



# THE RAM'S HORN

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

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NO. 6

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

**FORWARD** — forward is the word for this coming year! Let each of us rededicate ourself and make those commitments in earnest to ensure that 1975-76 will be a banner year for our Society. Let us pledge our help in anyway possible for the advancement, welfare and management of our entrustment—the desert bighorn sheep.

Mark down now as a goal that you faithfully pledge to attend the upcoming waterhole projects (there are 5) So the Society needs each person's help in this great work. Mark down that you'll be on this coming year's survey (area to be announced) as we'll need many, many eyes, binoculars and spotting scopes to be successful.

The new board wants to thank you for the trust entrusted to them for this coming year—they in turn trust that each of you will help share the workload together. We'll become as a fine watch—all parts working smoothly and efficiently as one.

Great challenges lie ahead—there's lots of work, sweat tears, great fun and many choice memories. It's up to each of you to become part of these—let us go **FORWARD!**

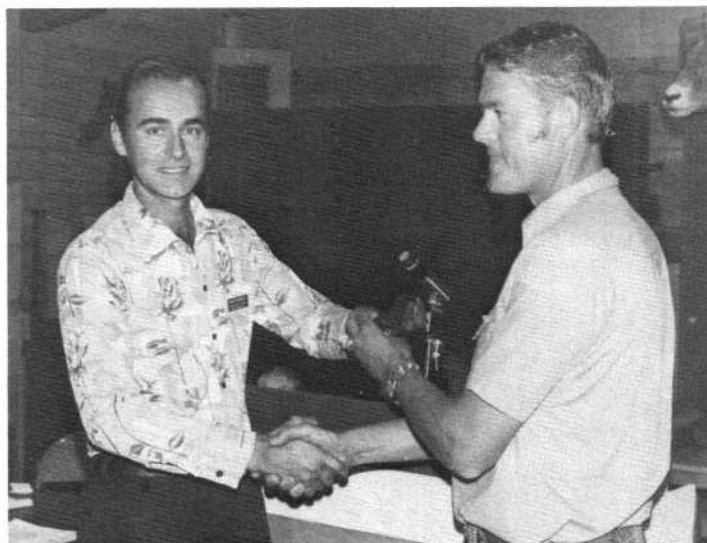
*Ned Smith*

## 9th ANNUAL SHEEP CLINIC

Oct. 3rd — The Society's 9th Annual Sheep Clinic began Oct. 3rd with the "Night Before" Bar-B-Que Dinner. Over 80 guests and members attended the dinner and were treated to a fantastic meal. The meat was supplied and pit Bar-B-Qued by the Bend Sportsment, the rest of the Meal was prepared by Jerry Petkovsek and John Houzenga. Hor De Ours compliments of Steve Weisser. Our hats are off for a great feed—Thanks!

Oct. 4 — After the general meeting Oct. 4th the 9th Annual Hunters Clinic got off to great start. Following lunch (served by the Varmettes) the ball was kicked off by Dave Daughtry and George Welsh who lectured about trophy ram identification and legal requirements. Other subjects covered were: Physical & Mental Conditioning, Use of Binoculars and Spotting Scopes, Federal Lands & Gunnery Ranges, Bureau of Land Managements slide presentation and Dr. Marlowe's film about Bighorn Sheep.

The highlight of the clinic was the field experience and scoring contest.



**Doug Reynolds, our immediate Past President, turns over the Society leadership to Ned Smith, our new President.**

## OUR NEW OFFICERS

The Society at its Annual General Membership meeting elected new officers and board of directors for the 1975-76 period. The newly elected are:

Ned Smith, Mesa	President
John Krause, Phoenix	Vice President
Lyle Sietsema, Phoenix	Secretary
Steve Weisser, Phoenix	Treasurer
Ben Avery, Phoenix	By-laws and Resolutions
Tim Blank, Mesa	Programs
Joe Bormanis, Phoenix	Publicity
Harley Young, Phoenix	Legislation
Dr. Tom Boggess, Phoenix	Finance
P. D. Holt, Gila Bend	Projects

