

THE RAM'S HORN

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ARIZONA DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP SOCIETY, INC.

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ANNUAL SHEEP HUNTERS CLINIC

The clinic was held at the Black Canyon Shooting Range on October 8th. Speakers included George Welsh, Dave Daughtry and Jerry Day of the Arizona Game & Fish Department, and Society members Dean Bowdoin, Steve Weisser, John Houzenga, Ed Shannahan, and Tom Boggess.

The current crop of hunters lucky enough to have a permit were well represented, and the general turnout was well above previous years.

Immediately prior to the clinic, the Annual General Meeting was held at which the following officers and directors were elected:

President	Dean Bowdoin
Vice President	John Carroll
Secretary	Jim Fiedler
Treasurer	Steve Weisser
By-laws & Resolutions	Tim Blank
Programs	Harry Hussey
Publicity	Joe Sheehy
Legislative	Keith Kopischki
Projects	Robbie Robinson



THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE

The first scheduled waterhole project for the new year will be on the weekend of January 7-8. Two sites in the Oatman area will be completed on this one. Meeting place will be on the east side of the Topock-Oatman road approximately 10 miles south of Oatman at 10 pm, Friday (watch for the Game and Fish vehicle). Friday evening camp will be at this meeting place and the group will proceed to the site Saturday morning. Four-wheel drive is required from the rendezvous point.

January 28-29 is the second date. We will travel to Little Eye Tank in the Trigo Mountains south of Quartzsite. Meeting place is the Cibola Road turnoff on Hiway 95 between Yuma and Quartzsite, 28 miles south of Quartzsite. Four-wheel drive not required on this one, a field type vehicle is adequate.

Official CB channel for all Society activities is SEVEN.

BANQUET BULLETIN

by John Krause

Mark your calendar for April 1, 1978, the date of the 11th Annual Awards Banquet. The "waterhole" will open at 6:30 pm, with dinner being served at 7:30 pm.

And for those of you who tend to get in ruts, make a special note of the new location: The Safari Hotel in Scottsdale.

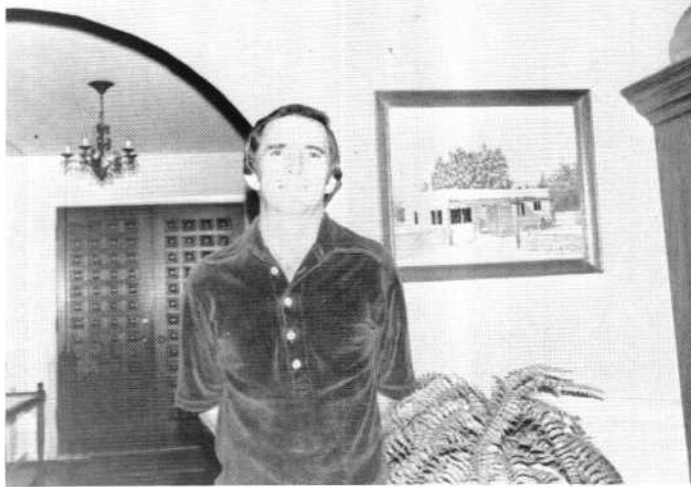
Harry Hussey, your Programs Chairman, is cooking up an all new format starting with the prime rib entree and hints of more to come. Watch next Rams Horn for full report.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Never pass up a bargain! In a gallant effort to curb national and world inflation, your Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society has held the dues for annual membership at the exact sum at which it was originally set many years ago—only five dollars.

Early in 1978 you will be receiving your membership renewal notices. Each and every one of you can personally engage in the battle against higher prices by renewing promptly, thus eliminating additional notices and related expenses.

So mail early and try to get your friends and neighbors to join also.



HARRY HUSSEY—PROGRAMS CHAIRMAN

One of our new Directors holding a position for the first time is Harry Hussey, current Programs Chairman. Jumping in with both feet he has the banquet program well under way.

Harry, a native from Michigan, has been in Phoenix for nine years. He became active in the Sheep Society about four years ago.

A painting contractor, Harry resides in northwest Phoenix with his wife, Lois, and son, David, who is also an active Society member. Most of his spare time is spent with his family traveling, fishing, hunting, 4-wheeling and other outdoor activities.



KEITH KOPISCHKI—FINANCE CHAIRMAN

Joining the Society just last year, Keith Kopischki was elected as our new Finance Chairman. Keith is an Economic Development Supervisor for the City of Phoenix.

His hobbies include hunting, fishing and most outdoor recreation with his wife, Marty, and their three sons.

Mr. Kopischki has been active in Ducks Unlimited and wanted to become involved with a group closer to his "own backyard" where he could directly witness the evidence of his physical labors.

WANTED—ONE UTILITY TRAILER

Your Board of Directors has decided to obtain a small utility trailer to haul the Society-owned cooking equipment, and food, necessary to feed the crowds attending the waterhole projects.

We are looking for something rugged enough to be towed behind a four-wheel drive vehicle over rough terrain. Ideally, the trailer would have side doors that would open downward and serve as work tables for food preparation.

If anyone has a lead on such a rig, please contact any one of your Board members. THANK YOU.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS —
FIRST HALF 1978**

- Jan. 7-8 Project-Black Mtns.
- 11 Meeting-Phx. Zoo, 7 pm
- 28-29 Project-Trigo Mtns.
- Feb. 8 Meeting-Phx. Zoo, 7 pm
- 18-19 Project
- Mar. 8 Meeting-Phx. Zoo, 7 pm
- 18-19 Project
- Apr. 1 Banquet-Safari Hotel
- 12 Meeting-Phx. Zoo, 7 pm
- 15-16 Project
- May 10 Meeting-Phx. Zoo, 7 pm
- Jun. 14 Meeting-Phx. Zoo, 7 pm

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LEGISLATIVE FRONT

by Harley Young, Jr.

