



THE RAM'S HORN

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ARIZONA DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP SOCIETY, INC.

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NO. 5

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

A year's involvement with the Sheep Society has lead us in many interesting directions. The activities of 1974-1975 have included the most successful sheep hunting season ever, about 12 separate water hole projects, a cooperative survey effort in the Aravaipa Canyon with the Arizona Game & Fish Department, a campaign launched to protect the sheep in the Sierra Estrellas, a change in the sheep permit waiting period from five to three years, and the largest Banquet ever with 160 persons in attendance.

At the Phoenix Zoo two new ewes were introduced, two lambs born, the deaths of one ewe and one lamb, a new roof for the exhibit building, and the Society was awarded the Zoo's Good Egg Award for its contributions.

Each person's involvement has produced personal rewards. For myself, it has been the most rewarding year of my life—a unique opportunity to be involved in worthwhile efforts with truly fine people. I'm thankful for the efforts of others that made this a very successful year.

Doug Reynolds

NOTICE OF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

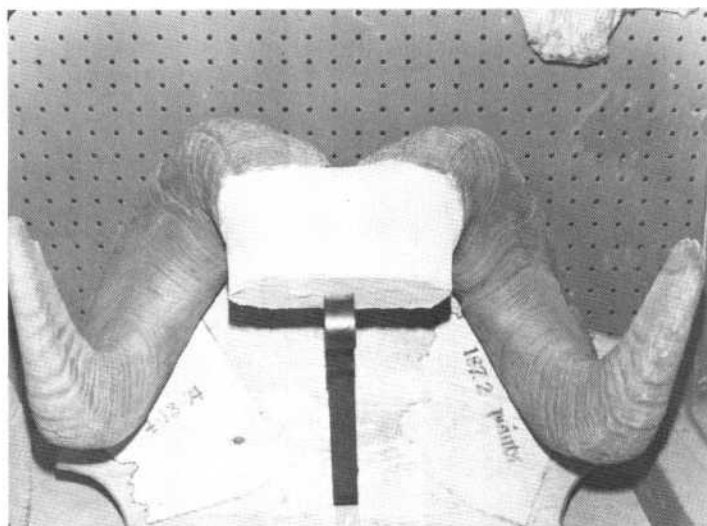
This year's General Membership Meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on October 4, 1975 at the Black Canyon Shooting Range. This is your opportunity to hear the annual reports from each of the outgoing directors and to participate in the election of the 1975-1976 Board of Directors. Also, proposed changes in the Society's By-Laws will be voted upon. Your attendance would be appreciated.

MAKE YOUR VOICE COUNT!

What ever you do, don't pass up the opportunity to serve on the policy making body of your Society. If you're ready and feel you have the time, contact your nominating committee and let them know you're interested:

Bob Gray	939-8697
Tom Saad	938-0777
Mike Mell	996-4420

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor from and for members in good standing.



Arizona's largest pick-up head was found by Layne Brandt on 13 April 1974. It measures 187.2 B&C points.

9th ANNUAL SHEEP HUNTERS' CLINIC

by John Carroll

The Society will hold the 9th Annual Sheep Hunters' Clinic on Saturday, October 4, 1975 at the Black Canyon Shooting Range.

The Clinic will start at 12:00 noon and last until approximately 7:00 p.m. Activities will include talks on trophy ram identification, legal requirements, use of binoculars and spotting scopes, physical and mental conditioning, use of federal lands and other topics.

The "field experience" portion of this year's Clinic will include the identification and scoring of trophy rams. A terrific prize will be awarded to the hunter who scores the highest in trophy judging (competition for the prize will be limited to this year's eligible hunters).

This is a great opportunity for members, sheep hunters and their friends to see, hear and meet game management experts, experienced guides and hunters, and to see an outstanding display of trophy mounts taken during past

(Continued on page 2)

CLINIC . . .

hunts plus some excellent films about bighorn sheep. The Varmettes will provide lunch at 11:30 a.m. and dinner at 3:30 p.m. This fine group has provided meals for our Clinics in the past, and we are pleased to have them back again this year. There will be a modest charge for each meal.

