



THE RAM'S HORN

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Twice a year each of you as members of the Society get an opportunity to really mix with other members. The Banquet which has just passed is where we get to have a real social with both you and your spouses; this year's banquet was the largest gathering in our history. The other yearly event is about to happen - it's our annual Sheep Hunters' Clinic.

We especially encourage each member to come out and participate in this educational affair. This is where the Sheep Society shines - where we have the opportunity to really use the many and varied talents of our members concerning Desert Bighorn Sheep. Our membership includes some of the best sheep men to be found and combines hundreds of years of experience to be drawn on by prospective hunters as well as those simply wanting to learn more about Desert Sheep.

Also of prime importance in the morning of the same day is our Annual Business Meeting where the general membership conducts its business and elects its officers to carry out next year's business. These men are your representatives - hopefully you will be there to cast your vote!

Being this is the last Ram's Horn report from me as your President, I wish to thank each of you for the successful year behind us and the great accomplishments that the Society made. It wouldn't have been possible without your help. Thanks . . .
Ned Smith

10TH ANNUAL SHEEP HUNTERS' CLINIC

Those fortunate few who are drawn to hunt Desert Bighorn Sheep in Arizona are usually facing this experience for the first, and possibly the only, time. Recognizing this, the Society has put together a "clinic" for these hunters,



For hunters hoping to set a new record, this is what you'll have to beat. Charter member Carl Scrivens holds World Record Desert Bighorn Sheep horns taken by an unknown hunter on Baja California in 1940. B&C score is 205-1/8.

both to prepare them for the task ahead and to enhance the quality of the hunt for this noble game animal.

This year's Clinic will be held at the Black Canyon Shooting Range on Saturday, October 2nd, 1976, starting at 12 o'clock noon and running to about 7 p. m. While this free program is put on primarily for the benefit of the hunters, members and the general public are welcome to attend, space permitting.

This is a great opportunity to see, hear and meet game management experts, experienced guides and hunters, and to see an outstanding display of trophies plus some excellent films about Desert Bighorn Sheep.

The Varmettes will provide a lunch at 11:30 a. m. and an afternoon meal at about 3:30 p. m., both at a nominal charge.

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Following is a brief outline of this year's agenda:

Film	Late Jack Walters
Introduction	George Welsh and Dave Daughtry
Hunting on Federal Lands	Monte Dodson
Tissue Sample Survey	Dr. Ed Bicknell
Use of Optics	Jerry Day
Physical & Mental Conditioning	Ed Shannahan, Mike Mell and Steve Weisser
Field Experience	Various
Break for afternoon meal	
How to Score a Trophy	Ed Shannahan & John Houzenga
Film	Dr. Tom Boggess
Slide Presentation on Waterholes	Doug Reynolds
Film	Ned Smith
Questions & Answers	Tom Saad (moderator)

The Black Canyon Shooting Range is located just off Interstate 17 (Black Canyon Highway) about 15 miles north of Phoenix. Exit at the Carefree Highway/Lake Pleasant Exit, travel west about a quarter mile to the Range entrance and follow the ADBSS signs to the meeting building. Camping facilities are available for those who arrive the night before.

NOTICE OF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

This year's General Membership Meeting will be held at 9 a. m. on October 2nd, 1976 at the Black Canyon Shooting Range. There will be signs starting at the entrance to the Range to direct members to the meeting location.

This is your opportunity as a member to hear each outgoing director give his report, to participate in the election of the new 1976-77 Board of Directors and to vote on such other business as may be brought before the meeting. Your attendance will be appreciated.

NOMINATIONS STILL OPEN!

This year's Nominating Committee, comprised of Doug Reynolds, is actively looking for members willing and able to serve on the Society's Board of Directors. If you would like to become more involved in your Society, or know someone who would, please contact Doug at 839-3448 evenings or week-ends. We will also be accepting nominations from the floor at the General Membership Meeting.

1976 SHEEP HUNT DRAWING

Now that the dust has settled, you may be interested in how the numbers from this year's drawing stack up, if for no other reason than guiding you for next year.

Hunt & Unit Number	Permits Available	First Choice Applic.	Permits	Second Choice Applic.	Permits	Total Applicants
602 - 14	3	18	3	10	0	28
604 - 14	3	19	3	14	0	33
605 - 15B	6	168	5	99	1	267
606 - 15C	6	167	5	140	1	307
607 - 15D	2	25	1	46	1	71
608 - 16A	2	21	1	32	1	53
609 - 16B	1	17	1	14	0	31
610 - 24B	3	12	2	17	1	29
611 - 33	3	52	3	21	0	73
612 - 37A&C	1	19	1	8	0	27
613 - 39	3	62	2	23	1	85
614 - 40A	2	50	1	39	1	89
615 - (1)	2	15	1	12	1	27
616 - (2)	2	12	1	16	1	28
617 - 41	1	24	1	17	0	41
618 - 43A	1	11	0	12	1	23
619 - 43B	3	45	1	65	2	110
620 - 44A	1	29	1	24	0	53
621 - 44B	3	193	3	121	0	314
622 - 45A	3	287	3	186	0	473
623 - 45B	2	36	0	128	2	164
624 - 45C	4	169	1	159	3	328
625 - (3)	1	17	0	24	1	41
626 - (4)	2	13	2	31	0	44
627 - (5)	1	17	1	18	0	35
1976 Totals	61	1,498	43	1,276	18	2,774
1975 Totals	57	1,229	45	870	12	2,099

