



# THE RAM'S HORN

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
ARIZONA DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP SOCIETY, INC

VOL. 10

APRIL 1976

NO. 2

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT MILE A MINUTE

With the rush of civilization these days I'm sure that each of you keeps a very rapid pace. Just making a living and trying to get in some relaxation time almost seems impossible to accomplish anymore.

Your board of directors has been busy — so busy that sometimes we even slip up but I can guarantee each one of you that we've been trying to do the job for you to the best of our abilities.

The banquet is now past history — the society awarded five beautiful trophies to those individuals that truly harvested trophy rams. We've completed four water hole projects — still leaving one (1) to go.

May 1 & 2, the society will be working in the Cabeza Prieta Game Range and we need a very large turn out to accomplish the job. Please make an effort to show up at 8:30 p.m. April 30, at mile post 48 on Interstate Highway 8 (between Gila Bend and Yuma). WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

My plea is for everyone to do something and then the work load will be easier on all. Mark down these two dates and join with us.

## 1976 AWARDS BANQUET AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS

The 1976 ADBSS Awards banquet held at the Desert Hills Hotel had an overflow attendance of 174 who enjoyed the program, awards, a fine steak dinner and fellowship.

The "Water Hole" opened around 6:30 and the banquet and program commenced on time at 7:30.

Master of Ceremonies was Robert Gray who introduced the featured speaker Al Stumpf who spoke on "Sheep and Sheep Transplants". This was followed by a slide presentation of projects by Doug Reynolds. Next, Dr. William Marlowe presented a film on desert sheep which he had produced; after showing, this was donated to the Society to be used for training. Finally, Ned Smith showed a short film of footage he has taken of sheep in the Aravaipa Canyon.



Mark Alley took top honors with his fine ram taken in the Growlers — Unit 46A. Boone & Crockett score was 177 3/8.

Trophies were presented to Mark Alley, M. D. Mathews, M.D. (not in attendance), Lee Mendenhall and Norman Brown for their outstanding Trophy Rams.

Door prizes were donated by Bang's Sporting Goods, Mesa; La Seuers Men's Store, Mesa; Sears, Mesa; Wildlife-Studios Taxidermy, Phoenix and the Arizona Gun owners Association.

In addition there was a special drawing for two photos of the Aravapai Ram. Ned Smith donated the pictures and Aaron Bros. of Mesa donated the frames.

*Additional photos on back page*

## ST PATTY'S DAY PROJECT By Lyle Sietsema

The weekend of March 13-14 marked the date of our latest waterhole project. Society members and friends returned to the infamous Lazarus Tank for yet another "final" time. The Friday night meeting place was Danny Nasca's station, also known as Ramsey. The caravan headed out about 10 p.m. for a short drive to the campsite.

This was to be the traditional St. Patrick's Day project complete with a cold keg of draft. People who came expecting the annual "Shannahigans" were not to be disappointed. The camp was invaded early Saturday morning by a long-legged leprechaun dressed in shamrock skivies.

The size of the crew was smaller than expected, so this meant more work for less people. However, the following list of faithfuls that did show proved to be hard workers and did more than an adequate job:

Don Belknap, George C. Calhoun, John Carroll, Rob Cavin, Kent Dominy, Wade Dominy, Gary Ferrier, Bob Gray, Gerald Hammett, Harry Hazlett, Larry Holland, Mike Holt, Steven Holt, P. D. Holt, John Houzenga, David Hussey, Harry Hussey, John Krause, Matt Krause, Joe Machac, Rick Melder, David Mitchell, Curt Monger, Frank Murphy, Dan Nasca, Jim Peterson, Flip Petkovsek, Jerry Petkovsek, Doug Reynolds, Robby Robinson, Dan Schadle, Carl Scrivens, Don Scrivens, Ed Shannahan, Lyle Sietsema, Larry Smith, James Stephenson, and Steve Weisser.

The work actually involved three separate projects. The main project requiring the majority of the manpower was constructing a shade over Lazarus Tank. This involved drilling and cementing galvanized pipe framework over which was stretched chicken wire and "tennis court cloth" as shading material.

A separate handful of men drove off to Cayuga Tank. This tank contained a lot of silt which had to be dug out and then the natural tank was resealed.