**AGENDA
9th ANNUAL HUNTERS' CLINIC**

11:30 - 12:00	Lunch	Varmettes
12:00 - 12:05	Introduction	George Welsh
	Trophy Ram Identification	Dave Daughtry
12:20 - 12:22	Scoring Contest Explained	Doug Reynolds
12:22 - 12:32	Tissue Sample Survey	Az Game & Fish
12:32 - 12:37	Federal Lands and Gunnery Ranges	Monte Dodson and Lt. Col. Conrad
12:37 - 1:12	Physical & Mental Conditioning	Steve Weisser, Ed Shannahan and Mike Mell
1:12 - 1:22	Slide Presentation	Bob Furlow
1:22 - 1:53	Use of Optics	Gerry Day
1:54 - 2:44	Field Experience	
	Slide Presentation of Heads used in Field Experience	John Houzenga
2:45 - 3:00	Display Heads for Contest	
3:00 - 3:30	Film about Bighorn Sheep	Dr. Marlowe, FACS Varmettes
3:30 - 4:15	Dinner & Scoring Heads	
4:15 - 4:18	Winner of Scoring Announced	Doug Reynolds
4:18 - 6:30	Questions & Answers	Ned Smith
6:40	Movies	
	Closing Remarks by President	
	Adjournment	



Betty Rennick, Apache Junction, flanked by her husband Russell, with her 178% B&C trophy. She took the ram on the second day of the 1974 hunt in unit 45A, West Kofa's. It is thought to be the largest ram taken by a lady hunter.

HELP PLEASE

We would like the largest display of sheep heads ever assembled for this year's Clinic. Please bring your mounts for all to see.

WHAT'S THE NIGHT BEFORE?

Come join us for the "night before" the Annual Membership Meeting and Sheep Hunters' Clinic. Last year's "night before" found about 80 people for a steak dinner with all the trimmings. If all goes according to plan, this year's fare will be Bar-B-Que. Just bring your utensils, a beverage, your appetites and be prepared to rub elbows with others interested in Bighorn Sheep. The meal is free of charge.

This year's affair will be on Friday, October 3rd at 6:30 p.m. at the Black Canyon Shooting Range. The Range is located just west of Interstate 17, approximately 20 miles north of Phoenix—take the Lake Pleasant exit. Overnight campsites are available. Hope you will join us!



Raymond Bond took this 155% B&C trophy in unit 15C. This ram completed Ray's Grand Slam and it took him nine years to get drawn. He hunted all alone and took the ram on the fifth day.

THE RAM'S HORN

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Officers

- Doug Reynolds, President 838-0805
1074 Watson, Tempe, Arizona 85282
- Ned Smith, Vice President 834-5889
260 S. Ashland, Mesa, Arizona 85204
- John Krause, Secretary 995-0988
7241 N. 30th Ln., Phoenix, Arizona 85021
- Steve Weisser, Treasurer 943-2717
1017 W. Myrtle, Phoenix, Arizona 85021
- Joe Bormanis, Editor 955-9185
3801 E. Mantecito, Phoenix, Arizona 85018

Please address all correspondence regarding this publication to P.O. Box 5241, Phoenix, Arizona 85010.

BIGHORNS OF TINAJAS ALTAS

by Monte M. Dodson

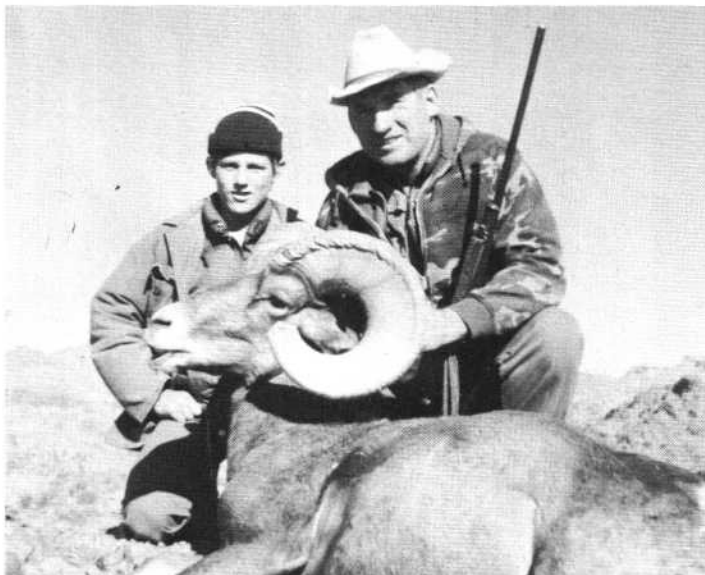
A summer waterhole count on the Cabeza Prieta Refuge was completed on July 11, 1975. During this 3½ day count I had some interesting observations of sheep that I would like to share with you.

Shortly after I arrived at my present assignment here in Yuma, Society member and sheep guide John Houzenga pointed out situations where sheep had grazed on saguaro cacti. Well, I finally got a chance to actually witness it in the Tinajas Altas. In the case described, a large ram approached a saguaro about six feet in height. He turned his head sideways and down and began rubbing the spines off on one side. I would say that he cleared a place about 18 inches in length. Once satisfied that the spines were rubbed down, he began eating from the rub spot. Between the rubbing and the eating, I thought sure the saguaro would fall, since it was really rocking.