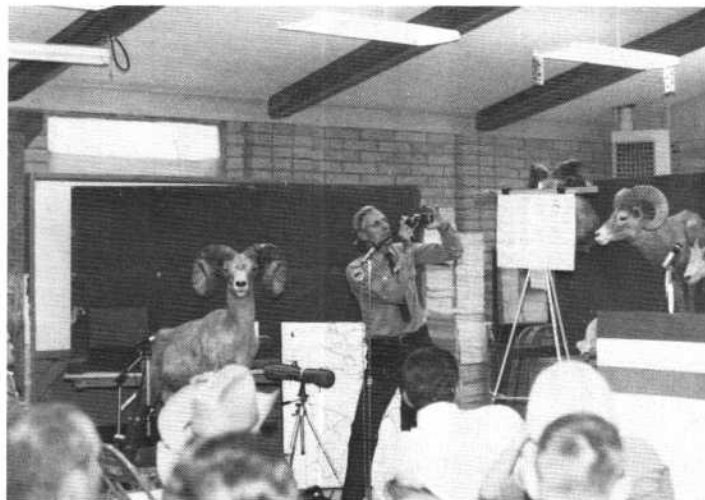
Also, the new board appointed Dick Krause of Phoenix as the Editor of *Ram's Horn*, the official Society publication.

**CLINIC . . .**

This year's clinic was one of the largest yet. Over 125 guests and members attended. 66% of the hunters drawn in Arizona were present, the largest turnout of hunters to date.

The success of this clinic is due to all those fine individuals who put so much extra time and effort into this clinic to insure it's success. Thank you so much, your efforts paid off!

*John Carroll*



**Jerry Day, AF&G, from Tucson demonstrating the proper use of optics during this year's Sheep Clinic.**



**These heads were used in the B&C estimating competition at the Clinic.**

**HUNTER WINS BINOCULARS**

Among the educational activities at this years clinic was a contest for the hunters to estimate the B&C score of three trophy sheep heads. After listening to a couple of hours of discussion on estimating B&C scores, the hunters were given the opportunity to win a pair of custom 7 X 35 Bushnell Binoculars (donated by the Society) by estimating the score of heads in the picture above. The heads were displayed courtesy of Mrs. Jack Walters and Larry Smith. The heads scored from left to right 175, 164% and 152% for a total of 492%. Mr. Dow Bord, one of 37 who participated, holding a permit in 44B estimated the closest with a score of 491. In addition to winning the Binoculars, Mr. Bord won a fine picture in the raffle. With his ability (and luck), we expect to see Mr. Bord at next years Banquet with a fine trophy sheep.

*Doug Reynolds*



**Ed Shannahan delivering his presentation on importance of physical fitness. Note the displayed heads in the background.**



**Overall view of the practical exercises with scopes and binoculars.**

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**OFFICERS**

- Ned Smith, President ..... 834-5889  
260 S. Ashland, Mesa, Arizona 85204
- John Krause, Vice President ..... 995-0988  
7241 N. 30th Lane, Phoenix, Arizona 85021
- Lyle Sietsema, Secretary ..... 997-6453  
12607 N. 21st Ave., Phoenix, Arizona 85029
- Steve Weisser, Treasurer ..... 943-2717  
1017 W. Myrtle, Phoenix, Arizona 85021
- Dick Krause, Editor ..... 274-7447  
1120 W. Edgemont, Phoenix, Arizona 85007

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

## 1975 BIGHORN SHEEP APPLICATIONS

If you have ever contemplated your bad luck at this year's sheep permit drawing, a quick review of the odds provides some explanation. The second choice feature has definitely greatly compounded the odds. The new procedure provides that when a person's name is selected initially and his first choice unit is filled, his second choice is granted only if that unit is not yet filled. Under the old system, if a person was drawn and his unit was filled that was the end of it.