- (1) Mohawks & Coppers
- (2) Gilas & Tinajas Altas
- (3) Growlers & Childs
- (4) Sierra Pintas
- (5) Cabeza Prietas & Tules

One thing is apparent from these figures: most applicants no longer regard the second choice as futile, and the fact that three units were filled entirely by second choices indicates just why!

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SRP helicopter bringing in another bucket of cement to the upper work site.

BUTTERFLY TANK

On the week-end of April 10-11, Society members and friends constructed a large tank on the western slope of the Sierra Estrella Mountains southwest of Phoenix. This effort was made possible by the use of a helicopter, generously donated for this purpose by the Salt River Project.

The majority of the crew worked at the project site up the mountain, most of these being flown up by helicopter, and a small contingent remained at the base camp to mix "mud".

At the proposed project site there was a large boulder about 6' in diameter right where the dam would span the gully to form the tank. Originally, the plan was to jackhammer the boulder into pieces to be used in building the dam, but this proved futile and it was decided to extend the dam directly from each side of the boulder.

As rocks were gathered and buckets of mud were flown up, the wall rose. At every helicopter load the upper crew would clear the area and attempt to hide from the dust storm caused by the chopper's blades. The only people exposed to the sandblast were the brave, goggled and dirty unloading team of Carroll, Houzenga and Petkovsek.

In spite of difficult communications between the upper and lower crews, the operations flowed smoothly. When the

dam reached its completed height, the majority of the people went back down the hill to base camp, leaving behind a small number of men to spend the night on the mountain and apply the final coat of Thoro-Seal the following morning.

Recent visitors to Butterfly Tank found it virtually full and holding well. This is another project in which the Society can take pride, and one in which we owe no small measure of thanks to the Salt River Project for their important contribution.



The "sand hog" that helped move an estimated 85 yards of fill in 1-1/2 days at Buckhorn Tank.

BUCKHORN TANK

On May 1st and 2nd, a crew of 38 braved the long dusty road to Buckhorn Tank at the south end of the Cabeza Prieta range. Our host organization was the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, headed up by Monte Dodson.

Buckhorn Tank is a tunnel blasted in solid rock, above which there is a large concrete silt retention dam. Both were completely filled with silt and our objective was to "muck out" and seal the tunnel and to clear the upper dam of as much material as possible.

The project provided the opportunity to try out two innovations, both made possible by a large mobile compressor. At the retention dam crews were kept constantly busy shoveling sand into a hopper; from there it was forced thru about 100' of 3" hose and was blown down the mountain beyond the tunnel. It is estimated that approximately 85 yards of fill were removed in this fashion. The second innovation involved spraying on the sealants in the tunnel rather than the traditional method of brushed application. This should have the advantage of forcing sealing material back into holes and crevices that occasionally are not filled by the older approach, to say nothing of the time saved.

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The project proved to be quite a task and the crew, the youngsters included, pitched in right up until noon on Sunday. At that point everyone hit the road, if that's what that dusty track can be called, tired but with the satisfaction of another job well done.

LOST DRILL BIT TANK

On May 15-16, about a dozen workers turned out in response to an appeal by George Welsh, wildlife manager and dedicated Society member. George had noted that this waterhole was not holding as it should and suggested that it be resealed.

Lost Drill Bit Tank was built by the Society on a windy week-end in 1974 in the Black Mountains northwest of Kingman. It is both an important resource in an area with little permanent water and an excellent sheep tank as its location does not lend itself to use by burros and deer.

In one day the work crew increased the height of the dam, resealed the water holding area and built a small wall to divert silt and debris at times of heavy run-off.

Next year make sure you're part of this great work - set aside a few week-ends to join us . . . you'll be proud of the work and time you gave to help in a much needed area.

ANNOUNCING The Night Before

We wish to announce that a free meal will be given to each needy member in good standing, all 1976 hunters (regardless of need), and spouses on the evening of October 1, 1976, starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Black Canyon Shooting Range. Congenial company at no extra charge. Please bring your own plates and utensils.

ALWAYS A BRIDESMAID . . . ?

You'll be pleased to know that Ed Shannahan, Charter Member and an outspoken Past President, broke a 15 year jinx when he drew a sheep tag this year. He'll be hunting in Unit 45A - West KOFA. Good luck, Ed.

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