After the ram had eaten all he wanted, he walked away and then a ewe and her yearling came up and began eating from the same spot. The ewe and lamb, as the ram, turned their heads at right angles to the ribs to eat, the lamb eating directly under the ewe's lower jaw at the same time.

Well, all of this isn't exactly earth-shaking since we have known for some time that it was a common practice. The interesting part to me was that all three of these animals had just completed a long drink at a deep water hole only a few yards down the hill.

It was my earlier impression that such grazing was due to a shortage of free-water, but apparently this is not the case. Rather, I would assume that it is a nutritional requirement or perhaps a need for something succulent in contrast to the very dry forage in the immediate area. It had probably been several months since any measurable rain has fallen here and the browse certainly showed it.



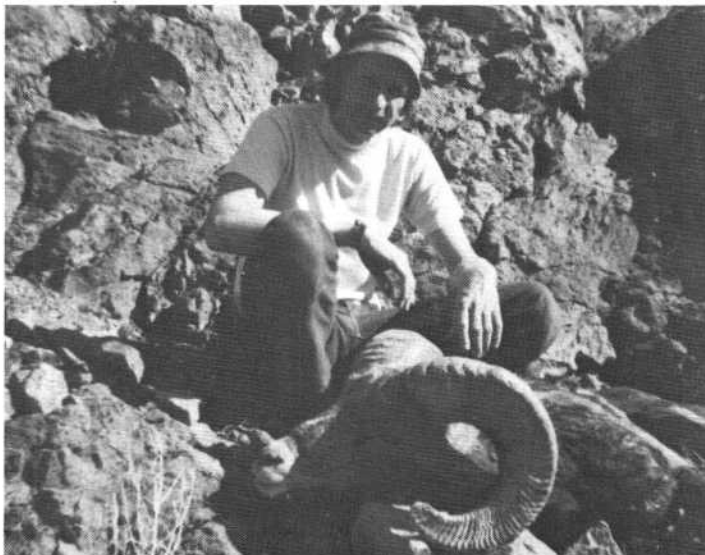
Bill Cox and his son Danny pose with Bill's trophy which measured 161 B&C. He took this one in unit 45C, Castle Dome Mountains on the third day of the 1974 hunt.



John Doolin took this ram on 13 December 1974. Unfortunately, no other statistics are available.



Lee Adam, Hamburg, Pa., took this 158 B&C trophy in unit 15B on the opening day.



Gary Mitchell took this 157½ trophy in unit 40A during the 1974 hunt.

THE LEGISLATIVE FRONT

Harley Young Jr.

The most recent event of importance to Society members is the Montezuma Pumped Storage Project in the Sierra Estrella Mountains, 20 miles south of Phoenix, Arizona. The project is a hydro-electric generating plant, consisting of two reservoirs, a well field and the necessary electric power generating facility. Also included are recreational sites at both reservoir locations. The project itself will undoubtedly have a disturbing influence on the Bighorn Sheep in the Estrella Mountains, but of much greater significance is the fact that a public access road and recreation site will be constructed up to and at the upper reservoir, which is to be located in a natural basin at the top of the mountains about half way between Montezumas Head and Montezuma Peak. At this time no impact study has been performed to determine what effects a six year construction period, disturbance of the mountain terrain and people pressure from the upper recreation site will have on the Bighorn Sheep.

The project is licensed by the Federal Power Commission to the Arizona Power Authority, a state agency. The public utilities involved are the Salt River Project, as project manager, and Arizona Public Service Co.

The Sheep Society is opposed to the Montezuma Project because it believes that a power project of such magnitude will have an extremely detrimental effect on the sheep in the Estrella Mountains. As a consequence of this belief, letters were sent to the Federal Power Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Council on Environmental Quality, stating our opposition on the grounds that no environmental impact statement had been prepared.

In addition, the Society, the Arizona Wildlife Federation and the Maricopa Audubon Society drafted a formal statement and mailed to the Arizona Washington delegation in the Senate and Congress. I hope to have this letter endorsed by other organizations involved in wildlife conservation.

Ask all your friends who are interested in bighorn sheep, or wildlife in general, to support us in this matter. It has become increasingly evident that many fights to conserve wildlife habitat are won by extensive letter writing campaigns. If you are interested in helping the bighorn sheep to survive in their natural habitat, please express your thoughts regarding the Montezuma Project to the following governmental agencies:

**Mr. Kenneth Plumb, Secretary
Federal Power Commission
825 North Capitol St., NE
Washington, D.C. 20416**

**Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Waterside Mall
401 M Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20460**

**Chairman
Council on Environmental Quality
722 Jackson Place
Washington, D.C. 20006**

P.S. The official nomenclature for the Montezuma Project is:

Montezuma Pumped Storage Project
Project No. 2573.

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