Another crew headed up north to Lamb Springs, just outside of Parker. Lamb Springs had been constructed in 1961 and was now completely overgrown with brush which had to be cleared away.

At day's end all three crews met back at base camp to enjoy another fine meal prepared by John Houzenga, John Carroll, and Jerry and Flip Petkovsek. After the feast we were entertained by Gary Ferrier who put on an unbelievable slide presentation. Gary came equipped with projector, screen, gas generators and the works. He briefly showed where the CAP tunnel would cut through the Buckskin Mountains and the severe water shortage existing in that range. He also had some slides of some of his hunts, including the huge ram he took out of the Cabeza Prieta season before last.

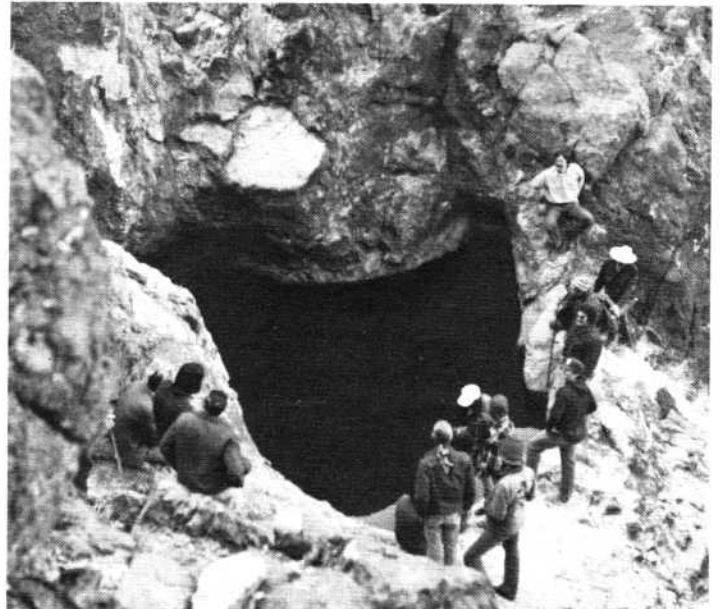
Sunday morning the finishing touches were put on the Lazarus shade, and for good measure the tank itself received another coat of sealant. After general clean-up and a quick lunch everyone headed their tired and happy bodies homeward.

## LITTLE EYE TANK

Our project February 21-22 in the Trigo Mountains marked the first time a Society project has been rained out. But not in the usual sense. We had gone in to seal a fine natural catchment which was a real leaker, only to find it full of water from recent heavy rains.

Conservationists that we are, we left the water to run its natural course. Some spent the morning screening and hauling sand to the work site for use at a future date while others split off to help the Game and Fish in some fence repair. A third group ventured further west to size up another waterhole improvement candidate.

While the group christened this catchment Arch Tank for a natural stone arch up the mountain, it was later found that it had already been dubbed Little Eye by Game & Fish personnel.



What looks like a successful waterhole here is actually an aborted project. Within a month or two it will be empty. Sealing will ultimately make this a permanent water for sheep.

## THE RAM'S HORN

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: 536

### 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

## CATCHMENT SURVEY BEING CONDUCTED BY ASU WILDLIFE STUDENTS

On January 6, 1976, the Water Catchment Survey Study was initiated with an exploratory trip into the Sand Tank Mountains southeast of Gila Bend, Arizona.

The purposes of the study are threefold:

- 1) To provide accurate locations of the catchments.
- 2) To determine the amount of use each catchment is receiving from bighorns as well as other wildlife.
- 3) To evaluate the construction of each catchment, noting leaks and cracks and making suggestions for improvements if necessary.

On January 14, your Board of Directors approved the study proposal and voted to fund the project for its duration. The study is expected to last several years until all the catchments built by the Society have been evaluated.

The initial study team is made up of four Arizona State University senior wildlife students, Lorin Hicks, Tom Clark, Norris Dodd, and Bob Kerns. We have examined five catchments to date. These are Sand Tanks Pothole No. 2, Black Bottom Tank, Saucedo Mountains Pothole No. 1, and Thanksgiving Day Tanks No. 1 and No. 2.