The overall odds for being drawn in 1975 were 37 to 1, as compared with 22 to 1 in 1974. On a first choice basis 818 residents and 411 non-residents applied. A detailed breakdown by unit and hunt numbers is as follows:

Unit & Hunt Number	Available Permits	First Choice Appl.	Choice Per.	Second Choice Appl.	Choice Per.	Total Applications	Effective Odds
602-14A,B,C,D	3	18	3	6	0	24	8:1
604-14A,B,C,D	3	8	0	15	3	23	8:1
605-15B	5	67	3	78	2	145	29:1
606-15C	5	130	4	77	1	207	41:1
607-15D	2	25	1	13	1	38	19:1
610-24B	3	28	2	19	1	47	16:1
611-33	3	62	3	11	0	73	24:1
612-39	2	33	2	29	0	62	31:1
613-40A	2	69	2	40	0	109	55:1
614-40B							
Mowhawk & Coppers	2	8	1	17	1	25	13:1
615-40B							
Gila & Tinajas Altas	2	10	2	11	0	21	10:1
616-41	2	49	2	26	0	75	38:1
617-43A	1	16	1	14	0	30	30:1
618-43B	3	27	3	39	0	66	22:1
619-44B	4	171	4	70	0	241	60:1
620-45A	3	220	3	140	0	360	120:1
621-45B	3	91	1	108	2	199	66:1
622-45C	4	121	3	91	1	212	53:1
623-46A							
Growler & Childs	1	17	1	11	0	28	28:1
624-46A							
Agua Dulce	1	15	1	14	0	29	29:1
625-46B							
Sierra Pinta	1	13	1	13	0	26	26:1
626-46B							
Cabeza Prieta & Tule	1	19	1	16	0	35	35:1
627-40B							
Craters	1	12	1	12	0	24	24:1
Totals	57	1229	45	870	12	2099	37:1

Tom Saad

## SPEAKERS BUREAU

The Society is trying to establish an organized speakers bureau. The purpose is to provide well-qualified speakers to any organization interested in bighorn sheep. The overall coordinator for this undertaking will be the Publicity chairman. All members and other interested individuals should contact him (it's Joe Bormanis for 1975/76—home 955-9185, office 949-3739) to make the necessary arrangements.

At present we have a number of well-qualified speakers and a number of preselected slide sets depicting bighorn sheep, our water hole projects and the zoo project. The presentations can last from 30-45 minutes. The speakers will come equipped with their own projector, screen and projector stand. All you have to do is provide an audience.

## MONTEZUMA PROJECT

On 21 October 1975 the Society's board of directors were hosted by the Salt River Project on a visit to the construction site of the Montezuma Project, located on the very southwestern end of the Sierra Estrella Mountain range. This project is a pumped storage/generating venture by the Arizona Power Authority, Arizona Public Service Company, and Salt River Project, with Salt River Project acting as the project manager. It is licensed by the Federal Power Commission and is designed to be a pumped storage facility consisting of upper and lower water storage reservoirs and a water well field, all located on the Gila River Indian Reservation lands. The present FPC license is for a 500 megawatt generating facility, however, indications are that this should be amended to 1000 megawatts to become economically feasible.

The upper reservoir is located on a 3200 ft plateau northwest of Montezuma's Head. The proposed dike on the west side of the upper reservoir will be an earthen structure measuring 120 ft high and will contain approximately 800-1000 acre feet of water in dead storage which equates to 115 acres of surface area. The lower reservoir will be located approximately 2000 ft lower, directly beneath the upper reservoir and will be surrounded by an 140 ft. earthen dam. It will have a surface area of approximately 140 acres. A power tunnel with a surge chamber through the mountain will connect both reservoirs. At present, the plans also include an access road to the upper reservoir, with a visitors center located at the edge of the reservoir. This center is to be operated by the Gila Bend Indian Tribe.

Your board of directors interviewed Mr. Jim Paulus, SRP Environmental Coordinator, and Dr. Linwood Smith, an independent environmental consultant employed by SRP to conduct an environmental impact study on the reservoir area and the entire Sierra Estrella range area. In addition to Dr. Smith, SRP also is using consulting archeologists and geologists to study impact in those areas.

The present activities include a number of test drillings to ascertain the geological structure of the upper and lower reservoirs, building of access roads, establishing of a site headquarters, marking of archeological sites, and the first phase of the environmental study. The official start of these activities was 1 October 1975.

