length	left curl length	growth rings	green B&C score
Maximum	39-3/8	41	14	185-7/8
Minimum	25-7/8	25-4/8	3	128-2/8
Average	31-2/8	31-4/8	7.5	153-5/8

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