Each catchment is evaluated using standardized methods. The temperature and sediment depth is taken as well as the depth, length, and width of the catchment pool. Photographs of the catchments are taken and samples of water, insects, plants, and fecal material are collected and preserved for later reference. The surrounding area is surveyed for signs of wildlife activity. By standardizing the collection of data, catchments can be compared with each other for effectiveness and durability of construction.

The catchments we have looked at thus far have yielded valuable information on the role these structures play in desert wildlife ecosystems. We feel that even more data will be obtained from future catchment surveys that will help the Society in planning efficient and beneficial catchment construction.

An example of data gathered is shown in summary report on Thanksgiving Day Tanks No. 1 and No. 2.

### Thanksgiving Day Tanks No. 1 and No. 2

The catchments at this site indicated that a lot of hard work had been put into their construction. The silt retention dam was quite effective. The reservoirs were near full capacity, one measuring 20 feet by 8 feet with a depth of 4 feet and the other 12 feet by 5 feet with a depth of 3 1/2 feet.

Tank No. 2 could be improved by adding an additional silt dam right above this catchment to hold back coarse gravel and rocks entering from the wash bottom between it and the silt dam farther upstream.

The area supported varied plant growth including small annuals with perennial shrubs and trees. Birds inhabiting the area included Black-chinned Hummingbirds, Phainopepla, Cactus Wrens, Abert's Towhees, Gambel's Quail and Loggerhead Shrikes.

Very little recent sheep sign was found here as well as at most of the other water holes. The catchments do not

appear to be getting extensive use by bighorns at this time of year, probably because of the availability of temporary water in other areas of the habitat.



Bob Kerns measures depth at Thanksgiving Day Tank #2, while Lorin Hicks records data.

## THE LEGISLATIVE FRONT

*Harley Young, Jr.*

Arizona Public Service Company has an application pending for a transmission corridor between Liberty and Gila Bend. Your Board examined the alternatives and favored one entitled "Corridor 1" for its minimal impact on sheep habitat. This position has been conveyed in a letter to the BLM.

Your Legislative Committee questions the basis for granting leases to Exxon Corp. for uranium exploration in Whitmore and Parashant Canyons within the Grand Canyon and has written accordingly to the granting agency, the Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

A bill now before the Arizona Senate Natural Resources Committee would increase the penalties for the illegal taking or possession of game animals, and it is hoped that when and if this bill is passed it will help discourage sheep poaching.

Your Legislative Chairman is attempting to organize a watchdog committee throughout that portion of the state with sheep habitat. The purpose of this committee will be to keep tabs on impacts to sheep habitat by persons or organizations, attend public hearings and, if necessary, read prepared statements on the Society's position into the records. This will be a serious task and those that volunteer can expect to be called upon — soon. If you have a desire to serve, contact me at any time.





President Ned Smith presenting an award to Norman Brown for his trophy which measured 163 3/8 B&C points.

### CABEZA PRIETA — MAY 1 & 2

The final project of the year, originally planned for the Kingman area has now been switched south along the Mexican border to the Cabeza Prieta, and Buckhorn Tank.

This is one project where the Society is appealing to all its members for help. We will need all the manpower we can get! Not only will those participating get a lot of fresh air, sunshine and exercise, they will also see one of the most pristine stretches of desert to be found anywhere.

We will meet Friday, April 30, at 8:00 p.m. at milepost 48 on U.S. 80/Interstate 8 east of Yuma. Because of the distance to the project site, departure time from the meeting point will be 9:00 p.m. Allow adequate time, or plan to arrive early. We will be passing through a locked gate, and it is necessary that we caravan together. (Stow gear as dust tight as possible.)



Leanna Mendenhall with her award for her fine ram taken opening morning in unit 45A. Boone & Crockett score was 168 3/8.

### Late Flash

Plans are afoot to return to Little Eye Tank in the Trigos on May 15-16 to complete the project started in February. Meeting place will be at the Cibola Road turnoff on Hwy 95 which connects Quartzsite and Yuma; time 10:00 p.m. on May 14th. The Game & Fish will be going in on the weekend prior to make sure we can do the job, so anyone interested in helping out on this project must call one of the following people after May 10th to confirm that the project is still "go": Ned Smith (834-5889), P. D. Holt (683-2208), Don Belknap at G & F or (838-4235) or John Krause (995-0988).

## THE RAM'S HORN

P.O. BOX 5241  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85010