Dr. Smith was helped during part of his study for a two-week period by Society's Past President John Houzenga, who was made available by his employer, the Salt River Project. Dr. Smith's findings regarding bighorn sheep in the Estrella's are concurred with by John Houzenga. The findings are: 1. Very little sign and mostly old was found in the upper reservoir area. 2. Since the lower end—or location of the reservoirs—are almost physically isolated from the rest of the range by a network of deep canyons, the sheep signs, beds and sightings increase as one progresses due north across Montezuma Sleeping and Butterfly Mountains. 3. Most sheep activity according to Dr. Smith and John Houzenga seems to be centered in an area 10-15 miles away from the site. During their two-week survey 26 sheep were sighted or counted. Among this number three big rams were observed.

Dr. Smith's study will be an ongoing effort culminating in a final report by end of July 1976. During this study he will investigate and assess the population densities of the various reptiles, birds and mammals, with a special

(Continued on page 4)

**MONTEZUMA . . .**

emphasis on desert bighorn sheep. The Phase I effort will investigate the routing of least impact transmission lines on flora and fauna of the area. Also it will determine habitat sensitivity. Phase II will produce a wildlife management plan, mitigation procedures, alternate enhancements, vegetation salvage and other specific recommendations. The desert bighorn sheep will also be surveyed during the lambing season next spring. The final report will assess how much will be disrupted and what will be the total impact on sheep, other wildlife and flora of the entire area.

Your Society will discuss this project in detail and decide on our position at its monthly board of directors meeting on 12 November 1976 at 7:00 P.M. The board meets at the Phoenix Zoo Auditorium and as all board meetings, this one is open to members and general public. Since this matter is of prime importance to the bighorn sheep and your Society—let's get out there and let your voice be heard!

*Joe Bormanis*

**LEGISLATIVE FRONT**

Our Legislative Chairman, Harley Young, is preparing a presentation to the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors on the Montezuma and Kaiparowits Projects. The purpose of these presentations is to provide the facts as we have them so your Executive Committee and Board of Directors can decide on the position for the Society. Harley Young will present a detailed report on our legislative activities in the January issue of *Ram's Horn*.

Everyone is encouraged to submit any information about the various projects that concern our Society. Let our Legislative Chairman know your concerns—you can call him at 995-5852 or address your correspondence to our post office box.

**A PLEA TO HUNTERS**

As is our *Ram's Horn* tradition, every hunt season we ask the hunters for pictures of their trophies and hunt stories. This year is no exception—please send in your pictures and stories. We'll publish them as we go along.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Bargains, like buggy whips, are pretty much a thing of the past, but a personal membership in the Society is still only \$5.00 (minimum donation). You know that, but do your friends?

We want to continue and expand on the activities of the Society—waterholes, sheep surveys, legislation, hunter and public education, research, etc.—and to do this we need to enlarge our membership. This is where we need your help.

Next time a friend or associate gets off on the subject of wildlife conservation (if you're like me, that's about once a week), let him or her know about the Society. For all the talk about conservation, here's one organization that's doing something about it. Let them know we welcome their membership . . . and active participation. Above all, let them know where to send their application and donation!

We also accept "associate" memberships, in other words the membership of companies, but in this case the minimum donation is \$25.00.

We hope to have an information brochure out on the Society by year end, and if you would like copies of these, back copies of *Ram's Horn*, membership applications, etc. just direct your request to the Society or to your Membership Chairman, John Krause, at 995-0988. And GOOD LUCK!

*John Krause*

**1976 PROJECTS**

Our project season for 1976 will start on the weekend of 17 and 18 January. The meeting place is the Chevron Service station on Friday 16 January at 9:00 P.M. in Dateland, Arizona which is on Interstate 8 approximately 50 miles west of Gila Bend.

Our first project site is located in the Tank Mountains north of Dateland and will consist of three separate phases including two masonry dams and a wire basket dam. All phases of this project will take place simultaneously. As you can see, this is one of those projects where we can effectively use all the help we can get! So, talk it up and let's have a good turnout for this first project of 1976! *P. D. Holt*

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