The Society has sent a letter to Southern California Edison (SCE) recommending a transmission line route from Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station to Devers, California. The recommendation was to follow the El Paso Natural Gas pipeline thru the Kofa Game Range skirting the Dome Rocks Mountains by way of Cibola Road. It appears that the Cibola Road route will interfere with Yuma Proving Ground activities and because of this a canyon south of Cunningham Mountain is now being considered. SCE has intimated that if it becomes necessary to use this canyon, about a mile or so in extent, construction will be by helicopter.

Because of opposition in the Harquahala Valley and Tonopah, a route south of the Eagletail Mountains and crossing Cemetery Ridge will have to be included as a possible route as well as a route going up to Burnt Mountain and following the Central Arizona Project right-of-way before coming back to the gas pipeline.

Southern California Edison and Arizona Public Service Co. have funded a five-year study to determine some of the impacts on bighorn sheep due to transmission lines crossing or in close proximity to sheep habitat. As part of the study, sheep have been radio collared in the Plamosa and Dome Rock Mountains.

The Phoenix District office of BLM has captured 669 burros in the Alamo Lake area and all but 30 have been adopted by the public. The people seem to be very happy with the animals. There is no more funding to continue this program. There remains approximately 450 more burros to be captured in order to reduce the burro population to a point where the habitat can recover from past depredations. It is in all our interests to let our elected representatives know that this program must continue at Alamo Lake, otherwise there will be a total destruction of the habitat. All that is required is about 80 thousand dollars to complete the program. This was once good sheep habitat.

The Secretary of the Interior has approved use of the El Paso Natural gas pipeline by SOHIO to transport Alaskan oil to Midland, Texas. This pipeline will cross the Dome Rock Mountains and the Kofa Game Range.

The Arizona State Director of BLM has submitted a staff report to Washington voicing opposition to the use of Crossman Peak in the Mohave Mountains as the site for an air traffic control radar. The state office has been fighting this battle with the Department of Transportation for the past seven years. It seems that the D of T just will not give up on this one. D of T states that this was to have been the first site built, seven years ago, in a chain of sites across the country. The original purpose was to insure air traffic safety for national security, and help intercept illicit drug traffic across the Mexican border, which is over 100 miles away. Because of the inter-agency dispute over this issue, a bighorn sheep tank on Crossman Peak cannot be repaired.

A contract is about to be sent to Denver by the BLM state office to construct the fence around the sheep pasture in the Virgin Mountains. In all, 620 acres including a spring to be developed, will be fenced. This phase of the sheep restoration in the Virgins should be completed in about six months. The habitat will be allowed to rest for one to two years and then ten to twelve sheep from different bands will be placed in the enclosure. This is a cooperative effort between the Arizona Game and Fish Dept. and BLM.

Tonto National Forest and Arizona Game and Fish Dept. will be undertaking a habitat evaluation study sometime after January 1st to determine the feasibility of restoring bighorn sheep in the rough country between Four Peaks and the Salt River. A holding pasture and water facilities will be needed. Because of budgetary requirements, Tonto National Forest will not have any money to start work on this project until fiscal 1980. Dollar amount is about 100 thousand and there is no guarantee that the required funds will be included in the budget for Tonto National Forest. This is a very worthy project and needs the support of all Society members. So let the people who control the purse strings know that you are behind this project.

Some very bad news has come out of Parker. Had a talk with Richard Remington of the Game and Fish Dept. He has found four legal and one sub-legal ram poached in the Buckskin Mountains. He also found one road-killed ewe down on the highway along the river. The Buckskins have always been an area of heavy poaching activity and with the sheep population appearing to be making a comeback, that kind of activity can be a serious setback. The sheep were found between May and September of this year and there is no way of knowing how many have not been found or were removed completely. A large amount of target shooting and plinking takes place around the Buckskin Mountains and makes it extremely difficult to determine a possible poaching shot from a target shot. An effort must be made to discourage the use of this area for target shooting in order for enforcement personnel to be better able to move in on possible poachers.

Last year a ram over 170 Boone & Crockett points was legally taken from the Buckskins and this year a ram of 168 3/8 B & C green points was legally taken. If the poaching of legal rams continues it could deplete the population of old trophy rams, leaving immature legal rams with many years of stud service left to carry the hunting burden. If that happens it could force the closure of the Buckskin Mountains to legal sheep hunting—and all because of poaching. It behooves all Society members living in this area to keep your eyes and ears open for poaching activity and to try and discourage the use of firearms in the Buckskin Mountains. If sheep hunting is forbidden in the buckskins that will mean an end to sheep hunting in Unit 44A. Remember, the Society offers a 100 dollar reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of person or persons illegally killing a bighorn sheep.

The Game & Fish Dept. and the Bureau of Reclamation in a cooperative effort have constructed two 300 gallon water catchments on Big Mesa in the Buckskin Mountains to study sheep water consumption. This is the first formal investigation and the data gathered will be used by the Game & Fish Dept. in sheep management and in determining the proper size for future water catchments to be constructed. Also to be determined is the success of these two catchments in changing the habit of sheep to use the Colorado River and the Planet Ranch for water. If there is any degree of success, more catchments may be built to keep the sheep in the mountains and off the highway and away from the river where they are subject to road kills and poaching. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

AN APPEAL TO ALL 1977 HUNTERS

Again this year, your Editor is requesting photos and stories on all 1977 Arizona sheep hunts. All pictures submitted will be published as space permits, but will be published. So, share your hunt with all your Society members.

Also, any news, stories and pictures would be greatly appreciated by the Editor and enjoyed by the readers pertaining to all sheep-related subjects.

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